

Council Meeting
Wednesday, 24 January 2023

**Agenda item 16: Proposed Amendments to Motions received by the
Monitoring Officer prior to 12 noon on Tuesday, 23 January**

Underlined text = proposed additional wording ~~Strikethrough text~~ = proposed deletions

The original motions were published in the agenda which can be viewed [here](#)

16. Motions

16a. Green Motion – Defending Our Democratic Rights

The following amendments are proposed by the Labour Group:

This Council notes that:

- On 2 May 2023 the final stages of the Public Order Bill passed through the House of Lords, which gives the Police greater powers to prevent ~~restrict~~ ~~people's~~ serious disruptions ~~democratic right to protest~~ caused by protests in England and Wales.
- ~~The Act grants the Police new powers to prevent protests occurring outside of major transport networks, oil and gas and energy supplies, making “locking on” a new criminal offence, expanding Stop and Search to include suspicionless stop and search, and enacts new individual protest bans under ‘Serious Disruption Prevention Orders’.~~
- Article 11 of the Human Rights Act 1998 enshrines the Right to Peaceful Assembly into British law, guaranteed by Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- A Legislative Scrutiny Report published by the Joint Committee on Human Rights called for key measures in the Public Order Bill to be amended or removed in order to reverse the “chilling effect” it is likely to have on the right to protest.
- This report found that these offences have a very wide scope and criminalise those legitimately exercising their Article 10, 11, 8 and Article 6 rights.

~~**This Council also notes that:**~~

- Some aspects of the ~~The~~ Public Order Act 2023 have ~~has~~ been criticised by Amnesty International, Liberty, Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), and the UN Human Rights Commissioner.
- ~~It follows on from the Police, Crime, and Sentencing Act 2022 which was also accused of infringing upon democratic freedoms by human rights organisations.~~

- ~~The Government lost a vote in the Lords on the Public Order Bill 2023 to change the interpretation of 'serious disruption' of other people's day-to-day activities to mean 'anything more than minor'. The Lords opposed this change by 254 votes to 240 in May~~
- ~~The government reintroduced the change by Statutory Instrument.~~
- ~~Green peer, Jenny Jones, put forward a fatal motion to stop this unprecedented and anti-democratic move by the government. Unfortunately, Labour peers abstained, so it passed.~~

The Council further notes that:

- The Right to Protest is a fundamental pillar of democracy.
- The objective of a protest is to peacefully disrupt and agitate for change, [such as the](#) ~~The~~ anti-apartheid and Civil Rights Movement, Women's Suffrage, Gay Pride [and](#) workers' rights. ~~and a government commitment to carbon zero by 2050 have been achieved through protest and public disruption.~~
- ~~The Public Order Act is already having a 'chilling effect' on our right to protest.~~
- ~~The King's Coronation in May saw over 60 people arrested by the Police, many of those on grounds of public nuisance and breaches of the peace for holding signs, chanting, reporting on the protests and standing in close proximity to those protesting.~~
- ~~The police initially used the 'lock on' ban in the Public Order Act to justify some of these arrests and deployed the largest ever use of live facial recognition technology in the UK.~~
- ~~Police have written to residents of the Hackney area, warning them that Live Facial Recognition will be deployed at an unknown time and location in September 2023.~~
- ~~This technology is over 80% inaccurate according to the Met's own statistics.~~
- ~~Amnesty International, Liberty and the EHRG have called for a ban of facial recognition technology, with reports from Amnesty International finding that it is a violation of privacy rights, is antithetical to democracy, disproportionately impacts people of colour, exacerbates systemic racism, and puts Black people at a greater risk of being misidentified.~~
- Baroness Casey's Report into the Metropolitan Police Service found that there was a deepening mistrust of the force which is institutionally racist, sexist, homophobic and 'broken', compounded by a culture of denial and obfuscation.
- ~~Expanding the use of stop and search at protests without reasonable suspicion is likely to unjustly impact Black and Asian heritage people, and infringe upon their Article 14 right to non-discrimination.~~
- ~~The Met Commissioner himself has stated that the present use of stop and search 'burns through trust'.~~
- [The Administration's ongoing work with the Metropolitan Police Service, MOPAC and local Borough Commander on improving standards through the Community Resilience Partnership and after the Casey Report and City and](#)

[Hackney Safeguarding Children Panel Child Q reports.](#)

- [The co-production of a local action plan with Hackney communities, the Met and the Council on improving trust and confidence.](#)

~~This Council welcomes:~~

- ~~The Administration's ongoing work with the Met Police Commissioner and local Borough Commander on improving standards after the Casey Report and City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Panel Child Q reports.~~
- ~~The co-production of a local action plan with Hackney communities, the Met and the council on improving trust and confidence.~~

This Council resolves to:

- ~~Write to the Prime Minister to urge him to repeal the draconian Public Order Act and protect our fundamental democratic freedoms.~~
- ~~Meet with the Met Commissioner to express strong dissatisfaction with the heavy-handed policing witnessed at the King's Coronation and the increasing use of live facial recognition technology across London.~~
- ~~U2] Follow Newham and Lambeth Council's request for an urgent suspension of the use of live recognition technology in Hackney, due to the risk it poses to privacy and freedom of expression, a lack of sufficient safeguards against discrimination and an absence of biometrics regulations, and write to the Home Office, the Mayor of London, and the Metropolitan Police Service to make its opposition to LFR technology clear.~~
- **Ensure [Work towards](#) Hackney's local action plan on policing [includes](#) ~~involves~~ consideration of alternative ways to keep communities safe, and ~~includes~~ community education on the Police, Sentencing and Crimes Act 2022, and the Public Order Act 2023, so that Hackney residents [are aware of](#) ~~briefed on~~ their rights.**
- **Refer local issues concerning the Right of Protest to the Hackney's Cabinet Member for Community Safety.**
- **Not agree to the deployment of Live Facial Recognition in Hackney until the Council is satisfied that the potential benefits to crime reduction will not lead to a further erosion of trust and confidence in policing in Hackney.**

Labour Group Amendments:

Proposed by: Cllr Fajana - Thomas

Seconded by: Cllr Joe Walker

16b. Green Motion – Standing up for Responsible Tax Conduct - Councils for Fair Tax Declaration (Amended Substantive Motion)

Following the publication of the motion in the agenda, the proposer and seconder have accepted the following amendments proposed by the Labour Group and have amended their motion as follows:

Hackney Council notes that:

- The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.
- Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.
- Two thirds of people (664%) believe the Government and local councils should at least consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.
- Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.
- It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.
- The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.
- [Labour and Co-operative MPs and councillors have been at the forefront of the fight for a fairer tax system, with numerous Labour London boroughs having signed up.](#)

Hackney Council believes that:

- Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn’t be.
- Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.
- As recipients of public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.
- Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.

- More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.
- [Hackney Council](#) ~~UK cities, counties and towns~~ can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.
- ~~The following local authorities have approved the "Councils for Fair Tax Declaration" to date: Barnet, Brent, City of Westminster, Enfield Council, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Lambeth, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Royal Borough of Greenwich, Southwark Council in addition to thirty nine other Councils across the UK and the London Assembly~~
- [Hackney Council's administration has long been a proponent for fair taxation and welcomes the Shadow Chancellor's statements on fair tax.](#)

Hackney Council resolves to:

- [Reaffirm its commitment to](#) ~~Approve, and publicly declare its support for,~~ the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration and enact the Declaration through the points below.
- Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in [Hackney Council's](#) ~~our~~ tax conduct, right across our activities.
- [Reaffirm](#) ~~Ensure~~ IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.
- [Shun](#) ~~Not~~ use [of](#) offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
- Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.
- Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.
- Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.
- Support Fair Tax Week events in the [borough area](#), and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses [that](#) are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.
- Support calls for urgent reform of UK ~~procurement~~ law to enable local authorities to [revise their procurement policies and](#) better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct ~~through their procurement policies.~~

- [Recognise the principles of Fair Tax in its Sustainable Procurement Strategy.](#)

Proposed by: Cllr Garbett

Seconded by: Cllr Binnie-Lubbock

16c(i) Green Motion - The Crisis in Israel and Palestine: Call For a Ceasefire, Release Of All Hostages & More Support For Local Community Cohesion.

The following amendments are proposed by the Labour Group:

This Council notes:

1. Across Hackney residents have been horrified by the violent conflict in Israel and Palestine and are grief stricken at the loss of lives, including thousands of children, [following the terror attack on Israel by Hamas on 7th October](#). Many, especially in Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities, [as well as those from other communities of all faiths and none](#), are concerned for the safety of friends, family and work colleagues in the region.
2. Previous conflicts in the region have been associated with increases in community tensions, Islamophobia, antisemitism and hate crime in the UK.
3. There has been a worrying rise in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crime in Hackney since the [terror](#) attacks by Hamas on Israelis on 7th October and the ~~latest~~ [siege, bombardment and ground invasion of Gaza](#). [Hackney stands against antisemitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia and all forms of racism and hate crime, passing motions to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims definition of Islamophobia.](#)
4. ~~That a~~ **A** range of international humanitarian organisations have been calling for [an urgent ceasefire on all sides and lasting peace in the region and for a two-state solution](#). ~~a ceasefire, including Oxfam, Save the Children, Medecins Sans Frontières, Muslim Aid, War on Want, War Child and Amnesty International.~~
5. [That](#) Hackney is twinned with Haifa city in Israel. Haifa is 160km from the Gaza Strip.
6. The brilliant work by [Council officers](#), faith and community groups and [partners including the Community Security Trust, Tell Mama, as well as others, and the police leaders](#) across the borough to hold our community together, provide solace for today and hope for the future.
7. [The vital and ongoing work undertaken by the Council with partners to ensure the safety of our communities, which includes:](#)
 - [The sending of a letter from the Mayor to the Prime Minister expressing our concerns about the impact the conflict in the Middle East is having on Hackney residents and community cohesion, calling on the Government to: focus all efforts on bringing an immediate cessation to hostilities in Israel and Palestine, including an immediate and sustainable humanitarian ceasefire on all sides, lasting peace in the region and a renewed peace process, the urgent release of all hostages and provide central government funding to support community cohesion and peace-making at a local level](#)

- Increasing the number of council enforcement patrols and deploying the council's mobile CCTV van into vulnerable communities
- Meeting with the borough commander and continuing to work closely with the police to support their work
- Co-hosting, with the police, community stalls around the borough as part of national hate crime awareness week
- Responding swiftly to hate incidents, crimes and anti-social behaviour
- Writing to faith leaders to express our support
- Reaching out to our Jewish and Muslim community partners in particular to reiterate the work the Council is undertaking with the police to keep the community safe
- Writing to all schools and education settings, including faith schools, and offering ongoing security liaison, support, resource and guidance
- Holding interfaith events.

This Council believes:

8. ~~There must be an immediate ceasefire.~~ The truce at the end of November 2023 was a vital step towards releasing hostages and the provision of humanitarian aid ~~end the violence.~~ There must be an immediate cessation to hostilities in Israel and Palestine, including an immediate and sustainable humanitarian ceasefire on all sides. Humanitarian aid and basic services must be immediately restored. All hHostages must be immediately released.
9. ~~A just and lasting peace in the region cannot and will not be brought about through violence, but will only be the result of a political negotiation based on democratic principles, equal rights for all and an end to occupation negotiated by the people of the region.~~ Peace, justice and reconciliation in the region is likely to have a positive impact on community cohesion in Hackney, particularly for Jewish and Muslim residents, as well as residents from all faiths and none who are from the region.
10. There can be no place for hate in our Borough. Hackney must be a safe place for those of all faiths and nationalities. We ~~must~~ will continue to support those whose families and loved ones are caught up in this conflict. We must also stand up for those who may be perceived by others, sometimes because of assumptions regarding faith or race, to have links to the region and as a result are suffering from prejudice and discrimination-; ~~A~~and as a Borough of Sanctuary we extend a special welcome to those fleeing war and persecution, ~~and must do all we can to avoid that journey becoming a necessary last resort of many who would not otherwise wish to leave their homes.~~

This Council resolves:

11. ~~To ask the Mayor to write to the UK government to:~~

- ~~a. Ask them to call for an immediate ceasefire and immediate release of all hostages.~~
 - ~~b. Ask them to call for a renewed peace process to establish a political settlement that guarantees freedom, justice and safety for both Israelis and Palestinians.~~
 - ~~c. Request central government funding to support community cohesion and peace-making at a local level.~~
12. To continue to work with borough partners to ensure safety for our Muslim and Jewish communities, hold interfaith events ~~more~~ regularly, and to be ready to welcome refugees ~~from the Occupied Palestinian Territories.~~
13. To continue to eEncourage interfaith and community groups to apply bid for funding, like Local Initiative Funding, to support community cohesion, peace-making and celebrating how Hackney fosters harmony between our diverse communities.

Labour Group Amendments:

Proposed by: Deputy Mayor Guy Nicholson

Seconded by: Cllr Ian Rathbine

16c(ii) Green Motion- The Crisis in Israel and Palestine: Call For a Ceasefire, Release Of All Hostages & More Support For Local Community Cohesion (Amended Substantive Motion)

Following the publication of the motion in the agenda, the proposer and seconder have accepted some of the amendments proposed by the Labour Group (as at 16c(i) and have amended their motion as follows:

This Council notes:

1. Across Hackney residents have been horrified by the violent conflict in Israel and Palestine and are grief stricken at the loss of lives, including thousands of children, following the terror attack on Israel by Hamas on 7th October. Many, especially in Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities, as well as those from other communities of all faiths and none, are concerned for the safety of friends, family and work colleagues in the region.
2. Previous conflicts in the region have been associated with increases in community tensions, Islamophobia, antisemitism and hate crime in the UK.
3. There has been a worrying rise in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crime in Hackney since the terror attacks by Hamas on Israelis on 7th October and the siege, bombardment and ground invasion of Gaza. Hackney stands against antisemitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia and all forms of racism and hate crime, passing motions to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims definition of Islamophobia.
4. That a range of international humanitarian organisations have been calling for an urgent ceasefire on all sides and lasting peace in the region and for a two-state solution. These include: Oxfam, Save the Children, Medecins Sans Frontières, Muslim Aid, War on Want, War Child and Amnesty International.
5. That Hackney is twinned with Haifa city in Israel. Haifa is 160km from the Gaza Strip.
6. The brilliant work by Council officers, faith and community groups and partners including the Community Security Trust, Tell Mama, as well as others, and the police across the borough to hold our community together, provide solace for today and hope for the future.
7. The vital and ongoing work undertaken by the Council with partners to ensure the safety of our communities, which includes:
 - Increasing the number of council enforcement patrols and deploying the council's mobile CCTV van into vulnerable communities
 - Meeting with the borough commander and continuing to work closely with the police to support their work
 - Co-hosting, with the police, community stalls around the borough as part of national hate crime awareness week
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- Writing to all schools and education settings, including faith schools, and offering ongoing security liaison, support, resource and guidance
- Holding interfaith events.

This Council believes:

8. The truce at the end of November 2023 was a vital step towards releasing hostages and the provision of humanitarian aid. There must be an immediate cessation to hostilities in Israel and Palestine, including an immediate and sustainable humanitarian ceasefire on all sides. Humanitarian aid and basic services must be immediately restored. All hostages must be immediately released.
9. A just and lasting peace in the region cannot and will not be brought about through violence, but will only be the result of a political negotiation based on democratic principles, equal rights for all and an end to occupation negotiated by the people of the region. Peace, justice and reconciliation in the region is likely to have a positive impact on community cohesion in Hackney, particularly for Jewish and Muslim residents, as well as residents from all faiths and none who are from the region.
10. There can be no place for hate in our Borough. Hackney must be a safe place for those of all faiths and nationalities. We will continue to support those whose families and loved ones are caught up in this conflict. We must also stand up for those who may be perceived by others, sometimes because of assumptions regarding faith or race, to have links to the region and as a result are suffering from prejudice and discrimination; and as a Borough of Sanctuary we extend a special welcome to those fleeing war and persecution.

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 - c. Request central government funding to support community cohesion and peace-making at a local level.
12. To continue to work with borough partners to ensure safety for our Muslim and Jewish communities, hold interfaith events regularly, and to be ready to welcome refugees.

13. To continue to encourage interfaith and community groups to apply for funding, like Local Initiative Funding, to support community cohesion, peace-making and celebrating how Hackney fosters harmony between our diverse communities.

Proposed by: Cllr Binnie-Lubbock

Seconded by: Cllr Garbett