

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET
MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2024**

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, HACKNEY TOWN HALL,
MARE STREET, LONDON, E8 1EA

- Councillors Present: **Mayor Caroline Woodley in the Chair**
- Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble (Vice-Chair),
Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Sade Etti,
Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas,
Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Clayeon McKenzie,
Cllr Guy Nicholson, Cllr Carole Williams,
Cllr Sarah Young, Cllr Sam Pallis and
Cllr Joe Walker**
- Apologies: **Cllr Sem Moema**
- Officers in Attendance: **Mark Agnew, Governance Officer
Dawn Carter-McDonald, Chief Executive
Sandra Farquharson, Director HR, Organisational
Development & Communications
Louise Humphreys, Acting Director of Legal,
Democratic & Electoral Services
Georgia Lazari, Acting Assistant Director of Legal
and Governance
Jackie Moylan, Interim Group Director, Finance
Natalie Williams, Senior Governance Officer**
- Also in Attendance: **Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock**
- 1 Apologies for Absence**
 - 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Sem Moema.
 - 2 Declarations of Interest**
 - 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.
 - 3 Urgent Unrestricted Business**
 - 3.1 There was no urgent business for consideration.
 - 4 Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private, Any Representations Received and the Response to Such Representations**
 - 4.1 No representations were received.
 - 5 Questions/Deputations**

- 5.1 Question from Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock with respect to agenda items 9, F S342 2024/25 Overall Financial Position Report, 10, F S332 October 2024 Capital Update and Property Disposals And Acquisitions, 11, CED S385 Hackney Council Agency Joint Venture with Commercial Services Kent Ltd (CSKL), and 12, City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023-24, were received without notice. Mayor Caroline Woodley, using her discretion as Chair, agreed to accept the questions during consideration of the relevant agenda items.

6 Unrestricted Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Cabinet

RESOLVED: The unrestricted minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 30 September 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7 Unrestricted Minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Meeting held on 02 September 2024 were noted.

8 Hackney Youth Parliament Presentation

- 8.1 The Hackney Youth Parliament were unable to attend the meeting, so their presentation was to be rearranged for the next suitable meeting of Cabinet.

9 F S342 2024/25 Overall Financial Position Report - August 2024

- 9.1 Mayor Woodley noted that the Overall Financial Position report presented Cabinet with the stark reality of the challenges faced in Hackney at present, and by Local Government more broadly. It also set out a significant in-year overspend reflecting the pressures faced, particularly across children's and adult's social care, and homelessness services.
- 9.2 Cllr Robert Chapman, Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service, introduced the report confirming that it reflected the serious financial position that the Council was in, reported an increase in the overspend to just under £37m, noted that the overspend in London as a whole was c£700m, and highlighted the mitigation that the Council was taking. The report also set out recommendations relating to the first stages of finalising the 2025/26 budget.
- 9.3 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock asked Cabinet about the overspend on agency staff by the Children and Education directorate, and oversight of investigations into overspends.
- 9.4 In response, Cllr Chapman, Dawn Carter McDonald, Chief Executive, and Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care, confirmed that
- Agency staff overspend reflected the increase in demand for social care; there was a nationwide issue in relation to recruiting experienced social workers; and that Local Authorities had a statutory responsibility to

ensure sufficient numbers of social workers to provide effective social care services.

- The investigation lead by the Corporate Leadership Team into overspend had been completed and had made recommendations on spend controls.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the overall financial position of the Council and in particular the overspend and the initiatives set out to mitigate this, as at August 2024, were noted.**
- 2. That the General Fund and HRA savings summarised in 2.14 and set out in detail in Appendix 4 were approved.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

To facilitate financial management and control of the Council's finances.

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

This budget monitoring report is primarily an update on the Council's financial position.

10 F S332 October 2024 Capital Update and Property Disposals And Acquisitions

- 10.1 The Mayor highlighted how the Council continued to invest, despite difficult financial circumstances, noting the allocation of over £15m of Local Authority Housing Funding (LAHF3), which would help deliver much needed temporary accommodation and resettlement homes.
- 10.2 Introducing the report, Cllr Chapman welcomed the proposed funding for the Pedro Club, the announcement of the LAHF3 grant which would be vital to allow the Council to provide quality temporary accommodation, and the support to the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).
- 10.3 Cllr Chris Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture, Cllr Sade Etti, Cabinet Member for Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeping and Temporary Accommodation, Cllr Guy Nicholson, Deputy Mayor for Delivery, Inclusive Economy and Regeneration, and Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities, Mayor Woodley spoke in support.
- 10.4 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock asked Cabinet the definition of "genuinely affordable housing", the funding plans relating to the Local Implementation Plan (LIP), and whether the Northwold Road scheme was being taken forward.
- 10.5 In response, Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Sarah Young, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, confirmed that
 - The Council uses the term "genuinely affordable housing" to refer to homes which are genuinely affordable to Hackney residents on low and medium household incomes, whether for rent or sale. Affordability is based on consideration of the proportion of income spent on housing costs.

- The Council was aiming to see 50% of all new homes being affordable, with 30% for social rent and 20% for intermediate rent.
- The Hackney Transport Strategy is the underlying strategy that sets out the Council's priorities and was subject to wide consultation. The LIP programmes are subject to TfL's very tight deadlines, the amount of funding is limited to TfL's funding priorities, and therefore the Council builds its LIP programme around the Mayor of London requirements, where they align with the Hackney Transport Strategy.
- Written responses with fuller detail would be provided, which included an update on the Northwold Road scheme.

RESOLVED:

1. That the scheme for Climate, Homes & Economy Directorate as set out in section 11 was approved as follows:

Local Implementation Plan (LIP) 2024/25 and Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF) 2024/25 and 2025/26: Resource and spend approval of **£3,967k (£3,427k in 2024/25, £320k in 2025/26 and £220k in 2026/27)** was requested to enable Council Officers to proceed with the final year of the three year LIP programme as well as the two year programme of works for the Mayor of London Transport Strategy (Air Quality Fund).

2. That the s106 Capital schemes summarised below and set out in section 12 was approved:

S106	2024/25 £'000
Capital	920
Total S106 Capital for Approval	920

3. That the s106 Capital scheme summarised below and set out in section 13 was noted:

S106	2024/25 £'000
Capital	7
Total S106 Capital for Noting	7

4. That the capital adjustment summarised below was noted:

Current Directorate	Capital Adjustments
	£'000
Non Housing	304
Housing	0
Total	304

5. Delegated to the Interim Group Director, Finance the authority to accept the additional Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3 (LAHF3) of £15.7m grant funding in section 15 in accordance with the agreement. This will enable the budget increase of the Council's Temporary Accommodation investment and Afghan Resettlement Scheme.

- 6. Approved an increase of £34.9m to the General Fund Capital Programme and £2.5m to the HRA Capital Programme to fulfil our LAHF3 commitments. This adjustment includes £15.7m in grant funding and £21.7m in borrowing.**
- 7. Authorised the purchase (either freehold or leasehold) of suitable dwellings within the administrative area of the Council for the purposes of allocation of both Temporary Accommodation and housing for on ACRS resettlement schemes and delegated authority to the interim Group Director, Finance to agree all commercial terms for these purchases.**
- 8. Delegated authority to the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services to settle all necessary legal documentation to enable these transactions.**
- 9. Noted The Pedro Project information contained within this report and progress to date. The Pedro Club, 175 Rushmore Rd, E5 0HD and 3 Pedro Street, London, E5 OHD (shown for identification purposes edged red on the plan at Appendix 1 and 2).**
- 10. Noted that King's Park Moving Together (KPMT) are submitting funding proposals to Sport England for additional funding to support the organisational development and the The Pedro capital project.**
- 11. Authorised the allocation of up to £1.5m of Council capital funding from the Council's Voluntary and Community Sector capital budget towards The Pedro Project capital works, subject to The Pedro Club having:**
 - Secured a minimum match funding of £1m from Sport England;**
 - Secured other sources of funding to ensure the project is fully funded; and**
 - Satisfactory progress on organisational capacity building and strengthening of its governance.**
- 12. Subject to availability of capital funding, to continue work to progress The Pedro Project through RIBA stages 3 and 4.**
- 13. Approved the disposal of 6 small pieces of land as set out in section 15 and in Appendix 3 and shown for identification purposes edged red on the plans at Appendices 4-9.**
- 14. Delegated authority to the Director of Strategic Property Services, in consultation with the Interim Group Director, Finance to agree the terms of the agreement for the disposals.**
- 15. Authorised the Acting Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services to prepare, agree, settle and sign the necessary legal documentation to effect the proposals contained in this report and to enter into any other ancillary legal documentation as required.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

Monday 28 October 2024

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 29 October 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Details of alternative options considered and rejected were included in the printed decisions, published on the 29 October 2024, and can be [found here](#).

11 CED S385 Hackney Council Agency Joint Venture with Commercial Services Kent Ltd (CSKL)

- 11.1 The Mayor confirmed that the Council currently had a contract with Matrix for temporary and interim staffing, which expired in June 2025. The proposed decision presented an opportunity to explore alternative arrangements for recruiting temporary workers.
- 11.2 Cllr Carole Williams introduced the report stating that the proposals would see an innovative partnership provide recruitment agency services to all Directorates, which demonstrated a commitment to the Council's workforce that would assist recruitment to roles with specialist skills and give the Council more control over the recruitment of temporary staff.
- 11.3 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock asked Cabinet about a long-term vision for insourcing staff, and plans to reduce agency staff usage.
- 11.4 In response, the Mayor, Cllr Williams, and Sandra Farquharson, Director HR, Organisational Development & Communications, confirmed that
- One of the aims of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee was to task Officers to examine opportunities for insourcing, and that proposals would allow the Council to take more control over recruitment.

RESOLVED: Confirmed approval to create a Joint Venture Agency between Hackney Council and Commercial Services Kent Ltd (CSKL), with the agreement to provide recruitment agency services to all Hackney Departments and Services.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 29 October 2024, and can be [found here](#).

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Details of alternative options considered and rejected were included in the printed decisions, published on the 29 October 2024, and can be [found here](#).

12 City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023-24

- 12.1 Mayor Woodley thanked Officers for the annual report, which highlighted the Council's continued support and protection of adults at risk of abuse and neglect through the hard work and dedication of all those organisations in the area who seek to safeguard our residents. This formed part of the Council's commitment to always protect Hackney's most vulnerable.

- 12.2 Cllr Chris Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture introduced the report, recommended that attendees read the 10 case studies, highlighted that self-neglect remained the most common reason for acceptance of a safeguarding referral, which had been the case since the pandemic, and thanked Dr Adi Cooper for her 10 years of service as she stood down from the role as Independent Chair.
- 12.3 Cllr Bramble welcomed the report and the successful working between the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safeguarding Children's Board, and thanked Dr Adi Cooper.
- 12.4 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock asked Cabinet whether Hackney had considered a Mental Health Street Triage team, which had appeared to be successful in the City of London.
- 12.5 In response, Cllr Kennedy confirmed that
- Consideration of whether a similar approach could be taken would need to be agreed by the Metropolitan Police Service, East London Foundation Trust, and North East London Foundation Trust.

RESOLVED: Cabinet noted the report.

13 Updated Appointments and Nominations

- 13.1 Introducing the report, Mayor Woodley asked Cabinet to note the updated Membership of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee, with Cllr Young joining as substitute.

RESOLVED: Cabinet noted the updated Membership of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee (CPIC), appointed by the Elected Mayor, as listed at Appendix 1.

14 Exclusion of the Press and Public

- 14.1 The Cabinet agreed that the exclusion of the press and public was not required to consider exempt item 15.

15 CED S385 Hackney Council Agency Joint Venture with Commercial Services Kent Ltd (CSKL) - Exempt Appendices

- 15.1 The Cabinet agreed that no further consideration of the exempt appendix in relation to agenda item 11 was required.

16 Urgent Exempt Business

- 16.1 There were no new exempt items for consideration.

Duration of the meeting: 6.01pm - 6.45 pm