

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2017, 7.30 - 9.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Ali Gul Ozbek (Mayor), Gina Adamou, Charles Adje, Kaushika Amin, Jason Arthur, Eugene Ayisi, Dhiren Basu, David Beacham, Patrick Berryman, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Mark Blake, Zena Brabazon, Clare Bull, Vincent Carroll, Clive Carter, Joanna Christophides, Pippa Connor, Ali Demirci, Isidoros Diakides, Natan Doron, Joseph Ejiofor, Sarah Elliott, Gail Engert, Tim Gallagher, Joe Goldberg, Eddie Griffith, Makbule Gunes, Bob Hare, Kirsten Hearn, Emine Ibrahim, Adam Jogee, Claire Kober, Toni Mallett, Jennifer Mann, Stephen Mann, Liz McShane, Peter Mitchell, Liz Morris, Martin Newton, Felicia Opoku, James Patterson, Lorna Reith, Reg Rice, Anne Stennett, Alan Strickland, Tucker, Bernice Vanier, Ann Waters, Elin Weston and Charles Wright

62. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Mayor referred to the notice as shown on the summons in relation to filming at meetings.

63. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ahmet, Gideon Bull, McNamara, Peacock, Ross and Sahota.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Adje

64. TO ASK THE MAYOR TO CONSIDER THE ADMISSION OF ANY LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 100B OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Chief Executive asked that responses to written questions be admitted at item 12 as tabled, explaining they were unavailable earlier given the time required to research and prepare answers.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

66. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY AND TO APPROVE THE CLERK'S NOTE AS AN ADDITION TO THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2017

The minutes of the meeting of 27 February, and the Clerk's note as an addition to the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 February, were approved.

67. TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE MAYOR MAY LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Mayor drew Members' attention to the tabled paper on his engagements since the last meeting.

He drew particular attention to his recent visit to the Apprentices Week at Tottenham Hotspur football club, the celebration of the Commonwealth Day and the commemoration of the anniversary of Sapper Patrick Azimkar's death.

Finally, he expressed sadness on behalf of the Council at the recent death of long-serving officer Leon Joseph, and said there would be opportunity to mark his death in an appropriate way at a future meeting.

68. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The interim Chief Executive drew Members' attention to the calendar of meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

69. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Monitoring Officer and Assistant Director for Corporate Governance had no matters to report.

70. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS AND/OR PETITIONS AND, IF APPROVED, TO RECEIVE THEM

None.

71. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES

72. STAFFING AND REMUNERATION - PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Cllr McShane, as Vice Chair of the Staffing and Remuneration Committee moved the report in the absence of the Chair.

RESOLVED

That Full Council approve the Pay Policy Statement 2017/18, amended as explained in the report and attached as Appendix A of the report.

73. STANDARDS COMMITTEE - MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Cllr Amin, Chair of the Standards Committee, moved the report and informed Members that there would be a review of Members' Allowances in the Autumn.

RESOLVED

That Full Council:

1. Revoke the Members Allowance Scheme for 2016/17 as of 31 March; and
2. Approve the proposed new Members' Allowances Scheme for 2017-18, as set out in appendix 1 of the report, to take effect from 1 April 2017.

74. HARINGEY DEBATE: BUILDING STRONGER, MORE COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

Clerks note – The Mayor varied the order of business, so that item 12 was heard before item 11. These minutes follow the order of the agenda.

The Mayor introduced his debate by celebrating Haringey as one of the country's most diverse boroughs and referring to the many community groups he had engaged with over the past year, which had made it such a privilege to serve as Mayor. He set out some challenges to community cohesion that were emerging, and his hope those challenges would be met.

The Mayor then introduced his three speakers. First, Rabbi Mason, of Muswell Hill Synagogue, outlined his previous work on community cohesion, the present challenges at a national level, and how pleased he was that it was entirely normal locally to work on cross-community projects.

Second, Bibi Khan of Wightman Road Mosque, set out how essential community cohesion was to helping relations between individuals, and to building a stronger and safer society. The voluntary sector was key to this, in particular at a time of reduced public funding. She paid tribute to Leon Joseph and his personal contribution to this agenda, and set out how people would have to work together to overcome future challenges.

Finally, Yasar İsmailoğlu set out some challenges faced by people coming from different cultural backgrounds, and how he'd noticed the improvements to the borough that accompanied greater community cohesion over the past forty years. He thought Haringey would be a good example for increasingly diverse towns to follow as they integrate in the future.

The Mayor then started the debate.

Councillor Rice, having lived in the borough for fifty years, gave some historical context. He noted Haringey had attracted people coming from areas in conflict, that the borough had established a number of community centres for different communities, and the Broadwater Farm riots had encouraged further efforts for community cohesion. He had been disappointed that the 2011 Tottenham Riots had shown that community relations were not completely settled.

Councillor Mallett noted that people had arrived in Haringey from areas of conflict and reconciled, rather than reflecting the divisions they had left. She noted increased social isolation meant a more deliberate effort was needed for face-to-face interactions, including public spaces and voluntary organisations. She noted that housing challenges could mean people being separated from their family and social networks locally.

Councillor Engert set out her pride at Haringey's diversity, which had proven more resilient than other parts of the country following the European referendum. She outlined the particular challenges faced by some communities, which could lead to disengagement. The borough should do more to support disadvantaged communities, and to ensure people from EU countries are made to feel welcome in the absence of clear Government support for them.

Councillor Doron recalled that his grandfather had been at the battle of Cable Street, and had emphasised the need to work together against divisive movements at a Cable Street commemoration event hosted by the Mayor of London last year. He thought a successful, diverse borough could provide a beacon of hope to communities across the UK.

Councillor Arthur noted the threat to cohesion posed by inequality, and was concerned at statistics suggesting Haringey was the most unequal area in the country. He was concerned at the risk of not taking strong, bold action to support growth in the borough, which would entail inequality being continued.

Councillor Newton felt all Councillors had a responsibility to support community cohesion, and thanked community leaders for their efforts. He noted the threat posed by Brexit to community cohesion, and the need to mitigate this. As a pluralist, he felt diversity strengthened communities, rather than diluted them.

Councillor Wright thought age, wealth and geography were among the many ways one could consider diversity. He mentioned the well-known 'Battle of Wood Green' in the 1970s in the borough, and hoped there could be a small grant fund to support community cohesion projects. He drew attention to the forthcoming Scrutiny report on Child Friendly Haringey, and supported the guarantee of rights to EU citizens resident in the borough.

Councillor Ibrahim emphasised the need to value one another, rather than merely tolerate each other. She felt Haringey showed a continued commitment to diversity, and set out some of her personal history as the child of people who had left a country in conflict and found a home in Haringey. She felt Haringey's civic identity reflected a different meaning of patriotism.

Councillor Adamou also gave some personal history, and how the different Cypriot communities came together in Haringey at a time of conflict in Cyprus. She thought the Council and Councillors had a responsibility to promote cohesion, and her multi-cultural ward was a great example of people from different backgrounds coming together.

Councillor Hearn noted that politics, informed by untruthful campaigns and ill-informed opinions, was increasingly divisive, and there was a growth in hate crimes. She felt honesty and open-mindedness was needed to build cohesion, and politicians had a responsibility for truthfulness.

Councillor Mark Blake had been to a reception at Parliament that day for MAC UK, and he commended their approach of involving young people, in the place they live and doing work with young people, rather than to them. He thought young people should be listened to and involved in the borough's work to help develop solutions to problems they faced.

Responding to the debate on behalf of the Cabinet, Councillor Ayisi set out some information on the diversity of the borough and noted the increase in hate crimes over recent months, which made some people feel less safe in the borough and arose from irresponsible campaigning. He set out some work that was underway to resettle Syrian refugees, and work with faith leaders to re-establish a faith forum in the borough to promote community cohesion and better engagement with faith communities. Additionally, the Council was working with Open Doors on the needs of older LGBT people, and had received funding recently from the Government to support migrants settling locally.

Concluding the debate, the Mayor thanked the speakers and Members for their contributions.

75. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, IF ANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NOS. 9 & 10

The Mayor accepted the admission of responses to written questions as late items of business, as the answers to questions had needed to be researched and prepared after the summons had been dispatched.

Oral questions one to six were then asked and responded to.

76. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NO. 13

Councillor Morris introduced her motion, which reflected the crisis in education funding. She regretted the cuts to funding for schools in the borough, which came at a time of increased demand on schools' budgets. She also opposed the cut to the Education Services Grant, which also would represent further challenges for schools after a period of increasing funding to schools that had accompanied improvements to schools in the borough.

The motion seconded by Councillor Connor, who, as a local school governor, had been concerned at education cuts that forced schools to take very difficult choices.

Proposing her amendment, Councillor Weston supported the principle behind the motion and sought, with the amendment, to provide more detail and ensure it could be supported across the Chamber.

Seconding the amendment, Councillor Mitchell set out some of the impact of the proposed changes, which undermined the Government's stated aspirations.

The Mayor then opened the debate, which included contributions from Councillors Hare and Wright.

Responding to the debate, Councillor Morris thanked Members for their contributions, and welcomed the agreement between the parties on the issue of school funding.

Following a vote, the amendment was CARRIED.

Following a vote, the motion as amended was AGREED unanimously.

RESOLVED

This Council notes that the Conservative Government's consultation on its plans for a new funding formula for schools is currently under way and it claims that measures, set to be introduced in April 2018, will "end the postcode lottery" of schools funding.

This Council also notes that In December 2016 the National Audit Office produced a report into the financial sustainability of schools and confirmed that mainstream schools will need to make £3.0 billion in efficiency savings by 2019-20 against a background of growing pupil numbers and a real-terms reduction in funding per pupil.

This Council is concerned that:

- by introducing this new funding formula, while cutting education funding, money will be taken away from London schools (and other schools in urban areas) to be redistributed elsewhere in the country.
- 70% of London schools will lose out directly through the implementation of the formula while all London schools will face real terms funding cuts.
- these cuts will see an overall reduction in the Haringey schools budget of £5 million a year by 2019–20 and this is on top of other pressures on school finances including pay awards, inflation and rising national insurance and pensions contributions.

This Council is further concerned that in real terms, these cuts will mean that:

- Per pupil funding will be cut by £664 (11%) per child in Haringey by 2020
- The average cut for Haringey secondary pupils is £842
- The average cut for Haringey primary pupils is £574
- Haringey schools will face larger class sizes, have fewer teachers, teaching assistants and subject specialist and pupils will get less support and individual attention.

This Council believes that the Conservative Government's proposals represent the biggest real-terms cuts to schools budgets in a generation which will hit every school in the borough and mean less money for every child in Haringey.

This Council is also against the phasing out of the Education Services Grant and its impact on schools and the Council.

This Council calls upon the Conservative Government to increase the schools budget in order to prevent a serious detrimental impact on class sizes, support for pupils with special needs or valuable extra-curricular activities. We ask that the Government seeks to produce a truly fair funding formula for schools which protects funding levels in London and increases funding for other areas.

This Council resolves to write a cross-party letter to the Secretary of State for Education to express our serious concerns about the Government's funding formula.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date