

Ayshe Simsek,  
Democratic Services  
and Scrutiny Manager

020 8489 2929

ayshe.simsek@haringey.gov.uk

14 March 2024

To: All Members of the Full Council

Dear Member,

Full Council - Thursday, 14th March, 2024

I attach a copy of the following reports for the above-mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda:

**9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES (PAGES 1 - 34)**

Cabinet - Adoption of the Community Safety Strategy - cover report to follow following Cabinet on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2024  
Overview and Scrutiny – Annual Report

**13. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, IF ANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NOS. 9 & 10 (PAGES 35 - 40)**

**14. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NO. 13 (PAGES 41 - 46)**

Yours sincerely

Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

This page is intentionally left blank

**REPORT OF Cabinet 04/2023/24****FULL COUNCIL 14 March 2024**

Chair: Cllr Peray Ahmet- Leader of the Council

Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion– Cllr Adam Jogee

**1. INTRODUCTION**

This report arises from the Cabinet meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 and asks Full Council to consider the following:

Adoption of the Community Safety Strategy as part of the Council's Policy Framework in accordance with Article 4.01 of the Council's Constitution.

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, requires that the Council establish a Community Safety Strategy. As a collaborative document outlined in the Constitution and integrated into the Council's Policy Framework, the Crime and Disorder Reduction (community safety) Strategy, hereafter referred to as the "Community Safety Strategy," is reserved for ultimate approval by the full Council, subject to a recommendation made by the Cabinet.

**2. Adoption of the Community Safety Strategy**

- 2.1 We considered the attached Community Safety strategy at our meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March and commended officers for their significant efforts in compiling this strategy which was for adoption by full Council. The Hate Crime strategy was for approved by Cabinet as an executive function and has been included in papers for further noting alongside the Community Safety Strategy .
- 2.2 The priorities in both the Hate Crime and Community Safety strategies had been developed following a Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment (2022) (Appendix 4, attached to the Cabinet Report). This highlighted several key crime and community safety priority areas for Haringey. The identified priorities were then used as the framework to begin a period of pre-consultation with our residents, businesses and communities. Following the pre-engagement in December 2022 we were able to co-produce six Community Safety priorities and five Hate Crime objectives with our communities who identified these as being the issues that they would like both strategies to focus on.

**Community Safety Priorities**

- Violence and high harms
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Exploitation
- Increase in trust and confidence.

- Reducing reoffending
  - Reducing victims of crime and ASB
- 2.3 In line with the Haringey Deal, we had ensured that there was significant pre – engagement on the priorities and then consultation exercise on both strategies in draft form. Officers had whole heartedly supported and facilitated this. There had also been a lot of collaborative work, specifically on the women's safety element of the strategy, with support from the Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing and also experienced steer and support provided by the Leader of the Council.
- 2.4 The main focus of our engagement was talking to people, obtaining their lived experience and their views to provide rich data to compile these strategies. This had been achieved and was illustrated with some of those responses outlined in the evaluation report, attached at Appendix A of the Cabinet Report, included in the Council Agenda pack. Also at page 4, of this Appendix (Table A), outlined the high number of consultation events using council and community outlets to engage on both the Community Safety Strategy and Hate Crime Strategy.
- 2.5 We discussed the following, specifically in relation to the Community Safety Strategy, after questions were put forward:
- The core focus was on direct engagement with local communities. Officers did approach the VCS through the Bridge Renewal Trust as a way of getting some of these surveys out to the wider community, but the focus of engagement was speaking to people directly. Officers sought the views of various seldom engaged communities; for example, multi faith groups, older people's groups, and young people's groups. Almost every library in the borough had the opportunity to host a conversation where residents could contribute their views.
  - In relation to reducing gang violence and preventing young people falling into gangs, there were several schemes and support provided by the Violence Reduction Unit. There was a partnership approach with them and a commitment from the Mayor of London to tackle many of these issues. It was a Council priority to keep young people safe and there was a wider political point about creating further opportunities for young people; and this was an issue that the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families was taking very seriously.
  - The Police were a key partner and had signed up to delivering the strategy and all councillors themselves were accountable for actively supporting achievement of the objectives, for this Policy Framework document.

### **WE RECOMMEND**

1. That Full Council approve the Community Safety Strategy as part of the Council's Policy Framework.
2. The Full Council delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Safer Stronger Communities, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Cohesion to make any minor amendments to the Community Safety Strategy and to agree and publish an annual action plan.

3. That Full Council note that the Climate Community Safety and Culture scrutiny Panel have no changes to the Community safety strategy and recommend Cabinet note their comments set out below at paragraph 13 in accordance with Part four Section E paragraph 2.2 of the Council's Constitution.

This page is intentionally left blank

# Overview and Scrutiny

## Annual Report 2023/24



## **Foreword**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has delivered its work programme for the year, in line with the Council's commitment to co-production, based on input provided by members of the Haringey community at our Scrutiny Café in 2022. The Committee and its Panels have heard reports on a wide range of policy and service areas, acting as a "critical friend" by providing the constructive challenge needed to help the executive realise its policy aims.

A detailed run through of the areas scrutinised by the Committee and Panels is provided in the body of the report, but here I would like to thank Committee and Panel members for the extremely hard work they put in to scrutinise the 2024-25 budget and 2024-29 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Due to the huge challenges facing councils nationwide in balancing their books, this was a particularly difficult and time-consuming process this year, but I'm happy that our detailed scrutiny and recommendations helped the executive to present a balanced budget for approval at Full Council on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

In addition to our regular scheduled meetings, the OSC also heard a Call-in of the decision to insource Leisure Services and held several evidence-gathering sessions into our review into the prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls, which we expect to publish shortly. Following on from budget scrutiny, and in the context of the ever-growing number of councils facing bankruptcy, we have also started initial discussions around a review of sustainable financial planning, which we hope to complete later this year.

I would like to finish by thanking Lourdes Keever for her valuable input as a co-opted member of the OSC for the past four and a half years and wish her all the best for the future.

**Councillor Matt White - Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

## Haringey's Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2023/24



Cllr Matt White (Chair)



Cllr Pippa Connor  
(Vice Chair)



Cllr Makbule Gunes



Cllr Alexandra Worrell



Cllr Michelle Simmons Safo

Co-opted Members:

Church Representatives

- Yvonne Denny
- Lourdes Keever

Parent Governor Representative:

- Venassa Naidoo

## **Contents**

1. What is scrutiny?
2. The structure of scrutiny in Haringey
3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)
4. Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel
5. Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel
6. Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel
7. Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel
8. North Central London Joint Health OSC
9. Budget Scrutiny
10. How to get involved

## 1. What is scrutiny?

---

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny was brought into being by the Local Government Act 2000. A requirement of the act is for a local authority with executive arrangements to have one or more overview and scrutiny committees.
- 1.2 These are able to scrutinise the decisions or actions taken by the Council or partner organisations or, indeed, consider any matter that affects people living in the area.
- 1.3 Overview and scrutiny should:
- Provide constructive “critical friend” challenge;
  - Amplify the voices and concerns of the public;
  - Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role; and
  - Drive improvement in public services.
- 1.4 Overview and Scrutiny plays an important role in local democracy through enhancing local accountability of services, improving transparency of decision-making and enabling Councillors to represent the views of local residents.
- 1.5 The work programme of Overview and Scrutiny is determined by the Councillors that undertake it rather than Council officers or Councillors on the Council’s Cabinet, although they can make suggestions. Suggestions from members of the local community are also very welcome. In addition, consultation exercises have been undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny, including surveys, to identify the issues that matter most to local residents.
- 1.6 The work programme covers a balance of activities:
- Holding the Executive to account;
  - Policy review and development – in-depth reviews to assess the effectiveness of existing policies or to inform the development of new strategies;
  - Performance management – identifying under-performing services, investigating and making recommendations for improvement;
  - External scrutiny – scrutinising and holding to account partners and other local agencies providing key services to the public; and
  - Public and community engagement – engaging and involving local communities in scrutiny activities and scrutinising those issues which are of concern to the local community.
- 1.7 It should also;
- Reflect local needs and priorities;
  - Prioritise issues that have most impact or benefit to residents;
  - Involve local stakeholders; and
  - Is flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues.

- 1.8 Scrutiny is a flexible process and can be carried out in a variety of ways, using various formats. In accordance with the Scrutiny Protocol, our areas of enquiry have been drawn from the following:
- Performance Reports;
  - One-off reports on matters of national or local interest or concern;
  - Issues arising out of internal and external assessment;
  - Reports on strategies and policies under development;
  - Issues on which Cabinet or officers would like scrutiny views or support; and
  - Progress reports on implementing previous scrutiny recommendations.
- 1.9 In addition, in-depth scrutiny reviews are an important aspect of Overview and Scrutiny and provide opportunities to thoroughly investigate issues and to make recommendations regarding them. Through the gathering and consideration of evidence from a wide range of sources, this type of work enables more robust and effective challenge as well as an increased likelihood of delivering outcomes.
- 

## 2. The structure of scrutiny in Haringey

---

- 2.1 In Haringey there is one over-arching Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This is supported in its work by four standing scrutiny panels that scrutinise the following service areas:
- Adults and Health;
  - Children and Young People;
  - Climate, Community Safety & Culture; and
  - Housing, Planning & Development.
- 2.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for developing an overall scrutiny work programme, including the work done by the four standing panels.

### **Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels**

- 2.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is made up of five councillors who are not members of the Council's Cabinet. Membership of Overview & Scrutiny Committee is proportional to the overall political makeup of the Council. The scrutiny panels are made up of between 3 and 7 councillors who are also not members of the Cabinet. Scrutiny panels are chaired by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and membership is, as far as possible, politically proportionate.
- 2.4 Both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and scrutiny panels oversee discrete policy areas and are responsible for scrutinising services or issues that fall within these portfolios.
- 2.5 A number of scrutiny functions are discharged by both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the individual panels. These include:
- Questioning Cabinet members on areas within their portfolio;
  - Monitoring service performance and making suggestions for improvement;

- Assisting in the development of local policies and strategies; and
- Monitoring implementation of previous scrutiny reports; and
- Budget monitoring.

2.6 As the 'parent' committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to approve work programmes and to ratify reports and recommendations developed by scrutiny panels. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also retains a number of scrutiny functions not undertaken by panels. This includes:

- Call-ins: where there is a challenge to decision taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet member or a key decision taken by an officer under delegated authority; and
- Councillor call for action: where local councillors can refer matters of genuine and persistent concern which have not been possible to resolve through usual council processes.

---

### 3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Councillors:** Matt White (Chair), Pippa Connor (Vice-Chair), Makbule Gunes, Michelle Simmons-Safo and Alexandra Worrell.

**Co-optees:** Venassa Naidoo (Parent Governor representative), Yvonne Denny and Lourdes Keever (Church representatives)

---

- 3.1 There were eight formal meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2023/24, as well as several evidence sessions for the Committee's Scrutiny Review. The Committee monitored the Council's performance as set out in the Corporate Delivery Plan and held a Question and Answer session with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive on their priorities for the year ahead.
- 3.2 Cabinet members were invited to share their plans and thinking for their respective areas and answered questions on progress of their work areas.

#### Call In

3.3 **Call-In of a decision taken at Cabinet on 5 December 2023 on Leisure Management**

On the 3rd of January 2024 the Committee considered a call on the Cabinet decision taken on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 to insource leisure services. The Call in contended that this decision had been taken without providing evidence to decision makers and the public that the Council has rigorously examined whether the decision provided best value for money for Haringey taxpayers.

The Call in further claimed that the decision had been taken on the basis of a vague list of benefits of insourcing, with no effort made to quantify the costs and

benefits of different options, with no scoring system between the various options. The call in added that no information has been provided to Cabinet about the comparative cost of a new leisure management contract in the immediate term, despite several providers displaying interest.

Further issues were raised in the Call in on the provision of exempt information, Cabinet considering a joint contract, and it was claimed that the decision fell outside the Policy Framework.

The Committee carefully considered the officer reports responding to the issues raised in the Call in and also had access to the exempt information provided to Cabinet . The Committee noted the following:

- By bringing leisure services inhouse, members would make sure that they were publicly accountable and democratically run.
- The provision of leisure services was key to helping residents in the future to enable them to lead active and healthy lives, whilst also tackling the wider determinants of ill health such as social exclusion and loneliness. This insourcing would be an opportunity to collaborate with communities to provide better services.
- The options review summary, was a snapshot summary of the evaluation work at a point in time. This exemplified that the award of a new contract was anticipated to cost roughly £200,000 revenue increase on top of what the Council was paying for Fusion. There was also still a need to invest in updating the properties in the Leisure portfolio and this needed capital investment even if a contracted service.
- The weightings applied were referred to and noted were a pictorial reflection of the options 2, 3 and 4 included in the Cabinet report. The weightings applied replicated the New River Sport and Fitness approach taken.
- Assurance was provided that as many residents as possible would be engaged with. Once this level of engagement was complete, the next stage would be having internal conversations around how the Council could then shape services going forward.
- This was an evaluation conducted by an external organisation for the Council to consider a range of aspects. This was in terms of what represented best value, not just financials, but also the wider social impacts, the wider environmental impacts, and the operational determinations of each of those five options. There had been a range of sessions internally that had looked at the information coming back from FMG, which had been iterative.
- There had been briefing sessions to the wider Cabinet at different points within the process. Within that, officers had given a snapshot from a financial perspective on each of the options available.
- There were some clear commercial sensitivities that were still ongoing with Fusion. The Council was respecting that confidentiality as the two parties move towards the end point in October 2024.
- The services were geared to working on the wellbeing model and this was a justified model that would provide a better service for residents.

- The predominant reason for that increased cost was because of staff salaries and terms and conditions being better with the Council as an employer than they were in the private sector.

Following the exempt session, the Committee was confident that the Cabinet had all information it needed to make its decision. Value for money had been dealt with by information provided by the officer report and responses provided to the committee member questions noted above. Also, the Committee focused on the fact that the decision was not just about financial value but the other benefits that were provided by the various options in the papers.

The Committee considered the advice of the Deputy Monitoring officer and the section 151 officer and agreed that the Leisure services decision was inside the Budget and Policy Framework.

The Committee agreed that no further action is to be taken, meaning that the key decision could be implemented immediately. This was following a vote of 4 members in favour of this resolution and 1 against.

### **Scrutiny Review - Violence Against Women & Girls**

- 3.4 In 2023/24 the Committee held several evidence sessions for a Scrutiny Review on the prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) including sessions with voluntary organisations, the Assistant Director for Social Care, the Metropolitan Police, the coordinator of the Haringey Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and the service leads for the establishment of new Family Hubs. The Committee is expected to publish its report on this Review shortly.

### **Questions with Leader of the Council**

- 3.5 In June 2023, the Committee received a verbal update from the Leader of the Council on her priorities for the municipal year. In the question-and-answer session that followed, the Committee raised concerns including how the Council was communicating with residents around LTNs (Low Traffic Neighbourhoods), housing improvement issues, delays in responses to Member Enquiries, the take-up of free school meals, resources for SEND (children with special educational needs and disabilities) and mental health provision.
- 3.6 Asked about their key concerns looking forward, the Chief Executive of the Council highlighted the findings of the Casey report, housing, resident engagement and customer experience, and the long-term inequalities and funding levels around health that existed in the borough. The Leader of the Council added that ensuring there were fit for purpose leisure facilities in the east of the borough was also a key local priority.

### **Cabinet Member Questions**

- 3.7 At the July meeting, the Committee held a Q&A session with Cllr Dana Carlin, Cabinet Member for finance and Local Investment, covering a range of topics including:
- Participatory Budgeting, what this means for Haringey, and progress to date in implementing this
  - The costs involved with temporary and agency staffing
  - The overall financial position of the Council, the in-year overspend, the perilous state of local government finance, and the increasing numbers of local authorities who are issuing Section 114 Notices
  - The impact of higher interest rates and increased borrowing costs on the Council and on its capital programme in particular.
- 3.8 At the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the Committee held a Q&A session with Cllr Ruth Gordon, Cabinet Member for Council Housebuilding, Placemaking and Local Economy, covering a range of topics including:
- Take up levels for Haringey Learns & Haringey Works, and how residents could access them. How Haringey Learns could be more prominent on GCSE/A-Level results days.
  - The success of getting young people to take up apprenticeship schemes, particularly in the construction sector, and the extent to which the Council was providing apprenticeship opportunities.
  - Links between Haringey Works and Job Centre Plus
  - Town Centres & High Streets, including how the Council could continue to support local businesses at a very difficult time.

## **Leisure Management**

- 3.9 The Committee received a report which provided a summary of the current position regarding the provision of leisure management within Haringey and the steps being taken to enhance that provision. The Committee outlined the degree of frustration felt by the local community in the amount of time that the swimming pool at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre had been closed, expressed concerns that there were a large number of marginalised residents in and around Seven Sisters and that its closure had a disproportionate impact on a range of different groups, including children with autism. The Committee also requested that the regular updates that were provided to members and residents about developments at Tottenham Green were reinstated.
- 3.10 As some details about the Council's leisure management contracts were not available at the time of the report, the Committee emphasised the importance of scrutiny and democratic oversight of future service provision and would continue to monitor this issue in 2024/25.

## **Performance Framework**

- 3.11 The Committee received a report which provided an update on the new performance framework that had been developed as part of the Corporate Delivery Plan. The framework would track delivery of activity and change working towards 170 outcomes stated in the plan. It was agreed that performance updates based on the framework would be provided to the Committee, the first of which was received in October 2023 resulting in questions from the Committee on the indicators for topics including children's services, tree planting and the prevention of violence against women and girls.

#### **Voter ID**

- 3.12 The Committee received a report on the impact of the introduction of voter ID requirements for elections. It was noted that voter ID was problematic for certain groups, including younger people and it was estimated that around 9,500 Haringey residents did not have a voter ID. The discussion on this item focused on various ways that turnout and voter ID levels could be improved including by reaching out to local residents in the wards by emails, letters, posters, leaflets, and digital advertisement. The Committee raised concerns around digital poverty and questioned the approach on how to target people who may experience digital poverty. The Committee noted that an engagement strategy had been implemented to reach out to young people in schools/sixth form. This would include working alongside with the schools and education colleagues to encourage participation.

#### **Other Areas of Interest**

- 3.13 The Committee have also received a number of other reports, presentations and briefings during the 2023/24 municipal year including; an update on Participatory Budgeting, Finsbury Park Events, the Annual Feedback and Resolutions Report, the Provisional Financial Outturn report for 2022/23, and a Quarter 1 financial monitoring update.

## **4. Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel**

---

**Councillors:** Pippa Connor (Chair), Cathy Brennan, Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Mary Mason, Sean O'Donovan, Felicia Opoku, and Sheila Peacock.

**Co-optees/Non-voting Members:** Ali Amasyali and Helena Kania

---

#### **Overview**

- 4.1 There were five formal meetings of the Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel in 2023/24, one of which was dedicated to scrutiny of the Draft Budget (2024/25) and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (2024/25-2028/29). The meetings involved Q&A sessions with the Cabinet Member for Adults & Health and discussions with senior Adults & Health officers and a range of external witnesses on key issues of concern. The Panel also held a number of evidence sessions to gather information in support of its Scrutiny Review on support after hospital discharge.

### **Scrutiny Review – Hospital Discharge**

- 4.2 In 2023/24 the Panel began a Scrutiny Review on the barriers to discharge from hospital, including in relation to residents of sheltered housing. Delays to discharge once a patient no longer requires hospital care can result from shortages in capacity in social care and community care or from issues with the discharge process itself. Delays to hospital discharge can have a detrimental impact on the health of patients as well as causing additional direct and indirect costs to the health and social care system. The Panel held evidence sessions with the Adult Social Care team, Housing team and with Discharge Coordinators and other senior staff at the Whittington and North Middlesex University Hospitals. The Panel is expected to publish its report on this Review towards the end of 2023/24.

### **Aids and Adaptations**

- 4.3 The Panel has continued to monitor progress on improving the experience for residents in getting aids and adaptations installed in their homes. The Panel heard directly from a number of residents and Council officers about this issue at a previous meeting in September 2022 when concerns were raised about communications with residents and delays to work being completed. The Panel subsequently made a series of recommendations for change which officers responded to in a report to the Panel in March 2023 and through a further update report in February 2024. It was reported that significant additional work had been carried out to increase capacity, reduce delays and improve communications.

### **Maternity Services**

- 4.4 In February 2024, the Panel received a report on the proposed reconfiguration of maternity and neonatal services in North Central London. This involved moving to a model with four units providing care rather than five with the closure of the unit at either the Royal Free Hospital or Whittington Hospital and additional investment in the one that remained open. The discussion involved the programme manager for the 'Start Well' initiative and the Medical Directors for the Whittington Hospital and the North Middlesex University Hospital. The Panel scrutinised the implications of the proposals, including on capacity, transport issues and a recent CQC inspection of maternity services at the North Middlesex University Hospital. The Panel will continue to monitor the progress of these proposals with a final decision expected in Autumn/Winter 2024.

## **Dementia**

- 4.5 The Panel received a report from the Head of Integrated Commissioning for the Council and NCL ICB on the approach to support people with dementia in the Borough as part of the multi-agency Ageing Well Strategy. This included action to improve awareness-raising and progress towards a dementia-friendly Haringey, diagnostic rates and onward connection to services. Specific issues discussed by the Panel included waiting times for the Memory Service at St Ann's Hospital, raised dementia awareness in under-served communities, support for paid and unpaid carers, the development of dementia hubs and financial support available for families of people with dementia.

## **Suicide Prevention**

- 4.6 The Panel received an overview of the Haringey Suicide Prevention Strategy, including an analysis of suicide rates in the borough and details of the Haringey multi-agency Suicide Prevention Group. Action in Haringey had including the development of an online Mental Health Resource Hub, a Safe Haven Crisis Hub, a suicide 'postvention' services to provide support to people after the suicide of a loved one and the delivery of events for a 'Great Mental Health Day'. The Panel scrutinised issues including the demographics relating to suicide in Haringey, possible underreporting of suicide, support for high-risk groups including construction workers, support after people contact the mental health crisis line and building links with local community groups.

## **Cabinet Member Q&A**

- 4.7 The Panel held two Q&A sessions in 2023/24 with the Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being, Cllr Lucia das Neves, covering a range of topics including:
- Progress on co-production and how this was communicated to residents.
  - Issues relating to the development of new mental health support facilities at Canning Crescent.
  - Public health issues, including vaccination rates and life expectancy rates in the borough.
  - Difficulties that residents experience in gaining access to health services.
  - Renewal of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the importance of addressing health inequalities, early intervention and prevention.
  - Improvements to Members enquiries relating to adult social care cases.

## **Budget Scrutiny**

- 4.8 As part of the Council's budget scrutiny process, the Panel examined proposals for the 2024/25 budget and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy with recommendations and requests for further information made to the Cabinet. The Panel sought assurance from the Cabinet that the pressures on the Adult Social Care budget would not impact negatively on the quality of care as new contracts

were negotiated and that the local voluntary sector would be properly supported in their provision of services to support those who need care and not put under excessive strain as a consequence of budget savings.

### **Joint Scrutiny work**

- 4.9 The Chair of the Panel, Cllr Pippa Connor, is also Chair of the North Central London joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) which covers the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, Camden, Haringey and Islington (see section 8 of this report). Emerging issues that are raised at the JHOSC are often reported to the Adults & Health scrutiny panel and vice-versa. A joint meeting between the Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel and the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel is planned towards the end of 2023/24 on the establishment of a new transition service to support young people moving from children's services to adult services.

---

## **5. Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel**

<b>Councillors:</b>	Makbule Gunes (Chair), Anna Abela, Gina Adamou, Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Sue Jameson, Mark Grosskopf and Anna Lawton
<b>Co-optees (Voting):</b>	Yvonne Denny (Church of England representative), Lourdes Keever (Catholic Church representative).

---

### **Update on the recommendations from the Review on Child Poverty**

- 5.1 At its June meeting, the Panel received an update on the recommendations from the review it carried out previously on Child Poverty in 2022. All of the recommendations from the Review were either agreed or partially agreed by Cabinet at its meeting in September 2022. The Panel heard that progress had been made in the implementation of the recommendations since its consideration by Cabinet. The Panel is keen to see the development and implementation of the Council's sustainable food strategy.

### **Review on Physical Activity and Sport**

- 5.2 The Panel completed its Scrutiny Review on Physical Activity and Sport. There are clear cognitive, physical and social benefits to physical activity and sport, especially for children and young people. It should be a key part of any strategy for addressing the obesity crisis. Many children and young people are missing out in Haringey and especially ones from less affluent homes. The cost of living crisis is likely to exacerbate these inequalities further. There needs to be a clear commitment from the Council and its partners to increase participation in physical activity and sport. This

should be based on acknowledgement of its clear benefits and contribution to health and wellbeing. An increased focus on partnership working should be prioritised as part of the new sport and physical activity strategy. We believe that the involvement of schools is fundamental to increasing the activity levels of children and young people. The Panel would like to see the establishment of a new swimming pool with the borough be set as an aspiration within the new strategy.

### **OFSTED inspection of Local Authority Children's Social Care Service**

- 5.3 The Panel received a report that set out the outcome of the inspection of Haringey Children's Social Care Service, which took place between 13 and 24 February 2023 and was focused on the effectiveness of the Council's Children's Social Care services. The Panel were delighted to hear that Haringey's Children's Service is now rated as good for overall effectiveness. This represents a significant improvement since the last full inspection in 2018. The Panel commended officers for this, and we hope that it marks a step change for Haringey. The Panel shares the enthusiasm of officers and the Cabinet Member that Haringey can become an Outstanding-rated authority in future, and that we can continue to improve the lives of our children and young people. The Panel noted that the report found that the stability of senior leadership and good corporate and political support have helped Haringey make considerable progress in a challenging context. The report also found that, whilst most children are now supported well, there was more to do to achieve the same level of progress in developing services for children in care. We will be receiving further updates on this and on the wider implementation of the post-inspection action plan at future meetings.

### **Youth Justice Strategic Plan**

- 5.4 The Panel received an update, and provided comments on, Haringey's Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023/24. We noted that first time entrants to the criminal justice system had stayed broadly at the same level compared to the previous year, and that the Haringey re-offending rate continues to decrease. Haringey has the lowest re-offending rate in London, due the continued reduction in arrest rates, the decriminalisation of young people and the impact of interventions. We commend officers on this and believe that this reflects well on our Youth at Risk Strategy and associated partnership strategies. Haringey has the highest rate of young people in custody when compared with our Youth Offending Family and across London. However, this represents a decrease of almost 50% compared to three years ago. The Panel strongly supports Haringey's commitment to "child first, offender second" approach, and the trauma-informed, contextual safeguarding and whole family approach to assessment intervention and delivery. The Panel also welcomes the strategy's focus on improving outcomes for the most vulnerable cohort of children and young people.

### **Exam and Test Results**

- 5.5 The Panel received an update from James Page, the Chief Executive of the Haringey Education Partnership which set out Haringey's educational attainment for the school year 2022/23 at all ages from Early Years through to A-Levels. This was the best set of results for our young people that Haringey had ever achieved, with every single primary measure scoring above the national average. The KS2 results had

met the London average for the first time ever. Haringey was the fourth most deprived borough in London but the results do not reflect it. KS4 & KS5 results had improved on 2019 results in absolute terms and given the amount of lost learning due to Covid, HEP advised that this was an astonishing outcome. The Panel heard that that HEP was able to glue Haringey's schools together and form a collaborative network. It was recognised as being one of the best in London. We were also very pleased to hear that the school leadership in Haringey was very strong.

### **Mental Health and Well-Being of Children and Young People**

- 5.6 The Panel heard how the Council and its partners were working together to support the mental health and well-being of children and young people. Services were critical to supporting local children and young people. It was known that Covid and the Cost of Living Crisis had had a big impact on the Mental Health and Wellbeing of children and that there had been a rise in children unable to return to school after the pandemic. Haringey has been successful in reducing school exclusions and also has not seen rises in education health and care plans for young people with 'social, emotional and mental health' needs, which have consistently fallen over the last 6 years.

### **Haringey Safeguarding Children's Partnership – Annual Report**

- 5.7 David Archibald, the Independent Chair, reported on the progress made by Haringey Safeguarding Children's Partnership since its inception. We were pleased to hear reassurances from the Independent Chair that he was confident with respect of the improvements made in delivery of services and how well the Council and its partners worked in relation to safeguarding. The Panel questioned the extent to which the annual reports were accessible, particularly to those whose first language wasn't English and also the extent to which the Partnership was able to successfully engage with schools. We noted that it was the responsibility of the Partnership to ensure that the Annual Report was accessible and that the Partnership Executive Board would be working to ensure that it was more accessible in future. In relation to ensuring that schools were involved in decision making, the Partnership had recently recruited a former head teacher to sit on the Board and that they would also be seeking further opportunities to engage with other head teachers. The Panel welcomed the fact that the partners worked well together, and that whilst the three statutory partners had very different roles, their priorities in relation to safeguarding overlapped. We heard that any challenges in terms of working across different agencies were rapidly overcome.

### **Scrutiny of the 2024/25 Draft Budget/5 Year Medium Term Financial Strategy (2023/24-2028/29)**

- 5.8 As part of the Council's formal budget scrutiny process the Panel examined proposals for the 2023/24 budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy in December 2023 with recommendations subsequently made to Cabinet. The Panel welcomed the fact that last year's savings were achieved and that the overall budget position in Children's was close to being a balanced position following a significant investment in tackling historical overspends. We were also very enthusiastic about the growth funding put in to provide a dedicated transitions service and believe this

could have a massive impact on supporting the transition of our young people into adulthood.

### **Cabinet Q&A**

- 5.9 Councillor Zena Brabazon, the Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children, and Families, attended meetings of the Panel and took part in a Q&A at three meetings. Amongst the issues raised were;
- The roll-out of extended free childcare for two year olds
  - School budgets and works to rectify school buildings with RAAC
  - The Safety Valve programme
  - Safeguarding in schools
  - Speech and Language programmes for under 5s
- 

## **6. Climate, Community Safety & Culture Scrutiny Panel**

**Councillors:** Michelle Simmons-Safo (Chair), George Dunstall, Gina Adamou, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Ibrahim Ali, Eldridge Culverwell, & Liam Carroll

**Co-opted Member:** Ian Sygrave (Haringey Association of Neighbourhood Watches)

---

### **Overview**

- 6.1 There were five formal meetings of the Climate, Community Safety & Culture Scrutiny Panel in 2023/24, one of which was focused on scrutinising the budget proposals that came under the Panel's remit. The work plan for the panel for 2023/24 was made up of a combination of issues raised by the Panel Members and areas of concern put forward by councillors, residents and partners as part of the scrutiny survey undertaken in September 2022. The Panel questioned Cabinet Members responsible for the policy areas under its remit and held discussions with senior Neighbourhood & Residents Experience officers, Strategic Planning officers and external stakeholders on key issues of concern.

### **Community Safety**

- 6.2 The Panel scrutinised a range of topics during the year. In relation to community safety these included a report which set out the Haringey Crime and ASB hotspots and the actions being taken to reduce crime in these areas. The Panel received performance information against MOPAC performance indicators, as well a presentation from the Borough Commander and the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion on the Community Safety Partnership's local priorities for tackling crime in the Borough.

- 6.3 At its March meeting, the Panel scrutinised the Community Safety & Hate Crime Strategy. We received the results of the consultation and public engagement exercise that took place during 2023 and provided comments on the strategy. We welcome the fact that the Council has incorporated a Hate Crime strategy into this key policy document and that this demonstrates the Council's commitment to a zero-tolerance stance against hate and discrimination. As a Policy Framework document, the Panel's comments were fed up to Full Council.

### **Baroness Casey Review and the Metropolitan Police's Response**

- 6.4 The Panel received an update from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion about the Council's response to the Review carried out by Baroness Louise Casey into the standards of behaviour and internal culture of the Metropolitan Police Service, commissioned following the death of Sarah Everard. The Panel welcomes the fact that the Commissioner of the Met and Haringey's Borough Commander have responded to the review by pledging their full acceptance of the findings, and that Haringey Council released a press statement recognising and supporting the review as a milestone for the Met Police in terms of the changes that will need to happen, if it is to win back the trust and confidence of communities and stakeholders.
- 6.5 At the following meeting, the Panel met with the Borough Commander for Enfield and Haringey and heard about how the Met. was being reformed in light of the findings of the review and the proposals to reform community policing, set out in 'A New Met for London'. The Panel welcomes the focus on Community Crime Fighting and a recognition that more Police officers and PCSO's need to be put into local neighbourhoods and deliver on the priorities of our communities. Particularly, as the Casey report identified that Haringey/Enfield BCU is the lowest staffed in London

### **Strategic Transport**

- 6.6 The Panel received a updates on some of the Council's Transport Planning programmes, such as the plans to increase EV charging points in the borough to 400 by 2026, and the rollout of the Dockless Bikes scheme.

### **Highways, Floodwater Management and Street Lighting.**

- 6.7 The Panel received updates on the Council's Floodwater Management Investment Programme, following the extreme rainfall experienced in July 2021 and August 2022. The Panel also received and update on the establishment of a cyclical gully cleansing programme and the working being done to repair and maintain defective gulleys. The Panel also had an update in the Council's street lighting contractor programmes and performance, as well as a discussion on other issues relating to the street lighting central management system and UK Power Networks. Feedback from the Panel Members resulted in officers re-examining extent of street lighting outages and additional officer capacity being put into address this issue.

### **Anti-social Behaviour.**

- 6.8 The Panel received ward-level data around ASB, interrogated some of the trends and examined how different Council services and partners link up to tackle Anti-social behaviour.

### **Financial Scrutiny**

- 6.9 As part of the Council's formal budget scrutiny process the Panel examined proposals for the 2024/25 budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy in December 2023 with recommendations subsequently made to Cabinet.

---

## **7. Housing, Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel**

**Councillors:** Alexandra Worrell (Chair), Dawn Barnes, Holly Harrison-Mullane, Tammy Hymas, John Bevan, Khaled Moyeed, Isidoros Diakides.

---

### **Overview**

- 7.1 There were five formal meetings of the Housing, Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel in 2023/24, one of which was primarily focused on scrutiny of the Draft Budget (2024/25) and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (2024/25-2028/29). The meetings involved questioning Cabinet Members and discussions with senior officers in Placemaking and Housing on key issues of concern. The Panel also held a number of evidence sessions to gather information in support of its scrutiny reviews.

### **Follow up on the recommendations from the previous Scrutiny Review on Wards Corner**

- 7.2 The Panel received an update on the implementation of the recommendations that it put forward as part of its Scrutiny Review into the future of the Seven Sisters indoor market site (Wards Corner). The recommendations from the review were considered and all of the recommendations were agreed by Cabinet in July 2022. We received an update on the progress made to date in implementing these. We note that progress has been made on establishing the Partnership Advisory Committee for the market and that ownership of the site has been passed to TfL.

### **Scrutiny Review – Private Sector Landlord Licensing**

- 7.3 During 2023, the Panel undertook a number of evidence gathering sessions to look at the impact of the various licensing schemes that the Council administers for housing in the private rented sector. We heard from officers, the Cabinet Member, other London Boroughs, the National Residential Landlords Association, and a number of tenancy advocacy groups. The review made a number of recommendations, including that the Council broaden the scope of its involvement in private sector housing, to include providing more support and advocacy for tenants. The Panel would also like to see more staffing resources

put into private sector licensing, so that we can increase licensing income, and undertake more compliance and enforcement checks in recognition of the priority that we would like to see given to improving property conditions for residents. The recommendations are due to be considered by Cabinet in March 2024.

### **Bringing Housing in-house, working with the Regulator, and addressing Damp and Mould in housing stock.**

- 7.4 The Panel has received a number of updates relating to the bringing of Homes for Haringey back in-house in June 2022. Following this the Council undertook a health check of the Council's approach to meeting statutory health and safety requirements. Following the outcome of this, the Council referred itself to the housing ombudsman. The Panel has been particularly keen to receive updates on the progress of this work and the extent to which improvements have been made in tackling overdue actions from fire risk assessment and overdue electrical safety inspections. We have also received an update on work to inspect and carry repairs for damp and mould issues, following the national intervention of the Housing regulator in 2022.

### **Housebuilding Programme**

This year, the Panel received a further report on the progress being made with the Council's Housing delivery plan and the progress being made towards the Borough Plan target to deliver 3,000 Council homes for Council rent by 2031. The Panel was pleased to received reassurance that the Council was still on track to build 3000 plus homes by 2031, in spite of increased borrowing costs and the precarious economic outlook. As of August 2023, 2,113 Council homes had received planning permission across 51 sites. Whilst 2,027 Council homes had commenced construction across 41 sites.

### **Housing Improvement Plan & Voids**

- 7.5 The Panel received an update on the Housing Improvement Plan and the 180 actions being delivered across 13 areas in Housing Services and Building Safety to improve the Council's existing housing stock. The Panel is looking forward to seeing significant improvements being made to the quality of our housing stock, through the plan, and welcome the improvements made to date. We have also received an update on the Council's void properties and the work that is happening to clear the backlog.

### **Strategic Asset Management and Property Improvement Plan**

- 7.6 The Panel looked at the Council's Strategic Asset Management and Property Improvement Plan, which was agreed by Cabinet in April 2023, to address challenges with the management of its assets and wider property. The Panel welcomes the introduction of a Corporate Property Model and the combining of all property related functions into one service.

### **Bed and Breakfast Elimination Plan.**

- 7.7 We also received an update on the Bed and Breakfast Elimination Plan, which has been put in place as part of the Homelessness Prevention Grant Funding requirements from government. We pleased that the Council is working hard to bring these numbers down as hotels are not suitable accommodation for families and can have a significant impact on their health and wellbeing. The Panel recognises the pressures that exist within Temporary Accommodation and the wider private sector housing market, against a backdrop of rising demand. In that context, it is crucial that the Council delivers on its housebuilding programme.

### **Financial Scrutiny**

- 7.8 As part of the Council's budget scrutiny process, the Panel examined proposals for the 2024/25 budget and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy with recommendations and requests for further information made to the Cabinet.

---

## **8. North Central London Joint Health OSC**

---

### **Overview**

- 8.1 Haringey is a part of a joint health overview and scrutiny committee (JHOSC) covering the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, Camden, Haringey and Islington. Each borough has two representatives on the Committee. Haringey's representatives on the JHOSC were Cllrs Pippa Connor (Chair) and Matt White. The Committee was established to scrutinise health issues common to all of the five boroughs. Amongst the issues discussed this year at the JHOSC were the following:

### **Quality Accounts**

- 8.2 The Committee held two special meetings in June 2023 to scrutinise the 2022/23 NHS Quality Accounts for NHS Trusts in North Central London (NCL). The first meeting involved scrutiny of the reports from the Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust and the Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust. The Committee emphasised the need to continue to improve access to services for people with disabilities and mental ill-health, for people from the deaf community and for asylum seekers. The Committee welcomed the shift towards a community 'place-based' approach to mental health services and emphasised support for additional visibility and presence throughout the community, including settings such as community centres and food banks. Other areas of concern raised by the Committee included the monitoring of mental health inpatients and serious incidents, recruitment and retention challenges, the number of beds at the new Highgate East facility, efforts to reduce restrictive practices, longer-term funding streams for voluntary sector organisations and the involvement of carers in risk assessment and care planning.
- 8.3 The second meeting involved scrutiny of the reports from the Whittington Health NHS Trust, North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, Royal Free London

NHS Foundation Trust. In relation to the Whittington Health NHS Trust, the Committee welcomed the focus on tackling health inequalities and further efforts in supporting 'hard to reach groups' to engage with services. The Committee commented that the quality of transport services available to vulnerable residents could be a key factor in this area along with their understanding of points of access to services. The Committee also welcomed measures taken on health promotion and expressed support for the further development of support networks for people with long-term conditions which could help to improve health outcomes and reduce future costs to the NHS.

- 8.4 As part of the scrutiny of the North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust's report, the Committee explored the considerable demand at the Emergency Department and advocated the promotion of self-management where appropriate and helping people to spot the signs when medical help was or was not required. With regards to complaints data, the Committee recommended that information should be provided on trends over a longer period of time in future Quality Accounts reports. Other issues raised by the Committee included the new Disability Ambassador roles, advice for patients on smoking cessation, the embedding of learning after the four 'Never Events' that occurred during 2022/23 and participation in national clinical audits.
- 8.5 Regarding the report from the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, the Committee welcomed the inclusion of improving nutrition and hydration for inpatients as a new priority for 2023/24 and recommended that it should be clearer as to who was responsible on wards for ensuring that patients were eating properly. The Committee raised the issue of the two-week cancer referral target of 93% not being met. This was understood to be an issue in common with many other Trusts in terms of the post-pandemic recovery. The Committee was assured that there was a Trust-wide cancer programme with various recovery interventions and that the Trust was working closely with the North Central London Cancer Alliance. Other issues raised by the Committee included measurement of data on the patient experience priority, procedures to reduce 'Never Events' (of which there were eight in 2022/23) and training for staff on conversations with patients in the last year of life.

### **Maternity Services**

- 8.6 In November 2023, the Committee scrutinised a pre-consultation report on a proposed reconfiguration of maternity and neonatal services in North Central London. This involved moving to a model of four units providing care rather than five with the closure of the unit at either the Royal Free Hospital or Whittington Hospital and additional investment in the one that remained open. The public consultation document was due to be published the following month and the Committee made a series of recommendations on the content of the document and the approach to public engagement. The Committee has continued to monitor the progress on this issue through follow up meetings with ICB

colleagues and will continue to engage on this issue as part of its 2024/25 work programme.

### **Ophthalmology Surgical Hub**

- 8.7 The Committee noted that there were mental health and community services reviews being run concurrently as they provided a number of related services. A key aim of the reviews was to ensure that there was a consistent offer across North Central London. Resident engagement was at the centre of the review design principles and there was a resident reference group with diverse membership and representation from all five boroughs. It was acknowledged that there had been minimal feedback from harder to reach groups and work was underway to maximise engagement from such groups. The review had a strong focus on increased prevention and would consider whether it was possible to provide services more directly, without the need for a referral.

### **Winter Planning**

- 8.8 The Committee received an overview of the challenges faced by NHS Trusts during the winter months of 2022/23 including higher rates of flu/respiratory illness and industrial action. Details were provided on how the learning from the review process would contribute towards the winter planning process for 2023/24 involving a joined-up approach across health and social care overseen by a Strategic Board. The Committee questioned ICB officers on worst case scenario planning, new ambulance handover protocols, representation on the Strategic Board and a potential overreliance on virtual wards.

### **Finance, Estates and Workforce**

- 8.9 The Committee received reports on the annual standing items in the work programme on finance, workforce and estate issues across NCL. The finance item included discussion on risks and underlying challenges, the in-year adverse variance in the financial plan, the net financial cost of industrial action, additional investment in community and mental health services and a proposed reduction in management costs for the ICB. On the workforce item, the Committee examined challenges around increased demand for services, staff retention and recruitment levels as well as measures to improve the health and wellbeing of staff and participation in a new national initiative to support care leavers into career pathways. The estates item involved scrutiny of investment in the primary and community estate, including new build and refurbishment projects, the maintenance backlog, the St Pancras Transformation Programme and the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 funding across NCL.

### **Mental Health**

- 8.10 The Committee dedicated one meeting in 2022/23 to be held in a community setting and involving local voluntary and community groups from across NCL to receive input on the community and mental health service reviews. The Committee focused on a range of issues including partnership working with the voluntary sector, signposting of services, advocacy and patient support, waiting

times for autism/ADHD diagnosis, support for people with disabilities and police Mental Health Act interactions. A similar meeting is due to be held towards the end of 2023/24 to discuss the implementation of the Mental Health and Community services core offer.

---

### 9. Budget Scrutiny

---

- 9.1 As part of the Council's governance arrangements for the development of the new Medium Term Financial Strategy, Overview and Scrutiny considered savings proposals that were presented to Cabinet. Following consideration by Cabinet, all four Scrutiny Panels met in December and January to scrutinise the draft budget proposals that fell within their portfolio areas. In addition, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 9<sup>th</sup> January to consider proposals relating to Culture, Strategy & Engagement.
- 9.2 The Committee met on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to consider the draft Budget/MTFS proposals for the 2024/25 budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy. An additional Budget Scrutiny Meeting was held this year, on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, to consider the additional budget savings that were put forward between the draft budget proposals that went to Cabinet in December 2023 and the Final Budget/MTFS proposals that were agreed by Cabinet in February 2024. This was because an additional round of budget proposals were required to close the C. £16.3M budget gap that existed in the draft budget.
- 9.3 Cabinet Members, senior officers and finance leads were in attendance at each meeting to present proposals and to respond to questions from members. For some of the proposals, additional information was requested. This was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> February, along with the recommendations from each Panel, ahead of final recommendations being agreed and referred to Cabinet.
- 9.4 Key recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny included:
- The Committee expressed concerns about the Council's reserve position, following the use of reserves to close the residual budget gap for 2024/25, and the in-year budget overspend (projected to be circa £20m).
  - The Committee scrutinised the proposals to amend library opening hours so that they were more aligned to peak footfall times. We expressed deep concerns about this and recommended that there should be no reduction in library

opening hours, not least because this was in many cases the last public space available to people.

- A commitment was sought from Cabinet that schools and sixth forms be included in future budget consultation exercises.
- The Committee wanted to see the retention of hard copies of newspapers and magazines in libraries.
- Concerns were raised about a move to self-service technologies in libraries
- The Committee requested that additional resources be put in to undertake additional maintenance of communal green spaces on new housing developments, to ensure that they maintained to a high standard.

9.5 The final recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, were considered by Cabinet at its 8th February meeting. The response from Cabinet to all recommendations can be found via the following two links:

<https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s144069/Appendix%208%20-%20Budget%20Scrutiny%20Recommendations%20for%20Cabinet%2026.01.2024ver1.0.pdf>

[https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s144167/Scrutiny%20Recommendations%201%20Feb\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s144167/Scrutiny%20Recommendations%201%20Feb_FINAL.pdf)

## 10. How to get involved

---

- 10.1 Public engagement and involvement is a key function of scrutiny and local residents and community groups are encouraged to participate in all aspects of scrutiny from the development of the work programme to participation in project work. For this purpose, all formal meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the four scrutiny panels are held in public and everyone is welcome to attend.
- 10.2 As well as attending a scrutiny meeting, there are a number of ways in which local people can be actively involved in the scrutiny process:

### **Suggest a topic for review**

- 10.3 Members of the public and community groups can suggest topics for possible scrutiny review. Please use the [scrutiny suggestion form \(Word, 52KB\)](#) to suggest a topic for inclusion within the scrutiny work programme.

### **Being a witness**

- 10.4 Like parliamentary select committees, a range of individuals may be asked to give evidence to support scrutiny reviews. This may include service users and community stakeholders, as well as service providers, policy makers, managers and people who have some knowledge or expertise of the area under consideration.
- 10.5 The ways in which evidence is collected will vary, but may include online surveys, focus groups or public meetings. Details of current scrutiny projects and how you can participate can be viewed on the [scrutiny consultation page](#).

### **Asking questions**

- 10.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee or scrutiny panels may call a Member of the Cabinet and chief officer (such as a service Director) to answer questions on the performance, policy plans and targets for their portfolio or service. The Committee or relevant scrutiny panel may also call local NHS executives to account for policy and performance issues in the health sector. Representatives from other local public services (for example, police service, fire service, housing associations or Jobcentre Plus) may also be invited to scrutiny meetings where appropriate.
- 10.7 Members of the public can also raise questions about a subject being scrutinised and can submit written questions to be asked of executive councillors and chief officers called before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or panels.

Questions should be sent in writing at least 5 clear working days in advance of the meeting. Questions can be sent by email or post to the Democratic Services Manager, or the appropriate committee or panel support officer.

## Further Information

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dominic O'Brien: 020 8489 5896 [dominic.obrien@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:dominic.obrien@haringey.gov.uk)

### Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel

Dominic O'Brien: 020 8489 5896 [dominic.obrien@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:dominic.obrien@haringey.gov.uk)

### Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

Philip Slawther: 020 8489 2957 [philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk)

### Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

Boshra Begum: 020 8489 8381 [boshra.begum@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:boshra.begum@haringey.gov.uk)

### Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

Philip Slawther: 020 8489 2957 [philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk)

### For general information or enquiries:

[scrutiny@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@haringey.gov.uk)

Overview and Scrutiny

1<sup>st</sup> Floor

George Meehan House

294 Hight Road, Wood Green

London

N22 8JZ



This page is intentionally left blank

**Response to Council Written Questions 14 March 2024****Cllr Isilar-Gosling to Cllr Chandwani**

Haringey's recycling rate recently hit a 12 year low. With that in mind, how can we take the council's stated aim "to get to 50% [recycling rate], and be London's number one borough for recycling" remotely seriously?

**Response**

Haringey is still committed to working towards the GLA's 50% household recycling rate target by 2030 through our 'Destination 50%' plan.

If we look at our dry recycling rates for households (cans, paper, glass, metal, plastic bottles/tubs/trays, and cardboard), the 2022/23 recycling rate was the second highest across North London Waste Authorities and our garden tonnage is now at a level comparable with pre charging rates.

Our recently updated Reduction and Recycling Plan sets out our plans to meet the challenges faced to continue our journey to higher recycling rates and has several key recycling initiatives for the period 2023 – 2025 including:

- A recently launched partnership with TRAIID (Sept 2023) to provide a borough wide textile collection service,
- New kerbside small electrical collection service which started 12th Feb and development and implementation of a borough wide communications plan for behavioural change in relation to improving recycling rates.
- Improving the quality of the recycling we collect by making better container choices, implementing reversible lid bins, trialling pedal operated food waste bins which are easier and cleaner for people to use and ones which are wheelchair accessible.
- Meeting residents recycling needs is now easier since the launch of an online portal last year where new recycling containers can be ordered as required.

The current socio-economic climate has had an impact on waste and recycling rates over the last 3 years across London. Around twenty-four London boroughs in total have seen their recycling rates decrease since last year and London's recycling rate overall dropped 1.1% between 21/22 and 22/23.

In Haringey, waste volumes overall have been going down since 2017/18 (6.6% since 2017/18) which presents an environmentally and financially beneficial scenario as ultimately the overall goal should be around waste prevention. Limiting waste and focussing on reuse as well as recycling is in line with the principles of the waste hierarchy.

Changes in behaviour are believed to be affecting our waste tonnages and recycling rate. Consumer trends (less buying and less waste given the economic position) is likely to have affected the amount of recycling put out for collection. Meanwhile, manufacturers are changing packaging types and switching to lighter weight materials. All these measures target the materials that can be recycled rather than materials in the general waste stream, and we believe this has impacted our

recycling rate in recent years. In addition, we have also seen declines in the volumes of recycled materials allocated to Haringey from our partner Reuse & Recycling Centres (RRC) and recovery facilities (40% less tonnage in 2023/23 than 2018/19).

Whilst the Government continues to delay on the Collections and Packaging Reform (CPR), brought about through the Environment Bill, the council is unable to fully plan for the future of waste and recycling collection services. The changes set out in the CPR could significantly change the type of material which the Council collects, require us to collect material in specific ways and will provide funding for new services. Until we understand this more, it limits our ability to make changes now to meet our ambitious targets. However, the Council is currently undertaking a service review to model impacts of new impending legislative implementation; though the full impact and possible financial implications will not be known until effects are understood from new legislation due to be implemented from 2025.

### **Cllr da Costa to Cllr Jogee**

Businesses on Archway Road are suffering from robberies virtually daily, and business owners feel unsafe in their own shops. What is the council doing to work with businesses like these and with police to tackle this rising issue?

### **Response**

The Community Safety team works closely with the police, stakeholders and other key council services such as housing, public health, children's and voluntary and community groups (VCS) to reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in all wards in the borough. Often some wards are challenged more than others especially where there are spikes in criminality or ASB. In response we aim to deploy our collective resources to those areas either through referral to the councils Partnership Problem Solving Group and or in weekly discussion with our police colleagues.

In relation to Archway Road, Cllr Emery has recently brought some of the issues to our attention especially the robberies, littering, idling and other related issues linked to the commercial properties along the highway. We have reached out to police colleagues for updates on how they are addressing the spike in robberies that are taking place and are awaiting their response. Alongside this we are also planning to hold a Day of Action on Archway Road and have pencilled the 9th of May 2024 as the potential date when this will be carried out.

The Day of Action will involve the co-ordination of several internal and external services such as the local Police SNT officers, planning, highways, parking town centre colleagues, waste team etc who will carry out patrols, inspections, enforcement and licencing visits along Archway Road. Following this later this year we are also planning to have a week of action in Highgate ward which will see a similar approach to the day of action but over a seven-day period.

**Cllr Barnes to Cllr Williams**

17% of London properties are in conservation areas and yet it appears that current interpretations of conservation area guidelines mean that retrofitting is difficult or impossible for residents. A recent piece of casework has seen refusal on an outside wraparound insulation, which the resident has only suggested for the back and side of the property as he knew the front would be refused due to its location in a conservation area. It would add 10cm to the back and side of the property. It has been refused as if somebody were to stop on the main road and look down the back of the rows of properties, they might see the additional 10cm. I and the resident's legal advisor believe that the conservation area guidance can be interpreted to allow this to go ahead. I would like to know how the council intends to retrofit the various street council properties that are within conservation areas so private residents can learn how to address their properties as we try to address the climate crisis?

**Response**

The London Borough of Haringey has 28 Conservation Areas and we recognise the important opportunity for buildings in these areas to contribute to our climate objectives. The Council was one of the first London boroughs to declare a Climate Emergency (in March 2019) and subsequent to this (in March 2021) we published an ambitious Climate Change Action Plan which sets out a road map to be a net zero carbon borough by 2041. The Council has undertaken many initiatives to support householders in reducing carbon such as working with the Solar Together London project.

The Council's existing Local Plan, adopted in 2017, sets out policies on heritage and renewable energy which generally support measures to sustainably retrofit existing homes and non-residential buildings. As such retrofit projects in Conservation Areas are not precluded within Haringey and can be delivered successfully via planning. There has not been a refusal of permission for retrofitting at this site. The officers worked proactively with the applicant to find the optimum balance between the benefits of retrofitting the property and the preserving heritage in line with current local plan policies. The applicant then amended their proposal and the application was approved.

The First Steps Engagement on the New Local Plan considered how existing policies can be improved and we will be publishing a Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18) which will contain an ambitious suite of climate change policies, including an even more supportive policy on renewable energy.

The difficult balance of heritage and climate concerns is recognised nationally and the Government has recently amended the National Planning Policy Framework to give greater weight for supporting energy efficiency in existing buildings, and it has announced it will be consulting on a new National Development Management Policy on historic buildings including providing further guidance on energy efficiency. The Council has engaged with Historic England's consultation on its draft Advice Note on "Climate Change & Historic Building Adaption" specifically for this purpose.

With regard specifically to Council properties, the Council adopted its Council Housing Energy Action Plan in January 2023 with an initial 1,500 homes to benefit

from retrofitting to 2028. Following this, in November 2023, the Council approved the award of a contract for the 1st tranche of retrofitting Council housing stock.

**Cllr Connor to Carlin**

The current level of absences among Haringey staff due to sickness is more than 11 days per FTE, compared with under 8 days per FTE nationally. Why do you believe this is, and is work being done to try and reduce staff absences?

**Responses**

Sickness absence is measured on a rolling 12-month period. The latest data reported to the General Purposes Committee showed a sickness rate of 11.4 days per FTE in the 12 months to December 2023.

Whilst it is not possible to directly compare with other councils due to the differing services delivered in-house (Councils, such as Haringey, that deliver more frontline services in-house than others tend to have higher sickness rates due to the nature of the work), the London Councils benchmarking average for 2022/23 was 9.45 days.

The Haringey sickness absence rate rose sharply between 2021/22 and 2022/23, from 9.7 days to 11.6 days. Further analysis showed that this was attributable to the insourcing of Homes for Haringey, where there were higher absence rates. Management have had a clear focus on reducing absence.

We have a robust sickness management policy and employee absence is managed through a series of defined stages. Our focus is on reducing long term absence (defined as over 20 working days) as this is where the majority of our absence occurs (accepting that some level of long term absence is unavoidable) and particularly focussing on reducing absence due to stress, anxiety and mental ill health. We have launched a wellbeing hub on the intranet which contains a wide range of valuable resources, have a partnership with “able futures” which provides free counselling, and have a comprehensive employee assistance programme offer as well as a full occupational health service.

Whilst the level of absence does vary, we expect to be able to report a reducing level in future.

**Cllr Emery to Cllr Chandwani**

Residents of Hampstead Lane and the surrounding roads have long been asking for an end to the blight of long-term parking. Many residents have contacted the council to report they would be happy for a CPZ to be introduced; why hasn't the council actioned a consultation into this yet?

**Response**

We are receiving high volumes of requests for new parking controls and reviews to existing CPZs across the borough. The team are working through the requests, and are prioritising those where there is significant change to the neighbourhood or high demand from local residents and businesses.

We're happy to meet with ward Councillors to understand the specific issues, and to establish what has changed since the last consultation where residents and businesses showed a preference for not having parking controls.

Parking consultations are resource intensive and we do undertake a best value assessment in allocating areas to our programme. We encourage Ward Councillors who have local information to contribute to this assessment to shape our parking programme.

### **Cllr Rossetti to Cllr Hakata**

Traffic chaos and dangerous driving in the Crescent Road area of Alexandra Park ward has been an issue for years. In July 2023 I was told that '*Haringey is exploring ways of resolving the traffic issues currently being experienced in Crescent Road and Palace Gates Road*', while in November 2023 I asked for an update and was told '*We will be progressing with a traffic and transport review of the area in the New Year. Residents, businesses and ward councillors will be fully engaged in this process which will analyse the main traffic and transport issues in the area and investigate the most appropriate interventions to overcome these*'. It is now March 2024 and there is no sign of anything happening. We cannot wait another year for the 18 month evaluation of Bounds Green LTN to take place to get action around Crescent Road, so when will the review of this area actually begin and what will it look like?

### **Response**

Officers are in the process of preparing a resident engagement exercise as part of a Traffic and Transport Review for the Alexandra North Area, to fully understand the extent of the problem.

The engagement will include feedback from residents on some of the possible solutions to the issues they face in this area. This will help officers in designing potential solutions.

The engagement material is currently being reviewed, however due to the pre-election procedures it is unlikely the engagement will start until after the mayoral elections. Officers are happy to meet with Elected Members to discuss the engagement exercise before it goes live.

### **Cllr Cawley-Harrison to Cllr Hakata**

It's been eight months since residents of Christchurch Road, Crouch End, brought a deputation to Full Council about the traffic issues on their street, and many years since they wrote to officers about it asking for something to be done, with a clear set of agreed solutions from their end. In response to their deputation you promised engagement with TfL and to look into the issue, but since then you haven't met once with residents and no progress has been made. When can residents expect anything

to be done to tackle the problem, or is the ongoing lack of action indicative of the fact that the council doesn't plan to do anything?

**Response**

Whilst the residents of Christchurch Road understandably wish to see traffic issues considered, this cannot be done without considering the consequences of isolated interventions. A full study looking at redistributing traffic flows across the whole network in the area would be required both to assess normal network operation as well as when incidents elsewhere mean Christchurch Road must be considered in the context of the Council's overall network management duty. It has not yet been possible to progress a comprehensive study with the level of officer resource currently available and the not insignificant financial cost of both that study and any network changes that might be considered appropriate. Consideration will be given to progressing preparatory work (such as gathering traffic data by placing automatic traffic counters on Christchurch Road and the surrounding network) in the next financial year, resources permitting.

Protecting and shaping Haringey's Libraries with residents, and making sure they are fit for the future. ~~Protecting Haringey's Libraries, and increasing library footfall and revenue~~

Proposer: Cllr Arkell Conner

Seconder: Cllr Bartlett Rossetti

Council notes:

- That over 500 responses were received to the 2024/25 budget consultation, many of which were regarding proposed changes to our library services, and multiple representations were made by residents which all informed the next steps in a challenging budget process. The overwhelming opposition to library cuts submitted as responses to the 2024/25 budget consultation;
- That there are no plans to close any libraries in Haringey and that none have been closed in Haringey the Borough since the Conservative – Liberal Democrat coalition inflicted austerity on the UK in 2010, despite 800 closing nationally. and recognises that this leaves the borough in a better place than some neighbours. However, this cannot be used to deflect from the fact that the recent decision to cut hours will negatively impact Haringey's residents in a multitude of ways;
- That in 2014, Haringey Council was forced by the Liberal Democrat enabled Tory austerity imposed on it to more effectively and efficiently use its finite resources, which led to closing the, despite opposition, Haringey Labour closed the mobile library service in Haringey in 2014 and, retaining only the housebound part of the service for its most vulnerable users.;
- That in 2016, Haringey Council listened to residents and reversed plans to close. Following a review in 2016, council announced plans that would have seen the closure of Highgate Library and Muswell Hill Library, but were forced to reverse the decision due to overwhelming public opposition;
- Since 2018, The significant capital investment in Haringey's the Council has invested £4.9m in our libraries since 2018 to improve library buildings and facilities, to with a target that the investment would increase library use, accessibility and footfall, to library buildings;
- That cuts to some council services are unavoidable and difficult but necessary as we are £143m worse off in real terms per year than we were before the Conservative Liberal Democrat Coalition's austerity measures, and demand on adults and children's social care and temporary accommodation services, are extremely high and rising. libraries are a political choice, not a financial necessity, and the proposed cuts for this year and beyond could have been avoided by approving the Liberal Democrat Amendment to the 2023/2024 budget;
- As part of developing the Library Strategy, we will be working with residents, friend's groups and staff to search identify for opportunities to expand the number of services which can be delivered from libraries, in an effort to improve footfall and increase the number of library users in the borough;
- That the Director of Culture, Strategy and Engagement, and the Lead Cabinet Member for Libraries conceded at a Budget Scrutiny panel in In December 2023, before the budget consultation was launched, that the only two a range of options were explored and discussed at Cabinet to mitigate any changes to libraries. Three proposals went out to consultation and following listening to resident responses,

~~proposals were amended to reflect their views, in the options appraisal for libraries were the cuts as proposed, or the closure of some council libraries;~~

- ~~An extensive equalities impact assessment was completed for the MTFS budget to identify potential equalities implications. A full The preliminary equalities assessment will be completed for each library and we will work within legal duties to understand the equality impacts of the proposals, and minimise them on the most vulnerable residents in Haringey.~~ presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee predicted that cuts to libraries would have a negative impact on young people, older people, the disabled, parents of young children and those with the lowest socioeconomic status;
- ~~Any changes to our libraries will be shaped and co-designed with residents, friends groups and staff to inform a library strategy that safeguards yes libraries for the future. That the cuts to council libraries are being carried out before an up to date library strategy has been published.~~

Council believes:

- Libraries are the only way that many children living in the borough have access to books, the only place for many of Haringey's young people to study to ensure that they can maximise their full potential in life and that is why we are keeping them open, have invested heavily in them and will be working with young people as part of our library strategy to ensure we shape libraries are shaped so that they will want to use and can access them;
- Libraries provide essential internet access for those without it, especially those that are jobseekers, elderly, or living in financial hardship; and that's why investing £4.9m in our libraries to make them more attractive, accessible and better resourced to support vulnerable groups across Haringey give resident.
- Libraries provide a warm and safe space for many residents that would otherwise not have one, and so help prevent loneliness and poor health; and that is why we have used them for as warm spaces in the winter months, especially during the cost of living crisis fuelled by aAusterity measures.
- Libraries are an open-door arts and events venue, providing a vital community space for a large number of events and local groups at all hours, and we look forward to enhancing and utilising these spaces more as part of our library strategy, and s;
- That instead of cuts and reduced hours of access, the council could have taken the decision to close libraries but didn't because we value libraries as much as our residents do. should be searching for opportunities to expand the number of services which can be delivered from libraries in an effort to improve footfall and increase the number of library users in the borough;
- ~~Some areas of our libraries have not been utilised as much as anticipated for many reasons, including limited funding, resources, take up from residents, That libraries are being severely underutilised, particularly in regards to revenue-raising opportunities, and that there has been a lack of strategic direction in maximising existing spaces in council libraries and a lack of support provided to library staff from council, with one example of this being the sensory room in Hornsey Library which was installed in 2020, but then left unused until 2023 due to a lack of and the global pandemic in 2020 that prevented our ability to open libraries during lockdowns and because we needed safeguard our residents. instructions being provided to library staff on how to use the space;~~
- That libraries are a public space and community hub which are primed to facilitate events, activities, debates, music, arts, poetry and culture, celebrating the rich diversity that residents have to offer, and exciting opportunities that will come from

hosting the London Borough of Culture in 2027 which libraries will play a key role in will be central to its delivery.  
~~rol That events taking place at some of our libraries such as the recent inaugural Crouch End Literary Festival demonstrates that with the correct strategy, and people in charge, events can bring in significant additional footfall and revenue, filling underutilised spaces already available within our libraries, however this should not be left solely to community groups and local organisations;~~  
~~That a library strategy should form a basis for the library service~~ We will maximise ing the offer our libraries can make to residents, by increasing their usage footfall and putting libraries on a sustainable footing, shaping a highlighting a long-term plan with residents to safeguard thefor the service for the future. , and should not be used as a shield for cuts to the service.

Council resolves:

- ~~—To continue to support and protect the most vulnerable residents in Haringey and ensure our libraries remain open. To reverse any agreed reduction in library opening hours or services;~~
- ~~—To work with residents, Friends groups and staff to create sustainable and future-proof libraries that are at the heart of our communities. To await the publication of the library strategy and review before any further decisions are made on the future of Haringey libraries;~~
- ~~—To work with our libraries staff, residents and Friends of groups to ensure we capture all ideas and co-produce the library strategy with them, and work with our communication team and other platforms, so we can publicise this widely and so engaged and interested residents to can get involved and help to shape the service they want to see, use and enjoy.~~
- To set outpublish a consultation and engagement timeline which sets out how residents, friends groups and staff can contribute to the development of the strategy.~~To ask Cabinet to commit to producing its long-promised library strategy within six months, through a process of co-production with residents and Friends groups as equal partners as part of production and oversight of the strategy. This partnership should first agree its terms of reference and have clear parameters of how the governance, financial strategy and future oversight of any new library strategy will be undertaken;~~
- ~~—To request that the Senior Manager with responsibility for the library service outlines their co-production strategy within the next 4 weeks and publicises this widely so concerned residents can get involved and help to find solutions;~~
- That a full Equalities Impact Assessment will take place for each library is completed as part of the development of the -our library strategy plan~~which will inform any changes made to ensure we work within our legal duties by understanding andthe impact of proposals, minimising their impact of the proposals on the most vulnerable and to make sure our libraries remain accessible prior to any changes the council might wish to make to library hours or budgets;~~
- ~~—In developing the library strategy there is consideration of That as part of council's library strategy, council considers aw a wide-range ofing options which willith a focus on increasing usage, footfall, footfall and revenue income, utilisationise of library spaces, and in a manner that will increase library use, listen to residents as we shape an accessible and future proofsustainable library service that is safeguarded for future generations. so thatincluding but not limited to:~~

- Incorporating “Libraries of Things” into existing buildings, in line with 2022 manifesto commitments from both the Haringey Labour Party and the Haringey Liberal Democrats;
- Working with financial partners to introduce “Bank Hubs” into more libraries, with a greater range of services and more availability, helping to compensate for the loss of bank branches around the borough;
- Investigating the commercial rental of space inside or outside of library buildings for parcel pickup points, such as Amazon/Evri Lockers;
- Considering opportunities for community enterprises within library buildings such as hospitality that would provide a rent income stream whilst also providing additional community benefit and supporting the ethos of libraries;

We've taken the residents views

## **Protecting and shaping Haringey's Libraries with residents and making sure they are fit for the future**

Proposer: Cllr Arkell

Secunder: Cllr Bartlett

Council notes:

- That over 500 responses were received to the 2024/25 budget consultation, many of which were regarding proposed changes to our library services, and multiple representations were made by residents which all informed the next steps in a challenging budget process.
- That there are no plans to close any libraries in Haringey and that none have closed in the Borough since the Conservative – Liberal Democrat coalition inflicted austerity on the UK in 2010, despite 800 closing nationally.
- That in 2014, Haringey Council was forced by the Liberal Democrat enabled Tory austerity policies imposed on it to more effectively and efficiently use its finite resources, which led to closing the mobile library service in Haringey and retain only the housebound part of the service for its most vulnerable users.
- That in 2016, Haringey Council listened to residents and reversed plans to close Highgate Library and Muswell Hill Library.
- Since 2018, the Council has invested £4.9m in library buildings and facilities, to increase library use, accessibility and footfall.
- That cuts to some council services are unavoidable and difficult but necessary as we are £143m worse off in real terms per year than we were before the Conservative Liberal Democrat Coalition's austerity measures, and demand on adults and children's social care and temporary accommodation services, are extremely high and rising.
- In developing the library strategy, we will work with residents, friend's groups and staff to identify opportunities to expand the number of services which can be delivered from libraries, improve footfall and increase the number of library users in the borough.
- In December 2023, before the budget consultation was launched, a range of options were explored and discussed at Cabinet to mitigate any changes to libraries. Three proposals were consulted on and after listening to resident responses, proposals were amended to reflect their views.
- An extensive equalities impact assessment was completed for the MTFS budget to identify potential equalities implications. A full equalities assessment will be completed for each library and we will work within legal duties to understand the equality impacts of the proposals.
- Any changes to our libraries will be shaped and co-designed with residents, friends groups and staff to inform a library strategy that safeguards libraries for the future.

Council believes:

- Libraries are the only way that many children living in the borough have access to books, the only place for many of Haringey's young people to study to ensure that they can maximise their full potential in life and that is why we are keeping them open, have invested heavily in them and will be working with young people as part of our library strategy to ensure libraries are shaped so that they will want to use them;
- Libraries provide essential internet access for those without it, especially those that are jobseekers, elderly, or living in financial hardship; and that's why investing £4.9m in our libraries to make them more attractive, accessible and better resourced to support vulnerable groups across Haringey.
- Libraries provide a warm and safe space for many residents that would otherwise not have one, and so help prevent loneliness and poor health; and that is why we have used

them as warm spaces in the winter months, especially during the cost of living crisis fuelled by austerity measures.

- Libraries are an open-door arts and events venue, providing a vital community space for a large number of events and local groups, and we look forward to enhancing and utilising these spaces more.
- That instead of cuts and reduced hours of access, the council could have taken the decision to close libraries but didn't because we value libraries as much as our residents do.
- Some areas of our libraries have not been utilised as much as anticipated for many reasons, including limited funding, resources, take up from residents, and the global pandemic in 2020 that prevented our ability to open libraries during lockdowns because we needed safeguard our residents.
- That libraries are a public space and community hub which are primed to facilitate events, activities, debates, music, arts, poetry and culture, celebrating the rich diversity that residents have to offer and exciting opportunities that will come from hosting the London Borough of Culture in 2027 which libraries will play a key role in its delivery.
- We will maximise the offer our libraries can make to residents, by increasing their usage putting libraries on a sustainable footing, shaping a long-term plan with residents to safeguard the service for the future.

Council resolves:

- To continue to support and protect the most vulnerable residents in Haringey and ensure our libraries remain open.
- To work with residents, friends groups and staff to create sustainable and future-proof libraries that are at the heart of our communities.
- To work with our libraries staff, residents and friend's groups to ensure we capture all ideas and co-produce the library strategy with them, and work with our communication team and other platforms, so we can publicise this widely and engage interested residents to get involved and help to shape the service they want to see, use and enjoy.
- To publish a consultation and engagement timeline which sets out how residents, friends groups and staff can contribute to the development of the strategy.
- That a full Equalities Impact Assessment will take place for each library as part of the development of the library strategy which will inform any changes made to ensure we work within our legal duties by understanding and minimising the impact of the proposals on the most vulnerable and to make sure our libraries remain accessible.
- In developing the library strategy there is consideration of a wide-range of options which will focus on increasing usage, footfall and income, utilisation of library spaces, and listen to residents as we shape an accessible and sustainable library service that is safeguarded for future generations.