NOTICE OF MEETING

FULL COUNCIL

Monday, 20th July, 2026, 7.30 pm - Tottenham Town Hall Town Hall Approach Road London N15 4RY (watch the live meeting, Here watch the recording here)

Councillors: Ash Ahmed, Imad Ahmed, Ata Berk Aksit, Ibrahim Ali, Kaushia Amin, Bethany Anderson, Emily Arkell, Dawn Barnes, Johann Beckford, Eva Bell, Beverley Berrick, John Bevan, Mark Blake, Luisa Brands, Karolina Braun, Michael Brookes, Dana Carlin, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Simon Clark, Nick da Costa, Lucia das Neves, AJ Egemonye, Scott Emery, Fin Fitzgerald, Melanie Gingell, Anne Gray, Mark Grosskopf, Makbule Gunes, Mike Hodges, Andrea Hodgson, Tammy Hymas, Gio Iozzi, Sue Jameson, Marc Jenner, Dan Johnson, Dixie-Ann Joseph, Tehseen Khan, Marie Kristensen, Jo Kuper, Rosie Latchford, Anna Lawton, Fiona Orford-Williams, Ajda Ovat, Daniela Parry, Ruairidh Paton, Tony Powell, Andrew Reid, Elara Shurety, Adam Small, Nelly Tackie, Edward Thacker, Georgia Twigg, Hannah Ward, Elin Weston, Sarah Williams and Erin Wolson

Quorum: 15

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Please note this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Although we ask members of the public recording, filming or reporting on the meeting not to include the public seating areas, members of the public attending the meeting should be aware that we cannot guarantee that they will not be filmed or recorded by others attending the meeting. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions, making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The Chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual, or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A member with a disclosable pecuniary interest or a prejudicial interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered:

(i) must disclose the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, and
(ii) may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting room.

A member who discloses at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary interest which is not registered in the Register of Members' Interests or the subject of a pending notification must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days of the disclosure.

Disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests and prejudicial interests are defined at Paragraphs 5-7 and Appendix A of the Members' Code of Conduct

5. **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20TH OF MAY 2026 (PAGES 1 - 8)**

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

7. **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Update on Political Proportionality and Council Appointments.

Report to follow.

8. **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES**

9. **CSO 3.1 (VI) ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS - EXTERNAL AUDITOR RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER PARAGRAPH 2 OF SCHEDULE 7 OF THE LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014 AND THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS (PAGES 9 - 42)**

Statutory recommendation in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Required Public Notice is attached to the agenda.

10. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Report to follow

11. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES (PAGES 43 - 76)

a) Standards Committee

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

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

1.Councillor Andrea Hodgson to Councillor Mark Blake

What does the Leader of the Council see as the role of the local authority in relation to the current dispute between the NEU and Highgate Wood School?

2.Councillor Mike Hodges to Councillor Erin Wolson

Can the Cabinet Member outline what improvements the Council is taking to help residents stay safe and cool during periods of extreme heat, which is in addition to the current provision of paddling pools, water play facilities.

3.Councillor Sarah Williams to Councillor Gio Iozzi

Given this minority administration's stated commitment to tree protection, could the Cabinet Member confirm the current position and future prospects for the Oakfield Road tree in Stroud Green.

4.Councillor Bethany Anderson to Councillor Gio Iozzi

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Council's approach to reducing the use of glyphosate across the borough, including any progress made in trialling alternative methods of weed management and the challenges involved in moving towards lower-pesticide maintenance of our public spaces?

5.From Councillor Michael Brookes to Councillor Ata Berk Aksit

The Council owns a broad range of land and property assets, from corporate properties where staff provide services, to retail outlets, commercial units, and community spaces. These assets provide a valued source of income and social value to residents. However, they also incur significant running and maintenance costs.

As a corporate landlord, the Council has a responsibility to manage these assets with the greatest level of care on behalf of taxpayers and for the benefit of all residents.

The Council in recent years undertook an extensive review of its land and property assets and approved a Land and Property Disposal Policy, which set out a robust and transparent governance process. This policy strengthened the approach already taken in the Strategic Asset Management and Property Improvement Plan (SAMPIP).

With this in mind, could this administration outline the purpose of its proposed Popular Assets Commission?

6.From Councillor Andrew Reid to Councillor Jo Kuper
The long-term waste contract with Veolia was agreed subject to the completion of a section 20 consultation by the previous administration in March, shortly before the change in political leadership. Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on the work within that contract to deliver the administration's priorities on waste reduction, recycling and environmental sustainability, including what opportunities exist to improve outcomes over its lifetime?

7.Councillor Eva Bell to Cllr Gio Iozzi

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the implementation of Haringey's Walking and Cycling Action Plan, including what progress has been made so far and what the key priorities will be over the next year to encourage more residents to choose active travel?

8.Cllr Ahmed to Cllr Erin Wolson
The Liberal Democrat Group have long called for a change in the way Finsbury Park is managed by the council. At the election, the Green manifesto promised to "[renegotiate] or [end] bad deals with companies, from Tottenham Hotspur Stadium to Finsbury Park" and to "strictly limit major commercial events in Finsbury Park". Given the contract signed by the council in March, how do you intend to keep this promise to residents?

9.Councillor Simon Clark to Councillor Jo Kuper
Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the work being undertaken to reduce delays in responding to residents' enquiries and service requests, including what further improvements residents can expect over the coming year?

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

Motion A
Appointment of a Haringey Windrush Champion
Proposer: Cllr Andrew Reid
Seconder: Cllr Dan Johnson

This Council notes:

1. People who arrived from Caribbean countries between 1948-1973 to help rebuild Britain, many of whom settled in Haringey and worked in the NHS, transport, and public services. The Windrush scandal saw hundreds of Commonwealth citizens wrongly denied healthcare, housing, jobs, and in some cases wrongly detained or deported due to lack of paperwork.

2. While the scandal primarily impacted Black Caribbean communities, the Windrush Compensation Scheme is also open to other Commonwealth nationals and their children who arrived before 1973, and those with settled

status before 1988. This includes residents of Black African, South Asian, and other Commonwealth backgrounds living in Tottenham, Seven Sisters, Wood Green and across the borough.

3. Haringey is one of London’s most diverse boroughs. Census 2021 data shows approximately:
◦ Black / Black British: 17.3% of residents. Within this, Black Caribbean 5.9% and Black African 9.2%
◦ Asian / Asian British: 9.2%
◦ Other ethnic groups including Turkish, Kurdish, and Mixed: significant populations, particularly in North Tottenham.

This diversity means the impact of hostile environment policies has been felt across multiple communities in Haringey, even though Black Caribbean elders are the group most directly targeted.

4. As of July 2024, 8,800 claims have been made nationally to the Windrush Compensation Scheme, with £94 million paid out. The Home Office estimated 15,000 may be eligible, meaning less than 20% have come forward. Campaigners report delays, complex forms, and distrust as barriers.

5. Bernie Grant MP, Haringey’s first Black MP, fought for Windrush residents’ rights. Broadwater Farm and other estates in Tottenham remain home to many Windrush elders and their families.

This Council believes:
1. That Haringey has a duty to ensure no resident is denied their rights due to historical immigration failings.

2. That many eligible residents in Haringey have not claimed compensation because they do not know the scheme exists, do not trust it, or cannot access support to apply.

3. That a named councillor acting as a “Windrush Champion” will provide leadership, visibility, and accountability on this issue.

This Council Resolves:

To create the role of Windrush Champion and appoint an elected member to take on the role to:
- Act as a point of contact for residents, community organisations and stakeholders, affected by Windrush.
- Increase awareness and uptake of the Compensation Scheme and Windrush Documentation Scheme, and available sources of advice and support in the borough.
- Work alongside relevant cabinet members and Council officers to champion the interests of the Windrush generation

- Request the Home Office provide borough-level data on Haringey claims, and publish an annual Haringey Windrush Report on claims made, payments received, and support given.
- Make recommendations to the cabinet on how the council can improve awareness, accessibility and uptake of the compensation scheme.

Motion B

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Proposed by Councillor Seema Chandwani

Seconded by Councillor Ibrahim Ali

This council notes:

- The cost of living crisis remains acute, exacerbated by several wars, tariffs and global warming.

- Many residents in Haringey are unable to absorb rising costs in rents, utilities and food.

- Haringey is the fourth most deprived borough in London, and with rising house and rent prices, some residents are being forced to leave the borough they have called home.

- Haringey Council has always offered a strong Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and applied the use of section 13a to assist a range of groups, including Care Leavers to either exempt or discount low income households.

-The previous administration pushed the envelope of what can be done within its constraints. By lifting council tax relief to 100% for hundreds of Haringey families on low incomes.

-The previous administration also introduced the Haringey Support Fund which helps residents in crisis. Since 2022, it has helped 7500 residents.

- To note the Green Party’s Manifesto ambition to “ban the bailiff” on council tax debt however, with a caveat that the use of “attachment to benefits” or “attachment to earnings” is not used as a form of debt collection without sign off from an independent FCA advisor (such as Citizen Advice) that such an approach is not financially leaving residents without sufficient funds to live.

This council believes:

-Council tax is a regressive tax and a deeply flawed way of funding local services, increasing the gap between those who can pay and those who can not.

- Charging low-income households including disabled people, children in households in poverty, and low-income pensioners is counterproductive and pushes people into debt.

- The costs to the Council associated with seeking to collect council tax from those unable to pay is an ineffective use of Council funding and resources.

- That residents facing financial hardship should be supported, not be burdened by additional costs by their own council.

- That removing the CTRS currently in place would result in thousands of families facing a financial cliff edge.

This council resolves:

That it wishes to consider:

- Through the appropriate governance route no changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) during the upcoming budget round.

- To ask Cabinet to continue to find creative ways to expand the Council Tax Hardship Fund to assist low-income households who are facing debt.

- To ask Cabinet to ensure the Crisis and Resilience Fund is not used to fund CTRS or any Council Tax Deductions (Section 13a, SMI etc)

- To ask Cabinet to ensure the Crisis and Resilience Fund is used to help residents build financial resilience and/or crisis situations through a robust anti-poverty strategy and not be used to substitute council revenue.

Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
Tel – 020 8489 2929

Email: ayshe.simsek@haringey.gov.uk

Fiona Alderman
Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
George Meehan House, 294 High Road, Wood Green, N22 8JZ

Friday, 10 July 2026

MINUTES OF THE Full Council HELD ON Wednesday, 20th May, 2026, 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Ash Ahmed, Imad Ahmed, Ata Berk Aksit, Ibrahim Ali, Kaushia Amin, Bethany Anderson, Emily Arkell, Dawn Barnes, Johann Beckford, Eva Bell, Beverley Berrick, John Bevan, Mark Blake, Luisa Brands, Karolina Braun, Michael Brookes, Dana Carlin, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Simon Clark, Nick da Costa, Lucia das Neves, AJ Egemonye, Scott Emery, Fin Fitzgerald, Melanie Gingell, Anne Gray, Mark Grosskopf, Makbule Gunes, Mike Hodges, Andrea Hodgson, Tammy Hymas, Gio Iozzi, Sue Jameson, Marc Jenner, Dan Johnson, Dixie-Ann Joseph, Tehseen Khan, Marie Kristensen, Jo Kuper, Rosie Latchford, Anna Lawton, Fiona Orford-Williams, Daniela Parry, Ruairidh Paton, Tony Powell, Andrew Reid, Adam Small, Nelly Tackie, Edward Thacker, Georgia Twigg, Hannah Ward, Elin Weston, Sarah Williams and Erin Wolson

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Mayor referred to the notice of filming at meetings and attendees noted this information.

2. TO ELECT THE MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR 2026/27

Ahmed Mahbub, the Mayor, invited nominations for the office of the Mayor of Haringey for the Municipal year 2026- 27.

Councillor Jo Kuper nominated, and Councillor Tehseen Khan seconded that Councillor Andrew Reid be elected Mayor for the forthcoming municipal year.

Ahmed Mahbub, called for any further nominations and Cllr Emery nominated and da Costa seconded that Councillor Dawn Barnes be elected Mayor for the forthcoming municipal year.

Following a vote of 27 in favour of Councillor Andrew Reid and 28 in favour of Councillor Dawn Barnes, it was

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor Dawn Barnes be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

2. The Mayor made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was witnessed by Councillors Emery and da Costa.
3. The Mayor then addressed the Council and gave thanks for her election.

4. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

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

The Mayor accepted the following late items of business for the reasons outlined below.

Item 7 Council minutes 16 March 2026
Item 11 – Appointments made by the political groups
Item 12 - Appointments of Committees for the Municipal Year 2026/27; and
Item 13: Appointments to outside bodies 2026/27
Item 14 – Approval of Council Calendar of meetings 2026/27
Item 16: End of the year financial statement 2025/26 of allowances paid to Members

Item 17 Attendance of councillors at meetings for 2025/26

The items were not available at the time of dispatch as they included verification of information and recent changes following party group meetings.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Chief Executive reported that the Mayor had signified in writing the appointment of Councillor Makbule Gunes as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/7.

Councillor Makbule Gunes was invested with her Badge of Office.

7. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 16TH OF MARCH 2026

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 16 of March 2026.

8. TO PASS A VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR AND MAYOR'S CONSORTS

A vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, and consorts was moved by Councillor Mark Blake, Leader of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Ibrahim Ali , Leader of the Labour Group. There was also a speech from Councillor Luke Cawley- Harrison, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group.

The retiring Mayor was presented with a badge and a framed collage in honour of his municipal year of office. Mr Ahmed Mahbub addressed the meeting, thanking the Council for the honour of being Mayor and highlighting the key events and activities from his year, expressing support from colleagues and former mayors as well as officers from Democratic services.

RESOLVED

That the Council extend its thanks and appreciation to the retiring Mayor, Ahmed Mahbub and his consorts and the services they had rendered to the Borough during the past municipal year.

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

The Mayor stated that she would inform the Council of her chosen charity in the coming weeks. The Mayor spoke about the outcome of the elections and that all councillors were present to support residents and to represent them. She shared her ward with two Labour councillors and was looking forward to working with them for the benefit of the residents of Fortis Green. She concluded that it was important to put politics to one side at all times for residents.

10. TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE MUNICIPAL YEARS

Councillor Marc Jenner proposed and Councillor Nelly Tackie seconded that Councillor Mark Blake be appointed as Leader of the Council for four consecutive municipal years (2026 to 2030).

There being no other nominations received, the Mayor called a vote on the proposal. With 27 Members voting in favour, and 26 abstaining, it was agreed that Councillor Mark Blake be elected Leader of the Council for four consecutive municipal years (2026 to 2030).

Councillor Mark Blake gave thanks for his election as Leader of the Council, outlining that he was Haringey’s first non-Labour leader in 55 years. Councillor Blake pledged cooperation, transparency and stronger scrutiny. Priorities included improving housing, repairs, homelessness prevention, tenant protections, council accountability and community engagement. Councillor Blake emphasised public ownership, climate action, protecting community assets, social justice, human rights and empowering local communities.

Councillor Ali, Leader of the Labour Group responded. Councillor Ali congratulated Councillor Mark Blake and the Green Party on forming the new administration and urged them to honour their commitments. He highlighted Labour's achievements in housing, education, children's services and protecting residents. Labour would support successes, provide scrutiny where needed and work constructively while safeguarding key services and community cohesion.

Councillor Luke Cawley – Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group also responded. Councillor Cawley-Harrison congratulated Councillor Blake and elected councillors, noting residents had voted for change in Haringey. He urged collaborative cross-party working, recognising no party received a clear mandate to govern alone. While welcoming some Green Party proposals, he expressed concern about others and also noted the Council's worsening financial position, pledging constructive support and scrutiny.

11. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NOTING THE APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE POLITICAL GROUPS, AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE

Councillor Paton, Co Deputy Leader and acting in the capacity of Chief Whip for constitutional purposes, introduced the paper that outlined appointments made by Political Groups in their recent annual meetings.

RESOLVED

That the constitution of the political groups be noted:

The Green Group

The Leader:	Cllr Mark Blake
Deputy Leader:	Cllr Tammy Hymas
Co Deputy Leader	Cllr Ruairdh Paton

Cllr Dan Johnson
Cllr Jo Kuper
Cllr Rosie Latchford
Cllr Marc Jenner
Cllr Ata Aksit
Cllr Fin Fitzgerald
Cllr Eva Bell
Cllr Johann Beckford
Cllr Simon Clark
Cllr Erin Wolson
Cllr Ash Ahmed
Cllr Luisa Brands
Cllr Georgia Twigg

Cllr Bethany Anderson
Cllr Gio Iozzi
Cllr Edward Thacker
Cllr Andrew Reid
Cllr Dixie-Ann Joseph
Cllr Nelly Tackie
Cllr Tehseen Khan
Cllr Hannah Ward
Cllr Anne Gray
Cllr Marie Kristensen
Cllr Mike Hodges

The Labour Group

Leader: Cllr Ibrahim Ali
Deputy Leader: Cllr Emily Arkell
Chair: Cllr Andrea Hodgson
Chief Whip: Cllr Elin Weston

Secretary: Cllr Daniela Parry
Treasurer: Cllr Michael Brookes
Deputy Chair: Cllr Makbule Gunes
Assistant Whips: Cllr Adam Small, Cllr Beverley Berrick

Councillors:

Cllr Aj Egemonye
Cllr Melanie Gingell
Cllr Dana Carlin
Cllr John Bevan
Cllr Mark Grosskopf
Cllr Anna Lawton
Cllr Seema Chandwani
Cllr Sarah Williams
Cllr Lucia das Neves
Cllr Sue Jameson
Cllr Kaushika Amin

The Liberal Democrat Group

Leader: Luke Cawley-Harrison
Chair: Nick da Costa
Whip: Scott Emery
Deputy Leader: Fiona Orford-Williams
Deputy Chair: Tony Powell
Deputy Whip: Karolina Braun

Councillors:

Cllr Imad Ahmed

Cllr Dawn Barnes

12. TO AGREE THE APPOINTMENTS PROCEDURE AND TO APPOINT COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2026/27 INCLUDING THE SELECTION OF THE CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

The Co deputy Leader acting in the capacity of Chief Whip moved recommendation 1, as detailed in the circulated report and this was agreed.

The Co deputy Leader acting in the capacity of Chief Whip moved recommendation 2, as detailed in the circulated report and this was agreed.

Councillor Ali moved a tabled amendment to Recommendation 3, seconded by Councillor Cawley - Harrison, and this outlined a number of changes to the allocated Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and memberships of ordinary committees.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for 15 minutes to allow the Green group to consider and read the amendment which had been printed and was circulated.

The Mayor re-opened the meeting and asked the Green Group to respond.

Councillor Hymas responded to the amendment, which had replaced a number of Green Party allocated councillor chair and vice chairs roles with opposition councillor allocations. Councillor Hymas questioned the opposition groups ethics in democracy in bringing forward the amendment. Cllr Hymas outlined how the Green Party consulted its members on decisions and would be opposing these amendments which had been put forward with no prior consultation. The Green party had the largest number of seats and the Committee chairs from the group had been nominated to support the manifesto commitments of the Green party.

A vote was taken on the amendment to Recommendation 3, as follows:

28 in FAVOUR,

27 AGAINST

NO abstentions

The amendment was AGREED as per circulated in the tabled paper put forward at the meeting.

The Co deputy Leader acting in the capacity of Chief Whip moved recommendation 4, as detailed in the circulated report and this was AGREED.

13. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Mayor agreed to the admittance of this item as tabled, given that it set out decisions that had been made recently at party meetings.

Councillor Paton, Co deputy Leader and Chief whip for the purposes of the Constitution, moved the report, as circulated.

RESOLVED

1. To note the appointments to the Partnership and Association bodies which mainly exercise ‘executive’ functions set out at Appendix 1 and in accordance with article 10.8b(i)

2. To approve the appointments to the remainder of outside bodies set out at Appendix 1.

14. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RESOLVED

To agree the attached schedule of meetings for 2026/27.

15. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

There were no matters to report on.

16. TO RECEIVE A STATEMENT OF COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEES, AND SUB COMMITTEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

RESOLVED

That the statement of attendance, as attached, be noted.

17. TO NOTE THE END OF MUNICIPAL YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2025/26

That the allowances paid to each Member, as set out at Appendix 1, be noted.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair ………………………………..

Date …………………………………

Agenda Item 9

Report for:	**Full Council – 20 July 2026**
Item number:	
Title:	Statutory recommendation in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
Report authorised by:	Andy Donald, Chief Executive and Taryn Eves, Corporate Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)
Lead Officers:	Taryn Eves, Corporate Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)
Ward(s) affected:	All

Report for Key/ Non-Key Decision: Non-Key Decision

1. Describe the issues under consideration

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a recent Statutory Recommendation and Non-Statutory Recommendations in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 received from the Council's external auditors, KPMG LLP, along with the Council's proposed response.

1.2 Full Council must decide if (a)whether the recommendations are to be accepted, and (b) what, if any, action to take in response to the recommendations.

1.3 As well as giving an opinion on the financial statements and assessing the arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the Council's use of resources, KPMG LLP have additional powers and duties under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. KPMG LLP have concluded that it is appropriate to use their powers to make a written Statutory Recommendation and two Non-Statutory Recommendations under Schedule 7 (Paragraph 2) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The recommendations were made owing to the concerns of the Council's financial position (including the significant decrease in the level of reserves), the continuing need for Exceptional Financial Support from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and its impact on financial sustainability.

1.4 The Statutory Recommendation follows Schedule 7, Paragraph 2 (2) of the Act and makes it clear that a statutory recommendation can be made during or at the end of an audit and was received on 18 May 2026. This recommendation is being made with respect to the financial year 2025/26.

1.5 A copy of the letter received from KPMG LLP is attached as Appendix A to this report. The Council's proposed response to the recommendations, for Full Council consideration, is attached in Appendix B.

1.6 A representative from KPMG LLP will be in attendance at the Council meeting to answer any questions from Members.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1 As a new administration we have come into office after a decade and half of central government austerity which has led to one of the most challenging financial periods in the history of Haringey Council. In May, the Council was issued with a statutory recommendation and two non-statutory recommendations by its auditor, KPMG. This follows them raising concerns on value for money in both preceding two financial years. The escalation of concern clearly demonstrates that our new administration and council officers must take these recommendations incredibly seriously and act to prioritise improving the Council's financial position by changing culture and delivering savings across directorates.

2.2 The 2025/26 outturn report showed that the Council required £40.6m of exceptional financial support from government. There is no denying that this is a huge figure. Every £1m of EFS comes at the cost of around £70,000 of borrowing costs, each year for the next 20 years. This is in no small part due to the punitive interest and repayment cost, which currently sits at around 7%. As the council well knows, the 2026/27 budget shows an even greater reliance on EFS, rising to £84 million. Of the eight local authorities in London reliant on EFS, we are in the second most precarious position. This emergency loan scheme is a relatively new phenomenon but it is increasingly spreading across the length and breadth of the country and will continue to do so, until national politics changes.

2.3 Since the onset of austerity in 2010, real terms funding in Haringey has been cut by £143 million and, while there were decisions that previous local administrations made that have not helped our situation, they are not the primary authors our current predicament. Despite real terms cuts, the demands on our services have continued to increase. A housing crisis has driven up requirements on temporary accommodation, social care is increasingly unaffordable as successive governments pass the buck on a national care service and a failing funding model drives schools to close. Local authority funding has led to the outsourcing of services over many years for the benefit of the few, at the expense of the many. Private companies can impose eyewatering costs on councils in social care and temporary accommodation, helping to contribute to around 80% of our budget being spent on services we must deliver. The incoming Prime Minister has said some encouraging things in the past about devolving money and power to local authorities and about tackling some of underlying causes of the rigged markets in housing and social care. His challenge now is to turn words into action and we hope that he can follow through on his promises and not fall foul to party orthodoxy.

2.4 While this administration will continue to campaign for a fairer funding settlement, and transformative solutions like rent controls, a national care service and a land value tax, clearly as councillors of all parties and the new administration, we must maintain confidence amongst our partners that we take seriously the need to stabilise Council finances. The Council already has a three-year Financial Resilience Plan in place which identifies eight priority areas to reduce costs and increase income collection, and ensures the finances are working for the benefit of all residents. There are now much stronger governance arrangements around Council spending to ensure value for money and responsible decision making. Committing to ensuring that we are delivering services at the best possible value for all our residents is vital to demonstrating our recognition of the financial challenges we face.

2.5 We know that an administration that focuses on prevention, an invest to save agenda, competitive and responsible procurement and reducing unnecessary waste can free up resources to deliver for our residents in a fair and progressive way. We want all councillors and residents to come of this journey with us with transparency and accountability at the heart of everything we do.

2.6 We will be developing a new financial transparency dashboard for residents to understand how we are spending our budgets and will be exploring options for much wider resident participatory budgeting. In the coming months, we'll be holding Town Halls to hear directly from people in every corner of the borough to best understand their priorities.

2.7 We are committed to taking action, rising to the challenge, working with our communities to best deliver our finances, and making the case for lasting change to government.

3. Recommendations

Full Council is recommended to:

- Accept the Statutory Recommendation and Non-Statutory Recommendations presented by KPMG LLP (Appendix A).
- Approve the actions in response to this Statutory Recommendation and Non-Statutory Recommendations as set out in Appendix B.
- Delegate the monitoring of the delivery of the actions through the regular reporting of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan to Audit Committee.

4. Reasons for Decision

4.1 Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires that the Council must consider the Statutory and Non-Statutory Recommendation at a meeting held before the end of the period of one month beginning with the day on which it was sent to the authority (18 May 2026). It was subsequently agreed with KPMG LLP that the report and the Council's response could instead be considered at the next available Full Council meeting, that being 20 July 2026.

4.2 At that meeting the relevant authority must decide— (a)whether the report requires the authority to take any action or whether the recommendation is to be accepted, and (b)what, if any, action to take in response.

5. Alternative Options Considered

5.1 None

6 Background Information

6.1 The Audit Committee received the Auditor's Annual Report AAR Final Draft 16-01-26.pdf (AAR) for the year ended 31 March 2025 from the Council's external auditors, KPMG LLP at their meeting on 29 January 2026. Within that report, it included the following:

We note that we have not raised any statutory recommendations as part of this audit. However, in relation to the financial sustainability recommendation on page 25, we expect that we will consider it necessary to raise such a statutory recommendation in future, should the budget for 2026/27 be approved without an appropriate level of planned savings to address the Council's challenging financial position.

6.2 On 2 March 2026, the Council agreed its budget for 2026/27. This has resulted in KPMG LLP concluding that it is appropriate to use their powers to make a written Statutory Recommendation under Schedule 7 (Paragraph 2) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and have therefore, issued a Statutory Recommendation and two Non Statutory Recommendations to the Council which relates to the financial year 2025/26.

6.3 The Statutory Recommendation is:

Section 39 of AGN 03 identifies both "Unidentified savings/funding gaps in financial planning that would substantially threaten the delivery of the plan" and "Persistent failure to meet savings plans or financial targets" as illustrative significant weaknesses in arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources or 'value for money' (VFM), in line with Section 20(1)(c) of the Act. Due to the challenging financial position at the Council, and increasing demands on resources, there is a risk that the Council does not have in place adequate arrangements in respect of its identification and monitoring of savings schemes to achieve financial sustainability over the short to medium term. The Council is exposed to a risk of significant financial loss as a result of inadequate arrangements.

As such, the Council must increase its savings targets for future years and deliver savings in line with these targets. A wider range of transformational savings must be identified and implemented to allow the Council to bridge the financial gap and reduce its reliance on EFS.

This is vital given that the continued use of EFS poses significant long-term financial challenges for the Council; at current rates, each £1m of EFS increases by approximately £62,000 the revenue costs to the Council each year for 20 years, assuming the amount borrowed is repaid at maturity. This figure is according to the Council's own projections contained within the '2025/26 Finance Update – Q1' presented to Cabinet on 16 September 2025.

6.4 In addition to the Statutory Recommendation above, KPMG LLP have also made the following enabling, non-statutory recommendations:

We recommend the Council works to change the culture across directorates to one where the financial implications of decisions are given as prominent a focus as the quality of service. Whilst the Council did begin to identify a number of cross-cutting initiatives in 2025/26, the delivery of these have been the worst performing area of the savings plans to date.

The Council should demonstrate a commitment from the Cabinet and officers to increase the level of savings being delivered and to make the process of both identification and monitoring of savings more robust. This can be achieved by ensuring earlier engagement with stakeholders and encouraging the full use of tools available, including those that enable more effective in-year monitoring. Importantly, these improvements should be enabled by an enhancement in organisational capacity, including building central project management capability, to effectively oversee and assist services to drive delivery.

6.5 The full details and a copy of the letter received from KPMG LLP on 18 May 2026 is set out in Appendix A. The Council's proposed response to the Statutory Recommendation and Non-Statutory Recommendations is set out in Appendix B.

6.6 Subject to Full Council agreeing to delegate the monitoring of the delivery of the actions proposed in this report to Audit Committee, it is proposed that monitoring of these recommendations will be added to the Action Plan and undertaken through the regular reporting of the Annual Governance Statement to Audit Committee. External Audit will also report on progress of the Statutory and Non-Statutory Recommendations during the course of the following year's audit.

7. Contribution to Strategic Outcome

7.1 Accepting the recommendations to this report is expected to improve the financial position and financial sustainability of the Council and enable the continued delivery of the Corporate Delivery Plan outcomes. Going forward, Through the delivery of the actions set out in Appendix B, financial plans will be aligned to the Corporate Delivery Plan but priorities and outcomes must be delivered within a smaller financial envelope.

8. Carbon and Climate Change

8.1 There are no direct implications on the Carbon and Climate Change agenda included in this report.

9. Statutory Officer Comments

Finance

9.1 If Council accepts the Statutory Recommendation and Non-Statutory Recommendations, the actions in response are expected to increase the level of savings agreed by the Council for 2027/28 onwards, improve delivery of these savings and reduce future reliance on Exceptional Financial Support. These outcomes together are expected to improve the financial sustainability of the Council.

9.2 If delegation of the monitoring of these actions to the Audit Committee is agreed, the actions will be added to the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan and monitored through the regular reporting of the Action Plan to Audit Committee.

9.3 External audit will also report on progress of the Statutory and Non-Statutory Recommendations during the course of the following year's audit.

Strategic Procurement

9.4 Strategic Procurement has been consulted on the contents of this report. The recommendations and proposed responses do not give rise to any immediate procurement implications requiring a procurement decision by Full Council. However, Procurement and Commissioning has been identified as a priority area within the Council's Financial Resilience Plan and may contribute to the delivery of future savings, service transformation and value for money initiatives. Any resulting procurement, commissioning or contract management activity will be undertaken in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023, the Council's Contract Standing Orders and the Council's established governance arrangements.

Director of Legal and Governance

9.5 Under Section 24 and Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act), a local auditor may make a written recommendation to a "relevant authority" during or at the end of an audit, and any such recommendation must be sent to the Secretary of State. The Act defines a relevant authority as including "A London borough council".

9.6 The basis for a recommendation to be issued is where the auditor considers that it would be in the public interest for it to raise an issue discovered during the audit, so that the authority can consider it or bring it to the attention of the public.

9.7 If a recommendation is made, then an obligation is placed on the authority under the Act to consider it at a meeting "held before the end of the period of one month beginning with the day on which it was sent to the authority".

9.8 The Act stipulates that the body which is to consider the recommendation is Full Council, and that the function cannot be delegated further.

9.9 The Act requires the authority to give notice of the meeting in a prescribed format and location "before the beginning of the period of 8 days ending with the day of the meeting". Confirmation is given that notice was published on the Council's website on 10 July 2026.

9.10 The Act also requires the authority to provide a copy of the recommendation to all Members on a non-exempt basis as part of the meeting agenda papers.

9.11 At the meeting the Act stipulates that the authority must make a decision on the following two issues:

- "Whether the report requires the authority to take any action or whether the recommendation is to be accepted, and
- What, if any, action to take in response to the recommendation"

9.12 Once a decision is made, there is a twofold requirement under the Act for the authority to "As soon as is practicable" thereafter:

- Notify the auditor of what it is, and
- Publish on the website / such other prominent place where it will come to the attention of the public, a notice which contains as summary of the decision as approved by the auditor.

9.13 Confirmation is given that the Council's Audit Committee does have the Constitutional power to monitor progress being made to implement the Council's response to the recommendations by virtue of its following Terms of Reference:

To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the council.

To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

9.14 There is no legal reason why Full Council cannot adopt the Recommendations detailed on page 2 of the report.

Equality

9.15 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

9.16 The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

9.17 The financial sustainability measures proposed through the Statutory Recommendation and Non-Statutory Recommendations and the Council's response may have differential and potentially disproportionate impacts on residents and staff with protected characteristics.

9.18 The potential cumulative equalities impact of proposals within the Financial Resilience Plan and associated Delivery Plan will continue to be considered as individual proposals are developed. Any cumulative impact on residents will also be assessed through the Council's annual budget-setting process, including the preparation of a cumulative Equality Impact Assessment.

10. Use of Appendices

Appendix A – Letter received from KPMG LLP - Statutory Recommendation AND Non Statutory Recommendations in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Appendix B – The Council's proposed response to the Statutory Recommendation and Non Statutory Recommendations in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

11. Background Documents

11.1 None.

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Private and confidential
The London Borough of Haringey
Civic Centre
High Road
London
N22 8LE

Our ref LBH/TC/0326

Contact Tim Cutler
07818 845252

18 May 2026

To: The London Borough of Haringey

Statutory recommendation in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Our Responsibilities

KPMG LLP ("KPMG" or "we") act as the appointed local auditor of the London Borough of Haringey ("the Council") under Part 3, Section 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act ("the Act"). We have been appointed as local auditor for financial years from the year commencing 1 April 2023 to the time of writing this letter.

As well as our responsibilities to give an opinion on the financial statements and assess the arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the Council's use of resources, we have additional powers and duties under Part 5 of the Act. These include powers to issue a public interest report, make written recommendations, apply to the Court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law, and to give electors the opportunity to raise questions about the Council's accounts and to raise objections received in relation to the accounts.

We have concluded that it is appropriate for us to use our powers to make a written recommendation under Schedule 7, Paragraph 2 of the Act due to the Council's financial position (including the significant decrease in the level of reserves), the continuing need for exceptional financial support from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and their impact on financial sustainability.

These issues also drive an urgent need in identifying further savings.

Having raised significant weaknesses under our Value for Money responsibilities in each of the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25, the continued deterioration in the Council's financial position, the increased recurrent reliance on exceptional financial support and widening budget gap have led to us deeming it appropriate to now escalate these concerns via a statutory written recommendation. Auditor Guidance Note 07 ("AGN 07") prepared and published by the National Audit Office ("NAO") on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General ("C&AG") provides guidance on circumstances in which making a Schedule 7 recommendation may be appropriate. Section 66 of AGN 07 states that issuing such a recommendation can be useful where the background to an issue is already in the public domain.

Given the public nature of the Council's financial performance and position, and the concerns we have raised thereon, we consider that issuing a Schedule 7 recommendation is a proportionate and reasonable step at the present time. As the matter is in the public domain and reflects budget pressures common across the Local Government sector, we do not consider that issuing a Public Interest Report under Schedule 7, Paragraph 3 of the Act would be a reasonable or proportionate action.

Part 5, Section 19 of the Act requires a local auditor to comply with the code of audit practice applicable to the Council in force at the time that its work is carried out. We confirm that we have applied, and our procedures and conclusions are consistent with, the Code of Audit Practice 2024 published by the National Audit Office on 14 November 2024.
Further details are set out below.

<u>Background</u>

Financial Position & Exceptional Financial Support

The financial position of the Council has deteriorated over several years due to a combination of budgetary pressures linked to growth in demand for key services and real-terms core funding decreases over a sustained period of time. In fulfilling our responsibilities in respect of Value for Money, as set out in the 'Our Responsibilities' section above, in 2023/24 and 2024/25 we performed a number of procedures, including: understanding the processes in place for financial response and recovery for future periods, and for reducing future reliance on Exceptional Financial Support; understanding the processes in place for identifying cost saving schemes and how these are measured throughout the year; evaluating the actions taken to improve cost saving identification; and assessing how the Council monitors delivery of savings across services.
In completing these procedures, we reviewed in depth a variety of key financial and governance documents and reports presented to full Council, Cabinet and other scrutiny committees.

These documents and reports related not just to the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years but also to future periods; for example, we reviewed reports relating to the 2026/27 budget in order to understand and capture the future financial impacts of shortcomings in savings delivery to date.

The Council can use its General Fund Reserves to help mitigate such pressures; however, this balance has reduced significantly in recent years, from £132.2m as at 31 March 2021 to £52.2m as at 31 March 2025 (which includes £37.0m that is earmarked for specific purposes), narrowing the options available to the Council to manage budgetary challenges.

To be able to deliver a balanced budget outturn for 2024/25, the Council relied upon a combination of drawdown from these reserves, additional non-recurrent mitigations and the receipt of £10m of Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG). This is money that the Council is effectively allowed to borrow via a capitalisation directive, which must be funded either via capital receipts or through new borrowing which must be repaid in future years.

To be able to set a balanced budget for 2025/26, the Council has successfully applied for a further tranche of EFS totalling £37m, to bridge the budget gap initially identified. However, as at December 2025 the Council had a £19m budget shortfall for 2025/26 over and above this EFS requirement, meaning that additional EFS will be needed if mitigations cannot be identified.

On 2 March 2026 the Council approved the 2026/27 budget, which assumes further EFS support of £84.3m to achieve a balanced position. This is comprised of the recurrent £37m gap from 2025/26 and further funding shortfalls of £47.3m. This figure may also increase further if the shortfall in the 2025/26 budget is not met.

Savings

As part of the budget setting process each year, the Council identifies savings schemes across its directorates to help improve efficiency and manage the financial position.
Savings targets, and delivery against those targets, have historically been modest as the Council has instead opted to draw upon usable reserves to mitigate budget gaps. The first period in which substantive savings were planned was 2022/23, with target savings of £12.2m and actual delivery of £6.7m (55%).

In 2023/24 the Council identified a savings programme of £17.5m and achieved a final delivery of £13.5m (77%). For 2024/25 the Council set a £20.4m savings target and achieved £12.9m (63%), and for 2025/26 the Council set a £29.4m savings target of which it was forecasting achievement of £16.3m (55%) as at December 2025. The Council identified £5.7m in planned cross-cutting savings for 2025/26 but is expecting to deliver just £0.6m in relation to these. The inability to deliver recurrent savings in line with target creates further budget pressures in future periods.

We noted during the completion of our Value for Money work that there was a lack of consistency across directorates in the monitoring of in-year savings delivery, including the routine use of all available monitoring tools. Entries made within the savings tracker are self-certified by directorates, which is reflective of the lack of central accountability for delivery of savings. The Council has found it difficult to implement cross-cutting savings such as digital change, often resulting from a lack of resource within individual services. These factors all point to a lack of capacity across the Council to deliver savings of the level required to deliver a balanced budget.

Schedule 7, Paragraph 2 (2) of the Act makes clear that a statutory recommendation can be made during or at the end of an audit. This recommendation is being made with respect to the financial year 2025/26, having raised separate, previous non-statutory recommendations to the Council in both 2023/24 and 2024/25.

KPMG Response

One of KPMG's roles as the external auditor of the Council is to ensure that we are satisfied that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources or 'value for money' (VFM), as set out in Section 20(1)(c) of the Act. Our work is conducted in line with Auditor Guidance Note 03 ("AGN 03"), prepared and published by the National Audit Office ("NAO") on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General ("C&AG") in line with Section 20(5) of the Act.

In both the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years, we undertook risk assessment procedures in order to assess whether there were any risks that value for money was not being achieved. This was completed by considering the findings from other regulators and auditors, records from the organisation and performing procedures to assess the design of key systems at the organisation that give assurance over value for money.

This work led us to identify two significant risks in both 2023/24 and 2024/25, linked to Financial Sustainability, namely:

1. Due to the challenging financial position at the Council, there is a risk that the Council does not have in place adequate arrangements in respect of cost setting and budgetary processes to achieve financial sustainability. This is key to the short to medium term plan to reduce reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS)

2. The Council does not have adequate processes in place to identify or monitor sufficient cost savings schemes to achieve the necessary reduction in expenditure that would deliver a sustainable financial position. This is especially relevant given the reduced level of savings achieved in 2024/25, relative to target, compared to prior year.

We performed further procedures over these risks – such as understanding management's response to financial recovery and assessing the process for identifying and monitoring savings schemes – and concluded that there were two significant weaknesses within the processes to achieve value for money, across both 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Statutory recommendation pursuant to Section 7, Paragraph 2 of the Act

KPMG have raised VFM recommendations linked to the Council's financial position and identification and monitoring of savings schemes in two consecutive financial years. Despite this, the overall financial health of the Council has deteriorated to the point where it is no longer able to set a balanced budget without relying upon significant amounts of EFS to fill any shortfall. The Council has not demonstrated an ability to successfully deliver relatively modest savings programmes, nor has it committed to and subsequently implemented large-scale transformational efficiency savings.

As such we have considered it necessary to make a statutory recommendation linked to the identification and monitoring of cost saving schemes in order to deliver financial sustainability. The wording of this statutory recommendation, made pursuant to Section 7, Paragraph 2 of the Act, is as follows:

Section 39 of AGN 03 identifies both "Unidentified savings/funding gaps in financial planning that would substantially threaten the delivery of the plan" and "Persistent failure to meet savings plans or financial targets" as illustrative significant weaknesses in arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources or 'value for money' (VFM), in line with Section 20(1)(c) of the Act. Due to the challenging financial position at the Council, and increasing demands on resources, there is a risk that the Council does not have in place adequate arrangements in respect of its identification and monitoring of savings schemes to achieve financial sustainability over the short to medium term. The Council is exposed to a risk of significant financial loss as a result of inadequate arrangements.

As such, the Council must increase its savings targets for future years and deliver savings in line with these targets. A wider range of transformational savings must be identified and implemented to allow the Council to bridge the financial gap and reduce its reliance on EFS.

This is vital given that the continued use of EFS poses significant long-term financial challenges for the Council; at current rates, each £1m of EFS increases by approximately £62,000 the revenue costs to the Council each year for 20 years, assuming the amount borrowed is repaid at maturity. This figure is according to the Council's own projections contained within the '2025/26 Finance Update – Q1' presented to Cabinet on 16 September 2025.

<u>Other observations and recommendations</u>

Further to the Section 7 recommendation above, we also make the following enabling, non-statutory recommendations:

We recommend the Council works to change the culture across directorates to one where the financial implications of decisions are given as prominent a focus as the quality of service. Whilst the Council did begin to identify a number of cross-cutting initiatives in 2025/26, the delivery of these have been the worst performing area of the savings plans to date.

The Council should demonstrate a commitment from the Cabinet and officers to increase the level of savings being delivered and to make the process of both identification and monitoring of savings more robust. This can be achieved by ensuring earlier engagement with stakeholders and encouraging the full use of tools available, including those that enable more effective in-year monitoring. Importantly, these improvements should be enabled by an enhancement in organisational capacity, including building central project management capability, to effectively oversee and assist services to drive delivery.

<u>What does the Council need to do next?</u>

Schedule 7, Paragraph 5 of the Act requires the following actions.

The Council must consider the recommendation at a meeting held before the end of the period of one month beginning with the day on which it was sent to the Council. At that public meeting of the full Council, the Council must decide:

- whether the recommendations are to be accepted, and
- what, if any, action to take in response to these recommendations.

Schedule 7, Paragraph 5(8) of the Act specifically provides that, if the local auditor is satisfied that it is reasonable to allow more time for the Council to comply with the above requirements, the period of one month may be extended. Whilst this recommendation has been issued on 18 May 2026, given the recent local elections and the need to constitute a full Council we request that the Council confirms the date of the public meeting at which this matter will be considered and the rationale for this date being selected. Following this, we will consider whether it is reasonable to extend the period of time for response in line with Schedule 7, Paragraph 5(8) of the Act.

Schedule 7, Paragraph 8 of the Act specifies the meeting publication requirements that the Council must comply with.

Schedule 7, Paragraph 10(1) provides that as soon as is practicable after making its decisions under paragraph 5(6), the Council must (a) notify the local auditor of those decisions, and (b) publish a notice containing a summary of those decisions which has been approved by the auditor.

Pursuant to Schedule 7, Paragraph 10(1)(b), the notice published following the meeting must be approved by the local auditor before publication.

Yours faithfully,

KPMG LLP

Enclosed:
Appendix A: Summary of Schedule 7 and other recommendations
Appendix B: Summary of 2023/24 and 2024/25 Value for Money recommendations and Council responses

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government at the same time it was issued to the Council, in accordance with Schedule 7, Paragraph 2(3) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

KPMG

Appendix A: Summary of Schedule 7 and other recommendations

Schedule 7 statutory recommendation	Council response
Section 39 of AGN 03 identifies both “Unidentified savings/funding gaps in financial planning that would substantially threaten the delivery of the plan” and “Persistent failure to meet savings plans or financial targets” as illustrative significant weaknesses in arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources or ‘value for money’ (VFM), in line with Section 20(1)(c) of the Act. Due to the challenging financial position at the Council, and increasing demands on resources, there is a risk that the Council does not have in place adequate arrangements in respect of its identification, monitoring and Cabinet approval of savings schemes to achieve financial sustainability over the short to medium term. The Council is exposed to a risk of significant financial loss as a result of inadequate arrangements. As such, the Council must increase the identification and approval of its savings targets for future years and deliver savings in line with these targets. A wider range of transformational savings must be identified and implemented to allow the Council to bridge the financial gap and reduce its reliance on EFS.	

This is vital given that the continued use of EFS poses significant long-term financial challenges for the Council; at current rates, each £1m of EFS increases by approximately £62,000 the revenue costs to the Council each year for 20 years, assuming the amount borrowed is repaid at maturity. This figure is according to the Council's own projections contained within the '2025/26 Finance Update – Q1' presented to Cabinet on 16 September 2025.	
Other, non-statutory recommendations	**Council response**
We recommend the Council works to change the culture across directorates to one where the financial implications of decisions are given as prominent a focus as the quality of service. Whilst the Council did begin to identify a number of cross-cutting initiatives in 2025/26, the delivery of these have been the worst performing area of the savings plans to date.	
The Council should demonstrate a commitment from the Cabinet and officers to increase the level of savings being delivered and to make the process of both identification and monitoring of savings more robust. This can be achieved by ensuring earlier engagement with stakeholders and encouraging the full use of tools available, including those that enable more effective in-year monitoring. Importantly, these improvements should be enabled by an enhancement in organisational capacity, including building central project management capability, to effectively oversee and assist services to drive delivery.	

Appendix B: Summary of 2023/24 and 2024/25 Value for Money recommendations and Council responses

2023/24 recommendations and responses – originally issued 28 January 2025

	Issue, Impact and Recommendation	Council Response, Responsible Officer and Due Date (Updated January 2026)	KPMG update – January 2026
1	The Council set a balanced budget for 2023/24 but the outcome was an overspend of £21.8m. Due to the challenging financial position at the Council, and increasing demands on resources, there is a risk that the Council does not have in place adequate arrangements in respect of its cost setting and budgetary processes to achieve financial sustainability over the short to medium term. The Council should create an organisation-wide resilience plan which evaluates pressures and service delivery models and seeks to make longer-term decisions about the shape of the organisation, the configuration of services to make them a more financially resilient organisation, as well as doing the basics right and identifying productivity savings robustly. The Council should strive to make the ‘Budget Fortnight' process more robust. This can be done by ensuring complete stakeholder engagement & that the complete information needed to ensure informed decision making in available in a timely manner. An improvement in forecasting can better	These recommendations are accepted. The Council’s Financial Recovery Plan has been in place since April 2025 (prior to the time period of this review) based on the Council’s current financial position, recommendations from the CIPFA resilience review and work by an external consultant in Autumn 2024. The focus of the current plan is to eliminate the Council’s reliance on EFS for 2026/27 onwards and move towards financial sustainability in the short to medium term. However, given the deteriorating financial position, this plan is now subject to review with a focus on reducing reliance on EFS and improving financial resilience over the next three years. Other actions include: • Continuing with the emergency governance and oversight arrangements that are established within the organisation, through the Finance Recovery Board and Cabinet Recovery Board; • Ensuring all budget holders are held to account for delivering within their allocated cash limits, recognising the work that has taken place to ‘right-size’ budgets for 2026/27; • Further strengthening the spend control mechanisms that are already in place across the organisation in order to further drive a consistent commitment to value for money, namely: • Spend control panel (and continue to review thresholds) • Recruitment Panel - agency and permanent recruitment restrictions on non-essential roles. • Single point of governance for all of the capital programme (Strategic Capital Board) • Single point of governance for all commissioning and procurements over £160,000 (Commissioning Panel and Board)	The Council set a balanced budget for 2024/25, but the outcome was an overspend of £38m, which was mitigated by one-off Council contributions of £28m, and then £10m of Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from central government. Due to the challenging financial position at the Council, and increasing demand on resources, there continues to be a risk that the Council does not have in place adequate arrangements in respect of its cost setting and budgetary processes to achieve financial sustainability. However, we can see that there have been improvements made to the process in terms of there being much earlier engagement with the budgeting process across the Council, and more challenge of initial budgets. Given that the financial position of the Council has worsened, we believe that this weakness and recommendation has evolved and been superseded, as such we have raised a further

	help predict external factors that influence budget setting and various scenario testing can address uncertainties.	• All reports which involved spending over £25,000 to be reviewed by the Section 151 Officer. • A strong focus on delivering the £30m of savings already contained within the 25/26 budget and the £21.9m for the 26/27 budget by 1st April 2026, in order to secure full year effect for 26/27. • Inviting external challenge and support for the Council in the form of an independent Financial Resilience Sounding Board, building on, enhancing and updating the 2025 CIPFA independent review work. • Preparation of mid-year budget proposals that could be taken in the summer of 2026, realigning resources to new priorities and presenting options for 27/28 savings. This will give opportunities for in year spend reductions and additional time for the delivery of those measures prior to 1st April 2027, therefore securing full year effect. A key part of the current recovery plan and the revised resilience plan will be about reviewing all services again to identify efficiencies that reduce costs and increase productivity but also assure us that we have got the basics right. It will include looking at options to re-shape how services are delivered, including statutory services. This work will commence early in 2026 for review by the new administration in Autumn 2026 and build on the work undertaken for the 2026/27 budget process and new savings proposals that have not gone forward at this stage because of the priority of the organisation to focus on the delivery of the £30m savings in 2025/26 and £21.9m already planned for 2026/27. Improvements have already been made in estimating current and future service pressures as part of the 2025/26 and 2026/27 budget process with much greater use of non-financial trend data, scenario planning and estimates for risks and uncertainties. There is already some improvement demonstrate in 2025/26 with forecasting variations month on month being less volatile. In addition, the 2026/27 corporate contingency will	recommendation in 2024/25 in relation to financial sustainability.

		be increased to £25m to recognise the uncertainty in demand led services. Budget Fortnight took place for the 2024/25 budget planning process and the time period for this report. Since this time, Budget Week has been completed for 2025/26 budget setting and Budget Series for the 2026/27 budget setting, each building on the lessons learnt and feedback from the previous year. Stakeholder engagement is positive with attendance being mandatory with only a few exceptions. For the 2026/27 Budget Series, ideas and opportunities were identified in April and then developed over the course of three months to share with Members in July. It is however, noted there is always further improvements that can be made and officers will shortly be planning the Budget Series events for 2027/28, to have budget proposals ready to share with the new administration in July 2026. Section 151 Officer July 2026	
2	Due to the challenging financial position at the Council, and increasing demands on resources, there is a risk that the Council does not have in place adequate arrangements in respect of its identification and monitoring of savings schemes to achieve financial sustainability over the short to medium term. The Council is exposed to a risk of significant financial loss as a result of inadequate management arrangements. Due to ongoing budgetary pressures, the council must increase the savings target for future years, however it has under delivered in 2023/24 with	This recommendation is accepted for 2024/25, but improvements have since been made for 2025/26 and 2026/27 budget setting processes with early identification through Budget Week and Budget Series respectively and proposals worked up and shared with Members in September and July accordingly. It is acknowledged that there are further improvements needed to increase the number of new savings and income opportunities built into future budgets to reduce the reliance on EFS in future years. For 2026/27, a decision was taken to limit the number of new savings given that there are almost £30m and £21.9m for 2026/27 and the priority is to improve the track record on delivery and deliver these in full by the end of 2026/27. All Corporate Directors on the Finance Recovery Board will be held accountable and are required to provide regular updates on progress and actions taken where progress is slow. The most challenging savings to be delivered are those which are cross-cutting and require delivery and buy-in from across all services.	The financial position of the Council remains challenging, with continued inflationary pressures on expenditure and potential funding reform negatively impacting available resource. The Council has a 2025/26 savings plan of £29m, which will be challenging to achieve given the declining achievement rate – 63% & 77% savings over the last 2 years – on significantly lower targets of £20.4m and £17.5m respectively. The Council must ensure that all available potential savings

	£13.5m (77%) of the £17.5m target achieved. We recommend the Council works to change the culture across services to one where the financial implications of decisions are given as prominent a focus as the quality of service. The Council should then make the process of both identification and monitoring of savings more robust by ensuring early engagement with stakeholders and encouraging the full use of tools available – in particular in-year monitoring documents.	These are the priority for the Finance Recovery Board between January and March 2026. Work will commence in early 2026 by officers for new savings and options will be presented to the new administration in July. Where opportunities arise, in year decisions will be taken to reduce costs or increase income and reduce the use of EFS in 2026/27 and also support full achievement on delivery of savings in 2027/28. Section 151 Officer March 2026	schemes are robustly identified and presented to members, such that there is the opportunity to enact reductions in expenditure. Additionally, the process for monitoring delivery needs to be more robust and there should be greater accountability of service lines for shortfalls in savings. As such, this recommendation remains in progress and is not yet completed. The 2026/27 budget incorporates another £21.9m of savings, however given the large financial gap and reliance upon EFS, these savings may need to come in the form of assessing the level and quality of service provided in relation to statutory responsibilities – given that 80% of the service budget is spent on social care & temporary accommodation.

2024/25 recommendations and responses – issued 29 January 2026

	Issue, Impact and Recommendation	Original Council Response, Responsible Officer and Due Date
1	The Council has developed Finance Response & Recover plans with the aim of reducing short to medium term expenditure to remove the reliance upon EFS for 2025/26 and avoid the need for it in 2026/27. However, the financial outlook for 2025/26 is extremely challenging, with an overspend of £23.4m as at Q2. In January 2026 the Council increased the EFS request for 2025/26 to £54m to address this overspend, which consists of the £37m that has already been agreed in principle in February 2025 and an additional £17m to fund the current forecast overspend. Additionally, there is a predicted £104m of EFS required for 2026/27. However, these EFS requests assume that the 2025/26 agreed savings schemes of £29m are delivered, which as detailed on page 20 is only forecasting a 78% delivery, with 45% of overall schemes amber or red RAG rated. It is crucial that the Council can accurately forecast demand to budgets such that the appropriate actions can be taken to mitigate these pressures, however we have noted through our work over Adults Social Care on page , as well as through our work over Temporary Accommodation on page 34, that there were large overspends in these areas driven by a combination of increased demand and price respectively. The Council must continue to robustly monitor and implement the recovery plans through the newly formed Financial Recovery Board and also continue to improve and challenge the budget setting process to ensure that all financial pressures can be incorporated. We note that although we have raised this Value For Money recommendation, we have not raised any statutory recommendations as part of this audit. However, the cost of continuing to rely upon EFS is significant - at current rates	These recommendations are accepted. Please see reference to the Management Response to the previous recommendation in relation to the improvements in forecasting that have already been put in place and the implementation of the recovery plans. It is acknowledged that for adult social care and temporary accommodation the in year overspend during 2025/26 means that the assumptions for setting the 2025/26 budget were not accurate, despite an additional £31m built in for adult social and £12m for temporary accommodation. Strengthened estimating of pressures have been put in place for 2026/27, which includes scenario planning and an estimate for risk but also using the period 8 forecast in 2025/26 as a basis rather than period 6 as in previous years. It is accepted that the Council's track record on the delivery of savings is not as strong as it needs to be and this is the current priority for the Finance Recovery Board. A new monitoring and reporting process for savings was put in place for 2025/26 that not only reports progress against the financial delivery of the savings but also the changes needed to deliver the savings. This avoids alternative opportunities being used as mitigations at a time when the Council must deliver on the original savings and also the alternative opportunities. The Finance Recovery Team have also stress tested the delivery of the savings that are planned to provide more assurance on the delivery but also to raise any concerns with the Finance Recovery Board and SLT if further actions are required. The Financial Recovery Board meets fortnightly to consider progress against savings and other actions in the plan and will continue to monitor progress of the revised resilience plan

	each £1m of EFS used will add £62,000 to revenue costs annually for the next 20 years. As such, we expect that we will consider it necessary to raise such a statutory recommendation in future, should the budget for 2026/27 be approved without an appropriate level of planned savings to address the Council's challenging financial position.	when agreed. Quarterly reporting will also continue through the finance monitoring report to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Section 151 Officer July 2026

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APPENDIX B - The Council's proposed response to the Statutory Recommendation and Non-Statutory Recommendations in accordance with Schedule 7, Paragraph 2 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

This appendix sets out the full details of the recommendations received from KPMG LLP and the Council's responses for Full Council to consider. Key dates for each action are shown in **bold** where appropriate, but it should be noted that the Council has developed a three year Financial Resilience Plan and therefore many of these actions will continue into future years. Full details will be included in future updates of the Medium-Term Finance Strategy and Annual Budget Report as well as updates reported to Audit Committee through the Annual Governance Statement, should the recommendations Section 3 of this report be agreed.

Statutory Recommendation
Section 39 of AGN 03 identifies both "Unidentified savings/funding gaps in financial planning that would substantially threaten the delivery of the plan" and "Persistent failure to meet savings plans or financial targets" as illustrative significant weaknesses in arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources or 'value for money' (VFM), in line with Section 20(1)(c) of the Act. Due to the challenging financial position at the Council, and increasing demands on resources, there is a risk that the Council does not have in place adequate arrangements in respect of its identification and monitoring of savings schemes to achieve financial sustainability over the short to medium term. The Council is exposed to a risk of significant financial loss as a result of inadequate arrangements. As such, the Council must increase its savings targets for future years and deliver savings in line with these targets. A wider range of transformational savings must be identified and implemented to allow the Council to bridge the financial gap and reduce its reliance on EFS. This is vital given that the continued use of EFS poses significant long-term financial challenges for the Council; at current rates, each £1m of EFS increases by approximately £62,000 the revenue costs to the Council each year for 20 years, assuming the amount borrowed is repaid at maturity. This figure is according to the Council's own projections contained within the '2025/26 FinanceUpdate – Q1' presented to Cabinet on 16 September 2025.

Council Response
Agreed. The Council has developed a three-year Financial Resilience Plan which recognises that addressing the financial challenges in Haringey cannot be resolved in a single year. The Financial Resilience Plan focuses on key priority service areas, mainly those where spending is high and there is the greatest opportunity to transform and re-design services and deliver savings through cost reductions or increased income. The areas are as follows: • Adult Social Care • Procurement and Commissioning • Housing • Income generation and income collection • Customer Services • Reductions in Senior Management roles • Reduction in capital programme • Council Tax A Delivery Plan will be developed for each of these priority areas with the expected outcome of reducing spend and/or increasing income and a level of performance that aligns Haringey's spending with statistical neighbours. This will also include cost avoidance measures to limit the year on year increase in additional budget required to fund pressures while maintaining appropriate quality standards within services to meet its statutory duties. All other services not covered by the priority areas above will be required to produce a Value for Money Action Plan with proposals to reduce spend and increase income that align Haringey's spending with statistical neighbours and cost avoidance measures to limit year on year increases in additional budget required to fund pressures over the next three years. The savings / income / cost avoidance proposals for the listed priority areas and the VFM Action Plans are expected to reduce the budget gap in future years and the reliance on EFS. The full details will be presented as a bundle of the proposed savings, together with the detailed delivery plans as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to Cabinet in November 2026 and will be subject to the Council's decision-making process. Where opportunities identified can be delivered in year, immediate decisions will be taken to realise reductions in year and reduce the forecast £84m in year reliance on EFS.

Council Response
Monthly monitoring of the agreed savings will be through the Finance Recovery Board which is chaired by the Chief Executive and includes independent external sector experts for scrutiny and challenge with action taken against non-delivery. Progress will be reported externally to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee through the quarterly finance reports and to Audit Committee as part of updates on the Annual Governance Statement. All Member briefings by the Section 151 Officer will take place during the year to update on the latest financial position as part of the usual budget setting cycle. Spending controls already in place will continue and a clear Section 151 Officer approval process will be introduced for any department to spend beyond its cash limits, to ensure that there is a clear and agreed funding strategy agreed if spending is deemed essential.
Accountable Officer – Corporate Director for Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)
Key Milestones: • November 2026 – publication of the MTFS and proposed savings for consultation. • March 2027 – Full Council to agree the draft budget for 2027/28 and updated MTFS and progress against the three-year Financial Resilience Plan.

Other Observations and Recommendations

Non-Statutory Recommendation 1
We recommend the Council works to change the culture across directorates to one where the financial implications of decisions are given as prominent a focus as the quality of service. Whilst the Council did begin to identify a number of cross-cutting initiatives in 2025/26, the delivery of these have been the worst performing area of the savings plans to date.

Proposed Response to Non-Statutory Recommendation 1
Agreed. All decisions already include statutory finance comments and all decisions over £25,000 require Section 151 sign off to confirm that the spending is essential and the budget provision is available. Going forward, the Section 151 Officer will review how reports are written and presented, including those at Cabinet to ensure that the financial impact of the decision is a prominent feature of the report and all Cabinet Member introductions reference the financial impact of the decision **(From September 2026)**. In 2026/27, the Commissioning Panel will continue to review and challenge all new commissions for services (funded by revenue) through a formal gateway approval process over £160,000 but this threshold is expected to reduce to £25,000 during 2026/27 **(by March 2027)**. The panel which consists of a panel of commissioning experts who scrutinise requests to ensure there is a clear evidence base for need, quality of service is in line with other authorities, all options are considered, including proposals to reduce spend. In 2026/27, the new governance on capital spending will continue to be embedded. All schemes in the programme will be subject to review and those not in flight or can be paused will be considered for removal from the capital programme. No scheme will be included in the capital programme without having been subject to the new capital governance and an approved business case by Strategic Capital Board. Ongoing monitoring of business case assumptions and delivery of retained schemes will be through the capital governance framework **(By March 2027)**. All other spend over £1,000 will continue to be subject to the Spend Control Panel process. Directors will continue to have discretion over determining if spend is essential and therefore not subject to panel decision but in 2026/27, these decisions will be subject to sample checks to ensure that essential criteria is met **(From September 2026)**.

Proposed Response to Non-Statutory Recommendation 1
The Cabinet have been briefed on the financial position, and this will continue through the financial planning process in developing the draft budget for 2027/28 onwards in a smaller financial envelope. All Member briefings by the Section 151 Officer will take place during the year to update on the latest financial position as part of the usual budget setting cycle. Externally, through officers and Members the Council is committed to be open and transparent about its financial challenges and the steps as set out in this response to bring the budget back into balance, the options considered, choices made and the reasons why. These external communications will commence from September 2026 and will be formally reported through the MTFS and draft budget proposals published for Cabinet in November 2026. The Council acknowledges that its delivery of savings must improve. A new tighter monitoring and reporting process is in place for 2026/27 and all existing savings and new savings identified through the Financial Resilience Plan will have an identified Corporate Director and Director lead that will be held accountable for delivery and managed through the Finance Recovery Board **(From July 2026)**.
Accountable Officer – Corporate Director for Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)

Non-Statutory Recommendation 2
The Council should demonstrate a commitment from the Cabinet and officers to increase the level of savings being delivered and to make the process of both identification and monitoring of savings more robust. This can be achieved by ensuring earlier engagement with stakeholders and encouraging the full use of tools available, including those that enable more effective in-year monitoring. Importantly, these improvements should be enabled by an enhancement in organisational capacity, including building central project management capability, to effectively oversee and assist services to drive delivery.

Proposed Response to Non-Statutory Recommendation 2
Agreed. Work has commenced on the 2027/28 financial planning process alongside the development of the Council's new Corporate Delivery Plan. All members through the Member induction process have been briefed on the Council's financial position and more detailed updates have been provided to Cabinet to highlight the challenge we must address through the Council's Financial Resilience

Proposed Response to Non-Statutory Recommendation 2
Plan as set out in the response to the Statutory Recommendation above. All Member briefings by the Section 151 Officer will take place during the year to update on the latest financial position as part of the usual budget setting cycle. The full details will be presented as a bundle of proposed savings, together with the detailed delivery plans as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to Cabinet in November 2026 and will be subject to the Council's decision-making process **(November 2026)**. The Council is committed to consider any early decisions on spending reductions that can be taken in year (mid year budget proposals) that will have an immediate impact on improving the Council's financial position and this may include undertaking consultation of changes in policy as soon as feasible possible to ensure full year impact of any changes in 2027/28 **(From September 2026)**. Given the Council's current political structure and No Overall Control, All Members will continue to be regularly briefed on the financial position. Support and engagement will be in place with oppositions groups in the development of any alternative budget they put forward **(From June 2026)**. Identification of savings options will use a range of tools, including benchmarking of performance and spend against other authorities, ideas from previous years and a review of all savings proposals put forward by other authorities over recent years **(November 2026)**. As detailed in our response to Recommendation 1, the Council acknowledges that its delivery of savings must improve. A new tighter monitoring and reporting process is in place for 2026/27, and all existing savings and new savings identified through the Financial Resilience Plan will have an identified Corporate Director and Director lead that will be held accountable for delivery and managed through the Finance Recovery Board.**(From July 2026)** Progress will be externally reported through Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to Audit Committee through the update on the Corporate Risk Register and the Annual Governance Statement **(From September 2026)**. The Council acknowledges that delivering the level of changes and savings needed through its Financial Resilience Plan will require capacity and expertise dedicated to delivery. Therefore, the Council's transformation efforts and capacity will be concentrated on the areas where we can have maximum impact and also where there is the highest priority need for improvement and re-design that will lead to savings. Any funding of additional capacity and skills will need to be agreed through

Proposed Response to Non-Statutory Recommendation 2
the Section 151 Officer and the £2.5m set aside in the 2026/27 budget through the Flexible Use of Capital Receipt. The Council's change and project support capacity will be aligned with the priorities set out in the Financial Resilience Plan **(From July 2026)**.
Accountable Officer – Corporate Director for Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Published: 10 July 2026

London Borough of Haringey External Audit 2025/26

Auditor Statutory Written Recommendations under Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

On Monday 20th July 2026, Haringey Council will hold a meeting of its Full Council in Tottenham Town Hall, Town Hall Approach, London N15 4RY. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

The meeting agenda item which this notice relates to is pursuant to the need for Full Council to consider the written Statutory Recommendation and two Non Statutory Recommendations issued by its External Auditor KPMG LLP on 18th May 2026.

The recommendations are for the Council to:

- Increases its savings targets for future years and deliver savings in line with these targets. A wider range of transformational savings must be identified and implemented to allow the Council to bridge the financial gap and reduce its reliance on EFS.
- To change the culture across directorates to one where the financial implications of decisions are given as prominent a focus as the quality of service.
- To demonstrate a commitment from the Cabinet and officers to increase the level of savings being delivered and to make the process of both identification and monitoring of savings more robust.

The recommendations, and the Council's response to them, will be published in the Council meeting agenda papers online.

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REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE 01/2026/27

FULL COUNCIL 20 July 2026

Chair: Councillor Andrea Hodgson

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report arises from the Standards Committee meetings held on the 29 June 2026 and asks Full Council to consider the following:

- Appointment of Political Assistants and updates to the Constitution to meet 1989 Local Government and Housing Act requirements.
- Members Allowances Scheme for 2026-2027 update to reflect access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

2. Appointment of Political Assistants and updates to the Constitution to meet 1989 Local Government and Housing Act requirements.

The Committee were aware that following the local election results, there were now three political groups that qualified for a political assistant, and that all three political groups had expressed the need to continue to appoint to these positions.

We were advised that given the increase in the number of roles, there was a requirement to approve the establishment of these roles at Full Council for 2026 and to complete a review of how these posts offer value for money to meet government guidance. The timescale for the review was noted to be between August and November 2026.

We noted that there was also a need to update the Council's Constitution in respect of the Political Assistants appointments as this had not previously been reviewed. We noted that the Council's Constitution needed additional wording to more clearly set out these provisions for the political groups.

We noted the need to demonstrate value for money for these posts, and that the Council would undertake the required due diligence to ensure this value. However, it was explained, that, in the meantime, there was a need to recruit to these roles, due to the current need of the political groups. Following this, a review of the roles would be undertaken over the next year with a report compiled by November 2026.

Officers explained that the review into the role would consider different options of delivery, as well as benchmark how other Local Authorities undertake the role.

The following issues were discussed by the Committee:

- Support for the Political assistant role as a good point of contact and liaison between officers and Members. They also were an essential point of contact for councillors that worked or had other responsibilities during the day.

- Concerns regarding transparency of the Appointments Panel in considering the review outcomes of role of the Political Assistant as this Panel met on an ad hoc basis was set up to mainly make appointments and not consider terms of employment or reviews. It was suggested, and agreed, that the review be referred to Standards Committee with a report to Full Council from the Committee rather than the Appointments Panel, and we amended recommendations to reflect this which were outlined in the report.

WE RECOMMEND FULL COUNCIL

1. NOTE the current best value considerations for appointment of political assistants set out at section 7 of the attached report (appendix 1)for three political groups noting that there is a maximum of 3 positions that can be appointed to meet legislative requirements.

2. Taking into account the government Guidance which suggests that there should be reviews of these particular posts to ensure value for money, AGREE the appointment of three political assistants on a one-year fixed contract ending in September 2027 to allow a review of these roles between August and November 2026.

3. To AGREE a review of the roles, taking account the operation of the roles and whether they continue to provide value for money, particularly in the light of the Council's challenging financial position.

4. To AGREE that the review findings and final decisions on the terms and conditions of the appointments and contracts are delegated to the Standards Committee for final decision in November 2026, with a report to Full Council in November. This would be in time for consideration as part of the budget proposals if required.

5. To AGREE the updates to the Council's Constitution set out at Appendix 2.

3. Members Allowances Scheme for 2026-2027 update to reflect access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

We considered the attached report which sought to formalise the access of Members to the Local Government Pension Scheme which was made available by government legislation on the 11th of May 2026

We noted the assurances had been received from the finance team that the impact of the scheme from employer contributions would not be significant, due to the lower level of Councillor allowances.

We noted that advice on enrolment, and the implications of enrolment, could be sought by Members from the Pensions team, and it was additionally explained that there was a scheduled Member briefing session to explain the scheme in October 2026.

We noted that this was a static document and that this information would remain in the scheme and allow councillors to understand and have knowledge of access to the scheme on a continual basis.

WE RECOMMEND COUNCIL

To consider the updates to the Members' Allowances Scheme set out at section 6 and reflected at Appendix 4.

To APPROVE the updated Members' Allowances Scheme 2026/27 attached at Appendix 4.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Standards Committee Report on Political Assistants

Appendix 2 Updates to the Constitution

Appendix 3 Member Allowances Scheme report

Appendix 4 Updates to the Constitution Members Allowance Scheme

Item number: **Standards Committee/ Full Council**

Title: Appointment of Political Assistants and updates to the Constitution to meet 1989 Local Government and Housing Act requirements.

Report authorised by: Fiona Alderman, Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek – Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Report for Key/ Non-Key Decision: N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 There has been recruitment and provision to two Political Assistant roles in Haringey since 2003 when these roles were created to support the smooth running of Council meetings, provide support to political groups meetings, support member officer relationships and to have a contact point for officers and members for the wider political groups.

1.2 These roles were evaluated by HR in 2022 and were assessed as PO3 roles. These roles have been filled in the past by the majority group and opposition group. The contracts for these roles have been recruited to on a fixed term contract basis until the annual meeting following the local election.

1.3 Following the local election results, there are now three political groups that qualify for a political assistant, and all three political groups have expressed the need to continue to appoint to these positions.

1.4 Given the increase in the number of roles, there is a requirement to approve the establishment of these roles at Full Council for 2026 and to complete a review of how these posts offer value for money to meet government guidance.

1.5 There is also a need to update the Council's Constitution in respect of the Political Assistants appointments as this has not previously been reviewed and the Council's Constitution needs additional wording to more clearly set out these provisions for the political groups.

Haringey LONDON

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations for Full Council:

3.1 To note the current best value considerations for appointment of political assistants set out at section 7 of the report for three political groups noting that there is a maximum of 3 positions that can be appointed to meet legislative requirements.

3.2 Taking into account the government Guidance which suggests that there should be reviews of these particular posts to ensure value for money, to agree the appointment of three political assistants on a one-year fixed contract ending in September 2027 to allow a review of these roles between August and November 2026.

3.3 To agree a review of the roles, including potential options for employment on a full or part - time basis, taking account the operation of the roles and whether they continue to provide value for money, particularly in the light of the Council's challenging financial position.

3.4 To agree that the review findings and final decisions on the terms and conditions of the appointments and contracts are delegated to the Appointments Panel for final decision in November 2026, in time for consideration as part of the budget proposals if required.

3.5 To agree the updates to the Council's Constitution set out at Appendix 1.

4 Reasons for decision

4.1.1 The increase in the number of political groups with over 10% of council membership.

4.1.2 To meet government Guidance which suggests that there should be reviews of these particular posts to ensure value for money.

4.1.3 The need to update the Council's Constitution on these appointments as there is currently not the detail required by section 9 of the 1989 Act.

5 Alternative options considered

To not agree the continuation of the appointment of Political Assistants and delete these posts from the establishment of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team. This was not agreed by the political group leaders and it is acknowledged that political assistants can play a valuable role in supporting the political decision-making of the Council.

6. Background

6.1 The purpose of appointing Political Assistants is to provide assistance to political groups represented on the Council. This is governed by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local authority Political assistance Guidance dated 11th October 2021 published by the then Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

6.2 Under section 9 of the 1989 Act, a local authority may appoint assistants for political groups, subject to specific conditions. The key features of this statutory provision are as follows:

- The appointment is described as being "for the purpose of providing assistance, in discharge of any of their functions as members of a relevant authority, to the members of any political group to which members of the authority belong";
- Any Council may only have up to 3 such posts at any given time, but appointments can only be made if posts are allocated to all groups who qualify;
- The 3 largest political groups in each authority qualify for a political assistant if the membership of each group consists of at least 10% of the membership of the authority. The exception is where only one political group accounts for at least 10% of the membership, in which case the next biggest group also qualifies.

6.3 In Haringey this currently means one Political Assistant for the Green Group, one for the Labour Group and one for the Liberal Democrat Group.

6.4 In making a decision the Council will therefore need to satisfy itself that the overall appointment of Political Assistants represents value for money. In determining whether the appointments represent value for money the Council should have regard to the financial and other resources available to the Council, the role of the Political Assistants, the size of the respective Groups and that the Group may choose not to fill the post allocated to it.

6.5 Under section 7 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 employees of a local authority must be appointed on merit. However, Section 9 provides an exception to this principle. This section advises that the appointment of each political assistant is down to the political group each post (political assistant) is to represent. The appointing group can take account of the candidate's political activities during the selection process, although the posts are 'politically restricted', under the provisions of the 1989 Act.

6.6 The appointment of Political Assistants must be conducted in accordance with the Council's procedures and statutory requirements. The maximum level of remuneration is determined by the Local Government (Assistants for Political Groups) (Remuneration) (England) Order 2021. The current remuneration for the Haringey posts is set out above at paragraph 1.3, with these roles graded at PO3.

6.7 An appointment of a Political Assistant is dependent on the Council passing a resolution in support of the principle of appointing Political Assistants and the Council's Constitution containing a standing order relating to such appointments. Section 9(5) of the Act requires certain provisions to be included in the Constitution of a Council relating to Political Assistants as follows:

- A prohibition on the making of an appointment until the Council has allocated a post of Political Assistant to each group that qualifies for one:
- A prohibition on the allocation of a Political Assistant's post to a group which does not qualify for one;
- A prohibition on the allocation of more than one Political Assistant post to any one group.

6.8 The following governance actions are being taken forward.

- A report to full Council seeking continuing agreement to appointment of political assistants for 2026 – 2027 (this report).
- Undertaking a review of the political assistant roles and duties between August and November with a report to Appointments Panel in late November to meet government guidance and test current value for money considerations.
- Updates to the Council's Constitution setting out the prohibitions as outlined in section 6.10, as set out at Appendix 1

7.The current value for money considerations for these roles is as follows:

7.1 The political assistant roles respond to the requirements in the Council's Constitution at Part Three, Section B – sub section 8 Groups which sets out that Group meetings are generally conducive to the due process of the council business and that suitable accomodation, assistance with the production and distribution of agenda and minutes will be provided. These roles fulfil these requirements and further support the provision of official information, advice and reports to group meetings to ensure smooth running of the Council. They will help support briefings on forthcoming key decisions, policy decisions, budget preparations, and the annual meeting.

7.2 The level of demand for Political Assistant support will vary according to the size of the group being supported, with larger groups bringing greater complexity, administrative burden and a larger group membership to respond to. Nonetheless, regardless of the size of the group, each role will support over 30 meetings per year. This includes Political group meetings, budget briefings and Full Council meetings. Each political meeting and budget requires agenda and minutes compilation. Full Council meeting agendas require compilation of questions and motions and there is consultation by the political assistant to ensure that these reflect the current local issues and that these are responded to.

7.3 From a strategic and governance perspective, the roles support group leaders with either development of the corporate delivery plan which provides service delivery direction for the council or scrutiny and challenge of the administration to ensure that decision making is robust.

7.4 The posts help support and maintain the Member Officer Protocol and allow a contact point between officers of the Council and political groups. This can be helpful when you have several enquiries from group members. The Political Assistants can collate and seek the appropriate responses from directors rather than having increased meetings and correspondence which can become an additional burden on the council's senior officer resources.

7.5 These posts are particularly crucial in ensuring agreement of the budget at Council which is a statutory requirement. This is due to the political group assistants facilitating and supporting consideration and agreement of the developing budget proposals and also alternative budget or budget amendments.

7.6 These posts reduce the need for additional meetings between senior officers and group leaders, deputy group leaders and chief whips by helping to manage group enquiries, Council meetings and access to decision making.

7.7 Although these roles are political, they indirectly support the democratic processes of the Council. The main group are supported by these officers in making informed decisions with the collation of information from officers which is shared with political group, and this supports the administration in their policy and budget making roles. The opposition party political assistants will have a role in holding the main party to account and support the questioning and challenge of their decision making to ensure that this is as robust as possible.

7.8 Given the close political proportionality between the group forming the Council's minority administration and the opposition groups, the political assistants will have significant contact with the leadership and membership of their group and they will have a key role in organising and facilitating the effective flow of various operational or policy proposals where likely views need to be clarified with the political groups.

7.9 The roles have also historically supported the additional Council meetings with the Youth Council ensuring that young people are able to participate in decision making.

7.10 The roles will support and help the development of back bench councillors into potential decision-making roles. They will support and facilitate the attendance of councillors at the Member training and development programme to support the development of newly elected councillors. These roles can help new councillors deal with a number of queries relating to their roles as a ward councillor, community leadership role, decision making responsibilities and advocacy role. Given the significant turnover of councillors in the 2026 local elections, the roles are critical for supporting new councillors to quickly understand and undertake their roles effectively and this will in turn support residents to obtain effective support from their councillors.

7.11 Over the last five years the roles have further provided value for money through their additional logistical support for Council meetings which have been held at Tottenham Town Hall whilst the Civic Centre is being refurbished. It is anticipated that these arrangements will become less burdensome once we return to the Civic Centre in 2027.

7.12 Nevertheless, while all the above considerations are important, Members of Full Council will also want to take into consideration the Council's financial position when considering whether the roles continue to provide sufficient value for money. In some Councils the roles may be full or part-time, depending on the size of the groups being supported and the nature of the work expected from the political assistants, which can vary from council to council. This will be considered in the proposed value for money review and options brought back to the Appointments Panel for consideration.

Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026 High level Strategic outcomes

The Political Assistant positions support the achievement of the opportunities for residents to participate in decision making by facilitating Council meetings in which there is public participation. They also support the Young people's full Council meeting and connection with the Youth Council. They will also contribute to the theme of reducing inequality and promote equity of access, experience and outcomes by supporting councillors to be an effective ward councillor, community leader, decision maker and advocate.

Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

Finance

8.1 The report proposes increasing the number of Political Assistants from two to three and appoint all posts to one-year fixed term contracts whilst a review of the roles takes place to ensure value for money. The £61,470 one-year cost of the additional Political Assistant post will be funded from contingency in 2026/27.

Any financial implications arising from the review will be picked up as part of the 2027/28 budget planning process.

Legal

8.2 As set out within the report.
The Appointments Panel is the appropriate body to fulfil the employment procedure rules as set out in Part 4 Section K in relation to appointments. Part 4 Section K - includes a section on assistants to political group

Equality

The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act

Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not

Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not

The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

The recommendations relate to staffing matters and there are no equalities issues identified relating to the recommendations in the report. Recruitment processes for the role of Political Assistant will comply with equalities legislation

9.Use of Appendices

9.1 Changes to the Council's Constitution – Appendix 1

10 **Background Papers**

10.1 The Council Constitution.
10.1.1 Local authority Guidance Political assistance Guidance dated 11th October 2021.

Haringey LONDON

Part Four, Section K Officer Employment Procedure Rules

1. Recruitment and Appointment

(a) Declarations

(i) The Council will draw up a statement requiring any candidate for appointment as an officer to state in writing whether they are the parent, grandparent, partner, child, stepchild, adopted child, grandchild, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece of an existing councillor, the Mayor or officer of the Council; or of the partner of such persons.

(ii) Any candidate who fails to disclose such a relationship will be disqualified from appointment. The content of this paragraph will be included in any recruitment information.

(iii) No candidate so related to a councillor, the Mayor or an officer will be appointed without the authority of the Assistant Director for Human Resources or an officer nominated by him/her.

(iv) Every Member and senior officer of the authority who knows of a relationship to a candidate for appointment must report the details to the Assistant Director for Human Resources.

(b) Seeking support for appointment.

(i) The Council will disqualify any applicant who directly or indirectly seeks the support of any councillor or the Mayor for any appointment with the Council. The content of this paragraph will be included in any recruitment information.

(ii) No councillor or the Mayor will seek support for any person for any appointment with the Council. This rule does not prevent a Member from offering or providing a written reference about a candidate but the Member shall not take part in the appointment process involving that candidate.

2. Recruitment of Head of Paid Service, Directors* and Statutory Officers*

Where the Council proposes to appoint a Head of Paid Service, a Director or a Statutory Officer and it is not proposed that the appointment be made exclusively from among their existing officers, the Council will:

(a) draw up a statement specifying:

(i) the duties of the officer concerned; and
(ii) any qualifications or qualities to be sought in the person to be appointed;

(b) make arrangements for the post to be advertised in such a way as is likely to bring it to the attention of persons who are qualified to apply for it; and

(c) make arrangements for a copy of the statement mentioned in paragraph (1) to be sent to any person on request.

(d) all applicants for the post shall be interviewed, or a short list of the more suitable applicants shall be drawn up and those applicants shall be interviewed.

3. Appointment of the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer

a. The Council will approve the appointment of the Head of Paid Service following the recommendation of such an appointment by the Appointments Panel

b. The Council may only make or approve the appointment of the Head of Paid Service where:

(i) no objection has been made by any member of the Cabinet, or
(ii) if any objection is made, the Appointments Panel has declared itself satisfied that the objection is not material or well-founded

c. The procedures in (a) and (b) above will apply to the appointment of the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

3.1 Dismissal of Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer

a) The Council will approve the dismissal of the head of Paid service following the recommendation of such a dismissal by the Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel.
b) The Council may only make or approve the dismissal of the Head of Paid service where:

i)no objection has been made by any member of the Cabinet or
ii) if any objection is made the Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel has declared itself satisfied that the objection is not material or well-founded

c) The procedures in a) and b) above will apply to the dismissal of the Chief Finance officer and the Monitoring Officer

***the terms Director and Statutory Officer have the meaning given at Part 3 Section E Section1; 2.01 of this Constitution**

4. Appointment of Directors

(a) The Appointments Panel will appoint Directors.

(b) The procedures in (a) above will not apply to the appointment, of the Chief Executive of the Alexandra Palace and Park charity. Instead, the Chief Executive acting in his/her charity capacity will take the decisions to appoint, that Chief Executive in consultation with the Alexandra Palace and Park Board or its appointed Panel.

(c) An offer of employment as a Director shall only be made where:

(i) no objection has been made by any Cabinet Member, or
(ii) if any objection is made, the Appointments Panel or the Chief Executive is satisfied that the objection is not material or well founded.

5. Dismissal of Directors

The Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel will dismiss Directors.

The Dismissal of a Director shall only be made where:

(i) no objection has been made by any Cabinet Member, or
(ii) if any objection is made, the Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel or the Chief Executive is satisfied that the objection is not material or well founded.

a) The procedures in paragraph 5 above will not apply to the dismissal of the Chief Executive of the Alexandra Palace and Park charity. Instead, the Chief Executive acting in his/her charity capacity will take the decisions to dismiss that Chief Executive in consultation with the Alexandra Palace and Park Board or its appointed Panel.

6. Member Training

All Members taking part in appointments or disciplinary proceedings shall undertake appropriate training provided by the Assistant Director for Human Resources in consultation with the Monitoring Officer.

7. Other appointments

(a) Appointment of all other officers (other than assistants to political groups) will be made by the Head of Paid Service or his/her nominee.

(b) Assistants to political groups. Appointment of an assistant to a political group shall be made in accordance with the wishes of that political *group to which the post has been allocated under section 7 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 employees of a local authority must be appointed on merit. However, Section 9 provides an exception to this principle. This section advises that the appointment of each political assistant is down to the political group each post (political assistant) is to represent. The appointee can take account of the candidate's political activities during the selection process, although the posts are 'politically restricted' (as described above).*

(c) *The appointment of Political Assistants must be conducted in accordance with the Council's procedures and statutory requirements. The maximum level of remuneration is determined by the Local Government (Assistants for Political Groups) (Remuneration) (England) Order 2021.*

(d) *An appointment of a Political Assistant is dependent on the Council passing a resolution in support of the principle of appointing Political Assistants and subject to the following standing order relating to such appointments(as set out in Section 9(5) of the Act):*

- *A prohibition on the making of an appointment until the Council has allocated a post of Political Assistant to each group that qualifies for one:*
- *A prohibition on the allocation of a Political Assistant's post to a group which does not qualify for one;*
- *A prohibition on the allocation of more than one Political Assistant post to any one group.*

8. Disciplinary action

a) The Disciplinaries, Grievance and Dismissal Panel will take forward disciplinary, conduct and capability decisions relating to the Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, and determining whether these officers should be suspended in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001.

b) The Disciplinaries, Grievance and Dismissal Panel will hear and decide substantive grievances either about or from the Head of Paid Service. The Monitoring Officer will decide whether or not the grievance is substantive.

c) Suspension. The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer may be suspended whilst an investigation takes place into alleged misconduct. That suspension will be on full pay and last no longer than two months.

d) Independent Panel. No other disciplinary action may be taken in respect of any of those officers until the Authority has invited relevant independent persons to form an Independent Panel to advise on such matters as set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) Regulations 2001.

e) Councillors will not be involved in the disciplinary action against any officer below Director except where such involvement is necessary for any investigation or inquiry into alleged misconduct, though the Council's disciplinary, capability and related procedures, as adopted from time to time may allow a right of appeal to Members in respect of disciplinary action.

f) The Disciplinaries, Grievance and Dismissal Panel will exercise functions in respect of Grievance decisions related to Director level direct reports of the Head of Paid Service , if (and only if) referred to the Panel by the Head of Paid Service due to a conflict-of-interest issue.

g) The above will not apply to disciplinary action concerning the Chief Executive of the Alexandra Palace and Park charity. Instead, the Chief Executive acting in his/her charity capacity will take the disciplinary action in consultation with the Alexandra Palace and Park Board or its appointed Panel.

9. Dismissal

a) The Disciplinaries, Grievance and Dismissal Panel will exercise functions in respect of the Dismissal (including terms of release) of Directors in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 including conducting case hearings and making decisions in relation to Directors where dismissal of the officer is a possible outcome and will need to consider the views of an independent Panel when considering the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer.

b) Independent Panel. In accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001, before the taking of a vote at the relevant meeting on whether to approve or not a dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer, the Council must take into account, in particular:

(i) any advice, views or recommendations of the Independent Panel; (ii) the conclusions of any investigation into the proposed dismissal; and
(iii) any representations from the relevant officer.

c) Councillors will not be involved in the dismissal of any officer below Director except where such involvement is necessary for any investigation or inquiry into alleged misconduct, though the Council's disciplinary, capability and related procedures, as adopted from time to time may allow a right of appeal to Members in respect of dismissals.

10. Definitions

In these Rules:

- "Director " has the meaning given at Part 3 Section E Section 1; 2.01 of this Constitution and shall include the following officers:
  - Members of the Council Leadership Team
  - All Directors and Assistant Directors
  - The Chief Executive of Alexandra Palace & Park(as appropriate)

"Council Leadership Team " means:

- Director for Environment and Resident Engagement
- Director of Placemaking and Housing,
- The Director of Children's Services
- The Director for Adults, Health and Communities
- The Director of Culture Strategy and Engagement
- The Director for Finance

Report for: Standards Committee 29 June 2026

Title: Members Allowances Scheme for 2026-2027 update to reflect access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Report authorised by : Director of Legal and Governance Fiona Alderman

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek - Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Report for Key/ Non-Key Decision: Non key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration.

1.1 To formalise the access of Members to the Local Government Pension Scheme which was made available by government legislation on the 11th of May 2026.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 To consider the updates to the Members' Allowances Scheme set out at section 6 and reflected at Appendix 1 to the report.

3.2 To recommend that the Members' Allowances Scheme 2026/27 attached at Appendix 1 and agreed by the Committee be adopted by Full Council on 20 July 2026.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 The Council has a legal duty to approve a Members Allowances Scheme before the end of each year to cover the following year. The Council can amend a scheme any time during the year. Following the change in legislation, on the 11th of May 2026, to allow councillors in England the option of joining the Local Government Pension Scheme, the updated scheme is attached. This includes some key information for members about the LGPS and how they can opt in and make payments from their basic allowance.

5. Alternative options considered.

5.1 No alternative options were considered as there is a duty to ensure that the scheme reflects the provisions available to members.

6. Background information

6.1 This report asks Standards Committee to consider the updated scheme and recommend this for approval by full Council on the 20 July 2026, in accordance with Article 14.03 of the Council's Constitution.

6.2 The government published the 'Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales: Scheme improvements (access and protections)' following consultation on 13 October 2025, closing on 22 December 2025. The consultation set out proposals for four policy areas: Normal Minimum Pension Age, pensions for elected members, academies in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and new Fair Deal.

6.3 The government response addressed one of the four policy areas – pensions for elected members. The proposals gave mayors and councillors in England access to the LGPS. The proposals were put forward because the government believed that they would help talented people come into public service and ensure a consistent position across the UK. It was noted that Councillors in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales already have access to the LGPS.

6.4 The consultation also included a draft statutory instrument to bring the change into legislation. An updated draft statutory instrument, that takes into account the suggestions made at consultation, has been published alongside the government response in February 2026.

6.5 It was noted that the government was prioritising access for elected members, so that they can enter the LGPS in the 2026-27 LGPS year. A further government response will be published later in the year, addressing the three other proposals in the consultation.

6.6 Therefore, since the 11th of May 2026, Local Councillors in England now have access to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) following the introduction of new regulations. The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) used actuarial analysis to support a consultation about the change.

6.7 The Council's Pensions Team have compiled a form, FAQ and leaflet which has already been distributed to the Chief Whips to share with all newly Councillors and there has been interest in joining the scheme.

6.8 It is important to formalise the access to the LGPS scheme and include this information in the Member Allowances Scheme which will be published on the website and also considered at full Council. This will further help continual communication of the access to the scheme.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1 Members of the Council are directly responsible for the setting and oversight of all strategic priorities.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

8.1 **Finance**

Administrative burden of increased access……………………………

The government expects software providers to make necessary updates over the course of the scheme year, and for annual benefit statements to be available to elected members in line with Regulation 89 of the LGPS Regulations 2013, i.e. by the end of August 2027.

8.2 **Director of Legal and Governance**

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Elected Member Pensions) (consequential amendment Regulations 2026 come into force on 11th May 2026.

8.3 **Equality**

The decision to update the scheme does not have a direct impact on the equality duty of the council. Increased access to the local government pensions scheme recognises the role of elected members as dedicated public servants.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1: Members Allowances Scheme 2026/27 updated

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Haringey Review of Member Allowances 2019/20

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Part 6
Members' Allowances Scheme

1. SCHEME FOR THE PAYMENT OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

1.01 Made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and in force for the municipal year 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027).

2. BASIC ALLOWANCE

2.01 Each Councillor will be entitled to receive the sum of **£12,234.00** by way of Basic Allowance.

2.02 If a Councillor does not serve as such for the whole 12-month period or becomes suspended or partially suspended, he/she will only be entitled to receive pro-rata payment for the period(s) during which he/she actually was a serving Councillor. This principle also applies to education representatives on scrutiny bodies and employee and employer representatives on the Combined Pensions Committee and Board (co-optees).

3. INCLUDED EXPENSES

3.01 Travel Expenses.
The Basic Allowance includes all travel within the M25. Councillors are not entitled to any form of concession or special permit as Councillors for parking in the Borough.

4. MAYORAL ALLOWANCES

4.01 The additional allowances for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are:

(a) The Mayor is entitled to an additional allowance of £16,965.
(b) The Deputy Mayor is entitled to an additional allowance of £4,238.

5. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES

5.01 For the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, Haringey Council will allocate Special Responsibility Allowances in six bands, to Councillors who take on certain additional roles, in accordance with Table A below. If a Councillor does not serve as such for the whole period or becomes suspended or partially suspended, he/she will only be entitled to receive pro-rata payment for the period(s) during which he/she actually was a serving Councillor and had the special responsibilities.

Table A

Band	Position	Special Allowance	Total Allowance (including Basic Allowance)
Band 4	•Leader	£33,926	£46,160
Band 3B	9 or fewer x Cabinet Members	£25,443	£37,677
Band 3A	• Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£23,134	£35,368
Band 2B	•Chief Whip •Chair of Strategic Planning and Planning Sub Committee •Chair of Alexandra Palace and Park Board •Leader of the Principal Opposition	£16, 965	£29,199
Band 2A	4 x Councillors serving on Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£15, 421	£27,655
Band 1B	•Chair of Combined Pensions Committee and Board •Chair of General Purposes Committee •Chair of Standards Committee • Chair of Audit Committee •Chair of Licensing Committee and Licensing Sub Committee	£8, 482	£20,716

	• Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition • Chief Whip of the Principal Opposition		

(To note that the Chair of General Purposes Committee is also and Vice Chair of Appointments Panel and the Vice Chair of Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel)

6. MULTIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES

6.01 Where a Councillor holds more than one post of special responsibility, he/she may only receive one Special Responsibility Allowance. Where a Councillor holds more than one post of special responsibility and the posts have Special Responsibility Allowances of different monetary values, the Councillor would receive the higher one. For the purposes of this paragraph, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor count as posts of special responsibility.

7. CO-OPTEES' ALLOWANCES

7.01 Each education representative on scrutiny bodies, and each employee and employer representative on the Combined Pensions Committee and Board, is entitled to an allowance of £154 per meeting attended, to a maximum of £616. No allowances are payable to others who are not elected Councillors.

8. BABYSITTING AND DEPENDANTS ALLOWANCE

8.01 Councillors and non-elected members can claim this allowance based on the following:

(a) That reimbursement be made at the London Living Wage. The period of payment should include the time of the meeting, together with reasonable travelling time of the member, plus any necessary travelling expenses of the carer to and from their home.

(b) Children over the age of 16 must not be claimed for, unless suffering from an illness or disability making constant care essential.

9. TRAVELLING AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE

9.01 Councillors can claim this allowance for attending approved meetings, training and conferences etc. only to the extent that it involves travel outside the M25. Claims must be based on the following:

(a) The mileage rate for travel by private car is 34.6 pence per mile. An extra 3 pence per mile is payable for each passenger for whom a travelling allowance would otherwise be payable. The cost of tolls, ferries and parking charges can be claimed.

(b) The mileage rate for travel by solo motor cycle is :

Not exceeding	150 cc	8.5 pence per mile
Over	150 cc but not over 500 cc	12.3 pence per mile
Over	500 cc	16.5 pence per mile

(c) On public transport only the ordinary or cheaper fare can be claimed where more than one class is available.

(d) The cost of a taxi, including a reasonable tip, can be claimed only in case of urgency or where public transport is not practicable or reasonably available.

(e) The maximum rates for subsistence allowance on approved duties are as follows:

For an absence of more than 4 hours before 11.00	£4.92
For an absence of more than 4 hours including lunchtime between 12.00 and 14.00	£6.77
For an absence of more than 4 hours including the period 15.00 to 18.00	£2.67
For an absence of more than 4 hours ending after 19.00	£8.38

10. CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS

10.01 Where a Councillor is also a Councillor of another authority, that Councillor may not receive allowances from more than one authority in respect of the same duties.

10.02 The Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances will be paid in equal monthly instalments.

10.03 The Co-optees' Allowance must be claimed by, and will be paid at, the end of the municipal year, subject to paragraphs 2.02 above and 10.05 below.

10.04 All claims for Travelling and Subsistence Allowance and Babysitting and Dependants Allowance must be made within two months of the relevant meeting or the costs being incurred by the Councillor or non-elected member, subject to paragraph 10.05 below.

10.05 If any Allowance under paragraphs 10.03 or 10.04 is not claimed within the prescribed time limit, the Democratic Services Manager shall have a discretion to make the payment nonetheless.

10.06 Any Councillor or non-elected member may elect to forego his/her entitlement to all or part of any allowance by giving written notice at any time to the Democratic Services Manager.

11 MATERNITY, ADOPTION, SHARED PARENTAL, PATERNITY AND SICKNESS PAY

11.01 Subject to this paragraph 11, all Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full in the case of maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity and sickness leave, as long as they remain a Councillor. This includes Members becoming parents through surrogacy arrangements.

11.02 Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance in full in the case of maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity and sickness leave for a six month period. Extension of this period of leave will require prior 2 months' written notice to be given to the Political Leader of the respective political group. If the extended leave is agreed by that Political Leader, a report will be compiled to seek executive approval from before the point of the 6 months' leave expiry, for the extension of this leave. The Council (or Leader in case of Cabinet Members) may, depending on the circumstances, appoint a replacement to cover the period of absence who will be entitled to the SRA pro rata for the period of the temporary appointment.

11.03 The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Manager will write to the Member to confirm the continuation of allowances and until what date they will continue.

11.04 Leave arrangements are unaffected by the number of children born from a single pregnancy or placed as part of a single adoption.

Maternity Leave

11.05 A Member is entitled to take up to 52 weeks' maternity leave starting no earlier than the 11th week before the expected week of childbirth, except following a premature birth, and no later than the day following the actual date of birth.

11.06 The Member must notify the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager of their intention to take maternity leave in writing no later than 4 weeks before the date they wish the period of maternity leave to start and:

i) Confirm the expected week of childbirth; ii) Provide a copy of the MATB1 (available from a doctor or midwife); iii) Confirm the date on which the Member intends her maternity leave to start.

Adoption Leave

11.07 A Member is entitled to take up to 52 weeks of adoption leave starting no earlier than 14 days before the child is expected to be placed and no later than the expected placement date, or if the child is adopted from overseas, no later than 28 days after the date on which the child enters Great Britain,

11.08 The Member must notify the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager in the case of a UK adoption of their intention to take adoption leave in writing no more than seven days after the date on which the Member is notified of having been matched with the child for adoption or, where that is not reasonably practicable, as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter. In the case of an overseas adoption, the Member must notify the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager of their intention to take adoption leave in writing, no more than 28 days after s/he received the official notification and:

i) Confirm the date the child is expected to be placed with him/her for adoption (UK Adoption) or the date on which the Member received an official notification and the date on which the child is expected to enter Great Britain (overseas adoption); ii) Provide a copy of the matching certificate/official notification. The matching certificate must be issued by the adoption agency that matched the Member to the child and must contain the name and address of the agency, the date on which the Member was notified that s/he had been matched to the child, and the date on which the agency expects to place the child with the Member.; (iii) in the case of an overseas adoption, the date of entry of the child into Great

Britain iv) Confirm the date which the Member has chosen his/her adoption leave to start.

Shared Parental Leave

11.09 A Member is entitled to Shared Parental Leave if they are :-

(i) the mother, or expectant mother, of a child, or the father of the child, or at the date of the child's birth the spouse, civil partner or partner of the mother/expectant mother, and at the date of birth the mother and the father/spouse/civil partner/partner share the main caring responsibility for the child; or

(ii) the adopter of a child, or at the date that the child is placed for adoption the person who is the spouse, civil partner or partner of the adopter, and at the date of the placement of the child for adoption the adopter and the spouse/civil partner/partner share the main caring responsibility for the child. Where two people have been matched jointly, the adopter is whoever has elected to be the child's adopter.

11.10 A Member may share up to 50 weeks' leave if the mother/ adopter curtails their maternity/adoption leave before using their full entitlement of 52 weeks. The number of weeks available as Shared Parental Leave will be reduced by the number of weeks maternity or adoption leave that has already been taken by the mother or adopter.

11.11 Shared Parental Leave can be taken as one continuous block or in multiples of complete weeks, but must end no later than one year after the birth/placement for adoption of the child.

11.12 The Member must notify the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager of their intention to take shared parental leave in writing no later than 8 weeks before the date they wish the period of shared parental leave to start, and must in writing provide the following information

(i) in the case of the birth of a child:-

- the names of the mother and of the father/spouse/civil partner/partner,
- the start and end dates of any period of maternity leave to be taken by the Member,
- the total amount of Shared Parental Leave available,
- the expected week of birth
- the date of birth (where the child is not yet born, this information must be provided as soon as reasonably practicable after the birth and, in any event, before the first period of Shared Parental Leave to be taken by the Member)
- how much Shared Parental Leave the mother and the father/spouse/civil partner/partner each intend to take
- an indication as to when the Member intends to take Shared Parental Leave. Including the start and end dates for each period of leave.

(ii) in the case of the adoption of a child:-

- the names of the adopter and of the spouse/civil partner/partner,
- the date that the adopter was notified of having been matched for adoption with the child
- the date that the child is expected to be placed for adoption
- the date of the placement (where the child has yet to be placed for adoption, this information must be provided as soon as reasonably practicable after the placement and, in any event, before the first period of Shared Parental Leave to be taken by the Member)
- the start and end dates of any period of adoption leave to be taken by the adopter,
- the total amount of Shared Parental Leave available,
- how much Shared Parental Leave the adopter and the spouse/civil partner/partner each intend to take
- an indication as to when the Member intends to take Shared Parental Leave. Including the start and end dates for each period of leave.

Paternity Leave

11.13 A Member is entitled to take up to two weeks' paternity leave to help care for the child, or to support the child's mother/adopter, if they are either: the father of the child (whether or not they are the biological father); the spouse, civil partner or partner of the mother/adopter.

11.14 The Member may take one week or two consecutive weeks of paternity leave, but not single days or less than a week's duration. Paternity leave must be taken within 56 days of the birth or adoption.

11.15 The Member must notify the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager of their intention to take paternity leave in writing no later than 4 weeks before they wish the period of paternity leave to start (childbirth) or no more than seven days after the date on which the adopter is notified of having been matched with the child or, where that is not reasonably practicable, as soon as is reasonably practicable; and:

i) Confirm the expected week of childbirth; or the dates on which the adopter was notified that s/he had been matched with the child and on which the child is expected to be placed for adoption with the adopter(UK Adoption); or the dates on which the adopter received official notification and on which the child is expected to enter Great Britain (Overseas Adoption);

ii) or matching certificate/official notification;

iii) Confirm the length of the absence and the date on which the Member has chosen to begin his/her leave

11.16 If the Member wishes to change the start date of a period of leave, they should write to the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager no later than 4 weeks before either the original start date 'or' the new start date (whichever is earlier). The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager will ensure that HR Services are informed within 2 working days of receipt of the details.

11.17 If the Member wishes to change the end date of a period of leave they should write to the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager at least 4 weeks before either the original end date or the new end date (whichever is earlier). The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager will ensure that HR Services are informed within 2 working days of receipt of the details.

11.18 HR Services will provide confirmation that the information on revised dates has been received and that relevant re-instatement or adjustment of any SRA has taken place, with a copy to Democratic Services, within 10 working days.

Sickness Leave

11.19 A Member who is sick will continue to receive the basic allowance as long as they remain a Councillor. They will also continue to receive any SRA for a six month period. Extension of this period of leave will require prior 2 months' written notice to be given to the Political Leader of the respective political group. If the extended leave is agreed by that Political Leader, a report will be compiled to seek *executive* approval before the point of the 6 months' leave expiry, for the extension of this leave. This is in accordance with section 85 of the 1972 Local Government Act.

11.20 If a Member decides not to return to office following either during or on their expiry of maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity or sickness leave, the Chief Executive must be notified. HR Services must then be informed within two working days of receiving notification. Allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.

11.21 If an election is held during the Member's maternity, adoption, shared parental, paternity or sickness leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic allowance and SRA, if appropriate will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

Access to the Local Government Pension Scheme

Since the 11th of May, Councillors in England can now access The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) which provides pension benefits for councillors and mayors (referred to as 'elected members') in England who are under age 75.

Councillors are eligible to join if they receive an allowance or salary from a district council, county council, unitary council, combined authority, combined county authority, London borough council, fire and rescue authority or the Council of the Isles of Scilly. Members of the London Assembly, the Court of Common Council of *the City of London and the Mayor of London can also join the Scheme, with the agreement of their authority.*

Councillors will need to complete and return a joining form which is available from the Pensions Team and this needs to be completed and signed with a wet signature and cannot be typed. Once the Pension team receives the form, they will start deducting pension contributions from Councillor's allowance. Councillors can check their payslips to make sure the correct contributions are being taken.

The Council's Pensions Team will set up Councillors a pension record and send through an official notification of membership of the Scheme.

To note that if a councillor receives an allowance or salary from more than one authority and want pension benefits from each role, they must complete ***a separate joining form for each authority****.*

When opting to join the Scheme, councillors will join from the beginning of the next pay period. Councillors should check their payslip to make sure pension contributions are being collected from allowances.

To note that councillors can pay into the LGPS even if they already contribute to another pension scheme. Councillors are allowed to pay into as many pension schemes as they like. In each tax year, councillors can pay up to 100% of their UK taxable earnings into any number of pension arrangements of their choice and still be eligible for tax relief, subject to the annual allowance.

As an elected member, Councillors pay a percentage of their pensionable pay into the LGPS. The Councillor contribution rate is based on how much they are paid. It's currently between 5.5% and 12.5%. Councillors can find out how much the Scheme costs using the contributions calculator on www.lgpsmember.org.

Councillors pensionable pay is the total of all basic allowance, special responsibility allowance, salary and other relevant allowances paid by their authority. Generally, this means that all pay from their authority is pensionable except travel and subsistence allowances. The Council pay the balance of the cost of providing councillor LGPS benefits.

As a member of the LGPS, councillors receive tax relief on the contributions that they pay. Councillors also have the option to exchange part of their pension for tax-free cash when they take it.

Councillors can boost their pension by paying more contributions, which councillors would get tax relief on. Councillors can also pay half their normal contributions in return for half of their normal pension. This is known as the 50/50 section of the Scheme. It is designed to help members stay in the LGPS when times are financially tough.

A councillor's family enjoys financial security, with immediate life cover and a pension for their spouse, civil partner or eligible cohabiting partner and eligible children if councillors die in service. If councillors become seriously ill and councillors have met the two-year qualifying period, councillors could receive their pension straight away.

Once councillors have met the two-year qualifying period, councillors can retire from office and take their pension from age 55. Benefits paid before state pension age will normally be paid at a reduced rate. When councillors retire councillors can look forward to a pension payable for life that increases each year in line with the cost of living.

The Government has announced that the earliest age councillors can take their pension will increase to age 57 from April 2028. The LGPS regulations have not yet been amended to reflect this change.

1/49th of your pensionable pay is put into councillor's pension account every year. The balance in their pension account is adjusted in line with the cost of living every April. When councillors retire, the balance in your pension account is the annual pension payable for life.

If councillors wish, they can give up part of their annual pension to get a lump sum when councillors take their benefits. Councillors can take up to 25% of the value of their pension benefits as a lump sum. For every £1 of annual pension councillors give up, they will receive £12 as a lump sum. The lump sum is usually paid tax-free but there is a lifetime limit of £268,275 across all councillor UK pensions.

Councillors can transfer into the LGPS from another pension scheme or personal pension plan. However, any transfer-in of final salary benefits will not entitle councillors to final salary benefits in the LGPS, councillors will receive an equivalent amount added to their pension account instead. Councillors will generally have 12 months from joining the LGPS to opt to transfer their previous pension.

Councillors can also combine their previous councillor or elected membership of the LGPS with your new elected membership, with some exceptions.

If councillors leave the LGPS before they retire and have at least two years' membership, their pension benefits will be deferred. This means they'll be held for councillors until councillors are ready to retire, which councillors can do from age 55 onwards. The earliest age that councillors can take their pension will increase from age 55 to 57 from 6 April 2028.

If councillors leave with less than two years' membership councillors may be able to claim a return of their contributions, less tax.

All councillors can find more information on the councillors and mayors page of www.lgpsmember.org.