NOTICE OF MEETING

FULL COUNCIL

Monday, 23rd November, 2026, 9.00 pm or on the rise of the Extraordinary meeting, whatever is the later time - Tottenham Town Hall Town Hall Approach Road London N15 4RY (watch the live meeting, Here and watch the recording here)

Councillors: Ash Ahmed, Imad Ahmed, Ata Berk Aksit, Ibrahim Ali, Kaushia Amin, Bethany Anderson, Emily Arkell, Dawn Barnes (Mayor), Johann Beckford, Eva Bell, Scott Bentham-Emery, 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, 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 20 JULY 2026 AND 12 OCTOBER 2026 (PAGES 1 - 18)

12th of October 2026 minutes to follow.

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

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

8. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Report to follow

9. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Report to follow

10. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES - STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (PAGES 19 - 38)

a) Standards Committee - Constitutional Changes – to follow after the 17th of November meeting
b) Audit Committee – Quarterly update on Treasury Management

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

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

1.Councillor Simon Clark to Councillor Johann Beckford (in his capacity as a board member at the NLWA)

North London Heat and Power Project is the cause for two of the three maximum exposure risks on the Council's corporate risk register; representing an unacceptable risk to both the delivery of Council services and the financial sustainability of the Council. As a former neighbour of the Edmonton Eco Park, I am acutely aware of the impact the current incinerator, decade long construction project and future incinerator will have on some of the most deprived areas of North London, including Northumberland Park here in Haringey. These disruption and air quality impacts extend to a key piece of green/blue infrastructure in North and East London; The Lee Valley corridor which provides much needed green and recreational spaces for our residents and as well as being a critical and increasingly vibrant ecological corridor.

The business case and decision to proceed with this major infrastructure project was approved by the 2015 NWLA Board and its delivery overseen by successive Boards. The Government's Green Book guidance has subsequently been updated to give greater weight to lifetime carbon emissions; recognising the fundamental flaw in the case to proceed with these incredibly dirty forms of waste disposal and energy generation. In addition to the environmental critique of this project; the technical soundness of its Case, particularly the financial and management cases is also being drawn into question. This project is now presenting a severe financial risk to the Council.

Can the NWLA Board member give us an update on the current status of the Authority's North London Heat and Power Project, including the steps the new board have taken in reducing the financial risk to and burden on Haringey residents and taxpayers across North London?

2. Councillor Mark Groskopf to Councillor Mark Blake

The Community Security Trust has found antisemitic incidents have more than doubled since 2022. What is the Council doing to ensure Jewish residents are safe in Haringey?

3. Councillor Mike Hodges to Councillor Erin Wolson

How will you make sure that different Haringey communities are involved in the Borough of Culture?

4. Councillor Melanie Gingell to Councillor Giovanna Iozzi

Will the Cabinet Member commit to only implement schemes funded by the Better Bus Partnership with residents' consent?

5.Councillor Nelly Tackie to Councillor Ata Berk Aksit

In the context of ongoing austerity and increasing financial pressures on local authorities, community groups and grassroots organisations play a vital role in supporting residents, strengthening social cohesion and providing essential services.

Could the Cabinet Member for Communities outline what concrete actions the Council has taken so far to support and sustain grassroots community organisations, including safeguarding community spaces from closure or loss, and ensuring these valuable community assets remain accessible to residents in the face of continuing financial pressures?

6. Councillor Michael Brookes to Councillor Jo Kuper

The Wood Green Customer Service Centre recently implemented an appointments-only system requiring residents to pre-book appointments by phone or online, other than for those needing “urgent help”. From our experience, the walk-in service was previously used disproportionately by our older and vulnerable residents and those with accessibility needs.
Can the Cabinet Member outline the mitigations that have been put in place arising from the Equality Impact Assessment?

7.Councillor Marc Jenner to Councillor Giovanna Iozzi

Clean air and safe roads are two of my residents’ top priorities. Can you update them on when they can expect bus and cycle infrastructure to be put in on Green Lanes?

8. Councillor da Costa to Councillor Mark Blake

Highgate Shul wrote you a letter last month, stating, amongst other things, that they “do not accept your assurances that [they] are safe under your watch”. What concrete action have you and your administration taken to ensure that Jewish residents feel secure in Haringey?

9.Councillor Bethany Anderson to Councillor Jo Kuper

I love the Love Haringey programme, which has been very well received by residents. I'm wondering what longer term measures will be implemented to tackle litter and fly tipping, especially in the context of the need to monitor the compliance of Veolia with their outsourced contract?

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

Motion E Protecting Haringey's council-run leisure services
Proposer: Councillor Melanie Gingell
Seconder: Councillor Sarah Williams

This Council notes:

- In October 2024, the previous Labour administration brought Haringey Council's leisure services back in-house after breaking the council's contract with Fusion Lifestyle. This decision followed consistent failures by Fusion Lifestyle to provide the services Haringey residents expects.
- The successful insourcing of leisure services has allowed direct council oversight and democratic control of Haringey's leisure services. This followed extensive work by council officers and leisure staff over several years. This included negotiations with Fusion and engagement and service users.
- That after bringing services back in house, the previous Labour administration confirmed investment of £7.5m over five years to address the backlog of maintenance and repairs inherited from Fusion. At least of £4.1m investment has already been delivered, as of February 2026.
- This funding delivered maintenance works across all sites including new lido covers, circulation pumps and gym equipment at Park Road Leisure Centre, and upgrades to the health suite, sauna, soft play and gym area at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre.
- That feedback from user groups found improved levels of cleanliness and a higher quality of facilities. User groups have also benefitted from direct engagement with the council after previous difficulties communicating with Fusion.
- That the decision to insource was welcomed by staff at leisure facilities and trade unions representing staff. 139 members of staff were TUPE transferred from Fusion and are now directly employed by the council, benefitting from the same conditions as other Haringey Council staff members and improved staff morale.
- That there has been significant work across the service on commercialisation and maximising revenue generated from leisure services.
- Haringey is a borough with significant health inequalities. Haringey residents spend on average the last 17 years of life in poor health and healthy life expectancy is below the London average. Two in three adults are obese or overweight, whilst 1 in 5 reception aged children

were recorded as overweight or obese in 2024/25. A third of residents do not get enough physical exercise.
- That the Council's New Savings and Management Actions report proposes "outsourcing of the Council run Leisure Centres to a specialist provider" and a "review of operating models for the Broadwater Farm Community Centre leisure spaces".

This Council believes:
- Obesity and inactivity pose a public health crisis, shortening healthy life expectancy and costing the UK up to £107 billion per year. This places a huge strain on healthcare and social care services in Haringey. It is also a crisis of inequality with inactivity and obesity levels higher in the east of the borough and areas with higher levels of deprivation. Continued support for, and investment, in leisure services are vital in reversing these trends.
- Leisure services are key to supporting Haringey's resident to live active and healthy lives, tackling public health challenges and combatting social isolation. Bringing leisure services back in-house has been a success allowing Haringey Council to put the needs of residents and services users at the heart of leisure services, rather than subsidising external management costs.
- The collapse of Fusion Lifestyle in April 2026 shows the risks of outsourcing leisure services. Fusion managed facilities were forced into chaotic and rapid insourcing, unplanned transfers to other providers or in the worst-case scenario, permanent closure.
- That outsourcing leisure services would reverse the progress made in recent years and betray the trust of staff and users who have worked so hard to make insourcing a success.
- High quality and affordable leisure services are an essential public service, best managed locally by and for local people. An external private provider will not have the depth of knowledge and engagement with Haringey's communities as a council run service.
- Any changes to the ownership and management of leisure services should only proceed with the support of leisure staff and the trade unions representing them. Any proposals must protect the enhanced terms and conditions staff have been entitled to since services were in-sourced.

This Council resolves:
- That it wishes to consider, through the appropriate governance route, prioritising and protecting the principle of council owned and run leisure centres as part of the upcoming budget process and to ask Overview and Scrutiny to review budget proposals to outsource leisure services.

- To ask Cabinet to recommit to working with staff, trade unions and user groups on the continued improvement of leisure services and how we can collectively reduce barriers to participation to exercise and sport.
- To ask Cabinet to continue to promote the active wellbeing services at our Leisure Centres including throughout the London Borough of Culture in 2027 and the UEFA European Champions in 2028.

Motion F: Haringey, a Borough of Sanctuary
Proposer: Councillor Luisa Brands
Seconder: Councillor Anne Gray
This Council notes:

Haringey is a diverse, welcoming and proudly multicultural borough, enriched by people from across the world who have made their lives here. Refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and people seeking sanctuary contribute enormously to the social, cultural and economic life of our borough.
Haringey has a long tradition of standing against racism, discrimination and injustice, and of supporting those fleeing war, persecution, violence, oppression and increasingly the impacts of climate breakdown.

Across the world, millions of people are currently displaced from their homes. Many people seeking sanctuary face serious barriers, including insecure housing, poverty, restricted access to employment, healthcare and education, family separation, trauma and uncertainty about their future. Women and children are often particularly vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and violence.
The City of Sanctuary movement has demonstrated how councils and communities can work together to foster a culture of welcome, promote inclusion, challenge racism and support people seeking safety to rebuild their lives.

Haringey councillors from across the political spectrum signed the Haringey Welcome Pledge during the 2026 local elections, committing themselves to supporting migrant residents, removing barriers to public services, opposing harmful immigration policies wherever legally possible, and reviewing contracts and practices that may contribute to the hostile environment.

In recent weeks we have seen the Government introduce new policies placing conditionalities on entitlement to settlement in the UK that particularly affect lower paid migrant workers and refugees. These plans will apply to those already here as well as newcomers and will force some people to wait up to 30 years before they will be allowed to remain in the UK indefinitely. They will divide communities, making it harder for people to put down roots, and lead to increased hardship, poverty and homelessness, with large numbers of people unable to plan for their long-term future.

Recent years have seen a significant increase in immigration enforcement activity nationwide, including workplace immigration raids. Such operations create fear within communities, undermine trust in public institutions and disproportionately affect racialised and migrant communities.
Immigration enforcement activity increasingly relies upon cooperation and information-sharing between public bodies, private contractors and enforcement agencies. Where residents fear that engaging with public institutions may expose them to immigration enforcement, they may be deterred from seeking housing support, healthcare, safeguarding assistance or reporting crime.

The Government is moving to introduce the Asylum and Immigration Bill, despite an array of negative impacts that will inflict further harm on some of our most vulnerable residents, increase financial pressure on stretched statutory services, and damage relationships and cohesion in our communities. This includes forcing destitute people seeking asylum to repay their support costs and preventing them from settling until they do so; changing the infrastructure of the appeals process, using people who are not qualified lawyers to make decisions; limiting the right to family life and increased restrictions on victims of modern slavery. These changes put our residents at risk and will result in vulnerable residents being pushed into crisis and experiencing unnecessary harm.

Statutory services and VCS organisations providing crucial support will be further stretched without a proportionate increase in funding to safeguard service provision. The lack of legal aid and government funded immigration advice and support continues to result in people falling out of the immigration process, facing destitution and exploitation.

This Council believes:

1. Seeking sanctuary is a fundamental human right.
2. People should be treated with dignity, compassion and humanity regardless of their immigration status, nationality, ethnicity, faith or country of origin.
3. Strong, inclusive communities are built through welcome, solidarity and mutual support, not through fear, exclusion or the stigmatisation of migrants and refugees.
4. Haringey's commitment to sanctuary is inseparable from its commitment to anti-racism. The Council recognises that racism affects different communities in different ways, including through antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Black racism, anti-Roma racism, anti-Asian racism, xenophobia and hostility towards migrants and refugees. A Borough of Sanctuary must be a borough where all communities are able to live free from discrimination, where acts of hatred are challenged wherever they occur, and where solidarity is built across communities rather than placing them in competition with one another.
5. Home Office immigration enforcement practices, including immigration raids, undermine community cohesion, deter people from accessing essential services and place vulnerable residents at risk.

6. Residents should be able to access local authority services, healthcare, education, safeguarding and support services without fear that doing so may expose them to immigration enforcement.
7. Public resources should be used to support residents and strengthen communities and should not, wherever legally possible, be used to facilitate hostile environment policies.
8. Effective community safety depends upon trust between residents and public institutions, and that trust is damaged when public bodies are perceived to participate in immigration enforcement activity.
9. The Council should support migrant residents to settle and thrive, ensure public services are accessible on the basis of need, and, wherever legally possible, avoid participating in policies and practices that cause harm to residents.
10. Becoming a Borough of Sanctuary should be more than a symbolic designation. It should represent a practical commitment to making Haringey a borough where everyone can live in safety, dignity and belonging.

This Council resolves to:

1. Become a recognised Borough of Sanctuary
Engage with the City of Sanctuary network and local refugee and migrant-led organisations with the aim of achieving recognised Sanctuary status and affirm the Council's commitment to standing in solidarity with refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and all people seeking safety.

2. Strengthen support for residents
Continue strengthening access to independent immigration and legal advice, housing advice, English language provision, education, employment support, healthcare, mental health services and community participation opportunities for people seeking sanctuary.

3. Refresh the Welcome Strategy and develop a Welcome Action Plan
Cabinet to continue the refresh of the Council's Welcome Strategy with direct involvement from frontline organisations and residents with lived experience, ensuring services are accessible, compassionate and designed around dignity and need. Ensure the Action Plan sets our practical and measurable actions with annual reporting by the Cabinet Member to Full Council.

4. Review information sharing and cooperation
Undertake a review of Council information-sharing practices, protocols, data-sharing agreements and operational arrangements relating to immigration enforcement, including arrangements involving contractors, external partners and policing bodies, to ensure the rights of migrants and refugees are upheld.

5. Protect services from immigration enforcement practices as far as possible
Commit to the council considering whether, acting within its lawful discretion, it should comply with particular HO requests, so that residents can access

housing, safeguarding, education, public health and other essential services without fear of immigration consequences.

6 Object to harmful immigration enforcement practices
Publicly condemn the use of immigration raids and enforcement practices that undermine trust, community cohesion and public safety, and write to the Home Secretary calling for an end to such practices.

7. Support residents to know their rights
Work with migrant support organisations, law centres, faith groups, trade unions, community organisations and anti-raids networks to ensure residents and local businesses have access to accurate know-your-rights information, independent advice and practical support when facing immigration enforcement activity.

8. Champion sanctuary across the borough
Encourage schools, public institutions, faith communities, businesses and voluntary organisations to adopt sanctuary principles, celebrate Haringey's diversity and actively challenge racism, xenophobia and misinformation about migrants and refugees.

9. Champion sanctuary across London
Join with other local authorities pursuing Sanctuary principles, alongside migrant organisations, law centres, anti-raids networks, faith groups and community organisations, to develop an anti-raids Sanctuary corridor across London, sharing best practice, strengthening Council-wide Sanctuary policies, improving support for migrants and refugees, and objecting to hostile environment policies and harmful immigration enforcement activity.

10. Advocate nationally
Use the Council's voice to advocate for a humane asylum and immigration system, including:

- the right to work for people seeking asylum;
- fair and secure pathways to settlement and citizenship;
- immigration rules that protect workers from exploitation and workplace abuse;
- safeguards that enable workers to leave unsafe employment and raise concerns without fear of immigration consequences;
- access to safe and secure accommodation;
- timely access to healthcare and education;
- family reunion;
- safe routes for people seeking asylum and refuge;
- adequately funded support services; and
- immigration policies that reduce hardship rather than deepen poverty and exclusion.

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

Friday, 13 November 2026

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Agenda Item 5

MINUTES OF THE Full Council HELD ON Monday, 20th July, 2026, 7.30pm to 9.50pm

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, 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

18. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Mayor referred to the notice of filming at meetings and highlighted key safety information for attendees.

19. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Councillor Orford- Williams.

There were apologies for lateness notified for Councillor da Costa.

(Clerks note – Cllr da Costa arrived at 7.40pm)

20. 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 items as late business for the reasons outlined below.

Item 7 was late as there was a need for political group consultations on the appointments to Committees following the changes to the political composition of the Council.

Item 10 - appointment to Outside Bodies was late due to political group consultations.

In relation to Item 13 Questions and Written Answers - The reason for lateness was that notice of questions was not requested until 10 clear days before the meeting, following which the matters raised had to be researched and replies prepared to be given at the meeting.

Item 14 – Motions - The amendments to motions were not requested until 10am on the day of the Council meeting and there had been received an amendment to Motions A and B and also to item 9 which had been published and distributed on the day of the meeting in the tabled pack.

A minor update to the minutes at item 5 which has been recirculated for ease of reference.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

22. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20TH OF MAY 2026

The Chief Executive asked the Council to approve as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th of May 2026, set out in the updated pack at pages 1 to 12. These contained a minor amendment and minor clarification on item 12.

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th of May 2026.

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

The Mayor highlighted that she had attended 49 engagements out of 69 events, and expressed appreciation and thanks to the Deputy Mayor Councillor Makbule Gunes, and also praised the mayoralty representatives for assisting with covering all of these wonderful events.

The main highlight from the last two months noted had been engaging with young people who had attended different events over the last couple of months. The Mayor expressed that the flag raising events to mark Armed Forces Day, Windrush and Pride were also fantastic days with very good attendance.

The Mayor notified the Council meeting of her charity which was Food Bank Aid, and this was a charity that supplies six food banks in Haringey. The Mayor advised the meeting that she would be holding some events to raise funds for the charity and would inform councillors of her charity’s webpage to donate and support this cause.

24. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive introduced the report on political composition of the Council following the recent by elections and highlighted changes to appointments to Committees following calculation on proportionality and changes to Committee membership notified by the Green Group.

Councillor Paton, Co- deputy Leader of the Green group and acting in the capacity of the Chief Whip, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, MOVED the report and MOVED the recommendations and it was,

RESOLVED

1. To note the changes to the political balance of the Council set out at paragraph 4.1.

2. To agree that Councillor Beckford replace Councillor Ali on the Appointments Panel, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group, and in accordance with paragraphs 4.10 to 4.13.

3. To agree that Councillor Beckford replace Councillor Berrick on the Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group, and in accordance with paragraphs 4.10 to 4.13.

4. To approve the appointment of Councillor Anne Gray to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to fill the Green Group Vacancy to this Committee, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group

5. To appoint Councillor Andrew Reid and Councillor Edward Thacker to the Dismissal Appeal Panel Pool giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group.

6. To appoint Councillor Elara Shurety to the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Rosie Latchord as the Green Group Member allocated representative, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group.

7. To note that the Cabinet Member for Communities will replace the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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

The Monitoring Officer had no matters to report.

26. 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

The Mayor introduced the item and highlighted its significance, noting that the Council had received one statutory recommendation and two non-statutory recommendations from its external auditor, KPMG LLP, on 18 May 2026.
The Mayor outlined the recommendations, which called on the Council to:

- increase future savings targets and deliver savings in line with those targets through the identification and implementation of a wider range of transformational savings to reduce reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS);
- embed a culture across all directorates in which the financial implications of decisions were given equal prominence to service quality; and
- demonstrate a commitment from both Cabinet and officers to increase the level of savings delivered and strengthen the processes for identifying and monitoring savings.

The Mayor advised that, although the Council's Standing Orders ordinarily permitted only questions from Members on Council reports, following consultation with the Group Leaders and using Chair's discretion, Members would be permitted to make a statement of up to two minutes incorporating their question. A response would be provided, together with the opportunity to ask a supplementary question for clarification purposes. The Mayor also confirmed that a representative from KPMG LLP was in attendance to respond to technical questions.

The Mayor further welcomed Christopher Paisley, Director at KPMG LLP, to the meeting and asked the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services to introduce the report.

Councillor Beckford welcomed the external auditor, introduced the report and formally moved the recommendations. Councillor Beckford acknowledged the seriousness of the statutory recommendation and advised that it followed value for money concerns raised by KPMG LLP over the previous two financial years.

In presenting the report, Councillor Beckford outlined the Council's current financial position, noting that the Council had reported a £40.6 million deficit in 2025/26, which had been met through Exceptional Financial Support (EFS), and that the approved 2026/27 budget forecast an increased reliance on EFS. It was noted that the borrowing costs associated with EFS placed additional pressure on the Council's finances and reinforced the importance of strengthening financial management and delivering sustainable savings.

Councillor Beckford stated that, whilst previous local decisions had contributed to the Council's financial position, the principal causes were long-term reductions in central government funding and increasing demand for statutory services, particularly adult social care, children's services and temporary accommodation. Reference was made to the Council's three-year Financial Resilience Plan, which identified priority areas for reducing expenditure, increasing income and strengthening financial governance. Councillor Beckford also highlighted proposals to improve financial transparency and

resident engagement, including the development of a Financial Transparency Dashboard.

The Mayor had been informed of 5 members making short speeches and incorporating questions.

Councillor Jenner a referred to the impact of austerity on local authorities across the country, particularly on vulnerable communities, and asked whether the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, agreed that tackling its effects required a national response. Councillor Jenner further queried whether the administration would commit to attending the cross-party Emergency Anti-Austerity Summit hosted by Hackney Council in September. In response, Councillor Beckford agreed that national challenges required collaborative action between local authorities and highlighted examples of joint working with other London boroughs on shared priorities, including campaigning on affordable housing. He stated that wider reforms to local government finance, housing and social care were required to address the underlying causes of Councils' financial pressures. Councillor Beckford confirmed that the administration would attend the Emergency Anti-Austerity Summit and expressed the hope that members of all political groups would participate. Councillor Jenner confirmed that there was no supplementary question.

Councillor Ali, Leader of the Labour Group, referred to the Council's financial position in the context of reductions in local government funding and stated that, whilst transformational change across the Council was required, he considered the proposed response to the external auditor's recommendations to be insufficient. Councillor Ali raised concerns regarding the absence of detailed proposals relating to transformational savings, income generation, transparency and governance, particularly in advance of the publication of the Financial Resilience Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy later in the year.

Councillor Ali asked the external auditor what evidence of progress KPMG LLP would expect to see in response to the statutory recommendation. Responding on behalf of KPMG LLP, Christopher Paisley advised that the Council's increasing reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) had been a key factor in the statutory recommendation. He stated that a significant measure of progress would be the Council setting future budgets that reduced its reliance on EFS over time, with the long-term objective of eliminating that reliance where possible.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Ali sought clarification on how Members would be able to scrutinise the work of the proposed Financial Recovery Board and monitor progress in delivering savings before the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy was presented to Council.

Councillor Beckford responded that the administration was committed to improving transparency and public engagement through the development of a Financial Transparency Dashboard, enabling residents to better understand the Council's finances. He added that officers were progressing work on future savings proposals and that the administration wished to ensure that decisions were informed by robust evidence rather than being developed prematurely. Councillor Beckford also welcomed continued engagement with all Members as proposals were developed.

Councillor Cawley-Harrison, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, referred to previous warnings made by the Liberal Democrat Group regarding the Council's financial position and welcomed the external auditor's recommendations. Whilst supporting the officer response and the proposed amendment to Recommendation 2, Councillor Cawley-Harrison expressed the view that further action was required and suggested that all political groups work together to develop a cross-party financial turnaround plan in advance of the budget consultation process. Councillor Cawley-Harrison asked whether the administration would commit to such an approach.

In response, Councillor Beckford reiterated the administration's commitment to accountability, transparency and collaborative working. It was noted that Opposition Group Leaders had recently been briefed by officers on the Council's financial position and that the administration was supportive of continued cross-party engagement. Councillor Beckford confirmed that he was willing to meet with Councillor Cawley-Harrison to discuss future financial planning and governance arrangements. In response to a supplementary question inviting further discussions on a financial turnaround plan, Councillor Beckford confirmed that he would be pleased to meet on this issue.

Councillor Bell asked what action the administration was taking to balance financial discipline with its commitment to invest in residents' wellbeing, community resilience and frontline services. Councillor Beckford responded that the administration supported strengthened governance arrangements whilst continuing to invest in initiatives intended to improve outcomes for residents and deliver value for money. Examples included the development of the Community Assets Commission Policy, an invest-to-save approach within the Housing Revenue Account to increase the number of occupied Council homes, and the introduction of a Financial Transparency Dashboard to improve public understanding of Council finances. Councillor Bell indicated that there was no supplementary question.

Councillor Anderson queried what message the administration wished to send to the newly appointed Prime Minister in light of KPMG LLP's recommendations. Councillor Beckford responded that the Council's financial challenges reflected increasing demand for statutory services alongside sustained reductions in local government funding. He stated that the administration would continue to advocate for reforms to local government finance, including increased devolution, sustainable funding for adult social care, measures to address housing pressures and wider reforms to improve the long-term financial sustainability of local authorities. Councillor Anderson confirmed that there was no supplementary question.

Following the conclusion of Members' questions, and moving to consideration of the recommendations , the Mayor advised that in accordance with CSO 15.8b, the Council have received an amendment to recommendation 2 at page 11 of the main pack from Councillor Brookes and seconded by Cllr Carlin and this was contained in the tabled papers. Therefore, as there were three recommendations, councillors would be invited to vote on these three recommendations separately.

The Mayor called on members to firstly vote on Recommendation 1, which was **to accept the statutory and non-statutory recommendations presented by KPMG LLP**, and this was AGREED unanimously.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Brookes to move the amendment to Recommendation 2.

Councillor Brookes moved an amendment to recommendation 2 , which was seeking approval of the actions outlined in the officer report to respond to the auditors' recommendations, but putting forward an additional action of a cross-party Member Finance Recovery Board being established to provide additional oversight of the actions. Councillor Brookes outlined that the statutory recommendation represented an exceptional and serious matter requiring Full Council to demonstrate clear oversight of the Council's response. Whilst welcoming the proposed response, Councillor Brookes argued that additional measures were required to strengthen transparency and Member oversight prior to the publication of detailed savings proposals later in the year.

Councillor Brookes explained that the amendment proposed monthly reporting on the delivery of savings to the cross-party Member Financial Recovery Board, commencing within one month, with representation from each political group. It was emphasised that the amendment did not seek to amend the approved budget, require additional savings or alter existing spending decisions, but was intended to strengthen governance and provide assurance that progress in delivering savings would be monitored by Members.

The Monitoring Officer clarified that the amendment referred to this Member grouping operating as a **Board**, rather than a Committee of the Council.

Councillor Carlin seconded the amendment. In doing so, Councillor Carlin expressed the view that the proposed attached response to the auditors recommendations did not provide sufficient information regarding the Financial Resilience Plan or how savings would be delivered. It was argued that greater transparency and enhanced Member oversight were necessary to address the concerns raised by the external auditor and to strengthen accountability.

Councillor Beckford thanked both members for the amendment and welcomed its emphasis on accountability and transparency. He noted that discussions on the proposed governance arrangements had already taken place with Opposition Group Leaders and referred to the Monitoring Officer's clarification that the proposal related to a Financial Recovery Board rather than a Committee. Councillor Beckford reiterated the administration's commitment to working collaboratively across political groups to strengthen financial oversight and confirmed that the administration was supportive of the amendment.

The amendment to Recommendation 2 was put to the vote and was AGREED unanimously.

Recommendation 2, as amended, was then put to the vote and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED

To approve the actions in response to the Statutory Recommendations and Non-Statutory as set out in Appendix B, Subject to the following additional actions in the interests of transparency:

- That a cross-party Member Finance Recovery Board is established (subject to appropriate confidentiality requirements), chaired by the Chief Executive and that the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources will provide this Board with monthly savings reports detailing the progress on savings in the current year using the most recent available management information. The first of these reports will be delivered within a month of this response to the auditors being passed by Full Council and they will continue to be published until superseded by the arrangements being introduced in November.

Recommendation 3 was subsequently put to the vote, and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED

To delegate the monitoring of the delivery of the actions through the regular reporting of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan to Audit Committee.

27. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Paton Co-Deputy Leader of the Green Group and acting in the capacity of the Chief Whip MOVED the appointments to Outside Bodies outlined in the supplementary packs at page 15 and 29,

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 outside bodies set out at Appendix 1 and in bold.

28. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES

The Mayor invited Councillor Hodgson, Chair of Standards Committee, to introduce the report.

The Chair of Standards Committee advised the meeting that the report was put forward to the Full Council meeting following the Standards Committee meeting held on the 29 June 2026. The recommendations concerned:

- 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.

The Chair of Standards continued to MOVE the report and recommendations, and it was,

RESOLVED

1. To 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, 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. 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.

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

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

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

There were none received.

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

The Council continued to RECEIVE the response to written questions.

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

At Question 7 Councillor Ali, was asked by the Mayor to not interrupt when the speaker was answering the question.

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

Councillor Andrew Reid MOVED the motion which was calling for the appointment of a Windrush Champion to support access to the Windrush Compensation scheme.

Councillor Reid expressed that he was the son of the Windrush generation and referred to his own personal family history of coming to England. Councillor Reid spoke about how the Windrush generation supported the NHS, transport services and many other public services which were the fabric of society.

Councillor Reid referred to the Windrush scandal and how hundreds of people were wrongly denied healthcare, housing and jobs, with some detained or deported for lacking documentation. It was noted that while Caribbean communities were most affected, the Windrush Compensation Scheme also supported other eligible Commonwealth families.

Councillor Reid highlighted the slow progress of the national Windrush Compensation Scheme, with only 8,800 payments made despite an estimated 15,000 eligible applicants. The Council Motion urged government to simplify and speed up the scheme, to make it independent of the Home Office, and guarantee compensation is tax-free.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Reid for his maiden speech and called on Councillor Johnson to second the motion.

Councillor Johnson seconded the motion and highlighted that the Windrush compensation was particularly important during the ongoing cost of living crisis, providing both justice and financial support to those affected by the scandal. Councillor Johnson stressed the administration’s commitment to supporting working people and advocating for residents who had suffered serious injustices.

The motion was presented as a reflection of the Green administration's values: listening to communities, using elected influence to drive change, and empowering residents. The motion further supported a cross-party campaign, backed by organisations including Age UK, calling for the Windrush Compensation Scheme to be removed from the Home Office, which had lost the trust of many in the Windrush generation, and transferred to an independent body.

The Mayor indicated that an amendment to the motion had been received and called on Councillor Berrick to move the amendment.

Councillor Berrick reiterated the injustice that had been suffered by the Windrush communities and the hostile environment created by the previous racist and dehumanising policy that had disproportionately harmed those of African and Caribbean heritage. Councillor Berrick referred to the role of campaigners and David Lammy MP in exposing the Windrush scandal and securing national attention. Councillor Berrick outlined the severe consequences faced by victims, including loss of livelihoods, homes, pensions, and, in some cases, deportation. Councillor Berrick cited research showing significantly higher compensation awards for claimants with legal representation. Councillor Berrick called for comprehensive support, including legal and pension advice to the Windrush community. Councillor Berrick continued to propose a cross-party working group and a community Windrush Champion to ensure accountability, empowerment, and fair compensation for affected residents.

Councillor Ali formally seconded the amendment.

In accordance with CSO 15.1, there followed a debate on the motion with the following speakers.

Councillor Carlin spoke in favour of the amendment as it proposed a working group with members of the community and with those already working with people who have suffered from the Windrush scandal.

Councillor Thacker spoke against the amendment and in favour of the original motion outlining that Windrush residents deserved justice. Councillor Thacker criticised the content of the amendment for focusing on praising David Lammy MP. Councillor Thacker spoke about the MP's previous voting on the Iraq war and contended that the MP had provided diplomatic cover for Israel's actions in the middle east which he felt contributed to the humanitarian disaster in this region. The Mayor intervened and advised Councillor Thacker to direct his speech to the content of the motion. Councillor Thacker continued his speech referring to international matters and was asked by the Mayor for a second time to draw his speech to a close and keep to the content of the motion.

Councillor Ali raised a point of order, and the Mayor allowed him to speak. Councillor Ali referred to the guidance provided at the start of the meeting by the Mayor on expected behaviour in the chamber and expressed that he found the language used in Councillor Thacker's speech deeply alarming and
unprofessional in its reference to another elected politician.

The Mayor agreed that this be noted.

Councillor Joseph spoke in favour of the original motion, supporting the proposal to establish a local Windrush working group and champion. Councillor Joseph spoke of her own personal family experience and recognising the immense contribution of the Windrush generation to Britain. Councillor Joseph outlined that the Windrush community arrived between 1948 and 1970, and had helped rebuild the country through work in the NHS, transport, education and public services, while raising families and strengthening communities. The Windrush scandal caused profound injustice, with many wrongly questioned about their status, losing jobs, homes, healthcare and, in some cases, being deported. Councillor Joseph underlined that this should not be a partisan issue. A local Windrush champion would provide accessible support, advocacy and accountability, ensuring residents' voices are heard and their experiences are respected and called for the motion, unamended, to be agreed.

Councillor Cawley – Harrison, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group contributed to the debate welcoming the Green Party's proposal to appoint a Windrush Champion. The Group recognised the importance of raising awareness of the Windrush scandal and supporting affected residents, including those seeking compensation. They noted that the Labour group had previously appointed champions to represent underrepresented and disadvantaged groups and highlighted that the Liberal Democrat group had also brought forward similar motions. The group acknowledged valid arguments for both an elected representative and a community-selected individual serving as champion. To avoid determining the outcome of that debate, the Group would abstain on the Labour Group's amendment and allow the Green Party to decide. Regardless of the selection method, they confirmed their support for the motion.

The Mayor asked Councillor Reid, mover of the motion, to respond to the amendment and debate.

Councillor Reid thanked Councillor Berrick for the amendment and was in no doubt about the sincerity behind it. However, Councillor Reid asked member colleagues in the chamber to reject the amendment for the following reasons:

- The original motion was about taking action in the borough in 2026 such as helping the community fill out important forms and the amendment was referring to past actions completed by Westminster in 2018.
- The original motion proposed a Member champion, and this should be a senior Cabinet Member accountable to the Council every year with authority to liaise with the Home Office Minister and with the Home Office, to direct council officers, and to help fund voluntary partners and to ensure staff trained to support Windrush community members. The amendment was calling for a working group which meets and reports when it had no budget and no decision-making connection.
- The original motion emphasised delivery over process. The Member champion would already have responsibility for outreach and community engagement, through their cabinet role and making a new working group, put forward in the amendment, unnecessary.

Councillor Reid concluded that residents needed a clearly identifiable person accountable for providing support, as delays had discouraged compensation claims. Councillor Reid stressed that now was the time to act and stand up for affected communities.

The Mayor called for a vote on the amendment.

Following 21 votes in favour of the amendment, 28 against and 7 abstaining, the amendment was NOT AGREED.

The Mayor called for a vote on the Original Motion which was Unanimously AGREED.

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.

The Mayor called on Councillor Chandwani to move motion B on the Council Tax reduction scheme.

Councillor Chandwani urged all Council members to commit to making no changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), emphasising that it provided vital support and certainty for low income and vulnerable residents during a severe cost of living and financial crisis. Councillor Chandwani stressed that political leaders should set clear boundaries early in the budget process and declare that cuts to CTRS were not an option. Councillor Chandwani was critical of the amendment as it was delaying a firm commitment on this area of the budget. Councillor Chandwani called on councillors to demonstrate their values through action, and to reassure struggling resident at this time. Councillor Chandwani highlighted the need to make this commitment now to avoid future circumstances where reducing support became a default budget solution at residents' expense.

Councillor Ali seconded the motion, urging councillors to vote in favour of protecting the Council Tax Reduction Scheme support for the borough's poorest residents. Councillor Ali spoke about councillors having shared core values and principles of improving the lives of their residents and serving their communities. Councillor Ali expressed that residents were watching and expected elected representatives to honour commitments made during campaigns. The motion would help vulnerable families afford essentials such as food, school uniforms, travel and energy bills. Councillors in the chamber were challenged to choose between protecting low-income residents or allowing future budget pressures to place support at risk and were therefore encouraged to vote with their conscience and value.

The Mayor had received an amendment to motion B and called on Councillor Kuper to move the amendment.

Councillor Kuper, the Cabinet Member for Resident Services and Tackling Inequality moved the amendment and supported the aim of tackling poverty and inequality. Councillor Kuper outlined that the issue must be understood in the wider context of austerity and chronic underfunding of local government. Councillor Kuper highlighted the borough's high levels of deprivation and agreed that the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme was vital for protecting vulnerable families. The proposed amendments placed the debate within an ongoing review process, including consultation through Overview and Scrutiny. The amendment further called for the development of an ethical debt collection policy to reduce reliance on bailiffs. Councillor Kuper also highlighted actions taken to support struggling families, including restoring school meal vouchers, and urged cross-party support to press government for sustainable funding and meaningful action.

Councillor Twigg indicated that she had a point of order and the Mayor allowed Councillor Twigg to put this forward and consequently for this to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Councillor Twigg advised the Mayor that she had heard Councillor Ali use obscene language under his breath, directed at Councillor Kuper's speech, implying that the contents of the speech were untrue. Councillor Twigg challenged these remarks and advised the meeting that she had worked closely with Councillor Kuper to reverse the decision to cut the free school meal vouchers.

Councillor Beckford seconded the amendment, which strengthened the original motion by reaffirming the Council's commitment to tackling poverty and inequality while ensuring decisions were made through transparent, accountable governance processes. The amendment supported residents facing financial hardship, explicitly stating that decisions should not leave people without sufficient income to live on. It emphasised the importance of proper financial governance and considering council tax decisions within the budget-setting process, supported by member engagement and scrutiny. Beyond council tax, the amendment adopted a broader anti-poverty agenda, including more ethical debt collection practices, ending the use of bailiffs for

council tax debts, and seeking cross-party support to lobby government for stronger measures to assist the borough's most vulnerable residents.

There followed a debate on the motion and amendment to the motion with the following issues raised by councillors:

Councillor Ovat spoke in favour of the original motion and easing financial pressure on the households that need this support the most and the CTRS helping tackle inequality.

Councillor Joseph spoke of her lived experience in the borough and experiencing debt and bailiffs with a family to look after and the impact this experience has on health outcomes. As a long-standing resident, Councillor Jospeh supported the aims of the amendment for helping residents get out of debt and have access to necessities in this cost-of-living crisis.

Councillor Emery expressed that bailiffs worsened hardship and supported an ethical debt collection approach focused on communication, affordable repayment plans and early support. Councillor Emery outlined that while protecting vulnerable residents remained essential, the Council's severe financial challenges required responsible decision-making. The amendment contained an indication of rent controls which Councillor Emery opposed as they were considered to not have an impact. Councillor Emery emphasised proper consultation and scrutiny on policy decisions and argued that sustainable finances were necessary to preserve services and maintain support for those most in need.

In accordance with Council Standing Order 15.11 Councillor Chandwani was asked to respond to the debate as the mover of the motion.

Councillor Chandwani urged councillors in the chamber to protect the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). Councillor Chandwani called on members to set clear red lines and provide certainty to residents and officers that the CTRS would not be cut. Councillor Chandwani contended that the best way to avoid aggressive debt recovery measures, including bailiffs, attachment to benefits, or earnings, was to prevent low-income residents from becoming liable in the first place. Councillor Chandwani concluded her speech by asking councillors to vote for the original motion to reassure residents that they would not bear the burden of financial cuts and to indicate that as councillors, they were defending those most in need.

The Mayor called for a vote on the amendment to the motion.

Following a vote of 27 members in favour of the amendment and 28 against the amendment and 1 abstention, the amendment was NOT AGREED.

The Mayor called for a vote on the Original Motion.

There were 48 votes in favour and 8 abstentions, and the Original Motion was AGREED.

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.

At the end of the meeting the Mayor thanked all councillors that had asked questions and responded especially those with maiden speeches. The Mayor expressed that this meeting had also been the first use of a gavel and the Mayor underlined that she would prefer that it be the last time. The Mayor expected fewer interruptions and points of order moving forward at meetings and asked all Council members to lead by example and treat each other with respect on all political sides.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair ……..

Date ……

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE No. 1, 2026/27

FULL COUNCIL 23 November 2026

Chair: Councillor Tony Powell

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve treasury management reports on a semi-annual and annual basis.

1.2. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27 was approved at a full Council meeting on 2nd March 2026. The Council undertakes borrowing and investment activities to support the delivery of its capital programme and manage day-to-day cash flow requirements. As a result, it is exposed to a range of financial risks, including credit risk, liquidity risk, refinancing risk and the impact of changes in interest rates. The effective identification, monitoring and management of these risks remains a fundamental component of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, ensuring that security, liquidity and affordability are maintained.

1.3. The attached report provides an update to the Audit Committee on the Council's treasury management activities and performance for the six months ending 30th September 2026, in accordance with the CIPFA Code and was considered by Audit Committee on the 3rd of November 2026.

2. TREASURY MANAGEMENT Q1 REPORT 2026/27

Ms Taryn Eves, Corporate Director of Finance Resources, introduced the report noting in conclusion that all reported metrics were within the targets set in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement approved by Full Council in March.

The meeting heard:

- In relation to the repayment of £40 million of LOBO loans, a query was raised on whether there was a premium associated with it. In response, the meeting heard that the lenders wished to increase rates so the Council opted to repay to avoid higher interest costs.
- Page 191 of the agenda papers contained 'Table 10: Treasury Performance'. When the Council set the budget in March 2026, it set a budget of £36 million of borrowing costs. The forecast to the end of the year (2026/27) was £34.4 million. The £1.6

million difference was a projected underspend on the Council's borrowing costs that following an underspend on capital projects.

Full Council is recommended to

1. To note the treasury management activity undertaken during the financial year to 30th September 2026 and the performance achieved which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2. To note that all treasury activities were undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy

Report for: Audit Committee – 03rd November 2026

Item number: 12

Title: Treasury Management Q2 Report 2026-27

Report authorised by: Taryn Eves, Corporate Director of Finance & Resources (Section 151 Officer)

Lead Officer: Jamie Abbott, Head of Pensions and Treasury Management
Jamie.Abbott@Haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: N/A

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

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1. The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve treasury management reports on a semi-annual and annual basis.

1.2. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27 was approved at a full Council meeting on 2nd March 2026. The Council undertakes borrowing and investment activities to support the delivery of its capital programme and manage day-to-day cash flow requirements. As a result, it is exposed to a range of financial risks, including credit risk, liquidity risk, refinancing risk and the impact of changes in interest rates. The effective identification, monitoring and management of these risks remains a fundamental component of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, ensuring that security, liquidity and affordability are maintained.

1.3. This report provides an update to the Audit Committee on the Council's treasury management activities and performance for the six months ending 30th September 2026, in accordance with the CIPFA Code.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1. Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

The Audit Committee is requested:

3.1. To note the treasury management activity undertaken during the financial year to 30th September 2026 and the performance achieved which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

3.2. To note that all treasury activities were undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

4. Reason for Decision

4.1. Not applicable.

5. Other options considered

5.1. Not applicable.

6. Background information

6.1. The Council's treasury management activity is underpinned by CIPFA's Treasury Management in Public Services: Code of Practice (the CIPFA Code), which requires local authorities to produce annually Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

6.2. CIPFA has defined Treasury management as: "The management of the authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."

6.3. The CIPFA Code recommends that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year. Following an amendment to the Council's constitution in 2023, it was determined that the reviewing and monitoring of treasury policy, strategy and activity is delegated to the Audit Committee. This Committee receives quarterly treasury management update reports, including a mid-year and annual report.

6.4. However, overall responsibility for treasury management remains with full Council, and the Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and set the Prudential Indicators for 2026/27 on 2nd March 2026.

6.5. Government guidance on local authority treasury management states that local authorities should consider the following factors in the order they are stated:

Security → Liquidity → Yield

6.6. The Treasury Management Strategy reflects these factors and is explicit that the priority for the Council is the security of its funds. However, no treasury activity is without risk, and the effective identification and management of risk are integral to the Council's treasury management activities.

Economic Background

6.7. Global economic conditions during the period were dominated by the conflict in the Middle East, which renewed upward pressure on energy prices and increased uncertainty around the inflation outlook. Oil and gas prices rose sharply during the quarter, reversing some of the easing seen earlier in the year and raising concerns that higher energy costs could feed through into wider inflationary pressures. Against this backdrop, central banks remained cautious, closely monitoring the risk that elevated energy prices could become embedded in wage growth and domestic pricing.

6.8. In the UK, inflation remained relatively contained despite the increase in energy costs. Headline CPI rose from 2.6% in June to 3.1% in August, driven largely by higher transport and energy-related costs, while core inflation remained stable at 2.6%, indicating that underlying price pressures were continuing to moderate. The labour market also showed signs of easing, with vacancies declining and earnings growth slowing, reducing the risk of sustained domestically generated inflation.

6.9. The Bank of England maintained Bank Rate at 3.75% throughout the period. However, Monetary Policy Committee voting became progressively more hawkish as concerns grew over the persistence of higher energy prices and the possibility of renewed inflationary pressures. While the Committee continued to expect restrictive monetary policy, spare capacity and a softer labour market to reduce inflation over time, it acknowledged that inflation risks had shifted to the upside.

6.10. Despite these challenges, UK economic growth proved more resilient than anticipated, with GDP growth of 0.6% in the first quarter and 0.5% in the second quarter. Looking ahead, the Council's treasury advisers, Arlingclose, expect Bank Rate to remain at 3.75%, although risks remain skewed towards higher rates due to ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, elevated energy prices and uncertainty surrounding future fiscal policy. These factors continue to influence borrowing costs, investment returns and the overall treasury management environment.

Borrowing Activity

6.11. As outlined in the treasury strategy, the Council's primary objective when borrowing is to strike an appropriately low-risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.

6.12. Government bond yields increased materially during the period, reflecting evolving market expectations for inflation, interest rates and fiscal policy in the UK. Higher bond yields indicate market expectations that interest rates may remain elevated for longer, with implications for both local authority borrowing costs and investment returns.

6.13. The PWLB certainty rate for 10-year maturity loans was 5.86% at the beginning of the period and 6.41% at the end. The lowest available 10-year maturity certainty rate was 5.75% and the highest was 6.44%. Rates for 20-year maturity loans ranged from 6.23% to 6.85% during the period, and 50-year maturity loans from 6.09% to 6.68%. The cost of short-term borrowing from other local authorities has been similar to or a little above

the Base Rate for most of the period, with interest rates between 4.10% and 5.20%.

6.14. The Council has a significant capital programme which will largely be financed by new borrowing in the upcoming years. The Council plans to maintain a balanced portfolio of short and long-term borrowing.

6.15. As part of its strategy for funding previous and current years' capital programmes, the Council held £1,114 million in loans on 30th September 2026, an Decrease of £18.1m compared to 30th June 2026.

6.16. Further details on the borrowing activity of the Council over the period can be found in section 4 of Appendix 1 to this report.

Treasury Investment Activity

6.17. In accordance with the CIPFA Code and government guidance, the Council aims to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, when making treasury investments. The aim is to prioritise the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the optimum rate of return or yield.

6.18. The Council holds significant invested funds, which represent income received in advance of expenditure, as well as balances and reserves held. Throughout the period, the Council's investment balances ranged between £36.9m and £188.6m due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position on 30th September 2026 is shown in Table 7 in Appendix 1 to this report.

6.19. Bank Rate remained unchanged at 3.75% throughout the period from April 2026 to September 2026, following the reduction from 4.00% in August 2025 and 3.75% in December 2025. Short-term interest rates broadly tracked this level. Rates available on Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF) overnight rate has been 3.70% and the average Money Market fund rate has been 3.77% for the period.

6.20. The following table shows how the Council's current Treasury investments compare with other local authorities.

	Credit Score	Credit Rating	Bail-in Exposure	Weighted Ave. Maturity (Days)	Rate of Return
31.03.2026	4.95	A+	100%	1	4.23%
30.09.2026	4.01	A+	100%	1	3.91%
Similar Local Authorities	4.72	A+	87%	20	4.00%
All Local Authorities	4.58	A+	67%	10	4.15%

Further details on the Council's treasury investment activity over the period can be found in section 5 of Appendix 1 to this report.

Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

6.21. The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using several indicators that are set when the Treasury Management Strategy is approved in advance of the new financial year.

6.22. The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources reports that all treasury management activities carried out during the period complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy with the exception of lease levels in comparison to the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit as detailed in section 8 of Appendix 1, which was also reported in the Quarter 4 monitoring report for year 2025-26.

6.23. A detailed assessment of the Council's compliance with the agreed upon Treasury Management Indicators can be found in section 8 and 9 of Appendix 1 to this report.

7. Contribution to Strategic Outcomes

7.1. Borrowing at affordable levels underpins the delivery of the Capital programme. If the cost of borrowing rises beyond certain levels, capital schemes will become non-viable. Additionally, the generation of investment income is also crucial to manging the overall cost of capital to the Council.

8. Carbon and Climate Change

8.1. Not applicable.

9. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

9.1. Finance comments are included throughout the attached report.

Director of Legal and Governance [Haydee Nunes de Souza, Head of Legal Service]

9.2. The Head of Legal Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report. The report is consistent with legislation governing the financial affairs of the Council. In particular, the Council must comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the Local Authorities (Capital Financing & Accounting – England) Regulations 2003 and the CIPFA Treasury Management code.

9.3. The Council's Constitution, at Part 3, Section B – Responsibility for Functions provides that the remit of the Audit Committee includes consideration of reports on the effectiveness of financial management arrangements, including compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code and reviewing and monitoring treasury management arrangements in accordance with Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice.

9.4. Equalities

9.5. There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

10. Use of Appendices

10.1. Appendix 1 – Treasury Management Outturn Report 2026-27

11. Background Papers

11.1. None

Appendix 1 - Treasury Management Update Report Q2 2026/27

1. Introduction

1.1. The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve, as a minimum, treasury management semi-annual and annual reports.

1.2. This report includes the requirement in the 2021 Code, Mandatory from 1st April 2023, of reporting the treasury management prudential indicators.

1.3. The Council's treasury management strategy for 2026/27 was approved at a full Council meeting on 10th February 2026. The Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Council's treasury management strategy.

2. External Context (provided by the Council's treasury management advisor, Arlingclose)

Economic background

2.1. The key story remained the conflict in the Middle East and its impact on global energy prices and inflation, while on the UK politics side, Andy Burham became the new Prime Minister. Although energy prices had shown signs of moderating towards the end of (calendar) Q2, the continuing conflict pushed oil and gas up sharply once again in Q3. Around mid-September, Brent oil and UK gas prices were over 30% and 70% higher respectively compared to the period preceding the Bank of England's (BoE) July Monetary Policy Report (MPR).

2.2. Given the inflationary impact of the previous energy shock from the Russia/Ukraine war, central bank policymakers remained alert to higher energy prices feeding into wider price and wage-setting behaviour ('second-round effects'). In the UK, higher fuel and energy prices were evident in headline inflation, but there was limited evidence of material second-round effects. At the same time, underlying wage pressures continued to moderate, and the labour market remained relatively loose.

2.3. The BoE's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained Bank Rate at 3.75% throughout the period. In April the MPC voted by 8-1 to leave rates unchanged, with one member wanting a 0.25% increase. The voting subsequently became more hawkish, moving to 7-2 in June and 6-3 in both July and September, with all dissenters preferring to increase Bank Rate to 4.00%. The change in voting patterns reflected increasing policymaker concern over the persistence of the energy shock and the risk that higher headline inflation could become embedded in domestic prices and wages.

2.4. At the September MPC meeting, the Committee judged the inflation risks were further to the upside compared to its July MPR. Energy prices had risen again and borrowing costs were materially higher than before the US/Iran conflict. Despite expecting inflation would rise further in the near-term, most members believed that a soft labour market, spare capacity and restrictive monetary conditions would reduce inflation over time. Moreover, the data showed there was still little evidence of material second-round effects, although the MPC emphasised that the risk of these effects would increase the longer elevated and volatile energy prices persisted.

2.5. UK headline consumer price inflation (CPI) initially declined, suggesting the initial energy shock was not spreading into a wider range of goods and services. However, later in the

period inflation picked up again, with CPI rising from 2.6% in June to 3.1% in August due largely to higher transport costs. Core CPI was 2.6% in July and August, suggesting the divergence between that and headline inflation was due to energy rather than a broad increase in underlying inflation.

2.6. UK economic activity was somewhat stronger than initially anticipated over the period. GDP expanded by 0.6% in the first quarter of the calendar year and 0.5% in the second quarter, slightly stronger than the initial estimate of 0.4%. Monthly activity was more volatile, with a contraction of -0.1% in April, followed by gains of 0%, 0.3% and 0.4% in May, June and July respectively.

2.7. Labour market data continued to show softening employment conditions. The unemployment rate fell to 4.9% in April and remained at that level to July, against expectations it would tick up. Job vacancies also continued to decline, to 702,000 in the three months to July. Earnings growth moderated, with regular earnings at 3.5% in the three months to July and total earnings at 3.9%, suggesting weaker labour demand was continuing to restrain domestic wage pressures.

2.8. Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, expects Bank Rate will stay at 3.75%. However, higher energy prices due to the ongoing conflict(s) and uncertainty around the government's upcoming Budget have increased the near-term upside risks. Moreover, stronger inflation projections, which accompanied the September MPC decision, shifted market expectations for Bank Rate higher. In addition, despite little evidence of second-round effects to date, the changing tone of the MPC minutes suggests it may not need something seismic to tip the Committee to increase Bank Rate.

2.9. Following a 0.25% increase in June, the European Central Bank raised its three key policy rates by a further 0.25% in September, taking the deposit facility rate to 2.50%. Inflation increased from 2.9% in July to 3.2% in August, and an initial estimate suggested a further rise to 3.8% in September, with energy prices the principal driver. The ECB emphasised the uncertainty around the duration of the energy shock and the risk prolonged higher inflation could feed into wider price-setting.

Financial markets

2.10. After the sharp deterioration early in the period, financial market sentiment improved somewhat as there were ongoing hopes that the US/Iran war would be resolved. However, towards the end of the period, signs of any potential resolution appeared premature and oil prices rose alongside inflation and bond yields while equity market volatility increased as investors weighed conflict-related as well as AI-related concerns.

2.11. Bond yields in both the US and UK increased markedly over the period, with the gap between gilts and US Treasuries tightening towards the end of the period. While term premia are still embedded in gilt yields given the relatively uncertain fiscal outlook, a more hawkish Fed alongside persistent US inflation and fiscal concerns have pushed the yields on US Treasuries to their highest levels in years.

2.12. Some relatively market-friendly announcements were made by Andy Burham in his speech at the Labour Party conference, but it will be the Budget at the end of October that will hopefully provide some clarity on what the UK's fiscal position might look like going forward.

2.13. The table below shows the movement of the major benchmark gilt yields throughout the period.

Table 2: Gilt Yields

Benchmark Gilt Yield	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26

5 year	3.93%	4.47%	4.30%	4.98%
10 year	4.48%	4.92%	4.76%	5.42%
20 year	5.11%	5.48%	5.39%	5.90%

The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 3.73% over the quarter to 30th September.

Credit review

2.14. Arlingclose maintained its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on the majority of the banks on its counterparty list at 6 months. The other banks remain on 100 days.

2.15. During the period, Fitch upgraded numerous banks due to a rating methodology change, as well as the reference obligations used for Issuer Default Ratings and introduced more differentiated notching between deposits, senior preferred, senior unsecured and senior non-preferred debt ratings.

2.16. After spiking in April following escalation in the Iran war, credit default swap prices on UK banks declined during most of the period but started to pick up again in September. They ended the period well below levels that may give cause for concern but remain under constant monitoring.

2.17. European banks' CDS prices followed a similar pattern to the UK, while Canadian bank CDS prices rose early in the period and then remained at similar levels, while Australian and Singaporean banks tended to trend downwards. Overall, at the end of the period CDS prices for all banks on Arlingclose's counterparty list remained within limits deemed satisfactory for maintaining credit advice at current durations.

2.18. Financial market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, credit default swap levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Authority's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

3. Local Context

3.1. On 30th September 2026, the Council had net borrowings of £1,114.0m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) measures the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. A breakdown of the CFR is summarised in Table 1 below.

3.2. **Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary**

	31.03.26 Actual £m	31.03.27 Forecast £m
General Fund CFR	760.5	1,229.2
HRA CFR	804.5	777.0
Total CFR[1]	**1,565.0**	**2,005.7**
Less: Other debt liabilities[2]	(45.0)	(45.0)
Borrowing CFR - comprised of:	**1,520.0**	**1,960.7**
External borrowing	1,213.4	1,515.1
Internal borrowing	306.6	445.60

[1]subject to audit [2]finance leases, PFI liabilities and transferred debt that form part of the Council's total debt

3.3. The Council continued to pursue its long-standing strategy of keeping borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, also known as internal borrowing. This approach aims to manage both interest rate risk and refinancing risk. The goal is to minimise interest

costs and provide flexibility when deciding whether the Council should take on new borrowing from external sources.

3.4. The treasury management position on 30th September 2026 and the change over the quarter is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

Type of Borrowing/Investment	30.06.26 Balance £m	Movement £m	30.09.26 Balance £m	30.09.26 Weighted Av. Rate %
Long-term borrowing	1,196.4	-58.5	1,137.9	3.24%
Short-term borrowing	17.0	6.0	23.0	19.17%
Total borrowing	1,213.4	**-52.5**	1,160.9	3.78%
Short-term investment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00%
Cash and cash equivalents	81.3	-34.4	46.9	3.84%
Total investments	81.3	**-34.4**	46.9	3.84%
Net borrowing	1,132.1	**-18.1**	1,114.0	

4. Borrowing Activity

4.1. CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code emphasises that local authorities should not borrow to invest primarily for financial returns. Local authorities should not make any investment or spending decision that increases the capital financing requirement, resulting in new borrowing, unless such decisions are directly and primarily related to the functions of the local authority. Local authorities are no longer permitted to secure PWLB loans for purchasing investment assets primarily for yield unless the loans are for refinancing purposes.

4.2. The Council has not invested in assets primarily for financial return or that are not primarily related to the functions of the Council. It has no plans to do so in the future.

Borrowing strategy during the period

4.3. As outlined in the treasury strategy, the Council's primary objective when borrowing is to strike an appropriately low-risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.

4.4. Gilt yields have been volatile, reflecting expectations of tighter monetary policy compared to previous expectations due to the war. Long-term gilt yields are very high, with investors lacking confidence in UK fiscal plans amid political uncertainty.

4.5. The PWLB certainty rate for 10-year maturity loans was 5.62% at the beginning of the period and 6.17% at the end. Rates for 20-year maturity loans moved from 6.13% to 6.61% during the period, and 50-year maturity loans from 6.01% to 6.37%. The cost of short-term borrowing from other local authorities has been above Bank Rate during the period at 3.8% to 5.5%: costs have risen throughout the period. This is primarily due to many local authorities avoiding more expensive long-term rates and relying more heavily on the short-term market. Low cash levels and the non-receipt of SEND grants are also likely to have contributed to a high borrowing demand.

4.6. The PWLB HRA rate which is 0.4% below the certainty rate is available up to March 2027. The discounted rate is to support local authorities borrowing for the Housing Revenue

Account (HRA) and refinancing existing HRA loans. It provides an opportunity for the Council to undertake additional HRA-related borrowing and replace any maturing HRA loans during this period.

4.7. As part of its strategy for funding previous and current years' capital programmes, the Council held £1,160.9million in loans at 30th September 2026, a decrease of £52.5million compared to 31st March 2026.

4.8. The outstanding loans on 30th September 26 are summarised in Table 5.

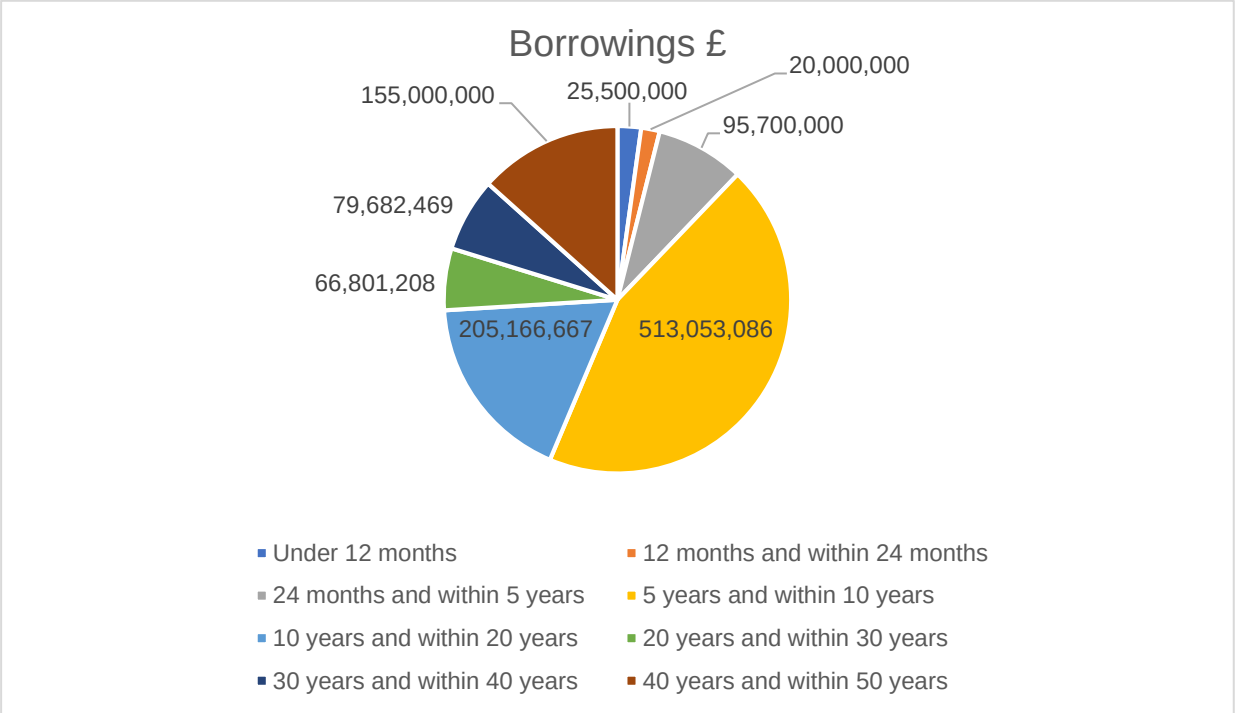
Table 5: Borrowing Position

Type of Borrowing	31.03.26 Balance £m	Net Movement £m	30.09.26 Balance £m	30.09.26 Weighted Ave. Rate %	30.09.26 Weighted Ave. Maturity years
Public Works Loan Board	1,146.4	(18.5)	1,127.9	**3.23%**	**15.4**
Banks (LOBO)	50.0	(40.0)	10.0	**4.75%**	**16.5**
Local authorities	17.0	6.0	23.0	**19.17%**	**36.4**
Total borrowing	**1,213.4**	**(52.5)**	**1,160.9**	**3.78%**	**16.2**

4.9. The Council has a significant capital programme that extends into the foreseeable future. A large proportion of this program will need to be financed by borrowing. This borrowing will be undertaken by the Council during the current and upcoming years. The Council's borrowing decisions are not based on any single outcome for interest rates, and it maintains a balanced portfolio of short and long-term borrowing.

4.10. The maturity profile of the Council's borrowing on 30th September 2026 is shown in the chart below.

4.11. There is a refinancing risk within the Council's debt portfolio, as existing borrowing matures and must be replaced at current market interest rates, which are significantly higher than the historic rates on many legacy loans. As borrowing is refinanced, this increases the overall cost of debt and places additional pressure on the revenue budget through higher interest expenditure.



LOBO Loans

4.12. On 30th September 2026, the Council held £10m of LOBO loans (Lender's Options Borrower's Options), where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Authority has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost.

4.13. At the beginning of the year the Council held £50m of LOBO loans. However, the Council has been able to successfully negotiate the repayment of £40m of those loans at a significant discount to the market value which was valued at £57m on 31st March 2026, by Arlingclose. The £7m representing a premium for the embedded options, above face value. It is estimated that the early redemption of the loans will garner a cost saving to the Council £227k over the next 3 years, inclusive of fees and charges, due to replacement borrowing from the PWLB being at a lower rate. The 3-year timeframe being the next option date of 2028.

4.14. With market interest rates having risen, the probability of call options on the LOBOs being called has been higher than in the recent past.

4.15. The Council currently holds £10m of LOBO loans with call dates within the next 12 months. The Council continues to engage with treasury management advisors, Arlingclose, to assess the likelihood of the options being exercised. If the option is exercised, the Council plans to repay the loan at no additional cost. In doing so, the Council will use any available cash or borrow from other local authorities or the PWLB to repay the LOBO loans.

Table 6: LOBO Position as at 30th September 2026

Lender Name	End Date	Original Principal £'m	Interest rate	LOBO Frequency Year	Next Call Date
Dexia Credit Local	10/04/2043	10.0	4.75%	0.5	10/04/2027
Total borrowing		**10.0**			

5. Treasury Investment Activity

5.1. The CIPFA Treasury Management Code now defines treasury management investments as investments that result from the Council's cash flows or treasury risk management activity. These investments represent balances that need to be invested until the cash is required for business operations.

5.2. The Council holds invested funds, which represent income received in advance of expenditure, as well as balances and reserves held. Throughout the period, the Council's investment balances ranged between £36.9m and £188.6m due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position on 30 September 2026 is shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Treasury Investment Position

Type of Investment	31.03.26 Balance £m	Net Movement £m	30.09.26 Balance £m	30.09.26 Weighted Ave. Rate %	30.09.26 Weighted Ave. Maturity
Debt Management Office	31.3	(31.3)	0.0	**0.0%**	**1 days**
Money Market Funds	50.0	(3.1)	46.9	**3.84%**	**1 days**
Total Investments	**81.3**	**(34.4)**	**46.9**	**3.84%**	**1 day**

5.3. Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, taking into account the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return or yield. The Council aims to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return when making treasury investments, while minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and receiving unsuitably low investment income.

5.4. Over the course of the quarter, the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility's (DMADF) overnight deposit rate was 3.70%. The Money Market rates ranged between 3.70% and 4.9%.

5.5. The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in the extracts from Arlingclose's quarterly investment benchmarking is shown is Table 9 below. These results demonstrate that there has been an improvement in the credit ratings and score of the Council's investments over the first quarter.

Table 9: Investment Benchmarking – Treasury investments managed in-house

	Credit Score	Credit Rating	Bail-in Exposure	Weighted Ave. Maturity (Days)	Rate of Return
31.03.2026	4.95	A+	100%	1	4.23%
30.09.2026	4.01	A+	100%	1	3.91%
Similar Local Authorities	4.72	A+	87%	20	4.00%
All Local Authorities	4.58	A+	67%	10	4.15%

Scoring: AAA = highest credit quality = 1; D = lowest credit quality = 26
Aim = A- or higher credit rating, with a score of 7 or lower, to reflect current investment approach with main focus on security

5.6. Financial markets experienced significant volatility over the six months to 30th September 2026, although performance varied considerably between asset classes. Equity markets generally performed well, recovering strongly from the falls seen in March and remaining resilient despite renewed geopolitical uncertainty and higher interest rates. UK equities recorded gains over the period, while global equities were also supported by generally resilient corporate earnings and continued strength in technology-related stocks.

5.7. Bond markets were considerably weaker, particularly towards the end of the period. Government bond yields rose as higher energy prices and rising inflation increased expectations that interest rates would remain higher for longer. Longer-dated yields were also affected by concerns over elevated government borrowing and bond issuance, with investors demanding greater compensation for holding longer-term debt. These pressures were not confined to the UK, with government bond yields rising across most major developed economies. This rise placed downward pressure on the capital values of funds with exposure to bonds.

5.8. Income distributions from strategic pooled funds generally remained resilient over the period, despite the volatility in underlying asset prices. However, distributions from individual funds can vary between periods depending on their payment frequency, the timing of underlying income receipts and fund distribution policies. Performance over a six-month period should therefore not be viewed in isolation when assessing the longer-term income generated by these investments.

5.9. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Authority's medium- to long-term investment objectives are regularly reviewed. Strategic fund investments are made in the knowledge that capital values will move both up and down on months, quarters and even years; but with the confidence that over a three- to five-year period total returns will exceed cash interest rates.

6. Treasury Performance

6.1. The Council measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities in terms of its impact on revenue budget as shown in Table 10 below.

Table 10: Treasury Performance

Borrowing costs	Actual to date £m	*Forecast 2026/27 £m	Annual Budget £m	Forecast (Over)/under £m
General Fund borrowing	3.6	34.4	36.0	(1.6)
HRA borrowing	7.0	26.8	26.7	0.1
Total borrowing costs	**10.6**	**61.2**	**62.7**	**(1.5)**
Treasury investment income	**(1.8)**	**(3.5)**	**(2.0)**	**(1.7)**

*Forecast figures are based on the assumption that planned future borrowing will be undertaken in line with current expectations. Consequently, these forecasts may change if borrowing occurs later than anticipated, is not required, or exceeds the levels currently assumed.

6.2. Borrowing costs as at quarter two have been lower than budgeted for, principally due to the capital scheme spend not progressing as anticipated. It is also in relation to the timing of the interest repayments due, with the bulk of the expected expenditure to occur in the final two quarters of the year.

6.3. Income generation has been higher due the Council having higher than anticipated cash balances also due to the slower pace of capital spend, so the Council has held higher cash balances for longer periods than initially expected.

7. Non-Treasury Investments

7.1. The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised 2021 Treasury Management Code includes all the financial assets of the local authority, as well as other non-financial assets that the local authority holds primarily for financial return. Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e. management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes or (made explicitly to further service objectives) or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return).

7.2. The Investment Guidance, issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)) and Welsh Government, broadens the definition of investments to include all assets held partially or wholly for financial return.

8. Compliance

8.1. The Chief Finance Officer reports that all treasury management activities carried out during the year complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy.

8.2. Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is demonstrated in table 11 below.

Table 11: Debt Limits

	30.09.26 Actual £m	2026/27 Operational Boundary £m	2026/27 Authorised Limit £m	Complied?
Borrowing	1,160.9	1,591.0	1,641.0	Yes
PFI and Finance Leases	45.0	51.0	56.0	Yes
Total debt	**1,205.9**	**1,642.0**	**1,697.0**	**Yes**

8.3. Although not classed as borrowing, the Council's PFI balances and finance leases increased have increased as a result of the reporting changes brought in by IFRS16.

8.4. The operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring. Therefore, it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasion due to variations in cash flow, and this is not considered a compliance failure. However, the council's overall debt remained well below this limit throughout the entire financial year.

9. Treasury Management Indicators

9.1. As required by the 2021 CIPFA Treasury Management Code, the Council monitors and measures the following treasury management prudential indicators.

Security

9.2. The Council has adopted a voluntary measure to assess its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit score of its investment portfolio. To calculate this score, a value is assigned to each investment based on its credit rating (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.), and the arithmetic average is taken, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

	30.09.26 Actual	2026/27 Target	Complied?
Portfolio average credit score	A+, 4.68	Above A, 6.0 or lower	Yes

Liquidity

9.3. The Council has adopted a voluntary measure to monitor its exposure to liquidity risk. This is done by tracking the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments over a rolling three-month period, without borrowing additional funds.

	30.09.26 Actual/£m	2026/27 Target/£m	Complied?
Total cash available within 3 months	50.0	30.0	Yes

Interest Rate Exposures

9.4. This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interests was:

	30.09.26 Actual	2026/27 Target	Complied?
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	£1.3m	£2m	Yes
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	£1.2m	£2m	Yes

9.5. The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investment will be replaced at current rates.

Maturity Structure of Borrowing

9.6. This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of all borrowing were:

	30.09.26 Actual	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Complied?
Under 12 months	6.7%	40%	0%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	6.5%	40%	0%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	22.3%	50%	0%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	28.1%	50%	0%	Yes
10 years and within 20 years	10.4%	100%	0%	Yes
20 years and within 30 years	5.8%	100%	0%	Yes
30 years and within 40 years	6.9%	100%	0%	Yes
40 years and within 50 years	13.4%	100%	0%	Yes
50 years and above	0.0%	100%	0%	Yes

9.7. Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

9.8. In the past, the Council has extensively used short-term borrowing (less than 1 year in duration) from other local authorities as an alternative to longer-term borrowing from the PWLB. This was due to lower interest rates at the time, resulting in revenue savings.

9.9. However, short-term borrowing exposes the Council to refinancing risk. This is the risk that rates will rise quickly over a short period of time and will be at significantly higher rates when loans mature and new borrowing is required. With this in mind, the Council has set a limit on the total amount of short-term local authority borrowing as a proportion of all borrowing.

	30.09.26 Actual	2026/27 Limit	Complied?
Upper limit on short-term borrowing from other local authorities as a percentage of total borrowing	1.11%	20%	Yes

Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than a year

9.10. The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end were:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Actual principal invested beyond year end	nil	nil	nil
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£10m	£5m	£5m
Complied?	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**