

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 2017, 7.30 - 9.50 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Stephen Mann (Mayor), Charles Adje, Kaushika Amin, Jason Arthur, Eugene Ayisi, Dhiren Basu, David Beacham, Patrick Berryman, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Clare Bull, Clive Carter, Joanna Christophides, Pippa Connor, Ali Demirci, Isidoros Diakides, Natan Doron, Gail Engert, Joe Goldberg, Eddie Griffith, Bob Hare, Claire Kober, Toni Mallett, Jennifer Mann, Liz McShane, Peter Mitchell, Liz Morris, Martin Newton, Felicia Opoku, Ali Gul Ozbek, James Patterson, Sheila Peacock, Lorna Reith, Viv Ross, Raj Sahota, Alan Strickland, Noah Tucker, Bernice Vanier, Ann Waters, Elin Weston and Charles Wright

35. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Mayor drew attendees' attention to the notice on the summons regarding filming at meetings.

36. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adamou, Ahmet, Brabazon, G Bull, Carroll, Ejiofor, Elliott, Gallagher, Gunes, Hearn, Ibrahim, Jogee, McNamara, Rice and Stennett.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Adje, Berryman, Bevan, M Blake and Opoku.

37. 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 interim Chief Executive requested that the report of the Corporate Committee at item 12c be admitted, which was late given the Committee had met and considered the report recently, and that the responses to written questions be admitted at item 17 as tabled, explaining they were unavailable earlier given the time required to research and prepare answers

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Demirci declared that, as a member of Unison and an employee of a local authority, he had an interest in the deputation at item 11.

The Mayor declared an interest, as a member of the Communications Workers Union, in Motion D to be debated at item 18.

39. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 24 JULY

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 July 2017 were agreed.

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

The Mayor drew attendees' attention to the note in the Summons of some of the events he had undertaken as Mayor, and thanked his deputy and predecessors for their support. He drew attention to the recent Gala dinner in support of his Special Fund, and to the honour of leading the Borough's Remembrance Sunday commemoration recently, thanking the work of the Armed Forces and Christian Erikson of Tottenham Hotspurs in tidying the Wood Green War Memorial.

The Mayor had recently presented Yvonne Denny a lifetime award at Homes for Haringey's Rewarding Resident Volunteers evening, and Cathy Alberman the award for Music Teacher of the Year. He would be making his own awards for his 'What Makes You Happy' competition in primary schools in January.

Finally, the Mayor led the meeting in a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor Nilgun Canver, who had passed away recently.

41. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Cllr Sahota, Chair of the Staffing and Remuneration Committee, introduced a report that recommended Zina Etheridge be appointed Chief Executive. The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED

That Zina Etheridge be appointed Chief Executive as outlined in the attached report.

42. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive had no matters to report.

43. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Monitoring Officer had no matters to report.

44. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Peter Mitchell, Assistant Chief Whip, moved the report setting out some changes to the Council's representatives on outside bodies. The recommendations were agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED

That Full Council agree:

- 1) That Councillor Jennifer Mann be the Council's representative on Hornsey Parochial Charities until the appointment comes up for renewal in May 2021.
- 2) That Councillor Lorna Reith be the Council's representative on Walthamstow Wetlands until the appointment comes up for renewal in May 2018.

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

The Mayor had accepted a deputation from Haringey Unison on local government pay, which was introduced by Sean Fox, accompanied by Gerard McGrath and Andrea Holden. Mr Fox set out that local government pay had declined in the last seven years by 22 per cent in real terms, and that pay restraint had not meant jobs being protected. He called for an increase of 5 per cent, the deletion of the bottom three spinal points and for local authorities to lobby to break the pay freeze to combat poverty of employees.

In response to a question from Cllr Kober on whether he would support a campaign for Government to fund a pay increase for local government workers, Mr Fox set out that trades union had been lobbying Government direct.

Responding to the Deputation, Councillor Demirci, Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources, said the Cabinet was sympathetic to the trade union, and that they could not respond unilaterally to the request. There was on-going work with colleagues across local government to press Government on adequate funding for local government workers and that he looked forward to working with the trade union in future.

46. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES

- (a) Report from Standards Committee - Planning Protocol

Councillor Amin, Chair of the Standards Committee, introduced a report that recommended that the Planning Protocol be incorporated into the Council's Constitution. The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED

That Full Council adopt the Planning Protocol as part of the Constitution.

- (b) Report from Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17

Cllr Wright, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, introduced the Committee's Annual Report for 2016/17, and thanked Members for their participation in scrutiny.

NOTED.

(c) Report from Corporate Committee - Treasury Management Strategy Statement

The Mayor accepted this report as late. Councillor Barbara Blake, Chair of the Corporate Committee, introduced her report that updated Members on the Treasury Management Strategy. The report's recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED

That Full Council note the Treasury Management activity undertaken during the six months to 30th September 2017 and the performance achieved.

47. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

Cllr Arthur, Cabinet Member for Finance and Health, introduced the report on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The recommendations of the report were agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED

That Council:

- i. Agree to adopt the CTRS 2018/19 as contained in Appendix C of the accompanying report and as summarised in Appendix C which retains the same level of support as agreed since 2013/14 and which remains unchanged from 2017/18 for: pensioners claimants to continue to receive support for the payment of council tax.
- ii. Agree claimants in receipt of certain disability benefits to continue to receive support for the payment of council tax.
- iii. Agree all working age claimants Council Tax Support to continue to be capped at 80.2% of council tax liability.
- iv. Note that an Equalities Impact Assessment (Appendix E of the accompanying report) has been undertaken in relation to the CTRS and that the findings of this EIA must be taken into account when making a decision regarding the Scheme for 2018/19.
- v. Authority to be given to the Chief Finance Officer and the Assistant Director of the Shared Service Centre to take all appropriate steps to implement and administer the Scheme.

48. HIGH ROAD WEST - APPLICATION FOR CONSENT FOR DISPOSAL OF HRA LAND

Councillor Strickland, Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and Planning, introduced the report.

Responding to questions from Cllr Diakides, Cllr Carter, Cllr Engert, Cllr Bevan and Cllr Amin, Cllr Strickland outlined the engagement with tenants in High Road West, the work being done to build council housing and provide affordable housing, the differences between this scheme and the Haringey Development Vehicle and some further information around service charges and freehold arrangements.

Following a request by eight members standing in their place, the Mayor agreed to put the recommendation in the report to a named vote.

On being put to a vote:

There being 27 in favour of the recommendation (Councillors Ayisi, Amin, Arthur, Basu, B Blake, C Bull, Christophides, Demirci, Doron, Goldberg, Griffith, Kober, Mallett, J Mann, S Mann, McShane, Mitchell, Ozbek, Patterson, Peacock, Reith, Sahota, Strickland, Tucker, Vanier, Waters and Wright) and

8 against (Councillors Beacham, Carter, Connor, Engert, Hare, Morris, Newton and Ross) and

No abstentions

The recommendation was agreed.

RESOLVED

That Full Council give approval for the Director of Regeneration to submit an application under section 32 of the Housing Act 1985 to the Secretary of State for consent to dispose (as agreed by Cabinet on the 12th September and the 9th October 2017) of the land belonging to the Council situated within the High Road West Area and held within the Housing Revenue Account, as shown on the Site Plan shaded green and accompanying property list at Appendix 4 of the accompanying report.

49. HARINGEY DEBATE: HARINGEY'S SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

The Mayor invited Councillor Engert to introduce the debate.

Councillor Engert introduced the debate, including the scale of the challenge in relation to housing and the cost pressures that inadequate provision imposes on the Council. She set out the Council's performance on the provision of affordable housing, and the level of right-to-buy receipts that had been surrendered to the Exchequer. She outlined activity elsewhere, including Sutton, where the Council's wholly-owned development company had delivered housing with a high degree of engagement with tenants and leaseholders.

Councillor Mitchell discussed how housing issues was a challenge for all Members in their casework, and the associated cost to the Council. He noted that the Government's policies did not support social housing, meaning Haringey had to take new approaches to tackling the crisis, including the High Road West scheme and the HDV.

Councillor Jennifer Mann noted the number of people on the housing waiting list and homeless in the borough, and the number of local organisations working to support people that are faced with housing difficulties. She suggested the Finnish Housing First principle had been successful in avoiding a housing crisis.

Councillor Carter recalled the Council's Housing Strategy, which he felt suggested a direction of travel on social housing. He felt the HDV was too big, too risky and too complicated to deliver the housing promised. He compared Haringey's efforts to deliver affordable or social housing, such as at Hornsey Town Hall, with other boroughs'.

Councillor Wright discussed the national decline of completions on social housing, in particular since the coalition Government had reduced the grant available for social housing. He set out how declining wages and increasing house prices were creating a market failure, requiring intervention by the Council.

Councillor Kober sought to put the debate in a wider context by noting the London-wide nature of the housing crisis, and the difference between house prices and incomes. This meant new options had to be explored. She noted the higher number of people in the private rented sector, who needed specific support and protections.

Councillor Hare discussed the uniqueness of the HDV, which was distinct from other boroughs' efforts and seemed to be more in pursuit of a greater council tax base rather than to deliver social housing. He further discussed the Sutton example, which meant profits were retained locally and more green infrastructure could be pursued.

Councillor Doron sought to correct the depiction of Haringey's record on the level of housing provided as affordable or at social rent levels. He noted that joint ventures, like the HDV, were used elsewhere and he hoped that pragmatic solutions could be supported rather than rejected for ideological reasons.

Responding to the debate, Councillor Strickland, Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and Planning reflected that Haringey had provided more affordable housing than all but three London boroughs. He was proud of the Borough's record in successfully attracting funding for affordable housing from the Greater London Authority. The Government's policies and funding restrictions had been a restriction on the Council's ability to delivery Council housing. In addition there were a number of other examples of joint ventures, and so the HDV was not as unusual as described.

Concluding the debate, Councillor Engert stated that the concerns at the HDV had increased as more detail had been made available. She felt the Council had had a poor record on social housing over a number of years, and that the Sutton approach, including a wholly owned housing development company was worth consideration to

deliver more social housing using the returned Right to Buy receipts, the Housing Revenue Account and abandoning the proposal to build a new Council Headquarters.

50. ANNUAL CARBON REPORT AND ZERO BY 2050 COMMISSION

Councillor Goldberg, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Sustainability introduced the Seventh Annual Carbon Report and the report on the Zero by 2050 Commission. He outlined the success that Haringey had achieved in this area, and the level of ambition that had been demonstrated. He thanked Councillor Doron for his work on the Zero by 2050 Commission, and hoped that the work would be continued in the future.

Councillor Doron set out the scale of the challenge associated with tackling climate change, and the disproportionate impact that climate change would have on the poor. He noted that Haringey had a strong reputation in this area, and welcomed the focus on inequality. He hoped the Council's record would be upheld in the future.

NOTED

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

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

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

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

Councillor Jenifer Mann moved Motion D, setting out the importance of post offices in local communities. She regretted the way the post office had been handled by the Government.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mitchell, who was concerned at the so-called 'modernisation' programme of post offices, including the further siting of post offices in retail stores.

Councillor Engert moved an amendment to the motion, setting out that the private sector could work to deliver public services, as long as there were adequate safeguards. Councillor Newton seconded the amendment.

Councillor Tucker criticised the amendment as being supportive of privatisation, and believed that there could not be adequate safeguarding of public services when managed by the private sector.

Councillor Jennifer Mann responded to the debate, urging Members to reject the amendment.

The amendment was put to the vote, where it was NOT CARRIED.

The original motion was put to the vote, where it was AGREED.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Morris to move Motion E. She believed more needed to be done to tackle the issue of moped crime, which involved increasing levels of violence. She reflected that motorcyclists are often themselves the victims of crime, and should not be penalised by efforts to tackle criminality and would be supporting the amendment to the motion.

Councillor Newton seconded the motion, noting the incidents of moped crimes that he was aware of in his ward. He supported widespread tagging of motorcycles.

Councillor Ayisi moved the amendment, and set out his work with police locally to tackle moped crimes and work quickly to investigate crimes. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Clare Bull.

Councillor Peacock spoke in favour of the amendment, and in support of motorcycle-owners who were often the first victims of moped crime.

Councillor Ross spoke of his regret at the announced closure of police counters, and his hope the Mayor of London may help improve coordination between boroughs' police teams and encourage tagging of motorcycles and mopeds.

Councillor Reith noted the agreement in the chamber in relation to the seriousness of the issue, but felt that the Mayor of London's ability to tackle these issues was constrained by a lack of resource from Government despite specific requests for funding to tackle crime in the capital.

Councillor Carter described to Members a recent incident he had witnessed of reckless behaviour by moped riders in Wood Green

Responding to the debate, Councillor Morris re-stated that she supported the amendment.

Following a vote, which was unanimous, the amendment was CARRIED.

The motion as amended was then put to the vote, where it was AGREED unanimously.

RESOLVED

Motion D: Crown Post Offices

Over the course of a year, the Post Office announced the franchise (privatisation) of 99 Crown Offices in 3 "Tranches".

Tranche 1 – January 2016
39 Crown Offices to be franchised
3 actual closures

The proposed franchised Crown Offices in tranche 1 include those in Crouch End and Muswell Hill.

Tranche 2 – July 2016

A further 40-50 Crowns to be franchised which could include other Haringey offices.

Tranche 3 – January 2017

37 Crown Offices to be franchised

Altogether placing up to 1,000 Post Office employee jobs at risk.

This Council believes:

- Closure and franchising of our High Street Crown Post Offices is detrimental to our local communities.
- The plan to move Post Offices into shops such as WH Smiths will mean a worsening of services, a potential loss of experienced staff and a possible deterioration of workers conditions such as pay and pensions.

This Council resolves:

- To support local residents and community groups and businesses, the Communication Workers Union and other relevant local unions' who are campaigning to save the Haringey Crown Post Offices and helping to protect decent local jobs.
- To write to Margot James, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Minister stating the council's opposition to the Crown Post Office closure and franchising programme.
- To write to local MPs informing them of our position and encouraging them to oppose the Crown Post Office closure and franchising programme.

Motion E: Tackling Moped Crime

This Council is disappointed that the Government's Budget failed to respond to the Labour Mayor of London's request for additional monies to tackle the very serious problems of crime in the capital. The Government's failure has made it extremely difficult for the Police to tackle the scourge of moped crime on Haringey streets.

This council notes that:

- thieves on scooters and pedal cycles are committing up to 50,000 criminal offences in London each year
- thefts involving mopeds or motorcycles are currently running at 13,000 over the past 12 months, a 41% increase over the previous period

This council also notes that:

- there has been a significant increase in moped crime in North London and in particular in Haringey, Camden and Islington, with a huge rise in phone and handbag snatches by moped gangs
- police statistics show that between February and March, Haringey saw a 21% rise in "theft of person" crimes
- that gangs have stepped up the level of violence, with the use of hammers, acid and other weapons

- that a number of local residents have been seriously injured by moped gangs stealing property
- This council is concerned that:
- a moped gang attacked Gail's bakery on Highgate High Street, smashing the windows with a hammer, stealing property and injuring a resident
- a moped gang attacked a delivery driver in Tottenham where the victim had a corrosive substance sprayed in his face
- a moped gang forcibly entered a restaurant in Crouch End and tried to steal a laptop

This Council is further concerned that the lack of adequate funding from Government has led to the Metropolitan Police Service closing Hornsey police station and Wood Green front counter, leaving only 1 police station open in the entire borough.

This council believes that it is unacceptable that Muswell Hill, Alexandra, Fortis Green, Hornsey, Crouch End, Stroud Green, Highgate and Wood Green wards will be left with no police counter and no police contact point.

This Council calls on the Government to ensure proper funding for policing in the capital so that the Mayor of London is able to:

- improve co-ordination and co-operation between the different borough police teams in London
- enable boroughs across London to use dedicated police on motorbikes (with the sole objective of pursuing moped-enabled criminals), as they already do in Camden
- increase the tagging of motorbikes so that stolen bikes can be tracked and picked up so they are not used by the gangs
- keep Haringey's police stations and counters open
- pay for CCTV and increased police presence in moped crime hotspots

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date