

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2018, 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Gina Adamou (Mayor), Charles Adje, Peray Ahmet, Amin, Dawn Barnes, Dhiren Basu, Patrick Berryman, Barbara Blake, Mark Blake, Zena Brabazon, Gideon Bull, Vincent Carroll, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Sakina Chenot, James Chiriyankandath, Pippa Connor, Eldridge Culverwell, Mahir Demir, Paul Dennison, Isidoros Diakides, Josh Dixon, Erdal Dogan, Joseph Ejiofor, Scott Emery, Ruth Gordon, Makbule Gunes, Mike Hakata, Kirsten Hearn, Emine Ibrahim, Sarah James, Adam Jogee, Peter Mitchell, Liz Morris, Khaled Moyeed, Lucia das Neves, Julia Ogiehor, Felicia Opoku, Tammy Palmer, Sheila Peacock, Reg Rice, Viv Ross, Yvonne Say, Anne Stennett, Daniel Stone, Preston Tabois, Elin Weston, Noah Tucker and Matt White

7. FILMING AT MEETINGS

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

8. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Rossetti, da Costa, Bevan, Carlin, Williams, Hare and Hinchcliffe

Apologies for lateness were recorded for Cllr Weston and Dennison but they arrived at the start of the meeting.

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

The Chief Executive advised that there was one item of late business, which could not be available earlier, and which would need to be dealt with at this meeting.

Item 13 - Questions and Written Answers

The reason for lateness was that notice of questions is not requested until 8 clear days before the meeting, following which the matters raised have to be researched and replies prepared to be given at the meeting.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

11. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 16 JULY 2018 & 11 OCTOBER 2018

RESOLVED

To approve the Full Council minutes of the meetings held on the 16th of July 2018 and 11 October 2018.

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

The Mayor outlined the Mayoral activities undertaken since the July meeting.

The Mayor had attended , to date, 125 events and functions throughout the borough and City of London since becoming Mayor on 24 May 2018, with her Deputy covering a further 46 engagements. The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor and Former Mayors for their continued support and commitment to the Borough.

The Mayor expressed that it was her privilege and a pleasure to meet lots of different organisations in the borough. There was a tabled paper, detailing the mayoral engagements and the Mayor highlighted some of the events attended.

In September, the Mayor was invited to watch a powerful film “Take a minute” and take part in a discussion organised by Mind in Haringey at Tottenham Hotspur Foundation. Mental health awareness, which was such a key issue for Councillors who meet constituents and residents in the borough. The Mayor had invited ‘Mind’ in Haringey to provide a screening of this film to all Councillors in the New Year.

The Mayor was invited to a Launch in Haringey of a Debt Management Centre by an organisation Christians against Poverty (CAP) who are a national charity helping vulnerable people out of debt.

In October, The Mayor was invited to Launch Black History Month at Wood Green Library. There were a number of events held in October to celebrate Black History Month and the Mayor thanked officers, Councillors and the community for their work in making these events a success.

In November, the Mayor expressed her honour in hosting with the DL[Deputy Lieutenant] the unveiling of a Victoria Cross Commemorative Paving Stone in Honour of Acting Major Brett MacKay Cloutman VC at the War Memorial outside Hornsey Health Centre.

The Mayor further expressed her honor at representing the Borough at the Remembrance Sunday events, and was very proud at both the incredible turnout. The events also marked 100 years since the end of the First World War.

The Mayor reported the sad passing of Ray Swain a local community activist. The Mayor spoke about Ray, who had lived all his life in Summerhill Road N17, and his

absolute commitment to Tottenham. He was a passionate supporter of Bruce Castle, active in both Friends of Lordship Rec and Downhills Park and would always be there at the clean-up sessions and gardening events they organised. Ray also campaigned for the memorial in Lordship Rec to remember the people who died in the bombing of the air raid shelter during WWII.

Cllr Barbara Blake paid her respects to Ray Swain who passed away on the 25th of September aged 77. Cllr Blake spoke of the importance of remembering the ordinary people of the borough who gave so much to the local community. Ray was described as a Tottenham character and much loved community volunteer who participated in numerous outdoor park related activities. He was a passionate supporter of the Bruce Castle museum, and had left a treasure trove of historical information about Tottenham. Ray had further researched the lives of the soldiers listed in the war memorial so they were not forgotten and it was unfortunate that he could not live to see the outcome of his hard work, seeing the war memorial restoration completed. There was a special tribute to Ray at the war memorial in Downhills Park on remembrance Sunday by the community and Deputy Mayor, recognising that Ray had left historical legacy through years of dedication and support for the local community.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Blake for her warm tribute and asked her to pass on the Council's good wishes and thoughts to Ray's family and friends.

13. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive introduced her report, seeking agreement from full Council to designate the post of Director of Finance as the Council's section 151 officer (Chief Finance Officer) pursuant to section 151 Local Government Act 1972 with immediate effect. The Monitoring Officer, in accordance with Article 14.03 of the Constitution, would make all necessary changes to the Constitution to give this effect.

RESOLVED

1. To note the previous urgent action of the Chief Executive taken in consultation with the Mayor, in accordance with Part 3 Section E, Section 1 of the Constitution, to designate the newly appointed Director of Finance as s151 officer from 4th October 2018 until this meeting of the Full Council.
2. To agree to designate the post of Director of Finance as the Council's section 151 officer (Chief Finance Officer) pursuant to section 151 Local Government Act 1972 with immediate effect. The Monitoring Officer, in accordance with Article 14.03 of the Constitution, will make all necessary changes to the Constitution to give this effect.

Reasons for decision

This is a statutory requirement upon the Council.

Alternative options considered

There is no alternative option, this is a statutory requirement.

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

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

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

There were no deputations, or petitions for consideration at this meeting.

16. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES

Councillor Weston, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families advised that looking after children and young people that need protection and care and supporting them, once they leave care, was one of the most important roles that the Council has. As corporate parents, it was the responsibility of every Councillor and senior officer to do all they could to make sure children and young people in care, and care leavers have safe, happy and fulfilling lives. It was absolutely vital to listen to the voices of young people. The Cabinet Member referred to the Corporate Parenting pledge at item 10, on the agenda, which was an example of the Council doing just that.

The Cabinet Member introduced the young people in care Council [Aspire] to speak about how important the Corporate Parenting pledge was to them.

The full Council noted that in 2017, Aspire, created a set of pledges for children and young children in the care system which covered all aspects of a child's welfare in the care system, including health education and personal safety, right and entitlements.

It was noted that Aspire meet regularly to discuss matters arising in the care system and looking at ways of implementing positive changes to the care system for all young people

Aspire also plan and run tailored activities for children and young people in care to promote bonding.

The pledges were very important to Aspire as they provided the opportunity to present the priorities for children and young people in the care system to the Council as corporate parents to allow their voice to be heard. Aspire were pleased that this work was valued and adopted by full Council.

Cllr Weston thanked the Aspire members and was very proud of their achievements. There was a round of applause from all Councillors for the young people from Aspire attending.

RESOLVED

To endorse and adopt the Corporate Parenting Pledge attached as Appendix 1 in respect of looked after children and care leavers.

17. ANNUAL CARBON REPORT AND ZERO BY 2050 COMMISSION

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Hearn introduced the report, which was the eighth Annual Carbon Report, and reported on the borough's ambition and progress to reducing its carbon emissions.

The Cabinet Member described being an activist who has worked on environmental issues for a long time. She was committed to ensuring the voices of those most impacted were heard, and communicated effectively throughout the Council.

The Cabinet Member outlined that extreme weather conditions, such as the freezing winter and summer heatwave, were an indication that people have to act now to combat climate change. There would likely be an increased frequency of heatwaves, highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Therefore, carbon reduction and tackling climate change was a socio-economic issue: a changing climate would affect those most vulnerable. Whilst, there would be benefits of warmer days, there would likely be an increase in the risk of death and serious illness, particularly for poorer communities and older people.

The Cabinet Member reiterated that climate change would have an adverse impact on Council resources, such as the public health system. The Council would need to first attempt to mitigate climate change to avoid this altogether, to escape exacerbating inequalities across the community. It was noted that the Council must also make social, institutional, technological and behavioural changes to lessen the impact.

It was noted that in 2015 to 2016 the Council had a 5 per cent reduction in emissions. Between 2016 and 2020, the Council were acting to reduce emissions by an additional 11 per cent. The Council were committed to being a zero carbon borough by 2050. The action plan to support this would be published in 2019.

The Cabinet Member was proud of this year's achievements, and thanked all staff, community groups and residents who had delivered this and looked forward to a continued and concerted effort in 2019.

Cllr Hearn agreed to provide a written response to Cllr Emery's question about the separation of levels of economic activity or disposal income from increased efficiencies and reductions of energy use.

RESOLVED

1. That the Annual Report is made publically available, to engage residents in the Haringey 40:20 and Zero Carbon Haringey initiatives.

2. That Councillors engage with the initiative and lead action in their community, promoting the importance of reducing carbon emissions whilst increasing prosperity.
3. That the future projects outlined on pages 40 to 41 are implemented and further opportunities are identified, subject to the availability of external funding and grants.
4. That Haringey continues to report annually on our progress to reduce emissions by 40% by 2020, and increase prosperity.

Reasons for decision

In 2009, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the Carbon Commission, which were to:

- Create business models, which reinvest wealth back into the borough through community energy and a retrofit cooperative network.
- Build a low carbon economy, establishing a green enterprise hub and creating training opportunities.
- Boost innovation in the borough through cutting-edge low carbon technological, social and financial solutions.
- Invest in low-carbon transport, including Dutch style cycling provision and alternative fuel vehicles.
- Strengthen community organisations, supporting the transition to a sustainable way of living, by sharing best practice and working together to deliver Haringey 40:20.

The Annual Carbon Report provides year on year progress towards the achievement of the recommendations, and the wider aim to reduce emissions by 40% by 2020, whilst increasing prosperity in the borough.

Alternative options considered

To not publish the eighth Annual Carbon Report. This would lead to the Council failing to meet its commitment on publishing Annual Carbon Reports, as well as reducing transparency on our progress. Furthermore, it would neglect the successes made by local community groups and not display how they help the Council to meet our ambitions.

18. HARINGEY DEBATE:TACKLING AIR POLLUTION

Cllr Emery introduced the Haringey debate on air pollution, and expressed that London was a beautiful city and he was proud to be living in the capital. Unfortunately, in recent years London had been blighted by illegal levels of air pollution, with the

levels of nitrogen dioxide, the chemical that caused lung damage and reduces life spans, significantly prevalent. The levels of air pollution in London were now closer to Beijing levels than New York. This was illustrated by the recent news of a school in Rotherhithe collecting money for facemasks for children and more than 10 schools in London needing to install air purifiers to deal with pollution levels.

Cllr Emery drew attention to the main cause of this being the high number of vehicles in London, which needed to be significantly reduced. These levels of air pollution could be changed by increasing activity such as walking, cycling and use of public transport. This action would help eliminate pollution, as there would be less cars stuck in traffic, pumping out fumes.

The European Court of justice had already advised the UK of the need to improve its air pollution, and by their standards the UK had been failing to reach, required targets for air quality for 13 years and would likely struggle to reach this target by 2025.

Cllr Emery felt that central government was weak on this issue, however, the Council should be doing more as well and Cllr Emery proposed some ideas to be considered:

- Annual car free day to be extended and having regular pedestrian days on streets.
- There were some no idling zones outside schools but this should be a borough wide policy
- As a Council, there was a need to be more transparent by recording more types of air pollution and making these findings more accessible to the public.
- Need to be open to more types of transport solutions, helping take care of the road, in particular for small journeys.
- Need to consider emissions from power stations by reducing unnecessary energy use in all the borough's homes. This would be aided by getting rid of ancient boilers in some homes and, as a Council, extending the GLA boiler scrappage scheme to residential properties.
- Alleviating the air pollution around busy roads by adding a green wall of trees to capture the more harmful pollution emissions emitted.
- ULEZ action plan was welcomed and suggestion was made to the Full Council Mayor, to replace her mayoral car with an electric vehicle or public transport.

Cllr Emery introduced the three external speakers who would be informing the debate with both their personal and professional views on air quality.

Presenter 1

Deborah Willemen had been living in Tottenham for over three years and her son suffered from pollution lead asthma. Deborah was a co-founder of the parent group – 'Parents for healthy streets Haringey'. Ten markers by TFL defined a healthy street and neighbourhood. Deborah Willemen continued to highlight two markers that were important to the group.

1. A neighbourhood where people can, walk, cycle and make use of public transport. A successful transport system encouraged and enabled more people to walk and cycle more often. However, this could only happen by improving the experience on local streets.
2. Clean air - improving this produced benefits for everyone in the borough, including reducing unfair health inequalities. In Haringey, 53% of residents did not own a car and the borough was the 6th most deprived in London, leading the presenter to ascertain that a significant number of people did not own a car.

Deborah Willemen quoted the Chief Medical officer's recent statement that pollution causes more harm to children in socially deprived groups. The presenter asserted that in Haringey, every diesel car moving down the road caused the NHS £8000 a year on dealing with health issues of residents. It was important to recognise this inequality and act on this now.

The presenter felt that Council did not fully understand this issue as had recently provided free parking to shops in an area, when data showed that people walking to, and cycling to local shops, spend more money than those driving in.

The presenter wanted to see fuller implementation of *school streets*, which was a scheme whereby the schools were closed off to traffic at drop off and pick up times with restrictions to parking around surrounding roads.

The presenter proposed more visible improvements to road layouts, the addition of fully protected raised cycle lanes, a system of filtered traffic and pedestrianisation of many streets. It was vital to put children and people's freedom first by implementing visible solutions immediately.

Presenter 2

Catherine Kenyon spoke as a parent of two children living in south Tottenham, and believed that air pollution was one of the biggest social issues facing the borough, affecting all residents and for a lifetime. She highlighted the following issues:

- Toxic air pollution contributed to 9500 early deaths, a year, in London. It had links to strokes, heart attacks, and dementia.
- This issue also meant that children living in the borough would grow up with smaller lungs than children living in less polluted areas.
- It was felt that local authorities had facilitated streets dominated by cars, with too many short distance car journeys taking place and increased cars driving through the borough to reach destinations outside of the borough borders.
- The presenter would often wade through traffic, at a standstill, seeing people waiting in cars to get home in unhealthy environment. Population increase was only set to make congestion worse in London.

- There was an inactivity crisis by made worse by use of cars. Nearly two thirds of adults in the borough were overweight or obese. Currently the Streets of the borough were felt to be a conveyer belt for asthma and type two diabetes.
- Catherine supported the Mayor's strategy, which was fundamentally about changing the way people move around London, re-introducing active travel for shorter journeys, by either walking or cycling to tackle pollution and improve our health.
- Travelling by bike also could offer an affordable option for low-income families.
- Enable more walking and cycling with changes that are more fundamental to our roads and streets.
- Need a network of safe cycle tracks connecting low traffic neighbourhoods across the borough.
- Specific routes were needed to take people to schools, high streets and other public amenities.
- In addition, it would be important to ensure that cars or electric point charges did not block pavements to promote walking.

Catherine felt Haringey was falling behind neighbouring boroughs on this issue and provided Waltham Forest Council as an example of how to improve walking and cycling and due to its bold policies to tackle inactivity. As a result, children in Waltham Forest now had a higher life expectancy than children in Haringey.

People wanted the Council to make changes to enable more cycling and walking in the borough and to reduce air pollution on the streets.

The presenter concluded by expressing her awareness that the Council was facing funding cuts. However, TFL had funding for the council to access to support this work and there needed to be bravery and will to change Haringey of the better.

Presenter 3

Andrea Lee echoed the previous speaker's statements and spoke about the three occasions where UK courts had reported on the government's legal duty to protect people from illegal levels of air pollution. The government had chosen to pass this responsibility to local authorities and so whilst this approach was unfair; all areas of government had a role to play in improving air quality.

The previous threat of severe fines to the UK government, from the EU, for air pollution infringement was not clear given the current brexit situation. However, as outlined above, this situation had demonstrated the willingness of the government to pass fines for air pollution onto local authorities. Therefore, it was also prudent from a strategic and budgetary position to take forward significant actions to tackle air pollution.

Andrea Lee commented that since the London Mayor had been in place, there had been significant changes to tackling air pollution, which were welcomed. Although, there was a need to see more activity coupled with fewer vehicles on the road to make a difference.

Greater London Councils would benefit from the expanded ULEZ and the presenter concluded by urging the Council to listen to residents and set consistent policies, setting a vision for London as a local authority.

In the debate, the following issues were raised:

The number of deaths from pollution in London were highlighted and it was questioned how much worse this situation needed to get to necessitate urgent action. Cllr Chenot referred to a survey of pollution levels that breach the EU limits. Pollution hotspots were noted in Tottenham High Road and Muswell Hill roundabout with some of the worse hotspots close to schools. A school in Tottenham was found to be 1.5 times over the legal limit for air pollution. Cllr Chenot emphasised the collective responsibility for this issue, as Councillors, there was a duty to encourage more schools to work with the Council to set up more school streets, more no idling zones. There was a further need to: increase electric charging points, make it easier to choose public transport and protect green open spaces. Climate change was the key issue and trees had an important role to play in reducing harmful air pollutants. Pinkham Way was outlined as an example of a green SINC site, which supported reducing air pollution, yet was included in North London Waste Plan as a potential waste site. Cllr Chenot spoke of the vital need to plant more trees in the borough and proposed setting up a bi partisan group to tackle local green issues.

Client Earth had challenged the government three times with success and ensured court oversight of the air pollution levels. They were commended for demonstrating their duty to residents and making this a national and local issue. The Clean Air Act and the conditions in London that led to this were outlined by Cllr Brabazon. She commented that the main difference between current air pollution levels and the smog of the 60's and 70's was not being able to see the pollution. Cllr Brabazon referred to two schools in Tottenham that encounter the worst air pollution. It was clear that as a Council, Councillors must take this issue seriously, at the centre of policymaking. This was a big issue highlighted in the fairness commission, which would be explored as life chances were affected by health inequality.

Cllr Cawley – Harrison spoke about air pollution being the biggest threat to public health, for all age groups in the borough. A number of serious health conditions were highlighted as being closely connected with air pollution. Nitrogen dioxide emissions caused around 23500 early deaths, every year, 9,500 in London. The priority action was to remove cars from the roads. Electric vehicles were welcomed but not the solution. The Royal College of Physicians reported that the cost of air pollution was 20 billion pounds a year in the UK. In Haringey, each vehicle costs £8000 to the NHS over its lifetime. This demonstrated the need to have an urgent shift from being a car first Council and providing active travel solutions instead of road improvement measures. There was 40 % more spent more in high streets when traveling by cycling or by walking. Cllr Cawley- Harrison underlined the need to have bolder actions with

no idling zones near schools, care homes and leisure centres. This included closing streets outside schools and creating travel zones. It was vital to design roads for safety and provide segregated roads for cyclists. Potential savings were further highlighted from reducing urban car journeys, by walking and Cllr Cawley- Harrison concluded by urging the Cabinet Member to improve the air by removing cars from Haringey roads.

Combating air pollution should be at the heart of the Council's actions, children were living in areas where there was high particulate matter. This was not just a Haringey issue and this was a crisis point for air quality. Cllr Gordon referred to the previous London Mayor's actions as not transparent on air pollution levels near schools. She welcomed increasing the ULEZ zone further out to the north circular. There was a need to make significant improvements, and put air quality at the centre of all Council policymaking, ensuring that children do not grow up with lung conditions.

Cllr Palmer, referred to some personal accounts from constituents about their concerns on air pollution and how it was significantly affecting their children's health. They felt that they had no control over these circumstances that they were living in. Schools regularly reported high levels of pollution outside their premises. No idling zones were an initiative other boroughs have already adopted with much success. A GLA quality audit 14 % of school staff and 29% of parents drove to her son's local school. This was completely above average and junctions around schools was chaotic. The School had observed that there was a fear for personal safety and the local environment was stopping parents and staff from walking to the school. Lordship Lane School had been selected to trial the school no idling zone. However, she felt that the Council should be doing more as all children deserved to be breathing clear air. There were basic things that the Council could be doing to encourage walking and cycling. The no idling barriers would be a big challenge at some schools. However, by keeping areas cleaner, improving road infrastructure to facilitate walking and cycling together with enforcing speed restrictions and penalties for parking on double yellow lines then a culture for no idling zones could be more successful.

Cllr Moyeed, thanked guest speakers. All that had been said resonated with Councillors. He noted that 10,000 people a year in London died due to poor air quality. If these figures were projected to Noel Park ward, this equated to 16 deaths each year that could be prevented. In some worst affected areas of London, poor air quality was increasing heart and lung disease and asthma, leading to children growing up with stunted lungs. Cllr Moyeed noted that the Mayor was taking bold actions to tackle air pollution and traffic emissions and had already introduced T charge and the ULEZ charge would start in April, in central London. This was in addition to the congestion charge. The action of the London Mayor was crucial and welcomed.

Cllr Hearn responded to the debate, thanking the contributors, and was pleased that this topic had been discussed. She was happy to increase the focus on this issue. Cllr Hearn expressed that pollution affects children more than any other group. However, pollution had also reduced life expectancy and ability to live a happy and free life. Therefore, this was a human rights issue. The Cabinet Member was in favour of car free zones around schools and was beginning a programme healthy schools and healthy streets. Three schools in Tottenham selected by the Mayor to take part in this

programme as they had particular bad air quality around them. It was important to use enforcement to stop idling. Transport was the main cause of air pollution, and Cllr Hearn spoke about the measures to encourage electric car use. There was no reason to drive in London, unless an access issue.

The Cabinet Member for Environment had been proud to be part of the decision making to bring a low floor fleet of busses to London when a GLA board member, and had been glad to be part of the accessible transport initiative. The Cabinet Member outlined that she was planning more cycling paths in the borough so that people could move speedily swiftly and safely. The Liveable Crouch End project, funded by Mayor of London, would bring more freedom to residents by changing the street environment and promoting less car use. The Cabinet Member for Environment encouraged involvement in this initiative from local people.

Air pollution was a significant factor in global warming and another reason to act now. As an activist, the Cabinet Member for Environment welcomed the speeches and offered a meeting with the presenters to discuss their proposed ideas further. Early next year, the Council were launching the air quality action plan and the Cabinet Member welcomed comments on these issues.

The Cabinet Member concluded by inviting all Councillors to work together to make the borough a clean and beautiful air quality borough to live in.

Cllr Emery closed the debate by highlighting the issues raised in the debate about:

- safe streets,
- the fundamental issue of building a city around cars which showed how a culture shift was needed,
- being honest about the issues affecting local people not walking or cycling to schools ,
- having no idle zones near schools and care homes,
- need to look further into the future and beyond electric cars,
- need a second clean air act,
- and welcomed the commitment to enforcing no idling zone.

Councillor Emery referred to the Head of NHS, who stated that the Mayor of London should be doing more to reduce pollution and reflected that great changes can only happen when actions taken at local, national and personal levels.

Cllr Emery thanked the Muswell Hill Sustainable Group who had been instrumental in the big changes across the borough such as the initiative to allow businesses to purchase solar panels. Cllr Emery hoped that this was not the end of this issue, as although only a debate at this stage, it was time to be bold and lead from the front on tackling air pollution.

The Mayor thanked all participants in this informative and good debate.

19. 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.

Cllr Cawley – Harrison asked a supplementary question about Finsbury Park events. In reference to the amount of revenue generated from Park events which was ring-fenced for spending on the Parks - how much from events has been spent on Parks in Haringey? Cllr Hearn agreed to provide a written response.

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

Cllr James introduced the motion on Council's reaching breaking point. This was not just a Haringey issue but an issue for all local authorities, across the country. Cllr James expressed that this had been started by the coalition government's austerity agenda and resulted in a 60% reduction in local government funding. Of all the government's cuts, over half have fallen to local government and to recipients of benefits. When these two issues were considered together, it was apparent the impact this had had on the poor, frail elderly, disabled and anyone who needed to use social services.

Cllr James outlined that the burden of the cuts had hit the poor twice as hard as those on average incomes. She continued to outline that disabled people on low incomes had been affected four times as hard, and people using social care services have been affected 6 times as hard. In Haringey, the levels of personal debt were rising, regular use of food banks, increase in street homelessness, 11000 on housing waiting list, and the problems with gangs and violence. The Fairness Commission was already hearing first hand evidence of the impact of austerity on people's daily lives.

Cllr James referred to the recent UN report on human rights, which concluded that central government policies had inflicted misery on the working poor and children locked into poverty. Cllr James emphasised that there needed to be an active campaign against these cuts and local government could not be silent on this issue and must take opportunity to inform the public of the devastating effects of the costs. She invited the Council and Council colleagues to challenge and expose these deep injustices through an active campaign and with the mobilisation of the local community to fight these conservative government cuts

In conclusion, the UN report had stated that, in their view, poverty was a political choice in the UK and austerity could have spared the poor if the political will had been there. Cllr James contended that resources were available to the treasury at the last budget that could have transformed the situation of the poor. Instead, the choice was made to make tax cuts to the wealthy. Haringey was one of the most deprived boroughs in the UK and stood by the poorest residents, and would take the lead in campaigning against the cuts.

The Mayor had received an amendment to the motion. Cllr Dixon introduced the amendment, stating that the Liberal Democrat Group supported the spirit of the motion, but believed a clear consideration of the impact brexit was needed as this was already having an impact on local government finance. Cllr Dixon was clear that to end austerity, there was a need to end brexit.

There was a need to be confident that the Council could deliver on the investment in public services and reverse the cuts to provide an economy that was growing and resilient. Cllr Dixon stated that brexit made this a difficult prospect, there was money already lost to the economy through the prospect of brexit and economic conditions were set to worsen with or without any brexit deal. Cllr Dixon continued to set out the following conditions required to support residents in the borough:

Growth in tax receipts should not be off limits, the position of the Labour party was unclear on this, as recently the shadow chancellor had agreed with the tax proposals of the government.

- To end austerity, there was a need to challenge the consensus view on cutting taxation; the Liberal Democrats had proposed a 1% increase on income tax to support the NHS.
- Austerity would not end until there was an end to the costs to local government, all parties had fed into the narrative and there was a need for a new direction, pursuing a hard brexit was a political choice, and pursuing this would have the same impact of austerity.

In seconding the amendment, Cllr Dennison supported more funding for local Councils, and would rather debate what the local Council was in charge of, can deliver, and choose to provide to residents. Whilst in agreement with the spirit of the motion, in Cllr Dennison's view, it did not refer to the long running need for change to the political party administration of the borough which had not made changes when there was more funding available in previous years. Examples of decision making on adult's services day care centres and other decisions such as re-branding of the Council were referred to.

Councillor Dennison spoke of the Liberal Democrat support for more funding of local Councils and they supported the principles of the breaking point campaign but the question was learning from previous mistakes and understanding more about the impact of brexit.

In the debate, the following issues were raised:

Cllr Stone spoke about the growth in the number of children living in poverty up to 4.1m. The cuts had caused damage to local communities, particularly in Tottenham. Cllr Stone spoke about the impact of Schools funding cuts on children and services that the Council provide. Schools were at the heart of community and frontline to the impact of austerity. Schools were making choices such as cutting back on staff or forgoing on repairs. As poverty grew, schools have had to do more with less. Cllr Stone concluded by stating there had to be a dramatic change in funding for schools and local Councils to have a fair society.

Cllr Palmer spoke about the previous Labour party government's economy being fuelled on debt, and few accepting accountability for previous decisions, with no ownership of decisions. She felt that there had been no real changes in Haringey over the years. For example, there had not been the increases in social housing before the funding reductions. Cllr Palmer stated that brexit would have an overwhelming impact on delivering on manifesto commitments. The priority had to be to provide services that the local people need and not focusing on blaming previous decision makers.

Cllr Ahmet spoke on the underfunding of Children's services and Adult services and how this was set to worsen by 2025. She had witnessed the year on year cuts to funding. It was not possible, to not feel the impact of a 40% reduction of budget. She emphasised, the previous collation government's role in this. Cllr Ahmet continued to outline that despite impact of the cuts, the Council wanted to do its best to protect those that need it the most. She outlined the current achievements of the administration, adding that austerity was a political choice and this needed to end.

Cllr Ross referred to the recent report of think tank, 'Britain in a changing Europe' that considered the economic impact of brexit, and was based on work by the LSE and institute for fiscal studies. Cllr Ross highlighted that a shrinking economy was unlikely to assist public services with obtaining additional funding. The report outlined the economic impact of brexit; if there was a no deal, than by 2030, UK economy would be 9% smaller. The report advised that the current withdrawal agreement would make the economy 5% smaller. Putting these figures into context, in 2008 with the financial crisis, the economy shrank by 6%. Therefore, even leaving with a deal created damage similar to this recession. Under this scenario - government would have to raise taxes by 5% GDP to find money to avoid even more austerity. Cllr Ross referred to the current Labour position on brexit, which in his view, was similar to the government's propped deal. He felt that if better-funded public services were wanted then there needed to be an exit from brexit.

Cllr Culverwell spoke about the immigration impact fund, which had been stopped in favour of controlled immigration and inevitably starved local authorities of local support and financial assistance. Cllr Culverwell spoke about austerity effect on budgets and key services that help and protect the most vulnerable.

Councillor Moyeed, spoke in favour of the original motion and advised that the discourse on austerity had been changed by the Labour party Leader. He felt that austerity was a political choice and driven by ideological remit. Councils were facing deepest cuts in history and excellent services and cannot be achieved on current funding levels.

Cllr Mark Blake spoke of the daily impact of austerity and rise in serious violence. In May, the police commissioner stated that the rise in crime was due to reduced police funding. Beyond policing, the impact of the 75% cut of youth service budget in 2011 was evident and had been driven by political theme of austerity. In his view, this had led to brexit, but austerity had also led to this division.

The Leader of the Council responded to the debate. He felt that the key issue of local government finance was not addressed in the amendment nor the damage to the local

authority's role in serving the community caused by the cuts, affecting relationships between the Council and its residents. In the Leader's view, including the issue of Brexit was a distraction. There were actions in the past of both political parties that were not to be proud of and could not be taken full responsibility for by members of both parties. The Leader expressed that Councillors could not absolve themselves of responsibility for these current issues. Councils had to work together to oppose austerity and talk to people on the front bench and have the clear message that austerity had to end.

Following a vote on the amendment, this was lost.

The original motion was voted on and agreed unanimously.

Motion E

Councils at Breaking Point

This Council notes that many Council budgets are now at Breaking Point. Austerity, implemented by the Conservative and Liberal Democrats, when in Government, has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries, children's centres and schools;

- Tory cuts mean Councils have lost 60p out of every £1 that the last Labour Government was spending on local government in 2010;
- Councils had to spend an extra £800m last year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children;
- With an aging population and growing demand adult social care faces a gap of £3.5 billion – with only 14% of Council workers now confident that vulnerable local residents are safe and cared for
- Government cuts have seen over 500 children's centres and 475 libraries close, potholes are left unfilled, and 80% of Council workers now say have no confidence in the future of local services;
- By 2020, all of Haringey's 69 schools will have faced cuts with a net loss of £346 per pupil
- Northamptonshire has already gone bust due to Tory incompetence at both national and local level, and more Councils are predicted to collapse without immediate emergency funding
- Councils now face a further funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 just to keep services 'standing still' and meeting additional demand. Even [Lord Gary Porter](#), the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association, has said 'Councils can no longer be expected to run our vital local services on a shoestring'
- To stop planned further cuts to local authorities, the Chancellor needs to find an additional £1.3bn next year.

This Council condemns Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss for stating on BBC Newsnight on 1st October 2018 that the government is “not making cuts to local authorities”, when all independent assessments of government spending show that this is entirely false; and that this Council further notes that Prime Minister Theresa May has also claimed that “austerity is over” despite planning a further £1.3bn of cuts to Council budgets over the next year;

This Council believes that there should be increased freedoms for Councils based on recognition that Councils are democratic, transparent, and accountable, and that Councillors can be trusted not to overstep the boundaries of acceptability set by regular interactions with the ballot box. This should include immediate abolition of the Council tax referendum limit, increased powers to levy higher Council tax on empty homes, and the ability to look at local taxes such as land value tax, tourism tax, and possibly even local retention of a portion of income tax;

This Council agrees with the aims of the ‘Breaking Point’ petition signed by labour Councillors across the country, in calling for the Prime Minister and Chancellor to truly end austerity in local government by:

- Using the Budget to reverse next years planned £1.3bn cut to Council budgets;
- Immediately investing £2bn in children’s services and £2bn in adult social care to stop these vital emergency services from collapsing;
- Pledging to use the Spending Review to restore Council funding to 2010 levels over the next four years

This Council resolves to

- Support the ‘Breaking Point’ campaign, recognising the devastating impact that austerity has had on our local community
- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by our local Council, and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in local government

Given the time, remaining it was agreed to forgo the debate for the second motion.

Cllr Ogiehor, in moving the motion, recognised and applauded the work of ‘Haringey welcome’ a group of local campaigners, which advocated the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with no recourse to public funds. Their achievements, including getting the Council to commit to taking 10 asylum-seeking families was commended. Cllr Ogiehor shared a personal experience of meeting an asylum seeker at one of the group’s events and hearing how long she had had to wait to achieve status in the country and the impact this had had on her mental health.

She reiterated that Haringey would not be Haringey without migrants and migrants making Haringey their home from across the world had shaped the borough. Despite this, migrants were still suffering. There were some national policies which the Council

could not change. However, 'Haringey welcome' had identified the steps that the Council can take to support migrants and the motion included this information. The 'connected to communities' initiative was an important step in better integration and inclusion and will help the most vulnerable in society to get the support they need from a complex benefit system. This would also send a powerful message that migrants must be treated with dignity and respect. Adopting a welcome strategy further ensured that the Council considers the impact of decisions on migrants and refugees before taking them, avoiding a repeat of the situation where the resettlement scheme was bought in – house without consulting users.

Cllr Ogiehor had hoped to put this motion forward as a cross party motion, and questioned the need to the Labour party endorsing itself in the amended motion put forward. Nonetheless, she would support the motion with the amendment, as this issue was greater than party politics. She concluded by highlighting the significant contribution of migrants to the borough and local economy and how they improve London both culturally and economically.

Cllr Barnes seconded the motion, describing her personal experience at the 'Haringey welcome' event and spoke further of her personal experience of racism whilst abroad studying and working. Immigration was a good thing and it was important to show support for Haringey welcome and the work they are doing and have completed.

An amendment to the motion had been received, from Councillor Chiriyankandath, and he spoke as a commonwealth citizen and experience of being a migrant. He further spoke about the generation of migrants which had made a huge contribution, and which the country has benefited from. He expressed that the Labour party has been internationalist over the century, and the amendment acknowledges the work of the two local MP's who had been at the forefront of opposition to the hostile environment created for refugees and migrants. Many Labour Councillors had engaged with 'Haringey Welcome' and he looked forward to working with them for working to support migrants. In Haringey, far right views would be challenged and the Council would continue to promote diversity. Haringey continued to be a welcoming borough and so all those who seek refuge can find it.

Cllr Gunes seconded the motion and formally moved the amendment.

There was a vote on the amendment to the motion, which was carried.

There was a vote on the amended motion, which was unanimously agreed.

Motion F

A welcoming borough:

Background:

Haringey is one of the most diverse boroughs in London, with a long and proud tradition of welcoming refugees and migrants, many of whom have made a considerable contribution to our society.

The Coalition and successive Conservative Governments' 'Hostile Environment' immigration policy has led to a rise in the number of injustices and severe hardships experienced by many of Haringey's most vulnerable residents, including the Windrush

generation and their descendants, families with no recourse to public funds, people seeking asylum, EU migrants, and under-documented or undocumented migrants. Both of Haringey's Members of Parliament, Catherine West MP and David Lammy MP, have consistently worked to oppose the 'Hostile Environment' policies and to promote the equal treatment of migrants in the UK.

The Council believes:

- That all residents, including those who have lived long-term in the borough as well as newly arrived immigrants, should be treated with dignity and respect.
- That welcome, not hostility, should be the spirit driving the Council's approach to service delivery and to working with all residents, particularly vulnerable refugees and migrants.
- That the debate on immigration should be conducted with care for the dignity of people who are vulnerable, who do not have a voice in the public domain and who have to suffer the consequences of inaccurate and inflammatory language.
- That everybody should be treated justly and fairly and not forced into destitution or left without basic protections.
- That together with local civil society we must ensure that good processes are in place to enable integration and inclusion, so that Haringey is a truly welcoming borough to all its residents.
- That 'Hostile Environment' policies are unjust and have no place in our society.

The Council resolves:

- That the beliefs listed above should guide the Council's interactions with refugees and migrants
- To do all in its power to protect the vulnerable from destitution and to prevent extreme hardship
- To write to both of Haringey's Members of Parliament to thank them for their work on opposing the 'Hostile Environment' immigration policies as pursued by the Coalition and successive Conservative Governments.
- To immediately undertake a comprehensive audit of its relationship with the Home Office and immigration enforcement, and an assessment of its current practices and the impact of the Hostile Environment policy on inclusion, equality and cohesion in the borough
- To prioritise welcome, integration and inclusion within the forthcoming Borough Plan
- To work with other local authorities to make regular representations to the Government demanding that they end the 'Hostile Environment'
- In the coming months to develop and implement a 'Welcome Strategy' detailing policy and practice guidelines to ensure best practice in integration and inclusion within the borough and protection and support for Haringey residents targeted by the 'Hostile Environment' policy.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date