

# **MINUTES OF MEETING FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 15TH JULY, 2019, 7.30PM**

## **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Sheila Peacock, Dana Carlin, Gina Adamou, Charles Adje, Peray Ahmet, Kaushika Amin, Dawn Barnes, Dhiren Basu, Patrick Berryman, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Mark Blake, Zena Brabazon, Gideon Bull, Nick da Costa, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Sakina Chenot, James Chiriyankandath, Pippa Connor, Eldridge Culverwell, Julie Davies, Mahir Demir, Paul Dennison, Isidoros Diakides, Josh Dixon, Joseph Ejiofor, Scott Emery, Ruth Gordon, Makbule Gunes, Mike Hakata, Bob Hare, Kirsten Hearn, Emine Ibrahim, Sarah James, Adam Jogee, Peter Mitchell, Liz Morris, Khaled Moyeed, Lucia das Neves, Felicia Opoku, Julia Ogiehor Tammy Palmer, Reg Rice, Viv Ross, Alessandra Rossetti, Yvonne Say, Anne Stennett, Daniel Stone, Preston Tabois, Elin Weston, Noah Tucker, Sarah Williams and Matt White**

## **18. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Mayor drew attendees' attention to the notice on the summons regarding filming at meetings. The Mayor advised that the deputation party did not want to be filmed whilst speaking but had agreed to have their voices recorded. The Mayor had agreed to respect their right not to be on camera and asked attendees to refrain from filming the deputation party.

## **19. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Carroll  
Councillor Hinchcliffe  
Councillor Amin  
Councillor Dogan

## **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 Chief Executive reported that there were 2 late items of business, which could not be available earlier, and which would need to be dealt with at this meeting.

Item 10c– this report was late in order to allow finalisation of the report and legal comments to be added.

Item 12- Questions and Written Answers - The reason for lateness was due to notice of questions not being 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.

**21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest of submitted.

**22. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20 MAY 2019**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the 20 May 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

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

The Mayors communications were printed and the Mayor highlighted that this was an extract of events attended by herself and the deputy mayor and there were many more events attended that were not included. The Mayor was happy to discuss details of the events attended and the organisations visited to interested Councillors.

The Mayor called on Cllr Mark Blake and Cllr Morris who would be speaking on the Council's in tolerance of racism, following the recent appalling incident of racial abuse experienced by Cllr Ogiehor.

Cllr Blake described the incident, highlighting the boldness of the racist attitude of the abusers and the vicious nature of language which was built on racist assumptions that a person of an ethnic minority was less than a citizen of the country. Cllr Blake spoke of the Council's full support to Cllr Ogiehor and had offered to help in any way with the Transport Police investigations. He underlined that Haringey does not tolerate racism and discrimination and is an open and diverse borough. The Council would work proactively to keep it this way.

Cllr Blake referred to the picture of incident on twitter had helped identify perpetrators and, on this occasion, showed how social media could be used in a positive way to support a Police investigation.

Cllr Morris, echoed all Councillors feelings that this was a vile racist attack, and also commented on the shock around the boldness of this action, in a public place with witnesses. Cllr Morris referred to the context of the crime where even in a diverse city such as London, hate was on display. Cllr Ogiehor had spoken to Cllr Morris about her regular experiences of racist abuse which was common feature of the daily lives of

people of colour she knew and was getting worse, inevitably impacting on the confidence felt in public places.

Cllr Morris praised the two fellow passengers on the train that had stepped in and called for colleagues to aim to be that person and speak up when someone was being racially abused. It was also important to encourage and support people to report racist attacks so the full scale of the hate crime problem could be known.

Cllr Morris emphasised that, as politicians, it was important to make a strong stand against racism, bigotry and she was proud of the Council's adoption of IRHA definition of antisemitism and APPG definition of islamophobia. The Liberal Democratic group were also demonstrating their support to LGBT+ inclusive education in the borough, through the later motion on the Council agenda, which she hoped would be supported by Labour colleagues.

The Mayor reported on the sad passing of Heather Thorpe who had been a Haringey Councillor between 1984 and 1986. The Mayor also asked people to stand for one minute for Councillor Meehan and Heather Thorpe.

[A one minute's silence was observed]

#### **24. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **RESOLVED**

To note the changes to the Member appointments of the North London Waste Authority and Create taken as an urgent decision between Council meetings. This was set out on pages 13 to 15 of the agenda pack.

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

##### **RESOLVED**

To note the summary of the minor changes to the Constitution which were set out in pages 17 to 18 of the Full Council agenda pack and have been taken in accordance with in part 2 article 14.03 and referenced in paragraph 1 of the report.

Members could also consider the detail of the changes which is set out from pages 21 to 154.

#### **26. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS AND/OR PETITIONS AND, IF APPROVED, TO RECEIVE THEM**

The Mayor had accepted one deputation for the meeting from the Haringey Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Group (HGTLG) supported by London Gypsies and Travellers

The Haringey Travellers group felt that their needs had been ignored for far too long. Some of them lived on one of the two Travellers sites, Clyde Road. Others lived in bricks and mortar homes but wanted to live on a site. However, there are only 10

pitches in the borough and there were estimated to be 405 travellers living in housing according to the last Needs Assessment, which was in 2008. The Haringey travellers group did not know exactly how many Gypsies and Travellers needed pitches as the Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment that was completed in 2015 was never published. The Group requested information on the reason for non-publication.

The deputation advised that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 a Planning Policy Officer told a member of staff in London Gypsies and Travellers that there was a need for 11 to 18 new pitches. However, none of these has been built.

The deputation spoke about one site that was identified for new pitches, in 2017, in the Site Allocations Local Plan. This was the Vale Road/Evade Road but no pitches have been built here and the deputation asked the Full Council meeting to provide the reasons for this.

The Haringey Travellers group had been told that the Planning Department has discussed possible new sites for them and the group wanted to know their locations.

The deputation advised that two Travellers sites have fallen into disrepair. There had been no refurbishment or sufficient repair work done for 30 years. The two staff in the Travelling Peoples Team had passed away last year and as far as they were aware, they have not been replaced. The deputation speculated that that the posts either were deleted or are just vacant. However, there is no one in the Council to look after the Haringey Traveller's needs.

The deputation felt that that their whole community had been neglected. The deputation asked to be consulted on the structure of the travellers People's team and the job descriptions of new posts replacing those that had been lost.

The deputation spoke about the Council Car Parks next to the two Travellers sites, Clyde Road and Wallman Place. Both car parks were development sites and the Council already wanted to develop them. The deputation asked for these Travellers sites to be instead expanded into the car parks, to help ease the overcrowding.

The deputation were aware that there were many Council owned parcels of land that were identified for development. They felt that some of this should be for Council housing, and where new Council homes are built and Travellers pitches could be part of that development. The deputation had identified some within the Site Allocations Local Plan that could become Travellers sites and sought dialogue with the Council about developing these sites.

The deputation noted that the GLA was keen to fund refurbishment of existing Travellers sites and extensions to these sites. The GLA was also keen to fund new sites. This required match funding and an application from the Council. The deputation wanted to see progress on agreeing capital funding for this work.

The deputation contended that it was unacceptable for there to no policy for allocating Travellers pitches in Haringey. A new policy should be a priority so that when new pitches are built there is a fair allocations process. London Gypsies and Travellers unit had offered to advice on the consultation needed and the shape of a new policy. They

had experience in helping Hackney to introduce a fair policy. The deputation asked the Council to make use of that experience.

The Haringey Travellers and Gypsy group have already started discussions with Councillors and Council Officers, and so far, £200k has been identified to address historic disrepair, with a further £100k in the following year. The group were grateful for this money but it was only offered in response to our complaint and this position should not have been reached. The deputation advised that the gypsy and traveller community should already have had access to the same resources available to those in other types of Council housing.

The deputation had the following questions for councillors and officers to consider and respond to after the meeting.

Providing a strategy and timeline for the following?

1. Repair and refurbish existing Travellers' sites to disability accessible standards including redeveloping amenity blocks and expanding existing pitches
2. A Travelling Peoples Team structure or two FTE posts within Housing to manage the sites and Travellers' issues
3. New sites to deal with the estimated assessed need of 405 housed Travellers, including the Vale/Eade Road site, which is already identified for Travellers in Site Allocations 2017
4. Expanding the existing Travellers' sites into the Civic Centre Car Park and the Lawrence Road Car Park, which are development sites within the Council's ownership
5. Agreeing match funding with the GLA for the refurbishment and extension of the existing Travellers' sites and the provision of new sites.
6. Consulting on and adopt a pitch allocations policy.

In response to questions from Councillor Dennison, Ogiehor, Rice, Palmer, da Costa, Barnes, the deputation party provided the following responses:

There was land in St Ann's road that had been looked at and in West Green Road as possible locations by the Haringey Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Group. There were about eight more sites that the Haringey group has not yet visited.

In response to issues raised in May when meeting with officers, there had been a meeting with Councillors regarding the Clyde road site and the Wallman place site and the group were currently awaiting a date for a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal to discuss all the issues and explore further the question of new sites and the question of expanding existing sites. Some of the officers present at these meetings had identified £200k in the HRA for the two existing sites this year and the group were asking for the urgent refurbishment works to start straight away.

Tanya Murat, Community Development Worker, London Gypsies & Travellers, supporting the deputation, advised the meeting that a member of her staff was herself, a Hackney traveller, and was happy to meet with Councillors to discuss the good work in Hackney, in terms of new sites identified and the upkeep of existing sites. She could

also share good practice on that fact that Hackney have an officer assigned to working with the Gypsy and Traveller community.

The Council had not published the Haringey Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment completed in 2015 and had provided no reasons for this to the Group.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal provided the following information in response to the deputation on behalf of her portfolio area for housing and for the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability, whose responsibility included planning and allocation of sites.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal was aware of a Traveller and Gypsy Needs Assessment completed in 2017 and was not aware of any prior work completed in 2015, and agreed to look into this with officers and check if there was original documentation on this.

Commenting on the 2017 Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment, this was also not published, for the reason that the Planning Inspector' report on final adoption of the London Plan was awaited. The Community Development Worker, London Gypsies & Travellers, through her work with the GLA, would be aware that the Council were in discussion with the GLA around the timeframe for this report.

The Council were starting a Local Plan review in autumn, which included a review of the allocated sites and would be taking forward the issues raised in the letter and deputation from the Haringey Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Group. The Cabinet Member and her colleague, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability, was in discussion with ward Councillors, in particular on the sites on Clyde road and Vale road and were advocating a holistic approach when allocating sites to meet the needs of communities in the borough. The Cabinet Member was pleased to note that a representative of the London Gypsy and travellers unit had met with Cllr Mark Blake on the wider issues faced by the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

It was noted that a full response would be provided to the issues raised in the deputation and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal and her Cabinet colleague for Climate Change and Sustainability were looking forward to meeting with the group. There would be ongoing dialogue with GLA on this issue. Housing was one of the most important issues facing the Council, it had made a huge commitment to tackle this across to the borough, and this included meeting the needs of multiple communities.

The Mayor thanked the deputation for attending.

## **27. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES**

The Full Council meeting continued to consider reports from the following bodies:

- a) The Cabinet
- b) Overview and Scrutiny
- c) Standards Committee

## **28. ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY**

In moving the report and its recommendations, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Equalities highlighted the collective partnership and local community for taking forward and achieving the priorities of the Community Safety Strategy. Therefore, compiling the strategy had been a lengthy consultation process to support this, undertaken through the local partnership of the police, schools, and health.

The priorities of the strategy were outlined with particular attention drawn to the priority on tackling serious youth violence. This was an area of focus, which dominated the current local and regional agenda. The Cabinet Member also expressed the need for the Council, partners and local community creating an atmosphere for young women to report sexual offences as the record in this area was not good and needed improvement. There was further focus in the strategy on changing attitudes on this issue of young men, and this was linked to the social education agenda in schools.

The Cabinet Member spoke about the importance of all the Council's strategies linking to the young person at risk strategy to ensure a holistic approach to tackling the priority on serious youth violence and he also referred to new initiative of the Council and partners meeting with links in local areas in order to develop and building the bridges to work more closely with the community.

### **RESOLVED**

To approve the Community Safety Strategy 2019-23 attached at Appendix 2, having regard to the Community Safety Strategy Equality Impact Assessment at Appendix 3.

#### **(a) Annual report from Overview and Scrutiny**

In moving, the report and its recommendations the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny thanked residents, local stakeholders and Councillors for engaging in the process, and further thanked outgoing chairs of scrutiny panel's, Cllr Gordon and Demir.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny was proud to have steered a scrutiny programme led by the concerns of residents and community. The Committee had responded to individual issues raised in the scrutiny consultation process and created a regular mailing list for those interested in scrutiny so that they were kept informed of what scrutiny were doing and why.

Details of reviews compiled were outlined as well as the questions that had been put forward on regeneration, housing, and Wards Corner. The Committee had shared responses of Cabinet Member's to scrutiny questions with residents where appropriate and would continue to provide information about key issues the Council were tackling.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny spoke about endeavouring to increase involvement of pre -scrutiny in a collaborative and challenging manner. The Chair also

described the role of scrutiny in live budgeting as important, and the recent example of the Overview and Scrutiny's Committees consideration of the Children's Services savings was referred to.

In closing, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny underlined the challenges facing the local authority in prioritising services and spend with the most impact and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee along with its Panels would continue to champion concerns and questions of the community and further welcomed and invited residents to engage in scrutiny.

## **RESOLVED**

To note the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19.

### **(b) Standards Committee report on Changes to Constitution - Section K**

The Chair of the Standards Committee moved the report and recommendations concerning changes to section K of the Council Constitution which had been forward to the Standards Committee from the Staffing and Remuneration Committee.

## **RESOLVED**

To agree the amendments to Part Four, Section K of the Council's Constitution; Officer Employment Procedure Rules, as set out in Appendix A, subject to the amendment outlined at paragraph 2 of the attached report.

## **29. HARINGEY DEBATE - THE IMPACTS OF AUSTERITY ON COMMUNITIES IN HARINGEY**

The Leader of the Council introduced the debate, which was on the impact of austerity on communities.

The Leader opened the debate, by welcoming the two speakers, Geoffrey Ocen and the Mr Paul Nicolson who would be speaking about the daily impact of austerity on people's lives.

The Leader advocated increasing funding and support to communities to increase productivity rather than reduced funding and cuts in services. He referred to the policies taken forward by the government in the last 9 years which he felt were designed to reduce the efficiency of local government and reduce the welfare state.

The Leader continued to speak about the reduced spending power of the Council and the closure of key services in parks, youth and care homes, day care centres as well as reduced staff to provide services. In addition, there was now an increased number

of residents in temporary accommodation, with more people dealing with in work poverty. He referred to the recent United Nation's report on impact of austerity and the government showing no sign of changing these policies.

The Leader advised that the Council would endeavour to invest in key public services, including: increasing Council homes, making Council tax benefit changes, investing in youth workers.

Geoffrey Ocen, Chief Executive of the Bridge Renewal Trust, addressed the meeting. His organisation was the strategy partner for the voluntary sector, which meant working with Council to make the sector stronger, helping them fundraise more money, and getting people working together in the borough. He highlighted the five areas that his organisation had seen as being affected by austerity.

- Voluntary and community sector – there were 1200 groups in Haringey which were vibrant but also could be better and do more. The main challenge for them was funding with groups in the borough having varied support needs in relation to this. Prior to the austerity agenda, some of the voluntary groups were Council funded and the Bridge Renewal Trust had to work further with these groups and help them leverage funding externally.
- Community buildings - this was a key issue for voluntary sector groups and having affordable accommodation. There was discussion on this to solve this issue and make space more available or shared in an affordable way. There were different ways of doing this and this involved re-thinking how things were done.
- Pleased that Fairness Commission had chosen support for the voluntary sector as an important issue. The community trusted the voluntary sector and want to work with the sector so it needed to be strong
- Housing – voluntary sector groups were reporting on the lack of accommodation and issues with the private sector with HMO's highlighted by clients as an issue. There were homelessness people on streets and families with children needing to access urgent accommodation. There was a need to provide more targeted support to help them in their homeless situation.
- Tackling the fear of crime –It was felt that more could be done on this with voluntary sector groups reporting a need for young people to access mentoring, youth clubs, employment and training.
- Adult social care, cuts - making the delivery of high quality social care difficult and although it was acknowledged that this was not a Council policy to make cuts to the voluntary sector, it was felt that something needed to be done. Similar representations were made in relation to mental health support, which was also a key issue.
- Prevention and early help – residents did want to do things themselves but felt that there needed to be some support when needed of help. For more complex

situations, residents also value multi agency working where their issues can be dealt with in a joined up way.

Reverend Paul Nicolson addressed the Full Council meeting and spoke about the impact of property development on communities and families. The economic conditions of 2010 were referred to with uncontrolled rents of 3 years and deregulation, which he felt had not been countered by successive governments. State provision of housing was advocated as truly affordable homes can and had been built. He spoke about the increased number of homeless families in temporary accommodation or homeless people on the streets. He referred to some families being in emergency accommodation for 2 years and there were no solutions in sight with high rents and low incomes a toxic mixture.

Reverend Nicolson spoke about the 11000 social security claimants in Haringey and government led shredding of claims which was in addition to years of benefit negligence. The lowest levels of JSNA were outlined; contributing to lack of access to healthy diets and basic requirements. Reverend Nicolson quoted academics that had written recently on this issue.

The Mayor invited contributions from Councillors:

Councillor Dixon glad that both parties shared the stance on austerity and he emphasised need for investment and strong public services. He spoke about the difficulty in delivering this, if there was a no deal brexit. He advocated for higher income earners to contribute further and for a reverse to cuts to inheritance, co-operation tax and capital gains tax. This would help middle income earners feel that they were also doing their fair share with any increased tax to pay for excellent public services. There was a united clear message to end austerity and start investing in communities

Cllr Brabazon thanked the speakers for introducing the debate. She spoke about the reality of political decisions and social safety nets being reduced. The results of austerity policies leading to people with no permanent homes and huge increase of children living in poverty. She spoke about all local authorities finding it harder to meet statutory obligations with increasing public sector cuts.

Councillor Morris thanked the speakers and spoke about cuts to public services being too deep and lasting too long. In her view, there would be no relief from austerity until Brexit was stopped. She referred to current issues demonstrating that the UK could be leaving with no deal and this would bring down the UK's national income by 8.7 % over the next decade as estimated by the LSE. This would mean an equivalent of cutting entire revenue budget.

Councillor Chandwani addressed the Council and spoke about the 4000 children exploited and groomed to transport drugs around the country and vulnerable children being targeted, enslaved and under constant threat of violence. She spoke about the effects of cuts to youth services, youth learning and employment services, housing service, and education maintenance allowance. In the country, over 1000 children's centres had closed down and over 800 youth services also closed. In her view,

austerity had removed services that would have protected children from organised crime. She referred to the Mayor of London's published research showing strong links between serious youth violence and deprivation.

Councillors Barnes spoke about the differing effects of austerity, with many people in London one pay packet away from homelessness. She referred to the Council homes at Council rents policy but also needing to build homes, available at affordable rents when the Council was in a better financial position. She referred to the council only building 7 homes in the last 25 years and to bonuses granted previously to Homes for Haringey when homes needed repairs. She advocated learning and planning for future when there was funding available to support households that become most in need.

Cllr Stone spoke on the impact of poverty on children and young people. He referred to unavoidable deaths, and the brutal logic that vulnerable communities, and groups face the more brutal aspects of austerity. He spoke of the state spending to ameliorate big companies who do not pay workers their correct wage. He concluded by highlighting that there was a need to increase spending and reverse the powers of shareholders and reduced their accountability.

Cllr Palmer spoke about supporting communities and making a difference locally. She felt that austerity was not an excuse for poor finances. She advocated nurturing and transforming communities and spending council tax monies appropriately.

Councillor Bull shared his councillor experience of constituents needing to go to food banks, increased access to Tottenham district charity for grants to fund food bills or utilities which was distressing. Cllr Bull spoke about the NHS adult social care integration and also ensuring that housing services and services that support businesses were not competing for land and provision.

Councillor Barbara Blake spoke about the decade of austerity and a devastated society. She spoke about the looming Brexit departure which could suppress growth for years and the need to look beyond Westminster for funding. She highlighted the need to shift responsibilities, drive regeneration, and encourage businesses to relocate to the borough. This would help lead to good quality jobs, skills, and childcare and transport infrastructure to deliver growth and deliver for all residents.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Regeneration responded to the debate thanking the two speakers who outlined the devastating impact of austerity in communities in Haringey and across the country. He thanked Councillors who had used their speeches to highlight the first hand effects of austerity, which had had very real effects. The Cabinet Member spoke about the significant reduction in the council's funding over the last 9 years and that next year the Council would be forced to make a further £15m of cuts. This meant reducing expenditure by £40k per day, every day for that financial year, costs like these meant reductions in non-essential and non-statutory spending. The Cabinet Member outlined that austerity was more than numbers, every pound-spent made a difference to people lives. He referred to a recent trade union survey which revealed 8 in 10 Council workers not having the confidence in the future of local services as a result of ongoing cuts.

The Cabinet Member expressed that the council were trying to make a difference to mitigate against cuts and put economic power to the people through insourcing services to build capacity in the Council. He referred to the Council tax reduction scheme which will save 6000 residents £250 per year. The council would continue to do all it could to oppose cuts and deliver services that were relied upon.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their speeches which were excellent. The Mayor called for a round applause for the speakers.

**30. 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.

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

In introducing the motion, Councillor Cawley- Harrison spoke of the significant tolerant, accepting, progressive changes seen in his lifetime. However, he was disappointed that in recent years he had seen a rise in hate crime, bigotry, and rise in people unwilling to accept people for who they are, can be, who they want to be, and can fall in love with anyone they want to be with. Cllr Cawley – Harrison spoke of being a proud member of the LGBT +community, proud father of a daughter with same sex parents, and being proud to live in Haringey. He spoke about the importance of education so that children were not fearful of being different or being treated differently nor having consequences for their safety as a result of being different.

The rise in hate crime had not been specific in its nature, Cllr Cawley - Harrison spoke about it affecting all protected characteristic groups, and councillors would already be aware of this through their contact with relatives, friends and the cases covered in the media showing all minority communities were affected. However, the hate crime against the LGBT+ community had been particularly pronounced over the past 5 years with homophobic related hate crime doubling and reports of hate crime against the transphobic community trebled. Also, over the last year, over half of cases included violence.

Despite changes in legislation, it was shocking to have seen protests in Birmingham schools against the 'no outsiders' project which was introduced to teach children about the Equalities Act and celebrate diversity and to have seen a high level conservative MP supporting this action . This showed that there was more to do. Councillor Cawley- Harrison expressed that no one is born with prejudices and this was a learned process, and the culture of accepting these prejudices was continuing. Recent news stories demonstrated young people's discriminatory behaviour, highlighting how important it was that children and young people were provided

valuable education about the different kinds of relationships. This was important for society as LGBT+ education was not propaganda but teaching about fantastic individualism in society. It was important for the LGBT+ community to know that key public representatives were standing up as allies, supporters and friends to protect them and in turn teaching diversity in society. The intention should be to create a safer more open space for tolerance and champion the teaching of LGBT+ inclusive curriculum in all schools.

Cllr Chenot seconded the motion; and spoke about the importance of inclusive LGBT+ education in schools. She had witnessed at first hand prevalent homophobic and transphobic bullying and spoke about the need to tackle the negative connotations associated with language to describe homosexuality and how common place this was. She emphasised that this must start early and with the teacher in the classroom rather than bully in the playground. Children needed to learn from a young school age that stigma was wrong, and complacency on this issue could not be afforded. She referred to recent survey of young people which showed that over the 45% LGBT+pupil's had been bullied and 9% of Trans pupils had received death threats. Unless there was a counter narrative from key authorities, children would likely carry these attitudes into adulthood. It was vital that all children feel accepted and understanding diversity helped people understand that LGBT+ people are part of everyday life.

Cllr Brabazon, spoke as the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, expressing full support for the motion, and was proud that society had changed since the 1950's. Schools in Haringey had proud tradition of educating young people inclusively and defied bigotry. She reflected on the 'positive images' initiative taken forward by a local teacher in the 80's and the negative campaigns against the council in this period for taking this forward. The reality in Haringey was that schools are professional, pragmatic, tolerant, and highly successful with differences explored. She spoke about teachers in Haringey being highly trained professionals that deal sensitively and age appropriately with sex and relationship education. The Council had no locus in determining the curriculum but the ethos was there in faculty of schools who were proud of their anti-racist anti-sexist and anti-bigotry culture. This runs thorough as a golden thread through in Council practice and had gone on for many years. Cllr Brabazon highlighted a factual correction to the motion that Mary Busted is a joint secretary of the NEU, which had merged with the ATL.

Cllr Ibrahim spoke about being a student in Haringey in the 1980's and the pioneering work by Cllr Hearn in the Equalities unit at Haringey. She also referred to the significant work of Haringey Black Action for challenging prejudices, acknowledging the work of fellow councillors that were also teaching in schools at the time where Haringey was continually challenged for their teaching practices and had faced the same prejudices that Birmingham school teachers were experiencing. She was clear that through this education she had learnt to respect the local community and the sexual choices of people and overall to value difference. She highly appreciated being taught these values.

Cllr Cawley - Harrison responded, appreciative of the comments and thanked councillors for supporting the motion. He spoke of the need for allies, support, and acceptance for the LGBT+ community and read out a poem on this to demonstrate the

importance of accepting differences and feeling supported to be different in any part of the community, country, village or town.

Following a vote, all councillors voted in favour of the motion.

### Supporting LGBT+ inclusive education

#### Council notes:

1. That under the Equalities Act 2010, Haringey Council has a legal duty to combat discrimination and promote equality.
2. That the Council's Borough Plan 2019-23 establishes the principles that the Council will work *"with residents and employees to create communities which are able to come together, value diversity and challenge discrimination"*.
3. That the number of homophobic hate crimes recorded in Haringey by the Metropolitan Police increased by 24.71% in the 12 months to April 2019 compared to the previous 12 months.<sup>1</sup>
4. That a 2017 report by Stonewall on *LGBT in Britain: Hate Crime and Discrimination* noted that their results were *"particularly alarming"* for trans people and that *"Black, Asian and minority ethnic LGBT people are also disproportionately affected, with a third having experienced a hate crime or incident in the last year compared to one in five white LGBT people"*.<sup>2</sup>
5. That the Department for Education's statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education which are expected to take effect in September 2020 states that *"we expect all pupils to have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum"*. It says that schools should *"ensure that this context is fully integrated into their programme of study for this area of the curriculum rather than delivered as a stand-alone unit or lesson"* and that their teaching should be *"sensitive and age appropriate"*.
6. That the attempts to teach an LGBT+ inclusive curriculum at a number of Birmingham schools have been met with protests. The head teacher of one of the affected schools has reported that they had led to *"distress and harassment"* and warned that *"we cannot be a primary school if staff and children are afraid to come to school"*.<sup>3</sup>
7. That 45% of LGBT+ young people report being bullied at school because of their sexual orientation.<sup>4</sup>
8. That 9% of Tran's pupils report receiving death threats at school.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/hate-crime-dashboard/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_hate\\_crime.pdf](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/lgbt_in_britain_hate_crime.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/birmingham-lgbt-protests\\_uk\\_5cfe920ce4b0aab91c09c9a4?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvLnVrLw&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAAGaWQaYuOuDX87kNePfvxUV5ZVJU7HLRopvGjFHBRd1kE56XzBilRsdr uBtkewKcfwlySYC0Zf4Td6bsLdJDdEzHD2EQjG1 sJ5CCmvaJlhBhTxuh7n6XUi0pgu9dRZEYeBmtAROkx8d2pdc3IT9fuzMNcB2yD vsXr2RG7k8Gn6](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/birmingham-lgbt-protests_uk_5cfe920ce4b0aab91c09c9a4?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvLnVrLw&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAGaWQaYuOuDX87kNePfvxUV5ZVJU7HLRopvGjFHBRd1kE56XzBilRsdr uBtkewKcfwlySYC0Zf4Td6bsLdJDdEzHD2EQjG1 sJ5CCmvaJlhBhTxuh7n6XUi0pgu9dRZEYeBmtAROkx8d2pdc3IT9fuzMNcB2yD vsXr2RG7k8Gn6)

<https://news.sky.com/story/lgbt-lesson-row-school-staff-have-counselling-over-homophobic-protests-in-birmingham-11737134>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/the\\_school\\_report\\_2017.pdf](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/the_school_report_2017.pdf)

9. Only 40% of LGBT+ young people report having someone at home they can talk to about their sexuality.<sup>6</sup>
10. Dr Mary Bousted, the general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers has stated that *“Education professionals want PSHE and RSE to become compulsory in all schools so they can help young people to become resilient, well-rounded and confident adults. Teaching young people about sex and relationships helps them to make well-informed choices. Parents support this, education professionals support this and, most importantly, young people want this. The Education Select Committee also recommends it is taught in schools.”*<sup>7</sup>
11. That of 810 young people aged 16-25 surveyed by the Terrence Higgins Trust 787 (or 97%) wanted Sex and Relationship lessons to be LGBT+ inclusive.<sup>8</sup>
12. That despite this, politicians from major parties continue to argue that it is right for children not to learn about LGBT+ relationships. For example, the Rt Hon Ester McVey (Conservative MP for Tatton) has argued that *“it is down to parents”* whether their children should participate in these lessons and the Hon Roger Godsiff (Labour MP for Birmingham Hall Green) has stated he has *“concerns about the age appropriateness of children of four and five being introduced to these ideas”*.<sup>9</sup>

Council believes:

1. In the equality of all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
2. That prejudice against LGBT+ people frequently interacts with and worsens other forms of prejudice including that aimed at people on the basis of their gender, ethnicity, religion and socio-economic status. Therefore, countering anti-LGBT prejudice will help reduce other forms of hatred and discrimination.
3. That relationship education should be a compulsory part of the curriculum at all schools and for every child.
4. That the age appropriateness of sex and relationship education is not affected by recognising the existence of differing sexual orientations and gender identities.
5. It is not realistic nor desirable for any parent to expect their child’s school to keep them in ignorance of LGBT+ relationships.
6. That most of the arguments offered against LGBT+ inclusive education fails to distinguish between sex and relationship education and/or do not recognise that schools are required to ensure lessons on these topics are age appropriate.
7. That teaching an LGBT+ inclusive curriculum in schools will foster attitudes among citizens that promote an inclusive and cohesive society in which homophobic hate crimes are rarer.

Council, therefore, welcomes:

1. The inclusion of LGBT+ content in the draft guidance on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/the\\_school\\_report\\_2017.pdf](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/the_school_report_2017.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/the\\_school\\_report\\_2017.pdf](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/the_school_report_2017.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.tht.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-07/Shh%20No%20talking%20LGBT%20inclusive%20SRE%20in%20the%20UK.pdf> p.17

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.tht.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-07/Shh%20No%20talking%20LGBT%20inclusive%20SRE%20in%20the%20UK.pdf> p.30

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/showbiz-tv/moment-esther-mcvey-doubles-down-16371454>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger\\_Godsiff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Godsiff)

Council resolves:

1. To ask the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families to write to the governing bodies, proprietors, headteachers and principals of every school in the borough to offer the Council's support with delivering an LGBT+ inclusive curriculum.
2. That in the event any schools in Haringey are subject to demonstrations as a result of teaching an LGBT+ inclusive curriculum, then Haringey Council will not tolerate the disruption of children's education nor the intimidation of pupils, staff or parents. If it proves necessary in order to prevent these negative outcomes, the Council will seek Public Space Protection Orders, injunctions or other appropriate legal measures with a similar effect.

## **Motion D**

### **Ending immigration detention**

Cllr Jogee, introduced the motion, on ending immigration detention. He spoke about innocent people left waiting for months and years for a decision from the Home Office on their future. He strongly felt that no one should deserved sitting in a detention centre not knowing what the future holds. The motion advocated that walls must fall and Members were asked to endorse ending immigration detention unequivocally. In his view this situation was disproportionate and wrong. He asked all councillors to show solidarity and support the motion.

Cllr Weston seconded the motion, outlining the numerous issues with the current system of immigration detention and the serious problems with every element of this process. She highlighted the experiences of women subject to detention at Yarlwood who were often fleeing appalling violence but detained in shameful conditions which caused mental health issues. She expressed that these women had experienced issues, which no one should have to experience. If there was a belief in a decent human society then it was important to show support for these women and for the current system of detention to end.

Cllr Ogiehor put forward amendment to the motion, agreeing the principles of the motion. She spoke of her political party's endeavours for a compassionate immigration system, which treats migrants with dignity. She highlighted that immigration benefits to the economy and NHS. The amendments to the motion specifically highlighted the conditions for children and why this situation must end now. She believed the amendment sets this out and hoped it would be supported.

Cllr Barnes seconded the amendment to the motion.

The amended motion was voted and agreed by all Councillors.

Cllr Jogee thanked the Councillors in the chamber for their co-operative responses and hoped all Councillors would support the motion as amended.

The following motion was agreed nem.con.

This Council notes:

- That the UK has one of the largest immigration detention systems in Europe, and is the only country in the region without a statutory time limit on length of detention. This means people can be held for months or years at a time, with no certainty about when they may be released or deported.
- At any one time, there may be up to 3,500 people in the eight detention centres that exist across the UK.
- Every year around 30,000 people enter immigration detention centres in the UK. Half of those in detention centres have sought asylum in the UK, fleeing conflict and persecution; others include visitors, workers, family members and students.
- *That of 16 families with children who were detained in “pre-departure accommodation” only two were removed and the remainder were granted bail.*
- That the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and Migration published a report following their inquiry into the use of immigration detention in the UK and concluded that the UK uses detention “Disproportionately and inappropriately” and that detention is “expensive, inefficient and unjust”.
- That the Home Office has agreed to an independent inquiry into abuse in detention facilities within the UK

This Council believes:

- Detention negatively impacts individuals’ physical and mental health wellbeing and there have been reports of widespread abuse in detention centres. *These harms are especially serious, when it is children who are detained.* The majority of people held in detention are eventually released, if they are able to access the right support.
- That the government must end immigration detention now.
- Haringey has a duty to speak out against detention practices that breach basic human rights and negatively impact the mental and physical well-being of individuals subjected to it.
- That the ‘hostile environment’ policies are designed to make the UK an unwelcoming place for migrants, and have been condemned as ‘rotten’ and ‘destroying the lives’ of ethnic minority communities in Britain by Tendayi Achiume, a United Nations special rapporteur on racism.

This Council resolves:

- To endorse the These Walls Must Fall Campaign
- To call on the government to implement the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into detention
- *To endorse the joint view of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Migrant Workers Committee that “children should never be detained for reasons related to their or their parents’ migration status and states should expeditiously and completely cease or eradicate immigration detention of children” and that “any kind of child immigration detention should be forbidden by law and such prohibition should be fully implemented by practice.”*
- To ask our local MPs to support the spirit of the motion, to continue to raise the matter in the House of Commons, and to support changes in current laws and procedures to introduce alternatives to detention
- To seek further support for the motion via the Local Government Association, and by encouraging other Councils in the UK to raise the issue.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....