

# **MINUTES OF MEETING Full Council HELD ON Thursday, 18th March, 2021, 7.30pm**

## **PRESENT:**

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

## **56. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Mayor referred to the notice of meetings, section of the agenda and Members noted this information.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hinchcliffe and Cllr Morris.

*There were apologies for absence submitted from Cllr das Neves.*

## **58. 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 meeting noted that there were 3 late items of business, which could not be available earlier, and which would need to be dealt with at the meeting. They were as follows:

Item 12- Questions and Written Answers

The reason for lateness was that notice of questions were 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.

## Item 13 – Motions

It was noted that amendments to motions were not requested until 10am on the day of the Council meeting. Amendments had been received in relation to Motion D.

The Chief Executive advised the meeting, that a cross party emergency motion on 'Protect Women and Girls, Reclaim the Streets' had been received in accordance with CSO 14A. The Mayor had accepted that this motion could not have been put forward at an earlier date due to its nature. Agreement had been given in accordance with CSO 14r .

It was noted that these items had been published and distributed today as a supplementary pack to all Councillors.

### **59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **60. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 1 MARCH 2021**

#### **RESOLVED**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2021 as a correct record.

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

The Mayor provided an update on his recent Mayoral activities.

In view of recent events and in keeping with the emergency Motion, the Mayor led the Council in a one minute's silence to remember all women and girls killed due to violence. During this, a list of all women killed was displayed on the screen.

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

The Chief Executive referred to the outline municipal calendar for 2021/22 attached in the report pack, asking members to note that the recommendation at 3 at page 11 should read that the schedule of Committee meetings for 2021/22 be agreed and that the Annual Meeting of the Council should be listed as the 27th of May in the list version at appendix 2 to reflect the tabular format at appendix 1. It was further highlighted that the political meetings listed were for noting and not approval.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the attached schedule of meetings for 2021/22 be agreed, subject to any minor variations to meeting dates that may be required in the course of the Municipal Year 2021/22.

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

The Interim Head of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer had no matters to report.

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

There were no deputations, petitions, and questions for consideration.

**65. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES**

The Mayor advised the meeting that there were two reports to consider as part of this item, the first was from the Staffing and Remuneration Committee on the Annual Pay Policy Statement and the second report was from the Standards Committee seeking agreement on amendments to the Constitution, changes to the Committee structure which was deleting the Regulatory Committee and establishing a Strategic Planning Committee with a Planning Sub Committee and establishment of a main Licensing Committee with a Licensing Sub Committee , and agreement of the Member's Allowance scheme for 2021/22.

Cllr Opoku, Chair of Standards Committee introduced her report, setting out that, in considering the Member's Allowance Scheme for 2021/22, the Standards Committee had decided that it was not felt appropriate to increase the basic allowance of Councillors given the current economic climate. The Chair of Standards Committee further thanked Regulatory Committee colleagues for their work in putting forward proposals for a new Strategic Planning Committee and Licensing Committee which would replace the Regulatory Committee.

The Standards Committee Chair moved her report and recommendations, and it was:

**RESOLVED**

1. To approve the amendment of the Pensions Committee and Board terms of reference in relation to employer member representatives to bring the wording in line with Pensions Regulations. The amendment would change the wording as follows (additions in bold text, deletions in strikethrough text): 'Two representatives ~~from~~ **who have the capacity to represent** scheduled and admitted employers'.
2. To note the endorsement of Regulatory Committee and Standards Committee to Option 3, set out at Appendix 1 of the 2nd of March Standards Report [pages 49 to 56 of the full Council pack], which was the deletion of the Regulatory Committee for the 2021/22 municipal year and establishment of a separate main Planning Committee called the Strategic Planning Committee, with a Planning Sub Committee, and the establishment of a separate main Licensing Committee, with a Licensing Sub Committee.

3. To approve these changes to the Committee structure, set out above, to take effect from the 2021/22 Municipal year, as set out in section 6.6 of Appendix 1 of the 2nd of March Standards Report [ page 53 of the Council pack]
4. To approve resultant changes and additions to the Constitution, Part 3 Section B (Full Council and Non-Executive Functions and protocols), which are attached at Appendices 2 to 5.2 pages 57 to 86 and 103 to 117 of the Council pack] to take effect from the 2021/22 Municipal year.
5. To revoke the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2020/21 as of 31 March 2021.
6. To approve the new Members' Allowances Scheme for the Municipal year 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 6 - Annex 1.1 pages 133 to 140 of the Council pack, to take effect from 1 April 2021, noting that in the start of the Municipal year 2021/22, Band 2B of the scheme, would be amended to refer to the Chair of Strategic Planning Committee and sections referring to the Vice-Chair of Regulatory Committee, under Band 1B of the scheme, would be amended to refer to the Chair of Licensing Committee.
7. To approve the changes and additions to section 5.3 of Part Five, Section A of the Constitution (Protocol for Complaints Against Members), attached at Appendix 7.1 Proposed amendments to part 5 Section A - protocol for complaints against Members [ pages 239 to page 252].

The Chair of Staffing and Remuneration Committee moved his report, setting out that this was a statutory report that the Council was required to produce annually, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and had been considered by the Staffing and Remuneration committee on the 2nd of February 2021. The Committee had agreed for the Director for Customers, Transformation and Resources to make such amendments to the statement, in consultation with the Chair of the Staffing and Remuneration Committee, as he considered minor, prior to the statement being recommended to Full Council.

It was noted that since the Staffing and Remuneration Committee had taken place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Feb, the Government had disapplied the Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations 2020. As these regulations were referred to in the Pay Policy 2021/22, the policy now needed to be amended to remove this wording. The wording has been replaced with the same wording as was in previously approved pay policies. The change made is to section 14 of the policy.

The Chair outlined that if any further changes were required to the statement after its approval by Full Council, these would need to go back to Full Council for determination.

The Chair of Staffing and Remuneration Committee moved the report, and it was:

## **RESOLVED**

To approve the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22, amended as explained in the attached report.

## **66. HARINGEY DEBATE: SUPPORTING THE VACCINATION EFFORT IN THE BOROUGH AND BUILDING BACK BETTER**

The Mayor set out his motivation for calling the debate on building back better and reflected on a difficult year for many people in Haringey and in the country as they had seen the ripple effects of coronavirus pandemic and its tragic consequences.

The Mayor referred to his first visit to a vaccination centre and how this inspired him to support the effort for getting all residents in Haringey vaccinated. He paid tribute to vaccination centre staff and volunteers who were a living example of a functioning, active, involved and committed state should be.

He spoke about his close association with the NHS and how important the vaccination was for saving lives and providing hope for the future.

The Mayor introduced the external speakers for the debate: Dr Russell Hearn, GP Partner - Morris House Group Practice, Siobhan Harrington Chief Executive of the Whittington Health NHS Trust and Sister Bibi Khan from Wightman Road Mosque.

Sister Bibi Khan was representing the Wightman Road Mosque and spoke about the struggle with this pandemic, seeing community members with loved ones in hospital and the impact this had on family lives. She highlighted the stark realities that were faced by both young and old family members and the inevitable psychological impact this would have. She outlined the role of the mosque in the community and how it was important as place of safety, and education. The services at the Mosque had been recalibrated to meet the needs of the community at this time. She spoke about the additional role of the Mosque providing community support collecting supplies of food and running a Food Bank. This had been extended further with supplies of snacks and food to vaccination centres to support staff working many long hours. The Mosque was supporting the vaccine drive and getting practical guidance out to the community to ensure take up. The meeting heard that there was a need to continue with this community cohesion activity and for the Council and partners alongside community groups take forward an impact assessment to understand the needs of the communities to ensure that there was focus on the immediate priorities and tasks.

Siobhan Harrington, Chief Executive of the Whittington Health NHS Trust reflected on her experiences as a nurse and Chief Executive of the Whittington Health Trust and how the last 12 months had been the most challenging professionally and personally for many NHS staff. The vaccination campaign had given hope to staff and patients. This had been a partnership effort and thanks were given to the Council, NHS, residents, community groups and volunteers for their support in this vaccination campaign, setting up the vaccination centres. She called for continued support and for further ideas to continue to be put forward to encourage hard to reach communities to have the vaccination. Also, for partners to continue reassuring individuals and communities about the positive impact of the having a vaccination.

Dr Hearn spoke as a GP partner at Morris House Practice in Lordship Lane and as a local resident. He spoke about the vaccination programme in Haringey from the early start of the pandemic when there was support from the volunteers for the people

managing Covid at home to the vaccination drive underway currently. He referred to the number of vaccinations delivered and the take up at the moment. When considering the different numbers of populations in the different age cohorts, there had been 57% of vaccination completed. He highlighted the considerable efforts to get to this current rate and there was a need to factor in the need to deliver a second follow up vaccination and continue to increase take up to ultimately reach 100%. The vaccinations were working efficiently, and many were helping increase the take up and taking forward outreach vaccination at community centres and faith groups. There were particular thanks given to volunteers and saying doing well but eyed to help messaging that the vaccinations are safe and effective so there was plenty more work to do.

The Mayor thanked the speakers for the information shared and their efforts for saving lives in the borough.

Cllr James, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health, paid tribute to work of faith and community groups for working with partners in taking forward outreach clinics and making the vaccination available to all. She further thanked the Interim Director for Public Health and Director for Adults and Health for their dedication, work, and support in the vaccination drive. The Communications Team had provided messages about the importance of the vaccination in different community languages. Cllr James further paid tribute to the Community Protect Network for helping increase the take up in BAME communities and to the Black community voluntary sector organisations for continuing to highlight the positive outcomes of vaccinations. Also, efforts to vaccinate house bound residents, the homeless, refugees and asylum seekers were praised.

Cllr Connor spoke about the collaboration between the NHS, Council, communities and volunteers and thanks given to those who had given up their time to ensure people were protected from Covid 19. She highlighted long Covid and the detrimental impact this can have on health, leading a normal life, and being able to work. There was specialist support required to diagnose and treat these myriads of symptoms. The UCH were setting up a clinic which Haringey was part of and there was a need to ensure, as a borough, that this service was fully funded. She spoke about children with long Covid not accessing clinics and need to push hard on ensuring to support to them as well.

Cllr Say spoke about and previous successful vaccination efforts over the last century, and the great work of the NHS in providing assurance and safety to many vulnerable residents. She urged all to take up the vaccination and spoke of the importance of not privatising key health services.

Cllr Hare spoke of the losses in the community to Covid 19. Public workers that supported the community; cab drivers, TFL staff, health and social care had sadly lost their lives to the virus. Taking up the vaccination was important to help frontline workers and making sure that community is protected. It was essential to residents attended vaccination centres where they feel comfortable, and he hoped the Council would access government funding to increase local vaccination drives.

Cllr Ahmet spoke about the vaccination effort and volunteering and thanked the doctors and nurses and NHS staff who deserved more than the pay increase of 1%.

She spoke further about the disproportionate impact and the health inequalities which continued to be amplified. Cllr Ahmet spoke her experiences of being a new mum and impact of the pandemic on supporting families with new-borns. With regards to anti-vaccination sentiments, there was a need to respond to this by providing assurances on the vaccination safety, addressing younger cohorts fears and concerns about long term impact of the vaccination. In the recovery process, it was important to consider early years' provision and of the impact of lock down on young children.

Cllr Barnes, spoke about the importance of social contact with many people not seeing family members for over a year and signing up to volunteer to vaccination drive and restore freedoms.

Cllr Williams spoke about the 1945 Labour government and creating NHS and health care based on need and criticised the government steps for building back better. She highlighted the expertise and skills of NHS staff for delivering the vaccination.

Cllr Cawley- Harrison spoke about the need to ensure that younger age groups take up the vaccination when offered. The younger cohorts may think that they will not be affected or protected, and he urged them to think twice and there will still be people that cannot have the vaccination due to medical grounds and therefore if they pick up the virus it will have a catastrophic impact. Therefore, for the sake of vulnerable community members there was a need to continue to promote take up by younger ages cohorts.

Cllr da Costa spoke about the global pandemic changing people's lives and the vaccine being a new horizon. He spoke about spreading the provision of the vaccine, not just locally, but across the world. He gave special thanks to staff in NHS for delivering the vaccination and underlined the responsibilities of Councillors as leaders in community on taking the vaccination.

The Leader of the Council closed the debate and thanked the Mayor for raising the profile of volunteers in vaccination centres. The Council were committed to coming out of the pandemic together and this was not over, and it was important to together, collectively, reduce transmissions, ensuring as many residents were vaccinated as possible. He thanked the guest speakers for their daily work on behalf of the Council. It was acknowledged that there was a strong desire for families to be able to meet each other and the vaccination provided the best way of getting these freedoms. He spoke about building back better and fairer and spoke about inequalities which have got worse in the pandemic and creating more jobs homes and investment in communities. He summarised the key points of the debate and how it was important to get out the message to all sections of the community on taking up the vaccination. Working together to keep each other safe and would save lives and he urged everyone to support vaccination drive.

The Mayor concluded by thanking guest speakers for their inspirational work and thanked colleagues for their efforts and raising money for NHS colleagues.

**67. 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 , two, four, five and six were then asked and responded to. Cllr Gunes lost connection for a few minutes and was not able to put forward question three.

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

The Mayor advised the meeting that there were three motions to consider as part of this item.

In consultation with the Leaders of both political groups, the Mayor had also agreed to re-order this part of the agenda. This was in accordance with Committee Standing order 3.2 (i) and this was to allow the meeting to consider Motion E before Motion C and D.

In accordance with Council Standing Order 25.1, the Chief Whip, Councillor Rice, moved to suspend Council Standing Orders: 13.1, 15.6 b [ii] and 15.6.

(c)iii for the duration of Motion E. This was to allow Motion E to be jointly proposed by Cllr Williams and Cllr Barnes and to be jointly seconded by Cllr Palmer and Cllr Amin.

This would also allow the proposers to have 3 minutes each to move Motion E, and the seconders would have two minutes each to second the motion and allow the proposers one minute each for the right of reply.

Cllr Ogiehor, Liberal Democrat Chief Whip seconded the motion suspending the outlined Council standing orders and allowing for the proposed timings of speeches.

This was agreed and the Mayor asked Cllr Williams and Cllr Barnes to jointly propose Motion E.

Cllr Williams spoke about the importance of standing up against violence against women and girls. Cllr Williams spoke about the devastating incident of mistaken identity when a school friend, Amanda Clark, was killed by an intruder whilst babysitting. Cllr Williams continued to outline that 60% of male perpetrators of violence are partners of women and how important it was to stand up, individually, and collectively, to challenge the bullying. The sad case of the Sarah Everard's murder had seen views circulated that women should not be walking alone or be leaving their homes in the evening and this view needed to be challenged and the streets reclaimed.

Cllr Barnes, spoke about this being a time to reclaim the streets and all women, regardless of political differences, standing united to reclaim the streets for women across the UK so they have the right to walk home safely. Cllr Barnes referred to the



wider need for women to feel safe and protected from the unwanted advances of men and how most women have experienced harassment in a public places and experienced derogatory language.

Cllr Barnes, in supporting the motion, emphasised that there was a need for increased awareness and understanding by men, that this type of behaviour was not acceptable. As a society, there was a need to act and be ready to collectively challenge when we saw someone experiencing harassment. This also included challenging the police on need to be so enforceable in their activities as seen at the weekend.

Cllr Palmer jointly seconded the motion and spoke about the stark experiences of sexual harassment suffered by women on a daily basis and how women have accepted that this is what happens to them and to be thankful that nothing worse has happened. She spoke about changing this universal code of acceptance and women's rights to feel safe underlining that the time had come for men to stop this behaviour which was unacceptable. Cllr Palmer spoke about women not being able to know if a man walking on the street is safe or not and for men to consider their behaviour and what they can be doing to help women feel safe.

Cllr Amin jointly seconded the motion which she felt was very important and echoed the condolences of the Council to Sarah Everard's family. She referred to the shocking list of 100 women that have been murdered as a result of violence by men. There was a need to honour the women listed. She spoke about the increases in demand for services supporting victims of domestic violence, in the last year, and the need to continue to highlight the need for the continuation of these services and their funding to support women and girls most in need.

Cllr Rossetti hoped that the motion was turning point and a course of action for change, as a borough, to provide safe environment for women and girls to be themselves. She spoke about challenging the gender stereotypes of women in and girls in family, education, workplaces, health and in politics and hoped that the Council would do more to reclaim women's rights.

Cllr Ibrahim, spoke about women not feeling safe at home and her own personal family experience of escaping domestic violence and the impact this can have. There were often subsequent challenges with homelessness and re- establishing security. She provided some stark figures for the Council to be aware of and comprehend the significance of the issue of violence against women and girls. It was noted that there were an estimated 103,000 women and girls aged between 15 to 49 living with female genital mutilation, 90% of women aged between 18 and 24 have been sexually harassed. An estimated 85000 women are raped in England and Wales every year with only 15% reported to police and only 5.7% of cases leading to a conviction.

Cllr Ogiehor, spoke about the anger and frustration she felt that another woman had been killed due to male led violence, and anger that the victim was questioned about her decision to walk home alone at night. She continued to highlight that 6 women were also killed in the same week and there were 3 black women killed in the last year where selfies were taken with the bodies by police officers. This also raised the question of whether society takes for granted the violence against women and girls. There was a need to continue this current momentum of debating this issue as there

was much more to and take actions and continue to speak out and challenge behaviour for all women.

Cllr Gunes echoed the sentiments of the debate, further highlighting that women suffered at the hands of misogyny; also referring to the disproportionate actions of the police in Clapham Common who were there to protect them. She spoke of her experience as a domestic violence officer in the voluntary sector and had assisted women and children in these situations. She spoke about the impact on the survivor and the time they need to recover and the need for continued specialist provision for women in ethnic minorities. There were already barriers to services and services to women were the first to be cut when there was an economic downturn. Cllr Gunes felt that this was the time to stand in solidarity for safe spaces and stand up to violence against women and girls and prioritise this support.

The Mayor asked Cllr Culverwell and Cllr Mark Blake to speak.

Cllr Culverwell spoke about the impact of the debate and was ready to provide support. He asked what he and fellow male colleagues as well as wider society could do to support the feeling of safety.

Cllr Mark Blake, Cabinet Member for Communities, responded to the powerful messages from Councillor colleagues in the debate and he agreed with men needing to step up to the challenge. He further made points on policing and changing the culture of policing. The culture in the justice system also needed to change to ensure that women are encouraged to report violence.

The movers of motion Cllr Williams and Cllr Barnes, responded to the debate, reflecting on the powerful messages.

Cllr Williams welcomed the new laws making misogyny a hate crime and contributors were further thanked for their frank and powerful accounts.

Cllr Barnes, further summed up by also underlining that women were not objects and cannot be treated as such. She emphasised that the abuse of women, because of their race, should not be treated any differently. She underlined that women did not want to be protected and wanted to walk the streets in safety and hoped the borough can provide a safe environment to help women and girls be themselves.

The Mayor called on the Chief Whips of the political groups to indicate their member's vote on the motion. He also asked the Independent Member to indicate her vote.

The Labour Group Chief Whip indicated to the Mayor that the Labour members attending the meeting were in favour of the motion.

The Liberal Democrat Chief Whip indicated that the Liberal Democrat members attending the meeting were in favour of the motion.

Councillor Barbara Blake, Independent Member, indicated that she was in favour of the motion.

Emergency Motion E as set out below was AGREED unanimously.

Proposed by Cllr Sarah Williams and Cllr Dawn Barnes  
Seconded by Cllr Tammy Palmer and Cllr Kaushika Amin

Protect Women and Girls, Reclaim these Streets – Full Council

This Council notes:

- The horrific killing of Sarah Everards, last seen walking home from a friend's house at 9pm on 3rd March;
- That some commentators stated that women should not walk alone;
- That one woman is killed by a man every three days in the UK;
- That during Lockdown femicide has escalated;
- That domestic abuse costs society £60bn and it is estimated that £393m is needed to provide support;
- The right to protest remains lawful under Coronavirus legislation;
- That Reclaim these Streets organised a peaceful candlelight vigil in Sarah Everard's honour in a number of public spaces, including Clapham Common;
- That street harassment in the UK is not covered by any specific offence, unlike in Portugal, Belgium and France.

This Council believes that:

- The harassment faced by women on a daily basis is unacceptable;
- We stand in solidarity with women across the country wanting to Reclaim these Streets;
- We must create an environment where street harassment is seen and policed as a crime.

This Council resolves:

- To always champion the rights and entitlements of women and girls, from all communities across the borough of Haringey, especially those women from Black and Ethnic Minority and disabled women and girls whose deaths are often invisible in the media;
- To investigate and address the barriers that women and girls from Black and Ethnic Minority groups and women and girls with No Recourse to Public Funds face in reporting and seeking help for harassment and abuse;
- That the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition write a joint letter to the Prime Minister asking for an inquiry into the actions of the Metropolitan Police at Clapham Common, given the ramifications for these actions for policing across London including in Haringey;
- To endorse all efforts of women and girls to Reclaim these Streets;
- That the Council Leader and the Leader of the Opposition send a copy of this motion to Catherine West MP, Rt Hon David Lammy MP and Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP;
- To promote the Our Streets Now campaign to make street harassment a crime, and encourage all elected members, and residents to sign their petition;
- That the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition write a joint letter to the Home Secretary to ask her to make street harassment a specific crime;
- To support Amendment 87B to the Domestic Abuse Bill to make misogyny a hate crime.

**Motion C - Universal Basic Income**

Cllr Dixon, in moving motion C, highlighted that Covid 19 had shone the light on the inequalities and challenges facing many in society these problems had existed before the pandemic and began in the welfare reforms taken forward, in particular universal credit,

Cllr Rice interjected to move to suspend Council Standing Order 8.1 and allow the meeting to continue after 10pm. The Mayor advised Cllr Dixon to finish his proposal of the motion and was intending to complete the motion, in hand, by 10pm.

Cllr Dixon continued to outline the issues caused by universal credit with increasing access to foodbanks, and cruel sanctions. This benefit was underfunded and poorly designed and there was a need for an alternative to lift people out of poverty. He explained that Universal Basic Income was a payment made to an individual regardless of their wealth and employment status. This provision would help foster a more flexible workforce, provide greater freedom to change jobs and give opportunity to reskill. This scheme could be funded by the more well off through tax. He proposed that Haringey take part in the trial of UBI and the motion asked the government to try and take forward this trial. He urged Councillor colleagues to support this motion and join the 30 Councils that have passed similar motions in support of a Universal Basic Income and lead as a Council on this progressive idea.

Cllr Chenot, seconded the motion, underlining the need for radical ideas and the need to meet the need of most vulnerable. Cllr Chenot spoke from personal experience of her childhood and her family having to navigate the benefits systems and surviving on a small budget and these types of pressures were continuing to be imposed on families. Economists were advising that UBI could end poverty in the UK, and this could be afforded to boost consumer demand. UBI also had added positive benefits to society as it provided a basic sense of security, and made people less altruistic, more energetic, innovative, and more tolerant.

Cllr Chandwani moved to suspend Council Standing Order 8.1 and allow the Council meeting to continue after 10pm. This was seconded by Cllr Ogiehor and agreed by Councillors.

Cllr Rice, Chief Whip disputed that the motion had been moved after 10pm but the Mayor considered that the motion to suspend Council Standing Order 8.1 had been moved before 10pm and the meeting continued.

Cllr Chandwani, spoke against the motion, and advised that there was a lack of detail, equalities impact evidence, or modelling to enable decision to be made on supporting this motion. In particular, there was no detail on what the social experiment could look like and which version of UBI would be taken forward. Cllr Chandwani questioned if there had been any discussion with local partners such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau or welfare groups. There was no information in the motion on whether this scheme could potentially leave a particular group less well off than another group. There was also a need to consider whether the government could be trusted to run this pilot in Haringey and a need to consider the impact this could have on vulnerable residents if unsuccessful.

Cllr Hakata spoke further against the motion, referring to the high-profile billionaire supporters of UBI and the different types of UBI that can be taken forward with the UBI model not referred to in the motion. Cllr Hakata agreed that there were issues with the benefits system but felt that this was to do with too low payments, making claimants dependent on foodbanks. Also, companies that paid low wages to staff meant that their staff often needed to access benefits and foodbanks. He spoke about UBI being inflationary and that those that were unable to work would see the value of their payment drops and did not do anything to support employment. He felt that a job guarantees together with universal services, health education, transport and broadband should be supported rather than a UBI.

Cllr Dixon responded to the issues raised, indicating his surprise at the stance of the speakers as a majority of Labour groups in the country had been supportive of a similar motion. He clarified that the trial and its details was not for consideration today and it was the principle of UBI which commitment was being sought to. This was seen as a supportive motion by the Liberal Democrat group and if further detail were needed there could be an open discussion on this.

The Mayor called on the Chief Whips of the political groups to indicate their member's vote on the motion. He also asked the Independent Member to indicate her vote.

The Labour Group Chief Whip indicated to the Mayor that the Labour members attending the meeting were against the motion.

The Liberal Democrat Chief Whip indicated that the Liberal Democrat Members attending the meeting were in favour of the motion.

Councillor Barbara Blake, Independent Member, indicated that she was against the motion.

The Mayor declared that Motion C was not agreed.

The Mayor clarified, further, to speaking with the Monitoring Officer, that the meeting would continue after 10pm as the motions were part of the same item. This was set out in CSO paragraph 25 which advised that any of the CSO's can be suspended for the duration of the meeting.

Cllr Chandwani moved Motion D, setting out that prior to 2013, the government fully funded the Council Tax Benefit scheme. Its replacement policy, which was the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, only funded 90% of the costs and Councils were left with funding the remaining 10%. The Council funded pensioners benefit and provided discounts to care leavers, working aged disabled people, low-income families. The reduction scheme cost around £29million to fund per year. There was a need for the Council to seek a policy change from the government to reinstate and fully fund the Council tax benefit scheme which the motion put forward.

Cllr Stone seconded the motion, advising that prior to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, the Council Tax Benefit scheme was one of the most widely needed schemes and 80% of claimants went onto receive 100% Council Tax Benefit. He explained that the strategy in introducing the reduction scheme, at the time, was

unfairly underpinned by the assumption that people were choosing not to work but to be on benefits. Cllr Stone echoed the call from charities and the Child Poverty Action Group for the government to end the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which was applied differently according to the borough that you lived, causing variations around the country in its application. He highlighted the accumulative effects of arrears which could lead to claimants getting into wider arrears will bills and needing to access food banks. Given the decreasing budgets of local authorities and spend on responding to the pandemic, there would continue to be difficulties for local authorities managing this localised scheme. He concluded by calling for the reintroduction of the Council Tax Benefit Scheme.

Cllr Palmer put forward an amendment to the motion, challenging the Labour administration on their previous decision to take forward the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and disputing that there was not a choice in taking forward the scheme. She referred to the choices on the scheme made in 2013 which would have impacted the most vulnerable and where the consultation undertaken was found to be unlawful. She further questioned whether the fairness principles highlighted in the motion were followed consistently throughout the previous 10 years and more recently in policy decision making.

Cllr Ross, seconded the amendment to the motion, highlighting the huge issues facing society and in particular the borough, such as safety of women and girls, supporting the High Street, Covid recovery, Brexit aftermath, Climate Change, and questioned the choice of issue put forward where, in his view, the Council already had the power to provide for a fairer scheme. He questioned the priorities of the administration and choice of spending and contended that the amendment allowed the Council to provide for a more generous Council Tax Reduction scheme and urged Councillors to support the motion as amended.

Cllr Chandwani responded to the amendment, emphasising that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was costing the Council £30m a year and this cost should be borne by the government as part of the social security system. She emphasised that there should not be different schemes applied by Local Authorities but a universal social security scheme where it did not matter where you lived. Cllr Chandwani quoted a lawyer who had taken forward many Council tax arrears debt cases and highlighted their significant increase, since 2013, with many cases against the poor and who had highlighted its similarities to the poll tax for 250 local authorities out of 326. Cllr Chandwani reiterated the need to vote for motion unamended.

The Mayor asked the Chief Whips of each political party and Independent Member to indicate their votes on the amendment to the motion.

The Labour Group Chief Whip indicated to the Mayor that the Labour members attending the meeting were against the amendment to Motion D.

The Liberal Democrat Chief Whip indicated that the Liberal Democrat Members attending the meeting were in favour of the amendment to Motion D.

Councillor Barbara Blake, Independent Member, indicated that she was against the amendment to Motion D.

The Mayor declared that the amendment to Motion D was lost.

The Mayor asked the Chief whips of each political party and Independent member to indicate their votes on the original Motion.

The Labour Group Chief Whip indicated to the Mayor that the Labour members attending the meeting were in favour of the original Motion D.

The Liberal Democrat Chief Whip indicated that the Liberal Democrat Members attending the meeting were in favour of the original Motion D.

Councillor Barbara Blake, Independent Member, indicated that she was in favour of the original Motion D.

The Mayor declared that the Original Motion D as set out below was AGREED.

## **Motion D**

**Proposed by Cllr Seema Chandwani**

**Seconded by Cllr Stone**

### **Reinstate Council Tax Benefit**

#### **This Council notes:**

- In 2013, the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition government scrapped Council Tax Benefits.
- This change to our Council tax system was branded the Pickles Poll Tax after the Minister of the time - Eric Pickles.
- Scrapping Council Tax Benefits resulted in over 5 million low-income households paying more Council tax.
- The government replaced Council Tax Benefits with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), which intended that people on a low income would pay up to 20% of their Council tax, without consideration to affordability.

#### **This Council further notes:**

- In Haringey over 25,000 people are claiming CTRS.
- Haringey Council has exempted 6,000 low-income families from paying any Council tax using our own funds.
- Nevertheless, thousands of Haringey residents in receipt of CTRS are behind with their Council tax payments.
- A few months ago, Eric Pickles, now Lord Pickles wrote in Conservative Home advocating for better financial support for low-income households with their Council tax bills.

#### **This Council believes that:**

- Pursuing low-income residents for cost-of-living debt is not in line with our morals and values.

- In light of the pandemic, with millions of residents in debt, the government must exempt low-income households from paying of Council tax.
- Maximising income of families on lowest income would better enable them to pay their Council tax and enables Councils to increase our income and not waste resources on chasing low-income households for a tax they are unable to pay.
- The Government now needs to reinstate Council Tax Benefit to exempt low-income households from paying Council tax.
- The Government needs to pay Councils for the residents who are exempt through Council Tax Benefit.

**This Council resolves:**

- To lobby government and campaign for the reinstatement of Council Tax Benefit.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....