

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING Full Council HELD ON Monday, 22nd July, 2024, 19.30 – 21.35pm**

## **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Anna Abela, Peray Ahmet, Ibrahim Ali, Kaushika Amin, Emily Arkell, Dawn Barnes, Nicola Bartlett, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Mark Blake, Zena Brabazon, Cathy Brennan, Lester Buxton, Dana Carlin, Carroll, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Lotte Collett, Pippa Connor, Eldrige Culverwell, Lucia das Neves, Isidoros Diakides, Erdal Dogan, George Dunstall, Scott Emery, Ruth Gordon, Mark Grosskopf, Makbule Gunes, Mike Hakata, Holly Harrison-Mullane, Tammy Hymas, Emine Ibrahim, Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Sue Jameson (Mayor), Cressida Johnson, Anna Lawton, Ahmed Mahbub, Mary Mason, Sean O'Donovan, Felicia Opoku, Ajda Ovat, Sheila Peacock, Reg Rice, Rossetti, Michelle Simmons-Safo, Adam Small, Joy Wallace, Elin Weston, Matt White and Alexandra Worrell**

## **ALSO ATTENDING:**

### **17. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Mayor referred to the filming at meetings notice and attendees noted this information.

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

The following apologies for absences were noted:

Cllr Williams

Cllr Elliott

Cllr Isilar- Gosling

Cllr Rossetti

Cllr Adamou

Cllr da Costa

Apologies for lateness was noted from Cllr Stennett and Cllr Peacock.

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

The Mayor accepted the following late items of business following the reasons set out below.

Item 7- Report on Proportionality and Appointments to Committees  
Item 11a – Report from the Audit Committee  
Item 11b – Report from the Alexandra Palace and Park Board  
Item 11c) Report from the Standards Committee  
Item 13 Questions and Written Answers  
Item 14 Motions

Item 7 was late as there was a need for political group consultations on the appointments to committees following the by election on the 4th of July.

In relation to the reports under item 11, reports from Committees, these were late as the meetings took place after the publication of the Council papers and there was a need to consider these recommendations prior to the November Council meeting.

In relation to Item 13 Questions and Written Answers - The reason for lateness was that notice of questions was 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 14 – Motions - The amendments to motions were not requested until 10am on the day of the Council meeting and an amendment to Motions A & B and had been published and distributed today in the tabled pack.

## **20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

NONE

## **21. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20TH OF MAY 2024**

### **RESOLVED**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.

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

The Mayor spoke of the Council's sadness on hearing of the death of former Councillor Andy Krokou. Andy had served three terms as a Councillor and was active in the community, lending his time and support to, amongst others, to the Tottenham District Charity.

The Mayor called on the Leader of the Council who paid tribute to former Councillor Andy Krokou speaking about his work for the Council as well as the Tottenham Grammar School charity and being the first Councillor of Cypriot origin to represent the Council.

The Leader of the Council gave the Council's condolences to Andy Krokou's family.

The Mayor continued to lead the Council in a one minute silence.

The Mayor mentioned that Judge Noel Lucas has stepped down as the Honorary Recorder following the end of his tenure at Wood Green Crown Court and she expressed the Council's gratitude for his work as Honorary Recorder for the Borough.

The Council welcomed the opportunity to better understand the work of the Crown Court and to forge closer links for the benefit of our residents. In a forthcoming meeting the Council would be welcoming Judge John Dodd KC to this role and will speak further on this matter.

The Mayor had emailed Councillors the details of the engagements undertaken since the annual meeting. she continued to highlight the following particular events:

- Go Green – these continued the Council's effort to reduce waste and promote reuse and recycling.
- Junior Park Run in Lordship recreation ground.
- Ethiopian sports and culture day at New River Sports Centre.
- Armed Forces Day, Windrush and Pride month.

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

The Chief Executive introduced the report which was asking Council to note the political composition of the Council following the Hornsey by election and to agree that Cllr Small be appointed to the Audit Committee and the Licensing Committee.

The Chief Whip MOVED the recommendations, and it was,

### **RESOLVED**

1. To Note the political composition set out at paragraph 4.2.
2. To agree that Cllr Adam Small be appointed to the Licensing Committee and Audit Committee to fill the Labour Group allocated Committee vacancies as set out at paragraph 4.7 and Appendix 1.

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

The Monitoring Officer had no matters to report on.

## **25. CSO 3.1(VI) RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader set out the Labour administration's mid-term achievements. She added that the Council had published the Corporate Delivery Plan for the next two years, which sets out the Council's ambition to focus on delivering a fairer, greener borough. She added that good progress had been made in getting the basics right through the Haringey Deal.

The Leader continued to outline the following achievements:

- Good Co production through engagements like Tottenham Voices and Wood Green Voices.
- Supported more than 26,000 families with Council tax relief.
- Ensured that help is in place for 4000 families through the Haringey Support Fund in partnership with the Mayor of London, providing free school meals for primary school children.
- Rolled out 34 new school streets that are protecting 16,000 pupils, compiled 147 bike hangers and planted 4000 trees.
  
- SEND services received a top rating and Children's Services awarded good. 98% of borough schools rated either good or outstanding, and school exclusions well below the average.
  
- Launched two new family hubs and have just announced a groundbreaking music hub.
  
- Haringey Works has around 800 people into work.
  
- Progress in delivering 3000 Council homes by 2031.
  
- Taking action on empty homes, with owners of homes left empty for 12 months now required to pay double Council Tax.
  
- Tackling rogue property owners, working hard to deliver a safer borough, and taking action to tackle hate crime.
  
- Innovative work on stop and search to improve relations between the community and the police.
  
- Despite government cuts of £143M less in real terms, setting a balanced budget in March 2024. This was done whilst protecting key services and keeping libraries open and investing in them.
  
- Agreed to bring Leisure services back in house.
  
- Awarded London Borough of Culture for 2027.

Noted the launch of six Cabinet champions where backbench Councillors will support the Cabinet and focus on key priority areas.

## **26. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chief Whip MOVED that the Council note the changes to the LGA Grants Committee which was an association body exercising executive functions as set out in article 10.8b(i).

## **RESOLVED**

To note that the Leader of the Council, Cllr Peray Ahmet is nominated to the LGA Grants Committee as the lead representative for Haringey and that Cllr Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning (Deputy Leader) is the Deputy. This was an Association body which mainly exercise 'executive' functions and the change is set out at Appendix 1 and in accordance with article 10.8b(i).

## **27. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

There were three reports to consider as part of this item. These were reports from the Audit Committee, Alexandra Palace and Park Board and The Standards Committee.

Councillor Dogan MOVED his report and recommendations on the Local Code of Corporate Governance and noting the treasury management update.

## **RESOLVED**

1. To adopt the attached Local Code of Corporate Governance, attached at Appendix A of the report.
2. To note the treasury management activity undertaken during the financial year to 31 March 2024 and the performance achieved which is attached as Appendix B to this report.
3. To note that all treasury activities were undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

Cllr Ibrahim, Chair of Alexandra Palace and Park Board MOVED her report on minor changes to Alexandra Park and Palace Consultative Committee terms of reference.

## **RESOLVED**

1. To approve the changes to the Constitution of the Consultative Committee, reducing the number of members to be co-opted to the Board from 3 to a maximum of 2.
2. To note that the Appointments to Committee appendix at agenda item 7 has been updated to reflect this change as required by Part Three Section B sub section 3 (Sub Committees and Panels).

Cllr Ali , Chair of Standards Committee to MOVED his report on appointment of Independent persons to the Committee.

1. To approve the appointment of Stephen Ross as Independent Person, and Ian Balbi as secondary Independent Person under s28(7) of the Localism

Act 2011 for a period of 4 years commencing 31 July 2024 and ending on 30th June 2028;

2. To approve the allowance to be paid to the Independent Person, and Secondary Independent person at £1250.00 and £250.00 per annum respectively.

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

There were no deputations or petitions to consider as part of this item.

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

The Council continued to RECEIVE the response to written questions.

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

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

Motion A was proposed by the Leader of the Council, who welcomed the new Labour government and congratulated newly elected MPs: David Lammy, Catherine West, Bambos Charalambous and Tulip Sadiq with additional congratulations to David Lammy, Catherine West and Tulip Sadiq on their roles in government, and especially David Lammy MP, on his appointment as Foreign Secretary.

The Leader welcomed Councillor Adam Small, who had also been elected to serve the Council as a Councillor in Hornsey ward.

The Leader spoke of the new government working towards recovery, rebuilding of the country, and turning manifesto pledges into a legislative programme to transform and deliver for the country. She highlighted a number of their objectives including: improving rail services, creating clean power, keeping household bills down, a new deal for workers' rights to protect workers, raising standards in education, enhancing children's well-being, and an overhaul of the planning system to start building the houses people so desperately needed.

Cllr Liam Carroll seconded the motion and spoke about the assurances being given on energy bills and how this would provide savings for Haringey residents. He referred to the warmer homes plan and called upon the government to work with Haringey Council, the Mayor of London, and local businesses, to insulate homes that stay warmer in the winter period and cooler in the summer periods in turn supporting local jobs in this area.

Councillor Cawley-Harrison moved the amendment to the motion and highlighted that although the needs of the residents were mentioned, there was no mention of funding. He emphasised that the Council had spoken about austerity over the past few years

and now was the opportunity to do something and request further funding from the new government.

Councillor Connor seconded the amendment and highlighted that one of the greatest problems facing Haringey was finances, she stated that Haringey Council's General Fund was approximately 19 million pounds overspent.

The Mayor called Councillors to speak in the debate and Councillors: Lawton, Barbara Blake and Cllr Small spoke about the following issues:

- Supporting the NHS and ensuring better working conditions for Doctors, nurses and NHS staff.
- The return of housing targets and the creation of a national wealth fund.
- Tackling the urgency of the global climate challenge.
- Strengthening community policing, investing in the police force, which was underfunded and enhancing support for victims, specifically in relation to funding to stop violence against women and girls.
- Investment in the prison service.
- The United Kingdom borders being protected with fair and humane policies for all.
- Making difficult choices to tackle long-standing problems and bringing innovative ideas to complex policy challenges.
- Breaking down the barriers to opportunity that many of Haringey residents faced here in this borough.
- Tackling economic insecurity at work, at home, in communities and in public services.
- Locally building around 3000 new Council homes by 2031, as well as focusing on a greener future by cleaning up the air, delivering greener neighbourhoods and protecting parks.
- Producing an industrial strategy, a national wealth fund, and a new deal for working people.
- End to zero hour contracts and heinous employment practices and establishing a new network of youth hubs.
- The government planned to recruit 6500 new teachers and cut NHS waiting times, which would deliver a new Race Equality Act. This meant a more active, smarter government that worked in partnership with local leaders and local authorities.
- Supporting the Planning team to help Haringey to deliver, transform and shape the communities' needs.

The Leader of the Council responded to the amendment and following a vote on the amendment to the Motion, the amendment was LOST

Following a vote to the Original Motion, this was AGREED.

**The Council notes that**

Following a General Election held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the Labour Party formed a majority government following a landslide election victory in which 412 Labour MPs were elected to Parliament, and 72 Liberal Democrat MPs were elected to Parliament.

Haringey now has four Labour MPs representing the borough in Parliament: Tulip Siddiq (Hampstead and Highgate), David Lammy (Tottenham), Catherine West (Hornsey and Friern Barnet) and Bambos Charalambous (Southgate and Wood Green).

The new Labour government's commitment to fixing the damage caused by the Conservative Party's mismanagement of our economy and neglect for public services is unwavering and put forward a credible and costed plan in their 2024 Election Manifesto.

The Labour government is firmly committed to being fiscally responsible and will implement polices like the Fiscal Lock and spending rules to ensure public finances are protected, spent effectively and not wasted.

The Labour government has promised to rethink Council funding by exploring multiyear funding settlements, end wasteful competitive bidding and overhauling the local audit system.

The Labour government plans to work in closer partnership with nations, regions and local authorities and widen devolution to more areas, encouraging local authorities to come together and take on new powers.

The Labour government have committed to asking local authorities to begin preparatory work to join on economic geographies and take on a new suite of powers through an enhanced devolution framework to benefit local residents.

The Labour government has already scrapped the inhumane Rwanda Plan, begun work on overhauling the planning system to help speed up an ambitious house-building programme of building 1.5m homes over this parliament, and introduced mandatory housing targets for local areas.

Local authorities are still under severe financial pressure, facing a funding gap of nearly £6bn over the next two years and 1 in 5 local authorities in England are at risk of being served Section 114 Notices.

Despite years of underfunding from central government, Haringey Council has achieved and delivered on many key commitments through the Haringey Deal & Corporate Delivery Plan by working with residents to co-produce and co-design a fairer, greener Haringey.

**The Council believes that**



The Labour government offers a welcome change in direction towards sensible governance, growing our economy, improving the public services residents need most, and supporting and protecting the most vulnerable in society.

We know our local communities and our borough best and welcome the government's plans to devolve further powers so that we can work to deliver for and with local people.

The Labour government faces an uphill challenge in power because of the Conservative government's failed legacy, with public services struggling, demand for services rising and a stagnated economy.

The Labour government's commitment to being fiscally responsible is the right thing to do at this time of economic instability and will ensure any use of public money is used responsibly and is focused on supporting the most vulnerable.

A Labour government and a Labour Mayor of London will help us to deliver our transformative plan for change and help us to continue our progress in making a Haringey a fairer, greener borough.

The Local Growth Plan, the Green Prosperity Plan, the Warmer Homes Plan, Great British Energy, the National Wealth Fund, a New Deal for Working People are welcome commitments that will help to renew our country and will have a sustained and real impact on Haringey residents.

**This Council resolves to:**

Work collaboratively with our new Labour government and Labour Mayor of London to deliver change for residents in Haringey.

Write to the Prime Minister congratulating him and his government on winning the election and reaffirm our commitment to working with the government to deliver for residents in Haringey.

Write to the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, congratulating her in her new role, reaffirm our commitment to work collaboratively with her department on issues that impact Haringey, and invite her to visit the borough and discuss our progress in making Haringey a fairer, greener borough.

Write to our four Members of Parliament to congratulate them on their elections and reaffirm our commitment to working with them to deliver for all residents.

**Motion B- Proportional representation**

Councillor Barnes proposed a motion calling for Proportional Representation to be used for UK general and local elections. She emphasised that Haringey Council should be one of the progressive and democratic Councils supporting proportional representation campaign.

Councillor Barnes highlighted that there was a need for the new government to repair the damage of previous government and that this should include fixing an out-of-date electoral system to better support fairness and democracy.

Councillor Emery seconded the motion and emphasised that PR came with many additional benefits, such as a higher number of people voting in the elections, more engagement in politics and a more representative set of voters.

Councillor Emery highlighted that a previous Labour Party Conference had indicated support for the introduction of proportional representation. He mentioned that this step was needed towards a fairer future where each vote had equal value.

Councillor Weston moved an amendment to the motion. She highlighted that in her recent experience of local campaigning, this issue had not been mentioned by residents and they had been concerned about a range of issues such as being able to access NHS services, how they might pay for care as they get older or that of their relatives, how long they would be able to afford their rent, whether they would be able to feed their families, how they could live on the benefits that they received.

Councillor Ibrahim seconded the amendment to the motion, referring to the que of people awaiting food packages at the food bank which all Councillors had seen when entering the Town Hall. She mentioned that it was a time of national struggle for residents in Haringey who were finding it difficult to pay their bills. There was a need to fix the problems that were at hand and ensure the function of government was focused on delivering for its residents.

Cllr Brabazon and Cllr O'Donovan spoke in the debate and highlighted the following:

- Reaffirming the focus on rebuilding public services for the benefit of everyone.
- Need for Councillors to work with the government and the London Mayor to improve the lives of citizens, seeking unity amongst all citizens.
- Focus was on providing support for the most vulnerable people, who were no longer able to fund basic items. Noting that there were increased numbers of residents in need of foodbanks.
- Many priorities for the new government, including investment in the NHS, and increasing the number of homes to be built a year, so people in the UK have a place they could live in. There was a need to invest in the public services and communities urgently,

Councillor Barnes responded to the debate and highlighted that the motion requested for the Council to dedicate itself to taking action in supporting the Councils for PR' campaign and highlighted two other Councils that had done this.

Following a vote on the amendment to the Motion, the amendment was AGREED.

Following a vote to the Motion as amended, this was AGREED.

Proposer: Councillor Elin Weston

Secunder: Councillor Emine Ibrahim

**Council notes:**

- First Past the Post is the established electoral system used in the United Kingdom for general elections;
- The benefits and disadvantages of First Past the Post have been debated widely;
- One of those benefits is the capacity of First Past the Post to deliver clear electoral outcomes, supporting the formation of Governments able to deliver their electoral pledges through Parliament.
- The Liberal Democrats long-term commitment to electoral reform was rejected by voters in a UK-wide referendum on the parliamentary voting system;
- The recent General Election returned a majority Labour government with a credible plan to rebuild the UK after 14 years of austerity implemented by Conservative and Conservative-Liberal Democrat governments;
- While the Labour Party conference in 2022 voted in favour of introducing Proportional Representation, the new Labour Government's priority should be repairing the damage of the past 14 years, implementing its legislative agenda and rebuilding our country in the interests of those who are most in need.

**Council believes that:**

- The urgency of the challenge to rebuild our public services and our country by delivering its electoral pledges should be the focus of the Labour Government;
- This focus should not be diminished by a diversion of resources towards changing the voting system;
- The English Devolution Bill announced in the King's Speech has the potential to enhance decision-making by mayors, combined authorities and local authorities, and deliver change for the communities they represent and serve;
- Working with the Labour Government to deliver this Bill and their legislative programme for change is a better use of Council resources and will be of greater benefit to Haringey residents.

**Council resolves to:**

- Support the development of proposals for greater devolution within England;
- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government outlining the Council's support for the principle of the Bill and committing to engaging with any consultation processes as the English Devolution Bill progresses.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....