

MINUTES OF THE MEETING Full Council HELD ON Thursday, 10th October, 2024, 18:30 – 20:15pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Anna Abela, Peray Ahmet, Ibrahim Ali, Emily Arkell, Nicola Bartlett, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Mark Blake, Zena Brabazon, Cathy Brennan, Lester Buxton, Dana Carlin, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Lotte Collett, Pippa Connor, Eldrige Culverwell, Nick da Costa, Lucia das Neves, Isidoros Diakides, Sarah Elliott, Ruth Gordon, Mark Grosskopf, Makbule Gunes, Mike Hakata, Emine Ibrahim, Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Sue Jameson(Mayor), Cressida Johnson, Anna Lawton, Ahmed Mahbub, Mary Mason, Khaled Moyeed, Sean O'Donovan, Ajda Ovat, Michelle Simmons-Safo, Joy Wallace, Elin Weston, Matt White and Sarah Williams

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Mayor referred to the filming at notice of meetings and attendees noted that the meeting was only being recorded.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from:

Cllr Rice
Cllr Adamou
Cllr Emery
Cllr Barnes
Cllr Rossetti
Cllr Dunstall
Cllr Dogan
Cllr Amin,
Cllr Opoku
Cllr Peacock
Cllr Worrell
Cllr Hymas

There were apologies for lateness from Councillor Mahbub and Cllr Mark Blake.

3. CSO 3.1 VI - WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed members of Elevated Youth, the Haringey Youth Panel and representatives of Aspire, which is the group that puts forward the voice of Haringey's young people and children in care.

It was noted that this meeting was the first time that there was active participation and collaboration between elected members and young people at a formal Council meeting.

This meeting was a good opportunity for young people to make a difference to themselves and their communities.

This meeting coincided with Local Democracy week-an initiative that highlighted the impact that resident participation can have on community life.

The Mayor highlighted that under19s of Haringey made up approximately 21% of the total population and decisions the Council make will have a lasting impact on these young people. Young people were an integral part of shaping the future of local democracy.

The Mayor hoped the Council would continue to engage young people in a meaningful and transparent way.

The Mayor advised that it was also World Mental Health Day and also an opportunity to raise awareness of mental health issues. She had took part in the unveiling of the bench at Tottenham sports and community centre dedicated to Caroline Flack who killed herself and the family suffered this loss very publicly. On the bench there were QR codes to access Mind and other websites for advice.

The Mayor called on the Chief Whip who MOVED in accordance with Council Standing Order 25.1, to suspend Council Standing Orders: 4.4 11, 15.1 at this extraordinary Full Council to allow speeches/ presentations from the Haringey Youth Council on the key concerns of young people living in the borough.

This was seconded by Cllr Cawley – Harrison and AGREED.

4. CSO 3.1 VI - INTRODUCTION FROM THE LEADER

The Leader of the Council welcomed the young people in attendance and briefly outlined the purpose of the meeting. The Leader highlighted that the creation of a Youth Council was a commitment made during local elections, and while progress had been made, this was only the beginning of the process. She emphasised that the goal was not to simply to 'tick a box', but to ensure that every voice, especially those of young people in the community, was heard. The Youth Council was not just a one-time event but also an ongoing opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue.

The Leader of the Council expressed a strong desire for diverse opinions, acknowledging that challenges and differing viewpoints were essential to making better decisions and becoming better leaders. The Leader of the Council encouraged young people to be active participants in the decision-making process, noting that they

were welcome to observe Cabinet meetings and spend time at the Council to understand the workings of local government, including its limitations and the need for collaboration.

The importance of regeneration and place making was highlighted as an issue close to the Leader of the Council's heart as someone who grew up in the borough. The Leader of the Council stressed the need to balance growth with maintaining the community's soul, and to work together with others to shape the future of the area. The Youth Council was key to keeping young people engaged in these ongoing discussions and providing them with the tools to influence change.

In conclusion, the Leader of the Council expressed hope that the Youth Council would be an ongoing, dynamic journey for all involved.

The Mayor called the following young people to make their speeches.

Yasin:

Yasin, a 17-year-old from White Hart Lane and Wood Green, spoke about the impact of place making on cultural identity in Haringey. He highlighted how rising costs are displacing minority communities and eroding cultural spaces, using the example of an Asian restaurant once supported by his late grandmother that is struggling due to affordability issues. Yasin emphasised the importance of preserving cultural heritage, particularly for young people, and called for more inclusion of youth in place making efforts.

He urged Councillors to engage directly with young people by spending time in schools, youth hubs, and libraries to better understand their challenges. He also criticized stereotypes of young people and called for them to be valued and involved in community development.

Yasin posed three questions to the Cabinet:

1. How will the Council implement changes for the Borough of Culture 2027?
2. How will the Council support existing subcultures in Haringay without overshadowing them?
3. How can young people be encouraged to engage in place making while preserving Haringey's cultural identity?

In conclusion, Yasin called for a balanced approach to place making that revitalises the area while protecting cultural spaces and identities, ensuring young people can thrive and contribute to their community.

Steven:

Steven, a care-experienced resident of Haringey and Participation and Engagement Worker at the Council for children in care and care leavers, spoke about the challenges young people face during their transition to adulthood, particularly those in

care or with additional needs like autism and ADHD. He highlighted the issue of long waiting times for assessments, which delay essential support and risk leaving young people without the services they need.

Steven called on the Council to prioritise these transitions, ensuring timely access to housing and social care services based on individual needs, not just eligibility thresholds. He emphasised that young people's needs do not disappear at 18, and continuous support was essential. In conclusion, Steven urged the Council to take immediate action to improve transitional support for vulnerable young people.

Cindy:

Cindy, a 16-year-old, spoke about the critical issue of funding cuts to youth services and the impact it could have on young people. She shared her personal experience, expressing how the Rising Green Youth Hub, along with the Bruce Grove Youth Club, had been essential to her growth. These Youth Hubs had provided her with valuable opportunities, life skills, and support, helping her build confidence and prepare for adulthood. However, Cindy also highlighted the troubling trend of youth workers leaving due to low pay, which threatened the continuity and quality of services.

She stressed that youth hubs were not just recreational spaces, but vital for personal development, offering life skills such as cooking, business planning, and creative outlets like music and design. They also provided a safe environment to help keep young people off the streets. However, Cindy noted that not every area has access to such hubs, and without proper funding, many of these services could disappear, leaving young people without support and positive role models.

Cindy asked the Council what plans they have for improving youth services and retaining youth workers. She emphasised that these hubs were crucial in giving young people a voice, as they had encouraged her to speak out today. She concluded by inviting Councillors to visit youth panel meetings to further discuss the importance of these spaces and work towards a future where every young person has the same opportunities to grow and learn.

Naveah:

Naveah, a 16-year-old, spoke about the rising concerning issue of knife crime among young people, particularly in the UK. She highlighted the alarming 15% increase in knife crime over the past year, which was not just a statistic but a tragedy that affected real lives, resulting in loss, trauma, and changed futures.

She painted a vivid picture of the pressures faced by young people, citing the example of a six-year-old boy feeling the overwhelming urge to fit in when he saw friends carrying knives. She questioned how many people could remember a moment when they, too, felt pressured to take a risk to belong.

It was stressed that the problem was not only the increase in knife crime but also its increased severity, with over 2,000 young people becoming victims of knife-related

incidents last year, many suffering life-changing injuries. Each statistic, she pointed out, represented a young life disrupted, potential wasted, and dreams shattered.

She recalled a personal experience where, just before her birthday, police stopped her group of friends after a young boy was attacked in broad daylight and the impact this had on her and her friends. Naveah posed the question: "How would you feel if this happened to your child?".

She concluded by calling for urgent action to address peer pressure and the factors contributing to youth involvement in knife crime, urging society not to accept this as the new normal and to take steps to protect young people's safety and future.

Danielle:

Danielle, a 15-year-old student in her final year of secondary school, spoke about the mental health challenges faced by young people in Haringey. She highlighted the alarming statistic that suicide was the leading cause of death among children and young people, with contributing factors such as poor mental health, academic pressure, bullying, social isolation, and family issues. Danielle questioned how the next generation would develop if these mental health issues continued to be ignored.

Speaking from her own experience, Danielle shared the intense pressure of GCSEs, which included constant revision, coursework, and applications for colleges. She expressed concern that there was little focus on mental health in the school curriculum and asked where the balance was between academic expectations and well-being. Danielle suggested that mindfulness and coping techniques should be taught from a young age, proposing that even 10 minutes a day could help young people manage stress and pressures.

Danielle also discussed safety concerns, mentioning how alarming it could be to walk home at night or encounter dark, unsafe spaces. She proposed that the Council invest in better lighting in areas like Chestnut Park to help young people feel safer and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

While acknowledging that the Council may not be directly responsible for mental health services, Danielle urged them to address other issues that contribute to the well-being of young people, such as providing affordable housing, improving access to services, and creating spaces that encourage social interaction and community building.

In conclusion, Danielle raised two key questions:

1. How does the Council plan to improve mental health services and the education system to better support young people?
2. What is being done to reduce the feeling of being unsupported among young people and their families?

She emphasised the importance of addressing these issues to help young people thrive in a healthier, safer environment.

Ruth:

Ruth, a 17-year-old from Haringey, addressed two key issues affecting young people in the borough: the lack of work experience opportunities for students and the need for affordable housing for young adults.

1. Work Experience Opportunities:

Ruth shared a personal experience of feeling unprepared for her future career. During her time in secondary school, she had limited interaction with her careers advisor and received no formal work experience to help her explore potential career paths. She emphasised that many young people in Haringey faced the same challenges, often being pressured to make life-altering decisions without adequate exposure to career options. Ruth proposed that the Council create an incentive program aimed at 15-19-year-olds, collaborating with companies across London to offer diverse work experience opportunities. She also suggested establishing a dedicated work experience sector within the Council, with regular workshops and clear communication between schools and employers to help students make more informed decisions about their futures.

2. Affordable Housing for Young Adults:

Ruth also highlighted the struggles young adults in Haringey face when it comes to affordable housing. While many young people, especially university graduates, wanted to remain in the borough, the high cost of living made it difficult to live independently. Ruth outlined the financial challenges of renting in Haringey, citing her own situation as an example: a recent graduate with significant student debt who can barely afford rent with a starting salary. She proposed a "young rental scheme" that would provide financial assistance to young people who seek to live independently in the borough, allowing them to thrive in Haringey's newly regenerated areas. Ruth praised the Council's efforts to build affordable housing for families and suggested that similar support could be extended to young adults.

In conclusion, Ruth queried how the Council plans to implement these suggestions and improve support for young people, particularly in terms of providing better career guidance and affordable housing options.

Zak:

Zak, a 24-year-old, shared that he had left an abusive household and found himself homeless. After seeking advice in Haringey, he was told to go to the police station for help. Zak spent the night there, from 11:30 PM until 7:30 AM, with no money, just a bag. The station was filled with addicts and drunk individuals, which made him feel scared and vulnerable.

Although many people suggested he return home, Zak was determined to escape the abusive situation. When he sought help, he faced barriers. Local organisations in Haringey, where he had lived his entire life, told him to go back home, leaving Zak feeling humiliated and discouraged.

Eventually, Zak was moved to Ilford, a transition that proved overwhelming. The long commutes the distance from everything familiar, and the challenge of balancing work left him physically and emotionally drained. Despite these struggles, Zak currently lives in Barnet and feels incredibly grateful for the support he had received from mentors and others along the way.

Zak's queried what support is available for young adults with additional needs, and how can the transition to stable housing be made easier. He believed the current system was unfair and needed to be improved to better support people in situations like his.

Selina:

Selina, a 13-year-old student at Alexandra Park School, was speaking out for better support for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in mainstream schools. As a young person with autism and dyspraxia, she had faced challenges in her education due to insufficient funding. Currently, funding for SEN students was capped at £10,000 per student, but the actual cost of support, such as Assistant Teachers, exceeded that amount. This created a significant funding gap, leaving schools struggling to provide adequate help.

Since the introduction of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) in 2014, the number of SEN students had risen significantly, but funding had not kept up. At her own school, Selina lacked essential services like sensory rooms and one-to-one occupational therapy, which were crucial for managing sensory overloads and improving functional skills. She had also spoken to other SEN students, who shared similar frustrations, wanting more support in lessons, better technology, and more extracurricular opportunities.

A recent article highlighted that local Councils were facing a £1.9 billion deficit in SEN funding, which was expected to grow unless action was taken. Selina was calling for the government to address this funding crisis and ensure that students with SEN received the support they needed. She also wanted to raise awareness about neurodiversity and promote greater social inclusion for all students.

In conclusion, Selina expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to speak and hoped her message would inspire the changes needed to support students like her.

Zachary:

Zachary, a 12-year-old student, spoke about the lack of indoor sports facilities in his community and how it affected young people. While there are some outdoor options like ice skating, roller skating, and running tracks, he pointed out that the lack of

indoor facilities meant young people missed out on year-round opportunities to stay active and engaged.

He emphasised that more indoor sports facilities would provide a wider variety of activities, which could help young people find their passion and stay healthy. Beyond physical benefits, sports teach valuable life skills like teamwork, discipline, and stress management. Zachary shared that many of his friends are stuck at home, often playing video games, especially during winter when outdoor sports are less accessible. He highlighted how boredom and a lack of activities can lead to a negative path.

Zachary believed that investing in indoor sports facilities could make a huge difference, offering young people a positive outlet and a sense of community. He stressed that sports are not just games but opportunities for young people to feel included, build confidence, and develop a sense of purpose. He called on the Council to invest in activities that keep young people off the streets and provide them with opportunities to grow and be proud of themselves.

Zachary's key question to the Council was how they plan to increase sporting activities to reduce antisocial behaviour and improve youth engagement. He urged the Council to consider a broader range of sports programs that would benefit young people and help them thrive. In conclusion, he thanked the Council and expressed hope that they would work together to create a better, more supportive environment for the next generation.

Kayan:

Kayan, a 17-year-old from Tottenham, spoke passionately about the issue of knife crime, which had become a growing concern in his community. He explained how the rise in knife crime had created a climate of fear, loss, and insecurity, impacting not only the victims but also their families. Kayan shared how he had personally seen friends affected by knife crime, with some even falling victim to it themselves. He emphasised that this cycle of violence was trapping young people, making them feel that violence is the only means of protection.

Kayan believed that the root cause of knife crime was due to the lack of opportunity and support for young people. When young people felt disconnected, hopeless, or unable to see a positive future, they were more likely to fall into negative influences. He stressed that it is crucial to address these underlying issues, rather than simply focusing on the crime itself.

Acknowledging the efforts already being made by the government and local Councils, such as youth clubs and programs like Bruce Grove, Rising Green, Kayan noted that these initiatives had been vital to his personal development. However, he emphasised that more needed to be done. There was a pressing need for more accessible support and safe spaces where young people could be heard, understood, and given the chance to feel valued and hopeful about their future.

In his message to the Council, Kayan urged decision-makers to prioritise investment in youth programs and community support to break the cycle of violence. He believed that when young people feel safe and supported, they were more likely to stay away from negative influences.

Kayan concluded by asking the Council: *"What are you going to do to prevent knife crime?"*.

The Mayor - called on the Leader and Cabinet Members to respond to the issues raised in the speeches and questions raised. The following was noted:

Cllr Arkell responded that the Culture Strategy was going to Cabinet very soon. It would be guided by six underlying principles of access, collaboration, equity, growth, life-long learning and visibility and representation. She added her support for Yasin's aspiration for Haringey to be a place where all young people can thrive and prosper in a supportive and creative environment. She also welcomed his invitation to meet and noted that the Assistant Directors for Culture & Creativity would be in contact to talk further.

How do you plan to support existing subcultures without overshadowing them with place making?

Cllr Gordon responded that the aim of place making is to empower all residents, to have real influence over changes to their local area. She wanted to celebrate the rich heritage of diverse communities and help local businesses to thrive. She added that Rising Green, the Youth Hub in Wood Green was co-designed with architects and by young people. She commented that the more the Council reached out to seldom heard voices - the better equipped they were to create spaces for them. Wood Green and Tottenham Voices was an example of this.

How can we get the next generation interested in place making?

Cllr Gordon responded that a good example of how to get people interested in place making was the Photography Project that was created with young people. The project asked young people to photograph themselves in their favourite place in Wood Green. A professional photographer, who took them through the techniques used to photograph and curate the project, supported the young people and team. The results were pulled together in an exhibition as part of the launch of Shaping Wood Green and were featured as part of the London Festival of Architecture. Cllr Gordon said that she felt that it was projects such as this that really allowed young people to feel genuinely part of the finished strategy. It also provided the Council's strategies with a genuine legitimacy.

Yasin had a follow up question and asked what plans there were to involve young people. Cllr Gordon responded that she and her team would be in touch to talk further about how young people and her team could work together. She added that some

work streams would address some of the issues raised. In addition, there were some longer-term plans in motion where themes had been identified for areas of development.

Children Looked After and Care Leavers Transitions for all young people into adulthood. How do they plan to improve the services on transitional safeguarding?

Cllr Brabazon responded to the question by stating that her team had just set up a new service to deal with all aspects of transition from youth services to adult services and this covered those with SEND. This would be up and running in the new financial year. She acknowledged that people change as they move through the system and that ambitions change. In response to this, the team were starting earlier to plan with service users and families. She advised that this service would support all young people to have the best opportunities. She wanted to ensure that no one fell through the gaps and that it was an adaptive and joined up service. In relation to supporting care leavers, the Leaving Care Team helped young people with becoming independent, but this crossed many other services such as housing and employment. She wanted to ensure that there was a multi-agency approach, with strong links and good relationships. In addition, that young people that were identified with a continuing need, even though they may not meet a threshold.

Cllr Das Neves also responded that she supported and empathised with Steven about the impact that the transition from Children's Services to Adult's Services can have on a young person. She also highlighted that transition forms an important part of adult safeguarding work. She stated that there was no reason why young people could not be invited to talk about their own experiences and talk to practitioners. She outlined that successful transition involved planning with families and young people at an early stage. Stephen thanked the Cabinet and welcomed the idea of working together.

Social activities for Young People with SEND and SEND Funding.

Cllr Brabazon updated Selina's figures that schools were capped at £10,000 for SEND pupils. She clarified that this was place funding, and they would then receive £23,280 as a top up from the LA. She also stated that there had been a lot of work to ensure that funding was equitable and supported children wherever they chose to learn.

She agreed with Selina that there should be more SEND social activities for young people. She suggested that those points should also be raised with the school and offered to talk to Selina's Head teacher about it. She commented that Selina had pointed out some very profound issues facing young people with SEND, and she thought the 'Elevated Youth' club was a starting point for young people with SEND to begin to address the issues stated.

Cllr Arkell responded that she fully supported Zak's statement. She added that only 47% of children and young people meet the Chief Medical Officers' current guidelines of taking part in 60 minutes or more of physical activity or sport per week. She listed

some Council provisions like indoor tennis at the New River Sports Centre and the active school holiday programme. She also stated that the tennis courts across the borough had recently been refurbished. The Council had also taken on the management of leisure centres. The Council were now reviewing the programming, and the team would welcome input from young people about what services they would like to see in leisure centres and in parks and green spaces.

*Work Experience for University Graduates and Key stage 4 & 5 – career support.
Housing/ Affordable rent prices for University Graduates and what is the future for the secondary school leavers to make more informed career choices?*

Cllr Williams responded that all people across the borough were having to cope with rental increases and high rents. She added that in response to this the Council were building Council homes however, this was expensive and difficult. She emphasised that there were limitations for the Council. She explained that private landlords can and do double their rates and this prices out their current tenants. Situations like these meant that many people could not afford to rent or to buy. She stated that families were living in very overcrowded circumstances; however, Haringey's Landlord Licensing scheme ensured that the accommodation was up to standard. She stated that the Council was working with the Labour government to do more and to commit to rent controls, so that rents in local boroughs were based on what people can earn. She also stated that she thought that many more houses need to be built.

Cllr Gordon then responded to Ruth's question regarding career opportunities at secondary school and university. Cllr Gordon indicated that the responsibility for work experience opportunities lay with schools. However, the Council had set up opportunities that ran alongside this. These included Haringey Works which had helped 400 local young people last year into employment. There was a youth zone for employment support, as well as an early help support offer with employment for post 16s. In-house training and apprenticeships are available with Haringey Council. There were also provisions in the overall strategy that tried to ensure that employers were offering London living wage as opposed to just a minimum wage.

Question 1. How do you plan to improve the mental health services and the education system in the community?

Question 2. What is being put in place to decrease the feeling of not being supported?

Cllr Das Neves talked through the mental health offer for Haringey. She highlighted Haringey's involvement in the London-wide Mental Health Day, partnership work with other organisations and KOOTH, an online mental health resource for young people. She emphasised that this was a useful time for young people to give input, and channel these opinions upwards. This could also help the Council look at how they could work more with partnerships and other local organisations. She added that her

team had agreed to bring a group of the Youth Council together with Cllr O'Donovan (the Mental Health Champion) to talk more about this.

What are the plans for the Council to improve the bureaucracy for young people dealing with housing issues as my experience was very traumatic?

Cllr Williams apologised for Zac's experience. She pledged to look harder at the bureaucracy that goes with this. She added that her team was looking into providing a 'walk-in' service and was hoping to get it open by the start of next year. Cllr Williams felt it was unacceptable that the out of hour's service had told him to go to a police station for shelter at a traumatic time. Cllr Williams offered Zac the opportunity to talk through his experience with the team in a separate meeting.

What is Haringey Council's plan to ensure that adequate funding is available for local Youth Hubs to ensure that YP staying off the streets?

Are there any plans for more youth hubs to be opened? To cover areas near Tottenham Hale, Haringey ladder, St Ann's and Hornsey

Cllr Brabazon responded that these were tough financial times, and the Council was waiting to hear if there was going to be any funding from central government. However, she stated that there were three youth hubs in Haringey all offering universal services, open access and inclusive provision. She outlined that Haringey had a mobile youth hub, as well as targeted youth work and outreach work. The team was also working alongside partners in the voluntary sector, including work with the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation to develop more youth provision in the borough next year. She stated that the team would also be launching a new Youth Strategy, which will set out priorities for the next five years from 2025.

Cindy asked how a new generation of youth workers were going to be developed by the Council.

Cllr Brabazon responded that she thought youth workers should be developed in house. She suggested that young people that use the services could become volunteers and then eventually trainees. She emphasised that this was important to 'grow our own' youth workers to reflect the diversity in the borough.

Knife crime and gang violence.

What is being done to prevent knife crime?

Cllr Ovat responded that Haringey had been working in partnership with organisations to address knife crime and identify young people at risk of violence and anti-social behaviour. These partnerships would give opportunities for young people to have a constructive outlet and a pathway to success. She agreed with Kayan that the team had to look at the root causes and use prevention techniques to prevent violence. She

cited that Haringey was working with the police to help reduce violence in the north area. The Councils were also working with schools to ensure that young people were engaged. She emphasised her commitment to work with young people to co design interventions. She offered to meet with both Kayan and Naveah to discuss more.

Failure of the education system to support young people with autism, ADHD, dyslexia and Down Syndrome.

Cllr Brabazon responded that there had been some successes with education provision with SEND. However, the key issue was that there was not enough money in the system. She stated that she hoped that the government would write off the debts; however, in the meantime schools were working in a system where there was not enough provision. The Council had no power to give schools more money and some of the relationships with the schools were hard to administer, so working together was key. She stated that young people had done very well in national tests, but she did agree that there was more to be done, and they were working towards an inclusive and high achieving system.

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

Cllr Brabazon proposed a cross-party motion welcoming the Youth Council and youth empowerment and involvement in local democracy. Cllr Brabazon stressed that it was significantly harder for this generation of young people than it was for other generations who had enjoyed a debt-free education.

Cllr Brabazon emphasised that the Youth Council's concerns had been heard. She was delighted to be asked challenging questions and hear directly from service users. In Children's Services they were working hard to extend youth participation and incorporate it in the regular way that the Council does business. She shared some of the work of Children's services. The Youth Council had been set up, Cllr Buxton was Haringey's Youth Champion and Cllr Brabazon would now be meeting with the Youth Council on a regular basis. The motion would propose that Councillors extend engagement with young people throughout the year. She stated that Elevated Youth had been evolving and had a seat on the SEND Executive Board where special needs policy was shaped. ASPIRE the voice for 'looked after' children had now over 50 members. She thanked Steven Agyeman for the work he had done on this. The Corporate Parenting Committee met on a regular basis with ASPIRE to get feedback on what was working in the services. She stated that young people sit on many panels in Children's services, including recruitment.

Cllr Brabazon concluded by expressing that democracy was fragile and that it needed sustaining. She called on members to take seriously the responsibility of engaging young people in the democratic process.

In accordance with Council's standing orders, 15.3 Councillor Isilar-Gosling seconded the motion.

Cllr Isilar-Gosling commented on the eloquence of the Youth Council. She was pleased that the Youth Council was up and running and looked forward to working with them in the future. She stressed that on certain topics it was important for Councillors to recognise that they did not have all the answers, and it was important to talk to those who were directly affected. She extended her thanks to all at the Youth Council.

Cllr Mark Blake thanked the Youth Council and all officers involved for the opportunity to hear their views. He stated that politics was about improving people's lives and he believed in fairness, equality, a better world, and investing in the community. He emphasised that things were harder for young people than they ever had been. He gave the example of an expensive university education and unaffordable housing. He challenged all those on the Youth Council to find their politics and make a difference.

Cllr Buxton outlined that no Councillor could truly say they represented the voice of young people in Haringey. He expressed that this was the first step for young people to hold decision makers to account, and he had high ambitions for the Youth Council. His role as Youth Champion was to ensure that young people were truly empowered and all voices were heard.

Cllr Brabazon's closing remarks were to thank the Youth Council.

Following a vote on Motion D, The Council's Launch of the Haringey Youth Council, it was unanimously AGREED.

Proposer: Cllr Zena Brabazon

Seconder: Cllr Cawley- Harrison

The Council notes that

- The last census the Council undertook indicated that there were over 59,000 under 19s in the Borough- out of an overall population of 261,000. This represents a significant proportion of Haringey's population.
- The Corporate Delivery Plan 2024– 2026 set out plans to establish a Haringey Youth Council. This was to ensure that young people representing their communities would have more opportunities to be actively involved in influencing decisions that affect them.
- Since 2022, The Council's Youth Services team has undertaken work with schools, youth groups and established youth forums to recruit young people to an initial Youth Panel event. This took place in July 2024 and was attended by ten of the twelve young people who have since been recruited. In addition to this, there are now fifteen young people who are members of the Elevated Youth SEND Forum. Close ties are being developed between the two forums.
- The Council is developing a vision for a corporate response to engaging young people in the decision-making processes of the Council.
- The Council must support young people to develop the skills to make this a successful and meaningful project.

The Council believes that

- Young residents who represent their community must be heard by the Council especially when it comes to decisions that directly affect them now and in the future.
- Closer ties must be formed between Elected Representatives and The Youth Council.

This Council resolves to:

- Do its utmost to ensure that Haringey has a diverse Youth Council that represents the young people of the borough.
- Continue recruiting to and developing the skills of the Youth Council to ensure that the voices of young people in the community are being heard at every level.
- Commit to support Councillors to engage with the Youth Council on a regular basis. This will culminate in an annual Council-wide meeting with the Youth Council to hear concerns and issues directly affecting young people.
- Continue working with schools, youth groups and forums to ensure youth participation in its' decision making.

6. APPROVAL OF THE HARINGEY YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024- 2027

Cllr Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families MOVED that the report which sought approval of Adoption of the Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024 – 2027 be adopted, and it was,

RESOLVED

To adopt the Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024-2027 attached at Appendix 2.

The Mayor thanked young people for attending and their fantastic contributions There was a closing song from Kiki and Council wide round of applause.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date