

MINUTES OF THE MEETING Cabinet HELD ON Tuesday, 10th December, 2024, 6.30pm – 8.50pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Ajda Ovat, Peray Ahmet (Chair), Mike Hakata, Emily Arkell, Zena Brabazon, Dana Carlin, Seema Chandwani, Ruth Gordon and Sarah Williams

ALSO ATTENDING: Cllr Cawley – Harrison and Cllr Brennan

76. FILMING AT MEETINGS

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

77. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Cllr das Neves.

78. URGENT BUSINESS

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager advised the meeting that there was one item of late business to consider with item 9, this was a letter from Highgate Library Action Group, which needed to be considered with the Consultation Report (Appendix 4), in the report's section for Organisational Responses (page 355, Appendix 1).

The Leader of the Council accepted this item of late business for the reasons outlined in the cover page tabled at the meeting with the report.

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Chandwani declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 16, Review of St Ann's Low Traffic Neighbourhood, in accordance with the member code of conduct - part 2 paragraph 4.1 and would recuse herself for this item in accordance with paragraph 4.2.

Cllr Williams declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 18, Review of Bruce Grove and West Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood, in accordance with the member code of conduct - part 2 paragraph 4.1 and would recuse herself for this item in accordance with paragraph 4.2.

80. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN PRIVATE, ANY REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED AND THE RESPONSE TO ANY SUCH REPRESENTATIONS

There were no representations received.

81. MINUTES

RESOLVED

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2024 as a correct record.

82. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/QUESTIONS

There was a deputation put forward from Haringey Living Streets in support of the recommendations on making permanent the LTN trials in Bounds Green, West Green, Bruce Grove, and St Ann's.

Lee Vilinsky Chair of Healthy Streets and Tottenham spoke in support of the LTN's, and he congratulated the Council on successfully implementing three schemes and commended their commitment to a divisive but essential initiative. Mr Vilinsky shared that, on a personal level, the schemes had made it safer for him and his three children to walk or cycle to Downhills Park and Lordship Rec and he continued to outline the community benefits achieved in the LTN areas.

A desire was expressed for an expanded active travel network, particularly benefiting families and individuals new to cycling or wheeling. Mr Vilinsky highlighted ongoing challenges, including increased traffic from Spurs events, the Drum Sheds, and future developments like Meridian Water, which could disproportionately impact their neighbourhood without further action. Acknowledging that change takes time, he stated that this decision was a significant step forward and urged Haringey to accelerate efforts towards creating a healthier, more sustainable environment.

Mohammed Eljaouhari a resident of St Ann's ward spoke on behalf of the wider Haringey Living Streets Group. He expressed that it had been a long road to get to this position and felt the journey has just begun since the initial proposals were announced a few years ago through the implementation of the streets for people initiative.

There had been voices on both sides advocating for and against the LTN schemes. Mr Eljaouhari spoke about the positive benefits that he had seen with the changes such as a safer environment where children played in the streets, neighbours interacted more, and businesses continued to thrive. He asked the Council to implement more LTN's and deliver promised further crossings and cycle lanes in the borough.

Mr Eljaouhari emphasised the importance of taking the next steps promptly to reassure residents that the initiatives were part of a broader, long-term plan. He

referenced the Walking and Cycling Action Plan published two years earlier, which outlined Haringey's goals to lead in climate action, reduce pollution and road collisions, and enhance the urban environment. He reminded the Council that public support for these efforts, which existed before the introduction of the low-traffic measures, had only grown stronger over time.

Councillor Hakata thanked the group for their deputation and emphasised the crucial role they played in advocating for change throughout the process. He acknowledged that none of the progress in Haringey's local streets would have been possible without residents leading the way and speaking out. Also, it was stated that if the Cabinet voted to retain the schemes, they would form part of a broader plan. This plan, outlined in the Walking and Cycling Action Plan, included initiatives such as strategic cycle lanes, school streets, bike hangars, greening projects, and public realm improvements to create liveable and sociable neighbourhoods. The importance of ensuring these efforts benefitted everyone and continue to be co-produced with residents, whose intimate knowledge of their local streets is invaluable was stressed. He concluded by expressing gratitude for the residents' contributions to shaping Haringey's future.

Cllr Ovat queried with the deputation what positive changes an LTN or Streets for People initiative could bring to North Tottenham. In response to the query, it was stated that changes would encourage residents to engage with one another again. The streets were not designed to handle heavy traffic had disrupted the sense of community, making streets less inviting for social interaction. By reducing traffic and creating quieter streets, these areas could become shared public spaces where neighbours could linger, chat, and connect. This transformation was seen as the most significant positive change, fostering a stronger sense of community.

In response to Cllr Gordon's question on what type of community cohesion had been observed and whether the deputation believed the introduction of the LTNs had positively impacted this. The deputation shared that, the streets in St Ann's and the area overall had become much quieter. He noted that since summer, once people had adjusted to the measures, the change was evident.

The deputation advised that there were more children playing in the now-empty streets, creating a sense of community ownership. Previously, the street had been noisy and congested. It was noted that there were now fewer cars and around five to ten cars an hour, making it a safer and more enjoyable space for residents. The deputation also highlighted the increased use of the street for activities, though more could be done to utilise the available space. He noted a rise in community events, such as street parties, which had become easier and more frequent compared to before. He concluded that the changes had positively impacted not only his street but the wider borough as well.

The Leader of the Council then proposed to vary the agenda order to take the items 16,17 and 18 after item 7 so that the deputation could hear the outcome of the decisions relating to their deputation. This was AGREED by Cabinet.

83. MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

NONE

84. REVIEW OF LIBRARIES OPERATING HOURS

The Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure introduced the report which set out the results of the public consultation around different options proposed to vary the operating hours of the borough's libraries and recommended an in-principle decision to adopt revised Option 3, subject to consultation with affected staff, as the best option for the Council to continue to deliver a comprehensive and efficient library service within its reduced budget envelope.

The Cabinet Member spoke of the protection and support of libraries and highlighted that in recent years the Council had invested nearly £5m to upgrade and make branch libraries accessible. She also highlighted that the borough had some of the longest library hours in London in recent years. Unfortunately, due to the ever-increasing costs of adult and children's social care and the housing crisis which had pushed many residents into temporary accommodation, the point had been reached now where it was no longer sustainable to maintain such long hours, especially at times of the day when there were not many people coming into libraries.

In August, the Council launched a public consultation which ran to mid-October. The consultation focused on proposed adjustments to operating hours. This process was collaborative and evidence-based, looking both at library footfall analysis and feedback from residents, the Friends of Reading & Education (FORE) and other community groups.

It was noted that arising from the consultation there was a strong preference from residents and library users to maintain lunchtime openings, create more consistent hours and prioritise Sunday and evening opening times. A key change emphasised was that the Council would be keeping both Hornsey and Marcus Garvey library open on Sundays. The Cabinet Member expressed that the Council wanted to keep as much library space open as possible, especially for children and young people studying.

The Council had listened during the engagement process and were now proposing changes to the proposed schedule of opening hours which was contained in the paper.

Going forward, the Council were committed to developing a strategic plan to ensure libraries remain sustainable and fit for the future. This would include modernising library services, exploring more income generation opportunities and adapting to the evolving needs of our communities – particularly in the post-pandemic landscape. The Council were especially focused on engaging the next generation of library users.

It was noted that to reduce the day-to-day staff costs of libraries by reducing hours for now, preserved the investment in library buildings in recent years and reflected the value given to them as public assets.

The following information was provided in response to questions from Cllr Ovat, Cllr Gordon, Cllr Hakata, Cllr Brabazon, Cllr Brennan and Cllr Cawley- Harrison.

- The Council had carried out a detailed equality impact assessment as the needs of residents who lived closest to Highgate Library in the west of the borough were very different from those who relied on the Coombs Croft Library in the east of the borough. The Council had observed and worked within legal duties to understand the equality impact of the proposals and tried to minimise them for the most vulnerable residents and those who have protected characteristics in the borough. It was noted that alongside carrying out and developing the detailed equality impact assessment, the Council had also carried out a needs assessment and a six-week consultation to which 1376 residents responded. Engagement was wide ranging with each of the individual library user groups, schools and colleges and pensioner groups as well.
- It was acknowledged that the equalities impact assessment did identify a number of issues which specifically, affected young people, people with a disability, and residents who were from a black or minority ethnic group and led to consideration of option three where there were a number of mitigations to minimise and reduce the impact of the issues of reducing the library opening hours on each of the groups and these included evening opening hours in each of the main libraries for one evening per week and longer opening hours for libraries in the east of the borough where there were high levels of deprivation. The consultation feedback emphasised that there was also a consistency needed to opening hours including starting and closing times and also maintaining lunchtime hours as well.
- To manage risks of lone working by staff, there would continue to be conversations with Unison and staff on this matter. It was noted that continuing lunchtime opening hours was a one of the proposals put forward by library staff themselves and was also fed back to the Council quite consistently in the consultation process. In practice, this would mean staggered lunch breaks to ensure that libraries did not close during the lunchtimes and Council would continue to work with Unison and with staff to ensure any risks were properly mitigated and managed and staff safety remained the highest priority for the Council.
- Acknowledged that there were a group of people that used the libraries in both cold and warm weather and also as a social connection point. Alongside libraries, there was an initiative called the Haringey Welcome, which had been established this year to help residents overcome loneliness and promote social connection and provide warm spaces. It was highlighted that libraries formed part of that network alongside other organisations, community spaces and also places of worship, and these were places that residents could access who may be finding it hard if they if they were seeing increasing fuel prices and energy costs. The spaces provided a warm place and a safe place for residents to go,

and also enabled a place of social connection and also a place where they can get some refreshments and take part in activities if they wished to do so.

- Responding to the important role that library study spaces have for facilitating homework and exam revision and IT access, it was noted that during the consultation process, the Council did specifically reach out to young people and to schools and colleges particularly in the east of the borough. The Council had listened to the feedback on this and subsequently had adjusted some of the proposals that were first set out to ensure that all of the main libraries remained open for a longer period of time for at least one day a week. In addition, as part of the development of the library strategy, which would start in early 2025, the Council would be considering how it can develop partnerships with schools and colleges across the borough to ensure that during peak exam period and the lead up to them, there were places that young people could go to study to ensure that the borough maintain exam success. The Cabinet Member highlighted that the Council already had experience of doing this when Marcus Garvey Library was closed for a period of time in 2022 - 23 and by working closely with CONEL had ensured that there was library space available there.
- Regarding the generational shift in the use of libraries and change in habits for information gathering and different ways of reading books, there was a need to consider that, since 2012, the number of visits to libraries had dropped from 2 million per year to just over 900,000. Although those numbers had started to build back since the pandemic, they were still not near pre- pandemic figures. It was further noted that during the pandemic, the number of people borrowing e-books and audio books has increased, and these changes in reading devices would be considered as part of the libraries strategy that would be developed in 2025.
- The Council were retaining the libraries in the public realm, and they could be used in different ways such as: community hubs, cultural hubs, and also could welcome new groups and cohorts of people who may not necessarily use libraries as places for them. These varied uses could ensure that libraries had a sustainable future.
- It was felt that the friends of Muswell Hill Library and those who gave input to the consultation, had all been listened to. Assurance was further provided that the Council would continue to work with the Friends Group to bring residents back in after the refurbishment and to ensure that it continued to be the creative and vibrant place that it was before it closed for its refurbishment.
- Responding to the query about what co production and engagement activities had taken place with friends, groups and residents to discuss the merits and downsides of Option 3 before it was proposed for approval at the meeting, it was noted that this was based on all the feedback that the Council had as part

of the consultation process. The Council had taken forward a significant amount of consultation and engagement with both resident groups and with the friends groups of individual libraries. The Council has also reached out and offered a number of meetings with individual friends' groups regarding the actual data and information that had been gathered as a result of the footfall and occupancy data that had been carried out in each individual library. It was noted that not all of those invitations had been taken up, but it was important to state that the outreach had happened. However, the Council did meet with some groups independently and had met regularly with the Friends of Reading and Education throughout.

- In further response to the issue of consultation on the third option, it was emphasised that the Council had further carried out specific outreach with specific groups, including young people, schools, colleges, pensioner groups as well to ensure there was a very wide and deep breadth of input and views into the option.
- Continuing to respond on the query about co production on option 3, the friends' groups had been clear that they did not want the Council to describe engagement work with them on discussing the options in advance as co-production. This view was accepted and indeed the consultation described as 'statutory' as required for this decision. It was noted that a whole range of sources of information had been considered to reach a balanced decision but the consultation could not be described as co-production. However, there had been significant efforts to engage and consult and take on board views, over and above requirements, which have subsequently shaped the proposals that had been compiled.
- There was acknowledgement of the challenges provided by groups around footfall data in the in the consultation period, which the Council had revisited and considered occupancy rates as well as footfall, demonstrating that the Council had sought hard to take on board the views and challenges of the friends' groups, recognising that they were advocates for libraries and want to preserve the service provided.
- With regards to data contained in on footfall tracker including the numbers going into the contact centres in Wood Green and Marcus Garvey, the data had been obtained from the Environment and Resident experience service and data considered on the numbers of visitors each of these contact centres got per hour and their average number of visitors per hour was between 10 and 12 in Marcus Garvey and Wood Green respectively. This did not significantly detract from the library numbers and particularly at Wood Green which had the highest footfall and occupancy. The Cabinet Member further expressed that having the contact centres situated where they were in Wood Green and Marcus Garvey, had enabled the proposal of an 'express hour' which would mean that both these libraries would be open from 9:00am till 10am in both of those sites. This would mean that residents will be able to go to borrow books or return them using the self-service machines or use the library for study.
- There were no proposals in the current budget consultation for new savings to libraries in the next financial year. The aim was to make libraries sustainable

and put them on a sustainable footing for the future. In early 2025 there would be co – production work on a new libraries strategy involving library group friends and the Friends of Reading and Education. It was noted that a key strand of strategy would be income generation. The Cabinet Member emphasised to Officers that this aim was crucial to ensure that libraries were able to bring in income to ensure they had a sustainable footing for the future.

RESOLVED

1. To consider the assessment set out in paragraph 4.1 and in more detail in paragraphs 6.60-6.79 of the Council's statutory duty under Section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to provide a 'comprehensive and efficient' library service.
2. To note the conclusions of the detailed Needs Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment and the potential impacts and mitigations identified in relation to these proposals, as set out in paragraph 4.2 and in more detail in paragraphs 6.36-6.47 and Appendices 1 and 2.
3. To note the engagement and consultation process carried out to gather public and community views on the two different options put forward, and the findings and analysis of that consultation, as set out in paragraph 4.3 and in more detail in paragraphs 6.6-6.35 and at Appendices 3 and 4.
4. Taking into account the findings of the consultation, the Needs Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment, agree in principle to implement new Option 3 as set out in paragraph 4.4 and in further detail in paragraphs 6.48-6.59 of the report (namely that, informed by equity as the guiding principle, longer opening hours are retained in those libraries serving residents who are in greatest need of the service) from May 2025, subject to the outcome of consultation with affected staff.
5. To agree to delegate the final decision on Option 3 and the operating model and hours of the library service to the Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure, subject to the outcome of the staff consultation on the model recommended in this report. If changes in response to that consultation require significant deviation from the principles on which revised Option 3 is based, then the final decision should return to the Cabinet for consideration.
6. To agree that the findings of the detailed Needs Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment and the consultation with residents and staff, together with earlier engagement exercises such as Wood Green and Tottenham Voices, the 2024/25 Budget Consultation and the new Borough Vision, should be used to inform the early development of the proposed libraries strategy, as set out in paragraph 4.5 and in more detail in paragraphs 6.87-6.97 of this report.

Reasons for decisions:

The Council has a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to provide a 'comprehensive and efficient' library service for those who live, work or study in the borough. The duty is supplemented by government guidance, which although not statutory, must still be taken into account. The guidance advises that changes to library services should be based on strategic plans and consideration of alternative delivery models, and on careful assessment of needs and consideration of impacts and mitigations.

To address how it will continue to deliver the library service in the context of both this duty and the Council's challenging financial position, officers have undertaken a detailed Needs Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment to inform the proposal in this report. Both highlight the importance of libraries for those residents facing disadvantage, who may rely more on libraries as safe, warm, welcoming spaces, where they are able to access information and free Wi-Fi, as well as books and other resources. These assessments identify important data about where residents with specific needs and characteristics live in the borough and they tell us who does and does not currently use library services and for what purposes.

The public consultation that was carried out between August and October 2024 has provided vital feedback on how consultees use the libraries and what they most value about them. The two options set out for consultation were based respectively on Equality (an equal reduction in hours for all libraries across the borough: Option 1) and Equity (protecting the longest opening hours and greater access to libraries in Wood Green and Tottenham, as the areas where residents experience greatest disadvantage and deprivation and may rely to a greater extent on the services provided in the libraries: Option 2). The two options were based on consideration of data about who currently does and does not use our libraries, patterns of which libraries are most heavily used and at what times of day and days of the week, analysis of socio-economic and demographic data in the catchment areas for each library, and operational and staffing considerations. The consultation document is attached at Appendix 3, which gives further details on Options 1 and 2.

Officers consider that consultation feedback lends support to Option 2 relative to Option 1, based on responses to questions about the two options and the fact that users of the libraries that would see a greater reduction of hours under Option 2 were overrepresented among consultees. The consultation findings together with the Needs Assessment and findings of the EQIA have resulted in officers recommending a number of revisions to Option 2, as a new Option 3 which is under consideration in this report. The revised Option 3 mitigates the impact of reducing library hours specifically including the impact on those with protected characteristics. The proposed revisions are as follows:

Maintaining lunchtime opening: This will enable continuous access to all library services, without midday interruptions. For this to be possible, the library service will need to increase existing lone-working practices, and this will be a particular focus of the consultation with staff and Trade Unions.

Reprioritising Sunday opening: This will enable continued Sunday access from 12 – 4pm at Marcus Garvey and Hornsey libraries. Hornsey Library has the highest Sunday footfall of any of the three main libraries and Marcus Garvey Library serves the areas

in greatest need. Reprioritising Sunday opening in this way will allow the additional staffing hours that would have otherwise been required to open either Wood Green or three branch libraries on Sundays, which were the original options consulted upon, to be redistributed to branch libraries during the week, which will mean that the amount by which branch library hours will be reduced during the week will be less. Maintaining Sunday opening in both the east and west of the borough enables us to respond to the organisational feedback about impacts of the proposals on libraries in the west of the borough with high usage, while maintaining our commitment to the principle of equity. Our data tells us that digital usage, use of free Wifi and PCs, and using the library as a space to study is high in both of these libraries, as well as stock issues being high in Hornsey.

Reprioritising evening opening: Under option 3, e under Option 3 compared to the original options consulted upon each of the main libraries (Wood Green, Hornsey and Marcus Garvey) will benefit from later evening opening until 7pm one day per week. Additionally, to create more after-school hours to support students who use library spaces for studying, the overall hours offered at Muswell Hill have been increased, as this was the most heavily used branch library prior to its closure for refurbishment, and enables us to respond to organisational and individual responses which highlighted this point. The Council has taken into account the feedback about usage by young people, disabled users, users of ethnic backgrounds other than 'White' and those who are working, and therefore, together with the proposal that all libraries should stay open at least until 6pm on the weekdays when they are open, it is proposed that there are also three additional later opening weekday evenings at the main libraries

Exploring the implementation of a weekday self-service hour:

Wood Green and Marcus Garvey libraries benefit from existing partners and security staff and so will have a self-service hour introduced each weekday except Wednesday, from 9am – 10am, subject to operational discussions with these partners. This allows the service to be compliant with health and safety practices as the building is already open and staffed albeit not by library staff and increases the overall availability of the service.

Adjustment to opening hours to increase consistency: On

weekdays, all branch libraries will open at 9.30am on the weekdays that they are open. Save on Wednesdays, Wood Green and Marcus Garvey libraries will open at 9.00am for an hour of self-service (subject to the satisfactory outcome of the action at 4.4.4). Hornsey library will open at 10.00am. On Saturdays, all libraries will be open 10.00am to 5.00pm. This is in response to strong feedback from consultees that simplicity and ease of remembering the opening hours was important in encouraging usage.

It is important that affected library staff are consulted before a final decision is reached on the operating model for the library service. Staff have been engaged throughout the development of the proposals and formal staff consultation will take place, should Cabinet agree in principle to adopt Option 3 as set out in the report.

While this review of operating hours implements the Council's agreed budget for 2024/25 onwards, Haringey Council remains committed to its strategic plan to develop a libraries strategy and put libraries on a sustainable footing for the longer term. There

were many valuable suggestions put forward during this consultation and as part of earlier engagement and consultation exercises which should usefully inform the development of the strategy, and these will not be lost. Using the principles which already underpin our Arts & Culture Strategy – Access, Collaboration, Equity, Growth, Lifelong Learning, Visibility & Representation – the Council hopes to work positively to develop the libraries strategy with all those who want to see Haringey libraries survive and thrive into the future.

Alternative options considered.

The Council could do nothing – not make any savings from libraries and make savings elsewhere: Consultees to both the original budget consultation. and the more recent consultation on library operating hours have requested that the Council should not make any reductions in the library service offer and should seek to make savings elsewhere. As the Council is already having to make significant budget savings across all services and is also already proposing to raise Council tax by the maximum permitted by law without triggering a referendum, and in light of the need for a fair allocation of resources, officers do not consider that the library service should be insulated from the Council's legal obligation to set a balanced budget.

The suggestions put forward by consultees as alternative budget savings, for example by Friends of Highgate Library (Shepherds Hill), have been considered by officers as both potential alternatives and additional ways of meeting the Council's continuing budget shortfall for 2025/26. However, some of these proposals would not in practice realise the savings suggested, and others have already been implemented, for example using libraries as polling stations and making savings in senior management across the Council.

As the 2025/26 draft budget report (elsewhere on the same agenda as this report) indicates, the Council continues to face a substantial budget gap, and all options must therefore be considered to enable it to achieve a balanced budget. For these reasons, the 'do nothing' option and continuing with the existing library service provision unchanged is not recommended.

Close libraries: Other Councils have had to consider closing libraries to make savings. In Haringey we are committed to keeping our libraries open and to keeping the buildings in Council ownership so that these important community assets remain available for public and community benefit, so this option was discounted.

Consultation Option 1: This option, based on equality, prioritised even distribution of available hours, sharing available opening hours equally between the large or main libraries and the branch libraries, as the existing library service does. This Option ensured a library would always be open Monday to Saturday, within reasonable travelling distance. Under this Option, branch libraries would be closed on two weekdays each and closed for lunch every day. Only Wood Green library would be open on Sundays. This option would have delivered all of the cost savings.

This option was supported by a slightly smaller proportion of consultees than Consultation Option 2. Consultees perceived this option as fair and consistent in that all parts of the borough would have the same levels of access to the service.

However, consultees recognised that it did not respond to levels of need and disadvantage in different parts of the borough, which is also identified in the Needs Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment. Lunchtime closures were not supported and there were mixed views about whether Wood Green library was the right library to open on a Sunday. This option is therefore not recommended. Consultation feedback is discussed in more detail at Section 6.

Consultation Option 2: This option, based on equity, prioritised matching need with availability of the library service, resulting in the library service in Tottenham and Wood Green being the least affected by a reduction in library opening hours. This option aimed to address issues of digital exclusion as highlighted in the Needs Assessment and to maximise access to the library service where residents may face multiple disadvantages. Under this option, there would be variable opening patterns across the borough, with three branch libraries open on Sundays. This option would have delivered all of the cost savings.

This option was supported by a greater proportion of consultees than Consultation Option 1, albeit only by a small margin, and was felt to be fair by consultees as it prioritised addressing need and disadvantage within the Council's reduced resources. Support for this option, based on the principle of equity is given more weight as most consultees came from areas of the borough served by libraries that would see the greatest reduction in opening hours. Amongst the organisational responses, the "Friends" group from the main library in the west of the borough, Hornsey Library, also supported Option 2 on grounds of equity. However, there were mixed views about whether it was right to open branch libraries rather than a main library on a Sunday, and residents felt that the variable opening patterns would be confusing for residents to remember and could drive down usage. The principle of equity behind this option is recommended but as a result of the findings of the consultation, Needs Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment officers are recommending revisions to the detailed proposals in Option 2, under new Option 3, set out in detail in Section 6 below, which is the recommended option.

The consultation document is attached at Appendix 3 and gives further details on Options 1 and 2, including full proposed timetables and design principles which informed them. The consultation responses are summarised in the Consultation Report at Appendix 4.

Alternative Delivery Models: Two other options were considered at an earlier stage: self-service and community-led models. The first of these would involve the introduction of self-service technology and investment in other technologies, such as CCTV. It would mean there would be times where library staff were not present at some libraries. The second of these would involve developing services jointly with the local community, although libraries would remain part of the statutory library network. In essence, it would mean a greater reliance on volunteers rather than Council staff to run and staff libraries.

These two options were consulted on as part of the Council's budget consultation during December 2023 and January 2024. Due to consultees expressing concerns about the potential impacts of these models in terms of safety and loss of librarians' expertise, they were discounted not explored further. However, the opening hours

consultation gave the public a further opportunity to comment on these possible alternative approaches. A clear theme from the organisational responses to the consultation was support for the Council's decision not to pursue these options further and officers are therefore not recommending these alternative delivery models as a way of sustaining the library service.

85. 2024/25 FINANCE UPDATE QUARTER 2

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services introduced the report which set out the budget update covering the position at Quarter 2 (Period 6) of the 2024/25 financial year including General Fund (GF) Revenue, Capital, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budgets. The report focused on significant budget variances including those arising from the forecast non-achievement of approved Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings.

The following issues were outlined by the Cabinet Member:

- Haringey, amongst other boroughs, continued to face considerable in year demand pressures, particularly in the cost and complexity of delivering adult social care, children's social care and the rise in costs of securing temporary accommodation for homeless households.
- The need to continue to be ambitious for the borough and residents despite difficult financial circumstances and maintain the achievements and aims of the Council such as: 98% of all schools good or outstanding, Children's services graded 'Good' by Ofsted, SEND receiving the highest possible grading, delivering 3,000 new, high quality Council homes by 2031, planting thousands of trees and continuing Haringey Works to provide local employment.
- Haringey was considered an outer London borough for funding purposes (although inner London for statistical purposes) but has all the pressures of an inner London borough with the additional burden of lower business rates receipts and an average of band C for Council tax.
- The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) continued to show pressure, caused primarily by the continued high number of void properties, the rising cost of repairs and dealing with damp and mould. This had been mitigated by a reduction in capital spend and some staff vacancies. The HRA budget overspend was still well within the £8m set aside annually for capital investment.
- The capital programme was under constant review to reduce the revenue implications of any additional borrowing.
- The Council were working on agreed Budget for 2025/26 and medium-term financial strategy (MTFS). The impact of in-year pressures on next year's budget and Corporate Delivery Plan were well recognised and officers were working on all measures to reduce demand.

In response to comments and questions from Cllr Cawley- Harrison, the following information was shared.

- Responding to the remark on the significant and worrying increase in the Council's budget gap since the last quarterly update report to Cabinet, and concern about the confidence in the budget setting process together with the frequency of budget monitoring reports, it was noted that part of the overspend was due to now better being able to quantify budget risks, particularly in terms of bad debts provision, and housing benefit payment issues. The Director of Finance would be introducing a half year position report to avoid some surprises in the budget forecast going forward. There was also a second piece of work being completed on providing assurance about next year's budget and this was the detailed review on the delivery of savings with more realistic assumptions, which was also now showing an impact in figures contained in the budget quarter one update and budget quarter two update. In addition, the Finance team had used a lot more data evidence benchmarking to really understand trends in demand to also support ensuring there were up to date figures and forecasts. This would be continuing to next year as well, providing a better consistent understanding of the budget position.
- In further response to the remark on the significant budget gap, it was noted that it was not unusual to have a budget gap at this part of the year but acknowledged that it was unusual to have a budget gap of this size. Assurance was given that work would continue to finalise numbers and there were additions to keep in mind such as the local government settlement expected this week with some additional funding but not the level expected.
- The Director of Finance outlined that the Council would be continuing to work hard over the next six weeks and examine every single Council budget area almost right up until the point when Overview and Scrutiny Committee papers were published and update further provided.
- Noted the general position on voids performance which was impacted by the new Council properties coming on stream and they were counted as voids until the tenants moved in.
- Temporary accommodation shortfall in London was affecting every borough and the good work of services to prevent homelessness so that people moved seamlessly from one property to another mitigated an even more difficult situation was noted. The Council had to contend with the soaring costs of private rented accommodation across London and landlords who were leaving the market due to increased taxation costs. These high price of TA was not predicted.
- In response to the question on better reducing temporary accommodation voids, it was important to accept that this had been caused because of a positive action by the Council to acquire more properties to increase availability of TA accommodation. It was recognised that the Council's in house repairs team did not currently have the bandwidth and capacity to take on all that additional work on TA voids and as a way forward, the Council had contracted

out void repair works to let the properties and increase availability. In addition, the Council were also building a new lodge to help reduce hotel costs and this would come forward in the New Year.

The Leader of the Council addressed the broad point made by the Leader of the Opposition on the current significant budget gap and actions being taken to address this as well and reminded the meeting that these pressures in Adults Services and Housing were following 14 years of austerity and Haringey were not the only borough in this position.

RESOLVED

1. To note the forecast total revenue outturn variance for the General Fund of £37m comprising £29.5m base budget pressures and £7.7m savings delivery challenges. (Section 6, Table 1, Table 2 and Appendices 1 & 3).
2. To approve the revenue budget virements and receipt of grants as set out in Appendix 6.
3. To note the net DSG forecast of £2.5m overspend. (Section 6 and Appendix 1).
4. To note the net Housing Revenue Account (HRA) forecast surplus is £4.365m lower than anticipated when the budget was set. (Section 6 and Appendix 2).
5. To note the forecast General Fund and HRA Capital expenditure of £265.748m in 2024/25 (including enabling budgets) which equates to 50% of the total current programme for 2024/25. (Section 8 and Appendix 4).
6. To approve the proposed budget adjustments and virements to the capital programme as set out in Table 3 and Appendices 5 and 6.
7. To note the debt write-offs approved in Quarter 2 2024/25 which have been approved by the Director of Finance under delegated authority, or for those above £50,000, by the Cabinet Member for Finance (Appendix 7) as set out in the Constitution.

Reason for Decision

A strong financial management framework, including oversight by Members and senior management is an essential part of delivering the Council's priorities as set out in the Corporate Delivery Plan and to meet its statutory duties. This is made more critically important than ever because of the uncertainties, surrounding the Council's uncertain and challenging financial position, which is impacted by Government funding, high demand for services, particularly for the most vulnerable and the wider economic outlook.

Alternative Options Considered

The report of the management of the Council's financial resources is a key part of the role of the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) in helping members to exercise their role and no other options have therefore been considered.

86. HRA 2025/26- 2029/30 BUDGET/MTFS

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning (Deputy Leader) introduced the report which proposed the draft annual business plan for its Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2025/26, as part of the wider budget/MTFS proposals. The Housing Revenue Account covered income and expenditure relating to the Council's own housing stock. It was an account that is ring-fenced from the Council's general fund, as required by the Local Government Act 1989. The HRA business plan considers projected income and expenditure over a 10- and 30-year period and the income generated from tenants and leaseholders was used solely for the purpose of investment in its homes, in delivering new Council homes, and providing good quality services to tenants and leaseholders.

In response to questions from Cllr Cawley- Harrison, the following information was noted.

- With regards to the confidence in the reserve position of the HRA, the annual revenue contribution to capital outlay (RCCO), which was the revenue surplus after expenditure, set out in the plan was to maintain an ongoing £8m minimum annual surplus. The plan also assumed a year on year working balance of £20m. This increased position was established at the end of 2021/22 and was recommended to be retained to enable the Council to deal with any unforeseen risks in the light of the extensive programme it was undertaking and the challenging external environmental factors.
- Regarding the assertion that failure to invest in housing stock long-term had an impact on repair costs and the associated overspend on repair costs from adopting a fire-fighting approach to repairs, it was noted that the fundamental issue was that rents had not kept up with inflation for many years, as rents had been capped by successive governments. The result of this was an under-investment in housing stock over many years. The Cabinet Member set out that there was a move in government for rent convergence, which would see rent levels brought back in line with where they should have been. The Cabinet Member cautiously welcomed this proposal and advised that it would help local authorities with investment and sustainability of their housing stock.
- In relation to general needs void properties and clearing this backlog to address the budget surplus gap in the HRA, the Operational Director for Housing challenged the assertion that the Council had failed to make improvements in turning around void properties. It was commented that last year the Council had a backlog of voids going back many years. As of the current financial year, that back-log had reduced. . However, at the same time there had also been around 350 properties that had become void in the current financial year, so there was significant churn in this area. Of the 350 voids, 120 of those were the direct

result of a Neighbourhood Moves scheme. The Operational Director of Housing acknowledged that the number of voids was higher than the organisation would like it to be. However, the issue was that a significant number of new voids were coming through to replace the historical backlog of voids. Assurances were provided that, whilst the numbers may seem static, the Council was clearing voids.

RESOLVED

1. To note the HRA's current financial position as set out in the report which sets the foundations for the full draft budget for 2025/26 and 2025/26-29/30 Business Plan.
2. To note that the final HRA 2025/26 Budget and 2025/26-29/30 Business Plan would be presented to Cabinet on 11 February 2025 to be recommended for approval to the Full Council meeting taking place on 3 March 2025.

Reasons for decision

The Council must legally set a balanced HRA budget and have a sustainable HRA Business Plan to ensure that it is able to manage and maintain its homes, provide services to tenants and leaseholders and build much needed new Council homes.

Alternative options considered.

Not Applicable.

87. SCHEME OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS & STANDING ORDERS FOR SCHOOLS

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools introduced the report which contained the Scheme of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Schools and set out the financial relationship between the Council and the maintained schools in the Borough. The Council was required to have an up to date and agreed Scheme for Financing schools.

The following was outlined by the Cabinet Member:

- In an environment where financial pressures are increasing right across the public sector it is important that the controls on how schools operate and use their delegated budgets are brought up to date.
- The attached report set of financial regulations and standing orders for schools refreshes previous versions of the document reflecting current DfE guidance, and changes in the operational environment in the Council as well as schools.
- The financial regulations and standing orders have been shared with schools and considered by the School's Forum.

- Once approved by Cabinet, the document will be published on the Council's website, and a copy will be sent to the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors of each school.

RESOLVED

1. To approve the Scheme of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Schools
2. To note that schools have been consulted on the regulations and standing orders and have been endorsed by the Schools Forum on 16 July 2024.

Reasons for decision

The Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Schools have not been updated for a considerable period of time. The attached document revises and updates the regulations and standing orders based on current DfE guidance.

The role of the scheme sets out the financial relationship between the local authority and the maintained schools which it funds and describes requirements relating to financial management and associated issues, binding both on the local authority and on schools.

This is issue 16 of statutory guidance given by the Secretary of State pursuant to s.48(4) and paragraph 2A (2) of Schedule 14 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain. This guidance lists the provisions which a local authority's scheme must, should or may include. Schemes need not follow the format used in this guidance, except for the text of directed revisions.

Alternative options considered.

No other options considered as preparation and publication of the Scheme for Financing Schools is a statutory requirement with which local authorities must comply.

88. FEES & CHARGES 2025-26

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services introduced the report which set out the Fees and Charges proposed from the start of the financial year 2025/26, proposing increases to offset the cost increases associated with those services, or alternative values where circumstances indicate this is more appropriate.

The Cabinet Member outlined that the proposed changes aimed to support the Council's ambition for a fairer, greener borough. It was emphasised that to protect the Council's ability to provide essential services, it was necessary to ensure that the costs of these services could be covered.

Acknowledging the ongoing challenges many households faced due to the cost of living; these factors had been considered when setting the fees and charges for the coming year. However, it was noted that the fees and charges must align with and support the Council's priorities. After considering all relevant factors, the proposed fees and charges were deemed necessary and appropriate, and the report was commended to the Cabinet.

In response to questions from Councillor Cawley-Harrison, the following was noted:

- Regarding why visitor day permits were omitted from the fees and charges table, it was clarified that changes to these permits were not included as the parking consultation was still ongoing at the time of the report collation. Decisions regarding the permits would be addressed in the parking policy and strategy report in January 2025.
- Regarding not significantly increasing fees for large commercial events, such as those in Finsbury Park, it was explained that the Council had a multi-year agreement with festival organisers, and the proposed fees reflected this arrangement.
- In relation to the introduction of a new charge for hiring main library spaces, and whether this might lead to reduced library opening hours, it was clarified that hiring main library spaces would not typically result in closures. Libraries were designed to remain flexible and open for public use, even when parts of the space were hired out. The Council had benchmarked charges to ensure they remained competitive and accessible, and it was confirmed that the intention was to maintain library accessibility. A follow-up would be conducted to confirm that this policy was being implemented as intended.

RESOLVED

1. To agree the proposed non-statutory fees and charges to be levied by the Council with effect from 1 April 2025, unless otherwise stated, and as detailed in Section 8 and Appendices I – XIII.
2. To note the statutory fees and charges to be levied by the Council with effect from 1 April 2025.
3. To note that the Council's draft 2025/26 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2025/26-2029/30 assumes that the changes to Fees and Charges set out in this report are agreed.
4. To note that any subsequent in-year changes or additions to the fees and charges proposed in this report may be approved by Lead Member.
5. To authorise officers to proceed to statutory notification on proposed increases to parking fees and charges as set out in Appendix II and to note that there is a separate review of parking charges underway to support the delivery of the newly adopted Parking Strategy. It is expected that a report on the outcome of

Statutory Consultation on proposed changes will be presented for decision in January 2025.

Reasons for Decision

Under the Council's Income Policy, it is a requirement to review fees and charges as a minimum annually. Given the ongoing challenges facing the Council, this is even more appropriate.

Alternative options considered.

This report summarises the conclusions after consideration of a range of alternative approaches dependent on particular services and relevant factors. As such a range of alternative options ranging from no increase to differentiated rates of increases or decreases have been considered and are reflected in this report.

89. LGA CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE PROGRESS REVIEW REPORT AND ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Leader of the Council introduced the report for this item. It was noted that the Council had taken part in the peer challenge in May 2023, and this review showed the improvements that had been made on core Haringey deal priorities. The report demonstrated that good progress had been made to encourage communities to participate in decision making processes; for example, more than 700 residents were engaged to help shape the 10-year Borough Vision. In terms of some of the areas which were highlighted as requiring further improvement, these included the fact that there were not many opportunities for members and senior officers to interact outside of formal meetings to improve trust and confidence.

The following was noted in response to questions from Cllr Cawley Harrison –

- In terms of the capital programmes, recommendations were around the governance, oversight and the size, all of which were works in progress at this stage. Some of the improvements that were set out in the report would be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There was still work to do to ensure that the overall governance was in place.
- Officers were working to create different spaces for wider member and officer engagement. Efforts were put in to identify different ways of reaching members and providing information to them, a lot of these initiatives were driven by the Cabinet Member for Resident Services and Tackling Inequality. The Member bulletin had been revamped and officers had put a lot of effort into reminding officers to brief ward members about initiatives going on in their ward. This was an ongoing piece of work.

RESOLVED

1. To note the findings set out in the report at Appendix A, which was produced by the LGA following the Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Review that took place in June 2024.
2. To note the updates to the recommendations set out in the action plan at Appendix B.

Reasons for decision

There is an expectation that all Councils who take part in LGA Corporate Peer Challenges publish the reports that are produced as part of the process and take action in response to them.

This paper publishes the report that was produced by the LGA following the Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Review that took place in June 2024.

The recommendations are important in helping the Council improve, including building stronger relationships with residents and communities in Haringey and providing better, more efficient services.

Alongside the LGA's report, the update on the action plan sets out what the Council is doing to respond to the recommendations from 2023, including specific actions, when they will be delivered, and who will be responsible for delivering them.

Alternative options considered.

As this report is to share information and provide an update on committed actions, the only alternative is to not publish or share updates on this. It was decided this is not an appropriate option as the LGA expect the Council to be open and transparent and this is consistent with our approach and values.

90. ADOPTING A NEW DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS POLICY FOR COUNCIL TENANTS AND LEASEHOLDERS, AND THOSE APPROACHING THE COUNCIL AS HOMELESS

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning (Deputy Leader) introduced the report which sought approval of the new Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Policy for Council tenants and leaseholders and those approaching the Council as homeless sets out an aim to improve the safety of those asking for assistance from our housing service affected by domestic abuse and other abuses that come under the 'Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)' umbrella including men and boys. This covers Council tenants, leaseholders and those approaching the Council as homeless.

The Deputy Leader highlighted that this was the last day of the 'Sixteen days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' campaign. She emphasised the Council's commitment to supporting the safety of victims of gender-based violence and it's zero

tolerance toward domestic abuse to residents in their properties as well as those approaching the Council as homeless.

She stated that the Policy outlined the Council's commitment to meeting the social and emotional needs of those experiencing domestic abuse. It also outlined response times, and the nature of the support given to victims of domestic abuse and survivors to enable them to make informed choices. An 'all-staff approach' had been employed so that every staff contact with residents was maximised to ensure the safety of victims.

Insights from the Resident Voice Board had been instrumental in shaping this policy. The Board had consisted of 15 residents of diverse tenures that reported into the Placemaking and Housing Board. The Cabinet Member expressed her gratitude to those who contributed as this had ensured the policy better reflected the need of communities.

In response to questions from Cllr Chandwani, Cllr Hakata, and Cllr Cawley – Harrison, the following information provided.

- In response to questions about the monitoring of the effectiveness of the approach and whether the results could be brought to Cabinet for discussion, the Cabinet Member stated that monitoring occurred through their partner at Hearthstone. All-staff training was key to make every contact with the Council (contractor, repairperson etc) count toward the safety of the victim. The Hearthstone Manager stated that data was collected and monitored across the borough and in partnership with many organisations. Insight could be given as to how housing staff were signposting to other agencies and how they were recording data, and also making sure that other agencies were recording contact too. She was working on special accreditation for the service to ensure policies were stringent enough. She added that The Social Housing Regulator would also monitor contact.
- A question was raised as to how the Council could ensure that its approach toward the victim was consistent across the services as often those experiencing, or who were survivors of domestic abuse, were in financial debt which may affect Council tax debt etc. It was highlighted that these services may put additional pressure on the victim in their approach to recover debt. In response to this, the Cabinet Member emphasised that cross Council and multiagency working would be essential. She also stated that if a resident came into the service, they would be assigned a key worker who could act as point of contact. The key worker would then work across teams to ensure services knew of the right approach and the resources available to survivors and those experiencing domestic abuse.
- A question was raised as to how the service would ensure that men experiencing domestic abuse were not overlooked by staff and tenants. In response the Cabinet Member emphasised that the service was open to men experiencing abuse. She stated that this had been included in the training and the 'every contact count's approach.

- Discussion turned to interventions for perpetrators and how that sat with the zero-tolerance approach that could hold perpetrators to account. The Hearthstone Manager responded that a 'victim/survivor centred' approach had to be taken, and their wishes had to be respected. She emphasised that often - taking action against perpetrators was not the safest thing for the victim and was against their wishes. The Violence against Women and Girls Lead clarified that the zero-tolerance approach meant that the behaviour of the perpetrator must not continue. She listed a range of different behaviour-change interventions for perpetrators that yielded good outcomes and were encouraged as part of the service.

RESOLVED

To approve the draft Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Policy for Council tenants and leaseholders and those approaching the Council as homeless to come into effect from 20 December 2024.

Reasons for decision

This newly drafted Council policy will update the current Homes for Haringey (HfH) version following insourcing of HfH into the Council. The policy was published in 2019 prior to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 becoming law. The updated policy will outline the Council's aim to improve the safety of those asking for assistance from our housing service affected by domestic abuse and other abuses that come under the 'Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)' umbrella including men and boys. This covers Council tenants, leaseholders and those approaching the Council as homeless.

The new policy will help the Council meet the Social Housing Regulator's consumer standards, specifically the Neighbourhood and Community Standard and the Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard.

Alternative options considered.

We could continue to have an outdated policy in place for this service. This option was rejected because it would not meet the Council's needs or those of its tenants, leaseholders or those approaching the Council as homeless. Introducing this new policy will assist the Council to meet the Social Housing Regulator's Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard requirement to deliver fair, reasonable, accessible and transparent policies. This option would also not meet our commitment to introduce updated policies in the Housing Strategy 2024 – 2029 and the Housing Improvement Plan 2023.

91. REVIEW OF ST. ANN'S LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOOD TRIAL

Cllr Chandwani left the meeting room.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment and Transport introduced the report for this item which was seeking approval to make the trial LTN permanent in St Ann's.

In summary the Cabinet member outlined that the journey to transform the St Ann's neighbourhood had been long and challenging, but it was a journey members had to take for the health of residents. The consultation on this scheme revealed strong local support.

The LTN laid the groundwork for this transformation of the borough. Crucially, LTNs would be the catalyst to tackle the long-standing issues on the main roads. The Cabinet Member gave assurances that the Council were listening to residents' views and would continue to refine and improve this work. Early on, officers listened to households with blue badges and health conditions and brought in exemptions.

The following was noted in response to questions from Cllr Cawley Harrison.

- It took time for these schemes to really enact changes. However, in terms of the details, there were a number of issues which had to be taken into account. The week in which the traffic counts were taken prior to the LTN and then post the LTN were quite divergent. Prior to the LTN there was dry weather throughout the entire count period, whereas post the LTN it was a week of continuous rain; this would have an impact on active travel numbers and take up.
- With dockless cycling, the numbers rose exponentially during the period of the trial. If this scheme was made permanent, a lot of public realm improvements could be made. This would make it safer and more pleasant to walk and cycle around the LTN area and beyond. Officers were looking at protected cycle lanes and bus priority routes on the boundary roads as an example. The Council were looking at this holistically through all the aspects, not just within the LTNs themselves.

RESOLVED

1. To consider the measured impact of the trial LTN as set out in the Monitoring Reports, Appendix A1 and A2.
2. To consider the responses received to the non-statutory public consultations and the statutory consultation, including objections to the experimental traffic orders, as set out in the Consultation Reports, Appendix B1 to B4.
3. To approve the recommended responses to main themes of objection, as set out in Appendix C.
4. To consider and discharge the Council's statutory duties under section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

5. To consider and discharges the Council's statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010 including the discharge of the Public Sector Equality Duty and any impact on Human Rights and approve the updated Equality Impact Assessment, Appendix D.
6. To agree that the Council shall exercise its discretion to not cause a public inquiry to be called.
7. To approve making the trial LTN permanent.
8. To delegate authority to the Head of Highways and Parking for the making of traffic orders which give permanent effect to the experimental traffic scheme known as St. Ann's Experimental LTN.

Reasons for decision

The reason for recommendation 3.1 is to provide Cabinet with empirical evidence of the impact of the LTN.

The reason for recommendations 3.2 and 3.3 is to ensure compliance with (a) the Regulations¹ whereby the order making authority must consider all unwithdrawn objections before making an order and (b) consider all consultation responses, in line with the 'Gunning' or 'Sedley' requirements. In short, this means: consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage; Sufficient reasons must be put forward for any proposal to permit "intelligent consideration" and response; Adequate time is given for consideration and response; and the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account by the decision maker.

Recommendation 3.4 is made to ensure that the Council discharges its statutory duties as contained within the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as discussed in the report.

Recommendation 3.5 is made to ensure that the Council discharges its statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights, as discussed in paragraphs 10.5 to 10.16.

The reasons for recommendation 3.6 are set out in section 9.

Having taken into account all responses to all consultations, objections, the monitoring data, the Council's existing strategic plans, statutory duties, studies on LTNs, the urgent need to respond to the Climate Emergency and to improve public health through increased active travel, the reason for recommendations 3.7 and 3.8 is to enable the Council to make the trial LTN permanent.

Alternative options considered.

At this stage of an experimental traffic order (ETO), the Council must take a decision whether to make the traffic orders permanent. No changes to the LTN scheme are permitted in moving the orders to permanent orders. Notwithstanding the above, the existing LTN design meets the principles of such a scheme by preventing through-

traffic (except exempt vehicles) and whilst alternative options do exist (for example to provide all resident motorists with more routes to their street or property) this could not be achieved without undermining the objectives of the LTN; therefore, this option is not recommended.

If the Council does not make the LTN permanent, the alternative is to revoke the traffic orders (or let them lapse) and, as a consequence, the Council must remove the traffic signs that give effect to those orders and, therefore, remove the LTN. This alternative is not recommended for the reasons given in paragraph 4.6.

92. REVIEW OF BOUNDS GREEN LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOOD TRIAL

Cllr Chandwani returned to the meeting room.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment, and Transport introduced the report for Bounds Green LTN scheme and sought approval to make permanent the LTN Trial in Bounds Green.

The Cabinet Member further outlined that the scheme had delivered on its objectives.

- There had been a 66% decrease in traffic on internal roads.
- An increase of 2% of traffic on boundary roads.
- The trial has seen a 50% reduction in traffic collisions on internal roads and a 17% decrease in traffic collisions on boundary roads.
- There was work in progress to improve bus reliability on Durnsford Road and a commitment from the team to address the long-standing issues on the boundary roads to include all those who rely on the roads.
- The team had reinstated the Transport Inclusion Group to ensure that those with a disability, their carers, and those with a long-term health condition could be heard, and their suggestions then incorporated into the scheme.
- He stated that his team would continue to refine and improve the scheme in order to create a happier, healthier and more vibrant Bounds Green.

The following questions were raised and responded to, from Cllr Cawley – Harrison.

- Responding on the disparity in support for the scheme, between those living within, and those living on the boundaries of the LTN and addressing their wellbeing, it was noted that ultimately traffic belonged on main roads and not on internal roads. He added that in other similar schemes, over time, the boundary roads had seen an overall decrease in traffic. In addition to this, the Council team were putting into place measures to make bus journeys along Durnsford Road the most efficient and cost-effective way to travel for residents.
- Another question was raised around the evidence of a healthier lifestyle gathered from residents and the disparity in the overall support that residents felt. The Cabinet Member agreed that although evidence suggested that there were more people walking and cycling than before, support for the scheme in the resident consultation was not reflective of that. He pointed out that car owners had been disproportionately represented in the consultation (up to 80%

had access to a car) and that this was beyond the census figures. Although, there was a disparity between the data and perceptions, the aim was to include everyone in the objectives. For this he felt that co-production was key going forward.

RESOLVED

1. To consider the measured impact of the trial LTN as set out in the Monitoring Reports, Appendix A1 and A2.
2. To consider the responses received to the non-statutory public consultations and the statutory consultation, including objections to the experimental traffic orders, as set out in the Consultation Reports, Appendix B1 to B4.
3. To approve the recommended responses to main themes of objection, as set out in Appendix C.
4. To consider and discharge the Council's statutory duties under section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
5. To consider and discharge the Council's statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010 including the discharge of the Public Sector Equality Duty and any impact on Human Rights and approve the updated Equality Impact Assessment, Appendix D.
6. To agree that the Council shall exercise its discretion to not cause a public inquiry to be called.
7. To approve making the trial LTN permanent.
8. To delegate authority to the Head of Highways and Parking for the making of traffic orders which give permanent effect to the experimental traffic scheme known as Bounds Green Experimental LTN.

Reasons for decision

The reason for recommendation 3.1 is to provide Cabinet with empirical evidence of the impact of the LTN.

The reason for recommendations 3.2 and 3.3 is to ensure compliance with (a) the Regulations¹ whereby the order making authority must consider all unwithdrawn objections before making an order and (b) consider all consultation responses, in line with the 'Gunning' or 'Sedley' requirements. In short, this means: consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage; Sufficient reasons must be put forward for any proposal to permit "intelligent consideration" and response; Adequate

time is given for consideration and response; and the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account by the decision maker.

Recommendation 3.4 is made to ensure that the Council discharges its duties as contained within the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as discussed in the report.

Recommendation 3.5 is made to ensure that the Council discharges its statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights, as discussed in paragraphs 10.5 to 10.16.

The reasons for recommendation 3.6 are set out in section 9.

Having taken into account all responses to all consultations, objections, the monitoring data, the Council's existing strategic plans, statutory duties, studies on LTNs, the urgent need to respond to the Climate Emergency and to improve public health through increased active travel, the reason for recommendations 3.7 and 3.8 is to enable the Council to make the trial LTN permanent.

Alternative options considered.

At this stage of an experimental traffic order (ETO), the Council must take a decision whether to make the traffic orders permanent. No changes to the LTN scheme are permitted in moving the orders to permanent orders. Notwithstanding the above, the existing LTN design meets the principles of such a scheme by preventing through-traffic (except exempt vehicles) and whilst alternative options do exist (for example to provide all resident motorists with more routes to their street or property) this could not be achieved without undermining the objectives of the LTN; therefore, this option is not recommended.

If the Council does not make the LTN permanent, the alternative is to revoke the traffic orders (or let them lapse) and, as a consequence, the Council must remove the traffic signs that give effect to those orders and, therefore, remove the LTN. This alternative is not recommended for the reasons given in paragraph 4.6.

93. REVIEW OF BRUCE GROVE WEST GREEN LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOOD TRIAL

Councillor Sarah Williams left the meeting room for the consideration of this item at 7.02pm

Councillor Mike Hakata, Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment, and Transport introduced the report which sought approval to make the LTN trial in Bruce Grove and West Green permanent.

In response to questions from Cllr Chandwani and Cllr Cawley- Harrison the following was noted.

- There was a team that had been working on designing, managing and running various road schemes.

- In relation to emergency works, from the beginning, there had been a procedure for diversion through LTN's and School Streets in the event of planned emergency street works. The procedure was created at the start without being able to live test how those the interventions would work. A review could be held regarding the procedure as a way forward.
- In relation to the smooth running of public transport in LTN's and boundary roads, it was important to have reliable sustainable transport. There had been high disruption at the beginning, but this had eased off.
- The Council's estates had always been designed according to LTN principles. The Council needed to be mindful of this and its subsequential impacts. The Council had begun the work of exploring solutions which would redress some of the issues on Broadwater Farm.
- In relation to the process and protocols in place, the traffic team can undertake a review to make sure that LTNs were optimised and as effective as possible. One protocol in place was designed to ensure that there was flexibility to open and ease congestion where there were delays due to road works or other such issues. Sometimes when there were road accidents, the Council was not always notified of them early enough and it was difficult for the Council to be immediately responsive. When the Council was aware, being able to open or make a decision around opening to redirect traffic was always something the Council was able to consider.
- In relation to undertaking a review, the Council would make a commitment to do it within the next few months.
- The ongoing projects such as trying to improve bus journey times and reliability was in the feasibility stage. There was a similar scheme around West Green Road looking at improving bus journey reliability and also looking at how to manage traffic flow through CCTV cameras. The same was true for Belmont Road and West Green Road and other roads in the borough. including the Tottenham area. All these were underway to help manage congestion.
- On average, across all LTN areas, there had been a reduction in road danger of 34% - a reduction in collisions. This was a reduction of one third. However, Bruce Grove, West Green, the most deprived of all three LTNs with some of the lowest car ownership numbers had seen a reduction of 56%. This was a reduction of around 20 serious collisions over a year. What had been shown across LTN areas and throughout the wider nation itself, was there had been a minimum of 50% reduction for traffic collisions. Vulnerable road users were seeing the benefits of improved road safety.
- The LTNs were only part of the solution to creating a fairer and greener borough. Complementary measures were already in place such as adapted school streets, bike hangers, cycle lanes that were being designed. The Council was also looking at public realm improvements within the LTNs themselves. The interventions could be anything, from greening spaces to tree planting. The Council did not want any money to be raised from a school street, but as a borough any money raised from fines caused by contraventions of

schemes was spent on increasing and improving road safety as well as improving travel for vulnerable residents. For example, the borough put £14 million a year into the Freedom Pass scheme. This was paid for through revenue collected by the contravention charges.

- Filters and speed reduction measures would be placed if appropriate. A speed reduction measure, such as a borough wide 20 mile an hour zone was on its way to being implemented. Cars would also be taken off pavements.

RESOLVED

1. To consider the measured impact of the trial LTN as set out in the Monitoring Reports, Appendix A1 and A2.
2. To consider the responses received to the non-statutory public consultations and the statutory consultation, including objections to the experimental traffic orders, as set out in the Consultation Reports, Appendix B1 to B4.
3. To approve the recommended responses to main themes of objection, as set out in Appendix C.
4. To consider and discharge the Council's statutory duties under section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
5. To consider and discharge the Council's statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010 including the discharge of the Public Sector Equality Duty and any impact on Human Rights and approve the updated Equality Impact Assessment, Appendix D.
6. To agree that the Council shall exercise its discretion to not cause a public inquiry to be called.
7. To approve making the trial LTN permanent.
8. To delegate authority to the Head of Highways and Parking for the making of traffic orders which give permanent effect to the experimental traffic scheme known as Bruce Grove West Green Experimental LTN.
9. To approve making the trial 7.5 tonne weight limit on Downhills Way and Belmont Road permanent.
10. To delegates authority to the Head of Highways and Parking for the making of the traffic order which will give permanent effect to the experimental traffic scheme known as Experimental HGV Ban – Bruce Grove West Green Experimental Order 2023 T35.

Reasons for decision

The reason for recommendation 3.1 is to provide Cabinet with empirical evidence of the impact of the LTN.

The reason for recommendations 3.2 and 3.3 is to ensure compliance with (a) the Regulations¹ whereby the order making authority must consider all unwithdrawn objections before making an order and (b) consider all consultation responses, in line with the 'Gunning' or 'Sedley' requirements. In short, this means: consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage; Sufficient reasons must be put forward for any proposal to permit "intelligent consideration" and response; Adequate time is given for consideration and response; and the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account by the decision maker.

Recommendation 3.4 is made to ensure that the Council discharges its statutory duties as contained within the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as discussed in the report.

Recommendation 3.5 is made to ensure that the Council discharges its statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights, as discussed in paragraphs 10.5 to 10.16.

The reasons for recommendation 3.6 are set out in section 9.

Having taken into account all responses to all consultations, objections, the monitoring data, the Council's existing strategic plans, statutory duties, studies on LTNs, the urgent need to respond to the Climate Emergency and to improve public health through increased active travel, the reason for recommendations 3.7, 3.8, 3.9 and 3.10 is to enable the Council to make the trial LTN and the 7.5t weight limit permanent.

Alternative options considered.

At this stage of an experimental traffic order (ETO), the Council must take a decision whether to make the traffic orders permanent. No changes to the LTN scheme are permitted in moving the orders to permanent orders. Notwithstanding the above, the existing LTN design meets the principles of such a scheme by preventing through-traffic (except to exempt vehicles) and whilst alternative options do exist (for example to provide all resident motorists with more routes to their street or property) this could not be achieved without undermining the objectives of the LTN; therefore this option is not recommended.

If the Council does not make the LTN permanent, the alternative is to revoke the traffic orders (or let them lapse) and, as a consequence, the Council must remove the traffic signs that give effect to those orders and, therefore, remove the LTN. This alternative is not recommended for the reasons given in paragraph 4.6.

If the Council does not make the HGV ban permanent, the alternative is to revoke the traffic orders (or let them lapse) and, as a consequence, the Council must remove the traffic signs that give effect to those orders and, therefore, remove the HGV ban. This alternative is not recommended as it would not help address the rise in HGVs along

Downhills Way and Belmont Road seen after the above LTN was implemented and therefore helped mitigate against this. Should the LTN not be made permanent, then the recommendation remains to retain the HGV ban as it brings benefit to the residents of these streets.

It is noted that, should the LTN not be approved to be made permanent, then the traffic filter located at the junction of Sperling Road and Moorefield Road would revert from an at-any-time 'no motor vehicle' restriction to a standard School Street filter (SS02 operating Mon-Fri 8:15-9:15am and 3-4pm) in accordance with the decision taken by Cabinet in July 2023.

94. TO APPROVE DECISION TO IMPLEMENT A BOROUGH WIDE PSPO

The Cabinet Member for Communities introduced the report which sought approval of a Borough-wide PSPO to come into force with effect from 1st May 2025 and to remain in place for 3 years.

In response to question from Cllr Hakata and Cllr Cawley- Harrison, the following information was provided.

- The Council was committed to safeguarding vulnerable groups. It had incorporated reasonable exemptions within the proposals to take into account vulnerable groups, such as those with disabilities, children and street homelessness. The Council also prioritised support for vulnerable groups and aimed to protect, not penalise vulnerable groups. There were no 'on the spot' fines for PSPO breaches and the emphasis was on taking a fair and measured approach by signposting individuals to relevant services. The team worked closely with support and outreach services to undertake preventative and supportive initiatives. The enforcement of PSPOs were managed and monitored by the local authority. Additionally, Police would be required to submit a witness statement to the Council for triage and assurance. This process added an additional safeguard ensuring enforcement decisions were consistent and individual circumstances were taken into consideration. The implementation would be regularly reviewed by the Council. Anyone issued with a fine had a right to appeal or could also raise a complaint.
- Drug paraphernalia was removed from the PSPO based on the advice received from the Council's legal service.
- All the costs were funded into the actual PSPOs signage and information to raise awareness.

RESOLVED

1. To note the results of the consultation on the PSPO and:

2. To note the results of the consultation as contained in Appendix 2 of this document.
3. To approve the introduction of the revised borough wide PSPO for alcohol control and other detrimental activities as detailed in the proposed draft PSPO at Appendix 1.
4. To agree, in light of the consultation responses contained in appendix 2 of this report, the proposal to not take forward restrictions in respect of:
 - Any person who, without reasonable excuse, uses, shares, or supplies others with any psychoactive substances (including Spice and other substances known for legal highs) or marijuana/weed, in any public place within the restricted area, commits an offence.
 - Any person who is in possession of any drug paraphernalia (including cannabis grinders or crack cocaine pipes), in any public place within the restricted area, without reasonable excuse, commits an offence.
5. Any person who, without reasonable excuse, behaves in a manner that causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm, or distress to any person(s) commits an offence. Examples of such behaviour include use of offensive, threatening or abusive language.
6. Any person who spits in the restricted area, without reasonable excuse, commits an offence.
9. Notes the alterations to the prohibitions consulted on following responses received as outlined below:
 - i. Removing 'Being in possession of an open vessel(s) of intoxicating liquor in a public place' prohibition 1.
 - ii. Clarifying that the restriction relating to riding a bicycle, moped, e-scooter or e1bike applies to pavements or footpaths, in the restricted area and when riding in a dangerous or reckless manner, that is likely to cause obstruction, alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public or cause criminal damage by their use, commits an offence.
 - iii. Specifying exemptions to the above restrictions as: Any electrically powered scooter designed for people with restricted mobility, including those who are elderly or disabled person, children and that discretion will be used if cyclists lack confidence to ride on the road or are intimidated by traffic.
 - iv. Adding 'appropriate authorisation, from Haringey Council' to the restriction relating to fireworks in any public space, as not all instances e.g. one-off events, may need a licence.

Reasons for decision

The Council's commitment to creating a safer environment for all residents and visitors is clear in its vision for the borough The Corporate Delivery Plan | Haringey Council.

To achieve this vision, the Council is proposing the introduction of a borough-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to address the ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminal activity that are currently blighting the lives of residents and businesses in the borough, making residents and visitors feel unsafe and creating an environment that is unwelcoming and unpleasant.

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) sets clear conditions for the use of specified public areas and enables authorised Council officers and Police Officers to engage individuals and educate them about their behaviour and responsibilities.

Haringey's current PSPO provisions relating to alcohol are limited to certain areas. Noel Park Ward is the only ward which has an alcohol control PSPO in place covering the whole ward. Of the other remaining 10 Alcohol control PSPOs, these only apply to parts of the following wards: Bounds Green, Bruce Castle, Harringay, Hermitage & Gardens, Northumberland Park, St Ann's, Seven Sisters, South Tottenham, Tottenham Central, Tottenham Hale and West Green. With ward boundary changes in 2023, some of the alcohol control PSPOs had to be renamed as area PSPOs and no longer relate to a single ward; this may confuse residents and visitors to the borough and availability of resources to monitor and enforce the PSPOs can become muddled. There is no alcohol provision in the following wards: Alexandra, Crouch End, Fortis Green, Highgate, Hornsey, Muswell Hill and Stroud Green. Thus, leaving areas without a PSPO, vulnerable to displacement of this activity from areas which are covered by a PSPO.

In addition, Haringey's neighbouring boroughs, all have borough wide alcohol control provision, thus encouraging the displacement of such activity into Haringey, where our own provision is patchy. Enfield and Barnet have a complete prohibition on the consumption of alcohol in a public space. Islington, Hackney, and Waltham Forest have a PSPO that gives the police and authorised Officers of the Council borough-wide powers to confiscate alcohol and request people to stop drinking where there is reason to believe that if they do not, alcohol-related nuisance and annoyance is likely to occur.

Cabinet must give consideration to the data provided within this report, as outlined under section 6, Appendix 3 and feedback through the co-production and consultation process, and be satisfied on reasonable grounds that:

The activities have been carried on in a public place within the Borough either have had or it is likely that they will have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.

It is likely that the detrimental effect will be persistent, and such as to make the activities unreasonable.

The effect or likely effect is such as to justify the restrictions imposed by the proposed PSPO.

In addition, Cabinet must consider the outcome of the public consultation in deciding whether to approve the proposal for a borough wide PSPO.

Alternative options considered.

Not to approve the borough-wide PSPO as proposed in Appendix 1. The absence of a borough-wide PSPO as proposed, would limit the options for Council and Police officers to take action to address behaviours that have a detrimental effect on the local community. This would result in no alcohol control in the borough when the existing alcohol control PSPOs expire in April 2025. It would then be necessary for the Council to remove all related signage, and it is likely that the issues will recur.

To approve a borough-wide PSPO but further vary the restrictions and/or exemptions. Officers have conscientiously considered the responses from the public consultation via the consultation survey, as well as contributions and comments through engagement. This has led to changes to the proposed borough-wide PSPO initially consulted upon, as outlined in the section 3 above. Key objections and concerns raised are summarised in section 6.2 of this report, alongside our responses, demonstrating that the proposal has been adequately and appropriately amended, in light of the consultation responses.

95. BROWNFIELD LAND RELEASE FUND GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning introduced the report, emphasising the importance of affordable housing in building a fairer and greener Borough and noting that the Council was on track to build more than 3,000 new high quality Council homes by 2031. The Cabinet Member noted that building new homes in a built-up area would almost always involve reclaiming Greenfield or brownfield sites and so the Council worked with partners to make strong bids for government brownfield funding to restore and bring sites into social use. The report further set out:

- That this tranche of brownfield funding would bring another £3m into the borough and help to build 223 new Council homes for local residents.
- More than 77% of these 223 new homes would be two-bedrooms or more.
- Across the Council's housebuilding programme, nearly 40% of the homes were three-bedrooms or more. The target was to reach at least 50% but additional external funding would be required to make this possible.
- High standards were aimed for with new Council homes including on energy efficiency, size and design in addition to attention to landscaping and facilities around new buildings.

In response to questions from Cllr Cawley-Harrison, the following was noted.

- Regarding the changing financial outlook, including the Council's capital programme and HRA, the Cabinet Member confirmed that all schemes in the report remained financially viable.
- Regarding the possibility of grant funding being recalled in the event that the funding was spent but the scheme later became unviable, the Cabinet Member confirmed that this would not occur. Jack Goulde, Acting Head of Housing Development, explained that a number of governance processes were required before work could begin on a scheme. The most important of these was to run a competitive and compliant tendering process to ensure that the correct

contractor was tendered on the basis of a completed scheme. This would come back to Cabinet for approval before the tendering process went live.

RESOLVED

1. To retrospectively approve the acceptance by the Director of Finance of the receipt from the MHCLG of £2,747,057 in capital funding via the Brownfield Land Release Fund to pay for infrastructure works, including demolition, substructure and drainage works, preparatory ground works, utilities works and associated infrastructure provision, at 505-511 Archway Road, Dawlish Road, Grasmere Court and Selby Urban Village, as permitted under Contracted Standing Order (CSO) 17.1
2. To retrospectively approves that the grant sum is added to the HRA Budget.
3. To note the reasons for the retrospective approval as outlined in 6.2.

Reasons for decision

The decision to accept the grant would support the delivery of four significant housing development schemes: - 505-511 Archway Road is expected to deliver sixteen homes in the Highgate ward, completing in 2026. Dawlish Road is expected to deliver two homes in the Tottenham Hale ward, completing in 2026. Grasmere Court is expected to deliver three homes in the Woodside ward, completing in 2026 and Selby Urban Village is currently expected to deliver two-hundred and two new homes in the Bruce Castle Ward, completing in 2029.

Alternative options considered

The Council could decline the grant allocation. This option was rejected because the Council would have to fund the gap of £2,747,057 to be able to deliver these schemes, making them unviable when measured against the expected financial hurdles.

The Council could decide not to build homes on these sites. This option was rejected because the Council is committed to delivering a new era of Council house building.

96. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES

To note the minutes of the following:

Cabinet Member Signing

5 November 2024

19 November 2024

21 November 2024

97. SIGNIFICANT AND DELEGATED ACTIONS

RESOLVED

To note the delegated decisions taken by Directors.

98. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

99. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as items 21 to 24 contained exempt information as defined under paragraphs 3 and 5, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

100. EXEMPT - MINUTES

RESOLVED:

To approve the exempt minutes of the meeting held on the 12 November 2024 as a correct record.

101. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

None

CHAIR: Councillor Peray Ahmet

Signed by Chair

Date