

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING Full Council HELD ON Monday, 18th November, 2024, 7.30pm – 9.50pm**

## **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Anna Abela, Gina Adamou , Peray Ahmet, Ibrahim Ali, Kaushika Amin, Emily Arkell, Nicola Bartlett, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Zena Brabazon, Cathy Brennan, Lester Buxton, Dana Carlin, Liam Carroll, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Pippa Connor, Nick da Costa, Lucia das Neves, Isidoros Diakides, Erdal Dogan, George Dunstall, Scott Emery, Mark Grosskopf, Makbule Gunes, Holly Harrison-Mullane, Emine Ibrahim, Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Sue Jameson(Mayor), Cressida Johnson, Anna Lawton, Ahmed Mahbub, Mary Mason, Khaled Moyeed, Sean O'Donovan, Felicia Opoku, Ajda Ovat, Sheila Peacock, Reg Rice, Michelle Simmons-Safo, Adam Small, Anne Stennett, Elin Weston, Matt White, Sarah Williams and Alexandra Worrell**

## **31. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

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

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

There were apologies for absence from:

Cllr Isilar – Gosling

Cllr Mark Blake

Cllr Gordon

Cllr Rossetti

Cllr Barnes

Cllr Collett

Cllr Hakata

Cllr Hymas

Cllr Elliott

Cllr Wallace

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

The Mayor agreed the following items of late business for the reasons outlined below.

- Item 9 reports from Committees, the Standards Committee report was late as the meeting took place close to the publication of the Council papers and there is a need to consider these recommendations prior to the March Council meeting.
- In relation to item 11, Questions and Written Answers, the reason for lateness was that notice of questions was not requested until 8 clear days before the meeting, following which the matters raised have to be researched and replies prepared to be given at the meeting.
- Item 12, Motions , the amendments to motions were not requested until 10am on the day of the Council meeting and an amendment to Motion E had been published and distributed on the day of the meeting and appended in the tabled pack.

**34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mason declared a personal interest on agenda item 10 community food banks in need of premises, by virtue of being a member of Bounds Green Food Bank. There was a deputation on this matter and Cllr Mason confirmed that she was not a decision maker at the Food Bank, and ran the advice and support service there as well as having an interim role on the co -ordinating group.

**35. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 22ND OF JULY 2024 AND 10 OCTOBER 2024**

**RESOLVED**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council meetings held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2024 and 10 October 2024.

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

The Mayor had emailed a list of the events that she had attended and highlighted the following events/ engagements:

- Black History Month
- Bright Stars Autistic Club.
- Markfield Park Community Gardens event
- Armed forces day event
- Remembrance Sunday

The Mayor expressed that she was saddened to hear of the recent passing of former Mayor Erline Prescott, who served as a councillor for West Green Ward between 1990

– 98 and 2002- 2006. It was noted that Erline was Deputy Mayor in 1993- 94 and became the first black female Mayor of Haringey in 1994. She then further served as Mayor between 2003 and 2004.

The Mayor continued to offer the Council's condolences to Erline's family and her son Quincy Prescott, a former Hornsey councillor.

Cllr Peacock spoke in tribute to Erline Prescott, outlining that she was a strong advocate for diversity and supported her with the relaunch of the Tottenham Carnival. It was noted that Erline further supported many community initiatives aimed at: improving community safety, access to health services and promoting community cohesion. Cllr Peacock remembered that when Erline was Mayor she wanted to ensure every voice was heard in the borough.

Erline was a strong advocate for youth projects and would be missed by both the community and her family.

The Full Council continued to stand in a one-minute silence in memory of former councillor and Mayor, Erline Prescott.

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

The Director for Culture, Strategy and Engagement introduced a report on Appointment of the Honorary Recorder of Haringey.

The Director was very pleased to put this report forward to Full Council following the nomination of His Honour Judge Dodd KC from the Royal Courts of Justice to be appointed as the Honorary Recorder for Haringey.

The Director for Culture, Strategy and Engagement outlined that an Honorary Recorder was an unpaid ceremonial office created by the Local Government Act 1972. It aimed to facilitate close links between Councils and the judiciary and to enhance understanding of the judicial system among the community.

The functions of Honorary Recorder included attending ceremonial and civic functions and inviting Members of the Council to attend judicial events.

The Director, on behalf of the Council, expressed thanks to Judge Lucas, the outgoing Honorary Recorder who was also present at the meeting and further welcomed Judges David Aaronberg, Tim Godfrey and Barbara Mensah to the meeting.

Judge Dodd stated it was a great honour for him to be nominated as the Honorary Recorder for Haringey. He welcomed his wife and Judge colleagues' attendance. He referred to his colleague Judge Noel Lucas and expressed that he had fulfilled his Honorary Recorder duties with great distinction and hoped to live up to his example.

The role of the recorder was vital in linking the court's work with the community, represented by everyone present. He emphasised the invitation for people to visit and see what they do in the still-impressive building on Lordship Lane and encouraged Councillors and members of the public to come by and see the work first hand, noting

it was an important aspect of their duties. Sometimes, in the face of challenges in court, it could feel difficult, but the court was still a key part of the community. Jurors were often the only public duty people performed.

He had grown up locally and owed a great deal to the borough. His parents had come from Ireland in the 1950s seeking work and were passionate about education. They had sent him and his brother to South Haringey Primary School and from there, they both went to Saint Aloysius College. His brother had become a doctor and retired recently. He had studied law at Leicester University. Judge Dodd expressed that he and his brother were the first in his family to attend university, and this had been made possible thanks to the London Borough of Haringey funding their grants. He commented how such support had become much harder to obtain in recent years for young people in the borough. Being appointed the second honorary recorder was his way of giving back to the borough and he was truly grateful for the opportunity

The Leader of the Council spoke in support of the recommendations in the report, expressing the importance of a strong relationship between the judiciary and local partners for supporting community safety and how relationship was recognised through the appointment of an honorary recorder for the borough. It was noted that Judge Dodd was the second person to hold this role. Judge Dodd had been appointed as the resident judge at Wood Green Crown Court in 2016 and served as a senior judge there. His parents had come from Ireland, and both he and his brother had attended South Haringey Primary School and Saint Aloysius College. Judge Dodd had studied law at Leicester University, was called to the bar in 1979, and began practicing criminal law in London. He had taken silk in 2007 and become a part-time judge in 1999 before becoming a full-time judge in 2012. The Council was proud to have someone who had grown up in Haringey serving in this important community role.

Cllr Cawley – Harrison, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, expressed thanks to Judge Lucas and the work he had done during his time as the first honorary recorder for Haringey. The Council's role in the community was acknowledged as being far-reaching, particularly in terms of leadership. As part of this responsibility, the Council sought to develop an understanding of the justice system across all sections of the community and to foster a relationship between the Council, the justice system, and the community. He noted that the Lord Chief Justice emphasised the importance of Councils using their powers to make such appointments, as proposed that evening.

With Judge Dodd's appointment, the Council was proud to welcome an experienced judge from Wood Green Crown Court, who had handled several high-profile cases and many local cases, delivering justice both in London and beyond. Moreover, Judge Dodd's local roots in Haringey made the appointment even more significant.

The Chief Whip MOVED the recommendations in the report, and it was,

## **RESOLVED**

To agree, that pursuant to Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971, His Honour, Judge John Dodd KC, be appointed to the office of Honorary Recorder of Haringey during his tenure as Resident circuit judge.

The Mayor led the meeting in a round of applause.

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

The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance had no matters to report on.

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

The Mayor advised that there were four reports to consider as part of this item. These were reports from the Cabinet, Audit Committee and the Standards Committee.

**REPORT OF THE CABINET No. 1, 2024/25 – Borough Vision**

The Leader of the Council MOVED her report and recommendations, concerning approval of the Borough Vision. This was supported by speeches from community partners, Colin Bowen, Director, Haringey Giving, and Clare Henderson, Director of Place, NHS North Central London.

**RESOLVED**

To approve the attached Borough Vision.

**REPORT OF THE CABINET No. 2, 2024/25 - London Borough of Haringey Gambling Act Policy**

The Cabinet Member for Communities MOVED her report and recommendations concerning adoption of the Statement of Gambling Policy 2025 – 2028 and it was,

**RESOLVED**

1. To adopt The Statement of Gambling Policy 2025 – 2028 at Appendix 2 and to take effect from 31st January 2025, taking into consideration:
  - i) the outcome of the consultation set out in paragraph 8.3 of the report and
  - ii) the equality impact assessment in Appendix 3.
2. To agree that, in respect of new casinos, no premises licences shall be granted after the date that this resolution comes into effect and that this resolution shall come into effect on 31st January 2025.
3. To note the supplementary guidance containing the local area profile information at Appendix 2.

The Chair of Audit introduced his report which provided a quarterly update on Treasury Management activities and it was,

## **RESOLVED**

1. To note the treasury management activity undertaken during the financial year to 30 June 2024 and the performance achieved which is attached as Appendix 2 to the report.
2. To note that all treasury activities were undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy

Cllr Ali, Chair of Standards Committee, introduced his report on minor changes to the Councillor Complaints Handling Protocol and Council Standing Orders and MOVED the recommendations and it was,

## **RESOLVED**

1. To approve the amendments to the Member Complaints Handling Protocol as set out in Appendix 2 and also approves publication of the updated version as set out Appendix 3.
2. To approve changes outlined at Appendix 6 outlining track changes to the Council Procedure Rules and increasing the working days for notice of Council questions from 8 to 10 days.

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

The Mayor invited deputation from Carmel Cadden on Haringey providing community food banks in need of premises, access to empty council premises for a minimum of twelve months. Carmel was joined by Rose Dakuo, Charlotte Gray, Nandita Lal, Jane Leggett.

The deputation expressed their views and considered as a group that there had been a closure, abandonment, and repurposing of some community provision in Haringey which had negatively impacted essential community projects, many of which were food related.

The deputation urged the Council to provide food banks and community food projects with access to empty Council properties for at least 12 months and help find suitable spaces close to the people who rely on these services. They felt that there were many vacant Council-owned properties and these community projects often struggled to operate due to a lack of premises. With minimal resources, these projects could not afford commercial rents and therefore required rent-free community spaces.

The deputation emphasised the significant social, financial, and environmental value of these projects, which support vulnerable residents, help the Council meet its duty of

care, and reduce food waste, thereby cutting waste management costs and lowering carbon emissions. Despite challenges, such as operating outdoors in all weather, food banks continued to serve the community. However, the lack of secure premises meant they could not accept all food donations or store perishable items due to insufficient space for fridges or freezers. Volunteers, particularly in Northumberland Park, expressed a sense of personal sadness in not being able to support their community, having operated outside for 21 months since being evicted from the Eric Allen Community Centre.

The deputation highlighted that, in April 2024, a building was renovated and deemed safe for use, yet it had remained vacant for seven months despite being available for food banks and other community groups. This left the project unable to secure access, and each week, vulnerable individuals, including elderly residents and women with babies, waited at food banks. The lack of suitable premises had severely hindered the food projects, and since losing their secure base, they had turned away thousands of pounds worth of donated food that could have supported the growing number of residents in need. The deputation acknowledged, a meeting had taken place with the Council, arranged by the Cabinet Member for Communities, on September 18th, and had concluded with the need for the Council to identify suitable unused properties and make practical arrangements.

The Mayor inquired about further correspondence with the Council. The speaker confirmed a positive meeting on September 18th, followed by further communication. On September 27th, the group had further submitted their list of emergency accommodation needs to the Assistant Director responsible for Property.

A deputation member, representing one of the food banks, explained that an Officer had suggested monitoring Haringey's commercial properties website for potential spaces. After several weeks, a property appeared that seemed suitable, and the deputation member reached out to the Council. Initially, the agent denied a viewing, but a viewing was later arranged. The deputation member found the property suitable and expressed interest, but was told she would need to apply and compete with profit-making businesses, some of which had made offers above market value. Additionally, she was informed that a £500 deposit and £3,660 in legal fees would be required if the lease was awarded.

Councillors inquired about the impact of the project, asking how many people the group was currently able to help and how many more could be supported if they had access to the right premises. The volunteer explained that before losing their premises four months ago, the project was feeding about 780 households across five church-based food banks and supplying two charities. They also provided hampers for elderly, disabled, and vulnerable individuals. Since losing their premises, they could only manage one delivery per week, feeding a maximum of 140 people, significantly reducing their impact. With a dedicated space, the volunteer's plan was to expand the project by increasing deliveries, pickups, and the amount of food distributed. Their goal was to feed more people, support more vulnerable individuals, and reduce food waste.

Rose Dakuo, a member of the deputation group, who ran the Homegrown Tottenham project, shared that two years ago, they had a meeting with Councillors, during which they were promised help in securing a space. However, despite two years passing, they had still not been provided with premises. The Homegrown Tottenham project,

which had provided food and educational services to local families and young people, had been feeding around 500 people weekly. Since being evicted from their space, Rose Dakuo explained that they were no longer able to carry out their work effectively. Despite multiple meetings with councillors, they were still without a permanent base.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Communities acknowledged the concerns and emphasised the Council's continued efforts to address them. The Councillor noted that they had been in contact with Rose Dakuo and her team and were working to find suitable spaces for community groups like Homegrown Tottenham. The Cabinet Member highlighted ongoing efforts to improve access to safe spaces for voluntary organisations and assured that the Council was committed to transparency and fairness in managing its assets. The Cabinet Member also mentioned a new policy being developed in collaboration with the voluntary sector, aimed at ensuring better access to premises for community organisations. The Council remained committed to supporting food banks and other community initiatives and was actively working on solutions to meet their needs.

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

The Mayor advised the meeting that, as part of this item on questions, there was also public questions to consider.

There had been 7 public questions in total received and there were 3 questioners not present, and they had all asked questions on the matters concerning the visitor permit scheme and the responses would be given in writing.

It was noted that three questions from Sue Lewis, Laura Forrest Hay, and Niall O'Connor were on this same matter. In the interests of time and efficiency of the meeting all three questioners were invited to come forward and ask their questions together. The Mayor further advised that, given the matters concerned one specific Cabinet portfolio, she would ask the Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services to respond.

Sue Lewis, Laura Forrest Hay, and Niall O'Connor were invited to come forward to the table. It was noted, at this point that Niall O'Connor, was not able to attend the meeting.

Sue Lewis and Laura Forrest Hay asked their questions as follows:

1. At the most recent Scrutiny Committee Cllr Seema Chandwani said she did not think the Council should be limiting the numbers of visitors a resident can have. This was in response to the suggestion that the current permit allowance could be reduced. Do you agree that charging constituents up to £16.80 a day to have a visitor does that to those on modest or low incomes and further highlights the huge disparity between the east and west of the borough?



2. How will the added financial cost of the removal of daily parking permits affect well-being(including health of residents and the state of their properties) of families and residents that rely on regular carers, or repairs and improvements to their homes.

Response:

The Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality and Resident Services thanked the questioners for coming to Full Council and engaging with the democratic processes of the Council and responded as follows:

- The Council co - designed the Parking Strategy with residents and were currently exploring a range of potential changes. The proposals that made up the statutory consultation included daily visitor parking permits, and no decision has been made on this particular matter.
- As with all proposed changes, the Council wanted residents to have their say. The Council's aim was to always get a wider range of views so able to make an informed decision.
- The Council was in the process of gathering feedback from residents and stakeholders through the statutory consultation period, open until 20th November 2024.
- The Council encouraged everyone to share their views on these proposed changes through the process outlined on the Council's website.
- The Council would consider residents' feedback before deciding on the proposals.

There was a supplementary question about the petition against the removal of daily parking permits which would not be debated until March 2025 by the Council. The query concerned the time frame for the decision making given the petition would not be debated until March 25.

In response, the Cabinet Member explained that there were several parking related proposals in the current consultation and the Parking team would analyse these in the next 5 weeks leading to a final decision on visitor permits and other parking related proposals in January/ February 2025.

The Council continued to RECEIVE the response to written questions.

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

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

Motion E – Winter Fuel Allowance,

Cllr Emery proposed the motion, outlining that thousands of people, many of them elderly, struggled to keep their homes warm in the winter. The winter fuel payment was

first introduced by the Labour government in 1997 and Age UK had stated that without this the health of many elderly people would be jeopardised.

He outlined that the cut would disproportionately affect three groups of vulnerable pensioners. There were those who narrowly missed out on pension credits because their incomes were slightly above the eligibility threshold, often due to a small occupational pension; pensioners with high energy needs due to disability, illness and those living in poorly insulated homes and thirdly, it had been estimated that almost a million eligible pensioners were not claiming their pension credit. This persistent problem left a third of those entitled without crucial support. Some people on far less missed out on this money and this policy would significantly impact those pensioners with low savings, lower pension incomes and disabilities.

Cllr Emery urged the Council to raise concerns on behalf of the thousands of pensioners in Haringey who would lose out. Members desperately needed to review the process and ensure more pensioners accessed pensions credit. The government needed to act now to prevent the vulnerable from facing further challenges.

Cllr da Costa seconded this motion and welcomed Haringey's decision which allocated part of the limited budget to support pensioners in winter. He outlined that government's own analysis showed that nearly 800,000 pensioners who earned less than £11,400 annually would no longer receive this lifeline. These were people already struggling to keep warm as energy prices rose and 37% of those eligible for pension credit did not claim it, meaning the government's policy knowingly excluded some of the most vulnerable.

He called for an immediate review of the eligibility criteria for winter fuel allowance, in consultation with the pensioner representative groups. It was essential that low- and middle-income pensioners were protected, and he endorsed efforts to boost pension credit uptake.

The Mayor had received an amendment to the motion and invited Cllr Chandwani to move the amendment

Cllr Chandwani explained that members suggestion of usage of the Household Support Fund to support pensioners who were not in receipt of pension credit was already taking place and included pensioners in CTRS Scheme. Members had worked alongside the Mayor of London to support pension credit take up. This year, the Council had identified 835 eligible residents and sent letters to notify them. Up until September, there was approximately 44,000 extra claimants across the UK have started to claim pension credit, a 152% increase compared to last year. Since April, the Haringey support fund had supported 1065 residents with vital financial assistance. Through the council tax reduction scheme, support was given to 25,480 residents with discounted rates, 7,876 were of pension age. This amendment supported plans already in place to support the vulnerable and called for a continuation of a fairer funding settlement so the Council could continue with a range of support for the older generation.

Cllr Brennan seconded the amendment which promised support to older residents where it was most required. Overall, she welcomed the suggestion of a review into the impact of the new means tested criteria. She was particularly concerned about pensioners just above the pension credit threshold, who would still find it hard to meet

heating costs, and she hoped that if there were to be a review, it would look in detail at this group.

The priority of the Council was to ensure that members tried to support those residents facing the greatest difficulties. She stood behind the Labour Mayor and Council's endeavours to ensure that all of those eligible for pension credit applied for it.

There was a debate in accordance with CSO 15.1

Cllr Simmons – Safo highlighted that the Labour government had changed the criteria of eligibility for winter fuel payments to those on mean tested benefits, primarily pension credit which was one of the most underclaimed benefits. Haringey had worked with the Labour Mayor to increase the uptake of this, she was delighted that the constituents of Seven Sisters had benefited from the intervention of the Council and had claimed these benefits and as a result, would receive the winter fuel payment.

Cllr Emery responded to the amendment and felt there was more the Council could do to support pensioners. He urged members to consider what they had campaigned for six months ago and make the right decision.

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

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

### **Winter Fuel Allowance – Motion E**

Proposer: Cllr Seema Chandwani

Seconder: Cllr Cathy Brennan

### **Council notes:**

- 14 years of austerity has left the UK economy, public sector finances and welfare state under severe financial pressure;
- The Labour Government has changed the criterion for eligibility Winter Fuel Payments to those on means-tested benefits (primarily Pension Credit);
- Pension Credit is one of the most underclaimed benefits with 37% of those eligible do not claim pension credit, and 780,000 pensioners earning below £11,400 per year will no longer receive the Winter Fuel Payment;
- Since February 2023, Haringey has worked with the Labour Mayor of London to increase uptake of Pension Credits through the GLA's Pension Credits Programme;
- Together with 23 London boroughs, we have worked to ensure older Londoners do not miss out on receiving all of their Pension Credit. Since then, more than 4,300 Londoners have claimed Pension Credit they are entitled to, resulting in £17.9m in direct additional annual income.

- To receive Pension Credit a single pensioner must have an income of less than £11,343.80 per year, compared with a full-time living wage salary of £20,820.8 per year;
- Data from Policy in Practice shows that almost £17 million of pension credit goes unclaimed in Haringey each year, affecting over 4000 households;

Last year, Haringey identified around 823 pensioners who were eligible for Pension Credits, with 154 pensioners claiming it. This resulted in a take up of £615,062 a year, which will result in £7,439,488 pension credits being taken up over an average lifetime.

This year, Haringey officers have identified 815 eligible residents not claiming pension credit in the borough and has been targeting them to supporting them in uptake

Last week, letters were sent to all eligible residents and we will be in contact with them to help support take up.

- 4 out of 5 pensioners due to lose the Winter Fuel Payment are on or below the poverty line according to Age UK.
- The Energy Price Cap has risen by 10% in October, which, combined with restricted eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments, will push thousands of local pensioners into fuel poverty;
- That it will use the Household Support Fund to provide payments to pensioners who are low income and eligible for Pension Credits and confirmed its plans to provide a payment from the council to 2,804 pension aged households claiming council tax reduction scheme.

#### **Council believes:**

- That ensuring that all those entitled to Pension Credits and other benefits are aware of their eligibility and are claiming them is a priority;
- Local government sector urgently needs a fairer funding settlement so it can continue to support all residents and transform Haringey into a fairer, greener borough;

Following this winter, there should be a review into the impact on the new means tested criteria for the Winter Fuel Allowance and will fully support the UK Government in a review or consultation should one take place.

#### **Council resolves:**

- To continue with its plan to use the Household Support Fund to provide a payment from the council to pension aged households claiming from the council tax reduction scheme;
- To continue to work with the Mayor of London in helping identify and supporting residents to claim the benefits they are entitled to;
- To examine what support can be provided to these same households in future years;

- To support the Mayor of London's comms campaign, encourage greater uptake of Pension Credits by those who are entitled to them;

To instruct the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to write to Haringey's Members of Parliament, to set out why a fairer funding settlement is vital for local authorities to continue to support residents and transform Haringey into a fairer and greener borough.

### **Motion F SEND provision in Haringey**

Councillor Zena Brabazon moved the motion and stated that:

- She was pleased to present the motion and as there were no amendments from any of the opposition groups, there appeared to be a cross-party unanimity.
- The Council had shown a great commitment to SEND generally. The program of correcting mistakes and recognising that the system needed to change was important.
- The Council had worked diligently over many years to make changes to the system and progression had been made.
- The Council had increased the support to children and families in the borough. The OFSTED inspection in February 2023 had received a good rating by OFSTED for the first time in the borough's history. Steps had also been taken to improve special needs provision.
- The SEND inspection, which was a joint inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and OFSTED showed that the work being done with special needs was on track. The Council was awarded the highest rating - a "1" - as opposed to an "outstanding". This was cause for celebration of how far the Council had come and of the measures put in place by the Director of Children's Services and her team which was a good program of system change. The Council wished to thank Ann Graham, who had been Director since 2018 and her whole her whole management team who had contributed to the achievement. Further, the teachers in Haringey schools, the sports staff, the Parent Forum and other elements had brought together the achievement.
- Dealing with children with special needs was a lifelong commitment, 24 hours a day and working with parents and young people was critical.
- The Council had developed the Elevated Youth which was the special needs youth council.
- Nationally, 1.6 million young people in the UK were diagnosed with a special need or disability. In Haringey, it was about 8,000 and of those, around 3,000 children had Education, Health and Care plans. Young people with the most

complex needs were going through the school system, needing the special support. This was done with not enough money. Safety Valve had pushed the Council to make changes and the Council was now developing additional capacity for 170 children.

- She invited the Secretary of State for Education to visit the borough.

Councillor Makbule Gunes seconded the motion and stated that:

- As the Chair of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, it was an honour for her to second the motion.
- She was proud and confident that the Council had come a long way over the last three years, from a SEND service that was struggling to a service that was that was awarded the highest rating in its SEND service provision by a joint OFSTED and CQC inspection. This showed solid progress.
- Additional funding from the Labour Government was a welcome start in putting education back into the pole position to create a fairer society. Good education regardless of one's background would unlock tremendous opportunities that every child rightly deserved. Forty years of underinvestment in the SEND department needed to be reversed and the Government needed to do this as soon as possible. Adequately funding the services for children with special educational needs was important as those children needed to learn, thrive and fulfil their potential regardless of their condition and circumstances.
- In her role as Chair, there had been opportunities to scrutinise many aspects of children and young people's services. Many changes had brought a positive effect to children with SEND support.
- The administration's focus on young people and children over the years was further testament to some of the great work in the area that Councillor Brabazon had highlighted.
- There had been excellent work from officers across the Council, particularly from officers in the children, care and education departments. She wanted to thank Ann Graham and her team for the work done for children with special educational needs, in addition to the Deputy Assistant, Jackie Difolco.
- Work in the special needs area was not an easy job and officers had done very well.

Council then moved to have a debate in accordance with Council Standing Orders 15.1

Councillor Mark Grosskopf stated that:

- It was a privilege to start his maiden speech and as a member of the Orthodox Jewish community.
- He worked with and had a daughter with special educational needs. There were nearly 3,000 children holding Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in Haringey and 8,000 requiring SEND support and a 22% increase in assessment request from last year. The motion addressed crucial issues affecting all communities. The Government had just announced a focused package of funding measure for young people in education. The Mayor of London would also continue to support those in London.
- Whilst the Council celebrated the measures, including the Mayor of London's extension of universal free school meals, it was important to ensure that every young person who needed support was able to receive it.
- The borough's achievement deserved recognition, particularly the good OFSTED rating marking an outstanding achievement in the SEND Service provision.
- He would ask Council to join him in congratulating the dedicated officers and cabinet members whose tireless work made the success possible. It showed that the Council could achieve when it worked together for children.
- The Safety Valve program which had created 170 additional SEND places had been transformed and allowed children to access support close to home. The success came despite 14 years of chronic underinvestment in SEND services nationally. Whilst Council welcomed the recent £1 billion additional SEND funding announcement, this must be viewed in context of the years of shortfall.
- Families waited anxiously for assessments and children were struggling without adequate support. He supported the Council's call for the Secretary of State for Education to visit the borough and urged the visit to include time with both Orthodox Jewish and Muslim communities across Hackney and Haringey. The Secretary needed to see first-hand how faith schools were managing SEND provisions whilst facing financial pressures.
- The 6.3% rise in young people with special educational needs across England showed a growing scale of the challenge. Every child, regardless of their faith or background and educational setting had to have access to support they needed.
- He urged all members to support the motion as a commitment to every child a diverse borough that recognised and respected the different ways the community chose to educate their children.

Councillor Pippa Conner stated that:

- There was a large cohort of young people who required special educational needs support and a smaller group who also had Education, Health and Care plans in place.
- She fully supported the motion calling on the Government to do more and she also extended her support for Ann Graham and her team for the work that she had been doing across the area.
- It was important to ask if it was possible to do better and she was pleased to see the SEND preparation for adulthood action plan 2022 to 2024 on the Haringey website. In September 2022, the Council carried out an engagement process with parents and carers which highlighted three areas; the need for accountability on the action plan services to be more responsive, to improve communication links across services as well as commissioning across children's and adults and, thirdly, the local offer information to be more accessible and available in various formats. To continue to challenge the Council, it was important to ask if the Council was doing as well as we could do in those areas.
- The action plan also noted in greater detail what areas needed to be improved. Children in Need and Looked After Children reviews needed to be better aligned to the EHCP reviews. There needed to be multi-agency preparation for adulthood training. There needed to be more holistic views of the family in transitional planning and there needed to be better transitions between children and young people and adult health services, particularly CMHS. Advocacy services for young adults needed to be developed and transitions needed to be better planned and planned earlier. Communication needed to be more effective, because this caused anxiety of young people and those who supported them.
- She looked forward to seeing the Council's plans to continually improve those areas.
- The majority of casework she received in the area fell into one or more of those areas for improvement. It often took persistence to ensure that to the young person with special educational needs and their families received the right support. The action plan also noted how the Council would measure success. It noted that performance measures would be reviewed and monitored by the SEND Joint Executive Board and success would also be measured through a communications and engagement plan with young people and their parent carers. She would ask Council look to challenge the SEND Executive Board to ensure the basic areas were done well the first time around. Solving problems at the outset would save families and staff stress. She would ask that the process was monitored and reviewed to ensure the right support at the right time.
- She urged the Council to apply robust performance monitoring and all future action plans keeping the needs of young people with SEND and their families at the centre of the Council's efforts.



In response, Councillor Zena Brabazon stated that:

- The work in the area was never completed. There were thousands of EHCPs and there were going to be issues which would arise.
- The area was bounded by rights, responsibilities, different roles and a legal framework. When there was not enough money, there would always be issues. The Council was working to try and mitigate this and to meet need.
- The Transition service was an important development. This was a £3 million investment to lead the transitions of young people with special educational needs as they moved to adulthood. It was another complex area, but hopefully the Council could move forward at pace.
- She hoped that the new funding from the Government would be invested into Haringey.

Following a vote on Motion F, The Council unanimously AGREED the motion.

Motion F

**Title: SEND provision in Haringey**

**Proposer: Cllr Zena Brabazon**

**Seconder: Cllr Makbule Gunes**

**This Council notes:**

In England, 1.6 million young people have special educational needs, a rise of 6.3% since 2023;

In Haringey, there are approximately 8,000 children and young people who require SEN support and 2,974 who have an education, health and care plan (EHCP). Compared with the previous year, there has been a 22% increase in the number of requests for an assessment for an EHCP and an overall increase of 6% for children with EHCP's;

In the Autumn budget, the new government announced a package of investment measures to support young people and families across the UK. These included tripling breakfast club funding, £6.1bn in capital investment for rebuilding and maintaining schools and £2.3bn for revenue investment which includes £1bn in additional SEND funding;

The Mayor of London has announced the extension of universal free school meals to primary aged children which has allowed schools to access additional essential pupil premium funding;

This administration is committed to strengthen Children's Services in Haringey and officers have worked collaboratively with partners and community groups such as SEND Power to enhance our support to young people and families in;

Children's Services were awarded a Good by Ofsted for the first time in its history and was awarded the highest rating in its SEND service provision by a joint Ofsted and CQC inspection;

The Safety Valve Programme, implemented by this administration, has enabled the council to create an additional 170 places for young people with SEND in partnership with mainstream and special schools across the borough;

The Safety Value Programme has supported us in extending capacity in mainstream and special schools in-borough, which enables a local and integrated education, care, and support to be close to families and support networks, especially those with the most complex needs.

**This Council believes:**

That 14 years of underinvestment in SEND has put local authorities and their ability to deliver their statutory obligations and provide the best support under strain;

That future investment, resources and research in how local authorities meet the most complex needs in the SEND high needs block is vital;

Ensuring that funding is available and sufficient for all young people who require additional support to be able to access it.

**This Council resolves:**

To call on the UK government to enhance routes to accessing support for all that need it such as providing better diagnosis of special needs;

To call on the UK government for further funding for local authorities to improve outcomes for children and young people;

To write to the Secretary of State for Education to highlight our implementation of the Safety Valve programme, invite her to visit and see firsthand the success it and other measures have had on SEND provision in Haringey.

Meeting ended at 9.50pm

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....

