

## Labour Motion - Full Council 24 March 2025

### Amendments to the Labour Motion - Full Council 24 March 2025

Proposer: Cllr Lotte Collett

Seconder: Cllr Mary Mason

To amend the 'Fair Funding for local government' motion as follows:

1. Amend the Title to add

**'to support local people'**

2. To add the following paragraphs under 'Several other factors have put additional pressure on Haringey's finances:'

- Haringey is the 4th highest Borough in London for people living in poverty
- 2nd highest claiming out of work benefits
- 3rd highest rate of child poverty in London

#### **Homelessness**

- 2,660 homeless families live in temporary accommodation, the 3rd highest in London<sup>1</sup>
- 3,407 families are on the Housing Waiting List

#### **Disability**

- 28% of Households have at least one person with a serious disability
- 15,318 people receive PIP.
- The proposed changes to the Disability Benefits System will cost an estimated £1.5 for every £1 'saved' (Disability Policy Centre). An estimated financial cost in Haringey of £115m.

3. To add under the paragraph 'This Council resolves to (under paragraph ending 'of particular detriment to our region')

**Work with other London Boroughs to press the Government not to make the proposed reductions to Disability Benefits including PIP, recognising the life enhancing changes the benefits have made to disabled people's lives.**

**Work closely with the voluntary and community sector in Haringey, helping to harness vibrant community responses particularly those led by and for people with disabilities and people living in poverty.**

4. To add at end of the motion after 'delivering'

on cuts or savings in services and on the protection of support services for disadvantaged residents.

The whole amended motion to therefore read:

**Title: Fair funding for local government** to support local people

Proposer: Cllr Collett

Seconder: Cllr Mason

**This Council notes –**

14 years of austerity and chronic underfunding of public services have devastated local government budgets.

Haringey's core government funding has been cut in real terms by £143m, while our statutory responsibilities in areas such as housing, adult social care, children's services and public health have grown significantly.

Haringey is one of 30 councils, from across the political spectrum, that have applied for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS), including 6 in London.

London Councils estimates a collective funding gap of £500m for the financial year 2025/26.

Several other factors have put additional pressure on Haringey's finances:

- Haringey has an ageing population, with a 24% increase in the number of residents over the age of 65 since 2010.
- Haringey has experienced a sharp increase in the cost of and demand for our services. Our 2025/26 budget includes an additional:
  - £31m for adult social care;
  - £12m for temporary accommodation (an increase of 278%);
  - £6.5m for children's social care and SEND.
  - These services alone account for over 60% of our total budget.
- Most boroughs average band D for council tax, but Haringey's average is the lower value band C – which means our revenues are lower. Government funding to local councils does not take full account of this.
- The classification of inner and outer London boroughs has not been updated since the 1960s. This old analysis says that levels of need and cost are higher

in inner London. Haringey is classed as an outer London borough, but we actually share the challenges of inner London.

- Haringey is the 4th highest Borough in London for people living in poverty
  - 2nd highest claiming out of work benefits
  - 3rd highest rate of child poverty in London

#### Homelessness

- 2,660 homeless families live in temporary accommodation, the 3rd highest in London<sup>1</sup>
- 3,407 families are on the Housing Waiting List

#### Disability

- 28% of Households have at least one person with a serious disability
- 15,318 people receive PIP.
- The proposed changes to the Disability Benefits System will cost Local Councils an estimated £1.5 for every £1 'saved' (Disability Policy Centre). An estimated financial cost to Haringey is £115m.

Despite these challenges, Haringey continues to deliver exceptional outcomes across many of its services:

- 98% of our schools are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.
- Our SEND services attained the highest possible rating from Ofsted and CQC.
- We are delivering an extensive house-building programme; 707 completed and on track to build 3,000 homes by 2031.
- The Haringey Support Fund has provided hardship funding to more than 4,000 residents.
- We care for 4,000 disabled people and older people and more than 5,000 children.
- More than 5,500 pot-holes have been fixed.
- Almost 2,000 street trees have been planted.

Haringey's March 2025 Budget protects the vast majority of frontline services while delivering significant investment to maintain our excellent local public services, investing -

- £1.5m in eight parks across the Borough.
- £68m in SEND services.

- £35m in our council tax reduction scheme, supporting 23,000 low-income households.

### **This Council believes –**

Local councils are living hand to mouth. The number of local councils up and down the country, from across the political spectrum, experiencing financial difficulties is evidence of the deep-rooted issues with the local government funding formula, relying on outdated deprivation data and a flawed allocation formula.

A fair funding model for local government will deliver preventative benefits and long-term savings at successive Budgets, ensuring local councils can continue delivering vital frontline services, particularly in areas such as mental health, youth services and anti-social behaviour.

Cuts to local government and public services are a false economy. 14 years of crippling underfunding of vital frontline services, such as the Sure Start programme, has only increased need within communities – and with it demand and costs for local government.

That Government has made reforming local authority funding a priority. The Local Authority Funding Reform consultation, which Haringey submitted to, as well as statements from Minister Jim McMahon, indicate an intention to support long-neglected local councils. The financial strain on councils such as Haringey mean that this reform must - and it must come urgently.

### **This Council resolves to –**

Continue calling on the Government to urgently reform the local government funding landscape to ensure a fair distribution of resources, which more accurately reflects the needs of our residents and communities in Haringey.

- Follow-up on our recent letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, where we pressed for fair funding for local government and highlighted the increasing cost and need within Haringey and specific challenges we face as an outer London borough.

Work with other outer London boroughs to call on the Government to rebalance the inadequate funding distribution and rectify the changes to the funding formula of particular detriment to our region.

Work closely with the voluntary and community sector in Haringey, helping to harness vibrant community responses particularly those led by and for people with disabilities and people living in poverty.

Work with other London Boroughs to press the Government not to make the proposed reductions to Disability Benefits including PIP, recognising the life enhancing changes the benefits have made to disabled people's lives.

Deliver savings efficiencies to reduce our budget shortfall, while minimising the impact on vital frontline services and our most vulnerable and deprived residents, maintaining the strong track record of services we have developed despite acute funding challenges.

Continue to update residents on the savings efficiencies we are delivering on cuts or savings in services and on the protection of support services for disadvantaged residents.

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