

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 24TH MARCH, 2025, 7.30PM – 9.15PM

PRESENT:

Councillors Anna Abela, Gina Adamou, Peray Ahmet, Ibrahim Ali, Kaushika Amin, Emily Arkell, Dawn Barnes, Nicola Bartlett, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Mark Blake, Zena Brabazon, Cathy Brennan, Lester Buxton, Liam Carroll, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Lotte Collett, Pippa Connor, Eldridge Culverwell, Lucia das Neves, Isidoros Diakides, Erdal Dogan, George Dunstall, Scott Emery, Ruth Gordon, Makbule Gunes, Mike Hakata, Holly Harrison-Mullane, Emine Ibrahim, Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Sue Jameson, Cressida Johnson, Mary Mason, Khaled Moyeed, Sean O'Donovan, Ajda Ovat, Sheila Peacock, Reg Rice, Alessandra Rossetti, Michelle Simmons-Safo, Adam Small, Joy Wallace, Elin Weston, Matt White, Sarah Williams and Alexandra Worrell

ALSO ATTENDING:

56. FILMING AT MEETINGS

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

57. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted from the following councillors:

Cllr Elliott
Cllr Carlin
Cllr da Costa
Cllr Grosskopf
Cllr Isilar Gosling
Cllr Mahbub
Cllr Lawton

Later apologies were received from Cllr Stennett.

58. 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 to accept the following items as late items of urgent business for the following reasons set out below.

Item 12 Questions and Written Answers

The reason for lateness was that notice of questions was not requested until ten clear days before the meeting, following which the matters raised had to be researched and replies prepared to be given at the meeting.

Item 13 – Motions

The amendments to motions were not requested until 10am on the day of the Council meeting and an amendment to Motion G had been received and amendments to Motion H also received. These had been published and distributed in the tabled pack.

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

60. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 3RD OF MARCH 2025

RESOLVED

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 3rd of March 2025, noting the addition of Cllr Amin's apologies for lateness which had been added.

61. 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 since the last Council meeting on 3 March 2024 and highlighted the following engagements and events attended.

- Multi faith events – Purim, celebration of Mauritius independence day, Islamic Turkish Cypriot Iftar, Kurdish Newroz, and Somali Community Iftar.
- The Albert Hall showcased The Haringey young musicians for The Haringey Schools Music Festival.
- International Women's Day - The Mayor had attended Council run events to support this important day with the theme of 'Accelerate Action'. The Mayor highlighted the Joyce Butler heritage launch that she had attended at Bruce Castle which showcased Joyce's pioneering work as Haringey's first female MP.

Clerks note – the Council noted the passing of Peter Murphy a former conservative councillor who represented White Hart Lane ward between 1986 and 1990.

62. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There were no matters to report.

63. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

There were no matters to report on.

64. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES

The Mayor advised the meeting that there were two reports to consider as part of this item. There was a report from the Audit Committee, and a report from Standards Committee.

The Mayor called on Councillor Dogan, Chair of Audit Committee, to move his report which provided an update on the Council's Treasury Management activities.

Councillor Dogan MOVED the report and recommendations on the treasury management activity undertaken during the financial year to 31st December 2024 and the performance achieved. It was,

RESOLVED

1. To note the treasury management activity undertaken during the financial year to 31st December 2024 and the performance achieved which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To note that all treasury activities were undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

The Mayor next invited Councillor Ali, Chair of the Standards Committee, to introduce his report.

Councillor Ali, Chair of the Standards Committee MOVED his report and recommendations concerning: the Members Allowances Scheme for 2025/26, Changes to Council Standing Orders, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Procurement Standing Orders and it was

RESOLVED

1. To revoke the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/25 as of 31 March 2025.
2. To consider the proposed changes to the Members' Allowance Scheme 2025/2026 set out at Appendix 3.
3. To approve the new Members' Allowances Scheme for the Municipal year 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 4.
4. To note the carers form attached at Appendix 6.

5. To approve the additions to CSO 10.7 outlined at paragraph 6.3 in the attached report and at Appendix 7 and set out in Appendix 8.
6. To note the Non – Voting Co-opted Member protocol at Appendix 11 for implementation and publication on the Council's website
7. To AGREE the required changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Part 4 Section G, at Appendix 12 and 13.
8. To note the required changes to the Overview and scrutiny Protocol outlined at Appendix 14.
9. To adopt the proposed revised Part Four of the Constitution, Section J Contract Procedure Rules as attached at **Appendix 16 - Contract Standing Orders 2025**.

Noting the following key amendments:

Alignment with the Procurement Act 2023.

Cabinet to approve the commencement of procurements where the contract will exceed £500,000 (five hundred thousand pounds).

Centralisation of procurements above £25,000 (twenty-five thousand pounds).

The notification of procurement pipelines to the Chief Procurement Officer and requirement to publish pipelines.

The formalisation of Social Value considerations aligned to the Councils pending Procurement Social Value Policy.

The introduction of contract management and contract termination provisions.

Procedural matters will be contained in the Procurement Code of Practice.

65. FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CARBON REPORT

Councillor Hakata, Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment and Transport introduced the Fourteenth Annual Carbon Report which reported on the latest carbon emissions dataset for 2022. The report contextualised the carbon performance for 2022 reports on all relevant carbon reduction projects delivered across the borough in the calendar year 2024.

Councillor Hakata outlined key findings in the report which were:

- A consistent decline in emissions with an overall 21% reduction in 2022 from the Council's 2015 baseline,
- The Council had reduced its own directly controlled emissions by 73% since 2015.
- The Council had invested significantly in energy-efficient schools, LED street lighting borough-wide, fleet decarbonisation, renewable energy production, and council home retrofitting.
- New-build housing programme exemplified commitment to zero carbon practices, with Watts Close winning "Development of the Year" in the homes category at the 2024 Unlock Net Zero Awards.
- The expansion of School Streets to benefit 41 educational establishments.
- The current 21% reduction fell significantly short of the 47% reduction needed by 2022 to align with its trajectory for a Net Zero Carbon Borough by 2041. The recently published Seventh Carbon Budget by the Climate Change Committee underscored the urgency of the borough's task, highlighting the need to achieve an 87% reduction in UK emissions by 2040 compared to 1990 levels.
- The Budget also emphasised that electrification and low-carbon electricity supply should make up 60% of emissions reductions by 2040, with domestic buildings and transport being critical sectors requiring rapid action.
- Oversubscribed Community Carbon Fund and newly established Haringey Climate Partnership demonstrated commitment to inclusive participation and co-production in tackling climate change.
- According to the "The Future is Local" report by UK100 and the Mission Zero Coalition, local authority action stands at the very heart of achieving climate ambitions.

Councillor Hakata concluded by honouring the memory of former councillor and local resident, Ms Nicky Gavron, who had passed away, but her legacy continued. She was described as a trailblazing champion of the environment. It was noted that Ms Gavron established the London Climate Change Agency and founded the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. Her passion and dedication to climate advocacy would be sorely missed, but her legacy of activism continued to inspire the Council's work towards a sustainable future.

RESOLVED

That the Fourteenth Annual Carbon Report attached at Appendix 1 of the report be published.

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

There were none received.

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

The Council continued to RECEIVE the response to written questions.

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

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

The Mayor asked Councillor Collett to propose her Motion, referred to as Motion G, and on investment funds of funds held by Haringey Council.

Before moving her Motion, Councillor Collett raised a point of order. This was in relation to Council Procedure Rule 15.8 and Councillor Collett questioned the validity of the amendment proposed by the Labour Group. She asserted that the amendment undermined the Original Motion leaving only a few words intact from the Motion initially proposed by the Independent Socialists. The Mayor asked the Monitoring Officer to respond. The Monitoring Officer advised that the amendment did not negate the Original Motion and was in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.8.

Members of the Council were advised by the Mayor (who had been advised by the Monitoring Officer) that the Full Council did not have jurisdiction over the local government pension scheme which was in the remit of the Pensions Committee and Board and speeches should take account of this.

Councillor Collett began her speech referring to the international issue and conflict in Gaza which was not the subject of the Motion. The Mayor intervened and emphasised that the subject at hand were the financial matters concerning the Council's investments and this should be the focus of her speech.

Councillor Collett continued to disregard the advice of the Mayor and referred to the international issue and conflict in Gaza.

The Mayor referred to Council Procedure Rule 9.4 and asked Councillor Collett to focus her speech on the financial matters in the Motion.

Councillor Collett continued to not follow the Mayor's advice.

The Mayor gave a further warning to Councillor Collett and asked her to follow Council procedure rules.

Councillor Collett continued to not follow the Mayor's advice.

The Mayor stood in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 22.3 (indicating that the member speaking must stop their speech and sit down) and asked Councillor Collett to sit down.

Councillor Collett continued to not follow the Mayor's ruling.

The Mayor continued to stand and call on Councillor Collett to sit down.

Councillor Collett continued to not follow the Mayor's ruling.

The Mayor called on Councillor Mason to second the Motion.

Councillor Collett continued with her speech and the Mayor moved that Councillor Collett not be heard further.

The Mayor then called on Councillor Dogan to speak and move the amendment that had been received in accordance with Council Procedure rule 15.8b. Councillor Dogan spoke about Council pensions and funds and investments that have faced increasing scrutiny. He acknowledged that residents wanted to know that their elected Council reflects their values. Council employees also wanted to know that their deferred wages were invested ethically. In addition, councillors wanted to know that their values and standards were reflected in every aspect of the Council business from service delivery to pension investment. The Haringey Labour group wanted absolute divestment from businesses that the Council deemed unethical.

Councillor Collett had continued to disregard the ruling of the Mayor and was speaking at the same time as Councillor Dogan.

The Mayor, using her discretion as Chair, then called twice for security officers to remove Councillor Collett from the chamber.

The Mayor then further addressed Councillor Collett and reminded her of Council Procedure Rule 9.4 and referred to code of conduct rules and paragraph 3.1 and 3.2. Councillor Collett carried on speaking.

Councillor Collett and group colleagues left the chamber.

Councillor Emine Ibrahim was called by the Mayor to second the amendment.

Councillor Ibrahim seconded the amendment and outlined that it was important for the Council to do all it could to avoid investing its funds in companies that facilitated human rights abuses. In particular, the arms trade, technological companies and financial institutions. Councillor Ibrahim expressed that she was confident in the Pensions Committee and Board's commitment to developing a responsible investment policy. This was a commitment that the wider Council should support. Councillor Ibrahim added that the Pensions Committee and Board were tasked with the guardianship of the deferred wages of pension scheme members over decades and the members wanted to ensure that those funds did not facilitate breaches in international law and did not support unethical practises anywhere in the world.

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

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

Ethical Pension Investments

Proposed by: Cllr Erdal Dogan, Labour Group

Seconded by: Cllr Emine Ibrahim, Labour Group

This Council notes:

1. At the outset, the Council notes that there is a distinction between funds controlled by the Council, which fall under the Executive, and funds controlled by the Haringey Local Government Pension Scheme, which fall under the

responsibility of the Pensions Committee and Board (PCB) in accordance with the Council's Constitution. The PCB is a cross-party body of Councillors, employee representatives, employer representatives, trade union representatives and independent advisors. This means that the Council, and Executive, do not play an active role in investments made by the Pension Fund, and are therefore not permitted to move to influence the Pension Fund's activities, as set out in legal and constitutional restrictions.

2. The estimated value of the Haringey Pension Fund is £1.93bn.
3. It is correct and financially responsible that the PCB is self-autonomous and separate to the Council. This ensures effective, appropriate governance and depoliticises the financial management of scheme members' pensions.
4. The Chair of the PCB recently wrote to Government to urge that any decisions made in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme are applied under an ethical framework. The Chair urged that there should be requirements for the proposed 'megafunds' and pools to work closely with existing Administering Authorities to deliver ethical investment packages.
5. While the Executive must not and does not seek to intervene in the direction or policy of the PCB, it has asked the PCB to consider Environmental, Social and Governance issues as part of the development of their Responsible Investment Policy, which began last year and will conclude later this year, and will continue to monitor the development of this review.
6. A number of Pension Committees from other London Boroughs have previously stated a commitment to divest from companies involved in unethical practices, such as arms manufacturers, however they have been unable to do so in the immediate term because of the substantial and complex legal and financial obstacles involved. We will work with them to better understand these obstacles.
7. Separate to the Pension Fund the Council does have its own investments which are placed in line with the Treasury Management Statement (TMSS) that is approved by Full Council each year following review at Audit Committee. The TMSS includes the list of agreed counterparty (investment) types and investment limits.
8. In 2024/25, investments have been either with Money Market Funds or the Debt Management Office (DMO).
9. As reported to Audit Committee, at the end of December 2024, £20m was invested with two separate Money Market Funds and £44.5m with the Debt Management Office. The DMO is an Executive Agency of HM Treasury.
10. When investing in funds, the Council prioritises those that are to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance and/or the UK Stewardship Code.

11. Haringey Council also notes The Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill 2022-2023, introduced by the previous Conservative Government, has not been carried forward by the current Government and therefore has never been of influence to us or any local Council.

This Council believes that:

1. All forms of racism have no place in Haringey, and we condemn any attacks on people based on their background or belief. Haringey is one of the most diverse boroughs in the UK. We know the events around the world cause great pain for many in Haringey. Our communities have arcs that reach across the world and what happens globally reverberates powerfully here. We feel the trauma of these horrors intimately. One life lost is one too many. We will continue to engage with all of our communities in Haringey, especially those who are impacted by international affairs.
2. Councils should avoid investing the funds they manage in corporations that facilitate breaches of international law. This includes arms and tech companies and the banking and investment institutions which finance these arms companies. This Council resolves to:

This Council resolves to:

1. With regard to the Council's investment portfolio (estimated at £64.5m at the end of Quarter 3), of the £20m in Money Market Funds we will explore ways of divesting from any funds exposed to businesses involved in unethical practices.
2. With regard to the Pension Fund, the PCB will continue its work to develop its Responsible Investment policy.
3. Work with other London Councils committed to divesting from specific unethical investments to develop a better understanding of the legal and financial implications the implications of their decisions.

Councillor Williams proposed a Motion H on fair funding for local government. The Motion highlighted the challenges faced by local authorities due to funding gaps over many years.

Councillor Williams outlined the Council's achievements despite the difficult financial constraints. This included: housing initiatives, educational services, support for low-income families. The Council's ambitious housing programme was referred to with 715 new homes already completed for Haringey families.

Councillor Williams emphasised the need to continue urging the new Labour government to allocate funds appropriately, using up-to-date information to inform their funding formulas. Councillor Williams also stressed the importance of maintaining dialogue with the government to better serve residents whilst striving to ensure a balanced budget. Members were encouraged to support the Motion.

Councillor White seconded the Motion, expressing support and highlighting the urgency of achieving an adequate and equitable funding settlement for local government. He expressed that Haringey, like other Councils nationwide, faced a triple financial crisis due to the rising costs of adult social care, children's care, and temporary accommodation for homeless families. He referred to decades of public policy failures that had contributed to this situation including: "Right to Buy" policy, a lack of social housing leading to a reliance on private landlords to house families, the privatisation of adult and children's social care which had left Councils vulnerable to the pricing set by private companies, which now consumed most revenue budgets. Councillor White fully supported the Motion's call for a fairer distribution of funding that reflected residents' needs and urged members to support the Motion.

An amendment was received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15b and the Mayor called on Councillor Barnes to move the amendment.

Councillor Barnes introduced the amendment, acknowledging the Council's commitment to building 3,000 Council homes within six years but noted that over 12,000 households remained on the waiting list. Councillor Barnes criticised the lack of Council housebuilding in previous decades.

Councillor Barnes highlighted recent Labour government decisions, such as cutting the winter fuel allowance and increasing National Insurance contributions, which had led to redundancies. She also referred to local Labour decisions, such as cuts to libraries and support services, while committing significant funds to projects like the Haringey Civic Centre. Cllr Barnes concluded by questioning whether the Haringey Labour group would challenge the Labour government to fund local authorities adequately or continue to produce Motions without meaningful action.

Councillor Rossetti seconded the amendment, agreeing that local government funding was inadequate, and the funding formula required updating. However, Councillor Rossetti criticised the Original Motion for failing to acknowledge mistakes made by the current administration and argued that Haringey's financial difficulties were particularly severe. Councillor Rossetti then highlighted audit trails for property deals, spending challenges and failures to meet spending targets, depleting reserves, a 2022 budget without savings and the Leader's office staffing spend. Councillor Rossetti felt that the Opposition Group's proposals such as the voluntary tax contribution scheme and increasing major event fees in parks by 10% instead of 5% were not taken seriously and whilst advocating for increased government funding was important, it was equally crucial for the Council to address its internal issues.

Members were urged to support the amendments to ensure better financial management.

The Mayor advised the meeting that a further amendment to Motion H had been received from the Independent Socialists group but as the group were not in the meeting room to propose and second the amendment, it would not be considered.

Councillor O'Donovan expressed support for the Original Motion, describing it as a strong, targeted and timely demand for fair funding. He highlighted the Council's growing responsibilities during years of chronic underfunding and praised the exceptional outcomes achieved despite these challenges. Officers, managers and directors across services were commended for their tireless efforts and the decision to access additional financial support when necessary was deemed appropriate.

Councillor O'Donovan emphasised the importance of community-based support, voluntary organisations, carers, family and friends in building resilience and empowerment. Addressing immediate needs was vital, but investing in long-term strategies to tackle health, mental well-being and vulnerability to exploitation was equally important. He expressed that fair funding, coupled with the government's commitment to multi-year settlements starting in April 2026, would enhance the Council's ability to work with residents on prevention strategies.

The government's new child protection care prevention fund and pilot breakfast club program, including Holy Trinity School in Tottenham Hale, were welcomed. Councillor O'Donovan highlighted the importance of building blocks for health and well-being, such as access to food, water, clean air, green spaces, employment, training, financial support, and advice. Prevention, early intervention, and ongoing support were essential to strengthening these foundations. He continued to urge members to support the original Motion, emphasising the importance of investing in the future.

Councillor Barbara Blake addressed fair funding and criticised the actions of the previous coalition government and highlighted their failure to build Council homes. She further highlighted the detrimental impact of their austerity measures on public health provision.

Councillor Barbara Blake expressed support for the government and noted that they were acknowledging the challenges ahead.

Following a vote on the amendment to Motion H, this was LOST.

Following a vote on the original Motion, this was AGREED

Title: Fair funding for local government

Proposer: Cllr Sarah Williams

Seconded: Cllr Matt White

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.

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.

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.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date

