

MINUTES OF THE Full Council HELD ON Monday, 2nd March, 2026, 7.30pm – 9.05pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Anna Abela, Peray Ahmet, Ibrahim Ali, Kaushika Amin, Emily Arkell, Dawn Barnes, Nicola Bartlett, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Mark Blake, Zena Brabazon, Cathy Brennan, Lester Buxton, Dana Carlin, Liam Carroll, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Lotte Collett, Pippa Connor, Lucia das Neves, Isidoros Diakides, Erdal Dogan, George Dunstall, Ruth Gordon, Makbule Gunes, Emine Ibrahim, Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Sue Jameson, Cressida Johnson, Ahmed Mahbub(Mayor), Mary Mason, Sean O'Donovan, Ajda Ovat, Ruairidh Paton, Sheila Peacock, Reg Rice, Michelle Simmons-Safo, Adam Small, Joy Wallace, Elin Weston, Matt White, Sarah Williams and Alexandra Worrell

48. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Mayor referred to the filming notice at meetings and provided health and safety information which was noted by attendees.

49. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from the following councillors:

Councillor Adamou
Councillor Iyngkaran
Councillor Opoku
Councillor Rossetti
Councillor Stennett
Councillor Elliott
Councillor da Costa
Councillor Emery

50. 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 accepted the following items of late business for the reasons outlined below.

Items 8 contained an update on the political composition of the Council and item 10 outlined changes to appointments to Outside Bodies. These were late as there was a need to complete consultation with political groups.

Item 14 contained the following late items:

- Annex 6 -The MHCLG Exceptional Financial Support Letter, which was received after the publication of papers.
- A revised Annex 4 which corrected an overstated Council Tax Requirement. The correction had reduced the Council Tax Requirement by £23,000 and therefore the final Council Tax increase for each of the bands A to H changed marginally.
- A Budget amendment from the Liberal Democrat group - council standing order 15.8b allows amendments to recommendations to be put forward by 10am on the day of the meeting.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ibrahim declared a personal interest as a council employee of another London Borough and full time Unison trade union representative of employees.

52. TO ASK MEMBERS WHETHER THEY NEED TO MAKE A DECLARATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 IN RELATION TO UNPAID COMMUNITY CHARGE OR COUNCIL TAX LIABILITY WHICH IS TWO MONTHS OR MORE OUTSTANDING

There were no declarations made.

53. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 24th of November 2025.

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

The Mayor advised the meeting that he would provide an update on his Mayoral activities and engagements at the next meeting on the 16th of March 2026. In the meantime he thanked Cllr Peacock and Cllr Grosskopf together with the memorial team for organising the Holocaust Memorial Events in January. The Mayor also outlined that he was attending iftars and thanked the community for the invitations.

55. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive asked the Council to note the Committees memberships and composition as a result of recent changes to political composition.

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

RESOLVED

1. To note the changes to the political balance of the Council set out at paragraph 4.3.
2. To note the information at paragraphs 4.5 to 4.11
3. To note that Cllr Ibrahim Ali was appointed Cabinet Member For Climate Action and Environment, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Part two Articles, paragraph 7.04, on the 12th of January 2026.

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

The Monitoring Officer had no matters to report.

57. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chief Whip MOVED the report and recommendations which advised the Council of nominations of Council representatives to fill current vacancies on outside bodies, following the appointment of Councillor Ibrahim Ali to the Cabinet and sought approval for statutory body appointments listed in the attached appendix.

RESOLVED

1. To note that the appointments to the Partnership and Association bodies which mainly exercise 'executive' functions set out at Appendix 1 and in accordance with article 10.8b(i) are completed by the Leader of the Council and these were set out in Appendix 1.
2. To approve the appointment of Cllr Ibrahim Ali to the North London Waste Association and Lea Valley Regional Park Authority, which were both statutory bodies in accordance with Part 2 of the Constitution, Article 4, paragraph 4.02(o).
3. To note the vacancies on the bodies indicated in attached appendix would be completed at the Annual Meeting in May 2026.

58. APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2026/27

The Cabinet Member for Resident Services and Tackling Inequality MOVED the report and recommendations which sought approval to retain the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) with no changes. The scheme would continue to provide up to 100% discounts for pensioners, disabled residents, and low-income families with children, and up to 80.2% for other low-income households.

RESOLVED

1. To adopt the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27 as contained in Appendix 1 and therefore retains the same Scheme agreed for 2025/26. This means that from 1 April 2026 there is a means-tested scheme which provides:
 - i. That pensioners continue to receive support for the payment of Council Tax up to 100%.
 - ii. That working-age claimants in receipt of certain disability benefits continue to receive support for the payment of Council Tax up to 100%.
 - iii. That working-age claimants with children continue to receive support for the payment of Council Tax up to 100%.
 - iv. That all other working-age claimants continue to receive support for the payment of Council Tax up to 80.2%.
2. That Authority is given the Corporate Director for Finance and Resources, Corporate Director for Environment & Resident Experience and Delivery Director Tackling Inequality to take all appropriate steps to implement and administer the scheme

Reasons for decision

The Council is obliged to consider whether to revise or replace its CTRS each year. However, it is not obliged to revise or replace it. If any revision or replacement is to be made, the Council must follow the consultation process set out in the legislation and the decision must be made by Full Council.

The CTRS is a way the Council can redistribute the financial burden on Council Taxpayers and provide additional support to those in financial need.

The recommendation to retain the current scheme. This would help to ensure that already protected claimants will not be further disadvantaged and pay due regard to the challenging financial climate, recognising the continuing cost of living pressures on residents. It would also ensure the CTRS scheme remains affordable for the Council. The reduction in Council resources and service pressures have required the Council to implement significant annual expenditure reductions over several years. These are forecast to continue for 2026/27 and future years. The affordability to the Council of the CTRS scheme therefore continues to be an important consideration.

Alternative options considered

Change the Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Consideration was given to revisiting the current scheme. A decision was taken to delay this and review changes for 2027/28, for the reasons given above.

59. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES

The Mayor highlighted that there were 4 reports to consider as part of this item, 2 reports from Cabinet, a report from the General Purposes Committee and a report from the Audit Committee.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Deputy Leader introduced the report on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which covered income and expenditure relating to the Council's own housing stock. It was an account that was ring-fenced from the Council's general fund as required by the Local Government Act 1989.

The report provided an update on the aims and ambitions across the medium and long term and proposals for the 2025/26 budget. It provided details of the assumptions for forecast income and therefore planned expenditure for next year as well as an update on the future financial outlook for the HRA. It additionally noted the Cabinet discussion on 10 February 2026 relating to the Housing Revenue Account 2026/27 - 2030/31.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Deputy Leader MOVED the report, and it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Housing Revenue Account 2026/27 Budget and 2026/27 to 2030/31 Business Plan.

The Member for Finance and Corporate Services introduced the report which sought adoption for Haringey Council's Capital Strategy 2026– 2036. The strategy set out how the Council would invest in housing, infrastructure, and community assets over the next decade, ensuring that all capital decisions were affordable, prudent, and aligned with the Borough Vision 2035.

This report includes the discussion of the strategy at the Cabinet meeting held on the 10th of February 2026.

The Cabinet Member MOVED the report and recommendations, and it was,

RESOLVED

1. To agree the adoption and approval of the Capital Strategy 2026–2036 (Appendix A) as the Council's overarching framework for capital investment, financing and governance.
2. To note that the Strategy will be reviewed annually alongside the MTFS and TMSS and reported to Cabinet and Full Council.
3. To agree the endorsement of the Capital Framework and governance arrangements.

The Council was required to produce an Annual Pay Policy Statement to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. This report from the General Purposes Committee meeting in January 2026 recommended that Full Council approved the Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 (attached) for publication in April 2026. The Chair of General Purposes Committee MOVED the report and recommendations, and it was,

RESOLVED

To approve the Pay Policy Statement 2026/27, attached at Appendix A.

The Chair of Audit Committee presented the updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2026/27, contained as an appendix at item 14, following its scrutiny at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presentation at the Audit Committee and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services.

The Chair of Audit Committee MOVED the report and the recommendation on the Treasury Management Strategy which was considered under budget item 14.

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

None put forward.

61. 2026/27 BUDGET AND 2026/2031 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY REPORT

The Mayor invited the Monitoring Officer to outline the requirement for votes.

It was noted that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, and the Council's Standing Orders required the Council to record in the minutes how each Councillor voted, including any abstentions, when determining the Council's Budget and the level of Council Tax to be levied.

The only requirement was to record in the minutes of the meeting how each member voted and given that there was one amendment and a substantive motion to be voted on, and it could be recorded in the minutes of the meeting how each member voted, including any who had abstained.

Members NOTED this advice.

The Mayor then called on Councillor Carlin, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services to introduce the budget and move the 2026/27 Budget and 2026/2031 Medium Term Financial Strategy Report and the recommendations (a) – (m) at page 352 to 353 of the agenda pack. Councillor Ahmet, Leader of the Council formally seconded the motion.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Cawley – Harrison to move the Liberal Democrat group amendment, as set out in the tabled papers. Councillor Connor formally seconded the amendment and spoke in favour of its adoption.

Cllr Collett, Leader of the Green Socialist Alliance group, was invited to respond to the budget presentation in accordance with CSO 15.6 c (ii).

The Mayor then opened the debate, in which Councillors: Abela, Isilar Gosling, White, Brabazon, Mason, Dunstall, das Neves, Barnes, Jameson and Small contributed to the discussion. Councillor Cawley- Harrison and then Councillor Carlin responded to the debate.

(Cllr Diakides left the meeting at 8.55.pm)

The Mayor then called for a vote on Budget Amendment 1, as set out in the tabled papers. There being 4 Members in favour (Cawley- Harrison, Connor, Barnes and Isilar- Gosling,) and 31 Against(Abela, Ahmet, Ali, Amin, Arkell, Bartlett, Bevan, B Blake, Brabazon, Brennan, Buxton, Carlin, Carroll , Chandwani, das Neves, Dogan, Dunstall, Gordon, Gunes, Ibrahim, Jameson, Johnson, O'Donovan, Ovat, Peacock, Rice, Simmons- Safo, Small, Weston, White, Williams)

5 Abstentions – (Cllr M Blake, Cllr Collett, Cllr Mason, Cllr Wallace, Cllr Worrell)

Amendment 1 was declared LOST.

The Mayor then called for a vote on the substantive recommendations (contained at page 352 to 353 of the agenda pack - this was section 3.1 of the main report(2026/27 Budget and 2026/2031 Medium Term Financial Strategy), items [a] to [m] and asked members to take into account the updated Council Tax resolution at Annex 4 in the tabled pack at page 3 and to further note the subsequent updated information at paragraph 8.6 of the main Council report, also set out page 1 of the tabled pack.

There being 8 Members against (Cawley- Harrison, Connor, Barnes Isilar- Gosling, Cllr M Blake, Cllr Collett, Cllr Mason, Cllr Wallace)

31 in Favour (Abela, Ahmet, Ali, Amin, Arkell, Bartlett, Bevan, B Blake, Brabazon, Brennan, Buxton, Carlin, Carroll, Chandwani, das Neves, Dogan, Dunstall, Gordon, Gunes, Ibrahim, Jameson, Johnson, O'Donovan, Ovat, Peacock, Rice, Simmons-Safo, Small, Weston, White, Williams)

1 Abstention – Cllr Worrell,

The Recommendations were AGREED as follows:

- (a) To approve the proposed 2026/27 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (2026/31) agreed by Cabinet on 10th February 2025 as set out in Annex 1;
- (b) To approve the increase of 2.99% in Haringey's element of the Council tax and an additional 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept and subsequent band rates as set out in Annex 4;
- (c) To approve the General Fund budget requirement for 2026/27 of £353.027m, net of Dedicated Schools Budget, and the Directorate cash limits for 2026/27 as set out in Annex 2 of this report;
- (d) To approve the 2026/31 General Fund Capital Programme set out in Appendix 7 of Annex 1 to this report;
- (e) To approve the strategy on the flexible use of capital receipts as set out in Appendix 8 of Annex 1 to this report and the further update on planned use in 2026/27 as set out in Section 7.25 of this report;
- (f) To note the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept in Section 7.24;
- (g) To approve the budgeted level of non-earmarked General Fund balance and the specific and other reserves as set out in Annex 1 Section 9.28-9.44;
- (h) To approve the reserves policy including the Chief Finance Officer's (CFO) assessment of risk and the assessment of the adequacy of reserves, as set out in Annex 3 and Annex 1 Appendix 11;
- (i) To note the report of the Chief Finance Officer under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of proposed reserves set out in Annex 1, Appendix 11;
- (j) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2026/27 set out in Annex 5;
- (k) To approve the 2026/27 Minimum Revenue Provision policy included in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2026/27 set out in Annex 5;
- (l) To pass the budget resolution including the level of Council Tax, in the specified format, and to determine that the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for the year is not excessive as set out in Annex 4; and
- (m) To note the results of the budget consultation as set out in Appendix 3 of Annex 1.

4. Reasons for decision

The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget by 11 March each year.

The report and recommendations from the Cabinet meeting on 10th February 2026, were agreed in full and are attached as Annex 1.

The Budget now proposed has been updated to reflect minor budget re-alignments since the February Cabinet report and the final funding allocations announced in the Final Local Government Finance Settlement. The outcome of the Council's application for Exceptional Financial Support is still not known at the time of publishing this report but is expected week commencing 23 February 2026 and an update will be provided before the Council meeting on 2 March. Taking all relevant factors into account, this report sets out Cabinet's 2026/27 Budget and 2026/31 MTFS proposals, including the level of Council tax for 2026/27, for the Council to consider and approve. This assumes that the Council's EFS application is agreed.

4 Alternative options considered

The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget for 2026/27 by 11 March 2026; accordingly, no other options have been considered.

Therefore, in accordance with legislation and the Council's constitution, this report recommends that the Council should approve the proposed 2026/27 Budget and 2026/31 Medium Term Financial Strategy agreed by Cabinet on 10th February 2026, together with the amendments set out in this report, including the outcomes from the budget consultation exercise, budget scrutiny and equalities review, which is attached as Annex 1 and approve the Council tax for 2026/27.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date