Proposer: Cllr ~~Mary Mason~~Seema Chandwani

Seconder: Cllr ~~Mark Blake~~Emine Ibrahim

Motion: Tackling Poverty in Haringey

This Council notes:

- ~~That Haringey is a vibrant and diverse borough.~~
- ~~That it also has the 4th highest unemployment rate in London and the 3rd highest rate of bailiff-led repossessions.~~
- ~~That while this is a borough where many people thrive, 60% of residents do not eat a healthy diet and over 60% are overweight or obese, with continuing concerns about infant mortality.~~
- ~~That Haringey has a thriving cultural sector, yet the poorest residents spend 25% of their income on food and energy, and five out of six people on Universal Credit are unable to afford basic essentials.~~
- ~~That inequalities are worsening, impacting health and wellbeing, and systemic racism means 36% of Black residents live in poverty.~~
- ~~That life expectancy has fallen, and the number of residents earning below the London Living Wage has increased.~~
- ~~That approximately 3,000 families are living in temporary accommodation — 29% higher than the London average.~~
- ~~That Haringey is now the 4th most deprived local authority area in London, despite also containing areas of significant wealth.~~
- ~~That these conditions are neither fair nor acceptable, as recognised by the Haringey Fairness Commission (2020).~~Haringey is one of the most deprived boroughs in London, with some of the most deprived wards and neighbourhoods in the country.
- Alongside our residents, especially those facing poverty, Labour-led Haringey Council has put addressing poverty at the heart of decision making, including:
    - Building 1,322 council homes, with another 2,000 already underway, all let at Council Rent; one of the largest council house building programmes in the country. Ensuring our residents have a safe and secure home is the foundation of starting their journey out of poverty.
    - Improving Children's Services so children and young people get the best start in life and break the cycle of generational poverty found in many families, including achieving 'outstanding' in our alternative provision to break the 'PRU to Prison' pipeline.

    - A comprehensive offer for care leavers, including guaranteed housing until the age of 25, a bursary for university and support getting employment. This is targeted support for residents who are most at risk of remaining in poverty without intervention.
    - Implementing the recommendations of the Council's 'Missing Out' report which found Haringey residents are missing out on a staggering £160m of Social Security payments, including income maximisation to provide tangible support to access social security to increase residents' financial resilience.
    - Over 2,000 residents have been helped into employment through the Council's own employment support service, Haringey Works.
    - That the Council's Financial Support Team is focused on tackling debt and providing financial support, including an in demand helpline, and also targeted support for council tenants via the HiMax Team and all of the work our social workers, youth workers, schools and frontline people based teams do on a daily basis.
    - Funding for a large range of voluntary sector organisations to support residents with a range of needs; including Disability Action Haringey, Markfield, Citizens Advice Bureau and a plethora of specialist services including SHINE to give residents energy advice and floating support working with residents with multiple complex needs.

- The journey the Council has taken to go further than many councils in establishing clear teams, services and policies, including a:
    - Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (Haringey Support Fund)
    - Dedicated homelessness hub
    - Council Tax Hardship Fund.
- That co-production with residents, faith groups, schools and our VCS has been pivotal in shaping our policies and services. From children in care to survivors of domestic abuse, from carers to refugees, the voices of our residents guide how we operate.
- That the Labour Government has:
    - Lifted the 2-child benefit cap which will lift 11,000 children out of poverty in Haringey alone
    - Introduced the Renters' Rights Act, ending no-fault evictions and rent bidding wars, giving our residents a better chance of living in a safe and secure home.
    - Set up the Crisis and Resilience Fund. No more short-term initiatives and small payments to residents, but an opportunity for real structural change.

- Introduced Free Breakfast Clubs and expanded Free School Meals to all children in households receiving Universal Credit.
- Expanded the Warm Homes Discount to another 23,000 households in Haringey alone, receiving £150 a year off their energy bills.

This Council believes:

- ~~That poverty and inequality in Haringey are urgent issues that require focused, resident-led action.~~
- ~~That those with lived experience of poverty must be central to shaping solutions.~~That the challenge in front of us, with a cost-of-living crisis, is immense, and the Crisis and Resilience Fund will enable us to push our efforts to the next stage.
- Our residents do not want to merely survive, they want to live. They do not want short term handouts, they want lifelong stability and growth. They want safe homes, good education, excellent opportunities and meaningful support.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- ~~Appoint a Poverty Commissioner who will convene an elected and representative group of residents with lived experience of poverty to:~~
  ~~i. Report on current issues affecting people experiencing poverty in Haringey.~~
  ~~ii. Identify the changes required to address the borough's inequalities and improve outcomes.~~
  ~~iii. Bring their findings and proposals to a dedicated Full Council meeting focused on driving poverty out of the borough.~~
- Deliver on an Anti-Poverty Strategy, fully utilising the Crisis and Resilience Fund to make lasting change and building financial resilience of our residents.
- This will be a cross-council drive against poverty and its causes, using our leverage to build resilience for Haringey's residents, whether that be:
  - Squeezing our contracts to getting our residents jobs, skills and apprenticeships
  - Enhancing our collaboration with schools to work with families in a space they trust and feel comfortable to increase their incomes and opportunities
  - Strengthen our focus on commissioning information, advice and guidance across the council to align objectives and ensure no groups are left out of vital support

- Acknowledging our role as the biggest employer in the borough and ensure local people have the skills and training to deliver services for their communities.
- Transforming our regeneration efforts, ensuring it does not just change the environment people live but changes their lives for the long term.
- Encouraging residents to become a member of a trade union, ensuring they are in secure employment and are protected by the Labour Government's Employment Rights Act.