

# **MINUTES OF THE Full Council HELD ON Monday, 16th March, 2026, 7.30pm – 21.45pm**

## **PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Anna Abela, Gina Adamou, Peray Ahmet, Ibrahim Ali, Kaushia Amin, Emily Arkell, Dawn Barnes, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Mark Blake, Zena Brabazon, Cathy Brennan, Lester Buxton, Dana Carlin, Carroll, Seema Chandwani, Lotte Collett, Nick da Costa, Lucia das Neves, Erdal Dogan, Scott Emery, Ruth Gordon, Mark Grosskopf, Makbule Gunes, Emine Ibrahim, Marsha Isilar-Gosling, Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Sue Jameson, Cressida Johnson, Anna Lawton, Ahmed Mahbub(Mayor), Mary Mason, Khaled Moyeed, Sean O'Donovan, Felicia Opoku, Ajda Ovat, Ruairidh Paton, Sheila Peacock, Reg Rice, Alessandra Rossetti, Michelle Simmons-Safo, Adam Small, Anne Stennett, Joy Wallace, Elin Weston, Matt White and Sarah Williams**

## **62. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Mayor advised the meeting of the filming protocol for council meetings and members noted this information.

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

The Chief Executive advised the meeting of the apologies for absence from the following Councillors:

Cllr Cawley- Harrison  
Cllr Connor  
Cllr Elliott  
Cllr Dunstall

There were apologies for lateness from Cllr Abela, Cllr Ibrahim, Cllr Bartlett and Cllr Stennett.

## **64. 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 admission of the following late items of business that could not be available earlier and need to be dealt with at this meeting.

Item 7 Draft calendar of Committee and Council Meetings for 2026/27 . This would be submitted to the Annual Meeting.

Item 9a – Audit committee report was late due to the meeting taking place after the publication of Council papers on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

Item 9b Standards Committee meeting also took place after the publication of the Council agenda and there was a need to approve the Member Allowance scheme before the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2026 and also approve the changes to the constitution relating to signing and sealing of Council documents prior to the May Council meeting.

Item 9c –the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report was late to allow consultation and approval by Committee members and approval of the updated terms of reference for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny which was attached, following consideration at the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting. This was considered by the Committee after publication of the Council agenda on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March.

#### 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 have 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 Democratic Services had received an amendment to Motion G and amendments to Motion H which had been published and distributed on the day of the meeting in the tabled pack.

#### **65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **66. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 2ND OF MARCH 2026**

##### **RESOLVED**

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2026.

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

The Mayor advised that this would be taken in two parts. Tributes to former Councillor Seamus Carey would be heard at this stage of the meeting, while thanks to outgoing councillors would be considered after Item 13 (Motions). Members had been emailed the Mayor's written communications in advance.

The Mayor reported the sad passing of former Councillor Seamus Carey, who represented Bruce Grove Ward from 1990–1998 and was a prominent member of the local Irish community. The Mayor welcomed members of Mr Carey's family to the meeting and, on behalf of the Council, offered condolences.

The Mayor then invited Cllr Brabazon, and Cllr O'Donovan to speak briefly in tribute to former Councillor Carey.

- Cllr Brabazon spoke of having known former Councillor Seamus Carey during his time representing Bruce Grove (now Tottenham Central) from 1990 to 1998. They recalled his strong concern about issues of dumping and fly-tipping, noting that he would regularly document problem areas with his camera and had even created an exhibition to highlight the issue. They described him as a lovely man with firm political views who was deeply committed to local matters.
- Cllr O'Donovan stated that it was fitting to celebrate the life and legacy of former Councillor Seamus Carey and welcomed his wife, daughter, son and family friends to the meeting. They noted that his wife had supported him throughout his public life. The member highlighted Seamus Carey's long-standing commitment to tackling social injustice, both before and after his time on Haringey Council, and his efforts to build unity locally and internationally. They recalled his impactful campaigning, including his work against apartheid in South Africa and his organisation of solidarity efforts for Palestine. The member added that plans were being developed for a friendship bench to be installed in his memory.

Following the tributes, the Mayor led a one-minute silence in memory of former Councillor Carey.

The meeting then resumed.

**68. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive had no matters to report.

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

The Monitoring Officer had no matters to report on.

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

The Mayor advised the meeting that there were three reports to consider as part of this item, A report from Audit Committee, and a report from Standards Committee and a report from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair of Audit Committee MOVED the report and recommendations, and it was,

**RESOLVED**

1. To note the treasury management activity undertaken during the financial year to 31st December 2025 and the performance achieved which is 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 Chair of the Standards Committee MOVED the report and recommendations, and it was,

**RESOLVED,**

- 1.To revoke the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2025/26 as of 31 March 2026.
- 2.To consider the proposed changes to the Members' Allowance Scheme 2026/2027 set out at **Appendix 1, 2 and 3.**
- 3.To approve the new Members' Allowances Scheme for the Municipal year 2026/27, **as set out in Appendix 4.**
- 4.To agree the proposed changes to the Constitution set out in **Appendices 7 and 8** , to enable the local authority to adopt electronic signing and sealing.

The Overview and Scrutiny Chair MOVED the report and recommendations, and it was,

**RESOLVED**

1. To APPROVE the amended terms of reference for the JHOSC at Appendix 3 to allow decision making on the resourcing of this Committee.
2. To Receive the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report at Appendix 4 in accordance with Council Standing Order requirements.

**71. FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CARBON REPORT**

Council received an update on the fifteenth Annual Carbon Report. The report outlined the progress towards Haringey Climate Change Action Plan targets by reporting on the latest borough-wide carbon emission data (2023) and the council's corporate emissions for the financial year of 2024/25. The report also provided an update on the progress of the carbon reduction projects funded by Section 106 carbon offset contributions until end of 2025. The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Climate Action & Environment, as set out at pages 11-103 of the published agenda pack.

The Cabinet Member set out that as one of London's most unequal boroughs, climate change fell hardest on those with the least resources. It was emphasised that the

Council's response must continue to promote fairness, equity and shared power. Council was advised that borough-wide emissions had fell by 26% since 2025, but that this was well below the 51% reduction that was required to reach the target of Net Zero by 2041. Corporate emissions by the Council had reduced by 2014/15 as continued investment in solar energy progressed, and as the organisation moved toward the opening of the new Civic Centre in 2027. This was a key part of the long-term decarbonisation pathway. The Cabinet Member set out that over the coming year the organisation would be working with residents through the Haringey Climate Partnership and through wider engagement, to co-design a better way to publish climate information.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Action & Environment MOVED the report, and it was,

## **RESOLVED**

1. That the Fifteenth Annual Carbon Report (2025) attached as Appendix 1 of the report be published.
2. That councillors and the council continue to support carbon reduction and lead action in their community, promoting the importance of reducing carbon emissions whilst increasing prosperity. Projects that have been agreed through the HCCAP continue to be delivered, where funding is available or has already been agreed, and that further opportunities to reduce carbon emissions are identified and pursued.
3. The community outreach plan to review the format and accessibility of the Annual Carbon Report was agreed.

## **Reasons for decision**

In line with the reporting process set out in the HCCAP, and the requirements of the council's Constitution (Part 4 Section A, 3.1 (xiv)), the Annual Carbon Report provides an update on the progress toward reducing carbon emissions in the borough and council, and updates on the carbon reduction projects funded by Section 106 carbon offset contributions.

This year's decision to publish an abridged report while engaging on a new format reflects the council's commitment to transparency and co-design, and to finding new ways to share power with residents and communities, as set out in the Haringey Deal. This approach responds to feedback from the Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel, by working on a more accessible, visually engaging report and clearer climate action messaging for the 16th ACR in March 2027.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

*To not publish the Fifteenth Annual Carbon Report.*

This would reduce transparency and neglect the successes made by local community groups and council services, and it would not showcase how they help the borough meet its Net Zero ambitions. It would also fail to meet the council's constitutional requirement to report annually on carbon reduction progress.

*To publish the Annual Carbon Report in same format as previous years.*

The previous Annual Carbon Report was 73 pages long and highly technical. Using the same format would not reflect the council's commitment to promoting community-led carbon action, making carbon performance data simpler, and making the report more accessible to residents and stakeholders. It would also go against the feedback from the Climate, Community Safety and Environment Scrutiny Panel, which recommended reducing the length, improving readability, and enhancing visual summaries and community outreach.

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

The Mayor noted that a deputation request had been responded to in accordance with CSO 11.3.

**73. 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.

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

The Mayor called on Cllr Mason to propose her motion – which was Motion G on Tackling Poverty in Haringey.

Councillor Mason thanked the Chair and Members for hearing the motion and expressed appreciation for the work undertaken across Haringey, noting their longstanding personal connection to the borough and support for the improvements that had been made. However, she emphasised that failing to acknowledge the challenges faced by residents and not adopting comprehensive and cohesive approaches to address them, risked doing a disservice to the borough. Drawing on personal experience of living in Tottenham, in council estates, social housing, and in Bounds Green over a period of approximately 20 years as a single parent, Councillor Mason highlighted having witnessed persistent and worsening poverty.

Reference was made to her work at a local food bank and advice service in Bounds Green, where it was reported that each week approximately six to eight individuals sought support, often due to difficulties accessing assistance. While acknowledging that efforts were being made across the borough, she stated that these efforts were not sufficient to address the scale of need.

Councillor Mason outlined the broader impacts of poverty, including poorer health outcomes, reduced life expectancy, inadequate housing, lower educational attainment, and increased risks of unemployment and intergenerational disadvantage. It was argued that piecemeal interventions, although valuable, were insufficient to bring

about systemic change. She stressed the importance of engaging directly with residents experiencing poverty, advocating for a co-produced approach that centred their voices in identifying key issues and shaping solutions. It was asserted that without such an approach, efforts to reduce poverty would be ineffective.

Statistics were cited indicating that Haringey had one of the highest rates of temporary accommodation usage and unemployment in London, as well as a high overall level of poverty relative to other boroughs. It was noted that while positive initiatives were welcomed and appreciated, there remained a need to confront these challenges openly. Concern was expressed that, despite best efforts, current trends suggested that outcomes were worsening rather than improving. It was questioned why the borough should not aspire to be among the best in addressing poverty, rather than continuing to experience decline.

In concluding, Councillor Mason called for a fundamental reassessment of current approaches. The motion proposed that the Council both recognise its achievements and acknowledge areas requiring improvement, and that it adopt a meaningful co-production approach by engaging directly with those affected by poverty to inform future action.

**Councillor Mark Blake seconded the motion:**

Councillor Blake expressed thanks to Councillor Mason for bringing forward the motion, describing it as both thorough and urgent. It was noted that the motion had been framed with the intention of achieving broad consensus across the Council.

Reference was made to the presence of food bank queues across the borough, including in the vicinity of the Council building, he stated illustrated the severity of hardship faced by many residents. It was argued that the term “cost of living crisis” did not fully capture the extent of the challenges, with some residents experiencing significant difficulties in meeting basic needs despite the UK being one of the wealthiest nations.

Cllr Blake referred to discussions with volunteers supporting food banks in Haringey, noting a consistent view that the partnership between the Council and civil society, which had been effective in supporting vulnerable residents during the pandemic, had since weakened. The Councillor emphasised the need for the Council to listen to these concerns and take appropriate action.

In closing, he took the opportunity to thank Councillor Mason and Councillor Collett, noting that this would be their final Council meeting, and expressed appreciation for their contributions and service.

**Cllr Chandwani moved an amendment to the motion:**

Councillor Chandwani thanked the Mayor and the Green Party for tabling the motion and outlined that the proposed amendments, setting out the reasons for doing so. Drawing on personal experience of growing up in poverty, the Councillor described the

challenges she had faced and stated that these experiences had been a motivating factor in entering public service. They further highlighted the role of Council services in supporting them during that period, including assistance with education, housing, and personal welfare.

She stated that the administration valued the voices of those with lived experience and believed that such engagement had already been central to the Council's work. Reference was made to their experience both as a councillor and through longstanding involvement in local communities, particularly in Tottenham, noting that residents had consistently prioritised tangible action rather than further reports or commissions.

It was argued that the Council's approach had been informed by listening to residents and responding with practical measures. Examples cited included the delivery of new council homes to provide housing security, improvements in children's services aimed at breaking cycles of poverty, and work to maximise residents' access to entitled benefits. Investment in estate renewal was also referenced as contributing to improved living conditions.

Cllr Chandwani expressed the view that residents with lived experience of poverty had already articulated their needs clearly and were seeking action rather than further consultation. It was further stated that the original motion lacked specific proposals or deliverable actions, and that elected Members had a responsibility to advocate for and secure tangible outcomes on behalf of residents.

In conclusion, she contrasted what they described as action-focused delivery with the alternative of further discussion, and reiterated the Council's commitment, as set out in its manifesto, to delivering an anti-poverty strategy informed by engagement with residents and supported by existing funding mechanisms

**Cllr Ibrahim seconded the amendment:**

Councillor Ibrahim stated that she wished to offer an alternative perspective. Reference was made to an article published in 1986 in *The Spectator*, which examined poverty in London and highlighted stark inequalities between wealth and deprivation. She noted that the article described visible contrasts between affluent developments and overcrowded housing, as well as the daily challenges faced by individuals and families experiencing poverty.

She highlighted the article's observation that those experiencing the most acute poverty were often the least likely to come forward or articulate their circumstances publicly. It was suggested that this remained relevant to contemporary discussions, particularly in relation to expectations that individuals experiencing hardship would engage in formal participation structures.

Drawing on personal experience, she reflected on having spent a period of their childhood in temporary accommodation in the King's Cross area during the same

period referenced in the article, noting that this illustrated the longstanding nature of the issue and the extent to which challenges had persisted over time.

She emphasised the need for honesty in acknowledging the scale and structural nature of poverty, describing it as a consequence of wider societal inequality. While recognising that some Members had proposed the appointment of a Poverty Commissioner, the Councillor expressed the view that this would not constitute an effective solution. Concerns were raised that such a role could introduce additional administrative costs without guaranteeing tangible outcomes, and that resources would be better directed towards direct support for residents.

It was further stated that elected Members themselves represented a key mechanism for addressing poverty through their casework, advocacy, and engagement with residents. Councillor Ibrahim concluded that these responsibilities should remain central to the Council's approach, rather than being delegated to an additional external role.

**In accordance with CSO 15.1 the Mayor had received notification of Cllr Barbara Blake , Cllr Emery and Cllr Brabazon speaking:**

**Councillor Barbara Blake:**

Councillor Blake thanked the Mayor and stated that, in preparing her response to the motions, she had reviewed the published plans and proposals of the Green Socialist Alliance. It was suggested that the limited prominence of these proposals reflected concerns regarding their clarity, detail, and overall vision.

Reference was made to the Green Party's 2024 manifesto, which she described as its most recent statement of policy. She commented on the relative emphasis within the document, noting in particular limited reference to economic growth and raising concerns regarding how proposed housing delivery would be achieved, given perceived opposition to development.

She characterised the approach of the Green Socialist Alliance in Haringey as lacking clear proposals to support growth, housing delivery, and wider improvements to residents' quality of life. In relation to the motion under consideration, it was argued that it did not set out specific policy principles, firm commitments, or a detailed plan to address poverty. She also stated that the motion did not sufficiently acknowledge the ongoing impacts of austerity measures on residents.

It was further noted that the motion included proposals to appoint a Poverty Commissioner and to report findings to Full Council; however, she expressed concern that these proposals were not accompanied by detail regarding funding, timescales, or implementation.

In contrast, she highlighted a number of initiatives undertaken by the current

administration, including maintaining library services, delivering new council housing, bringing leisure services back in-house, and investing in parks. The Councillor acknowledged that further work remained but stated that the Council was actively progressing its priorities.

**Cllr Emery:**

Councillor Emery stated that poverty and inequality remained central to many of the challenges facing Haringey. Reference was made to disparities in life expectancy across the borough, with note of the variation observed when travelling from west to east, which was described as significant and concerning.

He referred to his appointment to the Fairness Commission following their election in 2018, noting that this experience had provided direct insight into the lived experiences of residents facing hardship. Examples cited included difficulties relating to housing, access to essential services, and the ability to meet basic needs such as food provision. He also recalled contributions from young people, including reflections on the cyclical nature of poverty and the impact of negative experiences with public systems being passed between generations.

He outlined that tackling poverty, and inequality formed a core principle of the Liberal Democrats, as reflected in the party's constitutional commitment to promoting a fair, free, and open society, balancing liberty, equality, and community. Reference was also made to commitments set out in the party's general election manifesto, including proposals aimed at addressing economic inequality through taxation reform.

At a local level, he highlighted actions taken to utilise available levers within local government. This included campaigning for and supporting a council tax reduction scheme to assist residents experiencing financial hardship. He also referenced concerns raised within the motion regarding the use of bailiffs, describing the practice as distressing for vulnerable residents and noting evidence suggesting limited effectiveness in improving collection rates. It was reported that work had been undertaken in collaboration with a local organisation to explore alternatives, and that the Liberal Democrats were committed to ending the use of bailiffs in Haringey.

In concluding, Cllr Emery emphasised that addressing poverty and inequality required sustained and collective effort across communities. It was stated that the Liberal Democrats remained committed to tackling both the root causes and immediate impacts of poverty, and would continue to play an active role in these efforts.

**Councillor Brabazon:**

Councillor Brabazon expressed the view that the appointment of a Poverty Commissioner would not be an effective use of resources. It was suggested that such a role would incur additional cost while reiterating issues that were already well understood, including the impacts of prolonged reductions in government funding, pressures on public services, and the erosion of elements of the welfare state, all of which had contributed to hardship for many residents.

She also commented on the motion presented by the Green Socialist Alliance, describing it as lacking in strength and substance. In contrast, it was stated that the current administration had already been implementing measures aimed at mitigating the effects of structural poverty.

Reference was made to a number of initiatives introduced by the Council. These included the establishment and continuation of a council tax reduction scheme to support low-income households, which was described as a significant commitment. She also highlighted the delivery of new council housing, noting both completed homes and those in development, and emphasised the importance of secure housing in improving quality of life and addressing health inequalities.

Further measures outlined included the administration of financial support schemes, such as the Household Support Fund (also referred to as the Resilience Fund), with particular emphasis on support for children eligible for free school meals during school holidays, as well as assistance for older residents with energy costs. The Councillor noted that Members were involved in overseeing the allocation of this funding.

Additional support referenced included holiday activity and food programmes, school uniform grants, holiday food vouchers, and the provision of funded nursery places for eligible two-year-olds. The Councillor also highlighted the importance of early years intervention, particularly during the first 1,000 days of a child's life.

In conclusion, Councillor Brabazon emphasised the importance of continuing to deliver practical support and outcomes for residents, rather than establishing additional commissions or consultancy-based approaches.

**In accordance with CSO 15.7(e) Cllr Mason provided a response:**

Councillor Mason responded to the debate, expressing disappointment at the tone of contributions, which they characterised as overly party-political. It was noted that references had been made to the Green Party manifesto; however, the Councillor clarified that the motion had been brought forward by members of the Green Socialist Alliance grouping, rather than representing a formal party-political position.

She emphasised that the purpose of the motion was to recognise the scale and impact of poverty within the borough and to consider how it could be addressed. It was acknowledged that a number of Members had shared personal experiences of poverty, and she suggested that such experiences were common across the chamber and should be recognised collectively.

Concern was expressed regarding the tone of the debate, including perceived interruptions and dismissive behaviour, which she stated was disrespectful to residents affected by poverty. She emphasised that the focus should remain on addressing residents' needs rather than engaging in political disagreement.

She challenged the view that individuals experiencing poverty were unlikely or unable to express their perspectives, arguing instead that many residents were willing to

share their experiences when engaged appropriately. It was asserted that listening directly to those affected should be central to the Council's approach.

She also raised concerns regarding amendments to the motion, stating that certain contextual information, including references to inequality, demographic disparities, and levels of temporary accommodation, had been removed. It was suggested that this limited the recognition of the scale of the issues facing the borough.

In conclusion, Councillor Mason called for a more collaborative and constructive approach, urging Members to work together to strengthen the motion rather than oppose it. It was suggested that acknowledging challenges and incorporating residents' voices would better support efforts to address poverty in Haringey.

Members voted on the amendment and the amendment to the motion was AGREED. Members voted on the motion as amended and this was AGREED.

Proposer: Cllr Seema Chandwani

Seconder: Cllr Emine Ibrahim

Motion: Tackling Poverty in Haringey

This Council notes:

- 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 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:

- 
- 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.

#### **Motion H – Support for Together Alliance Cllr das Neves:**

Councillor das Neves stated that the administration in Haringey was proud to work alongside its residents, recognising the borough's diversity and the contribution of communities from a wide range of backgrounds. It was noted that Haringey was characterised by its cultural diversity, with residents speaking many languages and contributing to the borough as a place to live, work, and visit.

She affirmed that the administration rejected divisive narratives and instead promoted an inclusive and welcoming approach. Reference was made to the motion as setting out a commitment to renew the borough's welcome strategy and to strengthen collaboration with community organisations, including Haringey Welcome, Haringey Migrant Support, and other voluntary and community sector groups, coordinated through the Welcome Advisory Board.

She emphasised that placing residents' experiences and voices at the centre of decision-making, regardless of background or heritage, remained a key priority for the administration. It was reported that, over recent years, the Council had supported many individuals and families to settle in the borough, access opportunities, and develop skills, with support from both Council staff and volunteers.

She also stated that the administration had consistently advocated on behalf of residents, including raising concerns with national government where appropriate, and had remained committed to supporting a diverse community of all faiths and none.

Illustrative examples were provided of individuals and families who had benefited from support within the borough, including those who had arrived from conflict-affected or restrictive environments and had subsequently accessed housing, education, employment, and

community support. These examples were presented as demonstrating the positive impact of the Council's approach.

In conclusion, Councillor Das Neves emphasised that fostering a welcoming and inclusive borough was a shared responsibility, and highlighted the importance of unity, solidarity, and collective effort in maintaining Haringey as a place that supports all residents.

**Cllr Chandwani seconded the motion:**

Councillor Chandwani thanked the Mayor and reflected on the borough's history of community action, referencing events in 1977 when local representatives and residents came together to oppose far-right activity in Wood Green. It was noted that such activity had previously been present in the borough, including organised public demonstrations.

She highlighted the contrast with present-day Haringey, describing it as a diverse and multicultural community. Reference was made to recent observations of residents participating in cultural and religious activities, illustrating the borough's inclusivity and cohesion. She noted that the composition of the Chamber reflected this diversity.

It was stated that the borough's strength lay in its shared identity as a cohesive community made up of many cultures. She cautioned that the tactics of far-right groups were not new, particularly in seeking to exploit periods of economic hardship by fostering division between communities.

She emphasised the importance of ensuring that residents felt supported and that the Council was responsive to their needs, in order to counter such narratives. It was suggested that, despite political differences within the chamber, there was a shared commitment to multiculturalism and community cohesion.

In conclusion, Councillor Chandwani referred to an upcoming public demonstration, noting that it would serve both as a stand against extremism and as a celebration of the borough's diversity, and encouraged participation.

In accordance with the Council Protocol, the Mayor firstly called on the Liberal Democrat Group to move their amendment and then called on the Green Socialist Alliance Group to move their amendment. Members would then move to the debate and vote firstly on the Liberal Democrat Amendment and then vote on the Green Socialist Alliance group amendment.

**Cllr Rossetti moved an amendment:**

Councillor Rossetti thanked the Mayor and noted that, like many councillors or their families, they had been born abroad and had made Haringey their home. The Councillor reflected on public discourse in recent years, including during the period surrounding the UK's departure from the European Union, and expressed concern about narratives which attributed national challenges to migrant communities, despite their economic and social contributions.

She stated that many residents with migrant backgrounds had contributed positively to the borough and wider society, including through public service and community representation. However, concern was raised that divisive rhetoric had continued beyond this period, with the tone of public debate becoming increasingly negative.

Reference was made to national policy discussions on immigration, including proposals relating to settlement and citizenship, which she suggested could create uncertainty for families. It was argued that such approaches risked undermining community cohesion and failed to recognise the contributions made by migrants.

While expressing support for the general intent of the motion, she indicated that further action could be taken. It was proposed that the Council call on national government and local

Members of Parliament to promote a more positive narrative around migration, emphasising inclusion, integration, and the benefits of diversity.

She also referenced initiatives aimed at promoting unity and constructive dialogue, and encouraged a commitment to policies and public messaging that reflected values of openness, fairness, and opportunity. In conclusion, Councillor Rossetti urged support for the proposed amendment.

**Cllr da Costa seconded the amendment –**

Councillor da Costa thanked the Mayor and described Haringey as a welcoming and inclusive borough, noting their personal connection to the area over a number of years. The Councillor reflected on their family history, highlighting migration experiences across generations and emphasising the diverse backgrounds that contribute to the borough's identity.

It was stated that many residents, regardless of their origins, shared similar histories of migration and settlement. He expressed concern regarding political rhetoric at a national level, referencing past and more recent statements which were perceived as undermining the value of diversity and inclusion.

It was indicated that such language risked contributing to division and did not reflect the lived reality of diverse communities. Reference was made to concerns raised by a number of organisations, including trade unions and professional bodies, regarding the potential impact of immigration policies and rhetoric on community cohesion, workforce capacity, and public services.

He confirmed his support for the motion and associated initiatives promoting unity and inclusion. It was further suggested that national leadership should reflect values of fairness, respect, and integration, and that public discourse should recognise the positive contribution of migrant communities.

In conclusion, Councillor Da Costa encouraged Members to support the amendment and to promote a constructive and inclusive approach in both policy and language.

**Cllr Mason moved the amendment from the Green Socialist Alliance Group –**

Councillor Mason stated that the purpose of the amendment was to strengthen the motion rather than remove any of its provisions. It was confirmed that the motion itself was welcomed and supported; however, the Councillor expressed the view that it did not go far enough.

She referred to points raised earlier in the debate, emphasising that national government rhetoric played a significant role in shaping public attitudes and the broader social climate. Concern was expressed that certain statements by national political figures risked contributing to division and could inadvertently reinforce negative narratives and support for far-right perspectives.

It was argued that local efforts to promote inclusion and cohesion could be undermined if national messaging was not aligned with these values. She stressed the importance of consistency between local and national approaches in fostering a welcoming and inclusive society.

She also shared a recent example of an incident in a public setting which was perceived as discriminatory, noting that such experiences were not typical of the borough's character. It was emphasised that Haringey had a strong history of opposing racism and promoting community cohesion, and that this should continue to be upheld.

She acknowledged the leadership shown locally in supporting refugees and asylum seekers, and expressed appreciation for actions taken by the Council in this regard.

However, it was noted that similar alignment was not always evident at a national level. In conclusion, Councillor Mason urged Members to support the amendment, which called for the Council to stand in solidarity with organisations supporting refugees and to further strengthen its commitment to being a place of sanctuary.

**Cllr Mark Blake seconded the amendment.**

**In accordance with CSO 15.7(e) Cllr das Neves provided a response:**

Councillor das Neves thanked the Mayor and Members for their contributions to the debate and welcomed the support expressed by colleagues. While acknowledging that the amendments had been well intentioned, the Councillor stated that they considered them unnecessary.

She drew attention to actions already undertaken by the Council's leadership, including correspondence with the Home Secretary on multiple occasions, most recently in November 2025 and February 2026, addressing issues relating to unity, the contribution of migrants and refugees, and the challenges associated with the absence of safe and legal routes. It was also noted that local Members of Parliament had engaged with these issues at a national level.

In relation to the development of the borough's welcome strategy, she confirmed that this work would continue to be undertaken in partnership with the Welcome Advisory Board, which represented a range of community voices, including those with lived experience.

She referred to previous discussions regarding the designation of "Borough of Sanctuary," noting that the Welcome Advisory Board had expressed a preference for the term "Borough of Welcome." It was stated that this matter could be reconsidered as part of the ongoing development of the strategy, in consultation with partners and the wider community.

With regard to the Together with Refugees Alliance, she indicated that membership criteria required organisations to remain independent of political affiliation, and suggested that any decision relating to participation should be considered through appropriate governance structures, including the Welcome Advisory Board.

In concluding, Councillor das Neves reaffirmed the administration's commitment to supporting diverse communities, noting that many Members had personal connections to migration. It was emphasised that the Council would continue to promote inclusion and cohesion, and to oppose racism, discrimination, and division in all forms.

Members firstly voted on the First Amendment from the Liberal Democrat Group which was LOST.

Members then voted on the second amendment, to the motion from the Green Socialist Alliance Group was LOST.

Lastly, members voted on the original motion which was unanimously AGREED.

*Support for the Together Alliance*

Proposer: Cllr das Neves

Secunder: Cllr Chandwani

This Council notes -

- The voices of division in our country are growing louder. The divisive and racist rhetoric of extremism is an increasingly common presence online and on our streets.
- Their false promises seize on the very real economic problems people face, in order to scapegoat migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, Muslims, Jews, and other faith and global majority communities.
- It is, therefore, incumbent upon every tier of government to deliver policies and investment that address the many challenges our communities face, tackling wealth inequality and rejecting all forms of racism and discrimination.
- A new campaign, the Together Alliance, supported by UK charities, trade unions, civil society organisations and politicians is offering a platform of “love, unity and hope” to oppose the far right and the politics of division.

This Council believes -

- London is the greatest, most diverse city in the world. Our progressive, inclusive agenda has the full backing of London Mayor, Sadiq Khan.
- We can change things together. We must show that strength lies in solidarity with our communities, and that the change we need comes from us working together.
  - Together we can reject narratives of division and racism.
  - Together we can build solidarity across communities.
  - Together we can unite against the far right.

This Council resolves to –

- Renew our commitments as a Borough of Welcome, and work with residents to develop our new Welcome Strategy – ensuring anyone who calls Haringey home is treated with dignity and respect.
- Endorse the Together Alliance’s message of “hope over fear” ahead of their planned demonstration in London on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026.
- Continue to work with our community networks and Multi-Faith Forum to challenge national narratives: building unity and tackling xenophobia, antisemitism, islamophobia, anti-black racism and all forms of discrimination.
- Work with anti-racist and human rights campaign groups opposing hate groups assembling in our city.

The Mayor returned to the mayor’s communication to say a special thanks on behalf of the Council to the following councillors who were standing down:

- Cllr Adamou was the longest continuing serving councillor and has been on the council for 36 years and a mayor on 4 occasions.

- Councillor Peacock had been on the council for 32 years and served 4 times as Mayor
- Cllr Diakides had served on the council for 32 years from 1994 to 2026 in various roles in Committees, Scrutiny and Cabinet
- Cllr Rice had served on the council for 32 years from 1990 to 2006 and then from 2010 until 2026. He has served as deputy mayor, mayor, and been a committee chair of staffing committees and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Cllr Connor had served as a councillor from 2014 to 2026 and served as Chair as Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel and Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee for these 12 years.
- Cllr Rossetti had served as a councillor from 2018 to 2026.
- Cllr Isilar- Gosling had served as a councillor from 2022 to 2026
- Cllr Worrell had served as a councillor from 2022 to 2026 and chaired Housing Scrutiny panel.
- Cllr Collett had served as a councillor from 2022 to 2026.
- Cllr Mason has served as a councillor from 2022 – 2026.
- Cllr Stennett had served the Council from 2010 to 2026 and served as committee Chair of Alexandra Park and Palace Board.
- Cllr Opoku had served as a councillor from 2014 to 2026 and served as a committee Chair of Standards.
- Cllr Dogan has served as a councillor from 2018 to 2026 and served as Chair of Audit.
- Cllr Moyeed had served as a councillor from 2018 to 2026 and chaired Housing Scrutiny panel and Overview and Scrutiny.
- Cllr Culverwell had served as a councillor from 2018 to 2026 and served as deputy mayor.
- Cllr Elliott had served as a councillor from 2022 to 2026.
- Cllr Harrison- Mullane - had served as a councillor from 2022 to 2026.
- Cllr Carroll had served as a councillor from 2023 to 2026.

The mayor led the meeting in a round of applause and concluded the meeting.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....