

MINUTES OF THE Full Council HELD ON Wednesday, 20th May, 2026, 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Ash Ahmed, Imad Ahmed, Ata Berk Aksit, Ibrahim Ali, Kaushia Amin, Bethany Anderson, Emily Arkell, Dawn Barnes, Johann Beckford, Eva Bell, Beverley Berrick, John Bevan, Mark Blake, Luisa Brands, Karolina Braun, Michael Brookes, Dana Carlin, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Simon Clark, Nick da Costa, Lucia das Neves, AJ Egemonye, Scott Emery, Fin Fitzgerald, Melanie Gingell, Anne Gray, Mark Grosskopf, Makbule Gunes, Mike Hodges, Andrea Hodgson, Tammy Hymas, Gio Iozzi, Sue Jameson, Marc Jenner, Dan Johnson, Dixie-Ann Joseph, Tehseen Khan, Marie Kristensen, Jo Kuper, Rosie Latchford, Anna Lawton, Fiona Orford-Williams, Daniela Parry, Ruairidh Paton, Tony Powell, Andrew Reid, Adam Small, Nelly Tackie, Edward Thacker, Georgia Twigg, Hannah Ward, Elin Weston, Sarah Williams and Erin Wolson

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

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

2. TO ELECT THE MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR 2026/27

Ahmed Mahbub, the Mayor, invited nominations for the office of the Mayor of Haringey for the Municipal year 2026- 27.

Councillor Jo Kuper nominated, and Councillor Tehseen Khan seconded that Councillor Andrew Reid be elected Mayor for the forthcoming municipal year.

Ahmed Mahbub, called for any further nominations and Cllr Emery nominated and da Costa seconded that Councillor Dawn Barnes be elected Mayor for the forthcoming municipal year.

Following a vote of 27 in favour of Councillor Andrew Reid and 28 in favour of Councillor Dawn Barnes, it was

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor Dawn Barnes be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

2. The Mayor made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was witnessed by Councillors Emery and da Costa.
3. The Mayor then addressed the Council and gave thanks for her election.

4. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

4. 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 late items of business for the reasons outlined below.

Item 7 Council minutes 16 March 2026

Item 11 – Appointments made by the political groups

Item 12 - Appointments of Committees for the Municipal Year 2026/27; and

Item 13: Appointments to outside bodies 2026/27

Item 14 – Approval of Council Calendar of meetings 2026/27

Item 16: End of the year financial statement 2025/26 of allowances paid to Members

Item 17 Attendance of councillors at meetings for 2025/26

The items were not available at the time of dispatch as they included verification of information and recent changes following party group meetings.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Chief Executive reported that the Mayor had signified in writing the appointment of Councillor Makbule Gunes as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/7.

Councillor Makbule Gunes was invested with her Badge of Office.

7. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 16TH OF MARCH 2026

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 16 of March 2026.

8. TO PASS A VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR AND MAYOR'S CONSORTS

A vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, and consorts was moved by Councillor Mark Blake, Leader of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Ibrahim Ali , Leader of the Labour Group. There was also a speech from Councillor Luke Cawley- Harrison, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group.

The retiring Mayor was presented with a badge and a framed collage in honour of his municipal year of office. Mr Ahmed Mahbub addressed the meeting, thanking the Council for the honour of being Mayor and highlighting the key events and activities from his year, expressing support from colleagues and former mayors as well as officers from Democratic services.

RESOLVED

That the Council extend its thanks and appreciation to the retiring Mayor, Ahmed Mahbub and his consorts and the services they had rendered to the Borough during the past municipal year.

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

The Mayor stated that she would inform the Council of her chosen charity in the coming weeks. The Mayor spoke about the outcome of the elections and that all councillors were present to support residents and to represent them. She shared her ward with two Labour councillors and was looking forward to working with them for the benefit of the residents of Fortis Green. She concluded that it was important to put politics to one side at all times for residents.

10. TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE MUNICIPAL YEARS

Councillor Marc Jenner proposed and Councillor Nelly Tackie seconded that Councillor Mark Blake be appointed as Leader of the Council for four consecutive municipal years (2026 to 2030).

There being no other nominations received, the Mayor called a vote on the proposal. With 27 Members voting in favour, and 26 abstaining, it was agreed that Councillor Mark Blake be elected Leader of the Council for four consecutive municipal years (2026 to 2030).

Councillor Mark Blake gave thanks for his election as Leader of the Council, outlining that he was Haringey's first non-Labour leader in 55 years. Councillor Blake pledged cooperation, transparency and stronger scrutiny. Priorities included improving housing, repairs, homelessness prevention, tenant protections, council accountability and community engagement. Councillor Blake emphasised public ownership, climate action, protecting community assets, social justice, human rights and empowering local communities.

Councillor Ali, Leader of the Labour Group responded. Councillor Ali congratulated Councillor Mark Blake and the Green Party on forming the new administration and

urged them to honour their commitments. He highlighted Labour's achievements in housing, education, children's services and protecting residents. Labour would support successes, provide scrutiny where needed and work constructively while safeguarding key services and community cohesion.

Councillor Luke Cawley – Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group also responded. Councillor Cawley-Harrison congratulated Councillor Blake and elected councillors, noting residents had voted for change in Haringey. He urged collaborative cross-party working, recognising no party received a clear mandate to govern alone. While welcoming some Green Party proposals, he expressed concern about others and also noted the Council's worsening financial position, pledging constructive support and scrutiny.

11. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NOTING THE APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE POLITICAL GROUPS, AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE

Councillor Paton, Co Deputy Leader and acting in the capacity of Chief Whip for constitutional purposes, introduced the paper that outlined appointments made by Political Groups in their recent annual meetings.

RESOLVED

That the constitution of the political groups be noted:

The Green Group

The Leader:	Cllr Mark Blake
Deputy Leader:	Cllr Tammy Hymas
Co Deputy Leader	Cllr Ruairdh Paton

Cllr Dan Johnson
Cllr Jo Kuper
Cllr Rosie Latchford
Cllr Marc Jenner
Cllr Ata Aksit
Cllr Fin Fitzgerald
Cllr Eva Bell
Cllr Johann Beckford
Cllr Simon Clark
Cllr Erin Wolson
Cllr Ash Ahmed
Cllr Luisa Brands
Cllr Georgia Twigg

Cllr Bethany Anderson
Cllr Gio Iozzi
Cllr Edward Thacker
Cllr Andrew Reid
Cllr Dixie-Ann Joseph
Cllr Nelly Tackie
Cllr Tehseen Khan
Cllr Hannah Ward
Cllr Anne Gray
Cllr Marie Kristensen
Cllr Mike Hodges

The Labour Group

Leader: Cllr Ibrahim Ali
Deputy Leader: Cllr Emily Arkell
Chair: Cllr Andrea Hodgson
Chief Whip: Cllr Elin Weston

Secretary: Cllr Daniela Parry
Treasurer: Cllr Michael Brookes
Deputy Chair: Cllr Makbule Gunes
Assistant Whips: Cllr Adam Small, Cllr Beverley Berrick

Councillors:

Cllr Aj Egemonye
Cllr Melanie Gingell
Cllr Dana Carlin
Cllr John Bevan
Cllr Mark Grosskopf
Cllr Anna Lawton
Cllr Seema Chandwani
Cllr Sarah Williams
Cllr Lucia das Neves
Cllr Sue Jameson
Cllr Kaushika Amin

The Liberal Democrat Group

Leader: Luke Cawley-Harrison
Chair: Nick da Costa
Whip: Scott Emery
Deputy Leader: Fiona Orford-Williams
Deputy Chair: Tony Powell
Deputy Whip: Karolina Braun

Councillors:

Cllr Imad Ahmed

Cllr Dawn Barnes

12. TO AGREE THE APPOINTMENTS PROCEDURE AND TO APPOINT COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2026/27 INCLUDING THE SELECTION OF THE CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

The Co deputy Leader acting in the capacity of Chief Whip moved recommendation 1, as detailed in the circulated report and this was agreed.

The Co deputy Leader acting in the capacity of Chief Whip moved recommendation 2, as detailed in the circulated report and this was agreed.

Councillor Ali moved a tabled amendment to Recommendation 3, seconded by Councillor Cawley - Harrison, and this outlined a number of changes to the allocated Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and memberships of ordinary committees.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for 15 minutes to allow the Green group to consider and read the amendment which had been printed and was circulated.

The Mayor re-opened the meeting and asked the Green Group to respond.

Councillor Hymas responded to the amendment, which had replaced a number of Green Party allocated councillor chair and vice chairs roles with opposition councillor allocations. Councillor Hymas questioned the opposition groups ethics in democracy in bringing forward the amendment. Cllr Hymas outlined how the Green Party consulted its members on decisions and would be opposing these amendments which had been put forward with no prior consultation. The Green party had the largest number of seats and the Committee chairs from the group had been nominated to support the manifesto commitments of the Green party.

A vote was taken on the amendment to Recommendation 3, as follows:

28 in FAVOUR,

27 AGAINST

NO abstentions

The amendment was AGREED as per circulated in the tabled paper put forward at the meeting.

The Co deputy Leader acting in the capacity of Chief Whip moved recommendation 4, as detailed in the circulated report and this was AGREED.

13. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Mayor agreed to the admittance of this item as tabled, given that it set out decisions that had been made recently at party meetings.

Councillor Paton, Co deputy Leader and Chief whip for the purposes of the Constitution, moved the report, as circulated.

RESOLVED

1. To note 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)
2. To approve the appointments to the remainder of outside bodies set out at Appendix 1.

14. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RESOLVED

To agree the attached schedule of meetings for 2026/27.

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

There were no matters to report on.

16. TO RECEIVE A STATEMENT OF COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEES, AND SUB COMMITTEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

RESOLVED

That the statement of attendance, as attached, be noted.

17. TO NOTE THE END OF MUNICIPAL YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2025/26

That the allowances paid to each Member, as set out at Appendix 1, be noted.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date