MINUTES OF THE Full Council HELD ON Monday, 20th July, 2026, 7.30pm to 9.50pm

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, Ajda Ovat, Daniela Parry, Ruairidh Paton, Tony Powell, Andrew Reid, Elara Shurety, Adam Small, Nelly Tackie, Edward Thacker, Georgia Twigg, Hannah Ward, Elin Weston, Sarah Williams and Erin Wolson

18. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Mayor referred to the notice of filming at meetings and highlighted key safety information for attendees.

19. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Councillor Orford- Williams.

There were apologies for lateness notified for Councillor da Costa.

(Clerks note – Cllr da Costa arrived at 7.40pm)

20. 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 as late business for the reasons outlined below.

Item 7 was late as there was a need for political group consultations on the appointments to Committees following the changes to the political composition of the Council.

Item 10 - appointment to Outside Bodies was late due to political group consultations.

In relation to Item 13 Questions and Written Answers - The reason for lateness was that notice of questions was not requested until 10 clear days before the meeting, following which the matters raised had to be researched and replies prepared to be given at the meeting.

Item 14 – Motions - The amendments to motions were not requested until 10am on the day of the Council meeting and there had been received an amendment to Motions A and B and also to item 9 which had been published and distributed on the day of the meeting in the tabled pack.

A minor update to the minutes at item 5 which has been recirculated for ease of reference.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest put forward.

22. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20TH OF MAY 2026

The Chief Executive asked the Council to approve as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th of May 2026, set out in the updated pack at pages 1 to 12. These contained a minor amendment and minor clarification on item 12.

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th of May 2026.

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

The Mayor highlighted that she had attended 49 engagements out of 69 events, and expressed appreciation and thanks to the Deputy Mayor Councillor Makbule Gunes, and also praised the mayoralty representatives for assisting with covering all of these wonderful events.

The main highlight from the last two months noted had been engaging with young people who had attended different events over the last couple of months. The Mayor expressed that the flag raising events to mark Armed Forces Day, Windrush and Pride were also fantastic days with very good attendance.

The Mayor notified the Council meeting of her charity which was Food Bank Aid, and this was a charity that supplies six food banks in Haringey. The Mayor advised the meeting that she would be holding some events to raise funds for the charity and would inform councillors of her charity’s webpage to donate and support this cause.

24. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive introduced the report on political composition of the Council following the recent by elections and highlighted changes to appointments to Committees following calculation on proportionality and changes to Committee membership notified by the Green Group.

Councillor Paton, Co- deputy Leader of the Green group and acting in the capacity of the Chief Whip, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, MOVED the report and MOVED the recommendations and it was,

RESOLVED

1. To note the changes to the political balance of the Council set out at paragraph 4.1.

2. To agree that Councillor Beckford replace Councillor Ali on the Appointments Panel, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group, and in accordance with paragraphs 4.10 to 4.13.

3. To agree that Councillor Beckford replace Councillor Berrick on the Disciplinary, Grievance and Dismissal Panel giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group, and in accordance with paragraphs 4.10 to 4.13.

4. To approve the appointment of Councillor Anne Gray to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to fill the Green Group Vacancy to this Committee, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group

5. To appoint Councillor Andrew Reid and Councillor Edward Thacker to the Dismissal Appeal Panel Pool giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group.

6. To appoint Councillor Elara Shurety to the Licensing Committee to replace Councillor Rosie Latchord as the Green Group Member allocated representative, giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group.

7. To note that the Cabinet Member for Communities will replace the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Transport on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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

The Monitoring Officer had no matters to report.

26. CSO 3.1 (VI) ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CABINET MEMBERS - EXTERNAL AUDITOR RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER PARAGRAPH 2 OF SCHEDULE 7 OF

THE LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014 AND THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Mayor introduced the item and highlighted its significance, noting that the Council had received one statutory recommendation and two non-statutory recommendations from its external auditor, KPMG LLP, on 18 May 2026.
The Mayor outlined the recommendations, which called on the Council to:

- increase future savings targets and deliver savings in line with those targets through the identification and implementation of a wider range of transformational savings to reduce reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS);
- embed a culture across all directorates in which the financial implications of decisions were given equal prominence to service quality; and
- demonstrate a commitment from both Cabinet and officers to increase the level of savings delivered and strengthen the processes for identifying and monitoring savings.

The Mayor advised that, although the Council's Standing Orders ordinarily permitted only questions from Members on Council reports, following consultation with the Group Leaders and using Chair's discretion, Members would be permitted to make a statement of up to two minutes incorporating their question. A response would be provided, together with the opportunity to ask a supplementary question for clarification purposes. The Mayor also confirmed that a representative from KPMG LLP was in attendance to respond to technical questions.

The Mayor further welcomed Christopher Paisley, Director at KPMG LLP, to the meeting and asked the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services to introduce the report.

Councillor Beckford welcomed the external auditor, introduced the report and formally moved the recommendations. Councillor Beckford acknowledged the seriousness of the statutory recommendation and advised that it followed value for money concerns raised by KPMG LLP over the previous two financial years.

In presenting the report, Councillor Beckford outlined the Council's current financial position, noting that the Council had reported a £40.6 million deficit in 2025/26, which had been met through Exceptional Financial Support (EFS), and that the approved 2026/27 budget forecast an increased reliance on EFS. It was noted that the borrowing costs associated with EFS placed additional pressure on the Council's finances and reinforced the importance of strengthening financial management and delivering sustainable savings.

Councillor Beckford stated that, whilst previous local decisions had contributed to the Council's financial position, the principal causes were long-term reductions in central government funding and increasing demand for statutory services, particularly adult social care, children's services and temporary accommodation. Reference was made to the Council's three-year Financial Resilience Plan, which identified priority areas for reducing expenditure, increasing income and strengthening financial governance. Councillor Beckford also highlighted proposals to improve financial transparency and

resident engagement, including the development of a Financial Transparency Dashboard.

The Mayor had been informed of 5 members making short speeches and incorporating questions.

Councillor Jenner a referred to the impact of austerity on local authorities across the country, particularly on vulnerable communities, and asked whether the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, agreed that tackling its effects required a national response. Councillor Jenner further queried whether the administration would commit to attending the cross-party Emergency Anti-Austerity Summit hosted by Hackney Council in September. In response, Councillor Beckford agreed that national challenges required collaborative action between local authorities and highlighted examples of joint working with other London boroughs on shared priorities, including campaigning on affordable housing. He stated that wider reforms to local government finance, housing and social care were required to address the underlying causes of Councils' financial pressures. Councillor Beckford confirmed that the administration would attend the Emergency Anti-Austerity Summit and expressed the hope that members of all political groups would participate. Councillor Jenner confirmed that there was no supplementary question.

Councillor Ali, Leader of the Labour Group, referred to the Council's financial position in the context of reductions in local government funding and stated that, whilst transformational change across the Council was required, he considered the proposed response to the external auditor's recommendations to be insufficient. Councillor Ali raised concerns regarding the absence of detailed proposals relating to transformational savings, income generation, transparency and governance, particularly in advance of the publication of the Financial Resilience Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy later in the year.

Councillor Ali asked the external auditor what evidence of progress KPMG LLP would expect to see in response to the statutory recommendation. Responding on behalf of KPMG LLP, Christopher Paisley advised that the Council's increasing reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) had been a key factor in the statutory recommendation. He stated that a significant measure of progress would be the Council setting future budgets that reduced its reliance on EFS over time, with the long-term objective of eliminating that reliance where possible.

In a supplementary question, Councillor Ali sought clarification on how Members would be able to scrutinise the work of the proposed Financial Recovery Board and monitor progress in delivering savings before the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy was presented to Council.

Councillor Beckford responded that the administration was committed to improving transparency and public engagement through the development of a Financial Transparency Dashboard, enabling residents to better understand the Council's finances. He added that officers were progressing work on future savings proposals and that the administration wished to ensure that decisions were informed by robust evidence rather than being developed prematurely. Councillor Beckford also welcomed continued engagement with all Members as proposals were developed.

Councillor Cawley-Harrison, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, referred to previous warnings made by the Liberal Democrat Group regarding the Council's financial position and welcomed the external auditor's recommendations. Whilst supporting the officer response and the proposed amendment to Recommendation 2, Councillor Cawley-Harrison expressed the view that further action was required and suggested that all political groups work together to develop a cross-party financial turnaround plan in advance of the budget consultation process. Councillor Cawley-Harrison asked whether the administration would commit to such an approach.

In response, Councillor Beckford reiterated the administration's commitment to accountability, transparency and collaborative working. It was noted that Opposition Group Leaders had recently been briefed by officers on the Council's financial position and that the administration was supportive of continued cross-party engagement. Councillor Beckford confirmed that he was willing to meet with Councillor Cawley-Harrison to discuss future financial planning and governance arrangements. In response to a supplementary question inviting further discussions on a financial turnaround plan, Councillor Beckford confirmed that he would be pleased to meet on this issue.

Councillor Bell asked what action the administration was taking to balance financial discipline with its commitment to invest in residents' wellbeing, community resilience and frontline services. Councillor Beckford responded that the administration supported strengthened governance arrangements whilst continuing to invest in initiatives intended to improve outcomes for residents and deliver value for money. Examples included the development of the Community Assets Commission Policy, an invest-to-save approach within the Housing Revenue Account to increase the number of occupied Council homes, and the introduction of a Financial Transparency Dashboard to improve public understanding of Council finances. Councillor Bell indicated that there was no supplementary question.

Councillor Anderson queried what message the administration wished to send to the newly appointed Prime Minister in light of KPMG LLP's recommendations. Councillor Beckford responded that the Council's financial challenges reflected increasing demand for statutory services alongside sustained reductions in local government funding. He stated that the administration would continue to advocate for reforms to local government finance, including increased devolution, sustainable funding for adult social care, measures to address housing pressures and wider reforms to improve the long-term financial sustainability of local authorities. Councillor Anderson confirmed that there was no supplementary question.

Following the conclusion of Members' questions, and moving to consideration of the recommendations , the Mayor advised that in accordance with CSO 15.8b, the Council have received an amendment to recommendation 2 at page 11 of the main pack from Councillor Brookes and seconded by Cllr Carlin and this was contained in the tabled papers. Therefore, as there were three recommendations, councillors would be invited to vote on these three recommendations separately.

The Mayor called on members to firstly vote on Recommendation 1, which was **to accept the statutory and non-statutory recommendations presented by KPMG LLP**, and this was AGREED unanimously.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Brookes to move the amendment to Recommendation 2.

Councillor Brookes moved an amendment to recommendation 2 , which was seeking approval of the actions outlined in the officer report to respond to the auditors' recommendations, but putting forward an additional action of a cross-party Member Finance Recovery Board being established to provide additional oversight of the actions. Councillor Brookes outlined that the statutory recommendation represented an exceptional and serious matter requiring Full Council to demonstrate clear oversight of the Council's response. Whilst welcoming the proposed response, Councillor Brookes argued that additional measures were required to strengthen transparency and Member oversight prior to the publication of detailed savings proposals later in the year.

Councillor Brookes explained that the amendment proposed monthly reporting on the delivery of savings to the cross-party Member Financial Recovery Board, commencing within one month, with representation from each political group. It was emphasised that the amendment did not seek to amend the approved budget, require additional savings or alter existing spending decisions, but was intended to strengthen governance and provide assurance that progress in delivering savings would be monitored by Members.

The Monitoring Officer clarified that the amendment referred to this Member grouping operating as a **Board**, rather than a Committee of the Council.

Councillor Carlin seconded the amendment. In doing so, Councillor Carlin expressed the view that the proposed attached response to the auditors recommendations did not provide sufficient information regarding the Financial Resilience Plan or how savings would be delivered. It was argued that greater transparency and enhanced Member oversight were necessary to address the concerns raised by the external auditor and to strengthen accountability.

Councillor Beckford thanked both members for the amendment and welcomed its emphasis on accountability and transparency. He noted that discussions on the proposed governance arrangements had already taken place with Opposition Group Leaders and referred to the Monitoring Officer's clarification that the proposal related to a Financial Recovery Board rather than a Committee. Councillor Beckford reiterated the administration's commitment to working collaboratively across political groups to strengthen financial oversight and confirmed that the administration was supportive of the amendment.

The amendment to Recommendation 2 was put to the vote and was AGREED unanimously.

Recommendation 2, as amended, was then put to the vote and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED

To approve the actions in response to the Statutory Recommendations and Non-Statutory as set out in Appendix B, Subject to the following additional actions in the interests of transparency:

- That a cross-party Member Finance Recovery Board is established (subject to appropriate confidentiality requirements), chaired by the Chief Executive and that the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources will provide this Board with monthly savings reports detailing the progress on savings in the current year using the most recent available management information. The first of these reports will be delivered within a month of this response to the auditors being passed by Full Council and they will continue to be published until superseded by the arrangements being introduced in November.

Recommendation 3 was subsequently put to the vote, and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED

To delegate the monitoring of the delivery of the actions through the regular reporting of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan to Audit Committee.

27. TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Paton Co-Deputy Leader of the Green Group and acting in the capacity of the Chief Whip MOVED the appointments to Outside Bodies outlined in the supplementary packs at page 15 and 29,

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 outside bodies set out at Appendix 1 and in bold.

28. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES

The Mayor invited Councillor Hodgson, Chair of Standards Committee, to introduce the report.

The Chair of Standards Committee advised the meeting that the report was put forward to the Full Council meeting following the Standards Committee meeting held on the 29 June 2026. The recommendations concerned:

- Appointment of Political Assistants and updates to the Constitution to meet 1989 Local Government and Housing Act requirements.

- Members Allowances Scheme for 2026-2027 update to reflect access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

The Chair of Standards continued to MOVE the report and recommendations, and it was,

RESOLVED

1. To NOTE the current best value considerations for appointment of political assistants set out at section 7 of the attached report (appendix 1)for three political groups noting that there is a maximum of 3 positions that can be appointed to meet legislative requirements.

2. Taking into account the government Guidance which suggests that there should be reviews of these particular posts to ensure value for money, to AGREE the appointment of three political assistants on a one-year fixed contract ending in September 2027 to allow a review of these roles between August and November 2026.

3. To AGREE a review of the roles, taking account the operation of the roles and whether they continue to provide value for money, particularly in the light of the Council's challenging financial position.

4. To AGREE that the review findings and final decisions on the terms and conditions of the appointments and contracts are delegated to the Standards Committee for final decision in November 2026, with a report to Full Council in November. This would be in time for consideration as part of the budget proposals if required.

5. To AGREE the updates to the Council's Constitution set out at Appendix 2.

6. To consider the updates to the Members' Allowances Scheme set out at section 6 and reflected at Appendix 4.

7. To APPROVE the updated Members' Allowances Scheme 2026/27 attached at Appendix 4.

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

There were none received.

30. 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.

At Question 7 Councillor Ali, was asked by the Mayor to not interrupt when the speaker was answering the question.

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

Councillor Andrew Reid MOVED the motion which was calling for the appointment of a Windrush Champion to support access to the Windrush Compensation scheme.

Councillor Reid expressed that he was the son of the Windrush generation and referred to his own personal family history of coming to England. Councillor Reid spoke about how the Windrush generation supported the NHS, transport services and many other public services which were the fabric of society.

Councillor Reid referred to the Windrush scandal and how hundreds of people were wrongly denied healthcare, housing and jobs, with some detained or deported for lacking documentation. It was noted that while Caribbean communities were most affected, the Windrush Compensation Scheme also supported other eligible Commonwealth families.

Councillor Reid highlighted the slow progress of the national Windrush Compensation Scheme, with only 8,800 payments made despite an estimated 15,000 eligible applicants. The Council Motion urged government to simplify and speed up the scheme, to make it independent of the Home Office, and guarantee compensation is tax-free.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Reid for his maiden speech and called on Councillor Johnson to second the motion.

Councillor Johnson seconded the motion and highlighted that the Windrush compensation was particularly important during the ongoing cost of living crisis, providing both justice and financial support to those affected by the scandal. Councillor Johnson stressed the administration’s commitment to supporting working people and advocating for residents who had suffered serious injustices.

The motion was presented as a reflection of the Green administration's values: listening to communities, using elected influence to drive change, and empowering residents. The motion further supported a cross-party campaign, backed by organisations including Age UK, calling for the Windrush Compensation Scheme to be removed from the Home Office, which had lost the trust of many in the Windrush generation, and transferred to an independent body.

The Mayor indicated that an amendment to the motion had been received and called on Councillor Berrick to move the amendment.

Councillor Berrick reiterated the injustice that had been suffered by the Windrush communities and the hostile environment created by the previous racist and dehumanising policy that had disproportionately harmed those of African and Caribbean heritage. Councillor Berrick referred to the role of campaigners and David Lammy MP in exposing the Windrush scandal and securing national attention. Councillor Berrick outlined the severe consequences faced by victims, including loss of livelihoods, homes, pensions, and, in some cases, deportation. Councillor Berrick cited research showing significantly higher compensation awards for claimants with legal representation. Councillor Berrick called for comprehensive support, including legal and pension advice to the Windrush community. Councillor Berrick continued to propose a cross-party working group and a community Windrush Champion to ensure accountability, empowerment, and fair compensation for affected residents.

Councillor Ali formally seconded the amendment.

In accordance with CSO 15.1, there followed a debate on the motion with the following speakers.

Councillor Carlin spoke in favour of the amendment as it proposed a working group with members of the community and with those already working with people who have suffered from the Windrush scandal.

Councillor Thacker spoke against the amendment and in favour of the original motion outlining that Windrush residents deserved justice. Councillor Thacker criticised the content of the amendment for focusing on praising David Lammy MP. Councillor Thacker spoke about the MP's previous voting on the Iraq war and contended that the MP had provided diplomatic cover for Israel's actions in the middle east which he felt contributed to the humanitarian disaster in this region. The Mayor intervened and advised Councillor Thacker to direct his speech to the content of the motion. Councillor Thacker continued his speech referring to international matters and was asked by the Mayor for a second time to draw his speech to a close and keep to the content of the motion.

Councillor Ali raised a point of order, and the Mayor allowed him to speak. Councillor Ali referred to the guidance provided at the start of the meeting by the Mayor on expected behaviour in the chamber and expressed that he found the language used in Councillor Thacker's speech deeply alarming and
unprofessional in its reference to another elected politician.

The Mayor agreed that this be noted.

Councillor Joseph spoke in favour of the original motion, supporting the proposal to establish a local Windrush working group and champion. Councillor Joseph spoke of her own personal family experience and recognising the immense contribution of the Windrush generation to Britain. Councillor Joseph outlined that the Windrush community arrived between 1948 and 1970, and had helped rebuild the country through work in the NHS, transport, education and public services, while raising families and strengthening communities. The Windrush scandal caused profound injustice, with many wrongly questioned about their status, losing jobs, homes, healthcare and, in some cases, being deported. Councillor Joseph underlined that this should not be a partisan issue. A local Windrush champion would provide accessible support, advocacy and accountability, ensuring residents' voices are heard and their experiences are respected and called for the motion, unamended, to be agreed.

Councillor Cawley – Harrison, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group contributed to the debate welcoming the Green Party's proposal to appoint a Windrush Champion. The Group recognised the importance of raising awareness of the Windrush scandal and supporting affected residents, including those seeking compensation. They noted that the Labour group had previously appointed champions to represent underrepresented and disadvantaged groups and highlighted that the Liberal Democrat group had also brought forward similar motions. The group acknowledged valid arguments for both an elected representative and a community-selected individual serving as champion. To avoid determining the outcome of that debate, the Group would abstain on the Labour Group's amendment and allow the Green Party to decide. Regardless of the selection method, they confirmed their support for the motion.

The Mayor asked Councillor Reid, mover of the motion, to respond to the amendment and debate.

Councillor Reid thanked Councillor Berrick for the amendment and was in no doubt about the sincerity behind it. However, Councillor Reid asked member colleagues in the chamber to reject the amendment for the following reasons:

- The original motion was about taking action in the borough in 2026 such as helping the community fill out important forms and the amendment was referring to past actions completed by Westminster in 2018.
- The original motion proposed a Member champion, and this should be a senior Cabinet Member accountable to the Council every year with authority to liaise with the Home Office Minister and with the Home Office, to direct council officers, and to help fund voluntary partners and to ensure staff trained to support Windrush community members. The amendment was calling for a working group which meets and reports when it had no budget and no decision-making connection.
- The original motion emphasised delivery over process. The Member champion would already have responsibility for outreach and community engagement, through their cabinet role and making a new working group, put forward in the amendment, unnecessary.

Councillor Reid concluded that residents needed a clearly identifiable person accountable for providing support, as delays had discouraged compensation claims. Councillor Reid stressed that now was the time to act and stand up for affected communities.

The Mayor called for a vote on the amendment.

Following 21 votes in favour of the amendment, 28 against and 7 abstaining, the amendment was NOT AGREED.

The Mayor called for a vote on the Original Motion which was Unanimously AGREED.

Motion A
Appointment of a Haringey Windrush Champion
Proposer: Cllr Andrew Reid
Seconder: Cllr Dan Johnson

This Council notes:

1. People who arrived from Caribbean countries between 1948-1973 to help rebuild Britain, many of whom settled in Haringey and worked in the NHS, transport, and public services. The Windrush scandal saw hundreds of Commonwealth citizens wrongly denied healthcare, housing, jobs, and in some cases wrongly detained or deported due to lack of paperwork.

2. While the scandal primarily impacted Black Caribbean communities, the Windrush Compensation Scheme is also open to other Commonwealth nationals and their children who arrived before 1973, and those with settled status before 1988. This includes residents of Black African, South Asian, and other Commonwealth backgrounds living in Tottenham, Seven Sisters, Wood Green and across the borough.

3. Haringey is one of London's most diverse boroughs. Census 2021 data shows approximately:
◦ Black / Black British: 17.3% of residents. Within this, Black Caribbean 5.9% and Black African 9.2%
◦ Asian / Asian British: 9.2%
◦ Other ethnic groups including Turkish, Kurdish, and Mixed: significant populations, particularly in North Tottenham.

This diversity means the impact of hostile environment policies has been felt across multiple communities in Haringey, even though Black Caribbean elders are the group most directly targeted.

4. As of July 2024, 8,800 claims have been made nationally to the Windrush Compensation Scheme, with £94 million paid out. The Home Office estimated 15,000 may be eligible, meaning less than 20% have come forward. Campaigners report delays, complex forms, and distrust as barriers.

5. Bernie Grant MP, Haringey's first Black MP, fought for Windrush residents' rights. Broadwater Farm and other estates in Tottenham remain home to many Windrush elders and their families.

This Council believes:

1. That Haringey has a duty to ensure no resident is denied their rights due to historical immigration failings.

2. That many eligible residents in Haringey have not claimed compensation because they do not know the scheme exists, do not trust it, or cannot access support to apply.

3. That a named councillor acting as a "Windrush Champion" will provide leadership, visibility, and accountability on this issue.

This Council Resolves:

To create the role of Windrush Champion and appoint an elected member to take on the role to:

- Act as a point of contact for residents, community organisations and stakeholders, affected by Windrush.
- Increase awareness and uptake of the Compensation Scheme and Windrush Documentation Scheme, and available sources of advice and support in the borough.
- Work alongside relevant cabinet members and Council officers to champion the interests of the Windrush generation
- Request the Home Office provide borough-level data on Haringey claims, and publish an annual Haringey Windrush Report on claims made, payments received, and support given.
- Make recommendations to the cabinet on how the council can improve awareness, accessibility and uptake of the compensation scheme.

The Mayor called on Councillor Chandwani to move motion B on the Council Tax reduction scheme.

Councillor Chandwani urged all Council members to commit to making no changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), emphasising that it provided vital support and certainty for low income and vulnerable residents during a severe cost of living and financial crisis. Councillor Chandwani stressed that political leaders should set clear boundaries early in the budget process and declare that cuts to CTRS were not an option. Councillor Chandwani was critical of the amendment as it was delaying a firm commitment on this area of the budget. Councillor Chandwani called on councillors to demonstrate their values through action, and to reassure struggling resident at this time. Councillor Chandwani highlighted the need to make this commitment now to avoid future circumstances where reducing support became a default budget solution at residents' expense.

Councillor Ali seconded the motion, urging councillors to vote in favour of protecting the Council Tax Reduction Scheme support for the borough's poorest residents. Councillor Ali spoke about councillors having shared core values and principles of improving the lives of their residents and serving their communities. Councillor Ali expressed that residents were watching and expected elected representatives to honour commitments made during campaigns. The motion would help vulnerable families afford essentials such as food, school uniforms, travel and energy bills. Councillors in the chamber were challenged to choose between protecting low-income residents or allowing future budget pressures to place support at risk and were therefore encouraged to vote with their conscience and value.

The Mayor had received an amendment to motion B and called on Councillor Kuper to move the amendment.

Councillor Kuper, the Cabinet Member for Resident Services and Tackling Inequality moved the amendment and supported the aim of tackling poverty and inequality. Councillor Kuper outlined that the issue must be understood in the wider context of austerity and chronic underfunding of local government. Councillor Kuper highlighted the borough's high levels of deprivation and agreed that the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme was vital for protecting vulnerable families. The proposed amendments placed the debate within an ongoing review process, including consultation through Overview and Scrutiny. The amendment further called for the development of an ethical debt collection policy to reduce reliance on bailiffs. Councillor Kuper also highlighted actions taken to support struggling families, including restoring school meal vouchers, and urged cross-party support to press government for sustainable funding and meaningful action.

Councillor Twigg indicated that she had a point of order and the Mayor allowed Councillor Twigg to put this forward and consequently for this to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Councillor Twigg advised the Mayor that she had heard Councillor Ali use obscene language under his breath, directed at Councillor Kuper's speech, implying that the contents of the speech were untrue. Councillor Twigg challenged these remarks and advised the meeting that she had worked closely with Councillor Kuper to reverse the decision to cut the free school meal vouchers.

Councillor Beckford seconded the amendment, which strengthened the original motion by reaffirming the Council's commitment to tackling poverty and inequality while ensuring decisions were made through transparent, accountable governance processes. The amendment supported residents facing financial hardship, explicitly stating that decisions should not leave people without sufficient income to live on. It emphasised the importance of proper financial governance and considering council tax decisions within the budget-setting process, supported by member engagement and scrutiny. Beyond council tax, the amendment adopted a broader anti-poverty agenda, including more ethical debt collection practices, ending the use of bailiffs for

council tax debts, and seeking cross-party support to lobby government for stronger measures to assist the borough's most vulnerable residents.

There followed a debate on the motion and amendment to the motion with the following issues raised by councillors:

Councillor Ovat spoke in favour of the original motion and easing financial pressure on the households that need this support the most and the CTRS helping tackle inequality.

Councillor Joseph spoke of her lived experience in the borough and experiencing debt and bailiffs with a family to look after and the impact this experience has on health outcomes. As a long-standing resident, Councillor Jospeh supported the aims of the amendment for helping residents get out of debt and have access to necessities in this cost-of-living crisis.

Councillor Emery expressed that bailiffs worsened hardship and supported an ethical debt collection approach focused on communication, affordable repayment plans and early support. Councillor Emery outlined that while protecting vulnerable residents remained essential, the Council's severe financial challenges required responsible decision-making. The amendment contained an indication of rent controls which Councillor Emery opposed as they were considered to not have an impact. Councillor Emery emphasised proper consultation and scrutiny on policy decisions and argued that sustainable finances were necessary to preserve services and maintain support for those most in need.

In accordance with Council Standing Order 15.11 Councillor Chandwani was asked to respond to the debate as the mover of the motion.

Councillor Chandwani urged councillors in the chamber to protect the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). Councillor Chandwani called on members to set clear red lines and provide certainty to residents and officers that the CTRS would not be cut. Councillor Chandwani contended that the best way to avoid aggressive debt recovery measures, including bailiffs, attachment to benefits, or earnings, was to prevent low-income residents from becoming liable in the first place. Councillor Chandwani concluded her speech by asking councillors to vote for the original motion to reassure residents that they would not bear the burden of financial cuts and to indicate that as councillors, they were defending those most in need.

The Mayor called for a vote on the amendment to the motion.

Following a vote of 27 members in favour of the amendment and 28 against the amendment and 1 abstention, the amendment was NOT AGREED.

The Mayor called for a vote on the Original Motion.

There were 48 votes in favour and 8 abstentions, and the Original Motion was AGREED.

Motion B

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Proposed by Councillor Seema Chandwani
Seconded by Councillor Ibrahim Ali
This council notes:
- The cost of living crisis remains acute, exacerbated by several wars, tariffs and global warming.
- Many residents in Haringey are unable to absorb rising costs in rents, utilities and food.
- Haringey is the fourth most deprived borough in London, and with rising house and rent prices, some residents are being forced to leave the borough they have called home.
- Haringey Council has always offered a strong Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and applied the use of section 13a to assist a range of groups, including Care Leavers to either exempt or discount low income households.

-The previous administration pushed the envelope of what can be done within its constraints. By lifting council tax relief to 100% for hundreds of Haringey families on low incomes.

-The previous administration also introduced the Haringey Support Fund which helps residents in crisis. Since 2022, it has helped 7500 residents.

- To note the Green Party's Manifesto ambition to "ban the bailiff" on council tax debt however, with a caveat that the use of "attachment to benefits" or "attachment to earnings" is not used as a form of debt collection without sign off from an independent FCA advisor (such as Citizen Advice) that such an approach is not financially leaving residents without sufficient funds to live.

This council believes:
-Council tax is a regressive tax and a deeply flawed way of funding local services, increasing the gap between those who can pay and those who can not.
- Charging low-income households including disabled people, children in households in poverty, and low-income pensioners is counterproductive and pushes people into debt.
- The costs to the Council associated with seeking to collect council tax from those unable to pay is an ineffective use of Council funding and resources.
- That residents facing financial hardship should be supported, not be burdened by additional costs by their own council.
- That removing the CTRS currently in place would result in thousands of families facing a financial cliff edge.

This council resolves:
That it wishes to consider:

- Through the appropriate governance route no changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) during the upcoming budget round.

- To ask Cabinet to continue to find creative ways to expand the Council Tax Hardship Fund to assist low-income households who are facing debt.

- To ask Cabinet to ensure the Crisis and Resilience Fund is not used to fund CTRS or any Council Tax Deductions (Section 13a, SMI etc)

- To ask Cabinet to ensure the Crisis and Resilience Fund is used to help residents build financial resilience and/or crisis situations through a robust anti-poverty strategy and not be used to substitute council revenue.

At the end of the meeting the Mayor thanked all councillors that had asked questions and responded especially those with maiden speeches. The Mayor expressed that this meeting had also been the first use of a gavel and the Mayor underlined that she would prefer that it be the last time. The Mayor expected fewer interruptions and points of order moving forward at meetings and asked all Council members to lead by example and treat each other with respect on all political sides.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair ……..

Date ……