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2ND SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA COUNCIL

22 FEBRUARY 2024

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 10)

To receive and agree the minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 as a correct record (Amended minutes attached.)

12. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME (Pages 11 - 28)

The list of questions and their written responses will be published prior to the meeting (Attached).

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COUNCIL - 24.1.2024

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2024****COUNCILLORS****PRESENT**

Suna Hurman (Mayor), Mohammad Islam (Deputy Mayor), Abdul Abdullahi, Josh Abey, Nicki Adeleke, Mahmut Aksanoglu, Maria Alexandrou, Nawshad Ali, Kate Anolue, Chinelo Anyanwu, Mahym Bedekova, Sinan Boztas, Alev Cazimoglu, Mustafa Cetinkaya, Lee Chamberlain, Hivran Dalkaya, Chris Dey, Hannah Dyson, Elif Erbil, Ergin Erbil, Susan Erbil, Peter Fallart, Reece Fox, Alessandro Georgiou, Margaret Greer, Patricia Gregory, Adrian Grumi, Nelly Gyosheva, Ahmet Hasan, James Hockney, Stephanos Ioannou, Chris James, Rick Jewell, Doris Jiagge, Chris Joannides, Destiny Karakus, Joanne Laban, Tim Leaver, Elisa Morreale, Tom O'Halloran, Sabri Ozaydin, Bektas Ozer, Paul Pratt, Michael Rye OBE, Julian Sampson, Ruby Sampson, George Savva MBE, Edward Smith, Jim Steven, Nia Stevens, Emma Supple, Doug Taylor, Andrew Thorp and Eylem Yuruk

ABSENT

Gunes Akbulut, Nesil Caliskan, Guney Dogan, Thomas Fawns, Ayten Guzel, Andy Milne, Gina Needs, Ahmet Oykenner and David Skelton

THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

Sri, the granddaughter of Guruji Vyas Sharma, spiritual leader from the Dharma Mandir Hindu Temple, gave the blessing, accompanied by youth colleagues.

1**ELECT A PERSON TO PRESIDE IF THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR
ARE NOT PRESENT**

There was no business transacted under this item.

2**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gunes Akbulut, Nesil Caliskan, Guney Dogan, Thomas Fawns, Ayten Guzel, Andy Milne, Gina Needs, Ahmet Oykenner and David Skelton.

3**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting of Council, and wished everyone a very happy new year.

COUNCIL - 24.1.2024

The Mayor firstly took some time to wish fellow Councillor, Gina Needs, a speedy recovery in respect of her recently diagnosed illness and sent all our best wishes to her.

The Mayor informed the Chamber of the sad loss of former Councillor and Cabinet Member Del Goddard. Del was a dedicated public servant for Enfield for many years, being a ward councillor between 1996 – 2014. Following the 2010 council election he was appointed Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration. He was also involved in many other community and partnership organisations. Our sincere condolences go out to his family and friends.

The Mayor was also notified this week of the sad loss of Sylvia Jackson who was a Mayoress in 1990 when her husband, former Councillor John Jackson, was Mayor. Again, our condolences go out to family and friends.

Councillors were invited to say a few words in tribute.

Cllr Doug Taylor spoke of Del Goddard's many roles in the Council and the borough, his keenness to drive forward change, and his long-lasting impact on Enfield. Cllr Michael Rye spoke of his long friendship with Del Goddard and expressed condolences to his wife and family. Cllr Kate Anolue spoke of her work alongside Del Goddard on Orchardside School Governing Body, and expressed sadness at his passing on behalf of the school. Cllr Joanne Laban praised Del Goddard's positivity, and heartfelt actions in support of regeneration and to make Enfield a great place to live, work and visit.

Cllr Michael Rye advised that Sylvia Jackson had been a former Mayoress of Enfield twice and had been civically-minded and active in the borough, serving as a school governor and supporting charities, particularly for children with disabilities.

A minute's silence was marked in respect.

In response to shouting and displaying of flags from the public gallery, and protestors' disregard of warnings given by the Mayor regarding disruption, the meeting was adjourned and councillors, officers and press representatives reconvened to a secondary meeting area.

The Mayor resumed her announcements after the adjournment.

The Mayor stated that she continued to pray for peace for the continuing conflicts in Ukraine, Palestine and Israel and looked forward to communities living in safety and security, enjoying equal rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy.

The Mayor continued to support the residents of Enfield by attending the Citizenship ceremonies that took place most weeks. She was honoured to stand before the new citizens of Enfield. They stood proud to be part of our Borough and she was delighted to receive them. She also continued to attend

COUNCIL - 24.1.2024

local events and was humbled by the kindness shown to her from the residents of Enfield.

In January we remember all the victims of the Holocaust. The Mayor attended a ceremony at City Hall in remembrance, and Enfield would be holding a Holocaust Memorial event on Thursday 25th January at the Dugdale Arts Centre, for which councillors had all received an invitation to attend.

The Mayor requested members' continued professional and orderly conduct during this meeting and reminded them that any members wishing to speak should stand unless they are not able to do so and should address the meeting through her and continue to treat each other courteously and with respect during political interactions.

4

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 November 2023 were received and **AGREED** as a correct record.

5

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor acknowledged that Councillors had received written advice on declarations of interest from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting in relation to the setting of the Council tax base.

The following Councillors declared pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in the following items:

Item 6 – Opposition Priority Business on Protecting Enfield's Green Spaces – Cllrs Julian Sampson, Joanne Laban, Doug Taylor and Emma Supple were a member of an Enfield Golf Club and so declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.

6

OPPOSITION PRIORITY BUSINESS - PROTECTING ENFIELD'S GREEN SPACES

Cllr Julian Sampson introduced the Opposition Priority Business paper on Protecting Enfield's Green Spaces.

Cllr Sampson noted that Enfield's green spaces of all sizes were loved and valued. He had heard prejudice against golf courses for their alleged elitism by the current administration, but stated that golf clubs in Enfield were far from exclusive, and had 2000 members living across the borough. Enfield's golf clubs also had a diverse membership. Golf was an environmentally friendly outdoor leisure pursuit. The new Local Plan was considered to put pockets of green space such as Brimsdown Sports Ground under threat of building

COUNCIL - 24.1.2024

development. As detailed in the paper, areas currently enjoyed as open spaces were identified in the Local Plan for redevelopment, including a crematorium on Haselbury Church Street recreation ground. Loss of green spaces to raise revenue was feared: these were not investments to be priced but community assets to be valued.

Cllr Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council, responded that protection and enhancement of Enfield's green spaces was one of the administration's priorities. Action had already been progressed on woodland creation, rewilding initiatives, and new wetlands. Cllr Erbil felt that the Opposition had misinterpreted the Local Plan: key aspects of it addressed concerns, such as accessibility to all to green spaces, and protection of green sites and noted that wildflower meadows were more protective to biodiversity than golf courses. In respect of Whitewebbs Park, the deal with Tottenham Hotspur would provide new trails and a café, jobs and training, and the woods were excluded from the lease.

Opposition members did not accept the claims that the administration championed the environment. They believed that the Local Plan would identify virtually all open space and green space in the borough as open to development, especially for housing. The Opposition felt that Whitewebbs should be a park for everyone, and hundreds of local residents had made clear their opposition to the deal with Tottenham Hotspur. Residents in the most deprived areas would be hardest hit by Local Plan proposals, such as development at Brimsdown Sports Ground.. The proposal for a crematorium in Haselbury had outraged local residents. Benefits of green spaces for play and exercise were vital and such spaces should not be destroyed when there was an obesity crisis.

In response, Administration members stated that the Council had shown its commitment to enhancing and maintaining the borough's blue and green assets, with numerous projects. The Council won a global Ashden award for Local Nature Recoverers in respect of flood risk mitigation, and had provided 13 new wetlands and planted 130,000 new trees. The health and wellbeing of residents was important, evidenced by funding for sport and leisure and engagement with sports clubs and friends of parks groups. The Local Plan had a role to promote sustainable development, and had an environmental role.

During the debate, a procedural motion was moved by Cllr Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the debate for a further 20 minutes which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

During the extended debate, a further procedural motion was moved by Cllr Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the debate for a further 20 minutes which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

COUNCIL - 24.1.2024

Cllr Julian Sampson, in summing up, advised that the objective of this priority business paper was to highlight the threat to green spaces and golf courses in Enfield. Cllr Sampson invited those present to note a promotional postcard commissioned by the Council itself which included an image of a golfer as part of showing the essence of Enfield. It was clear that some councillors did not value golf, but if courses were lost, other leisure facilities would follow. The borough's green spaces were assets to be treasured by the whole community.

Cllr Ergin Erbil responded that the proposed recommendations in the opposition business paper did not address important issues in respect of climate action. Golf courses involved landfilling, grass cutting and prevention of wildflowers, and use of large amounts of water for maintenance. The Administration prioritised wetland and woodland and meadow creation and greater accessibility to green spaces for all.

After the debate, Members took a vote on whether to approve the Deputy Leader's response to the Conservative Opposition Business paper. Members agreed the Deputy Leader's response.

The recommendations in the Opposition Business paper were therefore not accepted.

The meeting was briefly adjourned at this point and re-commenced in the Council Chamber at 9:10pm.

7

COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATE COLLECTION FUND 2024/25

The Mayor acknowledged that Councillors had received written advice from the Monitoring Officer relating to section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 prior to the meeting and invited Councillors to declare if any were in arrears of Council Tax which had been outstanding for more than two months. There were no declarations.

The Mayor also acknowledged that Councillors had received updates to paragraph 15 and Appendix A of the report.

Cllr Tim Leaver moved, and Cllr Ergin Erbil seconded, the report.

Cllr Leaver introduced the report, which recommended the 2024/25 Council Tax and Business Rate bases. These must be agreed and notified to the Secretary of State and the Greater London Authority by the 31st January.

Last year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Council Tax increase limit was increased from 1.99% to 2.99%, with Adult Social Care precept limit increased from 1% to 2%. This had not changed and gave local authorities the option of increasing Council Tax by a maximum of 4.99%, and this is the rate that Enfield Council would be setting for the period 2024/25. The proposed schedule of discounts and premiums were set out in the report. Proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme were currently subject

COUNCIL - 24.1.2024

to consultation and would be submitted to the next meeting of Council for approval. The report also set out information in relation to the 2024/25 Business Rate base and the transitional relief scheme.

The Opposition expressed their concerns that despite the business rates retention giving the Council 30% of business rate income, debt maintenance took up a lot of funds. There were proposed above-inflation increases in fees and charges, and cuts to some services. Pledges regarding Council Tax Support had been broken: the proposed changes would impact the worst-off residents in the borough. The Council Tax increase would come at time when residents were facing increased costs of living.

Members stated that Enfield Council had one of the strongest schemes for Council Tax Support in London, and a significant percentage of residents received a discount.

Following the debate, Cllr Sabri Ozaydin moved, and Cllr Ergin Erbil seconded, a procedural motion under paragraph 13.20 (v) of the Council's Procedure Rules that the question now be put, which was **AGREED**.

Council was asked to

I. Agree in principle and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of the Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, that the amount calculated by the London Borough of Enfield as its Council Tax Base for 2024/25 shall be 97,786 Band D equivalents.

II. Agree in principle the non-domestic rating income estimate for 2024/25, excluding collection fund adjustments, of £127,764,130.

III. Approve, in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, the revised discretionary power to levy a Council Tax premium of 100% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than one year (but less than five years).

IV. Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement, to adjust and finalise the figures agreed in principle above in light of the feedback to the consultation on the proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme which is currently underway.

The recommendations were put to the vote and **AGREED**.

8

INDEPENDENT PERSONS APPOINTMENT FOR THE COUNCILLOR CONDUCT COMMITTEE

Cllr Sabri Ozaydin moved, and Cllr Ergin Erbil seconded, the report.

Opposition members expressed disappointment that members of the Councillor Conduct Committee had not been invited to take part in the interview process or to meet the candidate before appointment.

COUNCIL - 24.1.2024

The Monitoring Officer gave advice on the process in respect of consultation on the appointment of an Independent Person, and that this was outside the terms of reference of the Councillor Conduct Committee.

Following the debate, Cllr Sabri Ozaydin moved, and Cllr Ergin Erbil seconded, a procedural motion under paragraph 13.20 (v) of the Council's Procedure Rules that the question now be put, which was AGREED.

Council was asked to:

I. Agree to appoint Gary Rogers to the role of Independent Person for a period of two years, and to extend the appointment of the current Independent Person Joan Mansfield until May 2026 so that the committee retains two Independent Person posts.

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Georgiou, and another 11 members of the Council having stood in support of the request, the following votes were recorded:

For:

Cllr Abdul Abdullahi
Cllr Josh Abey
Cllr Nicki Adeleke
Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu
Cllr Nawshad Ali
Cllr Kate Anolue
Cllr Chinelo Anyanwu
Cllr Mahym Bedekova
Cllr Sinan Boztas
Cllr Alev Cazimoglu
Cllr Mustafa Cetinkaya
Cllr Hivran Dalkaya
Cllr Ergin Erbil
Cllr Susan Erbil
Cllr Margaret Greer
Cllr Nelly Gyosheva
Cllr Ahmet Hasan
Cllr Mohammad Islam
Cllr Chris James
Cllr Rick Jewell
Cllr Doris Jiage
Cllr Destiny Karakus
Cllr Tim Leaver
Cllr Sabri Ozaydin
Cllr Bektas Ozer
Cllr George Savva
Cllr Nia Stevens
Cllr Doug Taylor
Cllr Eylem Yuruk

COUNCIL - 24.1.2024

Abstain:

Cllr Maria Alexandrou
Cllr Lee Chamberlain
Cllr Chris Dey
Cllr Hannah Dyson
Cllr Peter Fallart
Cllr Reece Fox
Cllr Alessandro Georgiou
Cllr Pat Gregory
Cllr Adrian Grumi
Cllr James Hockney
Cllr Stephanos Ioannou
Cllr Chris Joannides
Cllr Joanne Laban
Cllr Elisa Morreale
Cllr Tom O'Halloran
Cllr Paul Pratt
Cllr Michael Rye
Cllr Julian Sampson
Cllr Ruby Sampson
Cllr Edward Smith
Cllr Jim Steven
Cllr Emma Supple
Cllr Andrew Thorp

The recommendations having been put to the vote were **AGREED**.

9

CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

A procedural motion was moved by Cllr Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil under paragraph 13.20 (iii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to change the order of business on the agenda so the Motions would be taken as the next item of business and **AGREED**.

Cllr Sabri Ozaydin moved to change the order of Motions so that Motion numbers 10.6 and 10.7 would be taken in that order which was seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil and **AGREED**.

10

MOTIONS

10.6 Motion in the name of Councillor Kate Anolue

"The first few days of a newborn's life is not only critical for the child, but also an important time to support mothers towards a successful breastfeeding.

The World Health Organisation currently recommends exclusive breastfeeding for six months due to the endless benefits breast milk provides to both baby and mother.

COUNCIL - 24.1.2024

Research by WHO on 16 European countries found that breastfeeding can cut the chances of a child becoming obese by up to 25%, and each additional month of breastfeeding was associated with 4% reduction in the prevalence of overweight.

We call on our Council to commit to further effort to support breastfeeding parents.

To develop a visible scheme that encourages businesses, shops, cafes, restaurants, leisure centres and libraries to be supportive to mums who wishes to breastfeed their babies while shopping.”

Following the debate, the Motion was **AGREED**.

The remainder of Motions lapsed under the guillotine arrangements.

**11
COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME**

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements, answers to questions were taken as printed in the supplementary agenda.

**12
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

There were no changes to committee memberships.

**13
NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no changes to outside bodies memberships.

**14
DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Thursday 22 February 2024 at 7pm.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor expressed congratulations to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council, and her husband on becoming parents, and to Cllr Alev Cazimoglu on becoming a grandmother.

The Mayor re-iterated best wishes to Cllr Gina Needs for a speedy recovery, and that flowers had been sent to Cllr Needs on behalf of all Enfield councillors.

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Questions for February 2024 Council**Question 1 from Councillor Nelly Gyosheva to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council**

How did Enfield Council mark the first anniversary of the devastating earthquakes in Turkey & Syria?

Answer

To mark the anniversary of the earthquakes, six cherry blossom trees were planted in Pymmes Park at a ceremony on 6 February.

We know that the devastating earthquakes have impacted many people in the borough who have friends and family from the affected regions.

I would like to encourage everyone to visit the park when they can and take a moment for some quiet reflection.

Question 2 from Councillor Joanne Laban to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy

Could the Cabinet Member confirm when Edmonton Leisure Centre will be reopening?

Answer

Intrusive condition assessments of the building, air handling system, and pool plant are ongoing at Edmonton Leisure Centre. The surveys will be finished next week, and we await the findings from the surveys before committing to dates.

Whilst the centre has remained closed, officers have worked with the leisure operator to relocate all the clubs that used the centre to alternative venues, and the memberships of Edmonton Leisure Centre users have been upgraded to enable them to use any of the other leisure centres managed by Greenwich Leisure Ltd. (who trade as Better) in the borough.

Question 3 from Councillor Gunes Akbulut to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

Can the Deputy Leader recap the events that took place in Enfield to mark Holocaust Memorial Day this year?

Answer

The Council delivered a highly successful Holocaust Memorial Day event on Thursday 25 January 2024 at the Dugdale Arts Centre in Enfield Town hosted by our Acting Leader, Cllr Ergin Erbil. This year's theme was the 'Fragility of Freedom'.

We were grateful this year to have involvement from our local Rabbi's, the Roma Support Group, Wolfson-Hillel Jewish Primary School in Southgate, St Anne's Catholic High School, and Chace Community School in Enfield Town and our respective elected member leadership.

This 'live' event was well attended, and we have received positive feedback from those who were there as to how moving and thought provoking it was.

We once again took the opportunity to record the event and post it on the Council YouTube channel on 27 January 2024 for all residents to view. As of 15 February 2024, almost 700 people have taken this opportunity to watch the event online.

In addition to hosting our annual event, we took the opportunity to light the Civic Centre in the purple light of the Holocaust Memorial Day flame from dusk on Saturday 27 January 2024 to dawn on Sunday 28 January 2024.

Question 4 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Could he provide the figures for the amount of the revenue budget both General Fund and HRA spent supporting borrowing (debt) at the Budget Setting Council Meetings in 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, 2024?

Answer

Revenue budgets for debt costs						
	GF	HRA	Total	Net Revenue Budget (NRB)	GF Debt % of NRB	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	%	
2010/11	20.393	3.642	24.035	242.576	8.4%	
2014/15	19.526	7.327	26.853	253.211	7.7%	
2018/19	4.443 *	8.159	12.602	227.861	1.9%	
2022/23	22.669	11.267	33.936	259.825	8.7%	
2023/24	29.500	11.800	41.300	286.842	10.3%	
2024/25	31.369	15.230	46.599	315.090	10.0%	

*The Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy was reviewed by the Council's advisors for the 2018/19 financial year. This resulted in a one-off significant reduction in the MRP for that year.

Question 5 from Councillor Josh Abey to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Can the Cabinet Member set out how much of the recent additional funding for local government will be allocated to Enfield, and how does this compare to other London boroughs?

Answer

The Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25 was announced on the 5th February and included an additional £600m of funding being made available nationally, of which £500m was for Social Care.

The outcome being that Enfield has benefited from an additional £2.752m in the final settlement when compared to the provisional settlement that was published just before Christmas.

Yet, despite this welcomed additional funding, Enfield's increase of 6.5% in Core Spending Power for 2024/25 remains the second lowest in London (when excluding the City of London), with the average increase across London being 7.3%.

Question 6 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

With the council reviewing the opening hours for Barrowell Green, can the Cabinet Member advise what is the process for this, will there be a Consultation and what opening hours are being considered? How will this impact fly tipping?

Answer

Given the years of austerity and on-going challenges within public sector finances, departments have been asked to explore where further budget savings may be made. Barrowell Green's operating hours are an area officers are looking at as there may be possible savings associated with reducing the operating hours of the site.

Any decision on operating hours would be considered alongside the opening of the additional new reuse and recycling centre at the EcoPark in Edmonton later this year.

Question 7 from Councillor Nicki Adeleke to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

Can the Cabinet Member set out what measures in the budget will help some of our most vulnerable residents through the cost of living crisis?

Answer

The Council's Welfare Advice and Debt Support Team provide help to over 3,000 residents a year. This is a discretionary service and the team's role is to make sure residents are advised and helped to claim all the government benefits they are entitled to, and to help those with complex needs sort any council debt issues, making referrals to Citizens Advice for wider debt issues.

The government funding for welfare assistance ceased in 2014/15 and since this time the Council has continued to provide discretionary hardship payments from its reserves and more latterly via the Household Support Fund.

The final government settlement did not provide any future allocations for the Household Support Fund. I have written to the Minister to lobby for the continuation of this grant during this cost of living crisis.

Question 8 from Councillor Maria Alexandrou to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Can the Cabinet Member advise what the Council believes will be the impact on traffic and pollution if it introduces more Quieter Neighbourhood Schemes like Bowes East and Edmonton Green in the future?

Answer

Quieter Neighbourhoods are one part of a wider long-term strategy to enable more

sustainable journeys. The Bowes East and Edmonton Green Quieter Neighbourhoods are in the design stage.

Early engagement to gather ideas and issues took place in the Autumn of 2023. More recently, phase 2 engagement on some specific design proposals has taken place. This engagement included a blend of digital and in-person events.

Designs are now undergoing further review. There will be several factors that will need to be considered before any decision on any implementation. Traffic impacts and considerations on air quality will form part of this assessment.

If projects are taken forward, public reports will be produced which will set out further detail.

Question 9 from Councillor Nawshad Ali to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services

Can the Cabinet Member for Children’s Service explain how the recently passed motion recognising care experienced people as a protected characteristic has been implemented?

Answer

A motion was passed at November’s Full Council that children and young people who have spent 13 weeks or more in local authority care will be protected from discrimination by Enfield Council in the same way age, disability or religion are currently protected. Since then, care experience has been included in the Councils’ equality impact assessment template. This means that key decisions and policies made by the Council now include an assessment of impact on people who have had care experience.

All business managers within directorates have been briefed on changes to the current EQUIA to ensure they advise report authors to include care experience.

Children and Family Services already prioritise care leavers within recruitment, including social work apprenticeships.

Children and Family Services are in the process of working with HR to develop a process that enables guaranteed interviews for care leavers who meet the minimum requirements for advertised roles.

Question 10 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

Will the Acting Leader give an undertaking to allow 12 weeks for the Regulation 19 Consultation on the draft Local Plan?

Answer

The Council is required to undertake a formal consultation on the publication of the Enfield Local Plan and its associated documents for a minimum six-week period pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Local Plan Regulation. The recommendation put forward by Officers proposes a minor extension of the duration to 7 weeks, commencing on Thursday, 28 March, and concluding on Monday 20 May 2024.

This extension, slightly exceeds the minimum 6-week period, considers religious festivals, public holidays and other relevant circumstances, where known in line with the requirements set out in the Statement of Community Involvement.

It is essential to note that the Council opted to pre-publish the draft Local Plan in its near and final form on 6 December 2023, a noteworthy 12 weeks prior to the scheduled Full Council meeting on 6 March 2024.

This proactive approach is designed to support all Councillors and residents in understanding Local Plan and preparing for Regulation 19. The decision reflects a commitment to transparency and openness in the Local Plan process.

Question 11 from Councillor Sinan Boztas to Councillor Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Enfield Council has committed to increasing SEND places in the borough. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on current progress?

Answer

Over the past 5 years several hundred additional SEND places have been created to meet the growing demand for specialist placements for children with special needs. This has included the expansion of all our special schools, the rebuild and expansion of Fern House and the provision of a new school, Salmons Brook, to meet the needs of older children with social, emotional and mental health needs.

There are now 18 specialist resource bases for SEND pupils in mainstream schools allowing SEND pupils to access some of a mainstream curriculum. There are also 5 specialist units created over the past 2 years which are in effect special schools within a mainstream setting.

In terms of current progress, the DfE have agreed to the building of a new primary special school for autism and complex needs for up to 96 pupils which we hope can be built and start admitting pupils by 2026 (subject to planning and site considerations). In addition, a capital fund has been put in place to support further schools take on resource bases and units.

The Swan Centre in Ponders End has been reconditioned for West Lea School and will cater for up to 100 places and the Sixth Form Development at Winchmore School will provide an additional 20 places for SEND pupils.

Question 12 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

Can the Deputy Leader please update Members on the progress with the 50 additional enforcement officers?

Answer

As part of developing the community law enforcement team, officers have visited other London Boroughs such as Hackney and Hammersmith & Fulham who have similar teams in place. This will help shape options on how the preferred service we would like to offer will look and operate. These visits have been very informative in the way the teams are structured, systems used and the various operating models that are in place. We are currently reviewing costs for the operating model that would

best suit our needs in Enfield.

In the meantime, we have recruited two additional ASB wardens on a two-year contracts, and Housing Services have restructured some roles in the service to create positions which will deal specifically with ASB across our estates, with three people in post. Additionally, we are revising our ASB policy, so residents know what to expect from the Council and we continue to strengthen our partnerships with the police to address concerns.

Finally, Officers will be confirming with the Borough Commander how the recent London Mayor's commitment to increasing the MPS neighbourhood policing plan will be developed and aligned with our commitment to make the borough's streets safer.

Question 13 from Councillor Destiny Karakus to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Can the Cabinet Member set out how the recently adopted domestic violence housing policy will enable the council to support victims and survivors and take a zero-tolerance approach to perpetrators?

Answer

The policy sets a clear standard – we will treat every victim with dignity, and have zero tolerance to perpetrators, and further confirms our commitment to early help and tailored support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

The Council is committed to working with the police and its partner agencies in supporting victims and survivors. We will discuss all measures against perpetrators with the victims and we will work with the police at every stage, who will always treat these cases with urgency.

In terms of support, we were the first council in London to receive the title of 'White Ribbon Authority' – committing us to end male violence against women and girls. In practice, this means every housing team will have a domestic abuse white ribbon accredited champion or ambassador.

We deliver a 'locks and bolts' service to provide additional security for victims, and will take robust legal action against perpetrators including, but not limited to, taking out non-molestation orders, injunctions with a power of arrest, domestic violence prevention notices which prohibit the perpetrator from contacting the victim, and eviction in cases where a council tenancy is held.

Housing Officers have specialist training and follow a trauma-informed approach and will try and encourage perpetrators to access services and take responsibility for their actions.

We will ensure that victims of domestic abuse know that we are on their side, and that help is available.

Question 14 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

As of the latest figures you have, how many residents are still living in the unsafe Shires Estate Tower Blocks?

Answer

As reported in January Council, the blocks have the recommended safety mitigation measures in place to allow for the prioritised decanting which is progressing well. I therefore refute the premise of the question.

We now have 43 secure council tenants residing at Shropshire and Cheshire House out of the 204 properties in both buildings, with 9 of these households due to view an offer.

A range of work is progressing to maximise the acceptance of offers and moves.

Question 15 from Councillor Doris Jiagge to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the progress of the Reardon Court development?

Answer

The delivery of Reardon Court, which is part of the Council's 3,500 home direct delivery housing development programme is progressing well, with the facility due for completion in Spring 2024.

The scheme will deliver accessible one and two-bedroom homes for affordable rent. Residents will be able to live independently, with 24-hour access to onsite support and care services. They will also have access to landscaped courtyards, a communal lounge, a multi-use hobby room, laundry facilities and a hairdresser/wellbeing room

We are targeting access to the homes by residents that need them most through our Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) partners as well as in our social care, health and housing teams.

Question 16 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

As it has been reported that Enfield Council stopped all housing repairs, except emergency ones, in November 2023, I ask that the Cabinet Member set out the full details of the situation, making clear the reason for the shutdown, when the service shutdown began, who was informed, who agreed to it; and when this shameful service shutdown will end?

Answer

We continue to provide the best possible Repairs Service for our residents – in December we completed 99% of emergency repairs within target. This includes work on heating failures and responding to reports of damp and mould. I can also reassure Council that our landlord Health and Safety works continue to meet and exceed our targets, including sustained 100% gas safety certification.

From November 2023, as allowed by our Repairs Policy, we started programming non-emergency repairs for delivery in a planned, rather than responsive way. This

slight change of approach was communicated to residents individually when they contracted us and was freely available on our website.

Work to deliver the 600 repairs grouped by type and location so we can deliver the works in a planned, efficient manner has progressed, and we started to deliver these works on 5th February and we will continue to deliver works in this more cost-effective and planned way, getting the best value for residents of our Council homes.

The average performance for London Boroughs completing non-emergency repairs within target is 75%, compared to Enfield Council's figure of 94%.

Question 17 from Councillor Ahmet Hasan to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy

What events has the Council facilitated for residents in the borough to celebrate LGBT History Month?

Answer

February is LGBT+ History Month, when we celebrate the history of the LGBT+ community. This year's theme is Medicine, highlighting the important role LGBT+ people have contributed to healthcare and medicine both historically and today.

To celebrate this, we've arranged a special talk from the LGBT Network Enfield at Palmers Green Library on Monday 26th February from 12:30 to 2:30pm. This talk is targeted for adults and young adults.

The LGBT+ Network and the culture team will look to see how we can engage with residents going forward

Question 18 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor George Savva, Cabinet Member for Social Housing

I ask the Cabinet Member to set out on a monthly basis by category the number of repairs with the total spend and monthly actual available funds for all housing repairs which have been conducted each month from 1st January 2023 up to 31st January 2024.

Answer

The information on repairs and financial performance is freely available and can be found in the reports to Cabinet via the Corporate Performance dashboard and the budget updates on the Housing Revenue Account.

Naturally, responsive repair forms only part of the Council's maintenance and improvement of its Council housing stock. Indeed, so far in this financial year we have invested in improvements to resident's homes, to some 2500 homes including new kitchens, bathrooms, upgraded heating systems and of course works to improve resident safety. This shows our continued delivery of the Good Growth Strategy agreed in 2020 which prioritised investment in existing homes and set aside over £200m for this purpose addressing what was a two-decade backlog of decent homes investment requirements.

The HRA report in this meeting sets out a further £50m investment planned in our existing stock in 2024/25.

Question 19 from Councillor Chris James to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy

How will the recent lottery funding awarded to the Council help develop Broomfield Park into an asset for the community and protect this important heritage site?

Answer

Enfield Council was recently awarded £532,490 of grant funding from the National Lottery for the development phase of Unlocking Broomfield Park project. A conservation architect-led design team will be procured to develop plans for the memorialisation of Broomfield House and the improvement of the historic park. The project will both enhance the park's role as an asset for the community and protect the site's heritage.

With regard to the park, the central workstream of memorialising Broomfield House will be undertaken in collaboration with the community and local groups. During the Development Phase, there will be three pilot projects to involve young people, families, older and socially isolated people whose voices are not always heard: a community archaeology project; a mural hoardings projects and the piloting of heath and mindfulness walks.

The project will bolster volunteering and encourage participation and community ownership of the park. In terms of specific outputs during the Delivery Phase, two of the lakes will be desilted, the habitat of the swans will be restored, and more open lawn space will be returned to the public by removal of the hoarding.

With respect to the heritage, the central objective of the project is to improve the legibility of the historic landscape and restore the relationship between the memorialised house and the park.

The project has been developed in collaboration with Historic England and other heritage organisations. Once delivered, the Council hopes to have both the House and the Park removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.

Question 20 from Councillor Lee Chamberlain to Councillor Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council

In your reply to question 20 (January 2024 Council) you stated only 80 of the promised hundreds of overdue Meridian Water homes would be delivered by 1 April 2024. I ask that you now confirm how many Meridian Water homes which were said in 2022 would be delivered in 2023, were not delivered in 2023?

Answer

According to the developer's programmes issued in 2022, 300 homes were due to be completed by the end of March 2023. There are several reasons for the extended period for completion, including the construction methodology evolving across the site due to the architectural design standards required for this project, which

substantially impacted on anticipated build duration. The build sequence has also been amended to allow for an improved resident occupation strategy.

Resequencing was pivotal to ensuring the first set of residents are provided with safe and appealing access and that disruption that arises from construction works is minimised whilst other blocks are being built. Officers are working in close collaboration with our partners Countryside who are developing the site to mitigate against any further delays which are controllable. Officers continue to task Countryside to seek betterment in their programme.

Against the backdrop of Government indecisiveness and unclear changes to building regulations and legislation, the project is expected to deliver 280 new homes in 2024/25. These will be built alongside the infrastructure to support the project, thanks to government infrastructure grants – a clear vote of confidence from the government in our regeneration project – which will see two new parks, four new bridges, flood alleviation and sustainable drainage, new utility network, and a central spine road and branch roads

Question 21 from Councillor Hivran Dalkaya to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

How has the Council marked HIV testing week, encouraged residents to get tested, and know their status?

Answer

As part of National HIV Testing Week this February, the LGBTQ+ Network and Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) ran a pop-up HIV testing clinic in the Electoral Services meeting room (opposite the Civic Centre coffee cart) on the 6 February from 11am to 2pm. These was a free and confidential walk-in session.

The Enfield Sexual Service also promoted HIV testing Week at the clinics through North Middlesex Hospital's Facebook page, resulting in greater access to their walk-in sessions for HIV testing, and increased the number of PrEP clinics. The clinics worked collaboratively with THT, with THT having an increased presence within the Town Clinic, as well as in the community and APC North Middx Hospital also offering HIV testing and support.

Question 22 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

Residents have reported concerns when works to trees are carried out without prior warning. When works are being completed on tree lined roads please can all residents receive a letter explaining what works are being completed and when the works will take place?

Answer

Council contractors attach signs to each tree providing 1 weeks' prior notice to residents of planned tree works. In cases where contractors are unable to carry out work due to vehicles blocking access, they undertake several repeat visits to the road to try to complete the works and amend dates on the notification signs. After

several repeat attempts, letters are posted through every property on the road two weeks before the agreed date of works.

Question 23 from Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu to Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

What reform, if any, have the government implemented in the social care sector following the Dilnot Commission, and how has this benefited the Council or our residents?

Answer

One of the key recommendations from Sir Andrew Dilnot's Commission report was the cap on care costs over a person's lifetime and some fundamental changes to how social care support is funded and paid for by residents accessing services. This was brought forward in 2022 but subsequently deferred to 2025.

Funding made available by government to Councils to pay for this was still allocated to councils to fund cost increases in adult social care both as a result of higher inflation and significant increases in the national living wage.

This was and still is not enough, and delegating local tax raising powers to local authorities through the adult social care precept has served only to shift the burden of funding critical council services experiencing huge increases in demand on to councils which have seen massive real terms cuts in government funding since 2010.

However, other recommendations linked to eligibility criteria and integration between health and social care as well as a stronger focus on early intervention and prevention have been progressed since the recommendations were made back in 2011. The introduction of the Care Act 2014 and the Health and Care Act 2022 most notably have brought these recommendations together and are part of the NHS and Council's statutory duties.

Nevertheless, pressures across the health and social care system because of the pandemic and subsequent financial crisis have made this extremely challenging. In Enfield, our health and social care system does work well together to the benefit of local residents, but it would be fair to say that there is still too much of a focus on crisis response across our system.

Question 24 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

How many fees and charges are being increased at the current level of inflation, above the current level of inflation and below the current level of inflation?

Answer

The majority of the fees and charges have increased at or marginally above inflation of 9% based on July CPI.

Where the fees and charges have increased by less than inflation this is due to market factors, benchmarking or restrictions based on cost recovery only.

Statutory fees and charges are set and updated by central government, therefore the Council has no control over these charges.

Question 25 from Councillor Ayten Guzel to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning & Regulatory Services

How will Enfield Council ensure that the recent ban on disposable vapes is enforced in the borough?

Answer

We acknowledge the role that vaping products can play in aiding adults to stop smoking, as smoking is the leading cause of early deaths and preventable illness. However, we also recognise the importance of the new Government proposals, given the impact of certain vaping products, specifically on young people.

The Council's approach towards vaping is focused on reducing the public health impact on young people with Trading Standards activity focusing on engaging with retailers across the borough.

We will be seeking further detailed information from government on the proposed measures, along with an outline of the potential timescales with regard to their implementation. We fully support the introduction of new measures to curb the accessibility and appeal of vaping products to children and young people, restricting flavours and their descriptions, removal of enticing branding and packaging and reduce their affordability.

The Council support restrictions on disposable vapes to mitigate environmental risks. The Council also support new measures to tackle illegal products and proposed enhancement to the legislative framework.

Question 26 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

How can you justify increasing the green bin charge from £80 per annum to £100 per annum a whopping 25% increase, especially when fly-tipping remains a significant problem across the borough?

Answer

It is never an easy decision to increase charges for residents. However, like many other industries, inflation has also affected the Council, meaning that a change to the subscription charge is required to continue being able to provide this service.

Many of our costs have also increased above inflation, including transport-related operating costs and fuel. This is against a backdrop of our core government funding being cut by 42.4% since 2010.

We recognise that some will be concerned with the new price, which is why we have put in place other options to dispose of garden waste. This includes:

- providing the option to bin share with your neighbours, sharing the cost for one bin across multiple households.
- compost bins are available free of charge.

- Barrowell Recycling Centre continues to accept garden waste, with pedestrian access to the site.

To deliver a balanced budget, we have had to make difficult decisions, and this change will allow us to continue green waste collections for residents.

Enfield Council recently carried out a benchmarking exercise with other London Councils regarding their garden waste collection charges, which helped inform our decision. Some London Councils have increased their subscription fee on an annual basis; however, Enfield held the charges at the same level for the first three years and only increased the charge for the first time in 2022.

All income collected through the charge is re-invested in the Waste Service to deliver our green waste collections and other waste services effectively and efficiently.

Question 27 from Councillor Nia Stevens to Councillor Susan Erbil, Cabinet Member for Licensing, Planning & Regulatory Services

What steps has the Council taken to improve Development Management performance in planning, and how will the Council ensure this continues?

Answer

Over the past 16 months, Development Management has been on transformational journey. The service has implemented new ways of working to improve performance, officer wellbeing, and ultimately deliver a better service to our customers and quality outcomes for our communities.

At the start of this process, the Development Management team had over 2200 applications on hand, most of which were over target/backlog cases. This has reduced now to 619 cases, with the majority of new applications being determined within statutory timeframes.

This has been achieved through the hard work of officers, supported by initiatives to streamline the planning application process, such as the use of rationalised report templates, standardising reasons for refusal, setting out clear expectations to agents, and utilising tech support officers to determine straightforward applications. More widely the process of consulting with internal consultees has also been streamlined to help avoid delays in decision making.

We will continue to robustly monitor performance every week and review how we work to ensure workloads remain manageable. We have commenced a review of how we manage appeals, pre-applications and Planning Performance Agreements to ensure that we are working efficiently and delivering high-quality outcomes for our customers.

We have also been implementing and exploring ways to commercialise our service to provide financial resilience and ensure we are appropriately resourced to manage workloads effectively going forward.

Question 28 from Councillor Michael Rye to Councillor Tim Leaver, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement

How much has been taken from reserves to balance the budget in 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and does he agree that this is an unsustainable policy?

Answer

The Council aims to balance the budget without the use of reserves. However, since 2020/21 a total of £5.477m use of reserves has been planned in setting the annual budget. The table below summarises the balances used each year since 2020/21, demonstrating that the planned use had been less than £2m per year and nothing required in 2023/24. This has also been the case in setting the budget for 2024/25.

Despite planning to use reserves to balance the budget in both 2020/21 and 2021/22 this was not necessary when we reached the final outturn figures. However for 22/23 and 23/24, we will be required to drawdown from reserves to address our in-year homeless budget pressures, totalling £51.178m. This pressure is being felt by councils across the country as the impact of rising interest rates continues to be felt in the private rented sector. The Council continues to lobby the government to provide financial support for temporary accommodation pressures.

Further, in 2022/23, there was also a planned use of Covid19 reserves totalling £9.9m, this was Covid19 specific rather than part of the core budget.

Question 29 from Councillor Mahym Bedekova to Councillor Rick Jewell, Cabinet Member for Environment

How will the recent TfL funding allocation to Enfield Council contribute towards the delivery of the Mayor of London's Vision Zero?

Answer

TfL have recently confirmed funding allocations for 2024/25 to help deliver the Mayor's Transport Strategy. Enfield received an allocation of just over £3.8m, the second-highest London borough allocation.

The funding will help make our roads safer and contribute to the Mayor's Vision Zero in several ways, either directly or indirectly.

Firstly, we have an allocation of just under £0.5m for a range of projects targeted at known collision hot-spots, such as in Church Street N9, Fore Street N18 and Hertford Road EN8. Some of this allocation will also be used to develop and deliver a programme of more localised interventions to improve road safety.

Secondly, an allocation of just under £2m will be used to continue our plans to introduce safe walking and cycling facilities across the borough, promote active travel, as well further Quieter Neighbourhoods to reduce road danger in residential areas and more school streets.

Finally, TfL have allocated just over £1m to help implement the first phase of the Enfield Town Liveable Neighbourhoods scheme, which will introduce safer facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as enhance the public realm for everyone.

**Question 30 from Councillor Chris Dey to Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu,
Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy**

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on how the tendering process for leasing out the park café's is progressing and also can a date be given as to when the cafes will be operational again?

Answer

The successful bidders for Trent Park, Whitewebbs and Oakwood Park cafes have received heads of terms for their leases and officers continue dialog with the operators. The notice served against the former operator of the cafes expires on the 13th of March 2024, and at that stage, the leases with the new operators will start and they will be able to commence their necessary refurbishments of the cafes.

Unfortunately, the successful bidder for Town Park café, has declined to continue in the process for tenancy, and officers are discussing the opportunity with the other providers who scored well in the tender process but were initially unsuccessful. At this time, this does not represent an additional delay in reopening processes.

We are working closely with the proposed operators to facilitate reopening as quickly as possible, but their timelines are dependent on their contractors, and when the refurbishments will be completed. The feedback from the operators has been similar by reiterating their commitment to a long and successful tenancy at each café, and they are protecting their brand image and reputation by launching a full service after renovations have been completed.

The reopening dates are specific for each cafe, and its refurbishment needs. Through ongoing correspondence with proposed tenants, Whitewebbs Park Cafe late March is realistic, and Oakwood Park Cafe proposed the first week of April as a provisional reopening date.

To mitigate the demand for café services, mobile concessions are continuing to provide support where possible to bridge the gap in service provision.

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Quick Guide to Procedure Rules

Motions which may be moved during debate **13.20** (at the end of a councillor's speech):

- Withdraw a motion or recommendation; 13.20 (i)
- Amend a motion or recommendation; 13.20 (ii)
- Amend the timings or the order of business under Rule 4 to allow further time for debate; 13.20 (iii)
- Proceed to the next business; 13.20 (iv)
- Request the question be now put; 13.20 (v)
- Adjourn a debate; 13.20 (vi)
- Adjourn the meeting; 13.20 (vii)
- Allow further time for debate on the item and to Vary the timings set out in the agenda and/or to extend the meeting; 13.20 (viii)

Point of Order **13.35**

A councillor may only raise a point of order at the end of the speech to which it relates. A point of order must relate to an alleged breach of these Council Rules of Procedure or the law. The councillor must indicate the rule or law and the way in which they consider it has been broken. The councillor's speech will be limited to 1 minute, with any additional time to be agreed at the discretion of the Mayor. The ruling of the Mayor on the matter will be final.

Personal Explanation **13.36**

A councillor may only make a point of personal explanation at the end of the speech to which it relates. A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of the earlier speech by the councillor, which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate. The councillor's speech will be limited to 1 minute, with any additional time to be agreed at the discretion of the Mayor. The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

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