

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2019**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Saray Karakus (Mayor), Kate Anolue (Deputy Mayor), Huseyin Akpinar, Mahmut Aksanoglu, Maria Alexandrou, Daniel Anderson, Tolga Aramaz, Dinah Barry, Ian Barnes, Mahym Bedekova, Chris Bond, Sinan Boztas, Yasemin Brett, Anne Brown, Alev Cazimoglu, Nesil Caliskan, Mustafa Cetinkaya, Katherine Chibah, Lee David-Sanders, Birsen Demirel, Clare De Silva, Chris Dey, Guney Dogan, Elif Erbil, Ergin Erbil, Susan Erbil, Achilleas Georgiou, Alessandro Georgiou, Margaret Greer, Charith Gunawardena, Christine Hamilton, Ahmet Hasan, Stephanos Ioannou, Rick Jewell, Nneka Keazor, Joanne Laban, Bernadette Lappage, Dino Lemonides, Tim Leaver, Derek Levy, Mary Maguire, Andy Milne, Gina Needs, Terence Neville OBE JP, Ayfer Orhan, Ahmet Oykenner, Sabri Ozaydin, Vicki Pite, Lindsay Rawlings, Michael Rye OBE, George Savva MBE, Edward Smith, Jim Steven, Claire Stewart, Doug Taylor, Glynis Vince and Hass Yusuf

ABSENT Guner Aydin, Will Coleshill, Ergun Eren, Elaine Hayward, James Hockney and Mahtab Uddin

1

THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

The Mayor's Chaplain, Dede, Ali Dereli, and Greg Ryan from the Alevi community gave the blessing.

2

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORDINARY BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Death of Former Councillor and Freeman of the Borough – Brian Grayston

The Mayor regretfully advised members of the death of freeman of the borough and former councillor, Mr Brian Grayston, who had passed away on Friday 15 February 2019.

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She sent members' thoughts and prayers to his family and friends, and invited Councillor Taylor to say a few words in remembrance.

Councillor Taylor praised Brian Grayston and the contribution he had made to the borough, particularly in the field of education. He had first joined the Council in 1961 and had been elected to the Council on 6 separate occasions including as a founder member of the new borough of Enfield in 1964.

Brian Grayston had been a powerful orator, a true socialist, committed to social change, equality of opportunity and fairness. He had believed in public service and its ability to empower and improve. He had made a real difference in Enfield, not only on the Council, but also through his work with Enfield in Bloom.

Councillor Vince echoed the comments of Councillor Taylor and said that although she did not agree with his politics, she had respected Brian Grayston and recognised his care for the children of Enfield. Her memories included a very dapper dresser and she had personally appreciated his calm support when they had travelled together to a conference in Ashford, returning in monsoon rain.

Councillor Achilleas Georgiou said Brian Grayston had been fiery and full of passion. A lasting memory he had had of Brian Grayston had been the speech he had made at the last Council before the 1994 elections which, Achilleas Georgiou had thought, was one of the best speeches he had ever heard. He had spoken with such heartfelt passion about education.

Brian Grayston had been Mr Education, as well as a good friend. Councillor Georgiou had personally learnt a lot from him and he hoped that members would raise a glass to him in the parlour, after the meeting.

A minute's silence was held in his memory.

2. Thank yous

The Mayor began, as this was her last formal Council meeting as chair, by thanking the Council officers and her fellow councillors for the hard work that had gone into the preparations for the evening and into all previous Council meetings.

The Mayor thanked all the members of the community that she had met during her term as Mayor: the many individuals who worked tirelessly and voluntarily for the community that had touched her heart. She commended the work that they did saying without these people, many vulnerable and isolated residents would suffer quietly. She sent them her best wishes.

3. Together we are Enfield

The Mayor spoke about her show "Together We Are Enfield" which had taken place at Millfield Theatre on the previous evening. For the last few months

she had been busy producing the show with Platinum Performing Arts. It had been a very successful evening, completely sold out.

The Mayor thanked all those who had come along and everyone who had made it such a fantastic evening. In the show she had wanted to talk about all the wonderful people of Enfield who worked really hard to improve people's lives, to protect Enfield's beauties and to touch base on the incredible history of the borough. She felt that there was so much going on and that this should be recognised and celebrated.

The Mayor believed that they had produced a great work of art and was grateful for the huge support of the Platinum Team. Feedback had been amazing. It had been a wonderful work of art for such a great cause.

The Mayor hoped that the evening would go smoothly and invited everyone for a drink in the parlour after the meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

4 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aydin, Eren, Hayward, Hockney and Uddin and for lateness from Councillor Elif Erbil.

5 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Before inviting members to declare any interests, the Mayor asked Jeremy Chambers (Director Law and Governance) to make a short statement on the declaration of interests' requirements, in relation to agenda item 6 (Budget Report 2019/20 and Medium-Term Financial Plan).

NOTED

1. Under guidance issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government there was no requirement for members to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPA) in relation to item 6 on the budget or setting of the Council Tax.

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2. The requirements within Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 would, however, still applied, which required any Member who was two or more months in arrears on their Council Tax to declare their position and not vote on any issue that could affect the calculation of the budget or Council Tax. No declarations in this respect were made at the meeting.
3. Having noted the advice provided, the following interests were declared:
 - Councillors Maguire and Stewart declared non-pecuniary interests in item 10 the review and adoption of the pay policy statement.
 - Councillor Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Items 6, 7, and 8 as a director of Energetik.
 - Councillor Laban declared a non-pecuniary interest in Motion 11.8.
 - Councillor Alex Georgiou declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9.
 - Councillor Rawlings declared a non-pecuniary interest in Motion 11.2 as a member of Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth.

6

BUDGET REPORT 2019/20 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/20 TO 2022/23 (GENERAL FUND)

Councillor Maguire moved and Councillor Caliskan seconded the report of the Director of Finance, (Report No: 160) presenting for approval the Budget for 2019/20 and the Medium -Term Financial Plan.

NOTED

1. Recommendations 2.1 – 2.10 had been endorsed and recommended onto Council for formal approval by Cabinet on 13 February 2019.
2. The tabled note setting out how the discussion of the item would be considered at the meeting.
3. The following comments highlighted by Councillor Maguire, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement when moving the report.
 - a. The Cabinet Member thanked officers for all their hard work in putting together the budget and for putting up with the rigorous interrogation of the available options.

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- b. The budget sets an increase in the core Council tax of 2.99% plus a 1% increase for adult social care and an increase in the GLA precept of 8.93%, making an increase overall of 4.92%. This equated to 97p per week for a Band D property.
 - c. This is a robust, realistic and balanced budget set in extremely challenging circumstances. By 2020 Enfield will have a £187m funding gap due to austerity. £18m has had to be saved this financial year.
 - d. Savings and cuts have had to be made because of the level of the Local Government Financial Settlement, the lowest for years, and the increasing cost pressures in children and adult services, increasing homelessness and poverty and deprivation.
 - e. The local government grant across London has been cut in real terms by 6.5% this year which will make a total of 63% by 2020.
 - f. The Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy had been included in separate reports for greater transparency.
 - g. The Government's new fair funding formula will be unfair to Enfield because the deprivation indicators were being removed.
 - h. The collection fund was currently in surplus.
 - i. The proposed budget was balanced, sustainable and resilient whilst continuing to support those on low incomes, address crime and youth violence and improve street cleansing and fly-tipping.
 - j. Costs have been reduced and money saved through reducing agency staff, providing temporary accommodation through Housing Gateway and bringing contracts back in house.
4. Councillor Vince moved and Councillor David-Sanders seconded an amendment proposing an alternative budget for 2018/19.
 5. A debate took place on the substantive report and the amendment.
 6. The comments of the Majority Group:
 - a. The budget was balanced, resilient, responsible and protecting services for the most vulnerable. It was a Labour budget with Labour values providing for residents' needs in difficult circumstances.
 - b. Enfield residents were each poorer by £800 because of the Conservative cuts. Public services had been decimated. Local government had lost 60p in every £1 since 2010. In all councils there was a risk to the viability of services. All councils were very close to the edge.
 - c. If weekly collections were important to the Government, why had they cut the £2.4m grant which had funded them. £2.8m would have had to have been found to cover the cost of continuing the current waste collection system.

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- d. The administration supported the spending of £500,000 on street cleansing and fly tipping, £1m investment in CCTV, £500,000 to tackle youth violence, £1m extra on children's services, £10m on people not potholes, as well as preserving the council tax support scheme.
- e. There had been a £40m cut to adult social care. Proper funding was needed to help both adults and children lead active and independent lives.
- f. Thanks to the colleagues in adult's and children's services, public health, environment for the often-unrecognised work that they did to support the people of Enfield.
- g. There was only so far that the Council could go in reducing costs and although the administration was proposing to invest an extra £1m in children's services, this was not enough. Costs were increasing, Enfield had a growing population, the birth rate was increasing, as were the numbers of looked after children.
- h. The Government should stop forcing schools to become academies.
- i. Cuts to public health funding were damaging. Twenty five percent of Year 6 children were obese. Yet, despite the cuts to the public health grant, Enfield had won awards for healthy food and sexual health services.
- j. In a recent visit to Enfield, the Chief Executive of Public Health England, was asked to explain why Enfield was only funded at £49 per person compared with Kensington on £131.
- k. £59.6m was being invested to keep Enfield green and safe. Income was being generated where possible.
- l. Housing Gateway had resulted in cost avoidances of more than £5m.
- m. The opposition should join with the administration to petition the government to stop austerity and to provide more money for public services.
- n. The view that devastation had been inflicted on public services by the Conservative Government. Devastation to vulnerable people, poverty and crime were increasing, four out of ten children were living in poverty, money was being lost to schools, and there are increasing numbers of homeless people and people sleeping on the streets. It was difficult to support any budget that was implementing Conservative government cuts.
- o. That it was not possible to set an illegal budget but that this budget was the fairest possible in the circumstances. It had been costed to impose the least harm, putting older and younger people first. It was supported with reluctance.
- p. The only way to avoid the cuts was to support a Labour Government.

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- q. Concern about the use of expensive consultants by the former Conservative Mayor of London, about his failed projects such as the garden bridge and the Government's failed procurements.
 - r. The view that the increase in knife crime in the borough was a consequence of the huge reduction in police numbers and the devastation of youth services.
 - s. The associate cabinet members did provide value for money.
7. The following issues highlighted by the Opposition Group:
- a. Councillor Laban welcomed part of the budget, especially the measures relating to children's and adult services, but felt that more should be done to keep weekly waste collections as this was a priority for local residents, supported by them in the recent waste consultation.
 - b. The belief that keeping the weekly collections would help restore trust in democracy.
 - c. The Opposition's budget amendment proposing an alternative budget with weekly collections and more money for community safety was balanced and had been checked by the Section 151 officer.
 - d. The Opposition group supported the administration proposals adding £600,000 to community safety to help tackle crime and help fund 16 extra police officers as well as providing a special £100,000 fund for community projects.
 - e. The Opposition felt that more savings could be found and more done to reduce Council operating costs including security costs for vacant buildings, ensuring the traded services broke even and gaining more income from halls for hire as well as getting rid of the associate cabinet members. The Conservatives were proposing a 5% reduction in the £140m operating costs which could deliver an extra £7.5m.
 - f. Concern that the current administration was wasting money and running down reserves. There was a lack of planning shown in the proposals for the Learning Difficulties team. The impending OfSTED inspection could lead to the need for more money for children's services.
 - g. Concern that too much money was being invested in risky capital projects. Concern about the delays to the Meridian Water and the small housing sites projects.
 - h. Poor publicity meant many were not aware that consultations were taking place.
 - i. The current Labour administration had been in power since 2010 and Opposition members felt that poor decisions had been made and that much more could have been done to reduce operating costs and make savings.

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- j. The Conservative Government had put more money into schools and children's services and through the pupil premium, and yet the administration had decided to abolish school crossing patrols.
 - k. The government was moving from a system of grant funding to self-funding so it was not surprising that the revenue grant was being run down.
 - l. Extra government funding had been provided for adult social care.
 - m. Concern about the Mayor of London's precept which had increased by 9% on the previous year.
 - n. There were now record levels of employment and tax thresholds had been raised so that people do not have to pay tax on the first £12,000 of their income.
8. Councillor Vince's right to reply on the opposition's amended budget proposals, welcoming the extra £1m for children's services, thanking the staff of the vital work that they did and expressing the hope that the administration would support the alternative budget, approved by the Director of Finance and listen to local residents.
9. Councillor Maguire's summing up, rejecting the Opposition amended budget proposals which she felt were short term, did not address the issues, and showed a lack of humility in face of the damage that the Conservative Government had inflicted on local government through extensive cuts. A few crumbs would not help. The budget had been prepared in a responsible way.

Following the debate, the opposition amendment was put to the vote and not agreed with the following result:

For: 14
Against: 41
Abstentions: 0

The recommendations in the substantive report were put to the vote and approved with the following results.

AGREED

1. With regard to the revenue budget for 2019/20:
 - (i) To set the Council Tax Requirement for Enfield at £127.311m in 2019/20;
 - (ii) To set the Council Tax at Band D for Enfield's services for 2019/20 at £1,311.48 (section 6), being a 2.99% general Council Tax increase and a 1.00% Adult Social Care Precept.
 - (iii) To approve the statutory calculations and resolutions set out in Appendix 15 of the report.
2. To approve the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), including:

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- (i) the pressures set out in Appendix 3, £26.8m in 2019/20, which includes:
 - an investment of £1m for Children's Social Workers in order to reduce caseloads
 - an additional £11.4m allocated in 2019/20 to address Adults and Children's Social Care pressures, partly funded from the new Social Care Support Grant and increased Better Care Fund totalling £5.3m.
 - (ii) an allocation of £0.5m per annum within the 2019/20 and 2020/21 budgets which is recommended to provide mentoring related to serious youth violence and improve data to better target resources (para 9.1.4).
 - (iv) the savings of £10.7m and income proposals of £2.4m in 2019/20 set out in Appendix 2a.
 - (v) full year effects of prior year savings and income generation totalling £3.4m set out in Appendix 2b.
 - (vi) adopt the key principles set out in section 10.
 - (vii) to note the additional £0.3m capital budget needed to deliver an annual saving of £0.4m on the CCTV budget, which will be recommended as part of the Capital Strategy (2019/20) and 4 year Capital Programme (2019/20 – 2022/23) report on this agenda.
3. With regard to the robustness of the 2019/20 budget and the adequacy of the Council's earmarked reserves and balances:
 - (i) To note the risks and uncertainties inherent in the 2019/20 budget and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (section 11) and agree the actions in hand to mitigate them;
 - (ii) To note the advice of the Director of Finance regarding the recommended levels of contingencies, balances and earmarked reserves (section 12 and Appendix 8a) and have regard to the comments of the Director of Finance (section 14 and Appendix 8a) when making final decisions on the 2019/20 budget;
 - (iii) To agree the recommended levels of central contingency and general balances (section 12).
4. To agree the Schools Budget for 2019/20 (Section 7.6 and Appendix 5).
5. To agree the changes in Fees and Charges for 2019/20 as set out in Sections 9.3 to 9.8 and appendices 11 to 14.
6. To note the gap remaining in the MTFP for 2020/21 to 2022/23 and the actions being taken to address this (Section 13)
7. To agree that the New Homes Bonus £1.594m is applied as a one-off contribution to the General Fund in 2019/20.

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8. To agree the planned flexible use of capital receipts in 2018/19 being £4.212m and to approve the planned flexible use of capital receipts in 2019/20 being £1.851m. (Section 9.9 and Appendix 10)
9. To note the feedback and minutes from the Budget Consultation and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Budget Meeting on 31st January 2019 as set out in Appendices 1a and 1b.
10. To approve the financial implications reported to Cabinet on 13th February regarding changes to the Waste and Recycling Service and to delegate authority to the Director of Finance to make necessary changes to the approved 2019/20 budget, which has no impact on the 2019/20 council tax recommendations and reflect the changes in the medium-term financial plan for 2020/21 and beyond. (paragraph 9.2.4)

In accordance with standing order regulations 2014, the vote was recorded in relation to the decisions in 2.1 - 2.9 excluding 2.1(iii)

For: 53

Councillor Huseyin Akpinar
Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu
Councillor Daniel Anderson
Councillor Kate Anolue
Councillor Ian Barnes
Councillor Dinah Barry
Councillor Mahym Bedekova
Councillor Chris Bond
Councillor Sinan Boztas
Councillor Yasemin Brett
Councillor Anne Brown
Councillor Nesil Caliskan
Councillor Alev Cazimoglu
Councillor Mustafa Cetinkaya
Councillor Catherine Chibah
Councillor Lee David-Sanders
Councillor Birsen Demirel
Councillor Clare De Silva
Councillor Chris Dey
Councillor Guney Dogan
Councillor Elif Erbil
Councillor Susan Erbil
Councillor Ergin Erbil
Councillor Achilleas Georgiou
Councillor Margaret Greer
Councillor Charith Gunawardena
Councillor Christine Hamilton
Councillor Ahmet Hasan
Councillor Stephanos Ioannou
Councillor Rick Jewell

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Councillor Nneka Keazor
Councillor Joanne Laban
Councillor Bernadette Lappage
Councillor Tim Leaver
Councillor Dino Lemonides
Councillor Derek Levy
Councillor Mary Maguire
Councillor Andy Milne
Councillor Gina Needs
Councillor Terence Neville
Councillor Ayfer Orhan
Councillor Ahmet Oykener
Councillor Sabri Ozaydin
Councillor Vicki Pite
Councillor Lindsay Rawlings
Councillor Michael Rye
Councillor George Savva
Councillor Edward Smith
Councillor Jim Steven
Councillor Claire Stewart
Councillor Doug Taylor
Councillor Glynis Vince
Councillor Hass Yusuf

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

Councillor Maria Alexandrou
Councillor Tolga Aramaz
Councillor Alessandro Georgiou

The vote recorded in regard to recommendation: 2.1 (iii)

For: 50

Councillor Huseyin Akpinar
Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu
Councillor Daniel Anderson
Councillor Kate Anolue
Councillor Ian Barnes
Councillor Dinah Barry
Councillor Mahym Bedekova
Councillor Chris Bond
Councillor Sinan Boztas
Councillor Yasemin Brett
Councillor Anne Brown
Councillor Nesil Caliskan
Councillor Alev Cazimoglu
Councillor Mustafa Cetinkaya

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Councillor Catherine Chibah
Councillor Lee David-Sanders
Councillor Birsen Demirel
Councillor Clare De Silva
Councillor Guney Dogan
Councillor Elif Erbil
Councillor Susan Erbil
Councillor Ergin Erbil
Councillor Achilleas Georgiou
Councillor Margaret Greer
Councillor Charith Gunawardena
Councillor Christine Hamilton
Councillor Ahmet Hasan
Councillor Rick Jewell
Councillor Nneka Keazor
Councillor Joanne Laban
Councillor Bernadette Lappage
Councillor Tim Leaver
Councillor Dino Lemonides
Councillor Derek Levy
Councillor Mary Maguire
Councillor Andy Milne
Councillor Gina Needs
Councillor Ayfer Orhan
Councillor Ahmet Oykenen
Councillor Sabri Ozaydin
Councillor Vicki Pite
Councillor Lindsay Rawlings
Councillor Michael Rye
Councillor George Savva
Councillor Edward Smith
Councillor Jim Steven
Councillor Claire Stewart
Councillor Doug Taylor
Councillor Glynis Vince
Councillor Hass Yusuf

Against: 1

Councillor Terry Neville

Abstentions: 5

Councillor Maria Alexandrou
Councillor Tolga Aramaz
Councillor Chris Dey
Councillor Alessandro Georgiou
Councillor Stephanos Ioannou

The vote recorded in regard to recommendation: 2.10 was as follows:

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For: 42

Councillor Huseyin Akpınar
Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu
Councillor Maria Alexandrou
Councillor Daniel Anderson
Councillor Kate Anolue
Councillor Ian Barnes
Councillor Dinah Barry
Councillor Mahym Bedekova
Councillor Chris Bond
Councillor Sinan Boztas
Councillor Yasemin Brett
Councillor Anne Brown
Councillor Nesil Caliskan
Councillor Alev Cazimoglu
Councillor Mustafa Cetinkaya
Councillor Catherine Chibah
Councillor Birsen Demirel
Councillor Guney Dogan
Councillor Elif Erbil
Councillor Ergin Erbil
Councillor Susan Erbil
Councillor Achilleas Georgiou
Councillor Margaret Greer
Councillor Charith Gunawardena
Councillor Christine Hamilton
Councillor Ahmet Hasan
Councillor Rick Jewell
Councillor Nneka Keazor
Councillor Bernadette Lappage
Councillor Tim Leaver
Councillor Dino Lemonides
Councillor Derek Levy
Councillor Mary Maguire
Councillor Gina Needs
Councillor Ayfer Orhan
Councillor Ahmet Oykenen
Councillor Sabri Ozaydin
Councillor Vicki Pite
Councillor George Savva
Councillor Claire Stewart
Councillor Doug Taylor
Councillor Hass Yusuf

Against: 13

Councillor Lee David-Sanders
Councillor Clare De Silva

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Councillor Chris Dey
Councillor Alessandro Georgiou
Councillor Stephanos Ioannou
Councillor Joanne Laban
Councillor Andy Milne
Councillor Terence Neville
Councillor Lindsay Rawlings
Councillor Michael Rye
Councillor Edward Smith
Councillor Jim Steven
Councillor Glynis Vince

Abstentions: 1

Councillor Tolga Aramaz

NOTED: After the vote, Councillor Maria Alexandrou said that she had voted for recommendation 2.10 by mistake and asked for her vote to be changed. Jeremy Chambers, Monitoring Officer, advised that she could not change her vote.

7

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019/20

Councillor Maguire moved and Councillor Caliskan seconded the report of the Director of Finance on the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20. (Report No: 161)

NOTED

1. That Cabinet had considered the report and recommended it to Council for approval at their meeting on 13 February 2019.
2. Councillor Maguire's comments highlighted from the report:
 - The Strategy determines the cash flow management, use of banks, investments and borrowing strategies for the 2019/20 financial year.
 - It was a key strategy, apart from but linking into the budget report. It has been separated out from the main budget report for greater transparency.
 - There was little change from last year.
 - Loans were made against Council owned properties and on the advice of external advisors.
 - The Council needed to borrow, but limits were set and the Council was well within Capital Finance Requirements.
 - At the end of December 2018 the Council had £804m of borrowing in total: some long term and some short term. The

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Council would not borrow in advance of or more than it needed to.

- There were also £65m of investments.
- Cash was kept to a minimum.

3. The response of Councillor Lee David-Sanders

- Concern about the amount of borrowing and that if the interest rate were to change rapidly, the Council could be in trouble.
- Concern that the Council was due to borrow a further £600m and was in danger of hitting or exceeding their borrowing limits.
- Recent company business plans had been sent back because of concerns about the risks.

4. Comments of the majority group:

- a. A Cabinet Sub Committee shareholder board had been set up to monitor the company business cases and the lending to the Council's companies. Governance arrangements had been strengthened.
- b. The Council had had to strike a balance between the short term borrowing and borrowing to invest in the future. The strategy covered spending in both the short and long term.
- c. A recent treasury management training session had been well received by members.
- d. The strategy was highly regulated and fully compliant with CIPFA rules.
- e. Welcome for the more transparent way that the report had been presented
- f. Concern that as 80% of Council funding came from central government, the loss of £178m worth of Government funding since 2010 has meant that services were being stripped of support.
- g. Praise for the sound management of decimated resources.
- h. Investment in capital improvements support front line services for local residents.
- i. The strategy has been externally analysed and passed by the Section 151 officer.

5. Comments of the Opposition Group

- a. Acknowledgement that the company governance arrangements were more robust.
- b. Concern that every year borrowing went up, but so did the borrowing limit.
- c. Concern about capitalised salary costs which added to borrowing pressures.
- d. Concern at what were seen as unsustainable levels of borrowing, a rise from £186m to 1,437m in 21/22 and the increasing levels of interest being paid from revenue sources. This money could have been spent on front line services.

6. Summing up of Councillor Maguire

The strategy had been reviewed by external treasury advisors and was within CIPFA guidelines. It has been set up so that the Council could borrow money to build and invest in the borough, in homes, jobs and front-line services. This was no different to any other borough in the country.

Following the debate, the recommendations were put to the vote and agreed with the following result:

For: 40

Against: 13

Abstentions: 0

AGREED

1. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20
2. To note the economic context and interest rate forecast (Appendices A and B)
3. To approve the prudential indicators (Appendix D)
4. To approve the minimum revenue provision statement (Appendix E)
5. To approve the counterparty list and limits (Appendix F)

8

CAPITAL STRATEGY (2019/20) AND FOUR- YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME (2019/20 -2022/23)

Councillor Maguire moved and Councillor Stewart seconded the report of the Director of Finance on the Capital Strategy 2019/20 and the four-year capital programme (2019/20 – 2022/23) (Report No: 163A).

NOTED

1. The report had been considered and recommended on to Council for approval by Cabinet on 13 February 2019.
2. The comments made by Councillor Maguire in moving the report:
 - The report set out the four-year capital programme and next year's capital strategy.
 - This was a new requirement as part of the update of the prudential code. Its purpose was to give an overview of the how the Council's capital expenditure contributed to the delivery of its objectives and to ensure effective investment of the Council's capital resources.

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- The Council was in the process of refreshing its Asset Management Strategy to ensure that capital assets continue to be of long-term use. A major review is taking place.
- In the four years of the strategy the Council is planning capital expenditure of £343,498m financed from council borrowing and grants.
- Income was being generated through the Council companies, Enfield Innovations, Energetik and Housing Gateway.
- Ambitious building programmes including at Meridian Water, (the station and the 725 homes planned), estate regeneration plans, school improvements, increasing places in the borough for SEN pupils, Reardon Court, independent living grants.
- ICT improvements were also planned to enable smarter working.

3. Response from Councillor Laban

- Support for some of the proposals in the strategy including support for Forty Hall and libraries but concern about other parts including Energetik. She felt that not all households offered the opportunity wanted to sign up to receive heating from the company.
- Concern about the future of the Meridian Water project, if houses were not built soon.
- Concern that Housing Gateway had only bought 4 houses last year and that more was not being done to house people outside the borough.

4. Comments from the Majority Group:

- a. In 2019/20 it was proposed to spend £81m to build the local economy including improving town centres, highways and street scene.
- b. The Council was working closely with local communities to help make Enfield a successful place to live, to provide good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods and in carrying out place based change.
- c. The Council were investing in people in Enfield including £1.5m for mental health and wellbeing including new tennis courts. Despite the challenges the Labour administration was investing the borough.
- d. The Council were determined to improve housing and provide good children's services. Spending was ambitious, but it was spending with a purpose to regenerate estates such as Ladderswood, to provide a new autism unit at Garfield School and a new extra care facility at Reardon Court.
- e. That the private sector were not interested in developing projects such as Reardon Court.

5. Comments from the Opposition

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- a. Whilst acknowledging the need for investment in roads, schools and in IT to improve customer service, there was also concern about the money spent on consultants and on buying land at Meridian Water.
 - b. Concern that the capital interest costs might mount up and the Council may have to pull out of the Meridian Water project.
 - c. Concern about the money invested in the Housing Gateway and Energetik companies.
 - d. Concern that the Council was too ambitious and that economic circumstances might change.
 - e. The view that the administration was misguided to bring the Reardon Court procurement in house, because of a history of mismanagement and ill-conceived plans. Concern about unsecured loans, which would take at least 20 years to pay back when the new facility could only last about 25 years.
 - f. The view that the Reardon Court property should have been sold to a specialist extra care provider.
 - g. Concern about the amount of section 106 money that was not being used.
 - h. Pleased that things were moving forward on Broomfield House.
6. Councillor Ergin Erbil moved and Councillor Caliskan seconded a motion that the question now be put. (Part 4 Para 13 (j) of the Constitution) This was agreed without a vote.

The recommendations in the report were then put to the vote with the following result:

For: 40
Against: 14
Abstentions: 0

AGREED

1. To approve the 2019/20 Capital Strategy
2. To approve the Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2-Table A, including new projects arising from revenue savings.
3. To note the projects in the approval cycle as detailed in Appendix-2 Table B, which will be added to the 2019/20 Capital Programme pending approval
4. To note the projects in the pipeline as detailed in Appendix-2, Table C.

**9
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 30 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN,
BUDGET 2018/19, RENT SETTING AND SERVICE CHARGES**

Councillor Lemonides proposed and Councillor Needs seconded the report of the Executive Director Place and Director of Finance, on the Housing

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Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan Budget 19/20, Rent Setting and Service Charges. (Report No: 237)

NOTED

1. That the recommendations in the report had been endorsed and approved for recommendation onto Council by Cabinet on 13 February 2019.
2. Issues highlighted by Councillor Lemonides in presenting the report:
 - a. The report presents the Council's 30 year business plan, the revenue budget for 2019/20 the five year capital programme, the right to buy one to one receipts programme and the service charges for 2019/20.
 - b. The report reflects changing government legislation allowing the borrowing cap to be lifted which will enable the Council to borrow more money to provide affordable housing.
 - c. The Council will also be investing £125m over the next 5 years in major works to stock on fire safety, decent homes and environmental improvements and £44.7m on estate renewal.
 - d. The government needs to listen more to reverse the roll out of universal credit, prevent homelessness and take away the need for food banks.
 - e. Increases in heating charges were as a result of rising costs.
3. Issues highlighted by Councillor Smith in responding to the report:
 - a. While being happy to support the report and agreeing with the methodology and investment proposals he had some concerns about the slow progress being made and the quality of the project management.
 - b. To acknowledge that it was a Conservative Government which had lifted the borrowing cap.
 - c. Concern that the administration should have asked for more grant from the GLA as £18m was significantly less than other London boroughs.
 - d. Concern that more money should be being channelled to housing associations which had the expertise to provide housing, rather than for in house projects.
 - e. Increased borrowing will reduce revenue.
4. Comments from the Majority Group:
 - a. The Labour administration was investing in improving the lives of many residents by providing decent homes and investing in fire safety. Estate renewal helped local people.
 - b. Improvements were being made on the estates and stock levels were increasing.
 - c. The new in house team would work with contractors to ensure a better service. This would be cost neutral.

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5. Comments from the Opposition Group:
 - a. Concern about the poor performance in housing over the last 8 years and the poor management and the poor standard of the work carried out on repairs.
 - b. Concern about the increase in borrowing.
 - c. Concern about the many problems reported by residents living on the estates.
 - d. Concern about the delays to projects such as the small housing sites.

6. The response from the Cabinet Member for Housing that the Council had received money from the GLA in grants and that the Council had never had to return any of their right to buy receipts. That while he recognised the issues raised he highlighted that 70% of council homes were now up to decent homes standards after years of neglect.

Following the debate, the recommendations in the report were agreed after votes with the following results.

Recommendations 1-3

For: 40
Against: 14
Abstentions: 0

Recommendations 4-7

For: 54
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

AGREED

1. To approve the HRA 30-Year Business Plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To approve the detailed HRA Revenue Budget for 2019/20
3. To approve the 5 year HRA Capital Programme and Right to Buy One for One receipts programme and additional borrowing requirements to deliver about 2,3000 additional units.
4. To note the social and affordable rent levels for about £10,1000 properties in 2019/20 and the introduction of the London Affordable Rent levels (only applicable to new properties included in the GLA programme) 2018/19 for HRA.
5. To approve the level of service charges for 2019/20 for those properties receiving this service.

6. To note the heating charges for 2019/20 for those properties on communal heating systems.
7. To note the proposal to hold the weekly cost of private garages and note the increase garage costs for Council lets and parking bay rents.

Several members congratulated the Mayor on her year in office, saying that she had done a wonderful job.

10 DURATION OF TIME ALLOWED FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor advised, at this stage of the meeting, that the time available to complete the agenda had now elapsed so Council Procedure Rule 9 would apply.

NOTED that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 (page 4-8 – Part 4), the remaining items of business on the Council agenda were considered without debate.

11 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PAY POLICY STATEMENT - 2019

Received the report of the Director of Law and Governance on the review and adoption of the Council's statutory pay policy statement. (Report No: 181)

AGREED the amendments to the statutory pay policy statement as included in appendix 1 to the report.

12 MOTIONS

Motions 11.1 to 11.15 lapsed under the guillotine arrangements.

13 COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

1. Urgent Questions

There were no urgent questions.

2. Questions by Councillors

NOTED the forty questions on the Council agenda and the written responses provided by the relevant Cabinet Members.

14 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

There were no changes to committee memberships.

15 NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

AGREED the following changes to nominations to outside bodies:

- Royal Free NHS Foundation Hospital Trust – Council of Governors – Councillor Christine Hamilton to replace Councillor Elif Erbil.
- London Housing Consortium - Councillor Chibah to be appointed as the Council's second representative.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NOTED that the next meeting of the Council would be Annual Council on Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 7pm.

17 BUDGET 2019/20 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/20 TO 2022/23 (GENERAL FUND)

RECEIVED the report of the Director of Finance, seeking approval, as part of the 2019/20 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan to fees and charges. (Report No: 172)

NOTED

1. The recommendation set out in the report was endorsed and recommended for approval to Council at the Cabinet meeting held on 13 February 2019.

AGREED . to approve the Pest Control, Commercial Waste, Schedule 2 waste, clinical waste, Planning pre-application service, Parks events and outdoor facilities, People Transport Services, Fleet services fees and charges for the place Department; as well as the Schools Health & Safety charges and Print Services charges within the Chief Executive's Department as set out in Section 3 and Appendices 1 & 2 of the part 2 report. In addition, reference is made in Appendices 3 & 4 to the potential discounts available within Resources and People (Children's) Services Departments where appropriate to market conditions.