

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE 2021**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Sabri Ozaydin (Mayor), Huseyin Akpinar, Mahmut Aksanoglu, Maria Alexandrou, Daniel Anderson, Kate Anolue, Chinelo Anyanwu, Tolga Aramaz, Dinah Barry, Ian Barnes, Mahym Bedekova, Sinan Boztas, Anne Brown, Alev Cazimoglu, Nesil Caliskan, Mustafa Cetinkaya, Katherine Chibah, Lee David-Sanders, Birsen Demirel, Clare De Silva, Chris Dey, Guney Dogan, Elif Erbil, Susan Erbil, Ergun Eren, Achilleas Georgiou, Alessandro Georgiou, Margaret Greer, Charith Gunawardena, Aytan Guzel, Elaine Hayward, James Hockney, Stephanos Ioannou, Rick Jewell, Saray Karakus, Nneka Keazor, Joanne Laban, Dino Lemonides, Tim Leaver, Derek Levy, Mary Maguire, Andy Milne, Gina Needs, Terence Neville OBE JP, Ayfer Orhan, Lindsay Rawlings, Michael Rye OBE, George Savva MBE, Edward Smith, Jim Steven, Claire Stewart, Doug Taylor, Andrew Thorp, Mahtab Uddin, Glynis Vince and Hass Yusuf

ABSENT Guner Aydin, Yasemin Brett, Ergin Erbil, Ahmet Hasan and Ahmet Oykener

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Guner Aydin, Yasemin Brett, Ergin Erbil, Ahmet Hasan and Ahmet Oykener.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

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DRAFT REGULATION 18 ENFIELD LOCAL PLAN: 2019-2039

Councillor Nesil Caliskan moved the report with two minor amendments, and Councillor Gina Needs seconded the item. The two minor amendments to the report were to have a twelve week consultation period on the Local Plan, and following the consultation, the final version of the Local Plan to be brought back to a Full Council meeting.

NOTED

1. The report and amended recommendations.
2. The following key points were highlighted by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Caliskan, when moving the report:

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- a. That the consultation period had been amended from six to twelve weeks following requests raised by members of the public and stakeholders.
 - b. That a report be brought back to a future meeting of the Council in advance of any documentation being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate
 - c. The draft local plan presented at the meeting was built on engagement dating back to 2018/2019 when there was a 12-week consultation followed by ongoing engagement
 - d. The Greater London Authority (GLA), Environment Forum, councillors and Youth Parliament had been consulted on the document. Two Scrutiny Committee sessions were held on the draft Local Plan.
 - e. All political groups were offered a briefing by council officers although this was not taken up by all groups
 - f. There is a housing crisis with a growing population leading to difficulty finding decent and affordable homes. Overcrowding and residents living in temporary accommodation is an issue for Enfield. The draft Local Plan will allow for new homes near stations, and suitable for families, to be built.
 - g. By 2039 Enfield populations will grow by 50,000 with older people living longer and many people having children – we must ensure they are not priced out of the borough.
 - h. All suitable brownfield sites will be used and built on before any building on the Green Belt takes place.
 - i. The Local Plan provides protection to Enfield’s rich network of biodiversity and ancient woodlands.
 - j. As well as the 25,000 new homes Enfield has to deliver to meet the Government’s housing target, Enfield are also obliged to designate Strategic Industrial Land (SIL) to support the local economy. Every piece of SIL that is given up must be replaced elsewhere in the borough.
 - k. Central Government planning changes proposals would allow for building to take place all over the Green Belt, not just the potential areas set out in the draft Local Plan. The Local Plan will protect Enfield’s wider Green Belt.
 - l. If the Council does not allocate adequate land for housing in our borough, our Local Plan would be found “not sound” by the National Planning Inspector appointed by the Government. The Council would then have no Local Plan which means that landowners and developers could apply for planning permission to build houses anywhere, including all over our Green Belt, and the Council would have no legal basis to refuse those applications.
3. The comments of the Majority Group included:
- That the draft Local Plan addresses the needs of residents whilst aiming to reduce poverty and inequality across the borough. Housing has an effect on residents mental health and will be vital to reducing health inequalities.

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- Building on brownfield sites will create transport links to these areas.
 - Future planning applications would still be required to go through the vigorous planning application process. Land owners will still be required to submit individual applications.
 - The plan aims to build 25,000 homes in 15 years in Enfield.
 - 4,000 residents of the borough are on the Housing Needs Register the Plan will be able to provide some of those with homes. Support is also needed for those above the Housing Needs Register threshold.
 - Residents access to basic infrastructure will be improved including a GP surgery being created in Chase ward.
 - 50% of the new homes to be built under the Plan will be affordable housing.
 - Residents' concerns on high-rise buildings, climate change and inequality have all been taken into consideration.
 - Parts of the Green Belt which are currently not considered "nice" will be improved which in turn will remove illegal activities and companies that operate in these areas.
 - The majority group encouraged residents and the other political groups to propose alternatives to building on the boroughs green belt.
 - Members raised concerns on how currently there is a ten year difference for life expectancy across the borough.
4. The comments of the Majority Opposition included:
- Raised concerns that resident's voices had not been heard despite the consultations which took place.
 - The draft Plan would open up the Crews Hill area to residential homes which would affect residents and businesses.
 - The Green Belt is an area of character in the borough and building on it would reduce this.
 - The sites highlighted in the Plan for building on would not be complete for a large number of years.
 - Investment in bus routes and roadworks would be needed in the areas which would be built on.
 - The increase in the consultation period from six to twelve weeks is a positive.
 - The opposition would have liked for the document to be created and agreed cross party.
5. The comments of the Minority Opposition included:
- The Group would have liked longer than two weeks to read the draft Plan.
 - Would like to lobby the Government for better funding to build homes
 - Felt the report and Plan would benefit from additional details on the infrastructure work which accompany building homes.

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- Sought assurances that the homes being delivered as part of the Local Plan would be affordable to residents.

At this point in the discussion eleven councillors stood indicating the need for a roll call vote.

For:

Councillor Huseyin Akpınar
Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu
Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu
Councillor Kate Anolue
Councillor Tolga Aramaz
Councillor Ian Barnes
Councillor Mahym Bedekova
Councillor Sinan Boztas
Councillor Nesil Caliskan
Councillor Alev Cazimoglu
Councillor Mustafa Cetinkaya
Councillor Katherine Chibah
Councillor Birsen Demirel
Councillor Guney Dogan
Councillor Elif Erbil
Councillor Susan Erbil
Councillor Ergun Eren
Councillor Achilleas Georgiou
Councillor Margaret Greer
Councillor Ayten Guzel
Councillor Christine Hamilton
Councillor Rick Jewell
Councillor Nneka Keazor
Councillor Saray Karakus
Councillor Tim Leaver
Councillor Mary Maguire
Councillor Gina Needs
Councillor Sabri Ozaydin
Councillor George Savva
Councillor Claire Stewart
Councillor Doug Taylor
Councillor Mahtab Uddin
Councillor Hass Yusuf

Against: 24

Councillor Maria Alexandrou
Councillor Daniel Anderson
Councillor Dinah Barry
Councillor Anne Brown
Councillor Lee David-Sanders
Councillor Clare Da Silva
Councillor Chris Dey
Councillor Alessandro Georgiou

Councillor Charith Gunawardena
Councillor James Hockney
Councillor Stephanos Ioannou
Councillor Joanne Laban
Councillor Elaine Hayward
Councillor Dino Lemonides
Councillor Derek Levy
Councillor Andy Milne
Councillor Terry Neville
Councillor Ayfer Orhan
Councillor Lindsay Rawlings
Councillor Mike Rye
Councillor Edward Smith
Councillor Jim Steven
Councillor Andrew Thorp
Councillor Glynis Vince

AGREED:

1. To approve the Reg 18 Draft Enfield Local Plan 2019 – 2039 with accompanying supporting documents, including the Sustainability Appraisal, for statutory consultation for a period of twelve weeks commencing as soon as is practicable in June 2021.
2. To delegate to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Strategic Planning, authority to make minor revisions as are necessary to the plan (including preparing a high-quality graphic layout) in advance of the consultation.

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EXPANSION OF ENERGETIK'S HEAT NETWORK

Councillor Mary Maguire moved the report of the Executive Director of Resources, and Councillor Taylor seconded.

NOTED:

1. The report and its recommendations were noted
2. The following key points were highlighted by the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Maguire, when moving the report:
 - a. The investment from the Council will create the infrastructure the borough will need for the future.
 - b. The expansion of Energetik's heat work will reduce the current impacts on the environment
 - c. Before any funding is release a demonstration of its quality would be required. This will be conducted with EY to ensure best value is received.
 - d. The expansion would lead out of Meridian Water linking many homes to the network in the borough.
3. The comments from the Majority Group included:
 - The expansion of the heat work aims to reduce fuel poverty within the borough, and climate change, by connecting homes to low cost water and heating.

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- The expansion is required ahead of a ban on using gas in new build homes. Energetic is looking into how to retrofit homes to connect to the network.
 - This supports the administrations aims to be carbon neutral by 2040.
 - Financial loss can occur during the asset building stage, but the financial benefits would be felt in the future.
 - The expansion of the heat network would be a great opportunity for the borough as the network could have capacity to heat 25,000 dwellings.
 - EY have assured the Council the proposed model is sustainable.
4. The comments from the Majority Opposition included:
- Large sums of money had already been spent on Energetic, although it was noted that some of the investment would come from grants.
 - Concerns were raised on the climate emergency as 1% of the Council's fleet of cars were currently electric.
 - Energetic had already reached a number of its targets, however, there was concern that the incinerator in the borough remains the networks primary source of power.
 - Residents being able to have the right to choose their energy suppliers is fundamental.
 - A planning application had not been considered by Planning Committee yet, but by agreeing this it could be seen as the members of the Planning Committee as having already having made a decision on a future item which could lead into a legal battle.
5. The comments from the Minority Opposition included:
- Feedback the Group had received from residents had indicated they did not feel Energetic would be value for money.
 - There were concerns about increasing the Council's debt.
 - It was felt there were inconsistencies within this report and the draft Local Plan.
 - Increasing the building of dwellings would not be sustainable in order to maintain the heat network.
 - It would be preferred for the independent review of Energetic to take place prior to further investment being agreed.

Following the discussion members took a vote on the recommendation.

For: 33

Against: 24

Abstain: 0

AGREED:

1. To approve the addition of £5m to the Capital Programme, in addition to the £32m budget approved by Council in March 2021, for the purpose of extending the Energetik heat network.

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2. To approve the total investment in the proposed expansion identified in Appendix A of the report of £49m, comprising £12m grant funding and £37m borrowing as included within the Capital Programme, to fund the proposed expansions, as follows:
 - a. £12m grant funding from the Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP), to be invested in the company as equity funding;
 - b. £12m loan from HNIP at an interest rate to the Council of 0.01%, to be on-lent to the company at a negotiated interest rate compliant with Subsidy Control regulation;
 - c. £25m loan funded from either the Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund (MEEF or Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) or a combination of both.
3. To delegate to the Executive Director of Resources, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, authority to execute on-lending and subscription agreements with Energetik to transfer the funding in paragraph 5 of the report, these agreements to at minimum mirror and reflect the requirements identified within Appendices Ci and Cii.
4. To approve that as part of these agreements Energetik will be required to present the Executive Director of Resources with a quarterly connection statement detailing confirmed and perspective property connections compared to projections, prior to the release of required funding.
5. To approve the revisions to the company's 40-year Business Plan as outlined within the company's Business Plan second Addendum, whilst working with the company Directors to implement the financial model updates, in recognition of the observations in the Ernst & Young review.
6. To instruct the Director of Legal and Governance, in collaboration with Company Directors and council officers, to undertake an options appraisal and strategic review identifying a preferred strategy to support the company's future growth with external funding and knowledge by November 2021 and consider options to reduce the Council's interest as referenced in paragraph 56 of the report. No further funding beyond this report to be agreed until this review is complete, and a clear strategic financing direction identified and approved by Cabinet.
7. To note the ongoing discussions between Energetik and the London boroughs of Haringey and Hackney to supply heat to residents of other north London boroughs, as included in the Energetik business plan.