

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2022**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Huseyin Akpinar, Mahmut Aksanoglu, Maria Alexandrou, Daniel Anderson, Kate Anolue, Chinelo Anyanwu, Tolga Aramaz, Ian Barnes, Dinah Barry, Mahym Bedekova, Sinan Boztas, Anne Brown, Nesil Caliskan, Alev Cazimoglu, Mustafa Cetinkaya, Katherine Chibah, Lee David-Sanders, Clare De Silva, Birsen Demirel, Chris Dey, Guney Dogan, Elif Erbil, Susan Erbil, Peter Fallart (Bush Hill Park), Achilleas Georgiou, Alessandro Georgiou, Margaret Greer, Charith Gunawardena, Christine Hamilton (Deputy Mayor), Ahmet Hasan, Elaine Hayward, James Hockney, Stephanos Ioannou, Rick Jewell, Nneka Keazor, Joanne Laban, Tim Leaver, Mary Maguire, Andy Milne, Gina Needs, Terence Neville OBE JP, Ayfer Orhan, Ahmet Oykenler, Sabri Ozaydin (Mayor), 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, Ergun Eren, Ayten Guzel, Saray Karakus, Dino Lemonides and Derek Levy

1

THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

Erdal Yapici performed a blessing in the form of music.

2

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORDINARY BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Chamber.

The Mayor announced that his events had continued to gather speed. He expressed his gratitude to many of the Enfield businesses who had come forward to donate money to his charity and took the opportunity to thank them formally for their generosity.

The invitations to the Annual Gala Dinner on the 17th March 2022 had been posted. The Mayor stated that he was excited to be able to hold this event, especially as the last couple of years had been quite non-eventful in our calendars in respect of gatherings and social events. He hoped to see as many as possible at the charity event where he was hoping to gather as much urgently needed donations as possible for the Enfield community.

The Mayor announced that his charities for the year were the Felix Project, North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton Eagles, Enfield Town Football Club and

Nightingale Cancer Support. They were worthy recipients and he hoped to help them as much as possible.

The Mayor's charity website was also up and running. A link had been circulated for perusal. These had been personally donated by the Mayor and all sale proceeds would go towards the Mayors charity.

As this was the last Council meeting he would chair, the Mayor, wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the support he had received whilst he had been Mayor over the last two municipal years. It had been a challenging time in many ways, in an ever-changing world.

The Mayor wished everyone and their families the very best and urged everyone to stay safe and healthy.

3

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 26th January 2022 were AGREED.

4

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Guner Aydin, Yasemin Brett, Ergin Erbil, Ergun Eren, Ayten Guzel, Saray Karakus, Dino Lemonides and Derek Levy.

Apologies for lateness had been received from Councillor Peter Fallart.

5

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

'There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

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 2022/23 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2026/27 as follows: "in accordance with guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government, there is no requirement for members to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to item 6. The exception to this being any councillor who is two or more months in arrears on their Council Tax, in which case they will need to declare this and not take part in the vote."

The Director Law and Governance confirmed that there were no councillors who were two or more months in arrears'.

6

BUDGET REPORT 2022/23 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 TO 2026/27

Cllr Maguire moved, and Councillor Caliskan seconded, the report.

Cllr Maguire introduced the report and noted the following points:

- The report was to set the Revenue Budget and Council Tax for the 2022/23 financial year and updated the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in the light of those decisions.
- The proposals were the culmination of the 2022/23 budget planning process.
- A balanced budget was a legal requirement.

Cllr Laban, on behalf of the majority opposition group moved and Cllr Hockney seconded an alternative budget which would give additional savings of £16.389m.

The majority opposition made the following points:

- The alternative budget proposed to agree the recommendations subject to an additional investment of £2.689m to ensure the Borough was cleaner, safer and supported residents with the cost-of-living crisis, which would be financed by savings of an equivalent amount.
- The sustainable budget would provide an action plan to implement the following:
 - Cleaner – restore weekly bin collections from September and increase fly tip CCTV cameras providing an additional 100 cameras.
 - Greener – additional planting of 3,000 street trees; electric charging points; air pollution monitors and investment in parks, buildings and maintenance.
 - Safer – Reinstatement of school crossing patrols; increase in road safety fund; expansion of CCTV coverage, additional Police Officers recharged to the Housing Revenue Account. In addition to a reduction to the build to change project.
 - Cost-of-living – provide low-income households with energy efficient lightbulbs, freeze costs to residents and groups on fees and charges.

The administration, in response to the proposed alternative budget, made the following points:

- Efficiencies would be reduced.
- The budget was robust and resilient, one which allowed investment in the Borough.
- It was misleading to residents to state that the cost of living would reduce.
- The alternative budget would lead to privatisation of the Council services.

On being put the vote the amendment was lost.

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The administration spoke to the substantive budget proposed and made following points:

- Councils across the country had faced severe cuts to their budgets in the last 12 months.
- The Covid-19 pandemic had added more to this challenge.
- An additional investment in social services and adult social care means that the Council is committed to provide services for the most vulnerable residents in the Borough.
- A Council tax freeze has been introduced, whilst the Council Tax Support Scheme continues.
- The temporary accommodation rents had been increased for the first time in a long time. This accommodation protected the most vulnerable residents of the Borough.
- There were revenue savings of £500k.
- For the capital programme to remain affordable the Council must keep within the self-imposed borrowing cap.
- A treasury management strategy has been introduced to provide finances which are well planned and executed.
- The Council was a statutory authority and as such had to implement the Local Plan.
- Whitewebbs had been leased, not sold.

The majority opposition made the following points regarding the substantive budget:

- Supportive of the Council Tax freeze.
- There were lower grants available compared to previous years.
- The audits for 2019/20 had not been completed.
- There was an increase in the cost of funerals.
- There was a direct link to the life expectancy of the residents of the Borough in relation to the quality of the Council's housing stock.
- Low Traffic Neighbourhoods would see a build-up of traffic in surrounding areas and adversely affect the lives of residents on low incomes.

The minority opposition made the following points:

- The administration had used the Council's reserves.
- Many of the Council's projects and scrutiny processes had failed, which had resulted in the need for increased borrowing.
- Discussion with residents about Lower Traffic Neighbourhoods had been blocked.
- There had been insufficient investment in housing which had resulted in overcrowding in properties.
- The administration had misunderstood the housing issues experienced in Enfield.
- There had been poor rates of recycling.
- Small businesses were not supported by the Council.
- The Council was not interested in investment in the high streets or small businesses in the Borough.

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- There had been increases in the Special Responsibility Allowances.

The budget report was then agreed following a roll call vote detailed below:

In accordance with standing order regulations 2014, the vote was recorded in relation to the above decisions.

For:

Councillor Huseyin Akpinar
Councillor Mahmut Aksanoglu
Councillor Kate Anolue
Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu
Councillor Guner Aydin
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 Achilleas Georgiou
Councillor Margaret Greer
Councillor Christine Hamilton
Councillor Ahmet Hasan
Councillor Rick Jewell
Councillor Nneka Keazor
Councillor Tim Leaver
Councillor Mary Maguire
Councillor Gina Needs
Councillor Ahmet Oykenen
Councillor Sabri Ozaydin
Councillor George Savva
Councillor Claire Stewart
Councillor Doug Taylor
Councillor Mahtab Uddin
Councillor Hass Yusuf

Against:

Councillor Maria Alexandrou
Councillor Lee David-Sanders
Councillor Clare De Silva
Councillor Chris Dey
Councillor Peter Fallart
Councillor Alessandro Georgiou
Councillor Elaine Hayward
Councillor James Hockney

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Councillor Joanne Laban
Councillor Andy Milne
Councillor Terence Neville
Councillor Lindsay Rawlings
Councillor Michael Rye
Councillor Edward Smith
Councillor Jim Steven
Councillor Andrew Thorp
Councillor Glynis Vince

Abstentions:

Councillor Daniel Anderson
Councillor Dinah Barry
Councillor Anne Brown
Councillor Charith Gunawardena
Councillor Ayfer Orhan

AGREED:

1. To note:
 - i. The budget is in a balanced position for 2022/23, however, this had required the one-off use of reserves of £1.985m.
 - ii. The total costs of Covid-19 in 2022/23 were estimated to be £6.339m; this would be funded from the £10m reserve which had been created to fund ongoing Covid-19 costs. At this stage the sector was not anticipating any further funding from the Government in respect of Covid-19.
 - iii. Government funding assumptions continued to rely on Council Tax as a key source of funding for Adult Social Care through the Precept.
 - iv. The wider London Business Rate pool was not going ahead for 2022/23 due to uncertainty over whether participation would be financially beneficial for members. Enfield would however be joining a smaller pool of 8 authorities to pool business rates for 2022/23. This decision had been approved by Cabinet on 13th October 2021. Members of the pool were: City of London, Barnet, Brent, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. The potential one-off benefits from the Pool would be realisable circa August 2023 and nothing had been built into the MTFP at this stage.
2. To approve:
 - i. With regard to the Revenue Budget for 2022/23 to set the Council Tax Requirement for Enfield at £139.361m in 2022/23; and

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- iv. To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance & Procurement in respect of any actions arising from the Government's recent announcement regarding the award of £150 Council Tax rebates and discretionary support (see paragraphs 70 to 73).
- v. To note the gap remaining in the MTFP for 2023/24 of £13.295m; and of £45.600m for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27 and the actions being taken to address this challenging position.
- vi. To agree that the New Homes Bonus funding of £0.172m is applied as a one-off contribution to the General Fund in 2022/23.
- vii. To note the detailed feedback from the Budget Engagement, which is set out in Appendix 5a of the report.
- viii. To note the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 12th January 2022 which are set out in Appendix 5b of the report.
- ix. To note that the delivery of the saving for digitalisation/decentralisation of MEQ & Complaints Team responsibilities will require members to utilise the new digital self-serve MEQ reporting system.
- x. With regard to the robustness of the 2022/23 budget and the adequacy of the Council's earmarked reserves and balances:
 - i. To note the risks and uncertainties inherent in the 2022/23 budget and the MTFP and agree the actions in hand to mitigate them;
 - ii. To note the advice of the Executive Director of Resources regarding the recommended levels of contingencies, balances and earmarked reserves and have regard to the comments of the Director of Finance) when making final decisions on the 2022/23 budget; and
 - iii. To agree the recommended levels of central contingency and general balances.

7

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2031/32

Cllr Maguire moved and Councillor Caliskan seconded the report of the Executive Director Resources on the Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2031/32.

Cllr Maguire made the following points:

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- The ambitious capital programme would be a source of funding over the next ten years and would support the delivery of the Council's services.
- The capital programme was within the self-imposed borrowing cap.
- Information on the capital schemes has been collected using the new Development Investment Financial Framework (DIFF) which has enabled a deeper analysis of the programme.
- The Council's treasury advisers have endorsed the capital programme as appropriate.

Cllr Laban moved an amendment and proposed an alternative budget, which was seconded by Cllr Hockney.

Cllr Laban made the following points:

- To agree the recommendations subject to the necessary adjustments to reflect investment in a cleaner, greener, safer borough that supports residents rising cost of living funded by reducing the planned Build the Change Civic Centre investment.
- Funding diverted from the Build the Change programme would also be used on front line staff and to increase fly tip CCTV camera resulting in an additional 100 cameras.
- Additional funding would be used to invest in the Borough.
- School Road Safety fund. A comprehensive strategy to implement more school streets, zebra crossings, 20 mph zones and walk to school schemes. Youth buses would increase outreach facilities to youth and youth groups.

Cllr Hockney made the following points:

- Thousands of additional trees would be planted.
- Investment would be in improving roads and road safety and pavements.

The administration made the following points:

- Investment in Information Technology would deliver better services to all residents but particularly the family hub to those who were vulnerable.
- There would be investment in the Borough for now and in the future.
- Enforcement action was and would be taken against fly tipping.

The majority opposition made the following points:

- The alternative budget would:
 - Increase the amount available for investment in the Enfield, an outer London Borough.
 - Provide investment in technology for alternative sources of power.
- There was insufficient provision for air monitors to measure increased pollution in the Borough.
- The administration should aim to borrow prudently to reduce the borrowing figures.

The minority opposition made the following points:

- The administration had failed to be addressed housing needs of the most vulnerable residents of the Borough had failed to be addressed.
- There had been insufficient investment in the Borough's parks.

NOTED that the report was recommended to Council by Cabinet on the meeting held on 16th February 2022.

AGREED to approve the 2022/23 Capital Programme and to note the 2023/24 to 2031/32 Ten Year Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 3 of the officer's report.

8

MAYOR'S THANK YOU TO RETIRING MEMBERS

The Mayor invited those Members, who were not standing for re-election and who wished to do so, to speak.

The following Members thanked colleagues and staff at the Council for their support and referred to many events which had occurred during their term as a Councillor at Enfield Borough Council.

Councillor Terence Neville
Councillor Ian Barnes
Councillor Dinah Berry
Councillor Achilleas Georgiou
Councillor Mary Maguire
Councillor Glynis Vince
Councillor Elaine Heywood
Councillor Lee David-Sanders
Councillor Chris Dey

9

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2022/23, RENT SETTING AND BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

This item was noted under the guillotine arrangements.

10

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2022/23

This item was noted under the guillotine arrangements.

11

RETENDER OF EXTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS - OPTING INTO THE NATIONAL PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS

This item was noted under the guillotine arrangements.

12

MONITORING OFFICER REPORT

This item was noted under the guillotine arrangements.

13

QUESTIONS

This item was noted under the guillotine arrangements.

14

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

There were no amendments to the committee membership.

15

NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no nominations to outside bodies.

16

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled on the 25 May 2022.