

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2022**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Doris Jiagge (Mayor), Suna Hurman (Deputy Mayor), Abdul Abdullahi, Josh Abey, Nicki Adeleke, Gunes Akbulut, Maria Alexandrou, Nawshad Ali, Kate Anolue, Chinelo Anyanwu, Mahym Bedekova, Sinan Boztas, Mustafa Cetinkaya, Lee Chamberlain, Hivran Dalkaya, Chris Dey, Guney Dogan, Hannah Dyson, Ergin Erbil, Elif Erbil, Susan Erbil, Peter Fallart, Thomas Fawns, Reece Fox, Alessandro Georgiou, Margaret Greer, Patricia Gregory, Adrian Grumi, Ayten Guzel, Nelly Gyosheva, Ahmet Hasan, Mohammad Islam, Rick Jewell, Chris James, Chris Joannides, Joanne Laban, Tim Leaver, Andy Milne, Elisa Morreale, Gina Needs, Tom O'Halloran, Sabri Ozaydin, Bektas Ozer, Paul Pratt, Michael Rye OBE, Julian Sampson, Ruby Sampson, George Savva MBE, David Skelton, Jim Steven, Nia Stevens, Emma Supple, Doug Taylor, Andrew Thorp and Eylem Yuruk

ABSENT Mahmut Aksanoglu, Nesil Caliskan, Alev Cazimoglu, Esin Gunes, James Hockney, Stephanos Ioannou, Ahmet Oykener and Edward Smith

THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

Iman Raja Gulfraz Khan of EIC Almasjid Mosque in Edmonton gave a blessing.

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 Mahmut Aksanoglu, Nesil Caliskan, Alev Cazimoglu, Esin Gunes, James Hockney, Stephanos Ioannou, Ahmet Oykener and Edward Smith.

3

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since we last met, I have continued attending events in our community and I am pleased that the Mayoral duties are picking up speed again this year.

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Black History Month in October has been busier than ever this year and I have attended many events in the borough and have been overwhelmed with the celebrations taking place. I attended “Celebrating the Windrush generation” event at Fore Street Library and the Black History Month event with Enfield Unison Black Members Group, in recognition of contributions made to British society and culture throughout history.” October serves as an opportunity for society at large to recognise these contributions, practice tolerance and learn about racism and inequality, allowing us to celebrate and acknowledge and give thanks to all backgrounds and cultures that live together in our diverse Borough, making Enfield such a wonderful place to live.

I try to go to all school invitations as the children are always so excited to see the Mayor. I was at the Mind Kind event at Edmonton County Primary School, and I was honoured to be at the Enfield High Achievers Evening at St Ignatius College, for those who achieved the highest grades in their GCSE’s, it is great to see the children of the borough thriving in their education.

The Citizenship Ceremonies are taking place most Thursdays now, with citizens arriving in their finery – it is lovely to see so many people settling into our diverse Borough. So far this year we have welcomed 1476 people as new citizens of this wonderful borough.

I attended the Remembrance Day Services both in Enfield, Edmonton and at City Hall which recognised the tremendous personal sacrifice made by so many people in the two world wars and other conflicts.

Members, may I thank you for your professional conduct at our last Council meeting where you adhered to my requests to conduct the meeting in an orderly fashion. Can I remind you that any members wishing to speak should stand when speaking unless they are not able to do so, and that you should address the meeting through me. Please continue to treat each other courteously and with respect during the debate. As I have said before, we may challenge robustly but we must remain polite and professional.

I intend to continue to preside over this meeting in a firm but fair manner. I will give opportunities to members on both sides of the Chamber to speak and I will not tolerate rude and discourteous interruption. I would remind members that when I stand then you will sit. Please wait for me to invite you to speak.

If you would like to ask for an extension of time, or if you wish to move any other type of procedural motion, please do so at the end of a speech and not in the middle of it.

Finally, please may I ask all members to speak up as there are no mics available. We are all used to speaking at public meetings so I would like to hear you loud and clear.

Thank you.

4

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Motion 10.9 – Squirrel Scouts 1st Birthday – Councillors Chris Dey, Andrew Thorp and Emma Supple due to their involvement with the Guide and Scouts Associations, and

Motion 10.3 – Armed Forces Covenant - Councillor Adrian Grumi who is a veteran and a member of the Southgate Royal British Legion.

5

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 21 September 2022 and 12 October 2022 were received and **AGREED** as a correct record.

6

SAFEGUARDING ENFIELD ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Councillor Abdul Abdullahi moved, and Councillor Gunes Akbulut seconded, the report.

Councillor Abdul Abdullahi introduced the report and asked the Council to note the successes and challenges that have risen from safeguarding activity in the period 2021-22 and highlighted the hard work that had been done over this period to keep our vulnerable residents safe from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The report outlined the excellent progress that has been made with 455 practitioners being trained and more than 230 calls to the helpline as well as more than 3,600 concerns being addressed by the Adult safeguarding Team. The report reflects the Council's commitment to safeguarding Adults, children, and young people at risk throughout the organisation.

The Opposition expressed disappointment with regards to their suggestions to clarify data not being taken into consideration, however, it was welcomed that further amendments to the report before publication were still to be made. Also, the way in which cases are currently categorised needed to be reviewed.

Members felt that the Council should support families across the borough who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, specifically with regards to mental wellbeing and young people returning to education. Members welcomed the creation of a specific task force to deal with certain areas of safeguarding.

Members acknowledged the work of those who work in Safeguarding Adults and Children and suggested that it might be better if in future there could be

two separate reports dealing with Adult Safeguarding and Children Safeguarding so that the reports can have a greater focus and information will be more easily accessible.

Following the debate, the recommendations in the report were **NOTED**.

7

ANNUAL CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD REPORT 2021/22

Councillor Abdul Abdullahi moved, and Councillor Chris James seconded, the report.

Councillor Abdul Abdullahi introduced the report and thanked social workers and all those who work so hard for those children in care, along with colleagues on Corporate Parenting board and our foster carers.

The report highlighted the importance of the Council's Corporate Parenting role and the ways in which the Council had supported the children in our care and care leavers to achieve their potential.

There have been many achievements over 2021-22 which are mentioned in the report and service delivery remained of the highest standard despite the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic. For instance, 74% of young people are in education, employment, or training in comparison to the national average of 70%. The Council is proud that 96% of the Council's looked after children have a completed personal education plan and there has not been any permanent exclusions over the last 5 years. Enfield is one of the few boroughs that have an 18+ psychologist who offers emotional and mental wellbeing support to its care leavers and that 60% of children and young people are placed with in-house carers which is better than our statistical neighbourhoods.

The Opposition welcomed the report and highlighted the importance of the role of Corporate Parenting and thanked foster carers for all their hard work. Enfield has above the national average of looked-after children and care leavers in education, employment or training which is important if they are to go on to lead independent adult lives, reaching their full potential and playing a constructive role in society.

Members acknowledged that the Corporate Parent role is a collective responsibility of the Council and councillors for those in care and care leavers. The report provides the key priorities that were set in 2021 and the actions that have been taken which demonstrate the ambition that the Council has for looked after children and care leavers. A key priority was to ensure that all looked after children and care leavers were supported during the pandemic. Enfield had the 13th best school attendance in England and the highest across all other London boroughs during lockdown.

Following the debate, the recommendations in the report were **NOTED**.

8

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - STAFF FORUM/JOINT CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR TEACHERS (JCGT)

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

Councillor Ergin Erbil introduced the report and explained that the Staff Forum is a non-statutory committee of the Council where School Professional Associations, elected members, senior officers and others meet once a term to discuss issues relating to the school workforce.

The report highlighted that with the arrival of the Covid pandemic, there was a change to the way in which meetings between the authority and School Professional Associations were held. It was decided to have more frequent meetings in a virtual environment to support swift responses to any concerns raised and to discuss possible solutions. These meetings have proved to be a very beneficial way to work since they are swift, responsive and promote greater understanding of school workforce issues in a timely fashion. In discussion with members of the Staff Forum, it was proposed that there is a continuation with the new way of working, to include inviting not only the Cabinet Member for Education but also Lead Members for Education from other political groups, and to abolish the Staff Forum.

The Opposition welcomed and supported the proposed changes outlined in the report and looked forward to working constructively with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services under the new regime. In order to allow the best education to be delivered to students across the borough, it is important that the relationship between School Staff, Officers and Councillors is a positive one.

Following the debate, the recommendations within the report were put to the vote and unanimously **AGREED**.

9

PROCEDURAL MOTION

A procedural motion was moved by Councillor Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Councillor Chris Dey 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 which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

Councillor Sabri Ozaydin moved to change the order of Motions so that Motion numbers 10.3, 10.14, 10.15 and 10.6 would be taken in that order which was seconded by Councillor Chris Dey and **AGREED**.

10

MOTIONS

10.3 Motion in the name of Councillor Adrian Grumi:

“Following the speeches by the Mayor and Deputy Leader regarding their support for serving personnel, veterans, and cadets in the borough at this years Armed Forces Day Event, Enfield as a borough join many other councils and organisations across the UK in renewing our Armed Forces Covenant that was first signed in 2012.”

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

10.14 Motion in the name of Councillor Ergin Erbil:

“Enfield Council has already established a clear record of commitment to Climate Action. The planting of 100,000 trees over the last two years as part of the Enfield Chase Woodland Restoration Project, the largest woodland creation project in London, was recently given the Trees & Water Award by the Forestry Commission.

Enfield Council has also recently introduced beavers as part of our rewilding agenda. We were saddened to learn that one of the beavers died from natural causes. The council are actively planning to introduce a new beaver at the appropriate season.

We note our thanks to local and national partners, such as the Beaver Trust, Capel Manor College and Forty Hall Farm for their efforts in making the project happen.

Enfield Council resolves to work to deliver similar projects to further enhance our environment to support the green agenda and animal welfare, such as the reintroduction of cattle.”

During the debate, a procedural motion was moved and seconded under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council’s Procedure Rules to extend the debate for a further 30 minutes which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

Following the extended debate, a procedural motion was moved and seconded under paragraph 13.20 (v) of the Council’s Procedure Rules that the question be now put which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

A recorded vote on this item was requested by Councillor Chris Dey and another 11 members of the Council, having stood in support of the request by Councillor Chris Dey, Motion 10.14 was put to the vote and was **AGREED** with the following votes recorded:

For (54)

Abdul Abdullahi
Josh Abey
Nicki Adeleke
Gunes Akbulut
Nawshad Ali
Kate Anolue
Chinelo Anyanwu
Mahym Bedekova

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Sinan Boztas
Mustafa Cetinkaya
Hivran Dalkaya
Guney Dogan
Elif Erbil
Ergin Erbil
Susan Erbil
Thomas Fawns
Margaret Greer
Ayten Guzel
Nelly Gyosheva
Ahmet Hasan
Suna Hurman
Mohammad Islam
Chris James
Rick Jewell
Tim Leaver
Gina Needs
Sabri Ozaydin
Bektas Ozer
George Savva MBE
Nia Stevens
Doug Taylor
Eylem Yuruk
Maria Alexandrou
Lee Chamberlain
Chris Dey
Hannah Dyson
Peter Fallart
Reece Fox
Alessandro Georgiou
Patricia Gregory
Adrian Grumi
Chris Joannides
Joanne Laban
Andy Milne
Elisa Morreale
Tom O'Halloran
Paul Pratt
Michael Rye OBE
Julian Sampson
Ruby Sampson
David Skelton
Jim Steven
Emma Supple
Andrew Thorp

The extended period for debate of Motions having then lapsed, a procedural motion was moved by Councillor Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Councillor

Ergin Erbil under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the debate for a further 30 minutes which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

10.15 Motion in the name of Councillor Ergin Erbil:

"Enfield Council was proud to observe and celebrate Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller History Month during June. Through celebration, education and awareness raising, the month helps to tackle prejudice, challenge myths, and amplify the voices of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller people in wider society.

By law, Enfield Council must meet the housing requirements of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople. Their housing needs have not been addressed in Enfield and the borough does not currently have any allocated sites for gypsies and travellers. Enfield Council has a legal duty to provide more gypsy and traveller sites and an assessment in 2020 of existing accommodation in the borough found that we need 23 permanent pitches and 6 transit pitches during the life of the Local Plan. This is an identified need that this Council must meet. It is not only an obligation but also a step towards addressing the discrimination faced by the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities of Enfield.

Enfield Council stands in solidarity with Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities and will work to ensure we meet identified housing need for these communities, ensuring they can access public services, and to tackle the hate crime and discrimination they experience.

This Council resolves that sites to accommodate gypsies and travellers from across the borough should be considered and incorporated in the Local Plan."

During the debate, an accusation of racism was made by the Deputy Leader of the Council directed towards the Conservative councillors which was refuted by those councillors. On the advice of the Monitoring Officer, the Mayor requested that the remark be withdrawn, and an apology issued. This request was declined. The Mayor made the same request twice more and twice more it was declined. At this point all Conservative councillors rose and left the Chamber.

Following the debate, a request was made under paragraph 16.6 of the Council's Procedure Rules after the demand of 11 councillors present, the item was put to the vote and **AGREED** with the following votes recorded:

For (32)

Abdul Abdullahi
Josh Abey
Nicki Adeleke
Gunes Akbulut
Nawshad Ali

Kate Anolue
Chinelo Anyanwu
Mahym Bedekova
Sinan Boztas
Mustafa Cetinkaya
Hivran Dalkaya
Guney Dogan
Elif Erbil
Ergin Erbil
Susan Erbil
Thomas Fawns
Margaret Greer
Aytan Guzel
Nelly Gyosheva
Ahmet Hasan
Suna Hurman
Mohammad Islam
Chris James
Rick Jewell
Tim Leaver
Gina Needs
Sabri Ozaydin
Bektas Ozer
George Savva MBE
Nia Stevens
Doug Taylor
Eylem Yuruk

The remainder of Motions lapsed under the guillotine arrangements.

**11
COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME**

This item was noted under the guillotine arrangements. Answers to questions were provided in the supplementary agenda circulated at the meeting. There were no supplementary questions asked.

**12
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

There were no changes to committee memberships.

**13
NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no nominations to outside bodies.

14

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as 25 January 2023.