



## **LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD**

**AGENDA FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING  
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH  
JANUARY, 2024 AT 7.00 PM**

**THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD**

**Please  
Reply to:** Nicola Lowther  
Governance Manager

**E-mail:** Democracy@enfield.gov.uk  
**My Ref:** DST/PW

**Date:** 19 January 2024

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Enfield to be held at the Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield on Wednesday, 24th January, 2024 at 7.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.

Yours sincerely

*Terry Osborne*

Director Law & Governance

**THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING**

- 1. ELECT A PERSON TO PRESIDE IF THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ARE NOT PRESENT**
- 2. APOLOGIES**
- 3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 10)**

To receive and agree the minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 as a correct record.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Council are invited to identify any disclosable pecuniary, other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests relevant to the items on the agenda.

**6. OPPOSITION PRIORITY BUSINESS - PROTECTING ENFIELD'S GREEN SPACES** (Pages 11 - 14)

An issues paper prepared by the Opposition Group is attached for information.

**7. COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATE COLLECTION FUND 2024/25** (Pages 15 - 24)

Council is asked to approve the 2024/25 council tax and business rate bases.  
SENT TO FOLLOW

**8. INDEPENDENT PERSONS APPOINTMENT FOR THE COUNCILLOR CONDUCT COMMITTEE** (Pages 25 - 28)

Council is asked to approve the appointments to the role of Independent Person for the Councillor Conduct Committee until 2026.

**9. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME** (Pages 29 - 30)

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

**10. MOTIONS**

**10.1 Motion in the name of Councillor Ergin Erbil**

This Council notes that:

- The mismanagement of the economy by central government has caused the highest levels of inflation in 40 years, rising interest rates and stagnant economic growth.
- Household energy bills have skyrocketed over the last year – 96% higher than last winter – while just over 16,000 households in Enfield are already fuel poor.
- The effects of climate change are intensifying the impact of energy prices, increasing pressures on families and businesses.
- As the cost-of-living increases, people and businesses are less able to finance adaptations to improve energy efficiency and to prepare for extreme weather events.
- More families need help. Yet steeply increasing inflation means this Council's ability to mitigate impacts and provide essential services is increasingly challenging.

The Council agrees to:

1. Recognise that the Cost of Living and Climate Crisis are

connected and jointly require attention to ensure the wellbeing of local people and businesses.

2. Make decisions on investment and delivery that, wherever possible, contribute to environmental and social benefits across Enfield.
3. Advocate for more robust, affordable public transport that connects employees with work, links students to education and reduces carbon emissions.
4. Work with social landlords operating in Enfield to review the energy efficiency of their housing stock, recognising that poor insulation and inefficient heating are key factors in the rising cost-of-living.
5. Write to the Prime Minister, our local MPs, and the relevant government ministers to call for:
  - a. Increased financial support for residents, with most support provided to low-income households.
  - b. Lobby government to deliver a more ambitious nationwide commitment to fund improvements in the energy efficiency of homes, resulting in energy bill reductions and environmental benefits.
  - c. Insulation schemes and renewable energy generation programmes funded by fossil fuel profits.

## **10.2 Motion in the name of Councillor Bektas Ozer**

Despite Enfield residents being hard hit by the rising cost of living, resulting in record numbers of people turning to councils for help, the Government has announced its intention to cut the Household Support Fund (HSF) to councils from this April.

Last year, Enfield Council received £5.6m through the HSF to support families in the borough. This funding enabled holiday activities, provided supplies for school food banks, covered the cost of school uniforms and gave £500 to 4,000 low-income families in Enfield.

Cutting the HSF will mean cutting these vital interventions locally resulting in less support for families when they need it most.

Enfield Council supports calls by the cross-party Local Government Association for the Government to continue the HSF, so councils can continue working with local voluntary and charitable organisations and others to support residents through this crisis.

Enfield Council resolves to write to the Chancellor to call on him to continue the Household Support Fund.

### **10.3 Motion in the name of Councillor Ayten Guzel**

Recent data from the NHS on children's health show that Enfield was ranked as the fourth-worst borough in London for obesity in four and five-year-olds. 25.5% of four and five-year-olds and 41.7% of ten and eleven-year-olds were found to be either overweight or obese.

This Council believes we need to help children and young people establish healthy eating habits from an early age to tackle existing and future health inequalities in Enfield.

'Fast food' outlets are shops that are popular with students. The nutritional quality of the food available is generally poor and some shops use 'student offers' specifically to target school children.

Enfield Council must do what it can to reduce unhealthy eating amongst children, limit the opportunities that young people have to eat 'fast food', and create a healthier borough.

This Council agrees to review all relevant supplementary planning document to manage the proliferation of fast-food outlets in particular areas, resisting the opening of new hot food takeaways near schools and youth facilities.

### **10.4 Motion in the name of Councillor Bektas Ozer**

This Council notes that:

- The mismanagement of the NHS by central government has resulted in more than 7 million people currently waiting for treatment – the highest on record. Years of cuts to the NHS has left our health system unprepared and overwhelmed.
- Government ministers continue to ignore the crisis in our NHS. Ambulances queue outside hospitals and patients are treated in corridors in Enfield and across the country. Alongside this, seven million people in the UK continue to wait for elective treatment.
- In the Borough of Enfield, hundreds of people wait for 4 weeks or more to see a GP.
- NHS staff provide an enormously important service to our communities, and they have the Council's support. Nurses, and all NHS staff, should be paid a decent wage.

The Council agrees to:

1. Write to the Prime Minister, our local MPs, and the relevant

government ministers to call for:

- a. Adequate funding for the NHS across the country
  - b. Fair funding for Enfield's NHS services
2. Work with local NHS services and commissioners for better GP provision in the borough.

### **10.5 Motion in the name of Councillor Thomas Fawns**

Council notes that England is facing a housing crisis of supply and affordability. The latest government statistics on homelessness in England show 101,300 households are currently living in temporary accommodation, the highest figure since 2005.

The Council believes that not enough homes are being built — one of the answers to the housing crisis.

Council also believes that this crisis is being exacerbated by the Local Housing Allowance rates freeze – the amount of money a Universal Credit and Housing Benefit claimant can expect to receive to cover their rent in the private rented sector – which has been frozen since 2020.

According to London Councils, just 8.8% of rental properties in London are available at LHA levels, and in some parts of London it is more like 0.1%. The cost to rent a two-bed home in Enfield is around £1,500 per month, while the maximum housing benefit for an Enfield two-bed home is £1,296.

The Council believes the Government should listen to the cross-party Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee in its call for LHA rates to match rents, so more families are not priced out of areas like Enfield.

The Council resolves to join the lobbying efforts of the Local Government Association, London Councils, charities Z2K and Shelter and others in calling for LHA rates to rise to stop low-income families from being priced out of the borough.

### **10.6 Motion in the name of Councillor Kate Anolue**

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

The World Health Organisation currently recommends exclusive breastfeeding for six months due to the endless benefits breast milk

provides to both baby and mother.

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

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

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

### **10.7 Motion in the name of Councillor Bektas Ozer**

Council notes that:

1. There is great concern at reports that Thames Water continue to discharge raw sewage into Enfield's waterways and rivers.
2. This has an impact on the quality of our natural water sources. Some charities allege that storm overflows are being misused and under-reported.
3. Figures from the Environment Agency show storm overflows were used 15 times within Enfield's local authority boundaries in 2022, discharging for a total of around 121 hours.
4. Enfield Council share The Rivers Trust's concerns that storm overflows are being used during hot periods – a risk as England continues to face increasing heatwaves.
5. Discharging untreated sewage in dry weather is bad for both human health and river health.

Council believes that:

1. The rules on sewage discharges must be tightened and enforcement improved, in conjunction with the Environment Agency.
2. The Government must set legal requirements to monitor all sewage outlets - with fines for firms who do not follow the rules - and set a legally binding target to reduce dumping events.
3. Council therefore will write to the relevant Government Ministers, requesting urgent action to lower risks of untreated sewage discharges into our rivers, and an assurance that the government will take steps to tackle the climate crisis and protect biodiversity in Enfield.

### **10.8 Motion in the name of Councillor Ayten Guzel**

Pertussis or Whooping Cough is a respiratory infection that can cause

severe symptoms or death in unvaccinated individuals. It is of particular risk to unprotected babies. Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent infection.

Current uptake of pertussis vaccination is low resulting in many babies being unprotected from birth until their first vaccination.

To increase immunisation uptake of the Whooping Cough vaccination, Enfield Council will implement a collaborative campaign with NHS maternity services and VCS partners, focusing on pregnant women and their families to encourage uptake in whooping cough vaccination.

#### **10.9 Motion in the name of Councillor Maria Alexandrou**

We condemn the shocking brutality that led to the death of 22 year old Mahsa Amini on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2022, sparking world-wide protests.

We stand together in support of Amini's family and the brave people of Iran demanding Freedom.

#### **10.10 Motion in the name of Councillor Maria Alexandrou**

All blue badge holders to be exempt from all LTNs in Enfield.

When other boroughs are ensuring all blue badge holders are allowed to travel in and out of the implemented LTNs, it is only right that Enfield Council considers this policy.

In the name of equality and fairness, as blue badge holders are impacted more severely by these schemes, they should have access without the fear of penalty notices.

I urge the council to have meaningful engagement with disability groups. This will help the council better understand the difficulties in travelling, such as using public transport and the dependency on cars for hospital appointments.

With over 11,700 blue badge holders in Enfield, the LTNs are creating hardships that didn't exist before the implementation of Enfield's LTNs.

I urge the council to review the impact on those with mobility issues and support them by giving exemptions to all blue badge holders in Enfield.

#### **10.11 Motion in the name of Councillor Maria Alexandrou**

International Men's Day started in 1999 in Trinidad and Tobago by



Jerome Tuluk Singh to commemorate his father's birthday.

Today it is a global awareness campaign and a great opportunity to appreciate and celebrate the positive values MEN bring to the world.

This year's theme is Zero Male Suicide. Suicide is the biggest killer of MEN under the age of 50. I urge the council to focus support on MEN's mental well-being.

#### **10.12 Motion in the name of Councillor Chris Joannides**

Enfield Council notes that World Aids Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> December is an opportunity to show support and solidarity for people living with HIV. Furthermore, we remember those who have lost their lives because of Aids, and we honour their memories by breaking down the stigma attached to people who have HIV.

This Council fully supports World Aids Day and supports the objectives of the national HIV Action Plan, which are:

1. Ensure effective co-ordination of prevention, treatment, and care
2. Reducing levels of undiagnosed HIV and transmission in the UK
3. Effective monitoring of HIV resources and improved accountability and commits to flying the "red ribbon" flag on 1<sup>st</sup> December, and during the week after World Aids Day, to promote the sale of Red Ribbons at the public points controlled by Enfield Council.

This Council further notes that:

1. HIV is no longer a death sentence and HIV treatment and medication as prescribed helps people with virus to live a natural life span.
2. HIV treatment is available to everyone living in the UK regardless of social-economic status.
3. People living with HIV have their rights protected under the Equal Opportunities Act 2010 and should not be discriminated against.
4. Recognises several voluntary organisations including the National Aids Trust, Body and Soul charity and Terence Higgins Trust are commended for their work in helping people living with HIV and their families.

#### **10.13 Motion in the name of Councillor Lee Chamberlain**

This Council notes that Bristol City Council immediately evacuated a tower block they managed on receiving a report the same week that it was known to be structurally unsafe in the event of an explosion. Their residents have not been subjected to delay, or suffered from the removal of heating and cooking facilities, or had the inconvenience of

taking showers in huts in the street. This demonstrates that such evacuation is an appropriate action. Whereby in comparison in Enfield it has been almost a year and half since the Administration received a similar structural report for the Shire Estate's blocks, and it still has people left living in the blocks.

Given the time now elapsed and the increased risk in winter of heating devices causing structurally damaging events, this motion asks the council to vote to require the Cabinet Member for Housing to order the immediate rehoming of all remaining residents from the structurally unsound towers at the Shires Estate and Wallbrook House.

#### **10.14 Motion in the name of Councillor Joanne Laban**

Cash remains a form of legal tender in the UK. Cash is used by many Enfield residents as it allows people to budget easily. It is also used widely by small businesses that are the backbone of our economy. However, there are now shops and restaurants in Enfield that are only accepting card payments or reducing the number of checkouts where you can pay by cash.

This chamber agrees to work with Enfield businesses to encourage them to continue to accept cash in order to support local residents and small businesses that rely on it.

#### **10.15 Motion in the name of Councillor Chris Dey**

Enfield Council notes:

The obligations it owes to the Armed Forces community within the London Borough of Enfield as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.

- Enfield Council along with all other local authorities in Great Britain, has proudly signed the Armed Forces Covenant.
- That in the course of their service in His Majesty's Armed Forces, some members of the Armed Forces Community, by virtue of the often dangerous and risky nature of their work, or environments in which they are required to operate, become wounded, injured or sick in such a way that affects their life in a permanent or significant way.
- A 2022 Freedom of Information request by the Royal British Legion showed that only one in five (20%) of Local Authorities in Great Britain rightly disregarded all military compensation when assessing local benefits claims for Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Discretionary Housing Payments and

## Disabled Facilities Grants.

In light of the above, this council resolves

- That no member of the Armed Forces Community should be forced to give up their military compensation to access the same welfare support as their civilian counterparts.
- That all compensation paid under any of the relevant military compensation schemes should be treated as such and not regarded as income when the Local Authority assesses applications for benefits over which they exercise discretion: Council Tax Support scheme, Housing Benefit, Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facilities Grants. Rather it should be treated as intended, as a compensatory payment made in recognition of the often significant and life changing service or sacrifice an individual has made in the course of their service in our nation's Armed Forces.
- To support the Royal British Legion's call for all forms of military compensation to be disregarded as income in the assessment and administration of locally administered benefits over which this council exercises discretion.
- To ask the cabinet member for finance to amend local policies to reflect such a position.
- For the cabinet member for finance to update members on this work, reporting back to an appropriate future meeting of this Council.

### **10.16 Motion in the name of Councillor Paul Pratt**

Arnos Grove is a ward which has the North Circular as a perimeter / boundary road. Traffic is diverted or re-routed on a daily basis along residential roads through the ward which are inappropriate for large vehicles such as tipper trucks, articulated wagons, coaches etc.

Residents from roads such as Dawlish Avenue, Morton Way, Powys Lane, Broomfield Lane, and surrounding roads are fed up with this and want it to stop.

It is only a matter of time before a fatality is a consequence. Shamefully and despite the high levels of Council Tax revenue from households in Arnos Grove, it is Council policy that prevention is not better than cure. I quote 'there is not a number of injury collisions that would guarantee [traffic calming] funding, we prioritise locations with the highest collision rates first.'

This Council agrees that it is inappropriate to wait for a fatality or serious incident to occur. Conversely, where the principal of prevention is better than cure can be applied, that this should be the default.

**11. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

To confirm any changes to committee memberships.

Any changes received once the agenda has been published will be included in the supplementary Agenda to be circulated at the meeting.

**12. NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

To confirm any changes to outside bodies memberships.

Any changes received once the agenda has been published will be included in the supplementary Agenda to be circulated at the meeting.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the agreed date of the next Council meeting as Thursday 22 February 2024 at 7pm.