

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2024**

COUNCILLORS

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

ABSENT Gunes Akbulut, Nesil Caliskan, Guney Dogan, Thomas Fawns, Ayten Guzel, Andy Milne, Gina Needs, Ahmet Oykenner and David Skelton

THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

Sri, the granddaughter of Guruji Vyas Sharma, spiritual leader from the Dharma Mandir Hindu Temple, gave the blessing, accompanied by youth colleagues.

**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 Gunes Akbulut, Nesil Caliskan, Guney Dogan, Thomas Fawns, Ayten Guzel, Andy Milne, Gina Needs, Ahmet Oykenner and David Skelton.

**3
MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting of Council, and wished everyone a very happy new year.

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The Mayor firstly took some time to wish fellow Councillor, Gina Needs, a speedy recovery in respect of her recently diagnosed illness and sent all our best wishes to her.

The Mayor informed the Chamber of the sad loss of former Councillor and Cabinet Member Del Goddard. Del was a dedicated public servant for Enfield for many years, being a ward councillor between 1996 – 2014. Following the 2010 council election he was appointed Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration. He was also involved in many other community and partnership organisations. Our sincere condolences go out to his family and friends.

The Mayor was also notified this week of the sad loss of Sylvia Jackson who was a Mayoress in 1990 when her husband, former Councillor John Jackson, was Mayor. Again, our condolences go out to family and friends.

Councillors were invited to say a few words in tribute.

Cllr Doug Taylor spoke of Del Goddard's many roles in the Council and the borough, his keenness to drive forward change, and his long-lasting impact on Enfield. Cllr Michael Rye spoke of his long friendship with Del Goddard and expressed condolences to his wife and family. Cllr Kate Anolue spoke of her work alongside Del Goddard on Orchardside School Governing Body, and expressed sadness at his passing on behalf of the school. Cllr Joanne Laban praised Del Goddard's positivity, and heartfelt actions in support of regeneration and to make Enfield a great place to live, work and visit.

Cllr Michael Rye advised that Sylvia Jackson had been a former Mayoress of Enfield twice and had been civically-minded and active in the borough, serving as a school governor and supporting charities, particularly for children with disabilities.

A minute's silence was marked in respect.

In response to shouting and displaying of flags from the public gallery, and protestors' disregard of warnings given by the Mayor regarding disruption, the meeting was adjourned and councillors, officers and press representatives reconvened to a secondary meeting area.

The Mayor resumed her announcements after the adjournment.

The Mayor stated that she continued to pray for peace for the continuing conflicts in Ukraine, Palestine and Israel and looked forward to communities living in safety and security, enjoying equal rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy.

The Mayor continued to support the residents of Enfield by attending the Citizenship ceremonies that took place most weeks. She was honoured to stand before the new citizens of Enfield. They stood proud to be part of our Borough and she was delighted to receive them. She also continued to attend

local events and was humbled by the kindness shown to her from the residents of Enfield.

In January we remember all the victims of the Holocaust. The Mayor attended a ceremony at City Hall in remembrance, and Enfield would be holding a Holocaust Memorial event on Thursday 25th January at the Dugdale Arts Centre, for which councillors had all received an invitation to attend.

The Mayor requested members' continued professional and orderly conduct during this meeting and reminded them that any members wishing to speak should stand unless they are not able to do so and should address the meeting through her and continue to treat each other courteously and with respect during political interactions.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 November 2023 were received and **AGREED** as a correct record.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor acknowledged that Councillors had received written advice on declarations of interest from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting in relation to the setting of the Council tax base.

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

Item 6 – Opposition Priority Business on Protecting Enfield's Green Spaces – Cllrs Julian Sampson, Joanne Laban, Doug Taylor and Emma Supple were a member of an Enfield Golf Club and so declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.

6 OPPOSITION PRIORITY BUSINESS - PROTECTING ENFIELD'S GREEN SPACES

Cllr Julian Sampson introduced the Opposition Priority Business paper on Protecting Enfield's Green Spaces.

Cllr Sampson noted that Enfield's green spaces of all sizes were loved and valued. He had heard prejudice against golf courses for their alleged elitism by the current administration, but stated that golf clubs in Enfield were far from exclusive, and had 2000 members living across the borough. Enfield's golf clubs also had a diverse membership. Golf was an environmentally friendly outdoor leisure pursuit. The new Local Plan was considered to put pockets of green space such as Brimsdown Sports Ground under threat of building development. As detailed in the paper, areas currently enjoyed as open

spaces were identified in the Local Plan for redevelopment, including a crematorium on Haselbury Church Street recreation ground. Loss of green spaces to raise revenue was feared: these were not investments to be priced but community assets to be valued.

Cllr Ergin Erbil, Deputy Leader of the Council, responded that protection and enhancement of Enfield's green spaces was one of the administration's priorities. Action had already been progressed on woodland creation, rewilding initiatives, and new wetlands. Cllr Erbil felt that the Opposition had misinterpreted the Local Plan: key aspects of it addressed concerns, such as accessibility to all to green spaces, and protection of green sites and noted that wildflower meadows were more protective to biodiversity than golf courses. In respect of Whitewebbs Park, the deal with Tottenham Hotspur would provide new trails and a café, jobs and training, and the woods were excluded from the lease.

Opposition members did not accept the claims that the administration championed the environment. They believed that the Local Plan would identify virtually all open space and green space in the borough as open to development, especially for housing. The Opposition felt that Whitewebbs should be a park for everyone, and hundreds of local residents had made clear their opposition to the deal with Tottenham Hotspur. Residents in the most deprived areas would be hardest hit by Local Plan proposals, such as development at Brimsdown Sports Ground. The proposal for a crematorium in Haselbury had outraged local residents. Benefits of green spaces for play and exercise were vital and such spaces should not be destroyed when there was an obesity crisis.

In response, Administration members stated that the Council had shown its commitment to enhancing and maintaining the borough's blue and green assets, with numerous projects. The Council won a global Ashden award for Local Nature Recoverers in respect of flood risk mitigation, and had provided 13 new wetlands and planted 130,000 new trees. The health and wellbeing of residents was important, evidenced by funding for sport and leisure and engagement with sports clubs and friends of parks groups. The Local Plan had a role to promote sustainable development, and had an environmental role.

During the debate, a procedural motion was moved by Cllr Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the debate for a further 20 minutes which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

During the extended debate, a further procedural motion was moved by Cllr Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the debate for a further 20 minutes which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

Cllr Julian Sampson, in summing up, advised that the objective of this priority business paper was to highlight the threat to green spaces and golf courses in

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Enfield. Cllr Sampson invited those present to note a promotional postcard commissioned by the Council itself which included an image of a golfer as part of showing the essence of Enfield. It was clear that some councillors did not value golf, but if courses were lost, other leisure facilities would follow. The borough's green spaces were assets to be treasured by the whole community.

Cllr Ergin Erbil responded that the proposed recommendations in the opposition business paper did not address important issues in respect of climate action. Golf courses involved landfilling, grass cutting and prevention of wild flowers, and use of large amounts of water for maintenance. The Administration prioritised wetland and woodland and meadow creation and greater accessibility to green spaces for all.

After the debate, Members took a vote on whether to approve the Deputy Leader's response to the Conservative Opposition Business paper. Members agreed the Deputy Leader's response.

The recommendations in the Opposition Business paper were therefore not accepted.

The meeting was briefly adjourned at this point and re-commenced in the Council Chamber at 9:10pm.

7

COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATE COLLECTION FUND 2024/25

The Mayor acknowledged that Councillors had received written advice from the Monitoring Officer relating to section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 prior to the meeting and invited Councillors to declare if any were in arrears of Council Tax which had been outstanding for more than two months. There were no declarations.

The Mayor also acknowledged that Councillors had received updates to paragraph 15 and Appendix A of the report.

Cllr Tim Leaver moved, and Cllr Ergin Erbil seconded, the report.

Cllr Leaver introduced the report, which recommended the 2024/25 Council Tax and Business Rate bases. These must be agreed and notified to the Secretary of State and the Greater London Authority by the 31st January.

Last year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Council Tax increase limit was increased from 1.99% to 2.99%, with Adult Social Care precept limit increased from 1% to 2%. This had not changed and gave local authorities the option of increasing Council Tax by a maximum of 4.99%, and this is the rate that Enfield Council would be setting for the period 2024/25. The proposed schedule of discounts and premiums were set out in the report. Proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme were currently subject to consultation and would be submitted to the next meeting of Council for

approval. The report also set out information in relation to the 2024/25 Business Rate base and the transitional relief scheme.

The Opposition expressed their concerns that despite the business rates retention giving the Council 30% of business rate income, debt maintenance took up a lot of funds. There were proposed above-inflation increases in fees and charges, and cuts to some services. Pledges regarding Council Tax Support had been broken: the proposed changes would impact the worst-off residents in the borough. The Council Tax increase would come at time when residents were facing increased costs of living.

Members stated that Enfield Council had one of the strongest schemes for Council Tax Support in London, and a significant percentage of residents received a discount.

Following the debate, Cllr Sabri Ozaydin moved, and Cllr Ergin Erbil seconded, a procedural motion under paragraph 13.20 (v) of the Council's Procedure Rules that the question now be put, which was **AGREED**.

Council was asked to

I. Agree in principle and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of the Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, that the amount calculated by the London Borough of Enfield as its Council Tax Base for 2024/25 shall be 97,786 Band D equivalents.

II. Agree in principle the non-domestic rating income estimate for 2024/25, excluding collection fund adjustments, of £127,764,130.

III. Approve, in accordance with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, the revised discretionary power to levy a Council Tax premium of 100% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than one year (but less than five years).

IV. Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement, to adjust and finalise the figures agreed in principle above in light of the feedback to the consultation on the proposed changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme which is currently underway.

The recommendations were put to the vote and **AGREED**.

8

INDEPENDENT PERSONS APPOINTMENT FOR THE COUNCILLOR CONDUCT COMMITTEE

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

Opposition members expressed disappointment that members of the Councillor Conduct Committee had not been invited to take part in the interview process or to meet the candidate before appointment.

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The Monitoring Officer gave advice on the process in respect of consultation on the appointment of an Independent Person, and that this was outside the terms of reference of the Councillor Conduct Committee.

Following the debate, Cllr Sabri Ozaydin moved, and Cllr Ergin Erbil seconded, a procedural motion under paragraph 13.20 (v) of the Council's Procedure Rules that the question now be put, which was AGREED.

Council was asked to

I. Agree to appoint Gary Rogers to the role of Independent Person for a period of two years, and to extend the appointment of the current Independent Person Joan Mansfield until May 2026 so that the committee retains two Independent Person posts.

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Georgiou, and another 11 members of the Council having stood in support of the request, the following votes were recorded:

For:

Cllr Abdul Abdullahi
Cllr Josh Abey
Cllr Nicki Adeleke
Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu
Cllr Nawshad Ali
Cllr Kate Anolue
Cllr Chinelo Anyanwu
Cllr Mahym Bedekova
Cllr Sinan Boztas
Cllr Alev Cazimoglu
Cllr Mustafa Cetinkaya
Cllr Hivran Dalkaya
Cllr Ergin Erbil
Cllr Susan Erbil
Cllr Margaret Greer
Cllr Nelly Gyosheva
Cllr Ahmet Hasan
Cllr Mohammad Islam
Cllr Chris James
Cllr Rick Jewell
Cllr Doris Jiage
Cllr Destiny Karakus
Cllr Tim Leaver
Cllr Sabri Ozaydin
Cllr Bektas Ozer
Cllr George Savva
Cllr Nia Stevens
Cllr Doug Taylor
Cllr Eylem Yuruk

Abstain:

Cllr Maria Alexandrou
Cllr Lee Chamberlain
Cllr Chris Dey
Cllr Hannah Dyson
Cllr Peter Fallart
Cllr Reece Fox
Cllr Alessandro Georgiou
Cllr Pat Gregory
Cllr Adrian Grumi
Cllr James Hockney
Cllr Stephanos Ioannou
Cllr Chris Joannides
Cllr Joanne Laban
Cllr Elisa Morreale
Cllr Tom O'Halloran
Cllr Paul Pratt
Cllr Michael Rye
Cllr Julian Sampson
Cllr Ruby Sampson
Cllr Edward Smith
Cllr Jim Steven
Cllr Emma Supple
Cllr Andrew Thorp

The recommendations having been put to the vote were **AGREED**.

9

CHANGE OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

A procedural motion was moved by Cllr Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil 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 and **AGREED**.

Cllr Sabri Ozaydin moved to change the order of Motions so that Motion numbers 10.6 and 10.7 would be taken in that order which was seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil and **AGREED**.

10

MOTIONS

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.”

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

The remainder of Motions lapsed under the guillotine arrangements.

11 COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements, answers to questions were taken as printed in the supplementary agenda.

12 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

There were no changes to committee memberships.

13 NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no changes to outside bodies memberships.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Thursday 22 February 2024 at 7pm.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor expressed congratulations to Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the Council, and her husband on becoming parents, and to Cllr Alev Cazimoglu on becoming a grandmother.

The Mayor re-iterated best wishes to Cllr Gina Needs for a speedy recovery, and that flowers had been sent to Cllr Needs on behalf of all Enfield councillors.