



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 16th 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 1st 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 1st 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.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2023****COUNCILLORS****PRESENT**

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

ABSENT

Mahmut Aksanoglu, Kate Anolue, Mahym Bedekova, Sinan Boztas, Elif Erbil, Adrian Grumi, James Hockney, Gina Needs and Emma Supple

THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

Father Mehall of St Monica's Catholic Church in Palmers Green gave the 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, Kate Anolue, Mahym Bedekova, Sinan Boztas, Adrian Grumi, James Hockney, Gina Needs and Emma Supple.

3**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Chamber.

The Mayor began by expressing her sincere sadness over the conflicts currently taking place around the world. She prayed for peace in regions

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facing conflict and tragedy as all people should be able to live in safety and security, enjoying equal rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy.

The Leader was invited to say a few words in relation to the Israel/Gaza conflict. The Leader acknowledged the impact on Enfield residents and their families and that the loss of life and displacement of families resonated with all. She noted with concern the troubling increase in both antisemitism and Islamophobia and acknowledged that work continued with the Police and local communities and schools to stand against hatred and discrimination. Commitment to the wellbeing of all Enfield's residents was reaffirmed.

Cllr Ruby Sampson spoke about the fear being experienced by Jewish people. Cllr Ergin Erbil recorded gratitude to colleagues, in particular the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion and the Leader of the Council, for their work towards community cohesion. Cllr Alessandro Georgiou praised Police reassurance patrols, and thanked the Leader for her words and ongoing support for Enfield's residents.

The Mayor informed the Chamber that sadly, former Councillor, former Mayor and Freeman of the Borough, John Wyatt, had passed away last month. He was first elected as a councillor in 1968 and was subsequently elected in every election from 1974 to 2002 for Bush Hill Park Ward. He was granted the Freedom of the Borough in 2003 'in recognition of the long and valuable public service rendered by him to the borough and as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held'. Sincere condolences went out to his family and friends. Councillors were invited to say a few words in tribute.

Cllr Michael Rye spoke of John Wyatt's valuable service to Enfield Council, and also to Epping Forest. Cllr George Savva praised John Wyatt's knowledge and talent as a councillor and as a great mayor.

The Mayor thanked Members for the moving tributes and led a minute's silence for former councillor John Wyatt, for all those that had recently lost their lives through the conflict in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine and elsewhere, and of course, in remembrance of all those who had given their lives in many wars over the years defending freedom. May they rest in eternal peace.

The Mayor had 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 too was delighted to receive them.

The Mayor had been invited to many Black History Month events during October and November. There were also many fireworks and festivities taking place to celebrate Diwali Festival of Lights. It had been wonderful for the younger generations to embrace their culture with many events taking place in Enfield. She wished to thank our diverse communities for sharing their cultures with us.

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The Mayor held her Thanksgiving Service on 29th October and thanked all those who attended and shared the experience. She was delighted to show off the London Alevi Culture Centre and Cemevi.

The Mayor had visited many community groups and schools over the last two months, giving out certificates and awards. She had also received Brettenham School in the Council Chamber. The children were so excited and asked many questions.

With Christmas only round the corner, the Mayor sent all her best wishes for a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas break.

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.

The Young Mayor was invited to update the Chamber on their activities in their elected role. Darren Paul expressed thanks for the opportunity to speak as Young Mayor of Enfield and a member of the Enfield Youth Council. The Youth Council had an objective to make Enfield a place to be proud to come from. With HSBC Bank they had provided financial workshops in schools to help young people. There had also been work with the Metropolitan Police in relation to knife crime. His attention was also on reconfiguring the CHiPS scheme network of safe places for young people to go if they felt in danger.

4

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 September 2023 were received and **AGREED** as a correct record.

5

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were advised that if they had a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in a motion, they should declare their interest at the start of the debate on that motion if it was debated.

In respect of other items of business on the agenda, the following Councillors declared non-pecuniary interests in the following items:

Items 9, 10 and 11 – Cllr Sabri Ozaydin as a director of Housing Gateway Limited.

Items 9, 10 and 11 – Cllr Doug Taylor as a director of Energetik.

6

THE MAKING OF HADLEY WOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Nesil Caliskan moved, and Cllr Chris James seconded, the report.

Cllr Caliskan introduced the report, which sought formal approval to 'make' the Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Plan so that it would be used alongside already adopted policies to assess and determine planning applications within the Hadley Wood Neighbourhood area. The hard work of local residents over several years developing this document was recognised. The recent referendum showed a strong endorsement of the neighbourhood plan.

Opposition members expressed support for the neighbourhood plan and pride in the hard work and community spirit involved in it reaching this point. The Hadley Wood Association were thanked for putting the plan together, which was the first neighbourhood plan in the Borough. The Leader of the Council, and the staff of the Planning Department, were thanked as having been supportive of the process.

The Council was asked to formally 'make' the Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Plan, incorporating it as part of the Statutory Development Plan for Enfield.

The recommendations were **AGREED**.

7

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Cllr Alev Cazimoglu moved, and Cllr Chris James seconded, the report.

Cllr Cazimoglu introduced the report, which presented the Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board's (SAB) annual report for noting. She recorded thanks to Geraldine Gavin, Independent Chair of Enfield SAB, for her hard work and to the SAB for their dedication. Members' attention was drawn to key points in relation to activity of the SAB in 2022-23, and learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews. Updates from partner agencies were included in Appendix A to the annual report. The five-year Enfield Safeguarding Adults Board Strategy would be developed to guide future work on agreed priorities. Members thanked Council staff for their hard work and commitment in Adult Social Care.

Opposition members welcomed the detail set out in the annual report, and the separation of adults safeguarding reporting from children's safeguarding, though some felt the report could have had greater substance. Some members felt there was a need for more analysis of the rise in incident numbers and that further information should be provided in respect of modern slavery and Council procurement.

Exercising the right of reply, Cllr Cazimoglu thanked Members for the level of engagement, and that the constructive comments would be noted. Cllr

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Cazimoglu advised that detailed analysis was presented at SAB meetings, and Members were welcome to attend the meetings if they wished.

Council was asked to note the Annual Report.

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

8

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

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

Cllr Abdullahi introduced the report, which presented the Enfield Children's Safeguarding Partnership (ECSP) annual report for noting. The key achievements and issues of the year were highlighted. The priorities for 2023/24 were set out and were ambitious. Thanks were recorded to social workers and to the panel members for their hard work. The collaboration of the Local Authority, Police and NHS made sure there was shared understanding and commitment to safeguarding Enfield's children.

During the debate, a procedural motion was moved by Cllr Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Chris Dey under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the debate for a further 30 minutes which was **AGREED**.

Opposition members noted the importance of safeguarding young people in the borough as the most essential work undertaken by the Local Authority, and it was vital to learn lessons from every case. Initiatives showed continuous improvement, and the priorities for 2023/24 showed wider development.

Council was asked to note the Annual Report.

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

9

2024/25 - 2033/34 CAPITAL STRATEGY

Cllr Tim Leaver moved, and Cllr Nesil Caliskan seconded, the report.

Cllr Leaver introduced the report, which sought approval of the Ten Year Capital Strategy. The Council's ten year plan by department was set out in Appendix A of the report. Of the total capital investment planned, the majority was funded by grants (non-borrowing). A new Prudential indicator was proposed in response to new borrowing affordability measures. Members welcomed the comprehensive strategy and noted that the need for review was due to pressures, inflation and high interest rates.

Opposition members noted the proposed reduction in capital investment but considered that would not be enough. They felt there was an inherent risk of

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asset deterioration arising from reduced capital investment in highways infrastructure, which was concerning.

During the debate, a procedural motion was moved by Cllr Sabri 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 **AGREED**.

Council was asked to approve

I. The 2024/25 – 2033/34 Capital Strategy.

II. The delegation to Cabinet approval of projects up to £10m from the Pipeline Programme, provided the programme continues to fit within the affordability metrics.

III. The use of the Prudential indicator "Ratio of Financing Cost to Net Revenue Budget" as the primary indicator for affordability of the Capital Programme with the target set at 10% to 12% for the first five years.

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

10

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR UPDATE 2023/24

Cllr Tim Leaver moved, and Cllr Nesil Caliskan seconded, the report.

Cllr Leaver introduced the report, which described the activities of the Council's Treasury Management function over the five months to 31 August 2023. The treasury management position and the change since the start of the financial year was set out in Table 3 of the report. Paragraph 69 onwards of the report set out the Treasury Management indicators, and the Council was in compliance with all nine indicators and borrowing was well managed.

As the extended time for the debate had ended, the recommendation was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

AGREED to note the report of the Treasury Management Mid-Year Update 2023/24.

11

2023/24 PERIOD 5 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

This report was dealt with at the end of the meeting under guillotine arrangements and the recommendations were put to the vote without debate in accordance with the guillotine arrangements and were **AGREED**.

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements, the Opposition advised they would have voted against the recommendations.

12 PROCEDURAL MOTION

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 to change the order of Motions so that Motion numbers 13.15, 13.26, 13.9, 13.25, 13.23, 13.19, 13.18, 13.20, 13.17 and 13.24 would be taken in that order which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

13 MOTIONS

13.15 Motion in the name of the name of Councillor Ayten Guzel

"Ahead of the final local government finance settlement announcement, Enfield Council is calling on the Chancellor to address immediate funding pressures in local government, secure long-term financial stability and provide more support to councils in key areas such as housing, adult social care and children's services.

Government inaction has meant that the homelessness crisis has spiralled out of control. Councils in London are currently spending £60 million per month on temporary accommodation alone. Council notes the recent study by London Councils, showing that 60,000 Londoners could become homeless by 2030 if Local Housing Allowance rates remain frozen.

The Government should also provide funding for local government that reflects the acute rise in demand for adults and children's social care, with these statutory services causing significant pressure nationally.

Thirteen years of cuts and underfunding from Government has exacerbated these problems, with Enfield receiving 60% less than in 2010. Like other local authorities across the country, Enfield Council has also had to deal with the consequences of the Government crashing the economy, causing record inflation and interest rates.

Enfield Council will:

- Continue to work with London Councils and the Local Government Association (LGA) to lobby the Chancellor ahead of the local government finance statement so that funding reflects the severity of the challenges local government faces.
- Proactively pursue dialogue with all government departments to explore additional funding opportunities for our council services and the borough as a whole."

Following the debate, the Motion was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

13.26 Motion in the name of Councillor Abdul Abdullahi

COUNCIL - 22.11.2023

“That Enfield Council recognises that Care Experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination.

That future decisions, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be made after a thorough Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) to determine the impact of any policies on care experienced people, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.

That the Fairer Enfield Policy and Equality Objectives will be reviewed to ensure that it is reflective of the Council’s commitment to recognise the impact its decisions will have on Care Experienced People and it will annually publish information relating to people who share protected characteristics.

The council will treat Care Experienced individuals as well as those with protected characteristics fairly and equally.

To formally invite our partner agencies to treat Care Experienced people as those with protected characteristics until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.

For the Council to continue to proactively seek and listen to the voices of Care Experienced people when developing new policies.”

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

The remainder of Motions **LAPSED** under the guillotine arrangements.

14

COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

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

15

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The following changes to committee memberships were noted under the guillotine arrangements:

Councillor Thomas Fawns and Councillor Gunes Akbulut to replace Councillor Rick Jewell and Councillor Susan Erbil on the Councillor Conduct Committee.

Councillor Andrew Thorp to replace Councillor Jim Steven on the Fostering Panel.

16

NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The following changes to nominations on outside bodies were noted under the guillotine arrangements:

London Councils Greater London Employment Forum – Nomination of Cllr Susan Erbil to replace Cllr Ayten Guzel.

North London Waste Authority – Nomination of Cllr Bektas Ozer as representative.

Local London – Nomination of Cllr Chinelo Anyanwu as reserve member.

17

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 7pm.

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Opposition Priority Business – Protecting Enfield’s Green Spaces

Enfield Council currently owns and maintains a wealth of open green spaces throughout the Borough which are enjoyed by residents of all ages, backgrounds, and with no regard to whether an individual is deprived or not. The Council’s website identifies the following *“With over 900 hectares of green space, Enfield offers an oasis away from the bustle of London. Ancient woodlands provide the perfect setting for golf, horse riding, jogging, cycling, walking, fishing, sports and more”*. These open green spaces are crucial for sport, mental wellbeing and other recreational uses and are one of the defining characteristics of the borough.

However, these green assets are under threat because of this current Labour administration. The Opposition notes the following:

Benefits of Green Spaces

- Historic England has identified the significant benefits of public access to parks and open spaces in an article *‘Public Parks and Greenspaces Matter’*. The article states the following benefits:
 - People between the ages of 25 and 34 (70 % use their park at least once a month)
 - Households with children under the age of five (90 % use their park at least once a month)
 - People identifying as Black and Minority Ethnic (of whom 71% use their park at least once a month compared to 56 % of people identifying as White)
 - 95% of visits are enjoyable, peaceful and relaxing
 - 60% of visitors take more physical exercise because they use parks
 - 80% say the park helps make their area more attractive and a better place to live
 - Evidence on the contribution of parks and green spaces to physical and mental health had already been submitted to the 2016-17 Select Committee ‘Public Parks’ inquiry and reducing stress, fatigue, anxiety and depression , combating loneliness and encouraging community cohesion are recognised in the government’s subsequent 2018 25-Year Environment Plan.
- The Greater London Authority, which is controlled by a Labour Mayor of London, says the following with regard to parks and green spaces: *“In a bustling city like London, parks, woodlands, rivers, and wetlands, provide spaces to relax and connect with each other. They’re also places that encourage us to be active, whether cycling or walking, or exploring nature with family and friends. Trees and green spaces also provide shelter from the sun and help us to stay cool as the climate heats up.”* In addition to this *“The Mayor wants every Londoner to be no more than a 10-minute walk away from green space.”*

Green Spaces in Enfield

Kenninghall Open Space

Better Homes Enfield has noted the following:

- *“Kenninghall Open Space in Edmonton is one of the few accessible green spaces in the area and is an important asset for the local community.”*
- *“Council policy (DMD 72) says that due to a deficiency of publicly accessible green space, ‘all available opportunities should be taken to make new public park provisions’ in the area. Despite this, a recently published document shows that Enfield Council (the landowner) wants to redevelop Kenninghall Open Space. Therefore, the park will no longer be for public use.”*
- *“This would not be the first-time Edmonton residents have lost a public park. In 2016, Enfield Council built on Ladysmith Open Space as part of its redevelopment of Meridian Water. It recently came to light that the new community garden at Meridian Water will only be temporary because Enfield Council plan to build housing on the site”*
- The Opposition notes the administrations constants attacks on open green spaces in Edmonton, depriving some of the most deprived residents of the Borough of open green spaces.

Haselbury Church Street Recreation Ground

- Enfield Council proposes within the Local Plan to turn a much valued open green space into a crematorium. Church Street Recreation Ground is a valued community asset which the administration is seeking to destroy.

Brimsdown Sports Ground

- Brimsdown Ward is in the 20% most deprived in the UK. Yet despite this Enfield Council, as identified in its Local Plan, is seeking to build tower blocks on this valued and much used sports ground. The site is currently used to play football, primarily by young Enfield residents.

Woodland surrounding Sainsbury’s, Winchmore Hill

- The Woodland surrounding Sainsbury’s in Winchmore Hill is a natural buffer between Green Lanes, the very busy and well utilised Sainsbury’s and a quiet residential area. This woodland is not only used as a pedestrian cut through, but also a walking path which is enjoyed by adults and children alike. This site has been identified in the Enfield Local Plan as a site for development.

Four Hills Estate, New Avenue Estate, Hoe Lane Estate, Exeter Rd Estate and Kettering Rd Estate

- The above mentioned estates house hundreds of residents that are able to access the open space within, and surrounding these housing estates. The Enfield Local Plan and proposed plans from the Council propose to provide further densification, thus posing a risk to the vital open spaces.

St. Anne's School Playing Fields, Enfield Town

- Rather than retaining green and open space within Enfield, the Labour administration is proposing to destroy a significant piece of green land that has been enjoyed by children in Enfield for decades. The St. Anne's School Playing Fields are proposed to be part of a large, tall and dense development proposed in the Local Plan.

Golfing in Enfield

- Over 2,000 Enfield residents are members of Enfield golf clubs, of which approximately 900 are resident in an N postcode,
- Of these residents, almost 700 are women and over 200 are under 18 years old.
- Irrespective of membership basis, over 60,000 members of the public who were not golf club members played golf at one of the Enfield golf clubs in the y/e 31/12/22;
- All Enfield golf clubs are open to non-members throughout the week and year, with only some weekend times reserved for members;
- These non-members would have paid a price from as little as £18 to £125 at the most, depending on which course and the time of year;
- For a four-hour round this represents an hourly rate of £4.50 to £31.25 / hour;
- Enfield golf clubs have outreach programmes to attract men, women and young people from all socio-economic groups not traditionally associated with golf;
- Enfield golf clubs host and support local civic groups through their use of club facilities, often at discounted rates.
- Some Enfield golf clubs are crossed by public footpaths;
- Golf clubs are probably the most bio-diverse outdoor leisure / sporting facility there is, being more biodiverse than any football / rugby / tennis / hockey club;
- Enfield golf clubs are all making efforts to phase out the use of chemicals and fertilisers, following National Course Sustainability programmes;
- Enfield golf clubs are making additional habitats for flora and fauna, including log piling, wildflower seeding and hedgerow maintenance.
- Unfortunately the Labour administration is now mired in a legal battle over Whitewebbs Park Golf Course and the surrounding open land and wants to build over Crews Hill Golf Course as identified in the Local Plan, all despite the public benefit to all residents in Enfield as identified above.

Council resolves

- that as per s2.16 of the Enfield Local Plan, outdoor sports and recreation facilities and golf course enhance the biodiversity of Enfield and allow residents to make the most of Enfield's natural assets;
- that as per s6.40 of the ELP, these outdoor sports and recreation facilities should be protected against unjustified loss;
- that outdoor leisure facilities and golf courses are a community asset to be valued, not an investment to be priced;

- that Enfield golf clubs and courses should therefore be protected in the ELP;
- that the Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy and the Director of Leisure, Park and Culture should meet with a delegation from community groups identified as representing parks, golf courses and green open spaces that are under threat to explore ways in which their relationships can be developed for the mutual benefit of residents, friends of parks, club members and other users.



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Council Tax and Business Rate Base
Report to	Council
Date of Meeting	24 th January 2024
Cabinet Member	Councillor Tim Leaver
Executive Director / Director	Fay Hammond
Report Authors	Annette Trigg annette.trigg@enfield.gov.uk Bridgette Cowley bridgette.cowley@enfield.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected	All
Key Decision Number	KD5712
Classification	Part 1 Public
Reason for exemption	N/A

Purpose of Report

1. This report recommends the 2024/25 Council Tax Base and the 2024/25 Business Rates income estimate.

Recommendations

2. Council agrees 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.
3. Council agrees in principle the non-domestic rating income estimate for 2024/25, excluding collection fund adjustments, of £127,764,130.
4. Council 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).
5. Council delegates 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.

2024/25 Council Tax base

6. The Council agrees the Council Tax Base and Business Rate income annually in January to allow precepting authorities to agree the Council Tax precept for 2024/25. The Council Tax base is calculated in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
7. The tax base is expressed in terms of “Band D Equivalents” (i.e. a property in Band A is equivalent to 2/3rds of a Band D property and a property in Band H is equivalent to double Band D). A table showing the calculation of the tax base is attached in Appendix A. The figures are based upon information in existing Council Tax records with adjustments considering the effect of estimated changes between now and March 2025.
8. There were no changes to the 2023 Autumn Statement relating to the core Council Tax increase limits. These remain as they are at 2.99% for 2024/25 and Adult Social Care precept at 2.00%. This continues to give local authorities the option of increasing Council Tax by a maximum of 4.99% in 2024/25, beyond which a local referendum would be required.
9. It is proposed that the local discretionary increase in the council tax premium on long-term empty homes from 1 April 2024 to March 2025 will change as follows.
 - 100% for those dwellings empty for 1 year and less than 5 years;
10. The premiums will therefore be:
 - 100% for those dwellings empty for 1 year and less than 5 years;
 - 200% for dwellings empty for at least 5 years but less than 10 years; and
 - 300% premium for dwellings empty for at least 10 years
11. In this report Council is asked to agree the council tax base and assumed collection rate upon which we will estimate our council tax income for next year's budget. We are recommending an increase of 992 in band D equivalent dwellings to use as the 2024/25 council tax base to 97,786 (96,794 in 2023/24). This reflects the following notable changes:
 - The increase incorporates a higher collection rate for 2024/25 of 96.75%, compared to 95.75% in 2023/24, reflecting on improved collection rates whilst taking account of how the economy has deteriorated and the current collection forecast for 2023/24.
 - Continued focus on reviewing all discounts including single person, students and second homes.
 - An increased emphasis on inspections and monitoring of newly built or extended properties.
12. The proposed schedule of discounts and premiums are shown in the table below. These will take effect from 1 April 2024

Type of Councils Discounts/Premium	Local/Statutory	Discount /Premium
---------------------------------------	-----------------	----------------------

Single person discount	Statutory	-25%
All persons in the household disregarded	Statutory	-50%
Second Home discount	Local	0%
Empty property (unoccupied but furnished)	Local	0%
Empty unfurnished property for greater than one year and less than five years-continuing premium	Local	+100%
Empty unfurnished property for at least five years but less than ten years	Local	+200%
Empty unfurnished property for at least ten years-continuing premium	Local	+300%

13. The Council's Council Tax Discretionary Hardship policy is being reviewed and updated to ensure a consistent approach to assessment and award of relief across all eligible cases.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

14. New regulations came into force on 1 December 2023 providing that HMO's will be treated as a single dwelling for the purposes of Council Tax in England and that liability rests with landlords. This provision only affects HMO's under section 254 of the Housing Act 2004 and we do not anticipate that this will result in a significant change in the number of properties.

Council Tax collection rate

15. The lifetime collection percentage used in the calculation of the tax base in previous years and proposed for 2024/25 are as follows: -

Council Tax Year	Collection rate
2001/02	97.50%
2002/04	97.75%
2004/13	98.00%
2013/18	96.79%
2018/19	97.06%
2019/20	98.00%
2020/21	98.00%
2021/22	96.00%
2022/23	96.90%
2023/24	95.75%
2024/25 (proposed)	96.75%*

- *The stated collection rate for 2024/25 will reduce to 94.60% if the changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme (which is currently subject to consultation) are implemented.

17. The last financial year has seen significant changes shaping a very different focus on collection with greater challenge to the Council's priorities. Whilst focusing on supporting our residents and businesses following the pandemic, we continue to see the impact of the Cost-of-Living crisis with the need to manage unprecedented external challenges as the economy recovers.

18. More support and extended payment arrangements are now offered as well as increased engagement before arrears cases become too great to deal with. For

those that we need to recover through the courts and pass to the enforcement agents for collection we are increasing the engagement at each stage.

19. For 2024/25 the overall collection percentage is estimated at % 96.75%. This has increased 1% from 2023/24, however it continues to reflect the current conditions and the impact that the rise in interest rates and associated cost-of-living crisis is having on the wider economy and individual households.
20. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis means we are seeing some residents struggling to pay their Council Tax, with a considerable proportion of these people falling into arrears for the first time. Support and sign posting are crucial during this time, with considerable numbers reaching out currently. Council Tax Support Claimants based on 31 December represent 28.6% of the tax base, having a lower rate of collection than non-CTS households, however we are finding that it is not only these residents that are asking for support but also residents that are working and require debt advice.

Council Tax Support

21. The current cost of Council Tax Support (CTS) is £40.74m which includes an estimated number of Band D Equivalents if the scheme is to remain unchanged for 2024/25 of 22,395.
22. Proposals to amend the Council Tax Support Scheme will be considered by Cabinet in February 2024 and, if agreed, will be referred on to Council subsequently for approval the next day. If agreed this would equate to an increase equivalent to 8,237 Band D Properties compared to the tax base for 2024/25 as recommended in this report.
23. The amount calculated by the London Borough of Enfield as its Council Tax Base for 2024/25 shall be 97,786 Band D equivalents – see Appendix A for property breakdown by band.
24. If the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme is agreed in February, the Council Tax base would reflect a Band D equivalent of 102,954 properties. See Appendix B for property breakdown by band.

2024/25 Business Rate base

25. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 introduced the business rates retention scheme (BRRS) in 2013. This BRRS scheme sees the move away from the central pooling of business rates to the sharing of risk and reward between central and local Government. The local share is split between the Greater London Authority and London boroughs, so the GLA receives 37% and Enfield 30% of business rate income.
26. During the year 2023/24 the rateable value has increased from £326m at the start of the list to £329m. (£328,975,649)
27. This increase in rateable value however is highly likely to lead to an equivalent proportion of appeals, and this has been anticipated with an appeals provision for 2024/25 of £4.9m, as advised by Analyse Local, experts in this field who assist local authorities to fulfil their obligation in preparing a sound and prudent estimate of its business rate income for the forthcoming financial year. Additional doubtful debt is likely to be another ramification, and hence the collection rate for 2024/25 has been prudently estimated at 96.0% (compared to 93.7% in 2023/24)

28. The transitional relief scheme started in 2023/24 continues in 2024/25 and limits increases for the smallest properties to 10%, medium sized properties to 25% and the largest properties to 40% in the second year. Businesses seeing lower bills because of the revaluation will benefit from that decrease in full straight away, due to the abolition of the downwards transitional relief caps. Small businesses who lose eligibility for Small Business Rate Relief because of the new property revaluations will see their bill increases capped at £50 a month from the amounts paid in 2023/24 through the; Supporting Small Business (SSB)
29. The Chancellor announced in the autumn statement that the relief for 230,000 businesses in retail, hospitality and leisure sectors remains at 75% in 2024/25. This provides relief of up to £110,000 per business and is subject to subsidy caps.
30. The inflation factor of 6.7% (CPI September 2023) was applied to the standard multiplier for 2024/25 increasing it from 51.2p to 54.6p but not to the small multiplier which remains at 49.9p and for which Central government will be providing a s31 grant to cover the local Council's loss due to this freezing of the small business multiplier.

Prior years surplus

31. There is an estimated surplus for the Business Rates element of the collection fund, brought forward from prior years, of £1.843m . This is held within the collection fund and increases funds available for 2024/25 accordingly.

Retained business rates

32. In summary the non- domestic rating income estimate for 2024/25, excluding collection fund adjustments, is £127,764,130 in accordance with the calculation in the NNDR1 return shown. Enfield's rate retention share will be £38,329,239 based on a 30% allocation.

Improvement Relief

33. The government introduced improvement relief for certain businesses who improve their premises. This relief provides that the improvements will have a 12-month rate free period from when the improvement is completed. There are additional conditions which include the business must remain in occupation and this relief is awarded based on a certificate provided to the local authority by the Valuation Officer

Non Domestic Rating Act 2023

34. The Non Domestic Rating Act 2023 was given Royal assent on 26 October 2023. It introduced various changes to liabilities, reliefs, information provision between ratepayers, the valuation officer and the billing authority. It also introduced administrative changes in business rates.

Conclusion

35. The Council Tax and Business Rate tax bases must be agreed and notified to the Secretary of State and any precepting authorities (the Greater London Authority in London) by the 31st January of each financial year.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

36. Council Tax and Business Rate income are two of the major sources of income that fund essential Council services.
37. The Council Tax and Business Rates income represents over 80% of the Council's general fund revenue income. This funding supports the delivery of priorities set out in the Council's Plan 2023-26:
 - Clean and green places
 - Strong, healthy and safe communities
 - Thriving children and young people
 - More and better homes
 - An economy that works for everyone

Financial Implications

38. The financial implications of the Business Rate and Council Tax base proposals are reflected in the medium-term financial plan.
39. The Council Tax band D equivalent figure of 97,786 properties, represents an increase in the Band D equivalents compared to the prior year estimate.
40. The potential for a further increase from the Council Tax Support scheme is noted in paragraphs 22 to 24 above.
41. For Business rates, £38.3m (Enfield's share of 2024/25 business rates plus the £1.8m surplus brought forward) has now been factored into the 2024/25 budget build and MTFP position, ahead of the February budget report.

Legal Implications

42. The Council is required by section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the Act") to calculate for each financial year the basic amount of its council tax. The basic amount of council tax must be calculated from the Council Tax base. This base is created by applying a prescribed formula under the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012.
43. The Council is required to submit its council tax base to the GLA between 1 December and 31 January in the financial year preceding the financial year for which the calculation of council tax base is made. If the Council does not submit its council tax base to the GLA, then the GLA is required to determine the calculation for itself, in the manner prescribed in the above Regulations.
44. There is a requirement to publish notice of the amount set for Council Tax in at least one local paper within 21 days of the Council's decision under section 38(2) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992.
45. Pursuant to The Local Government Finance Act 2012 (as amended by subsequent regulations) a billing authority has power to set discounts on dwellings of a kind set out in regulations. Billing authorities are also able to charge an 'empty homes premium' in respect of dwellings which have been empty or on second homes for various periods of time.
46. The Council is currently consulting on proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Feedback to that consultation and an assessment of the equality impacts of the proposed changes will be considered by the Executive Director, Resources, and Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement when the consultation closes on 21st January. In the event that the Executive Director

proposes to recommend changes to the scheme following consideration of the feedback and equality impact assessment then she will exercise the authority delegated to her by Council under this report to adjust and finalise the calculations described herein prior to their submission and prior to the setting of the Budget and Council Tax. Any changes to the Council Tax reduction Scheme itself will also require Full Council approval.

Equalities Implications

47. There are no direct equalities implications as a result of this report.

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Appendices

Appendix A - The Council Tax-base with the current CTS Scheme

Appendix B - The Council Tax-base with the CTS scheme currently under consultation.

Background Papers

None

Council Tax Base 2024/25 – No changes to Council Tax Support Scheme

2024/25 - Council Tax Base										
Band	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total
Dwellings (Line 1)		5,099	12,277	35,272	37,240	21,545	9,599	6,025	1,012	128,069
Less Exemptions (Line 2)		(113)	(315)	(558)	(507)	(298)	(129)	(63)	(6)	(1,989)
Disabled Relief- Less (Line 5)		(1)	(8)	(68)	(140)	(145)	(60)	(58)	(18)	(498)
Disabled Relief- Plus	1	8	68	140	145	60	58	18	0	498
Chargeable Dwellings	1	4,993	12,022	34,786	36,738	21,162	9,468	5,922	988	126,080
Discounts- 25% (Line 8 & 9)		(615)	(1,713)	(3,482)	(2,609)	(1,236)	(454)	(222)	(27)	(10,358)
Discounts- 50% (Line 10)	(0.5)	(2.0)	(2.5)	(20.5)	(29.5)	(21.0)	(16.0)	(19.0)	(8.0)	(119)
Discount- Family Annex (Line 21)		(0.9)	(2.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(3.4)
Discounts- CTS (line 28)	(0.5)	(1,770.3)	(3,696.9)	(7,904.9)	(6,281.0)	(2,159.0)	(461.0)	(119.5)	(2.5)	(22,395.1)
Chargeable Dwellings After Discounts	0	2,604	6,607	23,378	27,819	17,746	8,536	5,561	951	93,203
Empty Homes Premium		32	57	166	80	45	21	9	6	416
Net Chargeable Dwellings		2,636	6,664	23,544	27,899	17,791	8,557	5,570	957	93,619
Weightings		<u>6</u> 9	<u>7</u> 9	<u>8</u> 9	<u>9</u> 9	<u>11</u> 9	<u>13</u> 9	<u>15</u> 9	<u>18</u> 9	
Band D Equivalent s		1,758	5,183	20,928	27,899	21,745	12,360	9,284	1,914	101,071
Effective Collection Rate										96.75%
Net Council Tax Base 2024/25										97,786
Net Council Tax Base 2023/24										96,794
Difference (Band D Equivalent s)										1,330

Council Tax Base 2024/25 – With changes to Council Tax Support Scheme

2024/25 - Council Tax Base										
Band	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total
Dwellings (Line 1)		5,099	12,277	35,272	37,240	21,545	9,599	6,025	1,012	128,069
Less Exemptions (Line 2)		(113)	(315)	(558)	(507)	(298)	(129)	(63)	(6)	(1,989)
Disabled Relief- Less (Line 5)		(1)	(8)	(68)	(140)	(145)	(60)	(58)	(18)	(498)
Disabled Relief- Plus	1	8	68	140	145	60	58	18	0	498
Chargeable Dwellings	1	4,993	12,022	34,786	36,738	21,162	9,468	5,922	988	126,080
Discounts- 25% (Line 8 & 9)		(615)	(1,713)	(3,482)	(2,609)	(1,236)	(454)	(222)	(27)	(10,358)
Discounts- 50% (Line 10)	(0.5)	(2.0)	(2.5)	(20.5)	(29.5)	(21.0)	(16.0)	(19.0)	(8.0)	(119)
Discount- Family Annex (Line 21)		(0.9)	(2.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(3.4)
Discounts- CTS (line 28)	(0.5)	(1,194.3)	(2,492.4)	(5,086.5)	(3,710.2)	(1,313.2)	(275.3)	(83.6)	(1.9)	(14,158)
Chargeable Dwellings After Disc	0	3,180	7,812	26,197	30,390	18,592	8,722	5,597	951	101,441
Empty Homes Premium		32	57	166	80	45	21	9	6	416
Net Chargeable Dwellings		3,212	7,869	26,363	30,470	18,637	8,743	5,606	957	101,857
Weightings		<u>6</u> 9	<u>7</u> 9	<u>8</u> 9	<u>9</u> 9	<u>11</u> 9	<u>13</u> 9	<u>15</u> 9	<u>18</u> 9	
Band D Equivalents		2,142	6,120	23,434	30,470	22,779	12,629	9,344	1,915	108,831
Effective Collection Rate										94.60%
Net Council Tax Base 2024/25										102,954
Net Council Tax Base 2023/24										96,794
Difference (Band D Equivalents)										6,160

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London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Independent Persons appointment for the Councillor Conduct Committee
Report to	Council
Date of Meeting	January 2024
Executive Director / Director	Director of Law & Governance
Report Author	Claire Johnson
Ward(s) affected	N/A
Key Decision Number	'Non Key'
Classification	Part 1 Public

Purpose of Report

1. The Localism Act 2011 requires all local authorities to appoint at least one independent person whose views are sought and taken into account by the local authority before it makes a decision on an allegation that has been investigated.
2. The independent view and expertise they bring on conduct issues is vital to the proceedings. The Monitoring Officer consults one Independent person on all complaints received and they provide considered advice and guidance on complaints and other issues that arise.

Recommendations

- i. Council to agree to appoint Gary Rogers to the role of Independent Person for a period of 2 years, and to extend the appointment of the current Independent Person Joan Mansfield until May 2026 so that the committee retains 2 Independent person posts.

Background and Options

3. The role of an independent person was created as one of the measures of the Localism Act which received Royal Assent in November 2011 and came into effect on 1 July 2012. The Act made fundamental changes to the system of regulation of standards of conduct for elected and co-opted members of local authorities placing a duty on local authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for its elected and co-opted members.
4. The Localism Act 2011 provided that all local authorities had to appoint an Independent Person(s) to assist the Council in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct amongst its members. Enfield appoints two Independent Persons.
5. The main role of an Independent Person is to be available to be consulted on complaints against councillors and ethical governance issues. They provide an independent viewpoint, looking at issues from the point of view of an ordinary member of the public.
6. Enfield independent persons work closely with the Monitoring Officer, considering whether complaints against councillors meet the criteria for investigation. They are consulted before a decision is made and on the outcomes of any investigated complaint. On top of this they can offer advice on other standards' matters, including to the member who is subject to an allegation.
7. In order to ensure there is capacity to investigate complaints in a timely manner, its proposed that the committee retains 2 Independent person posts to manage complaints effectively.

Preferred Option and Reasons For Preferred Option

8. The Localism Act 2011 states that Independent Persons must be appointed through a process of public advertisement, application and competitive appointment by a positive vote of the majority of all members of the Authority.

9. These requirements were followed and Council is now asked to formally approve the appointment.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

10. Enfield Council believes that promoting high ethical standards is the key to good governance and to maintaining public confidence in local democracy.
11. All Councillors are bound by a code of conduct, which they sign up to when they take office. This is to ensure that they adhere to high ethical standards of behaviour. The Code of Conduct is based on the following principles.

Financial Implications

12. The proposals set out in this report will be contained within existing budgets. Independent persons are paid an annual allowance of £500, plus travel expenses.

Legal Implications

13. All legal implications are contained within the report.

Equalities Implications

14. Independent advisors ensure fair, equitable and consistent treatment in the consideration of complaints against councillors for all parties concerned.

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Quick Guide to Procedure Rules

Motions which may be moved during debate **13.20** (at the end of a councillor's speech):

- Withdraw a motion or recommendation; 13.20 (i)
- Amend a motion or recommendation; 13.20 (ii)
- Amend the timings or the order of business under Rule 4 to allow further time for debate; 13.20 (iii)
- Proceed to the next business; 13.20 (iv)
- Request the question be now put; 13.20 (v)
- Adjourn a debate; 13.20 (vi)
- Adjourn the meeting; 13.20 (vii)
- Allow further time for debate on the item and to Vary the timings set out in the agenda and/or to extend the meeting; 13.20 (viii)

Point of Order **13.35**

A councillor may only raise a point of order at the end of the speech to which it relates. A point of order must relate to an alleged breach of these Council Rules of Procedure or the law. The councillor must indicate the rule or law and the way in which they consider it has been broken. The councillor's speech will be limited to 1 minute, with any additional time to be agreed at the discretion of the Mayor. The ruling of the Mayor on the matter will be final.

Personal Explanation **13.36**

A councillor may only make a point of personal explanation at the end of the speech to which it relates. A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of the earlier speech by the councillor, which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate. The councillor's speech will be limited to 1 minute, with any additional time to be agreed at the discretion of the Mayor. The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

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