

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2024**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Mohammad Islam, Margaret Greer, Abdul Abdullahi, Josh Abey, Nicki Adeleke, Gunes Akbulut, Mahmut Aksanoglu, Maria Alexandrou, Nawshad Ali, Kate Anolue, Chinelo Anyanwu, Mahym Bedekova, Sinan Boztas, Nesil Caliskan, Alev Cazimoglu, Mustafa Cetinkaya, Lee Chamberlain, Hivran Dalkaya, Chris Dey, Guney Dogan, Elif Erbil, Ergin Erbil, Susan Erbil, Peter Fallart, Reece Fox, Alessandro Georgiou, Patricia Gregory, Adrian Grumi, Ayten Guzel, Nelly Gyosheva, Ahmet Hasan, James Hockney, Suna Hurman, Stephanos Ioannou, Chris James, Rick Jewell, Doris Jiagge, Chris Joannides, Destiny Karakus, Tim Leaver, Andy Milne, Elisa Morreale, Gina Needs, Tom O'Halloran, Ahmet Oykener, Sabri Ozaydin, Bektas Ozer, Paul Pratt, Michael Rye OBE, Julian Sampson, Ruby Sampson, David Skelton, Edward Smith, Jim Steven, Emma Supple, Doug Taylor, Andrew Thorp and Eylem Yuruk

ABSENT Hannah Dyson, Thomas Fawns, Joanne Laban, George Savva MBE and Nia Stevens

THE MAYORS CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

Imam Muhiuddin from Jalalia Jamme Masjeed, Enfield gave a blessing.

**1
ELECT A PERSON TO PRESIDE IF THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR
ARE NOT PRESENT**

There was no business transacted under this item.

**2
APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hannah Dyson, Thomas Fawns, Joanne Laban, Nia Stevens and George Savva MBE.

**3
MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Chamber.

A sad announcement was made of the sad loss of former Councillor and Past Mayor, Choudhury Anwar. Former Councillor Anwar was a valued member of Enfield Council staff in 1983 when he joined as the first Director of the Racial Equalities Council, he left in 1985 to take up a job in Waltham Forest Council

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until he retired in 1998. He worked tirelessly for the voluntary sector in Enfield and other boroughs. He was a dedicated public servant for Enfield for many years, being a ward councillor between 2006-2014, representing Ponders End Ward. He was inaugurated as Mayor of Enfield in May 2013 when he announced that he would not be standing in the next elections in 2014.

Councillors were invited to say a few words in commemoration of the late Choudhury Anwar.

Councillor Kate Anolue spoke of when Choudhury was her Deputy Mayor in 2012-2013, he was extremely helpful, and they always collaborated well together during her mayoralty.

Councillor Michael Rye OBE referred to Choudhury Anwar as 'Mr Ponders End', he was always cheerful and immaculately turned out. As a long serving councillor, he was very active in a number of groups and had good relationships with many across the chamber, the council and within the wider community.

Councillor Doug Taylor spoke of Choudhury Anwar's many roles in the Council including being Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Capacity Building in the Third Sector and the borough, his motivation and passion to fight against injustice and inequality and his long-lasting impact on Enfield. He also spoke of the privilege of being Choudhury's ward colleague during his time on the Council and the active and respected role he played within the council and the community led to him being awarded an MBE.

Councillor Sabri Ozaydin reminisced on when he was the Mayor of Enfield and Choudhury had invited him to an opening of a care home where the Minister at the time Alok Sharma was also in attendance. The Councillor spoke of the pride he felt to be part of an event that would provide support and an important service to the community.

Councillor Nawshad Ali spoke of Choudhury being a role model within the community, invested his time, worked hard and stood up for those who were struggling and could not speak up for themselves. He also spoke of Choudhury's popularity within the community which was abundantly clear by the level of attendance at his funeral by people from all walks of life.

The Mayor had also sadly been informed of the passing of former Enfield Councillor, Mr Neil Aves who served as a ward councillor for Palmers Green Ward from 1994-2002, the latter years he was the Council's Housing Lead. He later worked at Slough Council as the Director of Housing.

Members were invited to say a few words in commemoration of the late Neil Aves.

Councillor Doug Taylor advised Neil Aves was part of the first Labour council for many years. Neil's ward colleague was Bambos Charalambous, and he was the Lead Member for Housing before Cabinet member positions were

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established. He had a passion for improving council services including projects relating to council housing estates, being responsive and making change. His other passions included playing football and rugby and later on coaching an under 13 Girls Rugby Team.

Councillor Tim Leaver referred to Neil Aves as passionately engaged and active in the borough and in politics, a keen footballer (especially in the staff vs Cllrs football matches) and supporter of football and not afraid to tackle the tough issues.

Councillor Michael Rye OBE advised that he was elected to Council on the same day as Neil. He was the shadow lead member for Housing so worked closely with Neil and the then Director of Housing, Donald Graham on a number of issues including rent arrears which fed into the administration Cllr Rye led on in 2002. He described Neil as passionate about Housing in both his core job and his role on the Council, keen on those in council housing estates had the same opportunities as everyone else in the borough and was very much a leader from the front.

Councillor Andy Milne advised that him and Neil were both Student Environment Health Officers at Tottenham Technical College and had many passionate debates which inspired him to become a councillor.

The Mayor will send condolences to both families at this very sad time.

Members and all attendees held a minute's silence.

The Mayor thanked his Deputy Mayor, Cllr Margaret Greer, for her support whilst he was on annual leave in the summer. She attended many events on his behalf including Reggae at Jubilee Park, citizenship ceremonies, reading out the declaration of results at the July UK Parliamentary election and attending a school to congratulate students on their A level results.

The Mayor recently attended our twinned town of Gladbeck in Germany with his consort and Cllr Tom O'Halloran. It was a wonderful weekend and the hosts from Gladbeck made them feel very welcome. The Mayor also met with other Mayors from other countries during his time there.

In June, the Mayor attended the Armed Forces Day and was joined by representatives from the Royal British Legion, Sea Scouts, Air Cadets, St Johns Ambulance with the Stow Caledonian Pipe Band. Over the summer, the Mayor attended the Windrush Day celebrations at Fore Street Library and in September, the 50th anniversary of the Chickenshed Theatre with a special viewing of "The Fabric of Chickenshed Exhibition". The Mayor also visited the Whitewebbs Museum of Transport which was very interesting looking at all the old vehicles which look of course very basic compared to today's models.

The Mayor wished Fay Hammond, Executive Director Resources who has left to take up a position with the GLA, and also to Doug Wilkinson, Director of

Environment and Street Scene who will be leaving shortly to go to Maldon District Council as the new Chief Executive the best of luck in their new roles.

4

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At the Mayor's invitation, the Director of Law and Governance provided advice to members on the need to declare any relevant interests.

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

Items 10 and 11 – Councillor Sabri Ozaydin who is a director of Housing Gateway Ltd.

Items 10 and 11 – Councillor Doug Taylor who is a director of Energetik.

5

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 15 May 2024 and the Freedom of the Borough Ceremony held on 19 June 2024 were **AGREED** as a correct record as set out in the Supplementary Agenda.

6

OPPOSITION PRIORITY BUSINESS - PROTECTING ENFIELD'S LIBRARIES AND LEISURE SERVICES

Councillor Edward Smith introduced the Opposition Priority Business paper on Protecting Enfield's Libraries and Leisure Services.

Councillor Edward Smith noted that the consultation of the draft library strategy was called-in by the opposition on 14 August 2024. They are robustly opposed to the closure of 8 libraries and reduction of the leisure service and suspect that once the public become aware of the proposals there will be a high level of objection against the strategy. Councillor Smith noted that the prolonged closure of the swimming pools at Edmonton and Southbury leisure centres has left members of the public and schools feeling very frustrated as they are being left without suitable leisure provisions despite the appointment of GLL as the new leisure provider.

Councillor Smith stated that libraries and Leisure Centres are highly valued and well used by residents and funding needs to be prioritised in order to reopen and keep these essential services operating effectively. The paper set out the benefits of retaining the library service in its current form which the Opposition feels brings social and educational benefits, value to the community in terms of social inclusion and contribution to combatting loneliness.

Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Public Spaces responded that the Council is committed to enhancing the

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current offering to library users and residents to ensure there are comprehensive, well-resourced and sustainable library services which provide space and resources for all, and which will have a positive impact on lives.

The consultation proposals are informed by a variety of needs from the communities from different parts of the borough, the accessibility of the library buildings by different modes of transport and feedback from the phase 1 engagement, as well as taking into consideration operational and maintenance costs. Enfield has managed to maintain 16 libraries when the average in London is 12 and the lowest being just 6 despite the 42% reduction in government grants and funding. Since 2016, more than 108 council run libraries have been closed or run by voluntary groups. Councillor Anyanwu noted that reviewing the library strategy is crucial to ensure it meets the needs of those who live, work, and study in the borough. Phase 1 involved engaging with residents and stakeholders, while the current Phase 2 focuses on consultation. This phase aims to gather feedback from stakeholders to understand the potential impacts of the draft proposal and to collect suggestions for mitigating those impacts or finding alternative ways to achieve the same level of savings. The Cabinet member emphasised that no decision had been made at this stage.

Members of the opposition expressed concern that the potential closure of 8 libraries would have an adverse impact on residents, including students, who use libraries for homework and who require space and access to free computers, and the elderly who may find it difficult to travel much further to attend a library. In their opinion, from a financial perspective, the argument for closure is weak, as the expenditure on libraries is insignificant compared to the Council's overall deficit. It was also expressed that older people and those with disabilities will be hugely disadvantaged and become isolated if the smaller libraries are closed. Libraries provide a safe space for all, offering a place to warm themselves and engage in social interaction with others. Additionally, it was suggested that libraries are more than just places to borrow books; they serve as community hubs, offering educational programs, workshops, and resources that foster lifelong learning and personal development as well as supporting social cohesion and economic development. Closing these libraries would not only deprive residents of these valuable services but have long-term negative consequences for the community.

The Majority Group responded that previous government cuts to the financial envelope meant that the Council has to do more with less. The proposed strategy of closing 8 libraries will avoid £5.3m in future upkeep and maintenance costs and the council can use the savings to reinvest into the remaining libraries, ensuring they will remain accessible, vibrant and sustainable hubs for all. Libraries will continue to be a place to learn and support each other in Enfield, with a range of services delivered in a way that suits the evolving needs of the community.

The Majority group noted that there had been an increase in other resources available to residents e.g. eBooks and free home library delivery service,

which will be helpful to those whose local library may be affected by the proposals or who may find it difficult to attend a different library.

With regard to leisure facilities, the Edmonton Leisure Centre is scheduled to reopen soon, with detailed plans to be announced in October. Additionally, the council has invested over £1 million to repair and enhance the Southbury Leisure Centre.

During the debate, a procedural motion was moved by Councillor Rick Jewell and seconded by Councillor Chris Dey under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the debate for a further 60 minutes which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

Cllr Alessandro Georgiou, Leader of the Opposition, in summing up, advised that if the Council is unable to keep open all the libraries, low-cost lease arrangements could be an alternative option that would raise revenue for the council and would avoid closures. Rather than terminating contracts of the workforce within the libraries, they could be redeployed elsewhere within the organisation would be a better option. The Opposition supported the decision to permit emergency expenditure to repair the ceiling in Southbury Leisure centre but stated this would not have been needed if the leisure provider had been managed properly.

Cllr Ergin Erbil, Acting Leader of the Council, responded that whilst the Council faces challenges, it is committed to enhancing and protecting Enfield's libraries and leisure services. It will continue to invest in these vital community spaces, ensuring they serve the needs of all residents. The Council is consulting with the community and will finalise the strategies in early 2025 based on feedback received and all other relevant information. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to take forward any of the recommendations set out in the paper submitted under this opposition priority business whilst there is an ongoing consultation.

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

The Mayor, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, asked the Opposition if they wish to go to a vote on to approve the Majority Group's response and Councillor Chris Dey replied that they did and would like a recorded vote.

A request for a recorded vote having been put by Councillor Chris Dey, and another 11 members of the Council having stood in support of the request, the response from the Majority Group that the recommendations in the Opposition Priority Business paper not be taken forward was put to the vote and was **APPROVED** with the following votes recorded:

For (34)

Cllr Abdul Abdullahi

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Cllr Josh Abey
Cllr Nicki Adeleke
Cllr Gunes Akbulut
Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu
Cllr Nawshad Ali
Cllr Kate Anolue
Cllr Chinelo Anyanwu
Cllr Mahym Bedekova
Cllr Sinan Boztas
Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Cllr Alev Cazimoglu
Cllr Mustafa Cetinkaya
Cllr Hivran Dalkaya
Cllr Guney Dogan
Cllr Elif Erbil
Cllr Ergin Erbil
Cllr Susan Erbil
Cllr Margaret Greer
Cllr Ayten Guzel
Cllr Nelly Gyosheva
Cllr Ahmet Hasan
Cllr Suna Hurman
Cllr Chris James
Cllr Rick Jewell
Cllr Doris Jiage
Cllr Destiny Karakus
Cllr Tim Leaver
Cllr Gina Needs
Cllr Ahmet Oykenen
Cllr Sabri Ozaydin
Cllr Bektas Ozer
Cllr Doug Taylor
Cllr Eylem Yuruk

Against (23)

Cllr Maria Alexandrou
Cllr Lee Chamberlain
Cllr Chris Dey
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 Andy Milne
Cllr Elisa Morreale
Cllr Tom O'Halloran
Cllr Paul Pratt

Cllr Michael Rye OBE
Cllr Julian Sampson
Cllr Ruby Sampson
Cllr David Skelton
Cllr Edward Smith
Cllr Jim Steven
Cllr Emma Supple
Cllr Andrew Thorp

Abstention (1)

Cllr Mohammad Islam, the Mayor.

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

7

ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Tim Leaver moved, and Cllr Sabri Ozaydin seconded, the nomination of Councillor Ergin Erbil as the new Leader of the Council following the resignation from that position of Councillor Nesil Caliskan. No other nominations were received.

Councillor Ergin Erbil thanked the former Leader, Councillor Caliskan, for her years of service and dedication to the borough, the people of Enfield, communities and local businesses. He noted that Enfield and its residents have and will continue to benefit immensely from her leadership, and she will forever be a role model to young women everywhere.

Councillor Nesil Caliskan thanked those who sent messages when she was elected as MP for Barking in July. She was deeply honoured to lead the borough where she was born and grew up in and thanked the residents who gave her the opportunity. Her role as Leader allowed her to progress into other areas and serving on national boards including as an executive member for London Councils collaborating with colleagues cross party across London. After having been a councillor for almost a decade in Jubilee Ward, and six years as Leader of the Council, she advised this would be her last Full Council meeting before resigning as a councillor after the party conference season.

She thanked Ian Davis, Chief Executive, and senior officers past and present that she had the pleasure of working with who she described as brilliant public servants. She also thanked the Enfield Labour Group Office who are diligent, professional and patient. She wished the new Leader and Deputy Leader well in their new roles.

Members were invited to say a few words of thanks to Councillor Nesil Caliskan and congratulated Councillor Ergin Erbil.

Councillor Alessandro Georgiou congratulated Councillor Caliskan on her election as Barking MP and wished her every success in the new challenge of

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governing nationally. She was always a woman of her word, and she broke the glass ceiling of becoming the first female leader from a BAME background. He stated that Councillor Ergin Erbil will face some challenges including financial and environmental, but he will treat him the same as he did the former leader. He will always champion when someone from Enfield succeeds and congratulated him on his election.

Councillor Kate Anolue described Councillor Caliskan as a strong confident woman who speaks heart and mind and strives to empowering women and to speak up for themselves.

Councillor Nicki Adeleke supported Councillor Ergin Erbil as the new Leader. She thanked Cllr Nesil Caliskan for her support as without it they would not have stood as a councillor, she always offered encouragement and advice and always celebrated her successes including on becoming elected as a councillor which given her the courage to support and cheer on more young women.

Councillor Gina Needs commended Councillor Caliskan on the excellent job she had done as Council Leader especially during Covid. She spoke of the appreciation she felt and thanked for all the support she has been shown as a Cabinet Member since 2019 and especially since her diagnosis.

Councillor Susan Erbil thanked Councillor Caliskan for their ongoing support from becoming a councillor to a Cabinet Member under their leadership and congratulated Councillor Ergin Erbil on his election as Leader.

AGREED that Councillor Ergin Erbil be appointed Leader of the Council until the Annual Council Meeting in 2026.

8

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET

Councillor Ergin Erbil confirmed the appointments to his Cabinet and delegated all executive powers to them to be exercised within their portfolios as set out below:

Deputy Leader: Councillor Tim Leaver
Children's Services: Councillor Abdul Abdullahi
Community Cohesion & Enforcement: Councillor Gina Needs
Environment, Culture & Public Spaces: Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu
Climate Action & Placemaking: Councillor Sabri Ozaydin
Health & Social Care: Councillor Alev Cazimoglu
Planning & Regulatory Services: Councillor Susan Erbil
Housing: Councillor Ayten Guzel
Transport & Waste: Councillor Rick Jewell

9

TRAVELLER LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 18(2) CONSULTATION

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules, the recommendations in the report were put to the vote without debate and were **AGREED**.

10

2024/25 TO 2033/34 CAPITAL PROGRAMME BUDGET AMENDMENTS & UPDATES TO THE 2023/24 AND 2024/25 FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules, the recommendations in the report were put to the vote without debate and were **AGREED**.

11

2023/24 TREASURY OUTTURN

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules, the recommendations were put to the vote without debate and were **AGREED**.

12

SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES 2024/25

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules, the recommendations were put to the vote without debate and were **AGREED**.

13

GENERAL PURPOSES ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules, the recommendations were put to the vote without debate and were **AGREED**.

14

QUESTIONS

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules, answers to questions were taken as printed in the Supplementary Agenda.

15

MOTIONS

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules all Motions **LAPSED** and were not debated.

16

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules the following changes to committee memberships were noted:

Changes to the Cabinet and their delegated executive functions are as set out on the list of appointments.

Councillor Suna Hurman to replace Councillor Sabri Ozaydin on General Purposes Committee and Councillor Josh Abey to become Vice Chair on General Purposes Committee.

Councillor Ergin Erbil to replace Councillor Nesil Caliskan as Chair of the Staff Appeals, Appointments and Remuneration Committee and Councillor Tim Leaver to replace Councillor Ergin Erbil as Vice Chair of the Staff Appeals, Appointments and Remuneration Committee.

Councillor Nelly Gyosheva to replace Councillor Suna Hurman as Chair of the Equalities Board and Councillor Gina Needs to replace Councillor Ergin Erbil on the Equalities Board.

Councillor Nelly Gyosheva to replace Councillor Ahmet Oykener on the Local Pension Board.

17

NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules the following changes to outside body memberships were noted:

Councillor Ergin Erbil to replace Councillor Nesil Caliskan on London Councils Leaders' Committee and Councillor Tim Leaver to replace Councillor Ergin Erbil as a Deputy.

Councillor Alev Cazimoglu to replace Councillor Nesil Caliskan on London Councils Grants Committee and Councillor Tim Leaver to replace Councillor Ergin Erbil as a Deputy.

Councillor Sabri Ozaydin to replace Councillor Ergin Erbil on London Councils Transport and Environment Committee.

Councillor Ergin Erbil to replace Councillor Nesil Caliskan on London Councils Greater London Employment Forum and Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu to replace Councillor Susan Erbil as a Deputy.

Councillor Ergin Erbil to replace Councillor Nesil Caliskan on London Councils Limited.

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Councillor Ergin Erbil to replace Councillor Nesil Caliskan on Local Government Association General Assembly.

Councillor Sabri Ozaydin to replace Councillor Ergin Erbil on Enfield Enterprise Agency Management Board (Trading as Enterprise Enfield).

Councillor Ergin Erbil to replace Councillor Nesil Caliskan on Local London.

Councillor Suna Hurman to replace Councillor Bektas Ozer on North London Waste Authority.

Councillor Suna Hurman to replace Councillor Tim Leaver on the Royal Free NHS Foundation Hospital Trust – Council of Governors.

18

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 7pm.