

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2025**

**COUNCILLORS**

**PRESENT** Mohammad Islam, Margaret Greer, Abdul Abdullahi, Josh Abey, Nicki Adeleke, Gunes Akbulut, Mahmut Aksanoglu, Maria Alexandrou, Nawshad Ali, Ian Barnes, Mahym Bedekova, Sinan Boztas, Alev Cazimoglu, Mustafa Cetinkaya, Lee Chamberlain, Hivran Dalkaya, Chris Dey, Hannah Dyson, Elif Erbil, Ergin Erbil, Susan Erbil, Peter Fallart, Patricia Gregory, Ayten Guzel, Nelly Gyosheva, Ahmet Hasan, James Hockney, Suna Hurman, Chris James, Rick Jewell, Doris Jiagge, Chris Joannides, Destiny Karakus, 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, Emma Supple, Doug Taylor, Andrew Thorp and Eylem Yuruk

**ABSENT** Kate Anolue, Chinelo Anyanwu, Guney Dogan, Thomas Fawns, Reece Fox, Adrian Grumi, Stephanos Ioannou, Joanne Laban, Gina Needs and Nia Stevens

**THE MAYORS CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING**

Imam Yusuf Ahmet from Turkish Cypriot Islamic Association 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 Cllrs Kate Anolue, Chinelo Anyanwu, Guney Dogan, Reece Fox, Adrian Grumi, Stephanos Ioannou, Joanne Laban, Gina Needs, and Nia Stevens.

Cllr Thomas Fawns was absent from the meeting.

**3**

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the chamber and gave some feedback on his recent and future engagements including his upcoming Gala Dinner.

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The Mayor paid tribute to and thanked Ian Davis (Chief Executive) for all his support and guidance. Ian worked at Enfield for 17 years, providing excellent support and service to both councillors and the people of Enfield. Ian will be leaving the Council in March to take up a new post at Lambeth Council and on behalf of all the Enfield Councillors wished him all the very best in his new role.

Members were invited to say a few words of thanks to Ian Davis.

Cllr Ergin Erbil (Leader of the Council) expressed the pleasure of collaborating with Ian to bring significant improvements to the borough. During a walkabout in Edmonton Green on the Shires Estate, Cllr Erbil witnessed Ian's dedication to every part of our borough, including residents, businesses, stakeholders, community, and voluntary groups. Ian has guided the council through challenging times such as COVID, the ongoing energy crisis, and the housing crisis, leading Enfield from strength to strength.

Cllr Alessandro Georgiou (Leader of the Opposition) fondly recalled his first conversation with Ian at an OSC call-in meeting, where Ian humorously referred to his shoes with a gaping hole as his "lucky shoes." Cllr Georgiou expressed his admiration for Ian, describing him as the ideal local government officer who has dedicated his career to public service within local government. He noted that Ian's first Cabinet Member for Environment was former Cllr Terry Neville OBE, and praised Ian for his excellent management of relationships with councillors. On behalf of the Conservative Group, Cllr Georgiou wished Ian the best of luck in his new role, acknowledging his incredible loyalty and service to the people of Enfield.

Cllr Doug Taylor remarked that going from Director of Environment to Chief Executive was a tremendous achievement. He acknowledged that environment is always a challenging area and recalled several discussions where he became unpopular regarding the NLWA. Ian, however, had a careful way of understanding and addressing those issues. Cllr Taylor praised Ian for being a tremendous servant to the borough of Enfield, both as Chief Executive and as a Director. He thanked Ian for all his work, especially during his tenure as Leader of the Council, and on behalf of all the people he has helped. Ian was known for getting things done, and Cllr Taylor sent his best wishes for Ian's future at Lambeth, hoping it would be as successful as his time in Enfield.

Cllr Michael Rye OBE acknowledged that Ian embodied all the best qualities of an outstanding local government officer; his integrity is recognised by members from both sides and the officers he leads. He understands that the role is about delivering for the current administration and achieving their objectives. Ian has always set a good example through his personal conduct and behaviour, always interacting with officers and members with courtesy and has a lively sense of humour. His deliverability and strong leadership skills, particularly during the COVID pandemic, made a significant contribution across London.

**4**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Mayor asked the Director of Law and Governance to provide advice further to the advice note provided to all members on the declaration of interests requirements at the Council Budget meeting. In relation to agenda item 8 – Budget Report 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan, any councillor who is two or more months in arrears on their Council Tax should declare this and not take part in the vote.

The Director of Law and Governance advised that according to the Council's records there were no members with such outstanding arrears, but that the onus was on members to make the declaration if necessary.

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

Items 8, 9 and 13 - Cllr Josh Abey declared a non-pecuniary interest in the items relating to Budget, Capital Programme and the Council's Contract Procedural Rules as he is a director of Housing Gateway Ltd.

Items 8, 9, 10 and 11 - Cllr Doug Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in the items relating to the Budget, Capital Programme, HRA Budget and Rent Budget Setting and Treasury Management as he is a director of Energetik.

Item 8 – Cllr Alessandro Georgiou declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item relating to the Budget as he is a member of the London Assembly and is involved in the Mayor's Precept of the Budget.

**5**

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting of Council held on Wednesday 22 January 2025 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

**6**

**ENFIELD COUNCIL LIBRARY STRATEGY**

Cllr Ergin Erbil (Leader of the Council) moved, and Cllr Tim Leaver (Deputy Leader) seconded, the report.

Cllr Ergin Erbil introduced the report and provided feedback on the recent consultation on the review of libraries in the borough. He emphasised the long period of consultation and analysis, and the importance of having an efficient and modern library service fit for purpose for all of the borough's residents, in accordance with the Public Libraries and Museums Act. The proposals would retain nine libraries, close seven, and declassify Angel Raynham Library as a public library. The service had to be reviewed in the light of serious financial challenges.

Members of the Opposition welcomed the retention of Oakwood Library and the discussions that were taking place in relation to a potential community space at Enfield Island Village. However, They are robustly opposed to the closure of the libraries as 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 or may use the premise as a place to warm themselves especially in light of the cuts to the winter fuel allowance.

The Majority Group responded that in the context of around 800 libraries closing across the country, the Council was now in the position of having to review the library service to consider how it may be delivered in a more efficient way. It was confirmed that Enfield had one of the highest numbers of libraries in any London borough and had managed to protect libraries over many years.

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

A further procedural motion was moved by Cllr Bektas Ozer and seconded by Cllr Chris Dey under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the time for debate of reports for 60 minutes and was **AGREED**.

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

## **7**

### **LOCAL ELECTION PREPARATION 2026**

Cllr Ergin Erbil (Leader of the Council) moved, and Cllr Tim Leaver (Deputy Leader) seconded, the report.

Cllr Ergin Erbil introduced the report and highlighted the proposed changes from an overnight count to a day count as well as moving the count venue from Lee Valley Athletics Centre to B Block South in the Civic Centre which will result in cost savings for the Council.

Members welcomed the proposed changes and looked forward to working cross-party on any future changes for the upcoming future election.

A procedural motion moved by Cllr Bektas Ozer and seconded by Cllr Alessandro Georgiou under paragraph 13.20 (v) of the Council's Procedure Rules to request that the question be now put and was **AGREED**.

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

8

**BUDGET REPORT 2025/26 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 TO 2029/30**

Cllr Tim Leaver (Deputy Leader) moved, and Cllr Ergin Erbil (Leader of the Council) seconded, the report.

Cllr Tim Leaver introduced the report of the Council's General Fund revenue budget for 2025/26 along with the Council's revised 5-year Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) covering the period 2025/26 to 2029/30. The proposals were the culmination of the 2025/26 budget planning programme and for delivery of manifesto commitments. The Council would be setting a balanced budget which was prudent and resilient. The increase in spending from 2024/25 to 2025/26 was highlighted. Bridging of the budget gap was emphasized, including three tranches of savings, additional income, and seeking additional financial support. An additional £10m would be raised by the Council Tax increase.

The Opposition expressed their concerns in respect of raising of taxes, fees and charges and proposed cuts to services for residents. Money continued to be spent on external consultants and solicitors, and on Civic Centre refurbishments but not being put towards keeping open essential services such as the libraries. The Administration's manifesto commitments were not being kept. Warnings in respect of borrowing and debt servicing had not been heeded. There were concerns regarding the level of reserves. Residents had made their top issues known during the consultation but had been ignored. The balanced budget was dependent on in-year savings, which were known to be rarely achieved.

A procedural motion was moved by Cllr Bektas Ozer and seconded by Cllr Chris Dey under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the meeting for 30 minutes and was **AGREED**.

The report recommendations were agreed following a recorded vote (as required by law) detailed below:

**For (30):**

Cllr Abdul Abdullahi  
Cllr Josh Abey  
Cllr Nicki Adeleke  
Cllr Gunes Akbulut  
Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu  
Cllr Nawshad Ali  
Cllr Ian Barnes  
Cllr Mahym Bedekova  
Cllr Sinan Boztas  
Cllr Alev Cazimoglu  
Cllr Mustafa Cetinkaya  
Cllr Hivran Dalkaya  
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 Sabri Ozaydin  
Cllr Bektas Ozer  
Cllr George Savva MBE  
Cllr Doug Taylor  
Cllr Eylem Yuruk

**Against (21):**

Cllr Maria Alexandrou  
Cllr Lee Chamberlain  
Cllr Chris Dey  
Cllr Hannah Dyson  
Cllr Peter Fallart  
Cllr Alessandro Georgiou  
Cllr Pat Gregory  
Cllr James Hockney  
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

**Abstentions (1):**

Cllr Mohammed Islam (Mayor)

The Council **AGREED** to:

- i. Set the Council Tax Requirement for Enfield at £174.544m for 2025/26 as set out in the Statutory Budget Determination for 2025/26 in Appendix 20 to the report.

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- ii. Set the Council Tax at Band D for Enfield for 2025/26 at £1,673.64 which includes a 2.99% general Council Tax increase and a 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept and represents an increase of £1.53 per week.
- iii. Note the Council will levy a Council Tax of £490.38 at Band D on behalf of the Greater London Authority which is a 4.03% increase: equivalent to an increase of £0.36 per week for a Band D property.
- iv. Note that the combined increases will lead to a Band D property total of £2,164.02, a 4.77% increase on the 2024/25 level, equivalent to an increase of £1.89 per week for a Band D property.
- v. Note that the 2025/26 Council Tax Base for Enfield agreed by Council on 22 January 2025 is 104,291, an increase of 1,337 on 2024/25, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).
- vi. Note that business rates income is due to increase by £0.4m from £98.5m in 2024/25 to £98.9m in 2025/26.
- vii. Note the feedback from the Budget Consultation at Appendix 17a.
- viii. Note the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 20 January 2025 following its consideration of the draft budget which are set out in Appendix 17b of this report.
- ix. Agree to the proposed General Fund Net Revenue Budget of £353.669m for 2025/26. This includes savings and income proposals totalling £18.111m for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 8.
- x. Agree the use of £5.0m of earmarked reserves for 2025/26 to balance the budget pending identification of further savings.
- xi. Approve the latest General Fund Medium-Term Financial Plan estimates for 2026/27 to 2029/30 set out in Table 2 and to note the estimated budget gap of £63.4m at the end of that period.
- xii. Note the forecast levels of Council usable reserves as set out in Table 15.
- xiii. Approve the planned transfers to and from reserves in setting the budget for 2025/26 as set out in out paragraph 170.
- xiv. Approve the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy as at Appendix 16 and to approve that any in-year changes required to the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy is delegated to the Executive Director of Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement and reported to Cabinet in the quarterly Revenue Monitoring reports.
- xv. Agree the proposed Fees and Charges set out in Appendices 11 to 15 and the continuation of the flexibility introduced in 2021/22 for these to be varied in year where appropriate.
- xvi. Note the Council's Section 151 Officer's statutory Section 25 Statement at Appendix 1a which provides their opinion on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves when making final decisions on the 2025/26 budget.
- xvii. Agree the schools (DSG) Budget for 2025/26 as set out in paragraphs 204 to 214 and Appendix 19).
- xviii. Note that an application for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) of £30m has been made, as set out in paragraph 172 to 174 and to agree to enter into an EFS agreement for £30m on terms to be agreed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

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xix. Note that following the decision on the EFS agreement, a revised Reserves Strategy will be presented for approval in the new financial year.

A further procedural motion was moved by Cllr Bektas Ozer and seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Chris Dey on the procedural motion to extend the meeting, and another 11 members of the Council having stood in support of the request, the following votes were recorded:

**For:**

Cllr Abdul Abdullahi  
Cllr Josh Abey  
Cllr Nicki Adeleke  
Cllr Gunes Akbulut  
Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu  
Cllr Nawshad Ali  
Cllr Ian Barnes  
Cllr Mahym Bedekova  
Cllr Sinan Boztas  
Cllr Alev Cazimoglu  
Cllr Mustafa Cetinkaya  
Cllr Hivran Dalkaya  
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 Jigge  
Cllr Destiny Karakus  
Cllr Tim Leaver  
Cllr Sabri Ozaydin  
Cllr Bektas Ozer  
Cllr George Savva MBE  
Cllr Doug Taylor  
Cllr Eylem Yuruk

**Against:**

Cllr Maria Alexandrou  
Cllr Lee Chamberlain  
Cllr Chris Dey  
Cllr Hannah Dyson  
Cllr Peter Fallart  
Cllr Alessandro Georgiou



Cllr Pat Gregory  
Cllr James Hockney  
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

**Abstentions:**

Cllr Mohammed Islam (Mayor)

The procedural motion was therefore **AGREED**.

**9**

**2025/26 CAPITAL STRATEGY & 2025/26 - 2034/35 10 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Cllr Tim Leaver (Deputy Leader) moved, and Cllr Ergin Erbil (Leader of the Council) seconded the report.

Cllr Tim Leaver introduced the report which presented the 2025/26 Capital Strategy and the detailed ten-year capital programme and outcomes. The proposals for investment in the borough remained ambitious, including a leasing arrangement for housing for temporary accommodation. The Council invested prudently and affordably met its prudential indicators. A change in the basis of MRP had been introduced following an independent review. The capital programme also included investing in Energetik and HGL.

Members of the Opposition highlighted the lack of progress in increasing housing stock in Meridian Water. They pointed out that the administration had promised 3,000 more affordable homes in the borough but has only delivered a fraction of that number. According to the Opposition, if the administration had adhered to their manifesto commitments, they would be better equipped to address the current temporary accommodation and housing crisis.

Following the debate, the recommendations were put to the vote and **AGREED**. The Opposition voted against this item.

**10**

**2025/26 HRA BUDGET AND RENT SETTING REPORT AND BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE**

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**. The Opposition advised that they would have voted against this item.

**11**

**2025/26 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

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**. The Opposition advised that they would have voted against this item.

**12**

**REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF STATUTORY PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

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 unanimously **AGREED**.

**13**

**UPDATE AND AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCILS CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**

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 unanimously **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**

**APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements in the Council Procedure Rules, this item was put to the vote without debate and was unanimously **AGREED**.

Members **AGREED** that Perry Scott be designated as the Interim Chief Executive (Head Paid of Service).

**16**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

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

Cllr Mahym Bedekova to replace Cllr Destiny Karakus on Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and to serve as Chair.

Cllr Mahym Bedekova to replace Cllr Destiny Karakus on the Learning Disabilities Partnership 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:

Cllr Destiny Karakus to replace Cllr Mahym Bedekova on Enfield in Bloom.

Cllr Sabri Ozaydin to replace Cllr Susan Erbil as reserve member on Local London.

**18**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Wednesday 14 May 2025 which will be the Annual Council Meeting.