

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2023**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Suna Hurman (Mayor), Mohammad Islam (Deputy Mayor), 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, Hannah Dyson, Elif Erbil, Ergin Erbil, Susan Erbil, Peter Fallart, Thomas Fawns, Reece Fox, Patricia Gregory, Adrian Grumi, Ayten Guzel, Nelly Gyosheva, Ahmet Hasan, James Hockney, Stephanos Ioannou, Chris James, Rick Jewell, Doris Jiagge, Chris Joannides, Destiny Karakus, Joanne Laban, Tim Leaver, Andy Milne, Elisa Morreale, Tom O'Halloran, Ahmet Oykener, Sabri Ozaydin, Bektas Ozer, Paul Pratt, Michael Rye OBE, Ruby Sampson, George Savva MBE, David Skelton, Edward Smith, Jim Steven, Nia Stevens, Emma Supple, Doug Taylor, Andrew Thorp and Eylem Yuruk

ABSENT Alessandro Georgiou, Margaret Greer, Gina Needs and Julian Sampson

THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE THE BLESSING

Reverend Dr Nikodemos Anagnostopoulos of The Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrius, Edmonton gave the blessing.

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

There was no business under this item.

**2
APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gina Needs, Margaret Greer, Alessandro Georgiou and Julian Sampson.

**3
MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending her Mayor Making Ceremony on the 10th May. She felt truly loved and welcomed as Mayor.

The Mayor paid tribute to the late Conservative Councillor for Grange Ward from 2002-2006 Mr Francis Ingham. Francis passed away in March 2023 aged 47, and this was the first opportunity the Council has had at a normal

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business meeting of the Council to pay respects. Sincere condolences went out to his family and friends.

Other Councillors were invited to speak. Councillor Chris Joannides, Councillor Michael Rye and Councillor Doug Taylor gave moving tributes.

A minute's silence was observed in respect for Mr Ingham; and for the people who were tragically killed in Nottingham yesterday, one of whom was a valued member of the Southgate Hockey Club.

The Mayor had been delighted to attend the citizenship ceremonies. They are very special ceremonies as the attendees are so happy and excited to be present and receive their certificates.

The Mayor attended a number of London Mayors' events such as the Southwark Charity Ball at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and a multi faith event run by Barnet Council. She received an invite to honour the new Chair of Newham, and the Mayor of Redbridge invited her to the Boishakhi Mela and Eid Celebrations.

There had been many Borough-wide events that the Mayor attended such as:

- First Give Final at Kingsmead School where they raised £1000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital.
- Bridgewood House Care Home to award them with the best dressed house during the Kings Coronation.
- Nightingale Cancer Support Centre Night Hike.
- Tavla Community Centre.

The Mayor had decided to base her charity on the themes of cancer and autism and is currently making plans to raise awareness and decide which local charities would benefit the most from our charitable support.

The Mayor recalled the Bishop of Edmonton attending the Council meeting last September in tribute to the Queen. The Right Reverend Rob Wickham would be taking up a new role as Chief Executive of the Church Urban Fund, and she wished to congratulate him, and wish him all the best in his new role.

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

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 May 2023 were **AGREED**.

5

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer had circulated some helpful advice on member interests in advance of this meeting.

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

10.2 – Motion on affordable housing and the decision of the Secretary of State not to call in the development at Cockfosters Underground Station – Councillor David Skelton was a member of the Levelling Up Advisory Council.

10.3 – Motion on ensuring autistic people have equal opportunities in education, training and employment – Councillor Michael Rye has a nephew with autism, Councillor James Hockney has a member of the family with autism, Councillor Ruby Sampson has a member of the family with autism, Councillor Thomas Fawns has a member of the family with autism, Councillor Nicki Adeleke has a member of the family with autism, and Councillor Lee Chamberlain has a daughter who is a mental health care nurse.

10.19 – Motion on roads in Grange Park ward and traffic calming – Councillor Andy Milne lives on one of the roads mentioned in the Motion, and Councillor Ruby Sampson lives on one of the roads mentioned in the Motion.

6

COUNCIL PLAN 2023-2026

Councillor Nesil Caliskan moved, and Councillor Ergin Erbil seconded, the report.

Councillor Caliskan introduced the report and asked the Council to note the objectives of the new Council Plan.

The priority for more and better homes was particularly welcomed. The plan would support the commitment for the Council to become carbon neutral. The aim was to become the greenest borough in London, with delivery of clean and green spaces.

The Opposition expressed disappointment in the strategy and that it lacked substance and measurable actions. The Labour manifesto pledge in respect of an outdoor lido was highlighted as not mentioned in the plan.

During the debate, a procedural motion was moved by Councillor Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Councillor Ergin Erbil under paragraph 13.21 (ii) of the Council's Procedure Rules that the question be now put. The Mayor held that the item had not been sufficiently discussed and permitted a further two speakers.

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The Opposition expressed concerns regarding current standards in the borough, particularly in respect of littering, road congestion, parks maintenance and failures in housing development, whilst fees and charges and Council Tax had been increased.

The Administration stated that this was a strong and robust plan, and that there had already been positive developments such as the new skills academy, installation of wetlands, tree planting, traffic calming and school streets. Increases in fees were necessitated by the national economic situation and reduced funding from government.

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

AGREED to agree and adopt the new Council Plan 2023-26: *Investing in Enfield*.

7

THE FUTURE OF SHROPSHIRE AND CHESHIRE HOUSE

Councillor Nesil Caliskan moved, and Councillor Ergin Erbil seconded, the report.

Councillor Caliskan introduced the report and asked the Council to approve expenditure needed to plan for the future of Cheshire and Shropshire Houses. There had been consultation with the residents, who were thanked for their patience. The Council would make a fair, clear and consistent offer to the residents.

The progress was welcomed and members noted that there had been a return to a safe heating supply. There needed to be a full decommissioning and decanting of both blocks.

Officers and ward councillors were thanked for their hard work during the difficulties experienced at Cheshire and Shropshire Houses.

The Opposition expressed disappointment that the process had taken as long as it had and that the funding would come from borrowing. There was concern regarding vagueness around the offer to tenants and some members felt the report was limited in scope. The Opposition stated that residents had been living in unsatisfactory conditions for years and they had been subject to a lack of care and diligence. Follow up reports to Council would be expected.

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

AGREED following the decision of the Cabinet to vacate the Shropshire and Cheshire blocks and other associated matters, to approve the budget for the acquisition of leaseholder interests.

8

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE REPORT 2023

Councillor Nesil Caliskan moved, and Councillor Ergin Erbil seconded, the report.

Councillor Caliskan introduced the report and thanked everyone who took part in the Corporate Peer Challenge review, highlighting key findings from the review. She was pleased that it was recognised that the Council was ambitious in its vision. The review recommendations would also drive improvement.

During the debate, a procedural motion was moved by Councillor Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Councillor Michael Rye under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the debate for a further 15 minutes which was **AGREED**.

Members were delighted with the positive feedback from the review. The Council's political leadership was strong; social care provision was considered good; the Council's financial approach was complimented and a number of manifesto commitments were seen to be already delivered. Councillor Abdul Abdullahi requested that appreciation of the work of the Council's social workers was recorded.

The Opposition highlighted criticism of Council communications and customer experience, particularly via digital technology, which reflected residents' frustration. The recommendation to ensure a clear focus in respect of regeneration was also noted. The action plan was concerning as it lacked detail and timelines.

An update on progress on the recommendations would be brought forward in six months' time.

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

AGREED

I. To note the contents of the report and its findings/recommendations as set out at Appendix 1.

II. To note the agreed action plan of Enfield Council to meet recommendations made by the Local Government Association in its Corporate Peer Challenge report.

III. To note that it is the intention of the Local Government Association Corporate Challenge peer assessment team to return to Enfield Council in October 2023 to conduct a 6-month progress review against recommendations made as set out in the action plan at Appendix 2.

9

PROCEDURAL MOTION

A procedural motion was moved by Councillor Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Councillor Chris Dey 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 which was put to the vote and **AGREED**.

A procedural motion was moved by Councillor Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Councillor Chris Dey under paragraph 13.20 (iii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to change the order of Motions so that Motion numbers 10.1, 10.3, 10.4, 10.11, 10.5, 10.6 and 10.8 would be taken in that order and **AGREED**.

10

MOTIONS

10.1 Motion in the name of Councillor Ayten Guzel

"Enfield Council welcomes the work of the Fair Tax Foundation and resolves to register as a Fair Tax Council. This registration requires signatories to:

- lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities
- ensure IR35 is implemented robustly, and contractors pay a fair share of employment taxes
- to not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty
- undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates
- demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit & loss position
- promote the Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due
- support calls for urgent reform of UK law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies."

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

10.3 Motion in the name of Councillor Nicki Adeleke

"Council recognises that people with autism are more likely to face prejudice and discrimination in their lifetime, that 921 children and 126 young adults have healthcare plans for autism, and 571 adults have an autism classification in Enfield.

There are some great facilities in the borough for autistic people, including SEND schools, support in mainstream schools, our voluntary organisations,

and the Enfield Learning Disability Partnership Board champion the rights of people with learning disabilities and their carers.

However, more work is needed to ensure autistic people have equal opportunities in education, training, and employment, so they can live as fulfilled a life as they are able.

The Council will:

1. Work with local communities, autistic children, and adults to raise awareness of autism and the challenges faced by autistic people
2. Work to increase the number of school places for autistic children within the borough in mainstream and SEND schools
3. Provide support so that when autistic children transition to adulthood, adequate support is available to enter work or further training
4. Work with local communities, voluntary and charitable organisations to combat loneliness and other health and wellbeing challenges among autistic adults.”

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

During the debate, a procedural motion was moved by Councillor Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Councillor Chris Dey under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council’s Procedure Rules to extend the debate for a further 20 minutes which was **AGREED**.

10.4 Motion in the name of Councillor Josh Abey

“Council notes the Government’s recent decision to drop plans to abolish the leasehold system, which the Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities promised in January 2023.

Council believes that the UK’s current leasehold laws are feudal and archaic, with thousands of leaseholders across the country facing devastating bills to tackle cladding and necessary fire safety works due to unscrupulous developers.

Council resolves to urge the Government to support calls by the Shadow Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities Secretary to:

- end the sale of new leasehold houses
- introduce a right for existing leaseholders to extend a lease to 990 years with zero ground rent
- bring forward the Law Commission proposals to reform the process of enfranchisement valuation.”

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

10.11 Motion in the name of Councillor Nia Stevens

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“Every June since 2008, people from across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller History Month. To mark the occasion, on the 1st June, Enfield Council raised the GRT flag outside the Civic Centre building.

GRT History Month helps to tackle prejudice, challenge myths and to amplify the voices of Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers in wider society

Enfield Council welcomes the raising of the flag and thanks all those involved in organising this symbolic gesture, including representatives from the GRT community who attended the ceremony.

The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community are part of Enfield’s diverse and vibrant population. This Council reaffirms our commitment to supporting the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community in our borough.”

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

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

10.5 Motion in the name of Councillor Doug Taylor

“The Council notes that the Government has recently published its reforms of the Gambling Act (2005). Local government have been lobbying for reform of gambling regulations for many years and for the removal of the ‘aim to permit’ provisions in the Gambling Act. This provision sets out that licensing authorities must accept applications for gambling premises unless there is a valid reason why they should not be.

The Council believes that ‘aim to permit’ are an infringement of local democracy – local councils know what is best for their local high streets and town centres.

The Council resolves to work with the Local Government Association to lobby the Government to give councils the freedom to refuse new premises licences, by scrapping the ‘aim to permit’ provision in the Gambling Act.”

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

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

11

COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

This item was **NOTED** under the guillotine arrangements. Answers to questions were provided in the supplementary agenda.

12

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

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

Councillor Kate Anolue to replace Councillor Ahmet Hasan on the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

Councillor Nelly Gyosheva to replace Councillor Margaret Greer and Councillor Ahmet Hasan to replace Councillor Josh Abey on the Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel.

Councillor Josh Abey to replace Councillor Doug Taylor on the Planning Committee. Councillor Mahym Bedekova replace Councillor Bektas Ozer as Vice Chair on the Planning Committee.

13

NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

Councillor Chris James to replace Councillor Alev Cazimoglu on the Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee for North Central London Sector.

Councillor Pat Gregory to replace Councillor Ruby Sampson on the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.

14

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Wednesday 27 September 2023 at 7.00pm.