

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Maria Alexandrou, Alev Cazimoglu, Lee Chamberlain, Guney Dogan, Chris Joannides, Gina Needs and Ahmet Oykener

THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

Dogan Erdoğan from the Alevi Federation gave the blessing and Gulay Dalkilic translated this 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

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the meeting councillors and a special welcome also to the members of the public we have in the gallery and in the conference room who have come to observe the debate tonight on the Enfield Local Plan submission.

This is an important document, and I am pleased to see so many members of the public showing an interest in it. I think it might be helpful for me to explain what the process will be for the debate this evening so that members of the public know what to expect.

COUNCIL - 19.3.2024

First, we will deal with some preliminary matters. We will have some tributes and then members will need to declare any interests they have in the business being transacted this evening. After that, we will move on to the main item of business – the Local Plan.

The first speaker from each side of the Chamber normally has 5 minutes to speak but given the special nature of this meeting, I am expecting a Procedural Motion to be moved requesting slightly longer and I will probably allow them to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Other councillors will then be invited to speak for up to 3 minutes each. At the end, there will be a final response by the Opposition for 5 minutes and then a final summing up from the Cabinet member for 5 minutes. We will then go to the vote.

Now it is important that everyone in the chamber who is invited to speak is allowed to do so without interruption. Councillors have been elected to represent their communities and they must be allowed to speak and express their views here tonight. There will be different views expressed and there will inevitably be some disagreement, but all councillors must be allowed to express their views and be heard.

I appreciate that there may be some of you who have come tonight hoping that you too may be able to speak on the Local Plan, but I am afraid that will not be possible as we do not have deputations at Council meetings. Some of you will already have approached your councillor and I am sure that they will be able to put across the different views they have heard over the past few weeks and months.

However, you will have an opportunity to make your views known and your views will be taken into account. The documents which we are considering tonight are on the Council's website and I would strongly urge you to read those documents if you have not done so already. The proposal before us is essentially to agree the documents to go out for formal consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks and, during that period, you will be able to submit feedback to your councillors or to the Planning Inspector directly. So, your voices will be heard.

Moving back to the business for tonight, may I remind councillors, I will not tolerate any interruptions or shouting or heckling from the gallery or in the chamber and, if there is shouting or heckling, I will have no alternative but to ask you to leave. I sincerely hope that will not happen as I really would like you to all stay and listen to the debate.

Members, may I ask for your continued professional and orderly conduct during this meeting. There are lots of members of the public here and I am sure you will want them to have a positive experience of watching democracy in action here at Enfield. Can I remind you that any members wishing to speak should indicate they wish to do so and wait for me to invite them to speak. Members, please address the meeting through me and continue to treat each other courteously and with respect during political interactions.

COUNCIL - 19.3.2024

If you would like to ask for an extension of time, or if you wish to move any other type of procedural motion, please do so at the end of a speech and not in the middle of it.

Finally, I will not tolerate any interruptions tonight from members and if I ask you to stop speaking, please do so straight away and let me manage the meeting.

We have been informed this week of the sad passing of former Councillor Chris Murphy. Chris was elected as a councillor in 1998 until 2014 and was a much-respected councillor.

We have also been informed of the sad passing of one of the council's long serving officers. Teresa Cassidy passed away on 27th February. Teresa worked in Housing Services and will be hugely missed by her colleagues and friends.

We send our condolences to both families at this very sad time.

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Council, in memory of Chris Murphy and Teresa Cassidy, stood for a minute silence.

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maria Alexandrou, Alev Cazimoglu, Lee Chamberlain, Guney Dogan, Chris Joannides, Gina Needs, and Ahmet Oykener.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 February 2024 would be finalised and taken to the next meeting of Council which would take place on 15 May 2024.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor acknowledged that Councillors had received written advice on declarations of interest from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting in relation to the Local Plan.

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

Item 5 – Cllr Joanne Laban who has a family member who is a member at an Enfield golf club.

Item 5 – Cllr Sabri Ozaydin who is a director of Housing Gateway Limited.

Item 5 - Cllr Doug Taylor who is a director of Energetik, season ticket holder at THFC and member of an Enfield golf club.

COUNCIL - 19.3.2024

Item 5 – Cllr David Skelton who is a member of the Levelling Up Advisory Council at Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Item 5 – Cllr Andy Milne who is along with two family members a season ticket holder at THFC.

Item 5 – Cllr Savva who is a season ticket holder at THFC.

Item 5 – Cllr Dey who has a relative who is a season ticket holder at THFC.

6

PROCEDURAL MOTION

A procedural motion was moved by Cllr Sabri Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil to allow the Mover of the Motion and the first Opposition speaker to speak for up to 10 minutes and that the final Opposition response to the debate and the right of reply should be given up to 5 minutes and was **AGREED**.

7

THE LOCAL PLAN

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

The Leader stated that the Local Plan has been through six years of consultation, exploration and engagement and sets out the future intentions for the borough and how this will be achieved. The aim being to make Enfield a greener, vibrant, and well-connected borough where its young people will have a place of their own to call home.

In 2019, there was a 12-week consultation exceeding the minimum statutory requirement with local groups and the draft plan was agreed in 2021. Since then, the administration has honoured their commitment to deliver a pre-publication period that has allowed residents and councillors to read the final plan before it goes out to an additional statutory consultation and a review by the National Planning Inspector before it can be implemented.

By 2041, the population of Enfield will have grown by more than 50,000 people as people are living longer, and our young people today will have families of their own. If the demand for housing continues to rise without adequate housing being available, people will be forced to move out of the borough; additionally overpriced and overcrowded housing was becoming more prominent. The Local Plan allows the Council to control how this growth in the borough will occur.

The Leader acknowledged that there is no easy way to deal with the housing crisis as even if every brownfield site were exhausted, there would still not be enough supply to meet targets. The loss of green belt land will be compensated by major landscape restoration and a new country park which will improve public access in Enfield Chase, with a commitment to a 25% increase in green coverage by 2041. By using a limited amount of green belt which would be namely; disused car parks, garden centres and golf courses, would equate to adequate space to build affordable family homes which will

COUNCIL - 19.3.2024

see the sites better utilised to address the national housing crisis. The Crews Hill site will enable 5000 new homes to be built whilst Chase Park will have 3700 new homes built with both sites gaining crucial infrastructure, being close to transport links and access to gardens and public spaces with opportunities to walk and cycle through connected habitats and landscape corridors.

The Administration has provided a clear steer to officers that the Council must have a Local Plan that meets housing needs. The process to produce this plan has been meticulously detailed with an immense level of dedication and will produce a plan that is technically sound. The Leader expressed concerns by not having an up-to-date Local Plan leaves the Council open to the risk of developers putting in planning applications anywhere in the borough which will be agreed by the National Inspector due to the current framework being out of date.

The Leader expressed thanks to the Planning department, officers, elected members and residents who contributed and were involved with the development of the Local Plan.

The Opposition expressed concerns that social housing in high rise buildings leads to poverty with low educational attainment and poor health outcomes. The Plan does not consider building appropriate older people homes or take into account that the birth rate has been falling in London since 2016 which would suggest that growth will not be as significant as the administration suggest.

Tall buildings being proposed across the borough are not sites in the Council's ownership or ones that can be easily developed. For example, in Angel Edmonton, the Joyce & Snells Estate is being rebuilt with great intensification with great loss of green space. It is doubtful that this redevelopment will add to the quality of life of the residents who occupy homes within these tall buildings.

The Plan would open Crews Hill area to residential homes which would affect residents and businesses and the infrastructure is not sufficient enough to deal with what is being proposed. The benefits of being pro-cycling and walking were acknowledged, but not feasible in isolated parts of the borough such as Crews Hill with a limited bus service and only one train station in close proximity. It was reported that it would take between 30 minutes and 45 minutes to walk to the surrounding train stations which would force residents to use cars when roads are already at full capacity. It was argued that the green belt is an area of character, and the proposed developments would diminish this especially if 13% of the green belt which is protected by national and regional plans is to be built on.

Local Oakwood residents are opposed to the closure of the car park at Oakwood station which is the only station between Enfield and Finsbury Park that has level access from the street to train for disabled users. The plan is meant to encourage sustainable travel, but the abolition of this car park

COUNCIL - 19.3.2024

represents the denial of access to that sustainable travel not only to disabled users but the general travelling public. The proposal to develop the Alan Pullinger youth centre, Minchenden car park and Southgate Office Village in Southgate, which are valuable places which support the residents, and the youth of the borough were opposed by local residents.

The Opposition emphasised that only 20 homes have been built thus far on the Meridian Water site highlighting that the target of 5000 homes by this point had not been met which would have taken a lot of pressure of the Local Plan. It was argued that the justification for needing to declassify green belt to build more affordable family homes on the green belt in order to meet housing needs rather than doing more to allow building on industrial land was illogical as those families who are currently in private rented and overcrowded homes will not be able to afford these homes in Chase Park.

The Administration outlined the measures in place within this plan to support prudent economic growth in Enfield.

The Local Plan will allow the building of more family homes for Enfield residents with enhanced parks, woodlands, and green spaces therefore making the borough more biodiverse. There are also plans for new schools, GP surgeries, leisure centres and the creation jobs for local residents.

The housing crisis has significantly impacted residents with over 3000 homeless families living in temporary accommodation which are not suitable for their needs with 6000 families on the council's housing waiting list. The average household who are renting privately are currently paying 45% of their income on rent. The target of building 34,000 new homes by 2041, will include 40% being affordable family homes, 10% will be wheelchair accessible and 197 specialist homes for older and disabled residents. There will be no difference in quality between the privately owned and affordable homes.

Town centres will accommodate employment, retail, leisure, housing and community and cultural spaces with 300,000sqm of industrial floor space, 40,000sqm of office space and the creation on 17,000 new jobs. Enfield is home to creative venues like Troubadour Studios, The Drumsheds, Millfield Theatre and Netflix. The Local Plan will build on existing creative industries in Enfield and support film and TV to become a creative hub in London and in doing so creating jobs for local people. A cultural fund will be established using funds from developers which will allow residents to have a say in future events they wish have in the borough.

The Opposition responded by stating that the Administration had failed to engage with the opposition and the public on the Local Plan and the Inspector will expect a degree of cross-party support. The public will need to have been properly consulted and the documentation to have shown an independent verification of the database that has been brought forward. 7000 people responded to the last consultation of which the majority opposed building on

COUNCIL - 19.3.2024

the green belt, and comments from public ward meetings that have been held on the local plan clearly suggest that residents do not support the Plan.

The borough in recent years has only been building 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom flats despite those who sit on the Planning committee, on both sides, having argued consistently about the need for family homes so this adds pressure to meet housing targets. The Transport strategy in the plan is negligible and will not provide the needed infrastructure to be able to take the weight of what is being proposed.

In summing up, the Leader noted that the Administration supported and had set out a clear proposal of their commitment around housing delivery as it recognised that the people of Enfield deserved a decent home, and that the social and transport infrastructure would be delivered alongside housing development.

It was reiterated that the cross-party working group had been set up, which the opposition members were invited to monthly meeting, but did not attend.

The Local plan is about tackling poverty, increasing the equality opportunity for the most disadvantaged and building a greener, safer, and cleaner borough.

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

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Dey, 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 Kate Anolue
Cllr Chinelo Anyanwu
Cllr Mahym Bedekova
Cllr Sinan Boztas
Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Cllr Mustafa Cetinkaya
Cllr Hivran Dalkaya
Cllr Elif Erbil
Cllr Ergin Erbil
Cllr Susan Erbil
Cllr Thomas Fawns

COUNCIL - 19.3.2024

Cllr Margaret Greer
Cllr Ayten Guzel
Cllr Nelly Gyosheva
Cllr Ahmet Hasan
Cllr Mohammad Islam
Cllr Chris James
Cllr Rick Jewell
Cllr Doris Jiage
Cllr Destiny Karakus
Cllr Tim Leaver
Cllr Sabri Ozaydin
Cllr Bektas Ozer
Cllr George Savva
Cllr Nia Stevens
Cllr Doug Taylor
Cllr Eylem Yuruk

Against:

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

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

8

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Wednesday 15 May 2024, which will be the Annual Council meeting.