

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2021**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Sabri Ozaydin (Mayor), Christine Hamilton (Deputy Mayor), Huseyin Akpinar, Mahmut Aksanoglu, Maria Alexandrou, Daniel Anderson, Kate Anolue, Chinelo Anyanwu, Dinah Barry, Ian Barnes, Mahym Bedekova, Sinan Boztas, Anne Brown, Alev Cazimoglu, Nesil Caliskan, Mustafa Cetinkaya, Lee David-Sanders, Birsen Demirel, Clare De Silva, Chris Dey, Guney Dogan, Ergin Erbil, Susan Erbil, Ergun Eren, Peter Fallart, Alessandro Georgiou, Margaret Greer, Charith Gunawardena, Ayten Guzel, Ahmet Hasan, Elaine Hayward, Rick Jewell, Nneka Keazor, Joanne Laban, Dino Lemonides, Tim Leaver, Derek Levy, Mary Maguire, Terence Neville OBE JP, Ayfer Orhan, Lindsay Rawlings, Michael Rye OBE, George Savva MBE, Edward Smith, Jim Steven, Claire Stewart, Doug Taylor, Andrew Thorp, Mahtab Uddin, Glynis Vince and Hass Yusuf

ABSENT Tolga Aramaz, Guner Aydin, Yasemin Brett, Katherine Chibah, Elif Erbil, Achilleas Georgiou, James Hockney, Stephanos Ioannou, Saray Karakus, Andy Milne and Gina Needs

1

THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

Deacon Jaqueline Esama-John from the Enfield Methodist Circuit performed a blessing.

2

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORDINARY BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor welcome everyone to the Chamber. He gave his condolences to the family and friends of Sir David Amess MP who had recently passed away. The Mayor spoke about the events he had attended during Black History Month and on Remembrance Day.

The Mayor congratulated the Housing Advisory Service for being shortlisted for an award on the way homeless is prevented and managed within the borough.

The Meridian Water Team were presented with two awards one for Public/Private Partnerships and one for Diversity & Inclusion.

3

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2021 were agreed subject to the councillors attendance being reviewed.

4

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The following members declared interests in the below items:

- Councillor Dey declared an interest in the Polling district and polling place review recommendations, and motions 11.1 & 11.9
- Councillor Erbil declared an interest as a member of Energetik
- Councillor Thorp declared an interest in the Polling district and polling place review recommendations, and motion 11.9
- Councillor Laban declared an interest in motion 11.1
- Councillor Neville declared an interest in motion 11.1
- Councillor Taylor declared an interest in motion 11.
- Councillor Aksanoglu declared an interest in motion 11.

5

APOLOGIES

Councillors Tolga Aramaz, Guner Aydin, Yasemin Brett, Katherine Chibah, Elif Erbil, Achilleas Georgiou, James Hockney, Stephanos Ioannou, Saray Karakus, Andy Milne and Gina Needs sent apologies.

6

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT

Councillor Maguire moved, and Councillor Caliskan seconded, the report and Councillor Maguire introduced the report noted the following key points:

- The report details the investment and earnings which will be used to build public facilities within the borough.
- The tables within the report set out the balance sheet summary, the borrowing position, borrowing maturity, the cost of borrowing and the Council's investments within the last six months
- All borrowing by the council is a combination of long term and medium-term borrowing.

The administration made the following key points:

- The report shows a direction of reduction of borrowing
- There are low interest rates so it was felt it was a wise time to invest for future generations.
- The housing programme is ambitious and additional borrowing will allow for affordable housing to be created.

The majority opposition made the following key points:

- Concerns were raised about the level of borrowing
- Concerns were raised about how interest rate changes could affect residents.
- Sixty-five percent of the loans mature in between 10 to 40 years time.
- There are plans to borrow a further one billion pounds which would be affected by increased interest rates.
- Concerns were raised about building on the green belt.
- It was felt the scale of housing projects need to be reviewed.
- It was discussed how when inflation rises interest rates often increase too which creates a huge level of uncertainty for the next year.

The minority opposition made the point that borrowing to invest is not unusual, although as projects are lasting longer there is a need for the Council to take stock of its current position.

Following the discussions, was put to a vote:

AGREE – 25

AGAINST – 15

ABSTAIN – 7

The Treasury Management Mid Year Report was agreed.

7

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW - RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor Tim Leaver moved, and Councillor Bedekova seconded, the report. Whilst introducing the report Councillor Leaver made the following points:

- The recommendations of the report propose adopting the polling districts and places found in the review.
- The adopted polling districts and places will be used from the May 2022 election.
- Officers were thanked for the compressive report and review.
- The report and recommendations have previously been reviewed and agreed by the General Purposes Committee.
- It was positive to see how all councillors have engaged with the review to share their knowledge.

The administration made the following points:

- Officers and members were thanked for their collaborative work.
- Time was taken to think of former Councillor Bond who had a detailed understanding and input into the beginning of this review.

The majority opposition made the following points:

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- Councillors spoke in support of the report and thanked officers for their work on this difficult task.
- There had been concerns how these types of reviews can make or break communities but members have complete confidence in the review.

The minority opposition made the following points:

- That the Group fully endorsed the report.
- Officers were thanked for their work on the review.
- Councillors were pleased to see a reduction on schools being used for polling stations.

Following the discussions, the report was unanimously agreed.

8

SAFEGUARDING ENFIELD ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Councillor Cazimoglu moved the Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report. During her introduction she raised the following key points:

- The report focuses on tackling safeguarding adults in the community and shows how challenges were managed during the Covid-19
- The Safeguarding Enfield Annual Report has been to the relevant scrutiny panels and has received positive impact.
- The report has been to Cabinet in September 2021.
- The report celebrates the progress made within the area.
- There is a strong response from the Council to domestic abuse reports and more investment is being made on dealing with safeguarding concerns.

The administration made the following points during the discussion:

- Thanked officers and the Partnerships for their work.
- The pandemic was a terrible time for looked after residents and officers ensured the vulnerable were supported and looked after.
- All sides of the Chamber have worked hard to ensure safeguarded Adults & Children are looked after.
- Council noted Councillor Vince's hard work on the Children's Services Panel.

The majority opposition made the following points during the discussion:

- Support the report and its contents.
- Would like to see a shorter version of the report in future.
- Officers were thanked for their work.
- Welcomed that the correspondences from an incident that occurred this year will be published once the current review is completed.

The minority opposition made the following points during the discussion:

- Congratulated officers, the directors support and the Safeguarding Partnership Board.
- Concerns were raised about the relevant Cabinet Member not attending the Safeguarding Partnership Board.

Following discussion the Council unanimously AGREED to

1. Note, in order to draw attention to the key safeguarding risks facing vulnerable residents and to raise the profile of the initiatives being carried out to prevent and tackle these issues.
2. Note the successes and challenges that have risen from safeguarding activity in the period 2020-21.
3. Note that the draft report was considered at the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel and comments made have resulted in amen

9

GAMBLING ACT 2005 - GAMBLING POLICY & CASINO RESOLUTION

Councillor Taylor moved, and Councillor Sava seconded, the report. During his introductory remarks Councillor Taylor spoke about the following:

- Officers were thanked for the report.
- The report asks members to agree the changes to the Gambling Policy and agree that casino operators should be prevented from locating within the borough.
- The changes in 2005 had led to an increase in betting shops, and clusters of betting shops, within the borough.
- Select Committees have suggested that local authorities should be able to have the same level of rules they do for alcohol and gambling.
- The Licensing Committee endorse the report.

The administration made the below comments on the report:

- It was felt the Gambling Act targets deprived areas and communities.
- Gambling poses a serious risk to the borough's young people.
- It is the responsibility of national and local authorities to deal with this issue.
- Encouraged those working in the industry to join a trade union.
- Housing betting facilities on the high street stops small businesses being able to exist.

The majority opposition made the below comments on the report:

- 0.5% of the population have a serious problem with gambling so support the proposals.
- The Council has been consistent in saying it will not support a casino in the borough.

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- The number of local objections to gambling facilities have increased.
- Would like to see a cross-party review of the Gambling Act.
- For the Licensing Committee to refuse a license they must be able to show it doesn't comply with the Council's Statement of Principles.

The minority opposition made the below comments on the report:

- Felt the Gambling Act was to blame and it raises a moral issue.
- Would provide support to the report and a no casino policy.
- There is a social harm caused to families, individuals and children because of gambling.
- Important to remember that many people work in these establishments so there is a need to not be derogatory towards them. These people will also need protecting if their employment was to suffer

Following the discussion the report and its proposals were unanimously AGREED to:

1. To agree the changes to the Sixth Edition Gambling Policy.
2. To agree to continue the resolution to prevent casino operators from locating within the borough

10

COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

It was noted that Councillor Gunawardena's urgent question would receive a written answer after the meeting.

Members of the Council noted the written councillor questions and answers to their supplementary questions.

Members asked the below supplementary questions:

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Members of the Council noted the written councillor questions and answers to their supplementary questions.

Members asked the below supplementary questions:

Question 1, Councillor Taylor to Councillor Cazimoglu: What is being done to deal with the pressures at A&E departments across the country?

The NHS is under huge pressure with tax payer's money being spent as private hospitals. Ambulances are waiting outside hospitals with patients. Concerns have been raised with the CCG, NHS and North Middlesex Hospital around this. A triage system is being introduced to help with emergencies, GP access will be able to be booked for face to face appointments whilst

accessing the risk of patients waiting for longer period of time. The A&E Delivery Board are reviewing the rapid response activity in the community and re-direction activity. A wider sub group is being set up to review waiting times.

Question 2, Councillor Laban to Councillor Barnes:
No supplementary question.

Question 3, Councillor Levy to Councillor Barnes: How the Climate Action Group was considered a response to the climate emergency declaration?

There are many climate emergency groups in Enfield and the Climate Action Group includes many, but not all of these.

Question 4, Councillor E.Erbil to Councillor Cazimoglu: What plans have the Government included in the Social Care reform announcement to address work force issues which will be impacted by mandatory vaccinations of health care staff?

The health and social care bill is silent on the issue of workforce. NHS workers are extremely fragile due to the lack of funding over many years. This means the NHS is unable to meet the current demands and adequately reward their workforces.

Question 5, Councillor Laban to Councillor Caliskan: The Mayor of London's response to the Local Plan consultation asks the Council to take a brownfield site first, criticizing the current approach. Will Councillor Caliskan take a brownfield approach to the Local Plan and redact plans to build on the green belt?

The draft Local Plan recognises the "brownfield sites first" approach, and recognises there is a huge amount of green belt and industrial land in the borough which creates challenges to meet the housing targets. The current approach helps create needed homes in the borough and meet the housing targets. Members were urged to read the draft Local Plan and put forward brownfield sites that have yet to be identified. Locations have been found that are well connected to create homes.

Question 6, Councillor Levy to Councillor Jewel: Is it right to say that at the moment the LED lights compared to Haringey are less luminescent and how does this provide safety to residents walking in residential streets?

Further information on whether these lights are less bright, in particular light 6, and this will be provided to the Councillor.

Question 7, Councillor Leaver to Councillor Maguire: Has the ongoing impact of Covid-19 been reflected in the future funding?

No announcement has been made by the Government relating to this which is disappointing that no Covid-19 future cost pressures. During 2019, the Council has created a Covid-19 reserve to deliver on a Government shortfall.

Question 8, Councillor Laban to Councillor Caliskan: Will the plans for the incinerator in Enfield be paused and reviewed following comments the plans are too large for London's needs, and the increase in costs?

The costs associated with the facility are much higher than when the plan was proposed 10 years ago and the NLWA's work in 2019 to review the costs was welcomed. The Council will call on NLWA to control and monitor the spend and have an oversight on the spend as it is a significant amount of public money.

Question 9, Councillor Barry to Councillor Maguire: Did officers work for free on the councillor complaint mentioned in the original question?

Allegations and complaints are taken seriously by members and officers. The complaint was dealt with and that is officers time. There is a need for proper investigation. Councillor Maguire will inform Councillor Barry of the external costs of the investigation.

Question 10, Councillor Guzel to Councillor Maguire: How did the roll out of universal credit impact residents in Enfield?

Poverty is a big issue in the borough. A new target has been set for universal credit for March 2022. Residents will be supported to ensure their benefits are maxed. Half of residents who receive Council Tax support also receive Universal Credit.

Question 11, Councillor Laban to Councillor Caliskan: Are all councillors across the political parties are involved in the plans to celebrate the Queen's jubilee?

Yes, all Councillors will be involved and everyone is looking forward to the additional bank holiday.

Question 12, Councillor Barry to Councillor Jewell: What is being done to get recycling figures to 20% target?

Lockdowns have meant that figures are currently low. Work is taking place to reconnect with communities following Covid-19. Communal bins in the borough are an area of focus with trials taking place in flats. A Waste & Recycling Board has been set up to look at how to further improve this. Schools are being visited by Enforcement Teams to talk to pupils about recycling, and reducing waste.

Question 13, Councillor Aksanoglu to Councillor Needs: Are you able to provide the figures on investment for the improvements? *Councillor Caliskan answered this question in Councillor Needs absence.*

There is a huge programme over five years of £25million to uplift the Council's housing stock in the borough. The Building Safety Team are responsible for looking at this. Fire safety is important to the Council and a sprinkler programme is being worked on.

Question 14, Councillor Laban to Councillor Jewell: No supplementary question.

Question 15, Councillor Barry to Councillor Anolue: Requested the numbers of what embodied carbon is being reduced to.

This information will be sent to Councillor Barry following the meeting.

Question 16, Councillor Dogan to Councillor Barnes: No supplementary question.

Question 17, Councillor Laban to Councillor Maguire: When will community groups be able to use the Civic Centre rooms again?

Once the next phase of the Build the Change programme is complete members will be updated on this.

Question 18, Councillor Anderson to Councillor Caliskan: What will be done to ensure the Planning Committee will be able to approve applications which support affordable housing?

The Council cannot control what the private sector submits to Planning Committee. Over the last three years pre-application processes have been improved to ensure applications are better in line with Council policy and design. The Design Panel allows applicants to be more in line with borough wide styles and supports residents wishes for “beautiful buildings”.

Question 19, Councillor Hamilton to Councillor Barnes: Asked about the Arts Council England and Enfield Council.

Enfield have been chosen by the Arts Council England to be one of 54 “priority places”. Enfield has been highlighted for a place for arts council engagement and investment. Enfield and the Arts Council are engaging in further conversations. There are a new Culture Team in place who are fantastic. The Culture Palace is receiving positive feedback from residents. Representatives from community groups will work with the Council to discuss how they’d like to see things improve around culture.

Question 20, Councillor Rawlings to Councillor Jewell: How will less food waste be presented at door stop bin collections:

Residents will be educated on how to use less and recycle more. The Council is not able to patrol what, or how much, people eat.

Question 21, Councillor Anderson to Councillor Caliskan: Only 54% of targets were met between 2018 and 2020. How will this be improved?

Members on the Council’s regulatory committees should vote how they deem appropriate based on each application. Without their approval these will not be built. The Council is on track to meet its remaining targets.

Question 22, Councillor Stewart to Councillor Barnes: Why are the Enfield Conservative Group against central Government policy on tackling climate change?

The Government have funded 100’s of low traffic neighbourhoods and it is felt that opposition to school streets is a shame. Members were asked to propose alternative schemes they felt would be suitable.

**11
MOTIONS**

Councillor Rawlings moved, and Councillor Laban seconded the below urgent motion:

The reason why it is being submitted as an emergency motion is because the statement made by José Manuel Entrecañales at COP26 happened on the Monday after the Friday deadline for motions.

This Council resolves:

On (8 November 2021), Acciona's CEO, José Manuel Entrecañales, during a COP26 panel event stated:

"The massive oversizing of the [Edmonton] plant is something that is beyond our control. It's a specific issue of the plant. About the waste-to-energy concept, you would probably agree with me that it's a transition mechanism — maybe not in London, that is a debatable argument."

Acciona is the only remaining bidder left in the procurement process to win the contract to redevelop the energy from waste (EfW) plant.

In response to Mr Entrecañales' statement - we call on the Administration to carry out the following:

- Call on the North London Waste Authority to pause the scheme; and
- Call on the North London Waste Authority to review the project taking into account the most recent projections of waste arising, treatment capacity and the finances of the scheme which have doubled from £650 million to £1.2 billion.

Councillor Nesil Caliskan moved an amendment to the above motion:

This Council resolves:

On (8 November 2021), Acciona's CEO, José Manuel Entrecañales, during a COP26 panel event stated:

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Acciona is the only remaining bidder left in the procurement process to win the contract to redevelop the energy from waste (EfW) plant.

In response to Mr Entrecañales' statement – Enfield Council:

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- Calls on the North London Waste Authority to consider Mr Entrecanales' comments in its 16th December 2021 Authority meeting, and to offer reassurance to residents concerning the size of the proposed Energy Recovery Facility.
- Will write to the Chair of the North London Waste Authority asking for their response to calls made for a 'pause and review' concerning the proposed Energy Recovery Facility.
- Notes that a root and branch cost review was carried out for the project in 2019, in line with best practice on major infrastructure projects; and calls on the NLWA to continue to scrutinise costs and rigorously monitor expenditure to ensure value for money.
- Urges the North London Waste Authority to redouble its efforts to educate residents on the benefits of recycling and its positive effect on fighting climate change.

Following discussion, the amended motion was AGREED.

12

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

NOTED there were no amendments to Committee memberships.

13

OUTSIDE BODIES MEMBERSHIP

NOTED there were no amendments to the Outside Bodies.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was NOTED as 26 January 2022.