

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2023**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Doris Jiagge (Mayor), Suna Hurman (Deputy Mayor), Abdul Abdullahi, Josh Abey, Nicki Adeleke, Gunes Akbulut, Mahmut Aksanoglu, Maria Alexandrou, Nawshad Ali, Kate Anolue, 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, Alessandro Georgiou, Margaret Greer, Patricia Gregory, Adrian Grumi, Ayten Guzel, Nelly Gyosheva, Ahmet Hasan, James Hockney, Rick Jewell, Chris James, Chris Joannides, Joanne Laban, Tim Leaver, Andy Milne, Elisa Morreale, Gina Needs, Tom O'Halloran, Ahmet Oykenner, Sabri Ozaydin, Bektas Ozer, Paul Pratt, Michael Rye OBE, Julian Sampson, George Savva MBE, David Skelton, Jim Steven, Nia Stevens, Emma Supple, Doug Taylor, Andrew Thorp and Eylem Yuruk

ABSENT Chinelo Anyanwu, Esin Gunes, Stephanos Ioannou, Mohammad Islam, Ruby Sampson and Edward Smith

THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN TO GIVE A BLESSING

Dogan Erdoğan, Zakir (Alevi spiritual guide) of London Alevi Cultural Centre and Cemevi 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 Chinelo Anyanwu, Esin Gunes, Stephanos Ioannou, Mohammad Islam, Ruby Sampson and Edward Smith.

**3
MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Chamber.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for chairing the last meeting, whilst she attended her son's graduation. Since then, she had continued with her mayoral duties.

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In January she attended the Holocaust Memorial Service where those who lost their lives in conflict and war were remembered. As part of the service, councillors were invited to sign a Pledge Against Genocide, and members would also be able to add their names to the pledge tonight.

She was fortunate to be invited as a special guest to the Enfield Youth Elections Announcement Event where new elected members of the UK Youth Council and Enfield Youth Council were announced, alongside the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cllr Abdul Abdullahi. She was proud to see the young people of Enfield getting involved and looked forward to seeing them succeed in this field.

Members were reminded that the Mayor's Gala Dinner takes place on the 28th February, and all were welcome to join her and enjoy a wonderful evening of food, drink, and entertainment. Please contact Koulla Panaretou in line with emails previously sent.

A sad announcement was made that a long serving officer, Erhan Hassan, passed away on Wednesday 1st February 2023. Erhan worked for Enfield Council for 27 years, firstly in Payroll Services and over more recent years in the Meridian Water Team. During his employment, he knew many officers, both as a friend and colleague and will be hugely missed. Condolences were expressed to Erhan's family, friends, and colleagues at this very sad time.

The Mayor was also saddened to hear of the loss of life and devastation as a result of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. She offered her heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who have been killed, and her deep sympathies to all those whose lives have been affected.

The 24th February also marked the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with the loss of hundreds of lives and the displacement of millions of people. Her thoughts and prayers went to those who continued to be affected.

Members were invited to say a few words.

Cllr Nesil Caliskan highlighted the solidarity between Enfield residents and people in the regions hit by the recent earthquakes: how there had been generosity and a coming together to help, and the response from the diversity of Londoners in this global capital. Cllr Alessandro Georgiou on behalf of the Opposition, expressed condolences to all those affected by the earthquakes and was proud of the efforts of councillors and officers and people from all backgrounds working together to help those in need. Cllr Ergin Erbil's family came from the affected region, and he was pleased to note the quick response from communities, London Councils, and the Foreign Secretary. Cllr Dyson paid particular tribute to British firefighters who provided help.

Members and all attendees were invited to join in a minute's silence to commemorate recent lives lost recently.

4

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 January 2023 were received and, subject to the corrections set out in the supplementary agenda pack, were **AGREED** as a correct record.

5

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Director of Law and Governance read out a statement on the declaration of interests requirements in relation to agenda item 6 – Budget Report 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2027/28.

The director advised that members had been given an advice note on this issue and that there was no requirement for members to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to item 6, the exception to this being any councillor who is two or more months in arrears of their Council Tax, in which case they should declare this and not take part in the vote. The director advised that according to the Council's records there were no members with any such outstanding arrears, but that the onus was on members to make the declaration, if necessary.

The director also clarified that no councillors would be affected in relation to item 7 – Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24.

In relation to some 'Frequently Asked Questions,' the director advised that if members were appointed directors to Council-owned companies mentioned in reports, they should declare the interest, but it was not a pecuniary interest, and they would not be prevented from taking part in the vote. If members or their relatives worked for the NHS, it was unlikely there would be a sufficient personal interest to require a declaration in respect of agenda items this evening, but it was for members personally to consider their interests.

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

Items 8, 10, and 12 – Cllr Sabri Ozaydin declared an interest as a director of Housing Gateway Limited.

Items 8, 10 and 12 – Cllr Doug Taylor declared an interest as a director of Energetik.

Item 11 – Cllr Joanne Laban declared an interest as a member of the National Joint Council (NJC) on the employer side.

6

BUDGET REPORT 2023/24 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 TO 2027/28

Cllr Leaver moved, and Cllr Caliskan seconded, the report.

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Cllr Leaver introduced the report and noted that this was the first budget of the new Administration and reflected its priorities and manifesto. The background challenges were highlighted, including reduced government funding, Covid-19 impacts, and inflationary and demographic pressures. Consultation in relation to setting the budget, including presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was also noted. The comments of the Chief Finance Officer in respect of the robustness of the budget were included in the report and noted. The Council would be setting a balanced budget. It was prudent, well thought through, and resilient.

The Opposition expressed their concerns in respect of high borrowing by the Administration commenting that interest charges would need to be paid back and cuts would be made to frontline services. Despite a 20% core grant increase and other grants, the Administration proposed an increase in Council Tax, precept, fees and charges, and rents. Money was being spent on external consultants and solicitors, and on Civic Centre refurbishments, but there was no cost-of-living assistance for residents.

During the debate, Cllr Leaver moved, and Cllr Georgiou seconded, a procedural motion under paragraph 13.20 (ii) of the Council's Procedure Rules that an amendment be made to the recommendations at paragraph 8 of the report so that the proposals in respect of a 2.99% general Council Tax increase, and of a 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept be separate recommendations and be voted on separately. This amendment to the report recommendations was **AGREED**.

The time for the end of the meeting having been reached, a procedural motion moved by Cllr Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the debate for 10 minutes was **AGREED**.

The amended recommendation 8.ii: to set a 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept, was agreed following a recorded vote (as required by law) detailed below:

For:

Cllr Abdul Abdullahi
Cllr Josh Abey
Cllr Nicki Adeleke
Cllr Gunes Akbulut
Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu
Cllr Maria Alexandrou
Cllr Nawshad Ali
Cllr Kate Anolue
Cllr Mahym Bedekova
Cllr Sinan Boztas
Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Cllr Alev Cazimoglu
Cllr Mustafa Cetinkaya
Cllr Lee Chamberlain
Cllr Hivran Dalkaya

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Cllr Chris Dey
Cllr Guney Dogan
Cllr Hannah Dyson
Cllr Elif Erbil
Cllr Ergin Erbil
Cllr Susan Erbil
Cllr Peter Fallart
Cllr Thomas Fawns
Cllr Reece Fox
Cllr Alessandro Georgiou
Cllr Margaret Greer
Cllr Pat Gregory
Cllr Adrian Grumi
Cllr Ayten Guzel
Cllr Nelly Gyosheva
Cllr Ahmet Hasan
Cllr James Hockney
Cllr Suna Hurman
Cllr Chris James
Cllr Rick Jewell
Cllr Chris Joannides
Cllr Joanne Laban
Cllr Tim Leaver
Cllr Andy Milne
Cllr Elisa Morreale
Cllr Gina Needs
Cllr Tom O'Halloran
Cllr Ahmet Oykenner
Cllr Sabri Ozaydin
Cllr Bektas Ozer
Cllr Paul Pratt
Cllr Michael Rye
Cllr Julian Sampson
Cllr George Savva
Cllr David Skelton
Cllr Jim Steven
Cllr Nia Stevens
Cllr Emma Supple
Cllr Doug Taylor
Cllr Andrew Thorp
Cllr Eylem Yuruk

The amended recommendation 8.iii: to set a 2.99% general Council Tax increase, was agreed following a recorded vote (as required by law) detailed below:

For:

Cllr Abdul Abdullahi
Cllr Josh Abey
Cllr Nicki Adeleke

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Cllr Gunes Akbulut
Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu
Cllr Nawshad Ali
Cllr Kate Anolue
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 Thomas Fawns
Cllr Margaret Greer
Cllr Ayten Guzel
Cllr Nelly Gyosheva
Cllr Ahmet Hasan
Cllr Suna Hurman
Cllr Chris James
Cllr Rick Jewell
Cllr Tim Leaver
Cllr Gina Needs
Cllr Ahmet Oykener
Cllr Sabri Ozaydin
Cllr Bektas Ozer
Cllr George Savva
Cllr Nia Stevens
Cllr Doug Taylor
Cllr Eylem Yuruk

Against:

Cllr Maria Alexandrou
Cllr Lee Chamberlain
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 Chris Joannides
Cllr Joanne Laban
Cllr Andy Milne
Cllr Elisa Morreale
Cllr Tom O'Halloran
Cllr Paul Pratt
Cllr Michael Rye

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Cllr Julian Sampson
Cllr David Skelton
Cllr Jim Steven
Cllr Emma Supple
Cllr Andrew Thorp

The remainder of the report recommendations 7 through to 17 including 8i and 8iv were agreed following a recorded vote (as required by law) detailed below:

For:

Cllr Abdul Abdullahi
Cllr Josh Abey
Cllr Nicki Adeleke
Cllr Gunes Akbulut
Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu
Cllr Nawshad Ali
Cllr Kate Anolue
Cllr Mahym Bedekova
Cllr Sinan Boztas
Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Cllr Alev Cazimoglu
Cllr Mustafa Cetinkaya
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Cllr Chris James
Cllr Rick Jewell
Cllr Tim Leaver
Cllr Gina Needs
Cllr Ahmet Oykener
Cllr Sabri Ozaydin
Cllr Bektas Ozer
Cllr George Savva
Cllr Nia Stevens
Cllr Doug Taylor
Cllr Eylem Yuruk

Abstain:

Cllr Maria Alexandrou
Cllr Lee Chamberlain
Cllr Chris Dey
Cllr Hannah Dyson

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Cllr Peter Fallart
Cllr Reece Fox
Cllr Alessandro Georgiou
Cllr Pat Gregory
Cllr Adrian Grumi
Cllr James Hockney
Cllr Chris Joannides
Cllr Joanne Laban
Cllr Andy Milne
Cllr Elisa Morreale
Cllr Tom O'Halloran
Cllr Paul Pratt
Cllr Michael Rye
Cllr Julian Sampson
Cllr David Skelton
Cllr Jim Steven
Cllr Emma Supple
Cllr Andrew Thorp

AGREED:

1. To note:

- i. The budget is in a balanced position for 2023/24, however, this is in part achieved by around £3.7m use of one-off funding sources (made up of benefit from the Business Rates Pool and a Collection Fund surplus on Council Tax).
- ii. Increased Government funding of £12m for social care in 2023/24; £1.23m reduction in other core Government grant funding (excluding business rates).
- iii. For business rates related funding - with 2023/24 being the first year of a new ratings valuation cycle, a reduction in Government top-up grant of £2.75m, coupled with an increase in locally generated and retained business rates income of £8.3m; an increase in business rates s31 grant funding of £4.53m (primarily inflation linked).
- iv. Government funding assumptions continue to rely on Council Tax as a key source of funding for Adult Social Care through the Precept.
- v. As was the case for 2022/23 Enfield will be joining a smaller pool of 8 authorities to pool business rates for 2023/24. The potential one-off benefits from the Pool are estimated at £1.5m which has been built into the MTFP position for 2023/24.
- vi. The considerable impact that the current high inflation environment has had on the budget setting process for 2023/24, with an estimated pressure of £22m, around three times the amount that has been accounted for annually over the past decade.

2. To agree:

- i. With regard to the Revenue Budget for 2023/24 to set the Council Tax Requirement for Enfield at £146.963m in 2023/24;
- ii. To set a 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept; and
- iii. To set the Council Tax at Band D for Enfield's services for 2023/24 at £1,518.30, being a 2.99% general Council Tax increase.

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3. To agree the Medium-Term Financial Plan, including:
 - i. The pressures set out in Appendix 1a totalling £45.926m in 2023/24, which include:
 - a. £6.827m for Demographic pressures within Adults and Children's Social Care and SEN Transport to reflect growing demand in these areas.
 - b. £23.324m of Inflation and pay award funding
 - ii. £2.201m investment in transformation funded by the flexible use of capital receipts.
 - iii. full year effects of prior year savings and income totalling £1.538m set out in Appendix 2a.
 - iv. the new savings of £11.694m and income proposals of £2.524m in 2023/24 set out in Appendix 2b.
 - v. adopt the key principles set out in the Medium-Term Financial Plan section below (paragraphs 211 to 216).
 - vi. note the £5.000m increase in Capital Financing included within the pressures figure to invest in proposals to deliver long term benefits to the Borough. £25.000m is set aside for Capital Financing over the lifetime of the current MTFP.
4. To agree the planned flexible use of capital receipts in 2022/23 being £2.604m and approve the planned flexible use of capital receipts in 2023/24, being £2.201m (paragraphs 172 to 173 and Appendix 3).
5. To agree the Schools Budget for 2023/24 (paragraphs 174 to 197 and Appendix 4).
6. To agree the changes in Fees and Charges for 2023/24 as set out in Appendices 11 to 14 and to delegate authority to Executive Directors and Directors to negotiate discounts and make in year amendments where appropriate.
7. To note the gap remaining in the MTFP for 2024/25 of £15.807m; and of £76.518m for the period 2024/25 to 2027/28 and the actions being taken to address this challenging position.
8. To agree that the New Homes Bonus funding of £0.723m is applied as a one-off contribution to the General Fund in 2023/24.
9. To note the feedback from the Budget Consultation at Appendix 5a.
10. To note the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 16 January 2023 which are set out in Appendix 5b of the report.
11. With regard to the robustness of the 2023/24 budget and the adequacy of the Council's earmarked reserves and balances to:
 - i. note the risks and uncertainties inherent in the 2023/24 budget and the MTFP (paragraphs 217 to 221) and agree the actions in hand to mitigate them;

- ii. note the advice of the Executive Director of Resources regarding the recommended levels of contingencies, balances, and earmarked reserves (paragraphs 222 to 228 and Appendix 8a) and have regard to the comments of the Director of Finance (paragraphs 247 to 249) when making final decisions on the 2023/24 budget; and
- iii. agree the recommended levels of central contingency and general balances (paragraphs 222 to 228). It should be noted that the Section 151 officer has recommended an increase to the minimum level of General Balances in 2023/24 from £14m to £14.5m.

The time for the end of the meeting having been reached, a procedural motion was moved by Cllr Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Ergin Erbil under paragraph 13.20 (viii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to extend the meeting for 30 minutes and was **AGREED**.

A further procedural motion was moved by Cllr Ozaydin and seconded by Cllr Caliskan under paragraph 13.20 (iii) of the Council's Procedure Rules to defer Item 8 – The Council Plan 2023-26 to the future meeting of the Council in June 2023 and was **AGREED**.

7

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME FOR 2023/24

Cllr Leaver moved and Cllr Caliskan seconded the report of the Executive Director Resources on the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24.

Cllr Leaver introduced the report. It was a manifesto commitment to support the most vulnerable in society, and the Administration had chosen to have a comprehensive Council Tax support scheme which would be equitable and would cover around a third of the borough's residents. The scheme included the introduction of an earned income banded scheme for households in receipt of Universal Credit. There had been extensive consultation on the scheme, which had also been reviewed by the GLA and Citizens Advice Bureau with a positive response. There would also be a Council Tax hardship fund for the most extreme cases.

The Opposition expressed their concerns that the scheme was not fair or equitable and that it represented a cut to 6,500 households who could least afford it, mostly in the East of the borough. Some residents would be pushed into poverty and the hardship fund was not sufficient.

Following officer advice on the possibility of amending the recommendation by separating various part of it, the Mayor confirmed that this would not be possible.

A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Georgiou, and another 11 members of the Council having stood in support of the request, the report was then agreed following a recorded vote detailed below:

For:

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Cllr Abdul Abdullahi
Cllr Josh Abey
Cllr Nicki Adeleke
Cllr Gunes Akbulut
Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu
Cllr Nawshad Ali
Cllr Kate Anolue
Cllr Mahym Bedekova
Cllr Sinan Boztas
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Cllr Mustafa Cetinkaya
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Against:

Cllr Maria Alexandrou
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Cllr Tom O'Halloran
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Cllr Michael Rye
Cllr Julian Sampson
Cllr David Skelton
Cllr Jim Steven
Cllr Emma Supple
Cllr Andrew Thorp

AGREED the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 as summarised in Appendix A of the report to provide financial support for households on low incomes in paying their Council Tax.

8

COUNCIL PLAN 2023-26

This item was deferred to a future meeting of the Council in June 2023.

9

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN, AND RENT SETTING REPORT 2023/24

The recommendations in this report were put to the meeting under the guillotine arrangements and were **AGREED**.

The Opposition advised that they would have voted against the recommendation.

10

CAPITAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 TO 2032/33

The recommendations in this report were put to the meeting under the guillotine arrangements and were **AGREED**.

The Opposition advised that they would have voted against the recommendation.

11

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF STATUTORY PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The recommendations in this report were put to the meeting under the guillotine arrangements and were **AGREED**.

The Opposition advised that they would have voted for the recommendation.

12

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2023/24

The recommendations in this report were put to the meeting under the guillotine arrangements and were **AGREED**.

The Opposition advised that they would have voted against the recommendation.

**13
COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME**

In accordance with the guillotine arrangements, answers to questions were taken as printed in the supplementary agenda.

**14
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

There were no changes to committee memberships.

**15
NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

Cllr Stephanos Ioannou to replace Cllr Maria Alexandrou on the Enfield Music Hub Advisory Board.

**16
DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as 10 May 2023, which will be the Annual Council meeting.