

<b>Councillors in Attendance:</b>	<p>Cllr Sharon Patrick - Speaker of Hackney</p> <p>Elected Mayor, Caroline Woodley</p> <p>Cllr Kam Adams, Cllr Grace Adebayo, Cllr Soraya Adejare (late), Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble, Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Liam Davis, Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Zoë Garbett, Cllr George Gooch, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr Ben Hayhurst, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Shaul Krautwirt (part), Cllr Hershy Lisser, Cllr Ben Lucas, Cllr Richard Lufkin, Cllr Anna Lynch, Cllr Jasmine Martins, Cllr Jon Narcross, Deputy Mayor Guy Nicholson, Cllr Josph Ogundemuren, Cllr Deniz Oguzkanli, Cllr M Can Ozsen (part), Cllr Samuel Pallis, Cllr Benzion Papier (part), Cllr Patrick Pinkerton, Cllr Clare Potter (late), Cllr Fliss Premru, Cllr Ian Rathbone, Cllr Midnight Ross, Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Ifraax Samatar, Cllr Caroline Selman, Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Gilbert Smyth, Cllr Simche Steinberger, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, Cllr Faruk Tinaz, Cllr Lynne Troughton, Cllr Claudia Turbet-Delof, Cllr Joe Walker, Cllr Jessica Webb, Cllr Carole Williams, Cllr Penny Wrout and Cllr Sarah Young</p>
<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>	<p>Cllr Frank Baffour, Cllr Sade Etti, Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr Michael Levy (dispensation), Cllr Clayeon McKenzie and Cllr Sem Moema</p>
<b>Absent:</b>	<p>Cllr Humaira Garasia and Cllr Ian Sharer</p>
<b>Officer Contact:</b>	<p>Natalie Williams, Senior Governance Officer  <a href="mailto:governance@hackney.gov.uk">governance@hackney.gov.uk</a></p>

**Councillor Sharon Patrick [Speaker] in the Chair**

1. **The Speaker's Welcome**
  - 1.1 The Speaker welcomed all attendees, both in person and online.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
  - 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Etti, Balfour, Joseph, McKenzie and Moema.

2.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Adejare and Potter.

### 3. **Speaker's Announcements**

3.1 The Speaker informed the Council of the civic and community events she had attended since the last meeting. These included hosting citizenship ceremonies and the annual Grenada Independence Day reception.

3.2 Forthcoming fundraising events in aid of the Speaker's Charities (the Pedro Club, Hackney Marsh Partnership, and Hackney Foodbank) included:

- A comedy night at Hackney MOTHS Club on Sunday, 8th March.
- Dinner at De Beauvoir Block on Friday, 20th March.
- An Elvis and Tina night in April at Concorde, Kingsmead Way.

3.3 The Speaker requested donations of raffle prizes for upcoming events, to be sent to the Speaker's office. She also expressed her gratitude for everyone's community efforts.

3.4 The Speaker acknowledged the death of Mrs. Nafees Jahan, the wife of Hackney Freeman and former Civic Mayor, Saleem Siddiqui, who had served as his Consort, alongside Mr. Siddiqui with dignity and grace. Thoughts were with the family at their time of loss.

### 4. **Declarations of Interest**

4.1 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock declared an interest in respect of agenda item 8 - **2026/27 Budget and Council Tax Report**. This was because he worked for an organisation that advocated for citizens' assemblies, and the Green Group's proposed amendment to the budget included a reference to citizens' assemblies.

### 5. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2026 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### 6. **The Elected Mayor's Statement**

6.1 Mayor Woodley began by expressing concern for Hackney residents who may have family or friends affected by the recent conflict in the Middle East. Hackney's commitment to supporting affected communities and maintaining cohesion within the borough was reaffirmed.

6.2 The Mayor informed Members that Hackney had received official Borough of Sanctuary accreditation, following several years of work led by Cllr Williams, councillors, and colleagues across the Council. She reflected on recent community events, including Heart Unions Week, National Apprenticeship Week, youth programmes at Hackney Empire, and Hackney Community Safety Partnership meetings, and noted the contributions of residents to civic life.

- 6.3 The Mayor welcomed the debate on the Right to Grow motion listed later on the agenda, emphasising the importance of food justice, community food growing, and the cultural significance of food within Hackney's diverse communities.
- 6.4 Mayor Woodley acknowledged the work of councillors and officers in delivering the Council's Strategic Plan despite ongoing financial pressures. Hackney Light and Power's residential solar pilot was highlighted. Approximately 4,000 solar panels had been installed across 27 Council blocks, providing discounted energy to around 800 households, and reduced bills by up to 15%.
- 6.5 The Mayor referred to inclusive education and a recent visit to the Sky Room at Comet Nursery School and Children's Centre, which supported early intervention for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The publication of the government SEND White Paper, was referenced. The Council planned to review and consult with parent/carer networks, partners, and other London councils as part of a 12-week consultation.
- 6.6 Members were informed of cultural investments, including the refurbishment of Hackney Central Library, which showcased the creativity of children and young people from local schools. She referenced the Windrush Art Commission by young artist Jazz Grant, who had also exhibited at the new V&A East Storehouse in Hackney.
- 6.7 In closing, Mayor Woodley outlined key elements of the proposed Council budget, including continued investment in housing and neighbourhood services. It was formally announced that the Council would halt the review into library opening hours and continue to invest in library development. The ongoing financial challenges facing local government was noted and the Mayor stated that recent national and regional developments were expected to support improved outcomes for Hackney residents.

#### Conservative group response

- 6.8. Cllr Steinberger, Conservative Group Whip, responded to the Mayor's statement by referring to the festival of Purim and its celebration. It was noted that this was the final Council meeting before the forthcoming election, and he thanked councillors from all parties who would not be standing again, acknowledging their service to residents.
- 6.9 Cllr Steinberger mentioned the welcomed addition of a new supermarket in Stamford Hill, confirming that he had received an invitation to perform the official opening of the store, which would serve as an extra shopping facility for local residents.
- 6.10 Cllr Steinberger indicated that the Conservative Group would comment further on the Council's budget proposals during the relevant item later in the meeting, including matters relating to council tax and its impact on residents.

#### Green group response

- 6.11 Cllr Garbett, Green Group Co-leader responded to the Mayor's statement by recognising the election of Green Party MP Hannah Spencer and highlighted

that she had already established an All-Party Parliamentary Group focusing on fuel poverty and inequalities.

- 6.12 In response to the Council's Borough of Sanctuary accreditation, Cllr Garbett expressed support but went on to raise deep concern regarding recent national policy developments on asylum and migration. Particular concern was raised regarding proposed changes to asylum processes and visa arrangements. The Green Group made calls for continued support for safe and legal routes for people seeking refuge.
- 6.13 Cllr Garbett raised concerns regarding Ridley Road Shopping Village, where traders had faced the prospect of eviction by the landlord. The potential impact on traders' livelihoods and the market's reputation was highlighted as well as its cultural and economic importance, including its role in supporting Black-owned businesses. Members were encouraged to engage directly with traders to hear their concerns.
- 6.14 Regarding the Mayor's comments on SEND provision, Cllr Garbett noted that while commitments had been made to work with families, some families had reported difficulties in accessing appropriate support as well as housing issues with some reporting to be facing eviction. Cllr Garbett believed policies should be reviewed to ensure that families were treated with respect and their concerns fully considered.

#### Hackney Independent Socialist Collective group response

- 6.15 Cllr Turbet-Delof, Hackney Independent Socialist Collective Co-leader, responded to the Mayor's statement by first acknowledging achievements over the past year and thanking council officers and community organisations for supporting residents and delivering essential services across Hackney.
- 6.16 Cllr Turbet-Delof highlighted the role of voluntary and community organisations but raised concerns that some groups faced difficulties accessing funding and suitable spaces. The concerns of residents about closed, underused, or hard-to-book community halls were noted. Local sports facilities, including basketball courts, were cited as examples. It was emphasised that public assets should support community activity and preventative work.
- 6.17 While recognising the achievements of young people in Hackney's schools, Cllr Turbet-Delof expressed concern about school exclusion policies based on deputations from parents and students. Hackney's high exclusion rates and their disproportionate impact on children from global majority backgrounds, including those with SEND was noted. A call was made for more emotionally healthy schools and supportive approaches. Cllr Wrout was acknowledged for supporting calls for a safeguarding review of a local school.
- 6.18 In closing remarks, Cllr Turbet-Delof welcomed the Council's Borough of Sanctuary accreditation but cautioned that local commitments should include challenging national immigration policies affecting migrants and people seeking refuge.

The Mayor's reply

- 6.19 In response, Mayor Woodley referred to Purim and the joy of seeing children dressing up and participating in the parade. Lent, Ramadan, and other religious observations currently taking place across the borough were also acknowledged.
- 6.20 The Mayor congratulated Cllr Steinberger on being invited to open the new supermarket in Stamford Hill, noting the importance of having an affordable shopping facility for local residents. It was confirmed that the Council would continue to maintain the 90% Council Tax discount for residents on Universal Credit or low income.
- 6.21 Mayor Woodley congratulated Cllr Garbett on the Green Party election results in Gorton and Denton and recognised the importance of local democracy. The concerns raised by Cllr Garbett and Cllr Turbet-Delof regarding wider immigration issues, were recognised. The Council had raised its concerns with central government, published a formal statement on its website, and engaged directly with ministers, London councils, and other partners to advocate for safe passage and security for all residents. The Council's ongoing partnership with voluntary and community organisations to support residents affected by "no recourse to public funds" was highlighted. Members were reassured that Hackney would continue to uphold its history as a welcoming borough.
- 6.23 Regarding eviction issues, the Mayor noted that individual cases were private matters, but confirmed that the Council sought to provide alternatives where possible, ensuring no one was forced into homelessness while adhering to lawful processes on succession and illegal subletting.
- 6.,24 On education and school exclusion policies, Mayor Woodley referenced the work of the Hackney Education Alternative Learning Service and the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Commission, emphasising the Council's commitment to community partnership and listening to young people's experiences. It was reiterated that the Council remained committed to supporting children and families across all schools and strived to improve outcomes despite national legislation constraints.

**7. Questions from Members of the Public**

- 7.1 To the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Environment and Transport from Adam Tyndall

What is the Council doing to address the growing problem of littering and fly tipping in Stamford Hill, with hotspots like Dunsmure, Linthorpe, and Cranwich Roads seeing rubbish piling up, creating both an eyesore and a health hazard for local residents?

The questioner was not present and was sent a written response attached at Appendix A. A joint response to this question and question 7.5 was prepared.

- 7.2 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration from Jo Wealleans

What decision-making process did the Council follow in deciding not to allow designation of the Bergholt Crescent Triangle conservation area until after the conclusion of the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan?

The questioner was not present and was sent a written response attached at Appendix A.

7.3 To the Deputy Cabinet Member for Strengthening Neighbourhoods from Baran Bayir

I grew up on Clapton Park Estate. What is the Council doing to secure the Pedro Club's future following the passing of its founder James Cook MBE?

Response from the Deputy Cabinet Member for Strengthening Communities

Cllr Walker noted the questioner's connection to the Clapton Park Estate, James Cook and the Pedro Centre and acknowledged the important role the centre had played in supporting young people across Hackney.

Cllr Walker expressed that the passing of James Cook had been a profound loss to the borough and referred to his enduring legacy, particularly the Pedro Club. This was established in 1929 and was one of the oldest youth clubs in London. Having taken over the club in 2003, Mr Cook had recognised the vital role youth clubs play as safe spaces and community hubs for young people and their families, especially in deprived communities.

Cllr Walker outlined the Council's commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the club and advised that the administration had rejected the politics of austerity despite financial pressures. He reported that the Council had engaged with key stakeholders, including trustees, staff, users and residents, through ongoing consultation and dialogue.

The Council had committed financial investment to secure the club's future, establishing a partnership with external funders, including Sport England and the London Marathon Foundation. £1.9 million in capital funding had been secured alongside a further £1.5 million in match funding from the Council. Cllr Walker advised that this funding was subject to conditions relating to governance and business planning, but expressed confidence that these requirements could be met.

He concluded that the investment reflected the important role of the club in supporting vulnerable young people within the community and across the borough, and confirmed that the intention was to secure the club's future for the next generation.

Supplementary question from Baran Bayir

Could you explain about the Council's expectations around collaboration and partnership and how that involves local people?

Response from the Deputy Cabinet Member for Strengthening Communities

Cllr Walker emphasised that local residents had been central to the work undertaken with the Pedro Club and outlined four key areas of collaboration and commitment:

1. Relationship with local residents - noting that the club had long been at the heart of the Clapton Park Estate and that its services had been shaped by, and responded to, the needs of the local community.
2. The vital role of elected Members - including Councillors Sadek and Troughton, as well as the Speaker, in strengthening the relationship between the Council, the Pedro Club and the local community. This had helped ensure that services remained relevant to young people and their families.
3. Partnerships with wider community stakeholders - including the Tenant Management Organisation, voluntary sector organisations and other local groups. Collaboration had been instrumental in securing significant funding for the club. Nearly £3 million had been committed to support the club's future, made possible through the combined support of residents, the voluntary sector, the Council and local councillors.
4. Council commitment - to ensure a sustainable and successful future for the club, both for the local community and Hackney. The administration would continue to invest in youth provision and work in partnership with local services.

7.4 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Young People from Patrick Corrigan

Given that Hackney Council retains statutory responsibility for safeguarding and for all school students with SEND, what progress, if any, has the local authority been able to make in resolving with Mossbourne the concerns about safeguarding and parental complaints identified in the Mossbourne Safeguarding Review?

Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Young People

Deputy Mayor Bramble agreed that both the local authority and schools had a responsibility to safeguard all children and young people, not only those with SEND.

It was reported that the Group Director for Education and Families, along with the Director of Education and Inclusion, had met with the Department for Education (DfE) and representatives of the Mossbourne Federation, including the Chief Executive Officer, Chair of Trustees and safeguarding leads. The meeting had focused on how the school would respond in full to the recommendations arising from the review.

The Trust had established a group of trustees to oversee the school's response to the recommendations. Hackney's Director of Education and Inclusion, alongside a counterpart from Thurrock, would sit on this board to provide oversight.

The Deputy Mayor further reported that she, together with the Mayor and the Group Director for Children and Families, had met with counterparts in Thurrock

to discuss how best to provide both appropriate challenge and support to the school as it progressed this work. It was emphasised that the school was committed to responding to the recommendations.

The ongoing role of the Safeguarding Board in monitoring progress against the recommendations was highlighted. Following engagement with parents and pupils, the Safeguarding Board had commissioned an independent review undertaken by Sir Alan Wood. The Board had played a key role in initiating the review and the findings would be reported back for internal oversight.

Deputy Mayor Bramble believed that representation from the Director of Education and Inclusion on the Safeguarding Board, would provide oversight to ensure that all recommendations were fully addressed. The Deputy Mayor thanked colleagues and parents who had raised concerns and confirmed that these had been escalated appropriately. It was noted that although Ofsted or the DfE could be approached about academies, building trust for direct communication with schools is also key.

#### Supplementary Question from Patrick Corrigan

Given what you've outlined, and also given that the report was very clear about the discriminatory effects on Black boys particularly, and pupils with SEND about the harsh and inflexible application of its disciplinary policies, is the Council assured that students with SEND who have Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) will receive their statutory entitlement as outlined in those EHCPs? And will make progress against the targets and objectives in those EHCPs?

#### Response from the Deputy Mayor

Deputy Mayor Bramble stated that no child should be disproportionately impacted by any school policies, and emphasised that such outcomes were unacceptable. It was highlighted that disproportionality based on race or additional needs was wrong and should be openly challenged. The Council must not accept any such situations.

Processes were in place to ensure that agreed plans were implemented effectively. It was noted that where concerns were raised by parents, either through Members or officers, these were followed up with the school to ensure appropriate action was taken.

The Deputy Mayor acknowledged that the findings of the report were distressing but confirmed that addressing inequality remained a key priority for the Council. The authority was committed to tackling all forms of inequality, including structural and racial barriers as well as confronting issues where outcomes were not equitable.

#### 7.5 To the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport from Arpan Sen

Fly-tipping and overflowing bins are a constant issue for residents in Hackney. Please can you make an action plan to correct this? Bi-weekly waste collections

are at insufficient frequency to tackle the public health and safety issues that arise from fly-tipping and overflowing bins.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

A combined response had been prepared addressing both the question raised and a related issue concerning waste and fly-tipping, particularly in Stamford Hill at question 7.1.

Cllr Young agreed that illegal dumping by a minority of residents and businesses had a significant negative impact on neighbourhoods across the borough, not limited to Stamford Hill. It was highlighted that fly-tipping was a growing issue nationally, with an estimated increase of 9–10% across the UK in the previous year.

It was noted that despite a £156 million funding reduction over 14 years under the Conservative government, Hackney Council had balanced its budget and invested more in waste and environmental services, including fly-tipping and street cleansing, due to increased funding from the current Labour Government.

It was reported that the Council's Environmental Services Team had been working to respond to rising levels of fly-tipping and maintain street cleanliness. The current budget included increased investment, which would enable more frequent fly-tipping collections, an expansion of street cleansing operations, and an increase in enforcement officers to address persistent and commercial offenders.

It was expected that these measures would contribute to a reduction in fly-tipping in the coming year. In the previous year the Council's Behaviour Change Team had issued over 2,600 statutory notices and 1,250 fixed penalty notices, and had addressed approximately 220 tonnes of waste through enforcement and improved waste contracts.

The Council worked to ensure that residents and businesses had appropriate waste arrangements in place, taking enforcement action where necessary, including prosecution of persistent offenders, with fines of up to £20,000 in the most serious cases. Where appropriate, officers also focused on education to improve compliance.

Cllr Young noted that a number of improvements had been made in Stamford Hill, but acknowledged that further work was required, including in the Amhurst Parade area. It was agreed that any additional details would be provided in writing.

Supplementary Question from Arpan Sen

The question I have is with regards to the strategy and actions that the Cabinet Member mentioned, what does success look like in terms of a successful implementation of that strategy and actions that she mentioned?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Young advised that the Council undertook both internal and independent reviews of street cleanliness. External assessments were carried out by Keep Britain Tidy, which independently monitored the Council's performance. It was reported that current assessments indicated that approximately 95% of streets were rated as being of a good standard, and stated that the Council aimed to improve this to 100%.

The key measure of success was outlined in relation to fly-tipping which was the reduction of incidents at source. Fly-tipping was caused by individuals and businesses and the Council's role was to respond and clear the waste.

Cllr Young further stated that improving outcomes would involve increasing the use of existing waste services. This included encouraging residents to utilise recycling services, bulky waste collections, and reuse and recycling centres, with the aim of reducing waste accumulation on streets and public spaces.

7.6 To the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport from Andrew Davis

Given Hackney has surpassed its 2026 goal of 32 Green Flag awards, will the Cabinet Member confirm how many park user groups receive active council support and provide a definitive publication date for the overdue 2024/25 Parks and Green Spaces Annual Report allowing for necessary public scrutiny and transparency?

The questioner was not present and was sent a written response attached at Appendix A.

7.7 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration from Reiner Tegtmeier

Church Street business owners expressed their concerns about rising rents and rising business rates, exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis affecting footfall. There is also frustration with the Council being unresponsive. Can the Cabinet Member inform the business community about means the Council will take to help them stay in business?

The questioner was not present and was sent a written response attached at Appendix A.

7.8 To the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture from Gemma Peramiquel-Borjas

What concrete strategies is the council working on to address the gap in provision for working-age Disabled Hackney residents, between hospitalisation, adult social care and access to community?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Cllr Kennedy agreed that there were gaps between hospital discharge, adult social care services, and access to community support. He noted that both

internal preparation for the Care Quality Commission(CQC) and the subsequent CQC report had identified areas for improvement.

It was reported that the Council had already implemented the Transforming Outcomes programme in adult social care, aimed at improving integration, strengthening preventative approaches, and supporting residents to regain independence. A key element of this programme was the hospital discharge workstream, which focused on improving support for individuals returning home, promoting independence, and reducing reliance on long-term care packages. This included earlier post-discharge reviews and reducing formal care through creative, strength-based interventions.

Cllr Kennedy outlined additional workstreams, including technology-enabled living, and a redesigned Disabled Facilities Grant to support residents to remain safely at home. It was noted that both the Disabled Facilities Grant and the reablement service had been brought back in-house, with further transformation work underway. He referenced a recent meeting of the Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission, where these areas had been discussed, a recording of which was available on the Council's website.

Cllr Kenedy stressed that the wider transformation programme aimed to link hospital discharge better with community support. He cited innovative adult social care options, such as day care and voluntary sector opportunities, and confirmed the Council's commitment to resident involvement in spending. Hackney Central Library's opening was referenced as an example, where young Scope ambassadors helped ensure accessibility.

The Connect to Work programme, was highlighted which provided tailored support to help people with disabilities access employment.

#### Supplementary Question from Gemma Peramiquel-Borjas

Why is there an intention to reduce long term support packages?

#### Response from the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Cllr Kennedy stated that evidence showed individuals were less likely to regain independence the longer they remained on support packages following hospital discharge. He emphasised the importance of early intervention, noting that reablement services supported individuals to quickly rebuild skills, particularly physical strength and the ability to carry out daily activities independently.

It was explained that this approach improved long-term independence and outcomes for individuals. He added that a reduction in support packages was therefore a consequence of increased independence, which remained a key priority for adult social care. Cllr Kennedy concluded by reiterating the importance of enabling individuals to regain as much independence as possible.

#### 7.9 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Young People from Jasmine O'Connor

Following changes to Young Hackney's universal youth provision and reported reductions in overall capacity, can the council specify how many open-access youth sessions and staff are currently available to young people in the borough compared to three years ago, including what concrete steps will safeguard and expand provision locally?

The questioner was not present and was sent a written response attached at Appendix A.

7.10 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration from Abi Kingston

Following the death of a Hackney resident, there were reports that residents routinely performed dangerous DIY repairs as repairs had not been done, yet Council records showed 'no problems.' How will you fix systemic reporting failures identified by the Housing Ombudsman to ensure 'off-book' hazards like these are recorded and fixed?

Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration

Deputy Mayor Nicholson clarified that no reports had been submitted to the Council or the Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) regarding issues with guttering, pipework, or related matters at the property referenced.

The Deputy Mayor emphasised the importance of tenants and leaseholders not undertaking DIY repairs in council homes. He advised that all repair issues should be reported directly to the Council to ensure they were properly logged and assigned a job reference number.

It was noted that reinforcing this message had formed part of actions taken in response to the Housing Ombudsman's Section 49 notice, which focused on improving communication between the Council, TMOs and residents, and ensuring that all issues were formally reported rather than addressed independently.

Supplementary Question from from Abi Kingston

Are there any hazards that might not be able to be included in the booking form? Can we be sure that they all can be reported if they don't fit into the required categories.

Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration

Deputy Mayor Nicholson acknowledged that some minor "off-book" repairs may occur. He advised that such repairs could be considered where the initial issue had been formally reported, allowing appropriate guidance to be provided where the responsibility did not lie with the Council or a tenant management organisation.

The Deputy Mayor emphasised, however, that such repairs did not include major or hazardous works, including those involving height, plumbing, electrical systems, or gas supply, which should not be undertaken independently.

Questions from the public that were not taken at the meeting are attached at Appendix A.

## 8. 2026/27 Budget and Council Tax Report

The Monitoring Officer noted that Members were required to be present for the duration of the item in order to be able to participate in voting. Members were reminded that the report was covered by s.106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This provided that if a Member owed two or more months' arrears of Council Tax, they were obliged to disclose this fact to the meeting and not vote on the matter. Failure to comply was a criminal offence.

The Speaker noted that Appendix 7B was classified as exempt and that its content must not be referred to in open session. Members who wished to discuss the exempt appendix were to let the Speaker know so that the appropriate resolution be put to Members to exclude the public.

The Speaker highlighted the supplementary report which contained an additional recommendation in respect of a change to the Members' Allowances Scheme necessitated by a forthcoming change in the law.

8.1 Mayor Woodley noted the emergence of a slow path to recovery following the General Election in 2024. Having received details of the Fair Funding settlement, alongside the multi-year financial commitment, the continuation of a core recovery grant and taking into account Council Tax- presented overall a £97 million increase that countered the £156 million lost to the local budget during years of Conservative austerity. The budget presented a balanced financial plan for 2026/27 that required no emergency support and did not draw on council reserves. As a result of the stronger financial position, the Mayor was able to fulfil promises which included:

- **Libraries:** Funding was allocated to keep libraries open, invest in development, and acquire new stock.
- **Street Cleaning:** Investment in these services was increased.

8.2 The Mayor noted that housing remained the top priority with investment of £226 million for housing delivery, with over half for genuinely affordable homes and £144 million that tackled the homelessness crisis. The 90% Council Tax discount for low-income households was maintained and an investment of £105 million in Children and Education services to break the cycle of inequality. It was noted that the Council continued to lead the way in resilience against climate change with a commitment of £38 million to the environment and upholding Net Zero projects.

8.3 To protect essential services a 4.99% Council Tax increase was proposed which allowed the council to maintain one of the lowest rates in London; while generating the additional £5.9 million needed to support vulnerable communities. The Mayor noted that £10 million in savings had to be identified by 2030 which was proposed by 'investing to save'. This included the development of the

Council's own children's homes and SEND provision to reduce costs while improving care.

- 8.4 The Mayor acknowledged the hard work and dedication that had gone into preparing a balanced budget and thanked the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources, Naeem Ahmed and the Chief Executive, Dawn Carter-McDonald, and the wider team. The Mayor also thanked Cllr Chapman, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service, and colleagues across the council. Thanks were noted to the Scrutiny Panel Chair, Cllr Margaret Gordon and to the Audit Chair, Cllr Anna Lynch. In conclusion, Mayor Woodley noted she was proud to present a balanced Labour values-driven budget that protected the vulnerable, built resilience, and invested in the future of Hackney.
- 8.5 The Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service, Cllr Chapman, thanked the Mayor for setting out the vision built on sound financial management, designed to ensure that Hackney remained resilient for the future. He believed the confirmation of the Fair Funding Review 2.0 and the multi-year settlement was a turning point. Core spending power was projected to rise by 6.2% which allowed the council to move away from crisis management towards long-term three year funding certainty.
- 8.6 Cllr Chapman noted the target investment addressed real service pressures, including:
- £9.7m to social care budgets that addressed rising demand and the increasing complexity of cases.
  - £105.6m investment in Children and Education services.
  - £130m to support financially vulnerable residents, including the pioneering Here to Help team.
  - £8.85m dedicated to keeping streets safe, tackling anti-social behaviour, and supporting people out of violent crime.
- 8.7 Cllr Chapman reported that the Council had increased the commitment to the environment and local amenities for a greener, healthier Hackney through:
- Investment of £38m in capital projects towards net-zero ambitions. This included more Electric Vehicle charging points and installing 265 additional cycle hangars, bringing the total to 1,559.
  - £31.7m that maintained all 58 of Hackney's parks and seven leisure centres, including £70m for the transformation of Kings Hall.
- 8.8 Cllr Chapman highlighted the Revenues Team which had performed exceptionally, setting an improved collection rate of 94.5%. This underpinned the council's ability to generate £124.2m from Council Tax while maintaining one of the lowest rates in London. It was indicated that the £2 billion capital programme was ambitious but prudent. By extending planning to a 10-year horizon, the costs of major projects such as the Britannia development and the Housing Delivery programmes would be managed.
- 8.9 It was noted that the council was rebuilding and had maintained the General Fund balance at £19m, with a clear goal that increased this to £24m over the medium term for improved resilience. In conclusion, Cllr Chapman indicated the

budget was balanced, robust, and represented the foundation of a fairer Hackney.

The Speaker noted that amendments to the proposed budget had been put forward by the Conservative and Green Groups. These were contained in the supplementary agenda and would be taken in the order in which they were received.

### **Proposed Conservative Group Amendments**

Cllr Steinberger proposed the amendments. Cllr Lisser seconded the amendments.

8.10 Cllr Steinberger thanked the Group Director of Finance, Naeem Ahmed and Finance Director, Deirdre Worrell, for their support in preparing the proposed Conservative group budget amendments. Cllr Steinberger suggested that an all-party budget group be established to consider common ground across groups. It was noted that the proposed Conservative budget amendments included a zero rise in council tax for 2026/2027.

The Speaker noted that Cllr Lisser did not wish to speak.

### **Debate of the Conservative Group Amendments**

8.11 Cllr Chapman, Cabinet Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service, noted that council tax was required to deliver services and any reduction in revenue would mean funding was not available to deliver services on behalf of residents. It was noted that the Council had successfully maintained stable finances as set out in the 2022 manifesto and had avoided the use of emergency government support. It was indicated that proposals were sound and prudent and Cllr Chapman highlighted that 2% of the increase was related to the cost of social care. Cllr Chapman noted Cllr Steinberger had referenced the leading Council Tax Reduction Scheme which currently provided a 90% discount for eligible working age residents. The intention was to increase the discount to 100%. In responding to the proposed Conservative Group amendments, Cllr Chapman suggested the proposals would lead to reduced services and amenities across the borough.

8.12 Cllr Young, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, thanked StreetScene, Environmental Enforcement, and Recycling Team officers for their commitment to frontline services. Cllr Young highlighted that the Court of Appeal found the removal of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs), as proposed by the Conservative Group amendments, to be unlawful in Tower Hamlets. Nearly 90% of Hackney journeys used sustainable methods (walking, cycling, and public transport)

8.13 Cllr Young advised that the Transport Strategy improved borough safety and health. The Council continuously reviewed this approach, considering residents' experiences. As part of this, LTNs were being revisited to assess individual and cumulative borough-wide impact. Finally, Cllr Young highlighted waste services as a vital frontline service enabling borough residency.

8.14 Exercising his right to reply, Cllr Steinberger queried the efficiency of the waste collection. He suggested that the London Borough of Tower Hamlets was appealing the Court of Appeal decision related to LTNs and highlighted ongoing

concerns within the borough. Cllr Steinberger suggested LTNs caused negative economic impacts, pollution issues, and emergency access issues and called on Councillors to support the proposed amendments.

On a recorded vote on the Conservative Group Amendments there being:

**For (2):** Cllr Lisser and Cllr Steinberger

**Against (44):** Mayor Woodley, Cllr Adams, Cllr Adebayo, Cllr Adejare, Cllr Binnie-Lubbock, Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cllr Chapman, Cllr Conway, Cllr Davis, Cllr Desmond, Cllr FajanaThomas, Cllr Garbett, Cllr Gooch, Cllr Gordon, Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Lucas, Cllr Lufkin, Cllr Lynch, Cllr Martins, Cllr Narcross, Deputy Mayor Nicholson, Cllr Ogundemuren, Cllr Ogunzkanli, Cllr Pallis, Cllr Patrick (Speaker), Cllr Pinkerton, Cllr Premru, Cllr Rathbone, Cllr Ross, Cllr Sadek, Cllr Samatar, Cllr Selman, Cllr Sizer, Cllr Smyth, Cllr Suso-Runge, Cllr Tinaz, Cllr Troughton, Cllr Turbet-Delof, Cllr Walker, Cllr Webb, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wrout and Cllr Young.

**Abstentions (0):** None

**Not present in the Chamber (4):** Cllr Krautwirt, Cllr Ozsen, Cllr Papier and Cllr Potter.

The resolution was declared **NOT CARRIED**

### **Proposed Green Group Amendments**

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock proposed the amendments. Cllr Davies seconded the amendments.

8.15 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock thanked officers for their work supporting the Green group's proposed amendments. In addition, he gave his thanks to Green group Members and wider team who helped capture and bring residents priorities to the fore of the proposed budget amendments. It was noted the proposed amendments presented a balanced budget with no use of reserves in 2026-2027.

8.16 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock suggested the Labour group refused to work with other groups and had put party politics before people. It was noted that the Green group worked closely with the Hackney Independent Socialist Collective Group (HISC) to collaborate on the amendments for the benefit of residents. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock noted concerns that the government prioritised the war in the Middle East over quality of life and free speech and he considered that the Labour Party had left people behind. The Green Party welcomed people and had promised not to abandon them. The Green group wanted to ensure residents' voices were heard and that they were at the heart of decision making with citizens assemblies.

8.17 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock indicated the Green group would do things differently if they were in administration. Opposition amendments would be considered and good ideas accepted from all political groups. In conclusion, Cllr Binnie-Lubbock highlighted the proposed amendments; increased funding for the community and voluntary sector, youth services and libraries.

8.18 Seconding the amendments, Cllr Davis noted the importance of 'invest to save', early intervention measures, and supporting those in need. Cllr Davis considered

an end to austerity required an overhaul of local government funding. Demand for services had increased and needs were more complex. Cllr Davis reiterated proposed year on year increases to support communities and prevent crises wherever possible. It was reported that the Green group worked successfully with HISC where they found common ground.

- 8.19 The proposed amendments included support for a hub for Hackney's carnival community, refurbished community halls, and training for migrant advisors through the Migrant Champions Network. Cllr Davis indicated that proposals were based on the basics which included cleaner streets, more cycle parking, better free disposal of bulky waste, and reducing the impact of large vehicles on the roads. The Green group wanted to see more temporary accommodation brought in-house and more control over the quality of temporary accommodation. The amendments proposed to reallocate homeless prevention grants into direct grants to rough sleepers.

### **Debate of the Green Group Amendments**

- 8.20 The Deputy Cabinet Member for Strengthening Neighbourhoods, Cllr Walker highlighted the investment in libraries and youth clubs. Investment in the voluntary and community sector (VCS) which included £2.5m in grants, £500k capital investment, and the property subsidies to the VCS was noted. Cllr Walker reported that over 100 VCS partners had worked with the council to shape the strategy. The council listened to residents and community partners to deliver a robust budget.
- 8.21 Cllr Turbet-Delof gave her support for the Green group amendments and proposals to train residents as immigration advisors, funding for Hackney carnival, the permanent carnival hub, and the increased support for community halls.
- 8.22 The Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Regulatory Services, Cllr Fajana-Thomas, noted the implementation of the selective licensing scheme across 17 wards in the borough and the exclusion of four wards because they did not meet the required threshold and assessment criteria in the government guidance. It was reported that at Bristol Council, a Green group administration, the selective licensing scheme only extended to 4 of the 34 wards. Cllr Fajana-Thomas noted that the Council shared the ambition to protect small independent traders in the borough and had helped them to save money. Savings came from sustained work across the Markets Team and Environmental Services Team which was backed by traders. Cllr Fajana-Thomas was supported in this initiative by the Lead Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport.
- 8.23 Cllr Adejare highlighted her repeated calls for more funding and the damage the fiscal approach of the previous Conservative government had done to the borough. It was highlighted that the approach of the current government did not meet Hackney's needs. Cllr Adejare pointed out that her young daughter had seen no material benefits throughout her lifetime. It was believed that this was likely to continue if more cuts were made. She articulated that supporting the ongoing approach to the budget was unacceptable and a disservice to the community, inclusive of many families like hers. Cllr Adejare thanked Labour colleagues who had supported her during recent times, including what she

described as institutional racism within the Labour party. Cllr Adejare advised that she was to cross the Chamber in support of the Green group's budget approach.

*Cllr Adejare crossed the floor and sat with the Green group.*

8.24 Cllr Desmond noted his pride in the Labour administration's efforts stating that the Council was the greenest in London. The renovations at Hackney Central Library and Clapton Library were also cited as giving him a sense of pride.

8.25 The Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources, and Equalities, Cllr Williams, noted the funding for Hackney Migrant Centre and Jesuit Refugee Service to provide immigration advice to residents who faced the greatest barriers to support which included those residents with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). This was an action as part of the Borough of Sanctuary Action Plan.

8.26 Exercising his right to reply, Cllr Binnie-Lubbock welcomed the investment in the Hackney Migrant Centre and suggested that residents may also welcome support from trained members of the public. All the proposed amendments were 'invest to save' proposals. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock suggested that Cllr Garbett had worked with traders to champion bringing down waste disposal costs and did not retract the statement that the Green group helped to save small traders money. It was suggested that the Green group was creative in considering how the council maximised its use of powers. The Green group desired the Council be more accessible and transparent, which included publication of the Mayor's diary.

**On a recorded vote on the Green Group amendments there being:**

**For (7):** Cllr Adejare, Cllr Binnie-Lubbock, Cllr Davis, Cllr Garbett, Cllr Premru, Cllr Turbet-Delof and Cllr Wrout.

**Against (39):** Mayor Woodley, Cllr Adams, Cllr Adebayo, Cllr Adejare, Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cllr Chapman, Cllr Conway, Cllr Desmond, Cllr Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Gooch, Cllr Gordon, Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Lisser, Cllr Lucas, Cllr Lufkin, Cllr Lynch, Cllr Martins, Cllr Narcross, Deputy Mayor Nicholson, Cllr Ogundemuren, Cllr Ogunzkanli, Cllr Pallis, Cllr Patrick (Speaker), Cllr Pinkerton, Cllr Rathbone, Cllr Ross, Cllr Sadek, Cllr Samatar, Cllr Selman, Cllr Sizer, Cllr Smyth, Cllr Steinberger, Cllr Suso-Runge, Cllr Tinaz, Cllr Troughton, Cllr Walker, Cllr Webb, Cllr Williams and Cllr Young.

**Abstentions (0):** None

**Not present in the Chamber (4):** Cllr Krautwirt, Cllr Ozsen, Cllr Papier and Cllr Potter

The resolution was declared **NOT CARRIED**

**The substantive Labour Group Budget proposal debate**

8.27 The Chair of the Scrutiny Panel, Cllr Gordon, noted the proposed budget presented a firm foundation for Hackney's future. The budget delivered for Hackney residents without drawing on reserves or seeking emergency government support. The impact of austerity measures for local government and

residents were noted. Cllr Gordon indicated the S151 Officer had advised against the Green Group proposals as they would impact the council's financial resilience. It was noted that Members entered politics to deliver for residents, however, sound financial management underpinned everything the Council did.

- 8.28 Cllr Gordon thanked members of the Cross Party Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group who had worked with officers to interrogate budget proposals. Representatives from all Groups were invited to participate in that group and the Green group and Independent Socialist Collective group were full participants in the process.
- 8.29 Cllr Wrouth argued that the budget was an opportunity to fund Labour values, but residents were disillusioned by experiences like overcrowding, damp, mould, and repair delays. This was attributed to years of mismanagement, which particularly affected the lowest incomes, and cautioned against over-reliance on the Labour group budget.
- 8.30 Cllr Lucas stated the proposed budget prioritised residents through service investment and opportunities. Despite ongoing pressures, Hackney Labour was working for residents by investing in and protecting the vulnerable, supporting working families, safeguarding young people's futures, protecting parks and leisure centres, cleaning streets, and advocating for Hackney.
- 8.31 Cllr Lynch, Chair of the Audit Committee, noted the committee's independent, non-partisan focus on financial governance. Cllr Lynch welcomed the proposed funding to replenish reserves, highlighting the importance of fiscal responsibility, and thanked the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and the Cabinet Lead Member for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Services for their professionalism.
- 8.32 Cllr Steinberger queried how the 90% council tax reduction scheme was operating in the borough.
- 8.33 Mayor Woodley responded to comments by acknowledging past challenges but asserted this was a turning point. The Council remained committed to fairness and equality, and had been open about challenges, and stood with the people of Hackney, its partners and user groups. The Mayor indicated that her diary was available to be shared.
- 8.34 The Mayor noted and expressed concerns over the Conservative group proposals to cut highway maintenance and cut communication and engagement with residents.
- 8.35 Mayor Woodley criticised the Green group for failing to support the administration's difficult improvement efforts, such as traffic calming measures. The Mayor maintained that the council stood by its budget and Labour values of fairness and equality.
- 8.36 Mayor Woodley concluded by thanking those who supported her, and expressing disappointment about the earlier decision of Cllr Adejare to cross the floor. Thanks were relayed to colleagues for their service, particularly those stepping down in May 2026.

Cllr Adejare raised a point of order, in respect of the Mayor's comments and believed she had been verbally attacked and felt let down by the Party. This was not upheld.

**On a recorded vote on the substantive Labour Group budget proposal there being:**

**For (37):** Mayor Woodley, Cllr Adams, Cllr Adebayo, Cllr Adejare, Deputy Mayor Bramble, Cllr Chapman, Cllr Conway, Cllr Desmond, Cllr Fajana-Thomas, Cllr Gooch, Cllr Gordon, Cllr Hayhurst, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Lucas, Cllr Lufkin, Cllr Lynch, Cllr Martins, Cllr Narcross, Deputy Mayor Nicholson, Cllr Ogundemuren, Cllr Ogunzkanli, Cllr Pallis, Cllr Patrick (Speaker), Cllr Pinkerton, Cllr Rathbone, Cllr Ross, Cllr Sadek, Cllr Samatar, Cllr Selman, Cllr Sizer, Cllr Smyth, Cllr Suso-Runge, Cllr Tinaz, Cllr Troughton, Cllr Walker, Cllr Webb, Cllr Williams and Cllr Young.

**Against (2):** Cllr Lisser and Cllr Steinberger

**Abstentions (7):** Cllr Adejare, Cllr Binnie-Lubbock, Cllr Davis, Cllr Garbett, Cllr Premru, Cllr Turbet-Delof and Cllr Wrout.

**Not present in the Chamber (4):** Cllr Krautwirt, Cllr Ozsen, Cllr Papier and Cllr Potter

The resolution was declared **CARRIED**

## **RESOLVED**

1. To approve to bring forward into 2026/27 the Council's projected 2025/26 General Fund balance of £19.0m with the aim of increasing this to £22m - £24m over the medium term period noting the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) projected 2025/26 balance of £13.5m with the aim of increasing to £16.8m by the end of March 2027.
2. To approve of directorate estimates and estimates for the General Finance Account items set out in Table 2 in Section 12 of the report.
3. To note that the budget is a financial exposition of the priorities set out within the Strategic Plan summarised at Section 6 of the report.
4. To note that in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the Group Director Finance and Corporate Resources, was of the view that:
  - The General Fund balances which currently stand at £19.0m and the level of other reserves are adequate to meet the Council's financial needs for 2026/27 and that considering the economic uncertainty they should not fall below this level and that the aim is to increase these to £22m - £24m over the medium term.
  - This view takes account of the reserves included in the Council's latest published 2024/25 Accounts and the movements of those reserves since that date – which have been tracked through the Overall Financial Position (OFP) Reports, and the latest OFP projections. Note also, that the projections in the HRA Budget to increase the balance to £16.8m by 31 March 2027. The HRA Business Plan sets out how the reserve levels will be built up over the next two financial years with the aim to be at 10% by the end of 2027/28.

- The General Fund estimates are sufficiently robust to set a balanced budget for 2026/27. This takes into account the adequacy of the level of balances and reserves outlined above and the assurance gained from the comparisons of the 2025/26 budget with the projected spend identified in the December 2025 OFP. The overall level of the corporate contingency has been set at £2m.
- 5. The proposed General Fund fees and charges as set out in Appendix 7a & Appendix 7b (exempt) for implementation from 1 April 2026 was approved.
- 6. That the Mayor, Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team's delivery of the approved savings plans and development of robust savings plans to close the revised Medium Term Financial Plan budget gaps set out in Appendix 5 and deliver a year on year balanced position, taking into account the recommendation of the S151 Officer as set out in the Section 25 Statement (Appendix 12). Consideration given to building in increases to our revenue reserves to improve the financial resilience of the Council in the medium term.
- 7. That the summary of the HRA Budget and Rent setting report proposed to Cabinet on 26 January 2026, be noted.
- 8. To delegate authority to the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources to implement any virements required to allocate provision for demand and growth pressures set out in this report subject to the appropriate evidence base being provided.
- 9. To approve the allocation of resources to the 2026/27 capital programme referred to in Section 20 and Appendix 6 of the report.
- 10. To approve the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2026/27 (Appendix 10) with a maximum expenditure limit of £19.3m (2026/27), recognising that this approval does not constitute a commitment to utilise the strategy (paragraph 20.5 and Appendix 10).
- 11. To delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to authorise the implementation of the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy at the conclusion of the financial year, contingent upon a comprehensive assessment of the Council's overall financial position (paragraph 20.5 and Appendix 10).
- 12. To grant approval for the prudential indicators for Capital Expenditure:- the Capital Financing Requirement; the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt; the Affordability Prudential Indicators; and the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for 2026/27 as set out in Section 21 and Appendix 3 of the report.
- 13. To approve that the authorised limit for external debt of £1,241m agreed above for 2026/27 will be the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003. Further reassurance about the robustness of the budget is the confirmation that the Council's borrowings are within the boundaries of prudential guidelines.
- 14. To note that at its meeting on 28 January 2026 the Council agreed its Council Tax Base for the 2026/27 financial year as 80,163.35 in accordance with regulations made under section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The

Council Tax Base is the total number of properties in each of the eight council tax bands A to H converted to an equivalent number of band D properties.

15. That approval be granted for the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2026/27 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Localism Act 2011.

The authority calculates the aggregate of: (in accordance with Section 31A (2) of the Act).

- (a) £1,371.155m being the expenditure which the authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account, other than a Business Improvement District (BID) Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.
- (b) £2m being such allowance as the authority estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to amounts to be charged or credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices.
- (c) £nil being the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting its estimated future expenditure.
- (d) £nil being such financial reserves as are sufficient to meet so much of the amount estimated by the authority to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for.
- (e) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with section 97(4) of the 1988 Act, and
- (f) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(5) of the 1988 Act and charged to a revenue account for the year.

16. That the authority calculates the aggregate of: (in accordance with Section 31A(3) of the Act)

- (a) £1,245.957m being the income which it estimates will accrue to it in the year and which it will credit to a revenue account, other than a Business Improvement District (BID) Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.
- (b) £2.962m being the amount which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with section 97(3) of the 1988 Act.
- (c) £nil being the amount which it estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(4) of the 1988 Act and will be credited to a revenue account for the year, and
- (d) £nil being the amount of the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will use in order to provide for the items mentioned in subsection (2) (a), (b), (e) and (f) above.

17. That £124.236m being the amount by which the aggregate calculated under subsection (1) above exceeds that calculated under subsection (2) above, the authority calculates the amount equal to the difference; and the amount so calculated is its Council Tax Requirement for the year.

18. That £124.236m being the amount at (3.2.17) divided by the amount (3.2.14) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 31A of the Act, £1,549.79 as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.

19. That the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council tax for 2026/27 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

**Valuation Bands Hackney**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£1,033.19	£1,205.39	£1,377.59	£1,549.79	£1,894.19	£2,238.59	£2,582.98	£3,099.58

20. To note that for 2026/27 the Greater London Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below. These precepts are subject to the approval of the GLA Assembly at their meeting scheduled for 26 February.

**Valuation Bands GLA**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£340.34	£397.06	£453.79	£510.51	£623.96	£737.40	£850.85	£1,021.02

21. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.2.19 and 3.2.20 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for 2026/27 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown below.

**Valuation Bands Combined Hackney/GLA**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£1,373.53	£1,602.45	£1,831.38	£2,060.30	£2,518.15	£2,975.99	£3,433.83	£4,120.60

22. To approve, subject to the decision of Members on recommendations 3.2.19 to 3.2.21 that Hackney's Council Tax requirement for 2026/27 be £124.236m which results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,549.79 for Hackney purposes and a total Band D Council Tax of £2,060.30 including the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept.
23. To approve, in accordance with principles approved under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and the new provisions included in the Localism Act 2011, the increase in the Council's Council Tax requirement for 2026/27 as shown at Appendix 8 is not excessive (5% or above) and therefore does not require the Council to hold a referendum.
24. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27, set out at Appendix 3 of the report.
25. To approve the criteria for lending and the financial limits set out at Appendix 3 of the report.

26. To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision statement setting out the method of calculation to be used, as set out in paragraphs 21.19-21 of the report.

The Speaker proposed a 5 minute comfort break and the meeting adjourned.

The Speaker thanked Members for returning promptly and advised that Cllr Gordon wished to make a statement.

- 8.37 Cllr Gordon indicated that she had made an error in her speech related to the S151 Officer's remarks about the financial resilience of the Green Group budget. Cllr Gordon withdrew that remark.

## **9. Questions from Members of the Council**

### **9.1 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration from Cllr Adams**

Given the impact of lift breakdowns on residents, particularly those with mobility needs, what lift maintenance strategy is in place and how does it ensure that faults are responded to and resolved in a timely manner?

#### **Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management**

Deputy Mayor Nicholson acknowledged the significant impact on residents when lifts in council-owned blocks fail. Noting the importance for the Council to clearly explain its approach to lift repairs and maintenance.

He reported that all 615 council-managed lifts were subject to regular monitoring and maintenance. New comprehensive contracts had been introduced, including monthly inspections for every lift. These reports were reviewed by the housing management team to ensure full compliance. Emergency call-outs were prioritised, with a two-hour attendance target. While most lifts were considered reliable, he recognised that councillors have frequently had to support residents experiencing repeated breakdowns.

The Council has launched a £24 million lift replacement programme. Phase one would address 41 of the most unreliable lifts through replacement or full refurbishment, beginning in June 2026. Planning was underway for subsequent phases.

Overall, more than 120 lifts were expected to be replaced or refurbished over the three-year programme. The Deputy Mayor stated that this demonstrated the Council's commitment to listening to tenants and leaseholders, managing budgets responsibly, and improving housing conditions.

There was no supplementary question.

### **9.2 To the Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities from Cllr Turbet-Delof**

The Government's "earned settlement" proposals could affect many Hackney residents and their families by extending settlement periods from five to up to twenty years, adding prolonged visa costs and uncertainty. What steps is Hackney Council taking to assess the potential local impact of these proposals?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities

Cllr Williams outlined the Borough of Sanctuary assessment process, noting that assessors closely scrutinised Hackney's response to national policy announcements and its commitment to becoming a visibly welcoming borough. The assessment focused on the detail of the Council's action plan and its practical support for migrants, refugees and people seeking sanctuary, rather than general statements. Officers from across multiple council services, including Libraries, Culture and Heritage, Employment and Skills, Adult Learning, Adult Social Care and Hackney Education, were involved in the assessment.

Cllr Williams confirmed Hackney was awarded Borough of Sanctuary status, noting it required meeting necessary standards. Thanks were given to all officers, especially the Welcome Hackney team, for their multi-year work developing the action plan and framework.

Following the Government's proposed "fairer pathway to settlement," Welcome Hackney officers engaged widely with council services, NHS partners, voluntary organisations, and residents to inform the council's consultation response. Findings revealed potential risks to residents, families, and statutory service delivery from the proposed changes. A detailed statement was available on the council website.

Cllr Williams concluded by stating that officers would continue monitoring the local impact of policy changes. The Welcome Hackney team were commended for their simultaneous delivery of the consultation response and the Borough of Sanctuary action plan under challenging circumstances and tight deadlines, urging all councillors to recognise their efforts.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Turbet-Delof

What are you doing with regards to these earned settlement proposals?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities

Cllr Williams clarified that she had responded to two points: firstly, a statement made earlier regarding Borough of Sanctuary work, and secondly, the specific question that had been formally tabled. She confirmed that her response reflected information already published on the Council website and stated that she did not recognise the basis of the supplementary question.

9.3 To the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture from Cllr Gooch

Can the Cabinet Member give us more detail about the Mayor's announcement of 6 February that the proposal to reduce opening hours of libraries will be halted?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Cllr Kennedy responded stating that the issues raised had already been addressed in the Mayor's statement and Cllr Chapman's budget speech. Recent developments were attributed to collaboration between a Labour Council, Labour Government and Labour Mayor, which he believed had enabled a more favourable funding settlement and allowed the Council to avoid previously anticipated reductions.

Cllr Kennedy clarified that claims about library closures were misleading. He noted there was only a proposal to reduce opening hours, and criticised the amplified, false statements, particularly on social media.

Improvements within library services were highlighted. Examples cited included: the introduction of Black children's book fairs, year-round Black History 365 events, and the installation of a mural by a young Black artist at Hackney Central Library. Cllr Kennedy believed these developments reflected the administration's commitment to recognising and celebrating the culture and heritage of all residents.

Supplementary Question from Cllr Gooch

What is your favorite Library?

Response the Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture

Cllr Kennedy stated that they were all brilliant and different in their own ways and recommended that Cllr Gooch visit each of them.

9.4 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Young People from Cllr Davis

With improved financial outlook having saved the libraries from further cuts, will additional investment in youth services also be possible?

Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Young People

Deputy Mayor Bramble detailed the council's ongoing support for children and young people. This included collaborating with the national government on SEND reforms to address overspend and implementing inclusion units in schools. The council also partnered with the Mayor on free school meals, supplementing government-funded breakfast clubs, and is investing over £7 million locally in these services.

The Council's commitment to listening to parents and supporting young people through a range of initiatives was emphasised. These include the "10 by 10"

programme, the Mayor's Music Award providing funding for musical instruments in schools, and the Youth Opportunity Fund, which enables young people to bid for funding for community projects. It was believed that these programmes demonstrated a continued focus on prioritising children and young people.

Deputy Mayor Bramble confirmed ongoing council exploration into further adventure playground investment and the re-establishment of the detached youth team for direct, decentralised youth engagement.

The Council's commitment to children and young people was re-affirmed, citing initiatives like the Youth Parliament and Takeover Challenge, and stressed the ongoing recognition and investment of resources in young residents.

#### Supplementary Question from Cllr Davies

Could we look again at getting greater funding for Youth Parliament?

#### Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Young People

Deputy Mayor Bramble noted the council's ongoing review of support for young people. She highlighted the important role of the Youth Parliament, supported by dedicated staff to implement its manifesto and address issues or funding needs.

The Deputy Mayor emphasised the importance of listening directly to young people about what was not working. For example, when the Youth Parliament requested changes to the social media platforms they used, the Council worked with communications to implement these improvements. Young people also had access to the Council chamber and engaged directly with cabinet members as part of their involvement.

It was reported that all Council activities were managed with a balanced budget while remaining aspirational and innovative in supporting children and young people. It was noted that the Youth Parliament's feedback at the time focused on improving communication rather than requesting additional funding.

#### 9.5 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration from Cllr Martins

After successful campaigning by De Beauvoir ward councillors on the issue of community flats at Lockner Estate, could the Cabinet Member update on how the Council is working with local residents on estates to access decent good quality community space in the absence of any community halls?

#### Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration

Deputy Mayor Nicholson outlined the council's approach to housing regeneration and community engagement. It was explained that the Council's Housing Regeneration and Delivery team had been co-designing flexible, fit-for-purpose community spaces with residents as part of several new homes

projects across the borough, alongside the Labour administration's ongoing work to deliver social rent and affordable homes.

Specific examples of this work included: Colville Estate in Hoxton, construction was well underway on a new purpose-built community hub alongside hundreds of new homes; at Lockner Estate, persistent resident engagement had enabled the creation of a new shared meeting space while returning the estate's existing community flat to council housing once the new facility was completed; at Fairbank Estate, proposals for 70 new homes, including a modern residential meeting space, were approved at planning committee; and at Nightingale Estate, a new community hall had been completed, freeing land for the first phase of the estate's regeneration, delivering over 70 new social rent homes.

The Deputy Mayor concluded that these examples demonstrated the Labour council's commitment to working with residents to co-design community spaces while delivering new council homes for social rent across Hackney.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Martins

Can we ensure that estate regeneration and infill schemes treat community space as essential social infrastructure rather than an optional add on?

Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration

Deputy Mayor Nicholson affirmed that the council's commitment to delivering co-designed community spaces and new homes remained strong. He noted, however, that each estate and community had different needs, requirements, ambitions, and objectives. Respecting these differences would always be central to the work of the design teams and the co-design commissioning process.

9.6 To the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport from Cllr Premru

Could you please update us on the level of take-up of the garden waste scheme since charges were introduced and of any measures to monitor garden waste dumping or garden waste going into black bags?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Young provided an update on the charged garden waste scheme for the 2025–26 collection year, which was due to end at the end of the month. It was reported that over 6,900 households, representing approximately 31% of households with gardens in the borough, had subscribed to regular collection. Renewals for the 2026–27 collection year had already begun, with around 1,700 households having renewed, and numbers were continuing to rise, indicating a similar or slightly higher uptake than the previous year.

The service had been expanded following consultation feedback, introducing one-off collections for households that preferred not to subscribe to monthly collections. A 50% concession rate was offered to council tax relief recipients,

with 267 subscribers benefiting. Alternatives to the scheme, such as home composting or using local reuse and recycling centres, were also available.

In reference to the monitoring of garden waste, it was noted that data indicated garden waste dumping accounted for only about 3% of total reported dumping. Cllr Young cited North London Waste Authority data showing that approximately 2.1% of bin contents was garden waste, compared with 32% for misplaced food waste, concluding that garden waste in residual bins was minimal and not a significant issue.

Cllr Adams proposed a procedural motion without notice in accordance with Part 4A Rule 15 Paragraph 15.1(m) of the Council's Constitution to extend the meeting beyond 10pm to 10.20pm.

This was seconded by Cllr Martins.

Following a vote the Speaker declared the motion without notice **CARRIED**

Supplementary Question Councillor Premru

Given there's still 69% of people that are not subscribed, how can we monitor in a far more stringent way what is happening to garden waste? We need to look at our recycling and minimise that.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Cllr Young agreed that the council should continuously strive to boost recycling rates. She emphasised the significance of separate garden waste collection in achieving this goal, noting the relative success of the garden waste scheme.

Cllr Young requested that, going forward, all queries regarding the waste recovery facility should be included within the initial question to allow for a more comprehensive and informed response.

9.7 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration from Cllr Smyth

What is the Council doing to embed local nature-centric principles in planning policy for new housing developments that preserves nature, tree protection and biodiversity net gain, including working with the Greater London Assembly and central Government to make this standard practice for new developments?

Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration

Deputy Mayor Nicholson explained that the council already had established planning policies aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity through new development, including the protection of trees. He noted that the planning service required all new developments in the borough to deliver net gains in biodiversity, in line with current legislation embedded in the borough's Local Plan (LP33). There would be an opportunity to review these policies later in the

year following the local elections and the establishment of the new council administration.

Questions from Councillors that were not taken at the meeting due to time constraints are attached at Appendix B

## 10 Strategic Plan Annual Update Report 2026.

10.1 The Mayor advised that the Strategic Plan was adopted in 2022. The ambition was to make Hackney a fairer, safer, greener, healthier and a place where every child can thrive. The Mayor highlighted the following actions taken by her administration:

### Fairer

- Supported over 970 residents into employment and apprenticeships.
- Prioritised investment into housing.
- Secured £7 million in previously unclaimed benefits through the 'Here to Help' Scheme.
- Successfully applied to be a 'Borough of Sanctuary'.
- Delivered hate crime awareness training to 200 professionals.
- Invested over £1.5 million in capital for improving libraries, cultural spaces, and creative infrastructure.

### Greener

- A strong focus on community energy
- Developing 50 kilometres of walkable and cyclable low traffic roads for walking and cycling
- Provided free cycle training for 50 adults and 4,230 children.

### Healthier

- Almost 90% of journeys in Hackney are now made by walking, cycling or public transport.
- Healthier Together Hackney has helped 6,000 adults with long term conditions.
- Additional places for children with SEND across early years, primary, and secondary school settings.
- 98% of schools and 100% of children's centres rated good or better.
- 6,351 families supported at four newly developed children and family hubs.

10.2 The Mayor concluded that progress resulted from collaboration and co-production with the voluntary and community sector, community energy groups, and local stakeholders. The achievements made were attributed to residents, community partners, and staff. The Mayor emphasised that working together improves lives and protects Hackney residents, and thanked everyone who helped realise the strategy.

**RESOLVED:** To note the fourth and final annual update of the current Strategic Plan.

## 11. Proposed Calendar of Council Meetings 2026/2027

- 11.1 The Speaker advised that questions or comments on the proposed calendar of meetings should be directed to the Governance Team before final agreement at the Council Annual Meeting on 28 May.

**RESOLVED:** To note the proposed Council meeting calendar for 2026/27.

**12. Labour Group Motion - The Right to Grow**

**12a Green Group Amendments**

**12b Hackney Independent Socialist Collective Amendments**

- 12.1 Cllr Troughton introduced the motion addressing ethical and environmental concerns surrounding fresh food, specifically focusing on its origins, fair pay for growers, and the impact of chemicals and transport. It was asserted that the right to grow food was a fundamental human right, which aligned with the Labour administration's focus on social and environmental justice, including the right to food, anti-poverty initiatives, and biodiversity. The motion underscored the importance of children learning to grow food at school and aimed to enshrine this policy for future generations to thrive. Its connection to numerous existing council policies was highlighted. The motion promoted empowering local growers to utilise unused land across the borough for community benefit, offering practical, social, and economic support. Cllr Troughton expressed her belief that establishing this policy would create a long-term foundation, preparing for future food scarcity and high costs, ultimately contributing to a healthier, fairer, and more sustainable world.
- 12.2 Cllr Smyth seconded the motion highlighting how it would build community resilience against economic, climate, and supply chain shocks. He stressed that growing food would also strengthen the community, improve health, combat isolation, and teach skills. The motion called for using unused Hackney land and empowering community expertise, aligning with existing borough commitments (Right to Food, climate action, healthy weight strategy). Cllr Smyth believed it was a practical, low-cost solution with immediate value, that would prepare the community for future crises. Members were urged to support the "right to grow" which was essential for a resilient Hackney.

Green Group proposed amendments to the motion

Cllr Binnie-Lubbock proposed amendments to the motion which were seconded by Cllr Garbett.

- 12.3 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock proposed amendments to the motion, explaining that the purpose of the amendments was for more accessible and fair community spaces, suggesting the utilisation of the unused Hackney Downs Bowling Green. He further explained that the Green amendment addressed systemic racism, seeking equal access and reserved spaces for Black and global majority communities to tackle existing inequalities. He expressed shock that the amendments had not been accepted by the Labour Group. Cllr Binnie-Lubbock noted the issues of food insecurity, worsened by the climate emergency and community cohesion. Community food growing was highlighted as a key activity to encourage isolated residents to engage with others.

12.4 Cllr Garbett, seconded the amendments to the motion.

Hackney Independent Socialist Collective's proposed amendments to the motion

Cllr Wrouth proposed amendments to the motion which were seconded by Cllr Premru.

12.5 Cllr Wrouth acknowledged general support for the motion, stating the amendments were intended to ensure the Food Growing Partnership was as broad as possible and actively encouraged the participation of people with protected characteristics. It was questioned why the amendments were rejected, suggesting it was either because the Labour group did not want residents involved in deciding how the 'right to grow' principles were enacted (citing a poor record of co-production) or because they wanted the motion to be a 'Labour only' triumph. Cllr Wrouth believed the motion could have been strengthened by a more collegiate approach from the Labour group and urged Members to vote for the amendments put forward by both groups.

12.6 Cllr Premru seconded the motion also stating her support of the Green group's amendments. It was stated that The Land Workers Alliance recognised the inequalities in food growing, particularly the "Land in our Names" movement addressing access for Black food growers. Cllr Premru stated that achieving sustainable, local, organic food was difficult. Therefore, it was crucial to focus on urban and peri-urban growing to address the alienation from production, lack of healthy food, and reliance on food banks experienced by urban dwellers. She believed there was a need to expand, grow and reconnect people, especially children, with the essential cycle of nature for a healthier, wealthier, and climate-friendly country. Cllr Premru urged the Council to pass the motion and support all amendments in their entirety.

Following a vote, the Speaker declared that the Green group's amendments to the motion were **NOT CARRIED**

Following a vote, the Speaker declared that the Hackney Independent Socialist Collective's amendments to the motion were **NOT CARRIED**

As the amendments from both groups were lost, Members proceeded to debate the substantive motion.

12.7 Councillors Suso-Runge, Martins, and Samatar supported the 'Right to Grow' motion, highlighting its benefits beyond food production. The diverse Hackney Central gardening group's work with the Tenants and Resident Association was noted. They stressed that 'Right to Grow' fostered empowerment, dignity, dietary control, cultural connection, belonging, resilience, and community. The motion addressed the immediate food bank crisis while also building long-term community resilience, social justice, and empowerment.

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

Everyone in Hackney should have access to enough fresh food to feed themselves and their families well and this is all the more challenging during the cost of living crisis. The right to grow will provide a renewed focus on the importance of providing affordable healthy food and sustainable methods of producing the food we eat.

**This Council notes:**

1. Hackney puts the health and well-being of residents at the heart of all we do;
2. The cost-of-living crisis is creating real hunger, reinforcing the need for healthy fresh food at an affordable price;
3. Hackney declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and local food growing contributes to our response to the climate emergency for those in greatest need;
4. Social justice remains at the heart of Hackney's Climate Action Plan, which prioritises "inclusive decision-making, prioritising accessible and affordable solutions, and tackling systemic issues, the Council aims to create a fair, equitable, and inclusive environment."
5. The powerful evidence demonstrates the link between people's health and wellbeing and the availability of fresh food, fruit and vegetables. Communities coming together to grow food can improve health and reduce the demands on public services including the NHS and social care budgets, by reducing social isolation and providing healthy food;
6. The Council has already established the Right to Food and an ambitious Green Infrastructure Strategy and Nature Recovery Plan. Food grown locally supports this work;
7. Food growing supports our Healthy Weight Strategy and the aims of Hackney's FoodNetwork;
8. Community food growing is an intergenerational activity, enabling young and old to enjoy learning cultivation skills for life and strengthening food security;
9. There is land in Hackney which could be used for growing food.

**The Council resolves to:**

10. Adopt the principle of "right to grow" on council-owned land that is considered suitable in agreement with the Council;
11. Work with local resident groups and external partners (such as Hackney Food Network, Incredible Edible, Sustain Hackney, Made in Hackney, Hackney School of Food and others) to identify land suitable for community cultivation, and to make that land available;
12. Work with local resident groups and external partners to embed the principles of Right to Grow across the borough and share good practice;
13. Work with the Hackney Food Network as a platform to promote the work around the "right to grow" developing the opportunities for shared learning and support for future

**End of meeting.**

Duration of the meeting: 7:00pm - 10:19pm

Date of next meeting: 28 May 2026 (Annual Meeting)  
Contact: [governance@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:governance@hackney.gov.uk)

Chair of the meeting: Cllr Sharon Patrick  
Speaker of London Borough of Hackney 2025/26

### **Attachments**

**Questions from the public that were not taken at the meeting due to time constraints or absence are attached at Appendix A.**

**Questions from Councillors that were not taken at the meeting due to time constraints are attached at Appendix B.**

DRAFT

7.1 Written Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Environment and Transport

Thank you for your question at Full Council, I'm sorry you couldn't attend the meeting. As another similar question was also asked - Flytipping and overflowing bins are a constant issue for residents in Hackney. Please can you make an action plan to correct this? Bi-weekly waste collections are at insufficient frequency to tackle the public health and safety issues that arise from flytipping and overflowing bins. I have decided to answer them together.

I could not agree more that illegal dumping of waste by a small minority of residents and businesses is a blight on our neighbourhoods. Fly-tipping is a growing national problem, with incidents on public land in England rising by 9% in the last year.

Over the 14 years of Tory Government, Hackney lost about £156m from our funding, and we had to weather really hard times. Thanks to our Labour Government and being able to work with them to understand the needs in Hackney, it is a huge pleasure to have a real increase in our funding so that we're able to balance our budget and invest money back into our waste services.

Our Environmental Services Team have been working incredibly hard to keep up with the increase in fly tipping and to keep our streets clean and in today's budget you will see that more investment in this team will mean we will be sending out more trucks to collect fly tipping more quickly and, most importantly, increasing the number of enforcement officers to tackle the commercial and persistent fly tippers.

Our Behaviour Change Team work on residential and commercial waste offences, doing education and enforcement. Last year, the team: issued over 2,600 statutory notices and 1,250 Fixed Penalty Notices, generated 220 tonnes of new/upgraded in-house waste contracts, and successfully prosecuted persistent fly-tippers for £40,000.

This includes intelligence-led targeting to identify hotspots, over 700 waste documentation checks, and even stakeouts and night-time operations, and collaborative enforcement with the Council's CCTV team. We carry out education drives, door-knocking campaigns, and a media campaign in January 2026. We also take reactive action, responding to around 100 complaints and attending Ward forums.

In Stamford Hill, we have made a fair few changes to improve things and there's definitely still more to do. Amhurst Parade has transitioned to a time-band collection, and formal notices were issued to properties on Amhurst Road in

February. A specific 'hot-spot' has had monitoring reinstated, and enforcement actions were taken against commercial properties, with some upgrading contracts following intervention.

Issues on Dunsmure Road are reduced following contact with landlords. There are still issues at Cranwich and West Bank due to resident turnover, and we're in regular communication with the main landlord. We're also continuing our education work with residents and businesses and Improvements are landlords complying with notices and upgrading contracts.

The Linthorpe, Wilderton, and Glaserton Roads area has been very active, with Wilderton Road a key focus of enforcement and multiple formal notices issued. We're still seeing some dumping and we welcome further intelligence from residents.

So, in summary, we know what a difference it makes to people's lives when our neighbourhoods feel clean and well looked after, and we're very grateful to all those who contribute to looking after where we live.

7.2 Written Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration

Thank you for your question at Full Council. As you weren't able to attend the meeting, I am sending you a formal written response.

There are two reasons which have guided the decision to separate out the Conservation Area and Area Plan making processes. The first reason is set in Planning law which states that the process for adopting a new Conservation Area has to be a separate process from any other plan making process, in this case the Stamford Hill Area Action Plan and the associated Design Guidance SPD. This requirement is defined and controlled by HM Government not by the Council.

The second is a practical reason and is quite simply to avoid confusion. Both a Conservation Area designation, an Area Plan making process and a Supplementary Planning Document adoption process all involve a sustained period of significant public consultation. As I am sure you can appreciate there is a real risk of different draft policies overlapping and significant confusion arising.

By way of a little more context and background, it may be helpful to know that there was a comprehensive review of existing and potential Conservation Areas in the borough undertaken, the review identified 20 potential new Conservation Areas in the borough and identified various existing Conservation Areas that were due for review.

For practical delivery reasons, the work of assessing the potential new Conservation Areas and reviewing existing Conservation Areas was divided into a phased work programme and this programme was presented to Cabinet in June 2020. Consideration of a potential Conservation Area designation for the Bergholt Triangle is identified as being in phase 2 of the work programme for the two reasons described above.

The Council's Conservation & Urban Design team have currently completed reviews of 7 of the 10 phase 1 areas. These include Pitfield Street, Well Street, Underwood Street, Beck Road, South Shoreditch, Lea Bridge and Hoxton Street Conservation areas. The reviews are led by the team to take account of changes to the built environment that may have occurred since the Area was first designated. The team is now working on the remaining 3 phase 1 areas and is scheduled to start on the phase 2 areas this Autumn, 2026. The sequencing of the 16 phase 2 areas will be determined this coming summer, 2026.

Please be reassured that the future consideration of the Bergholt Triangle is still in phase 2 and is identified as a potential Conservation Area. As and when this work commences it will involve a full built heritage assessment of the proposed Conservation Area and all recommendations will be subject to a full consultation with local residents.

7.7 Written Response from the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration

Thank you for your question at Full Council but as you weren't able to attend the meeting, I am sending you a formal written response. This Hackney Labour Administration has always recognised the importance of the local business community, the importance of thriving high streets and town centres and the importance of a thriving business community that supports a growing community.

It has been this Hackney Labour Administration that has made sure that the Council acts as a 'considerate commercial landlord' always negotiating with its business tenants where it is the commercial landlord and for example entering into agreements that have included rent-free periods should they be needed or providing business advice.

The Council strives to take a tailored approach to working with and supporting individual business tenants in Council owned properties including some tenants of Church Street, rather than imposing a one size fits all approach. The Council's Business Rates team also make sure that business rate payers can easily contact them and check in with the team as a rate payer may be eligible for business rates reliefs or exemption from business rates.

Our Hackney Labour Administration working alongside all of London's Labour Councils have been lobbying successive Governments calling for reform to the business rates system and we continue to do so. In the last month alone the Council has awarded seven town centre and high street grants through the Local Area Activation Fund, projects designed to increase footfall in Hackney's high streets and town centres. The Stoke Newington Business Association was one of those successful applications who have received a grant and there are plans to roll out another grant round soon.

It should be noted that the Council also supports local independent businesses on the borough's high streets through the Love Hackney Shop Local campaign, a 7 year project which has directly promoted not just whole high streets but local businesses by name - over fifty in the last financial year alone.

But it doesn't stop there, we have made sure that Council has not only supported growth but has been one of the agents delivering economic growth in the borough. This has included the Hackney Impact initiative, a small business support programme that provides business advice, guidance and support through business mentoring, coaching, workshops and networking.

The Hackney Business Network which provides free access to local businesses to information and access to guidance on a range of matters relevant to running a business in our borough. It signposts businesses to available support, funding, and advice.

The role of the Council has been instrumental in establishing Hackney's reputation, as described on the pages of the likes of City AM, that Hackney is recognised as one of the most entrepreneurial and accessible places to start and run a business in London, recently topping the list with the highest volume of Government backed startup loans and access to quality affordable workspace.

None of this happens by accident - it's happening because a Labour Council, a Labour Mayor of London and a Labour Government are aligned and delivering growth for businesses and for the community.

The Council's Regeneration and Economic Development team provides support to local businesses as required and has the remit to engage with businesses and support economic growth in the Boroughs town centres and high streets. Businesses who need support can contact the team directly at [business@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:business@hackney.gov.uk).

7.9 Written Response provided by the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Young People

Thank you for this question to Full Council, I'm sorry you were unable to attend the meeting.

As a Council we continue to take difficult decisions carefully. The 30% reduction of the controllable budget for Young Hackney was a significant challenge to delivery and the Council had to take difficult decisions to focus investment where it is most needed. In developing a new structure we focussed on the recommendations of an independent review of Young Hackney, and research from the Violence Reduction Unit and Youth Endowment Fund.

The independent review of Young Hackney delivery highlighted the strength of the existing hybrid in-house and VCS model, and the strength of our youth work practice. This model has been retained despite budget reductions. In reshaping services we have retained the focus on universal delivery but have refocused the age provision to serve young people entering and during adolescence. This responds to research that shows 3-10pm on weekdays as when young people are more vulnerable to exploitation. Our Youth Hubs are now accessible to young people straight after school / college and into the evening.

We believe that changing the focus of Young Hackney to place emphasis on the needs of adolescents is the right thing to do, and we are pleased that this aligns

with the new National Youth Strategy. Whilst we have ceased provision for children aged 6 to 9 in our Youth Hubs, we have continued to invest in our adventure play services. We have also re-established a detached outreach team to meet the needs of young people who are not currently engaged in provision; helping them to understand and manage risk, make informed choices, access services and stay safe.

In refocusing delivery for adolescents we are also piloting a new community based model of health provision at Forest Road Youth Hub (from September 2024), to improve the way young people access health and wellbeing services. We have also established a new service for Young Carers.

The cessation of universal youth work for children aged 6-9 from April 2025 will inevitably impact participation data and a direct comparison with provision three years ago is not possible. The full impact from refocusing of delivery will not be measured until the end of year report in June 2026. However, we will continue to review the impact of changing the age range on the reach of our play and youth services, and we await further Government announcements on funding streams that may support our local youth sector to expand capacity. We will support the sector as a whole to access these opportunities as they arise.

DRAFT

**Appendix B - Questions from Councillors that were not taken at the meeting due to time constraints.**

9.8 To Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport from Cllr Garbett

With the Chatsworth livable neighborhood scheme past six months since implementation, what assessment has the council made of the scheme's outcomes including equalities impacts and Homerton Hospital access, and are you also working with TfL to review the turning into Chatsworth road?

Written response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

As of February 2026 we have completed traffic counts at 18 sites, and have used a specialist video survey on Median Road and for origin and destination studies. This data, along with other measurements such as air quality and also a review of feedback received, will be included in the monitoring report. We've received a lot of detailed feedback and specific experiences from people who live and work locally and we're carefully following up to make sure that we understand all of the impacts of the scheme.

As a reminder, this scheme is aimed at safety, environmental and health improvements. Each of these objectives has been set out in a clear and comprehensive monitoring strategy. Local stakeholders, such as Homerton Hospital and the emergency services have been involved throughout the process, groups protected under the 2010 Equality Act receive particular attention.

We have a strong relationship with TfL and we have had detailed discussions with them about the turning restrictions. Currently their priorities are based on the safety of road users and the maximisation of junction capacities for all vehicles, but we will maintain this dialogue in case of any change in travel patterns.

Although the Chatsworth Liveable Neighbourhood scheme was introduced at the end of August 2025 we did allow local people some time to get accustomed to it, and full enforcement of the restriction did not start until November. Since then essential emergency gas main repairs have further complicated travel patterns. So we have not yet had a full six month period of settled traffic.

9.9 To the Mayor from Cllr Pinkerton

We are rightly proud of Hackney's award-winning parks and green spaces. One great asset in many parks is the outdoor gym facilities, which bring social,

physical, and mental health benefits to residents. Could the Mayor update us on any plans to expand this provision to more parks?

Written Response from the Mayor

Thank you for your question regarding outdoor gyms in Hackney. I'm sorry there wasn't time to answer in the Council meeting.

I am incredibly proud of our award-winning parks and green spaces and also the dedicated teams and incredible volunteers that help to maintain them.

Hackney's parks and green spaces are integral and essential to the borough's resilience, meeting its future challenges and the delivery of its wider strategies, both at a community and individual level. They have a key role to play in the health and wellbeing of our residents - including through the provision of outdoor gym opportunities.

This is why, in 2022, we set ourselves the target of investing in more, free, outdoor gym facilities in our parks and green spaces.

Since then we have delivered fantastic new outdoor gyms in Daubeney Fields and Shoreditch Park. In addition, we have secured funding to significantly improve the limited outdoor gym offering in Hackney Downs and also refurbish the outdoor gym in Mabley Green this year.

We will continue to identify new sites for outdoor gym provision across the borough's parks and green spaces as opportunities arise.

9.10 To Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport from Cllr Binnie-Lubbock

A lift at Haggerston Overground breaks regularly, creating difficulties in travel for disabled residents. Can you detail what conversations you have had with Transport for London advocating for regular lift maintenance and improved logistics (e.g. spare parts kept in UK warehouses), as well as acceptable repair timeframes?

Written Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Where lift access is provided at stations this should be available at all times when the station is open and properly maintained. Our Streetscene officers have raised concerns about the lifts at Haggerston Station with Transport for London. I understand that in the 12 months up until the end of January 2026 the lifts have been available c.98% of the time. There have been 13 faults with the lifts there over this period and I understand that in the majority of cases these were repaired within a day or so. There was a fault in the New Year with one of the lifts which required a bearing to be repaired off site. Unfortunately, the supplier was closed for the festive period and the lift wasn't returned to service until the 9th January. We have raised this with TfL and they are looking at whether there can be enhancements to the existing spares holdings.

9.11 To the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport from Cllr Selman

Members of the community in Stamford Hill and local councillors have long been advocating for improved accessibility at Stamford Hill station. Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the campaign?

Written Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

I am very pleased indeed to be able to report that work is starting imminently to put in a ramp providing step-free access to Platform 2 with a new entrance on Holmdale Terrace.

Stamford Hill is very high on the Council's priority for full step free access and we continue to seek funding from Transport for London and the Department for Transport to make platform 1 step-free and put in a lift. We know that any third party funding that could be provided would strengthen the case and we are in discussions to see if any s106 funding could be used as a contribution to the scheme.

9.12 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration from Cllr McKenzie

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Shoreditch Heat Network, given the number of recent disruptions of service and concerns raised by residents regarding the loss of heating and hot water, including outlining the steps being taken to improve reliability and find a permanent solution?

Written Response from the the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration

Thank you for your question at the recent Full Council meeting asking for an update about the Shoreditch Heat Network and the recent problems of supply being experienced by residents. Unfortunately we ran out of time for Questions at Full Council before we reached your question so I am sending a written response which I hope answers your question that you raised on behalf of residents.

It is important to emphasise that the Council recognises the considerable impact that repeated heating and hot water failures have on residents and it remains committed to the provision of a reliable heating and hot water supply for residents.

The Council is ensuring that routine maintenance and servicing of the heat network is in place and applied alongside the remote system monitoring system that can and does provide an effective and prompt response to any system failures that arise. The established communication channels with residents also remain firmly in place to provide residents with timely updates on network status and the Council's response to emergency incidents.

However, the above is very much a reactive repair led arrangement and in itself does not deal with any underlying systemic failures. So looking ahead and in

response to recurring communal boiler failures and the impact this has on residents, the Council is in the process of contracting a borough-wide communal boiler condition survey programme. This work will deliver a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of a boiler's condition, its performance, and remaining operational lifespan. It will identify any underlying defects and establish any future risks to boiler reliability.

The findings from the survey will then inform a significant replacement / major refurbishment investment programme for all 67 of the Council. It will identify if a boiler system requires either replacement or major refurbishment, it will identify the projected costs and delivery timescales. It is planned that the condition survey programme will be in place by this summer, 2026 and it will directly inform the replacement / refurbishment investment programme, which will enhance the resilience and reliability of the Council's 67 communal heating systems.

Our Labour Administration is committed to ensuring the Council brings this work forward and with the capital investment required. The Council is committed to providing all residents who rely on the Shoreditch Heat Network a written update on the Council's plans for the Network..

I hope that this reply reassures both yourself and residents that our Labour Administration is not only listening to residents but making sure that the Council is bringing forward the investment and actions to respond.

9.13 To the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration from Cllr Samatar

While new housing approvals are welcome, many residents in neighboring older blocks are concerned about outstanding repairs and poor public realm conditions. Can the Cabinet Member assure residents that addressing repair backlogs and improving existing homes will be prioritised alongside new developments?

Written Response from the the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Regeneration

Thank you for your question at the recent Full Council meeting, where you asked for reassurances that addressing Council housing repair backlogs and improving existing Council homes will be prioritised alongside the building of new Council homes on Council estates. Unfortunately we ran out of time for Questions at Full Council before we reached your question so I am sending a written response which I hope answers your question that you raised on behalf of residents.

Please be reassured that addressing the housing repairs backlog has been and is a priority of this Labour administration, and that focus is delivering results. The number of outstanding and overdue repairs has been consistently reducing. In addition Council tenant satisfaction with repairs has increased over the last year going up from 73% in 2024/25 to 80% in 2025/26. In addition the Council's Housing Repairs service successfully managed the increased demand for repairs over the winter period.

It is worth noting that there are a small number of additional reasons that unfortunately contribute to repairs not being undertaken within the expected timeframe and these are due to the repairs team unable to gain access to a property, legal challenges created by ambulance chasing compensation lawyers and on occasion the legal requirement to serve Section 20 notices. The Council as part of the Housing Improvement programme is currently reviewing its policy regarding access with a view to establishing the powers to gain entry to undertake repairs.

The Council has also commissioned a 3-year stock condition survey to provide the service with an up to date understanding of the condition of all Council tenants' homes, the blocks and the general areas around Council owned estates. It is currently halfway through year 2 of the survey and is on track to have surveyed all of the Council's housing stock by the end of 2026-27. The survey is not just looking at major works and structural surveys but it is also identifying problems in the home such as such as damp and mould, and electrical faults.

By this Labour Administration insisting on behalf of Council tenants and leaseholders that the Council also surveys the issues that can arise in the home, we are making sure that Council homes are safe for residents. As a result of the survey the Council has already responded to and fixed over 3,800 of the problems identified in tenants homes.

I hope this reassures you that far from this Labour Council turning its back on repairs it is the complete opposite. This Labour led Council is delivering and ensuring that the Council is investing into providing one of the best Council landlords in London.