



Waltham Forest Town Hall
Forest Road
E17 4JF

Council

Minutes of
21 May 2026 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Mayor:

Councillor Tony Bell (Outgoing Mayor)

then

Councillor Marcelo Hart-Camus (Incoming Mayor)

Councillors:

Aisha Abubakar, Shenise Adam, Afzal Akram, Denise Alder, Umar Ali, Louise Ashcroft, Rachel Barrat, Karen Bellamy, Sarah Bentley, Roy Berg, David Berrie, Emma Best, Liz Biggs, Lisa Bryan, Ben Copsey, Em Dean, Andrew Dixon, John Donegan, Rosalind Doré, Martin Edobor, Solène Fabios, Kizzy Gardiner, Rob Gardner, Toby Garrett, Luke Glazzard, Mitchell Goldie, Yuksel Gonul, Tom Hainge, Jemma Hemsted, Kay Isa, Chanté Johnson, Anna Rose Kerr, Ahsan Khan, Johar Khan, Charlotte Lafferty, Clyde Loakes, Simone McNichols-Thomas, Miriam Mirwitch, John Moss, Sam O'Connell, Yusuf Patel, Paul Perkins, Caramel Quin, Daisy Richards, Peter Richardson, Layla Rosa, Rosalind Rowlands, Catherine Saumarez, Kelly Summers, Richard Sweden, Eva Tabbasam, Stephanie Talbut, Paul Treacy, RoseMary Warrington, Sue Wheat, Demetrius Williams, Grace Williams and Siobhan Wing

1. Apologies for Absence

All councillors were present.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Election of the Mayor

It was moved by Councillor Doré, seconded by Councillor Best and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council records its thanks to Councillor Tony Bell for the eminent service he was rendered as Mayor of this Borough during the municipal year 2025/26, his consort Ginette Hogan, and to the Youth Mayor, Adwoa Owusu for the able manner in which they have discharged their duties.

The Mayor reflected on his year in office and his many engagements and praised the work and support of the team of people around him.

It was moved by Councillor D Williams, seconded by Councillor Bryan and **RESOLVED** unanimously that Councillor Marcelo Hart-Camus be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Waltham Forest until their successor is appointed.

Councillor Marcelo Hart-Camus (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor Bell invested the newly elected mayor with the Badge of Office
Councillor Hart-Camus then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and then presented Councillor Bell with a past mayor's badge.
Councillor Hart-Camus then addressed the Council stating that the theme for their mayorship would be "togetherness".

The Mayor then made the following announcements:

- The Mayor's consort would be Neil Anderson Hart-Camus.
- The chosen Mayor's charities for this year would be East London Out Project (ELOP) and Waltham Forest Migrant Action.
- That it was the Mayor's personal goal to protect those at risk in the face of economic disparity, climate collapse and attacks on vulnerable groups such as the trans community and refugees.

4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 February 2026

The minutes of the special budget and council tax setting meeting held on 26 February 2026 were **AGREED** as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

5. Returning Officer's Results of Local Election 2026

The Committee received the results of the local election, notification of party groups and leaders, and the schedule of motions for the year as follows;

Green Group: Denise Alder, Louise Ashcroft, Rachel Barrat, Sarah Bentley, David Berrie, Liz Biggs, Lisa Bryan, Ben Copsey, Em Dean, John Donegan, Martin Edobor, Solène Fabios, Rob Gardner, Luke Glazzard, Yuksel Gonul, Tom Hainge, Marcelo Hart-Camus, Chanté Johnson, Anna Rose Kerr, Charlotte Lafferty, Simone McNichols-Thomas, Paul Perkins, Daisy Richards, Peter Richardson, Layla Rosa,

Rosie Rowlands, Eva Tabbasam, Paul Treacy, RoseMary Warrington, Sue Wheat, Demetrius Williams (31 members)

Group Leader: Councillor Paul Perkins

Deputy Group Leader: Councillor Eva Tabbasam

Party Whip: Councillor Rob Gardner

Labour Group: Councillors Ahsan Khan, Aisha Abubakar, Andrew Dixon, Caramel Quin, Clyde Loakes, Grace Williams, Johar Khan. Karen Bellamy, Kizzy Gardiner, Miriam Mirwitch. Richard Sweden, Rosalind Doré, Stephanie Talbut, Tony Bell, Yusuf Patel (15 members)

Group Leader: Councillor Kizzy Gardiner

Deputy Group Leader: Councillor Rosalind Doré

Party Whip: Councillor Miriam Mirwitch

Conservative Group: Councillors Shenise Adam, Afzal Akram, Umar Ali, Roy Berg, Emma Best, Toby Garrett, Mitchell Goldie, Jemma Hemsted, Kay Isa, John Moss, Sam O'Connell, Catherine Saumarez, Kelly Summers, Siobhan Wing (14 members)

Group Leader: Councillor Emma Best

Deputy Group Leader: Councillor Afzal Akram

Party Whip: Councillor Mitchell Goldie

Schedule of Motions to Council:

16 July 2026: Green

22 October 2026: Labour

10 December 2026: Green

25 February 2027 (Special: Budget)

22 April 2027: Conservative

6. Election of Leader of the Council

Council was moved by Councillor McNichols-Thomas and seconded by Councillor Tabbasam that Councillor Paul Perkins be elected Leader of the Council for a four year term.

There were no other nominations.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that Councillor Paul Perkins be elected Leader of the Council for a term of four years.

7. Leader's Report

Councillor Perkins then addressed the Council, setting out his priorities for his term of office and policy directions.

The Leader gave notice that he had appointed the Cabinet Members and decided the allocation of responsibilities as set out in Appendix A of the Order Paper.

Councillor Gardiner, Labour Group Leader, and Leader of the Opposition Group, addressed the Council in response.

Councillor Best, Conservative Group Leader addressed the Council in response.

Councillor Perkins exercised his right of reply.

8. Appointment of Committees and other Council Bodies in 2026/27 and Related Decisions

It was moved by Councillor Gardner and seconded by Councillor Mirwitch that the Council;

- a) **Appoint** standing committees for the municipal year 2026-27
- b) **Determine** the number of seats on all committees
- c) **Determine** the allocation of seats on committees to party groups in accordance with the political balance rules as detailed in Appendix B of the order paper
- d) **Appoint** councillors to sit on committees in accordance with nominations made by the Group Whips
- e) **Appoint** the chairs and vice-chairs of committees for 2026-27
- f) **Appoint** councillors to serve on the other council bodies listed within Appendix 1 as detailed in **Appendix C** of the order paper.
- g) **Note** the memberships of the Boards of Directors of the Local Authority Trading Companies
- h) **Agree** the terms of reference of standing committees for 2026- 27 shall be as set out in the Council's constitution
- i) **Agree** that all councillors will be appointed as supernumerary members to substitute when a named member of a committee is unable to attend a meeting, in accordance with the Council's scheme for the appointment of substitute members; Group Leaders and/or Group Whips being able to agree substitutions in respect of members of their party groups;
 - a. that in respect of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Executive members may be substituted only by other members of the Executive;
 - b. that in respect of the Coordinating Scrutiny Committee, Chairs of Scrutiny Committees may only be substituted by vice-chairs, with other members of the committee to be substituted by any other non-executive member;
 - c. and that in respect of any Scrutiny Committee, Executive members cannot serve as substitutes.
 - d. (Note: The supernumerary arrangements do not apply to the Cabinet)

There was debate, in which Councillors Best and Goldie spoke on the item.

Councillor Gardner did not exercise their right of reply.

When put to the vote, it was **AGREED** that,

Council:

- a) **Appointed** standing committees for the municipal year 2026-27
- b) **Determined** the number of seats on all committees
- c) **Determined** the allocation of seats on committees to party groups in accordance with the political balance rules as detailed in Appendix B of the order paper
- d) **Appointed** councillors to sit on committees in accordance with nominations made by the Group Whips
- e) **Appointed** the chairs and vice-chairs of committees for 2026-27
- f) **Appointed** councillors to serve on the other council bodies listed within Appendix 1 as detailed in **Appendix C** of the order paper.
- g) **Noted** the memberships of the Boards of Directors of the Local Authority Trading Companies

- h) **Agreed** the terms of reference of standing committees for 2026- 27 shall be as set out in the Council's constitution
- i) **Agreed** that all councillors will be appointed as supernumerary members to substitute when a named member of a committee is unable to attend a meeting, in accordance with the Council's scheme for the appointment of substitute members; Group Leaders and/or Group Whips being able to agree substitutions in respect of members of their party groups;
 - a. that in respect of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Executive members may be substituted only by other members of the Executive;
 - b. that in respect of the Coordinating Scrutiny Committee, Chairs of Scrutiny Committees may only be substituted by vice-chairs, with other members of the committee to be substituted by any other non-executive member;
 - c. and that in respect of any Scrutiny Committee, Executive members cannot serve as substitutes.

(Note: The supernumerary arrangements do not apply to the Cabinet)

9. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies/Organisations in 2026/27

It was moved by Councillor Gardner, seconded by Councillor Mirwitch, and unanimously **AGREED** that Council agree to appoint representatives of the Council and other persons to serve on bodies and organisations in accordance with the nominations made by the Party Whips as shown in Appendix D to the Order Paper.

10. Scheme of delegation

It was moved by Councillor Gardner, seconded by Councillor Mirwitch, and unanimously **AGREED** that Council;

- (a) **agreed** the delegation of non-executive functions (as defined by the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (amended) to officers as set out in:
 - i. The Council's Constitution and
 - ii. The General Scheme of Delegation appended to the report.
- (b) **agreed** that all officers with delegated powers have power to further delegate those powers to other officers under s.101 of the Local Government Act 1972 or as provided for by any other legislation and may agree a scheme of delegation to officers for their service areas.
- (c) **delegated** to the Director of Governance and Law the power to make and publish the necessary changes to the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation to give effect to these decisions.

11. Programme of Meetings for 2026/27

It was moved by Councillor Gardner, seconded by Councillor Mirwitch, and unanimously **AGREED** that Council;

- (a) **approved** the Programme of Meetings for 2026/27.

- (b) **agreed** that the Chief Executive in consultation with the party Whips be authorised to agree any subsequent changes to the programme arising from clashes of membership following the appointment of committee memberships at this meeting.
- (c) **agreed** to move the Planning Committee on 7 October 2026 to 13 October 2026, the Audit and Governance Committee on 13 October 2026 to 14 October 2026, and the Inclusive Growth and Housing Scrutiny Committee on 14 October 2026 to 15 October 2026.

The Mayor thanked all in attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm

Chair's Signature _____

Date _____