

COUNCIL MINUTES

BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2024



PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor Patricia Quigley
Deputy Mayor Councillor Daryl Brown

Councillors:

Jose Afonso	Rebecca Harvey	Zarar Qayyum
Aliya Afzal-Khan	Sharon Holder	Rowan Ree
Paul Alexander	Lisa Homan	Lucy Richardson
Adronie Alford	Laura Janes	Helen Rowbottom
Stala Antoniadis	Andrew Jones	Alex Sanderson
Emma Apthorp	Alex Karmel	Max Schmid
Jackie Borland	Bora Kwon	Asif Siddique
Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler	Adam Peter Lang	Nikos Souslous
Florian Chevoppe-Verdier	Amanda Lloyd-Harris	Dominic Stanton
Ben Coleman	Ross Melton	Sally Taylor
Liz Collins	Omid Miri	Nicole Trehy
Stephen Cowan	Genevieve Nwaogbe	Frances Umeh
Jacolyn Daly	Adrian Pascu-Tulbure	Mercy Umeh
Andrew Dinsmore	Ashok Patel	Rory Vaughan
Wesley Harcourt	Natalia Perez	Patrick Walsh

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Trey Campbell-Simon, Ann Rosenberg, and David Morton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

7.04pm – RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anniversary of the War in Ukraine

The Mayor noted that Saturday the 24th of February marked the two-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler made speeches.

Death of Former Councillor Peter DeGory

With great sadness, the Mayor informed the Council of the death of Peter DeGory on the 2nd of February 2024. Peter DeGory was a Councillor for St Stephen's ward from 1971 to 1986 and during that time he held a number of positions, including Chair of the Planning Committee and Chair of the Leisure and Recreation Committee.

Councillors Stephen Cowan and Alex Karmel made speeches of remembrance. The Council then observed a minute of silence in his memory.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)

The Mayor thanked the residents who submitted questions. Questions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 were addressed in the meeting. The Mayor explained that any questions not addressed in the meeting would receive written responses. All questions and responses can be found in Appendix 1.

Under Standing Order 15(e)12, Councillor Alex Karmel called for an extension of the time limit for public questions. The motion was then put to the vote:

FOR	10
AGAINST	36
NOT VOTING	1

The motion was declared **LOST**.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2024/25

7.43pm – The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

In accordance with Council convention, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler, were given unlimited time to speak on the Budget report.

Speeches on the report were also made by Councillors Alex Sanderson, Bora Kwon, and Rowan Ree (for the Administration) – and Councillors Adronie Alford, Adrian Pascu-Tulbure, and Amanda Lloyd-Harris (for the Opposition).

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, then made a speech winding up the debate.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote and a roll call was undertaken, in accordance with Council convention when voting on the budget:

FOR	AGAINST	NOT VOTING
Alexander	Afonso	Quigley (Mayor)
Antoniades	Afzal-Khan	
Apthorp	Alford	
Brown (Daryl)	Borland	
Chevoppe-Verdier	Brocklebank-Fowler	
Coleman	Dinsmore	
Collins	Karmel	
Cowan	Lloyd-Harris	
Daly	Pascu-Tulbure	
Harcourt	Stanton	
Harvey		
Holder		
Homan		
Janes		
Jones		
Kwon		
Lang		
Melton		
Miri		
Nwaogbe		
Patel		
Perez		
Qayyum		
Ree		
Richardson		
Rowbottom		
Sanderson		
Schmid		
Siddique		
Souslous		
Taylor		
Trehy		
Umeh (Frances)		
Umeh (Mercy)		
Vaughan		
Walsh		

FOR 36
AGAINST 10

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

9.39pm – RESOLVED:

That Full Council agree for the reasons set out in the report and appendices:

1. To increase the Hammersmith & Fulham element of Council Tax by 2.99% as modelled by the government in its spending power calculations for local government.
2. To apply the Adult Social Care precept levy of 2% as modelled by the government in its spending power calculations for local government.
3. To approve a balanced budget for 2024/25 as set out in the report, including the underlying principles and assumptions.
4. To approve **£10.7m** of new investment on key services for residents.
5. To approve fees and charges, as set out in Appendix E, including freezing charges in adult social care, children's services, and General Fund housing.
6. To approve the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and to note the budget projections to 2027/28 made by the Strategic Director of Finance in consultation with the Strategic Leadership Team (Appendix B).
7. To note the statement of the Strategic Director of Finance, under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, regarding the adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates (paragraph 56).
8. To approve the reserves strategy and forecast as set out in Appendix H.
9. To require all Directors to report on their projected financial position compared to their revenue estimates in accordance with the Corporate Revenue Monitoring Report timetable.
10. To authorise Directors to implement their service spending plans for 2024/25 in accordance with the recommendations within this report, the council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, relevant Schemes of Delegation and undertake any further consultation required regarding the Equalities Impact Assessment.
11. Set the council's element of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each category of dwelling, as outlined in the table below and in full in Appendix A and calculated in accordance with Sections 31A to 49B of the Localism Act 2011.

Category of Dwelling	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ratio	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

H&F	610.24	711.95	813.66	915.37	1,118.78	1,322.20	1,525.61	1,830.74
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12. To note, based on the Mayor of London's draft consolidated budget, the element of Council Tax to be charged by the Greater London Authority in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown in the table below.

Category of Dwelling	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ratio	6/9 £	7/9 £	8/9 £	1 £	11/9 £	13/9 £	15/9 £	18/9 £
b) GLA	314.27	366.64	419.02	471.40	576.16	680.91	785.67	942.80

13. That the overall Council Tax to be set at £1,386.77 per Band D property as follows:

Category of Dwelling	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ratio	6/9 £	7/9 £	8/9 £	1 £	11/9 £	13/9 £	15/9 £	18/9 £
a) H&F	610.24	711.95	813.66	915.37	1,118.78	1,322.19	1,525.61	1,830.74
b) GLA	314.27	366.64	419.02	471.40	576.16	680.91	785.67	942.80
c) Total	924.51	1,078.59	1,232.68	1,386.77	1,694.94	2,003.10	2,311.28	2,773.54

14. To authorise the Strategic Director of Finance to collect and recover National Non-Domestic Rate and Council Tax in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended), the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
15. To note the Council's estimated position on the Collection Fund (as set out in paragraph 51 of the report).
16. To note the performance on the management of arrears across the Council on all debts due (as set out from paragraph 60 of the report).

6.2 Four Year Capital Programme 2024-28 And Capital Strategy 2024/25

9.40pm – The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform, Councillor Rowan Ree.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Frances Umeh, Andrew Jones, Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, and Emma Apthorp (for the Administration).

Under Standing Order 15(e)12, Councillor Max Schmid called for the guillotine to be extended by 15 minutes. The motion was then put to the vote:

FOR	36
AGAINST	10
NOT VOTING	1

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR	36
AGAINST	10
NOT VOTING	1

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

9.57pm – RESOLVED:

That Full Council agreed:

1. To approve the four-year General Fund Capital Programme budget at £143.6m for the period 2024/25-2027/28 (presented in Table 2 and Appendix 1 of the report).
2. To approve the continuation of rolling programmes for 2024/25 funded from the Council's mainstream resources. For financial modelling purposes, these programmes are assumed to continue at the same level until 2027/28:

	£m
Corporate Planned Maintenance	2.400
Footways and Carriageways	2.030
Column Replacement	0.346
Total	4.776

3. To delegate approval of the detailed programmes for use of the rolling programmes, in recommendation 2, to the relevant SLT Director in consultation with the Strategic Director of Finance and relevant Lead Cabinet Member.
4. To approve the four-year Housing (HRA) Capital Programme at £432.9m for the period 2024/25-2027/28 as set out in Table 6 and Appendix 1 (of the report).
5. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform to approve the potential use of up to £3.6m of capital receipts under the Government's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts provisions for funding of Invest to Save schemes in 2024/25 (as identified in Appendix 2 of the report) and potential match-funding opportunities.

6. To approve the Capital Strategy 2024/25, as set out in the report.
7. To approve the annual Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix 3 (of the report).

6.3 Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25

9.57pm – The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform, Councillor Rowan Ree.

Councillor Ross Melton made a speech on the report (for the Administration).

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR	36
AGAINST	10
NOT VOTING	1

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

10.07pm – RESOLVED:

1. That approval be given to the future borrowing and investment strategies as outlined in this report.
2. That the Strategic Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform, be delegated authority to manage the Council's cash flow, borrowing and investments in 2024/25 in line with this report.
3. In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year, that Full Council approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in this report and the revised Annual Investment Strategy set out in Appendix E (of the report).

6.4 Pay Policy Statement 2024/25

10.07pm – The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform, Councillor Rowan Ree.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Stala Antonaides and Emma Apthorp (for the Administration).

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR	36
AGAINST	10
NOT VOTING	1

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

10.16pm – RESOLVED:

1. That Full Council approve the pay policy statement for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 (of the report).
2. That Full Council note the benchmarking of the Council's median pay multiple against the average of other Inner London Boroughs contained in paragraph 11 (of the report).

6.5 Dispensation of Absence

10.16pm – The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

10.16pm – RESOLVED:

1. That a special dispensation be granted to Councillor Ann Rosenberg for non-attendance at meetings of the authority due to ill health pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

6.6 Review of the Constitution

10.16pm – The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

10.16pm – RESOLVED:

1. That Full Council approve the amendment to the terms of reference for the Wormwood Scrubs Charitable Trust Committee detailed in paragraph 5 (of the report).

2. That Full Council approve the amendments to Contract Standing Orders detailed in Paragraphs 6, 7, and Appendix 1 (of the report).
3. That Full Council approve the appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers detailed in paragraphs 8 and 9 (of the report).

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 10.17 pm

Mayor

Appendix 1 – Public Questions and Responses

Questions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 were taken in the meeting. The remaining questions received written responses.

Question 1

From: Nicola Dryden, Resident

Question: *There seems to be an increasing problem with dog poo bags being dropped and littering the pavements. Therefore, I would like to understand what the council is doing to enforce fines on those who are litter dropping? Is the council planning to have more dog poo bins across the borough in order to try to address the problem?*

Response from Councillor Rebecca Harvey, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety: We know that our residents are concerned about dog fouling as many reported to us during an investigation in response to this. In June 2023 Council introduced a dog control public space protection order which brought in a range of measures to help us more effectively regulate dog fouling and behaviour of dogs in open spaces. Our PSPO prohibits dog fouling anywhere in the borough and any owner not clearing up after their dog can receive a fixed penalty notice. They can also be fined for not possessing the means to clean up after the dog or for not putting their dog on the lead when instructed to do so by an authorised officer of the Council. There's more information about the dog control PSPO on our website.

Hammersmith and Fulham is unique in having a team of 72 Law Enforcement Officers to enforce the provisions of the dog control PSPO. These officers are tasked to patrol all of the borough, including our parks and open spaces, to identify a wide range of environmental offenses including littering, which the depositing of dog faeces on the pavement would be classed as. If any of our officers witnessed anyone dropping bags of dog faeces on the pavement they would issue a fixed penalty notice for littering. In 2023 our officers issued a total of 1,986 fixed penalty notices and 1,478 of those were for littering offenses.

Where dog fouling occurs frequently, we urge all residents to assist us by letting us know where the issue is occurring, what times, and the description of the owner and the dog. This will aide us in coordinating our patrols to deter such behaviour.

Any public litter bin in Hammersmith & Fulham can be used to dispose of dog waste and Hammersmith & Fulham has a total of 1,415 bins across the borough. If you feel there is a need for an additional bin in a particular location, you can let our street environment services know and then we can look at providing those bins.

Question 2

From: Casey Abaraonye, Resident

To: Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform

Question: *Decisions taken by adults in the room affect the futures of our young and we should be doing more to involve them in that process. Can the council commit to writing to 16-year-olds and schools, to ensure that they are reminded when they become eligible to*

vote, to participate in the process? For schools this would form an active part of their Citizenship.

Response from Councillor Rowan Ree, Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform:

The council is very keen to ensure that young people learn about, and ultimately participate in, our democratic process.

16 and 17-year-olds can register to vote ahead of their 18th birthday, however we know from Electoral Commission's reports that young people are under-registered across the UK, with just 70% of 18 to 30-year-olds registered to vote, according to the Electoral Commission.

We are happy to commit to writing to schools in the borough to invite them to include information about voting and registration in their PHSE classes or any other appropriate lessons.

The electoral registration officer already writes to 16 or 17-year-olds to invite them to register to vote. Usually, eligible young people are identified through the annual household canvas process, or by checking other council records, including extracts from school rolls where they're available, to identify young people who may be eligible.

The Council also takes the opinions of our young residents seriously, and we have a very successful Youth Council, headed up by our Youth Mayor, which are voted for by young people in the borough.

This year elections are taking place for a Youth Mayor and a Youth Parliament Member, which has established links between the electoral services team, youth services and Politics and Citizenship Lead teachers across the borough. The Youth Mayor and Youth Parliament elections take place in the borough from 17 February to 18 March.

Electoral Services, and our communications team are supporting young people from the Youth Council to create materials about voter registration and voting, including traditional advertising and video formats, which will also be distributed to schools and young people's services.

When the care leavers hub was opened in October 2023, Electoral Services were invited by the Children and Young Peoples Services team to attend their Independent Living Skills Workshops to promote voter registration. The workshops have been well received and led to several of the young people attending becoming registered voters.

Electoral Services have also provided the hub with voter registration handout materials. The Council also actively supports the pan-London publicity campaign for local democracy week every October which encourages all Londoners to register to vote.

Question 3

From: Nick Smith, Resident

Question: *Many streets in SW6 are suffering from a lack of investment in new infrastructure, paving, lighting and street furniture. Could the council please consider a*

programme of street improvements in the SW6 area using funds raised from the fines gained from non-residents cutting through our residential streets?

Response from Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm: Thank you for your question. I am pleased to report back that the Council is in the process of developing a public realm programme for the South Fulham area, which includes proposed street infrastructure improvements in a variety of locations across the Wandsworth Bridge Corridor and in the East. This could include measures such as improved lighting, more greening and tree planting, sustainable drainage systems and improved pedestrian and cycle pathways. The Council will continue to work hand in hand with residents to create a vision that meets the aspirations of the local communities.

Under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, the application of any surplus from penalty charge notices is limited to meeting the cost of providing and maintaining parking facilities, highways improvement schemes, highway maintenance, public passenger transport services and certain other service categories.

As part of the Clean Air Neighbourhood projects in South Fulham, PCN surplus is ring-fenced for public realm improvements. This means the overall scheme is cost neutral to the council.

Question 4

From: Sarah (Surname not given), Resident

Question: *Given the recent attacks on Bishops Park and the warnings about a sexual predator around Townmead Road, please can you let us know what the Council is doing to protect residents in the borough, both in terms of personal safety and also on matters such as car and bike theft.*

Response from Councillor Rebecca Harvey, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety: We take the safety of our residents extremely seriously which is why, since 2018, H&F have made the largest investment in Community Safety in the borough's history. In 2021 we invested £4.6m annually to create the pioneering Law Enforcement Team, a team of 72 highly trained, fully uniformed officers deployed to our streets, estates and parks 24/7 to deter crime and tackle anti-social behaviour. Each officer carries a radio and body camera and is in live communication with our CCTV control room who can refer incidents to the Police in real time for a rapid response.

In addition to the Law Enforcement Team we created H&F's Gang, Violence & Exploitation Unit in September 2020 to tackle the issues of gang crime affecting young people and families in our borough. This further investment of £1m annually has meant that vulnerable young people across the borough have been kept safe and thanks to the intelligence that our officers have gathered gangs have been disrupted both here in H&F and in other parts of the country.

Further, in March 2022 we agreed £5.4m of capital funding to fund a four-year upgrade of H&F's extensive network of 1,800 CCTV cameras to ensure we have the most effective and intelligent CCTV infrastructure anywhere in London. I'm pleased to say that thanks to our network of cameras and the incredible professionalism of our CCTV operators these cameras have helped the Metropolitan Police secure the arrest of 535 people since April

2023. A further 4,896 incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour were captured by the cameras for evidential purposes.

To help ensure that women and girls are as safe as possible in our borough, H&F are currently consulting on the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order to prohibit sexual harassment anywhere in the borough. This ground-breaking approach would enable our Law Enforcement Officers to issue fixed penalty notices to anyone directing verbal or physical attention of a sexual nature towards anyone else with the aim of causing harassment, alarm or distress or to undermine their sense of safety in a public space. The consultation closes on 18th March following which we will review all the responses and consider whether to implement the order.

With regard to motor vehicle theft, we work closely with the Police to understand the trends across the borough and regularly install temporary CCTV cameras to help Police catch offenders. We also task our Law Enforcement Team to act as a deterrent alongside Police patrols in affected areas. We understand how critical it is to encourage people to cycle wherever possible and we recognise residents will only cycle if they have confidence their bike won't get stolen. Over the past year we have done regular bike marking events across the borough where residents can get their bikes security marked free of charge. To ensure there are enough places for people to securely lock their bikes we make sure to keep our on street bicycle racks free of abandoned bikes and other items. We've also installed 67 cycle hangars around the borough so far which is 402 secure cycle storage spaces in addition to the 82 secure spaces at Hammersmith Cycle Hub. We will be implementing an additional 8 cycle hangars in April and another 20 cycle parking spaces in Coomer Place Cycle Hub in the spring.

The Council are aware of the recent robberies in Bishop's Park and fully understand how distressing these must have been for the victims, their families and the wider community. Immediately following these incidents we worked with the Police to develop a patrolling plan for our LET officers and a number of plain clothes Police Officers which were stationed inside the park. These deployments were supported by the two new solar powered CCTV cameras which H&F recently installed in Bishop's Park. I'm pleased to say there have been no further robberies involving violence in Bishop's Park or the immediate area since. We are also aware of the very distressing series of sexual assaults in the south of the borough but can confirm that the Police have arrested an individual they believe to be the perpetrator and there have been no further reports of sexual assault in that area since.

Question 5

From: Andy Knowles, Resident

Question: *Could the council please confirm if they have had any approach from the Department for Transport as part of the "LTN Review" and what good news does the council have for them on the popularity and effectiveness of the local schemes?*

Response from Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm: We have not been approached by the Department for Transport with regard to the proposed "LTN Review". Unlike LTNs our Clean Air Neighbourhood projects don't block roads with physical closures. Our pioneering projects keep all streets accessible to all traffic and use

smart camera technology to prevent out-of-borough motorists from using residential side streets as cut throughs.

These measures were designed to end the decades old problem of pollution and congestion in the streets around Wandsworth Bridge Road, and I am pleased to report that this is what they are doing. The data, which is published in the report for next week's Cabinet meeting, shows traffic volumes down, congestion down and toxic air pollution down in the streets to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road. The data shows that there has been no displacement of traffic to the wider area.

The door-to-door opinion polling and online survey carried out by Opinium, one of Britain's leading market research agencies, shows that residents in the Clean Air Neighbourhood overwhelmingly support the measures we have introduced. As they have repeatedly told us in their own street letters of support, the trial has enhanced the quality of life on the streets and is making South Fulham an even more pleasant place to live.

Question 6

From: David Tarsh, Resident

Question: *At the last full council meeting, it was made clear that the survey commissioned from Opinium would be used to decide whether to keep the CAN traffic scheme, which has caused huge social division, harm to local businesses and which Greg Hands' survey has found to be deeply unpopular.*

The law requires LBHF to conduct a consultation if it is to retain the traffic scheme. And the law provides that a consultation is only legitimate when the Gunning Principles are met. However, the Opinium survey breaks the Market Research Society's Code of Conduct in several ways (its purpose was not transparent; its design and content were biased; and questions were leading); and the council has also breached the second provision of the Gunning Principles, ie: that there is sufficient information for the consultees to give 'intelligent consideration'.

"Intelligent consideration" is impossible when LBHF deliberately conceals the pivotal role of the survey in keeping the traffic scheme and, when LBHF refuses to answer repeated Fol questions asking how much money it has collected in fines and how air quality has changed on the Wandsworth Bridge Road and the New Kings Road.

So, will the council now provide full and frank answers to those questions; or will it continue refusing to do so, in which case, intelligent consideration is impossible; and its consultation is not legitimate?

Response from Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm: As promised to residents and businesses, the council commissioned a full and proper consultation on the Clean Air Neighbourhood trial. This included the survey and opinion polling carried out by Opinium, one of Britain's leading market research agencies. The consultation and engagement goes beyond the guidance set out by the Secretary of State for Transport.

Data collected, including air quality monitoring, traffic volumes, polling, surveys, economic spend, footfall numbers, and parking PCNs, has been published in the report for next

week's Cabinet meeting which will discuss the Clean Air Neighbourhood trial. Clean Air Neighbourhood PCN data will be published in the annual parking report.

Question 7

From: Caroline Shuffrey, Resident

Question: *In response to a resident's question at last month's council meeting the Council stated 'The council has commissioned Opinium, a member of the British Polling Council, to undertake one of the most comprehensive surveys ever seen in this country into a neighbourhood scheme. This is open to all residents, not just those within the Clean Air Neighbourhood area. Opinium have also been commissioned to carry out opinion polling both within the Clean Air Neighbourhood area and, again, across the borough'.*

A leaflet directing residents to answer the poll Opinium.com/hfsurvey/ was only delivered by Royal Mail to random households in a small area in Fulham, many addresses appeared to be missed out. The poll was not advertised in the Council's weekly newsletters or on Next Door. The poll could not be answered by those residents who were not online. The poll was only open for a short period, much shorter than for other surveys.

Given that such a comprehensive survey was undertaken why did the Council make so little effort to advertise the poll to the 80,000 plus households across the borough?

Response from Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm: A leaflet was sent to 15,000 homes south of the Fulham Road, a far wider circulation than the Clean Air Neighbourhood trial area which is taking place in the streets to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road. Given the considerable interest of residents and businesses, we also carried out opinion polling in the rest of the borough and opened the online survey to all who live and work in the borough. This was advertised through social media channels and the council website. This was the largest consultation and engagement ever carried out by this council on a neighbourhood project.

The door-to-door opinion polling and online survey carried out by Opinium, one of Britain's leading market research agencies, shows that residents in the Clean Air Neighbourhood overwhelmingly support the measures we have introduced. This was the largest consultation and engagement ever carried out by this council on a local neighbourhood project. As they have repeatedly told us in their own street letters of support, the trial has enhanced the quality of life on the streets and is making South Fulham an even more pleasant place to live.

Question 8

From: Donald Grant, Resident

Question: *The Traffic Camera Consulting Group is the largest residents' group in South Fulham, with several hundred members from over 100 Fulham streets. We advised your "Strategic Director of Environment" several times that due to this we wished to be involved in traffic and public realm issues being influenced by residents. That has not happened outside two staged meetings, and instead minority resident groups and individual residents routinely influence the punitive trial LTN details, and initiatives on Wandsworth Bridge*

Road. In the absence of any replies from your Director, when will we start to be involved in traffic and public realm discussions between the Council and other residents?

Response from Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm: The Traffic Camera Consulting Group like other groups, including those of residents and businesses, continues to be included in meetings to discuss the Clean Air Neighbourhood trial.

Question 9

From: Natalie Lindsay, Resident

Question: *In light of your Air Quality Assessment paper it is clear that urgent action needs to be taken to tackle the filthy air each and every resident of the borough is subjected to. We also know that to meet our Climate obligations by 2030 we must reduce car use by a minimum of 27%. Can the council lay out their proposed timetable to act on excessive volumes of vehicles in the borough (via CANS, LTNS, main road mitigations/de-prioritisations etc) and in parallel how quickly they plan to create safe segregated cycle lanes to help the families/residents that still drive to switch to active travel.*

Response from Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm: As you know as part of our clean air strategy, we are aiming with the support of local residents to reduce through traffic from local side roads, which will then enable us to tackle the traffic on the main roads.

These quieter streets along with interventions at main roads will provide a new network of cycle quietways for safer cycling across the borough. Segregated cycle lanes for main roads are planned in conjunction with TfL, with the next big intervention planned being Wood Lane.

Question 10

From: Hillary Cannon, Resident

Question: *Uber and other ride sharing apps - the more affordable options for private taxi service and therefore among the most frequently used by young people - do not have access through the LTN in south Fulham (or the CAN scheme, to use its common name), and because of this are regularly dropping young women at the top of Parson's Green and other points along Wandsworth Bridge Rd, forcing them to walk home alone at all hours of the night. Additionally, there has been at least one report of a known sexual predator operating in the exact area where these women are being forced to walk, and presumably other predators are already noticing that the neighbourhood is now rife with opportunities to harm young women, thanks to these cameras. This issue has been raised countless times in emails sent by myself and other women in the borough - all of which have been ignored.*

Does the Council plan to turn off the cameras until a viable, solution can be found that ensures the safety of women and girls, or does it plan to continue knowingly risking their lives in favour of this divisive and now demonstrably dangerous scheme?

Response from Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm: Thank you for raising this vital issue. The safety of women and girls, alongside that of all residents, is a priority for this council.

Since 2022, we have pursued a specific strategy to end violence against women and girls, based on a coordinated community response. At the heart of the strategy is the prevention of violence through interventions at multiple levels.

To protect all residents, we have also introduced the highest density of CCTV cameras in the country and have established our own, 72-strong Law Enforcement Teams to patrol every neighbourhood and work alongside the police.

As regards Uber and other ride-hailing apps, we have now signed an agreement with Uber on a technical solution which allows its drivers to go through the South Fulham cameras without penalty to pick up and drop off residents.

We are also in talks with other ride-hailing apps who have expressed strong interest in doing the same.

Question 11

From: Philip Jones, Resident

Question: *At the end of the Council's response to my question at the last Full Council meeting I said that I wanted to drill down into the Council's figures of the 1,780 affordable residential units that it has permitted to be built over the last ten years to determine how many were residential units with rental prices capped at 80% of local market rents and how many were low-cost social rent properties?*

Response from Councillor Andrew Jones, Cabinet Member for the Economy: Over the last ten years 1,780 affordable residential units have been permitted to be built in the borough. 68% (1,206) of these were social rented homes and 32% (574) were intermediate homes.

Question 12

From: Jacqueline Rivadeneira, Resident

Question: *Would Fulham & Hammersmith support that Builders and Construction Companies become licensed and formally Regulated to improve standards to reduce the number of rogue builders and companies and have an accountable and responsible industry?*

Response from Councillor Andrew Jones, Cabinet Member for the Economy: The Council is currently focusing on implementing the requirements of the Building Safety Regulator established under the Building Safety Act 2022, and the urgent improvements in the safety of buildings this will bring. If the government consult on the licensing of builders and construction firms in future as an additional regulatory regime we will give it due consideration and provide a detailed response once the details are known.

Question 13

From: Richard Cazenove, Resident

Question: *Re the CAN, thank you to Councillor Holder for providing traffic data from the Grimston Road monitoring camera. It shows vehicles using the street since the start of the CAN trial have increased by just under 9% to approximately 1,850/day. This compares to large reductions on other north-south routes – e.g. minus 58.8% on Broomhouse Lane. A demonstrable fall in “cut-through” traffic has been offset by a larger increase in “access” volumes. This is primarily due to out-of-borough cars/vans seeking a new route to the Hurlingham Club and 400 adjacent flats to avoid the Hurlingham Road CAN fine camera. The change in mix has had a much more detrimental impact in terms of traffic volumes on Ranelagh Avenue for reasons well understood by the Council.*

As discussed previously there are a number of ways this could be mitigated and following communication with the Director for Climate Change and Transport, we seem to have had breakthrough. He has confirmed that the Council is working on providing “automatic” immunity to Hurlingham Club traffic from the cameras – no form filling, no pre-registration etc. I believe there are some specific points to be agreed (e.g. which cameras the exemptions will apply to) and technology to be refined, but with this in mind when do you expect the modification will be implemented? The willingness to act on feedback is both encouraging and much appreciated.

Response from Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Officers are actively working with the suppliers on the of an upgraded system, this is planned for early summer this year.

Question 14

From: Caroline Brooman-White, Resident

Question: *Two years ago Councillor Harcourt wrote to me saying initial pollution data for Wandsworth Bridge Road has shown it is not significantly different to the side streets. Is this still true?*

Response from Councillor Sharon Holder, Cabinet Member for Public Realm: The

relevant pollution data can be found in the March 2024 Cabinet report:

<https://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=70032>