

COUNCIL AGENDA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 10 July 2024



The Mayor – Councillor Patricia Quigley
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Daryl Brown

ADDISON

Jacolyn Daly (L)
Ross Melton (L)

AVONMORE

Laura Janes (L)
David Morton (I)

BROOK GREEN

Stala Antoniades (L)
Adam Peter Lang (L)

COLLEGE PARK & OLD
OAK

Wesley Harcourt (L)
Bora Kwon (L)
Alexandra Sanderson (L)

CONINGHAM

Lisa Homan (L)
Rowan Ree (L)
Rory Vaughan (L)

FULHAM REACH

Lucy Richardson (L)
Omid Miri (L)
Nikos Souslous (L)

FULHAM TOWN

Victoria Brocklebank-
Fowler (C)
Andrew Dinsmore (C)

GROVE

Stephen Cowan (L)
Helen Rowbottom (L)

HAMMERSMITH
BROADWAY

Emma Apthorp (L)
Patricia Quigley (L)

LILLIE

Ben Coleman (L)
Sharon Holder (L)

MUNSTER

Adronie Alford (C)
Alex Karmel (C)
Dominic Stanton (C)

PALACE & HURLINGHAM

Aliya Afzal-Khan (C)
Jackie Borland (C)
Amanda Lloyd-Harris (C)

PARSONS GREEN &
SANDFORD

Jose Afonso (C)
Adrian Pascu-Tulbure (C)

RAVENSCOURT

Liz Collins (L)
Patrick Walsh (L)

SANDS END

Paul Alexander (L)
Ashok Patel (L)
Ann Rosenberg (L)

SHEPHERDS BUSH
GREEN

Zarar Qayyum (L)
Mercy Umeh (L)

WALHAM GREEN

Trey Campbell-Simon (L)
Genevieve Nwaogbe (L)

WENDELL PARK

Rebecca Harvey (L)
Asif Siddique (L)

WEST KENSINGTON

Daryl Brown (L)
Florian Chevoppe-Verdier
(L)
Sally Taylor (L)

WHITE CITY

Andrew Jones (L)
Natalia Perez (L)
Frances Umeh (L)

WORMHOLT

Max Schmid (L)
Nicole Trehy (L)

SUMMONS

Councillors of the London Borough of
Hammersmith & Fulham
are requested to attend the
Meeting of the Council at 7.00pm
on Wednesday 10 July 2024
at the Irish Cultural Centre,
5 Black's Road, Hammersmith,
W6 9DT

You can watch the meeting live on YouTube:

[youtube.com/hammersmithandfulham](https://www.youtube.com/hammersmithandfulham)

Public attendance

This meeting is open to the public, but spaces are limited. Please contact David.Abbott@lbhf.gov.uk if you would like to attend.

Accessibility

The meeting will have BSL interpreters on screen in the meeting room and on the livestream. For wheelchair users there is level access from the street to the meeting room. There are accessible toilets on the ground floor of the venue. Please contact David.Abbott@lbhf.gov.uk if you have any additional accessibility requirements.

02 July 2024

Sharon Lea, Chief Executive

Full Council Agenda

10 July 2024

<u>Item</u>		<u>Pages</u>
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
	<p>If a Councillor has a disclosable pecuniary interest in a particular item, whether or not it is entered in the Authority's register of interests, or any other significant interest which they consider should be declared in the public interest, they should declare the existence and, unless it is a sensitive interest as defined in the Member Code of Conduct, the nature of the interest at the commencement of the consideration of that item or as soon as it becomes apparent.</p> <p>At meetings where members of the public are allowed to be in attendance and speak, any Councillor with a disclosable pecuniary interest or other significant interest may also make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter. The Councillor must then withdraw immediately from the meeting before the matter is discussed and any vote taken.</p> <p>Where Members of the public are not allowed to be in attendance and speak, then the Councillor with a disclosable pecuniary interest should withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is under consideration. Councillors who have declared other significant interests should also withdraw from the meeting if they consider their continued participation in the matter would not be reasonable in the circumstances and may give rise to a perception of a conflict of interest.</p> <p>Councillors are not obliged to withdraw from the meeting where a dispensation to that effect has been obtained from the Standards Committee.</p>	
3.	MINUTES	6 - 17
	<p>To approve the minutes of the Annual and Special Council meetings held on 22 May 2024.</p>	
4.	MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
5.	YOUTH COUNCIL	
6.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)	18
7.	<u>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>	
7.1	REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION	19 - 29

8.	<u>SPECIAL MOTIONS</u>	
8.1	SPECIAL MOTION 1 - THE ETHICAL IMPLEMENTATION AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM	30
8.2	SPECIAL MOTION 2 - CLIMATE CHANGE	31
8.3	SPECIAL MOTION 3 - H&F LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAM	32
8.4	SPECIAL MOTION 4 - COUNCIL-OWNED PROPERTIES LEASEHOLDERS' REPAIR BILLS	33
8.5	SPECIAL MOTION 5 - UK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION	34
9.	<u>INFORMATION REPORTS - TO NOTE</u>	
9.1	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT BOARD AND POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEES 2023/24	35 - 58
9.2	PETITIONS MONITORING REPORT 2023/24	59 - 61

COUNCIL MINUTES

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024



PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor Patricia Quigley
Deputy Mayor Councillor Daryl Brown

Councillors:

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

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

7.08pm – The Chief Executive invited formal nominations for the office of Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

Councillor Max Schmid proposed, seconded by Councillor Genevieve Nwaogbe, that Councillor Patricia Quigley be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

There being no further nominations, the proposal was put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendation was declared **CARRIED**.

7.09pm – RESOLVED

That Councillor Patricia Catherine Mary Quigley was duly elected Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, following which she made the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the statutory undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

7.11pm – The Mayor then made a brief speech thanking her constituents, her fellow Councillors, and her family for their support.

She announced that she was appointing Fulham Reach Boat Club, Action on Disability, and Solidarity Sports as her charities for the Mayoral year.

The Mayor announced that she was appointing Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier to act as her Consort for the Mayoral year.

The Mayor then announced that she had appointed Councillor Daryl Brown to be Deputy Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year and she had appointed Mr Benito Brown to act as her Deputy Mayor's Consort.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

7.20pm – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ben Coleman, Sally Taylor, Ann Rosenberg, Paul Alexander, Nikos Souslous, Patrick Walsh, Jackie Borland, Andrew Dinsmore, and David Morton.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

7.20pm – There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

7.20pm – The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

5. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ofsted gives 'Outstanding' rating to H&F Children's Services

On behalf of the Council the Mayor thanked the Council's Children's Services team for achieving an 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in a report published on the 16th of May. The report found that, "children living in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham receive excellent services [and] highly effective and committed leaders have continued to make improvements."

Speeches were made by Councillors Alex Sanderson (for the Administration), and Alex Karmel (for the Opposition).

Death of former Councillor, Leader of the Council and Freeman of the Borough – Barrie Stead

With great sadness, the Mayor informed the Council of the death of former Councillor and Freeman of the Borough Mr Barrie Stead on Monday 18 March

2024. Mr Stead was elected as a White City Councillor in 1971, a position he held until 1978. During his time as the Leader of the Council, he enabled the founding of Riverside Studios Arts Centre, the rebuilding of the Lyric Theatre, and the acquisition of Fulham Palace. He was awarded Freeman of the Borough in recognition of his selfless service to the Borough.

Speeches were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan, Bora Kwon, Liz Collins, Lisa Homan (for the Administration), Alex Karmel (for the Opposition), and the Mayor.

Death of former Councillor – Dr Jenny Vaughan

With much regret, the Mayor informed the Council of the death of former Councillor Dr Jenny Vaughan on Sunday 31 March 2024. Dr Vaughan was elected as Councillor for Walham ward from 1998 to 2002, and Sands End ward from 2002 to 2006. Dr Vaughan also served on the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Panel and Leadership Scrutiny Panel during this time.

Speeches were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan, Lisa Homan, Rory Vaughan (for the Administration), Amanda Lloyd-Harris (for the Opposition), and the Mayor.

The Mayor then led the Council in a minute of silence in memory of Barrie Stead and Dr Jenny Vaughan.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Party Appointments for the 2024-25 Municipal Year

8.03pm – The report on the appointments made by the party groups on the Council for 2024/25 was noted.

6.2 Review of the Constitution

8.03pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The report and recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

8.03pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council approve the following changes to Lead Member roles:
 - a. Create a new Lead Member for Land Development as detailed in Appendix 1.
 - b. Create a new Lead Member for Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Migrants as detailed in Appendix 1.

- c. Amend the role profile for the Lead Member for Wellbeing and Early Access to Support as detailed in Appendix 1.
 - d. Delete the Lead Member for Youth Advancement role.
2. That Full Council approve the changes to the membership and terms of reference of the Pensions Fund Committee, Standards Committee, and Standards Committee Sub-Committees in Appendix 2.
 3. That Full Council approve the changes to the Children’s Services Register of Authorities detailed in Appendix 3.

6.3 Appointment by the Leader of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet

8.04pm – The report on the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members was noted.

6.4 Allocation of Seats and Proportionality on Committees

8.04pm – The report on the allocation of seats and proportionality on Committees was noted.

6.5 Appointment of Chairs and Committee Memberships

8.04pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The report and recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

8.04pm – RESOLVED

1. That the Council agrees the appointments of Chairs and Memberships of Regulatory, Policy and Accountability and other Committees under its Constitution for the Municipal Year 2024/25, as set out in Appendix 1.
2. This Council also notes their respective portfolios and terms of reference, as set out in the constitution.

6.6 Council Appointments to Local Government Organisations and Outside Bodies

8.04pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
-------------	------------------

Minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting as a correct record of the proceedings and any amendments arising will be recorded in the minutes of that subsequent meeting.

AGAINST: 0
NOT VOTING: 0

The report and recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

8.05pm – RESOLVED

1. That the Council's appointments to Local Government Organisations for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix 1, be agreed.
2. That the Council's appointments to Outside Bodies for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix 2, be agreed.

6.7 Adoption of a New Member's Code of Conduct

8.05pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR: UNANIMOUS
AGAINST: 0
NOT VOTING: 0

The report and recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

8.05pm – RESOLVED

That Full Council:

1. Approve the Member Code of Conduct attached as appendix 1 for adoption.
2. Approve the list of sanctions at Appendix 2 available if a Councillor breaches the Code.
3. Adopt the LGA's Guidance on the Member Model Code of Conduct Complaints Handling (the "Guidance on complaints handling") at Appendix 3.
4. Approve Arrangements for dealing with complaints alleging a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct at Appendix 4.

6.8 Members Allowances Scheme Annual Review

8.06pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillor Rowan Ree (for the Administration) and Councillor Alex Karmel (for the Opposition).

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR: 32
AGAINST: 0
NOT VOTING: 8

The report and recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

8.13pm – RESOLVED

1. That the recommendations of the Independent Panel on the remuneration of Councillors in London (January 2024) outlined in Appendix 2 be noted.
2. That the Members' Allowances Scheme 2024/25 as set out in the report and attached as Appendix 1, be approved.
3. That the sickness, maternity, paternity, shared parental, neonatal care and adoption leave outlined in Appendix 3, be adopted.
4. That the Members' Allowances annual uplift be in line with the average basic allowance paid across London for the previous year.

6.9 The Leader's Annual Report (Verbal)

8.13pm – The Council received a verbal report from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan. The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler, made a speech on behalf of the Opposition.

7. INFORMATION REPORTS - TO NOTE

There were no information reports to this meeting of the Council.

7.1 Special Urgency Decisions - Monitoring Report

8.22pm – The monitoring report was noted.

Meeting started: 7.04 pm
Meeting ended: 8.23 pm

Mayor

COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024



PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor Patricia Quigley
Deputy Mayor Councillor Daryl Brown

Councillors:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

8.51pm – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ben Coleman, Sally Taylor, Ann Rosenberg, Paul Alexander, Nikos Souslous, Patrick Walsh, Jackie Borland, Andrew Dinsmore, Jose Afonso, and David Morton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

8.51pm – There were no declarations of interest.

3. FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

8.51 – The report and recommendations were formally 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

Following the vote, speeches on the report were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan, Emma Apthorp, Andrew Jones, and Rory Vaughan (for the Administration) – and Amanda Lloyd-Harris (for the Opposition).

Tara Flood, Kate Betteridge, Victoria Brignell, Ali Buhdeima, Martin Doyle, Mike Gannon, David Isaac, Ramona Williams, Jane Wilmot OBE, and Kevin Caulfield gave speeches of thanks.

9.49pm – RESOLVED

That the Council confer the “Freedom of the Borough” of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham” on the following members of the H&F Disabled People’s Commission in recognition of their achievements and contributions to the wellbeing of the residents of the borough:

Tara Flood

Tara is a disability rights activist. She was Director at the Alliance for Inclusive Education and has been involved with the disability rights movement at a grassroots level for many years. She is committed to creating social and political change, that will deliver equality for all Disabled people at a local, regional, national, and international level.

For over 20 years, Tara has worked with local and national organisations led by Disabled people, allied organisations, voluntary organisations and groups, statutory agencies and government departments, both in a personal and professional capacity. She is committed to the voices and experiences of all Disabled people being at the heart of discussions and decision-making about our lives.

Tara is a former chairperson of Hammersmith & Fulham Action on Disability, member of Hammersmith & Fulham Coalition against Cuts, and a trustee of Inclusion London. Tara currently works as Strategic Lead for Co-Production for H&F Council.

Kevin Caulfield

Kevin Caulfield worked at H&F Council for eight years and played a huge role in supporting Disabled residents. He worked as policy officer to the Disabled People's Commission, which produced the 'Nothing about Disabled people without Disabled People' report, and the eight recommendations on co-production that have become the foundation for co-production across all the council's work. He then took on the role of Strategic Lead for Co-production (job sharing with Tara Flood).

Kate Betteridge

Kate’s professional background was in the development of information to support people with long-term conditions to make informed decisions about their health and lifestyle choices.

She has lived in Hammersmith since 2002.

Victoria Brignell

Victoria has been Chair and a trustee of Action on Disability. She worked full-time as a radio producer and is a tetraplegic wheelchair-user.

Victoria is an ambassador for the international disability charity CBM UK, a patron of the Friends of Sunera Foundation, and secretary of Hammersmith & Fulham Amnesty International group.

Previously she was a governor of a White City primary school for eight years. In 2013 she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Anglia Ruskin University for being a disability champion.

She has also been an active Co-opted Member on the Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Accountability Committee since 2018.

Ali Buhdeima

Ali was deaf born and raised in London. His family are all hearing. Going to a mainstream school with a deaf unit helped him develop his communication skills with both hearing and deaf people. He considers himself an advocate for deaf people who may find this to be an obstacle.

As a disabled people's commissioner, he wanted to improve support and services for deaf people and make British Sign Language more accessible.

Martin Doyle

Martin served as Chair of Safety Net – People First (SNPF). SNPF is a charity and self-advocacy group run for, and by, people with learning disabilities. Its priorities are to raise awareness of our rights and the issues faced by people with learning disabilities. They do this by working with other Deaf & Disabled People's Organisations, delivering workshops and having a presence in the wider community.

He joined the commission because he wanted to make Hammersmith & Fulham a better place for Disabled people, particularly people with learning disabilities and to make the area more accessible, including buildings, information and services.

Mike Gannon

Michael was born in Hammersmith & Fulham and has lived in the borough for most of his life. Up until his retirement he worked as a trade journalist, predominately specialising in the built environment and transport issues. His experience, both as a journalist and a Disabled person, informed his contributions to the Disabled People's Commission, especially in looking at accessibility and facilities in the built environment.

David Isaac

David volunteered for a local charity befriending the elderly in the borough, and was also a volunteer and speaker for the Guide Dogs organisation as well as being a member of the Earls Court Redevelopment Taskforce set up by H&F Council.

He joined the Tenants' and Residents' Association of the West Kensington Estate. Before losing his sight, he worked in the design industry for 20+ years. He has been registered blind since 2013 and has lived in Hammersmith for the past four years.

David now works for H&F as a Co-production Coordinator in Residents Services.

Ramona Williams

Ramona lives in Hammersmith and has volunteered with many different organisations to help people who are blind or partially sighted to become confident and independent in their own home or out and about. She helps people to have a much better understanding of a how people live with blindness or partial sight.

Ramona set up her own social enterprise, Eyes For Success CIC to carry on the work she has done volunteering.

Jane Wilmot OBE

Jane is deaf and lived in Hammersmith & Fulham for over 30 years. She has worked with disability organisations at national, London and local level. Jane was a trustee at Action on Disability for 25 years and a lay member for health commissioners who procured healthcare for Hammersmith & Fulham residents.

She is passionate about promoting co-production with patients and carers to improve health services for local people. Jane chaired the Disability Forum Planning Group, advising the council on ensuring access for Disabled people on major planning applications.

Jane also co-chaired the Civic Campus Disabled Residents Team which championed co-production, accessibility, and inclusion for disabled individuals. The team was instrumental in shaping an accessible and inclusive environment, ensuring a welcoming experience for all visitors, staff, and residents. Their proactive approach in addressing accessibility issues early in the planning stages garnered recognition at the 2020 Planning Awards for Highly Commended Stakeholder Engagement in Planning.

Meeting started: 8.51 pm
Meeting ended: 9.49 pm

Mayor

Minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting as a correct record of the proceedings and any amendments arising will be recorded in the minutes of that subsequent meeting.

Agenda Item 6

Full Council Public Questions – 10 July 2024

Question 1

From: Philip Jones, Resident

To: The Cabinet Member for Economy, Councillor Andrew Jones

What tools and metrics does the Council use to measure local critical need for low-cost social housing?

Question 2

From: Diego Bertoni, Resident

To: The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan

I'm the Chairman of the Tenant's and Resident's Association at Verulam House. LBHF is the Freeholder in our block of flats. We are facing a huge bill of £18k-£22k per flat for windows replacement and associated works. The Council has not performed a survey before starting this works and is not able to provide the signed contract in relation to such project. This would be unacceptable in private environment: incurring £1.1M expenses without a proper survey on the need of works and proper documental evidence. How is the council going to remedy to such poor approach to major works for Verulam House?

Report to: Full Council

Date: 10/07/2024

Subject: Review of the Constitution

Report of: Councillor Stephen Cowan – The Leader of the Council

Report author: David Abbott, Head of Governance

Responsible Director: Grant Deg, Director for Legal Services

SUMMARY

This report asks Council to note changes to senior officer job titles and roles.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Full Council notes the changes to senior officer job titles detailed in paragraph 5 of the report.
-

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Doing things with local residents, not to them	Regular reviews of the constitution help to ensure a high standard of governance across the Council.

Financial Impact

The recommendations in this report have no direct financial implications.

Alex Pygram, Head of Finance, Corporate Services - signed on 2 July 2023

Legal Implications

The Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to have and maintain a Constitution. The recommendations in this report reflect changes to the roles and job titles of senior officers which need to be set out in the Constitution. These follow the recent corporate redesign.

John Sharland, Assistant Director of Legal Services - 2 July 2023

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

The Council's Constitution: www.lbhf.gov.uk/constitution

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. The Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure business is conducted in an efficient, transparent, and accountable manner.
2. The Monitoring Officer has a duty to keep the Constitution under review and has delegated authority to amend the Constitution where there has been a change in law, job title, structure, rearrangement of job responsibilities or for general administrative convenience. All extensive changes to the Constitution, however, must be approved by Full Council.
3. The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the Council's Constitution continues to fulfil its stated purposes, as set out in Article 1 of the Constitution.

Reasons for Decision

4. The Council's Monitoring Officer is required to review the Council's Constitution each year to ensure that its aims and principles are given full effect in accordance with Article 14 of the Constitution.

Corporate Redesign and Changes to Senior Officer Job Titles and Roles

5. Following a corporate redesign, the Council has moved from 6 to 3 directorates – People, Place and Finance & Corporate Services.
6. Below are the changes to senior officer job titles and roles which have taken place since the previous Full Council meeting.
7. The following posts have been created to lead the new directorates:
 - Executive Director of People
 - Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services
 - Executive Director of Place
8. The full breakdown of responsibilities is attached as appendix 1.
9. The following posts have been deleted:
 - Strategic Director of Independent Living (DASS)
 - Strategic Director of Economy
 - Strategic Director of Environment
 - Strategic Director of Children's Services
 - Strategic Director of Finance

- Strategic Director, Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Services

10. The new management team consists of:

H&F Management Structure

Sharon Lea	Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service
Bram Kainth	Executive Director of Place
Jacqui McShannon	Executive Director of People
Sukvinder Kalsi	Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Grant Deg	The Director for Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

11. The changes above will be updated in the constitution following the July meeting.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Responsibilities of the Chief Executive and Chief Officers

Responsibilities of the Chief Executive and Chief Officers

1. The Chief Executive

1.1 The Chief Executive shall:

- (a) be the Head of the Paid Service in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- (b) have authority over all other officers so far as is necessary for the efficient management and execution of the Council's affairs, functions or services except:
 - (i) where officers are exercising specific responsibilities imposed on them under statute;
 - (ii) that where the professional judgment or expertise of a Chief Officer is involved the officer shall have full opportunity to explain their views.
- (c) Exercise overall corporate management and operational responsibility, including overall management responsibility for all officers.
- (d) Provide professional advice to all parties in the decision-making process.
- (e) Have responsibility, together with the Monitoring Officer, for a system of record keeping for all the Council's decisions.
- (f) Represent the Council on partnership and external bodies (as required by statute or the Council).
- (g) Discharge the functions of Electoral Registration Officer and be responsible for elections.
- (h) make decisions on employee terms and conditions, (including procedures for dismissal).
- (i) discharge those functions under Section 138 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972, (powers of principal Councils with respect to emergencies or disasters) as Head of Paid Service (Gold Command) appointed by the London Borough Councils from time to time to respond to an incident requiring a "Level 2" response (single site or wide-area disruptive challenge requiring a co-ordinated response by relevant agencies on behalf of the Councils).
- (j) be responsible for the Council's responsibilities as an employer under Health and Safety legislation.

2. The Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services shall:

- (a) act as the statutory Chief Financial Officer, under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- (b) be responsible for effective financial administration throughout the Council.

- (c) be responsible for all arrangements concerning financial planning, financial control, banking, accounts, income, insurances, investments, bonds, loans, leasing, borrowing (including methods of borrowing), trust and pension funds (within the scope of the Council's pension fund investment policies that are approved by the Superannuation Committee), the payment of creditors and the payment of salaries, wages, pension scheme benefits and gratuities.
- (d) Provide leadership, advice and support to Members, SLT Directors, Assistant Directors, and managers across the authority on all procurement, contract management and other commercial matters.
- (e) be responsible for the provisions of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended) in respect of the need to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the Council's accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper internal audit practices.
- (f) to be responsible for the calculation of Council tax levels as part of Budget setting.
- (g) manage the revenue service - administration and collection of Council Tax and National Non- Domestic Rates (Business Rates) and collection of corporate debt
- (h) manage the benefits service - administration and payment of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support including free school meals and clothing grants
- (i) develop and implement a Council customer services strategy including business transformation and channel shift (contact channel improvement programme)
- (j) Manage the democratic services functions in order to ensure the efficient management of the Council's decision-making processes including arrangements for all meetings of the Council and its committees, and electoral registration and elections.
- (k) Deliver the Council's vision and strategic objectives and have overall responsibility for all matters relating to the delivery of housing in the borough.
- (l) Arrange for the effective operation of the Council's responsibilities for housing, including the recommending of strategies for all aspects of housing related activity, relationships with other public sector organisations, social landlords and with the private sector.
- (m) Approve applications for housing and allocate properties in accordance with the Council's established allocations policy.
- (n) Be responsible for commissioning services relating to the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock and administer the HomeBuy Scheme as defined under Housing Act 1985 (as amended).
- (o) Be responsible for the delivery of compliance against health and safety in relation to the council's role as a landlord to its housing stock.

- (p) Make arrangements to provide housing advice and support to prevent homelessness and process statutory homelessness applications.
- (q) Manage the contact services – revenues, benefits, corporate and out of hours contact centres, reception, complaints (dealing with stage 1, 2 and Ombudsman complaints, ASC and CHS statutory complaints, councillor and MP enquiries, FOI, SARs and GDPR), pay & park and accessible transport (dealing with blue badges, taxi cards, parking permits and cash payments).
- (r) be the Proper Officer of the Council in relation to the following statutory provisions:

Local Government Act 1972

- (1) Section 115(2) - the officer to whom all money due from every officer employed by the Council shall be paid.
- (2) Section 146 - the officer to make any statutory declaration in connection with the transfer of securities.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

- (3) Section 30 - the officer to write off overpayment of salary, allowances or pensions which occur as a result of the death of an employee or pensioner.

Local Government Finance Act 1988

- (4) Section 114-115 - the officer responsible for reporting on unlawful expenditure decisions or where expenditure exceeds the resources available.

3. The Executive Director of People shall:

- (a) act as the statutory officer under section 18(1) of the Children's Act 2004.
- (b) be responsible for the Council's functions as set out in the Children Act 2004, in particular building and leading the arrangements for inter-agency co-operation.
- (c) be responsible for children in need, child protection, adoption, fostering, education, Youth Justice, cared for children, care experienced young people, and special educational needs.
- (d) exercise powers of intervention for those schools which are subject to a formal warning, which have serious weaknesses, or require special measures.
- (e) administer the arrangements for admission and exclusion appeals.
- (f) promote the educational achievement of looked after children.
- (g) be responsible together with the Director of Independent Living (DASS) transition service for disabled children.

- (h) exercise the functions of the Council and act as the statutory officer for adult social services as set out in section 6(A1) of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 as amended by section 18(1) of the Children Act 2004.
- (i) exercise the functions of the Council with regard to, powers and duties of an Adult Services Authority under all relevant legislation including, but not limited to social services, safeguarding adults, Mental Health services including the deprivation of liberty and Health functions in particular building and leading the arrangements for inter-agency co-operation.
- (j) arrange for the effective operation of the Council's responsibilities for the assessment, purchase and provision of social care services for adults including Disabled people, older people, people with mental health needs, people with substance misuse problems, adults with learning disabilities (including people with autistic spectrum disorder and a dual diagnosis incorporating mental health needs and learning disability) and people with HIV/AIDS.
- (k) Manage commissioning across Children's, Social Care and Public Health.
- (l) Provide leadership, advice and support to Members, Executive Directors, Directors, and managers across the authority on all commissioning matters.
- (m) Promote health improvement in the borough and participate as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board for the Borough.
- (n) To lead and oversee Public Health and support the Director of Public Health.

4. The Executive Director of Place shall

- (a) arrange for the effective operation of the Council's responsibilities for the regulation of waste management and cleansing of streets.
- (b) be responsible for the borough's parks and cemeteries.
- (c) be responsible for all matters relating to the Council's functions relating to crime and disorder.
- (d) exercise the functions of the Council under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, save for the secondment of officers to the Youth Offending Team as required by section 39(5).
- (e) be responsible for emergency planning and business continuity and undertake executive powers where necessary in the event of a civil emergency.
- (f) take action and operate all legislative and administrative procedures in relation to highways, transportation, road traffic, town and country planning and building control. This includes exercising the functions of the Council as highways, transportation and road traffic authority and the taking of all enforcement action in relation to transportation and highways.

- (g) operate the Council's on street and parking enforcement services.
- (h) exercise all licensing functions and other matters an officer is empowered to discharge under the Licensing Act 2003, the Gambling Act 2005 or any Regulations issued in relation to those Acts and any regulations amending, consolidating or replacing them.
- (i) exercise the functions of the Council relating to environmental health. This includes powers relating to: food safety, health and safety, noise and other nuisances, air quality, contaminated land and private water supplies, and housing and private land where enforcement is the responsibility of the Council.
- (j) be responsible for the Prevent Channel Panel – In compliance with the statutory requirements set out under sections 36 – 41 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, H&F has a Channel panel in place for its area and has regard to the Channel duty guidance 2020. The designated Channel chair/deputy chair functions are fulfilled by Assistant Director, Adult Safeguarding. The Channel panel function in H&F is discharged through a joint panel with RBKC.
- (k) Approve the allocation of funds to individual projects to be supported through regeneration programmes.
- (l) Be responsible for new affordable housing, through direct delivery, in partnership and through the creation and management of Council housing companies and other delivery vehicles
- (m) exercise Planning and conservation powers in accordance with the relevant legislation. Delegation includes powers to determine applications for planning permission, advertisement consent, Conservation Area Consent, Listed Building Consent, Certificates of Lawfulness and Prior Approval, application for the Council's own development and Hazardous Substances consent, to take planning enforcement action, and respond to appeals, except where otherwise directed by the relevant legislation.
- (n) Preparation and review of Planning policy documents, meeting our Duty to Cooperate and Neighbourhood Planning responsibilities, responding to National and Regional planning policy, and maintaining statutory registers
- (o) Preparation and review of the H&F Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule
- (p) Entering into or varying S106 Legal Agreements and ongoing monitoring of s.106 agreement.
- (q) Deliver the Council's vision and strategic objectives and have overall responsibility for all matters relating to the delivery of regeneration in the borough.
- (r) Be responsible for Council initiatives relating to the economic development and skills and adult and community learning
- (s) Deliver economic growth projects and programmes
- (t) Deliver the arts and culture strategy, and associated projects and programmes

- (u) Be responsible for Building and Property Management.
- (v) Be responsible for the Council's Building control and regulation, control over demolition functions and also its roles for dangerous structures
- (w) Take action and operate all legislative and administrative procedures in relation to the regulation of street trading.
- (x) Be responsible for Leisure services.
- (y) Be responsible for Library services and comply with the statutory duty for provision of this service.
- (z) Manage policy relating to events in public spaces.
- (aa) Be the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the Regulatory Investigation Powers Act 2000 to ensure compliance with legislation and use across the Local Authority.

Other Officers

5. The Director for Legal Services shall

- (a) take any action to implement any decision taken by or on behalf of the authority, including the signature or service of statutory and other notices and any document.
- (b) institute, defend, or participate in any legal proceedings in any case where such action is necessary, in the view of the Assistant Director, Legal Services, to give effect to decisions of the authority or in any case where the Assistant Director, Legal Services considers that such action is necessary to protect the authority's interests.
- (c) with the agreement of the relevant Chief Officer, to settle or compromise legal proceedings (including threatened proceedings, arbitrations, adjudications, public inquiries and potential Employment Tribunal matters) brought by or against the Council, including entering pleas of guilty in criminal proceedings on such terms as they consider appropriate.
- (d) with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer, instruct counsel, solicitors or other experts for legal proceedings, public inquiries, or other matters involving the authority.
- (e) enter objections to any proposal affecting the authority, the authority's area or the inhabitants of the authority's area.
- (f) lodge appeals against any adverse finding against the Council in any tribunal or court.
- (g) sign any document necessary to give effect to any resolution of the Council, the Cabinet, a Cabinet Member or any Committee or Sub-Committee or Strategic Leadership Team member acting within delegated power.
- (h) Shall be signatory of settlement agreements for employment matters subject to consultation with the Assistant Director People and Talent,

except for Chief Officer's settlements which shall also require consultation with the Head of Paid Service and Strategic Director of Finance.

- (s) make appointments to outside bodies in accordance with the nominations made by the Party Whips.

Director of Public Health

- 6. The Director of Public Health shall be responsible for the Council's functions relating to Public Health Services, as follows:
 - a. To be authorised to agree expenditure on relevant public health budgets subject to the Council's constitution. Such authority can be delegated in writing to others.
 - b. To lead on personnel decisions, including recruitment, appraisal and disciplinary decisions.
 - c. To report to the Chief Executive and the relevant Cabinet members and Policy and Accountability Committee on public health matters.
 - d. To exercise the statutory functions of the Director of Public Health. These responsibilities may be delegated in writing to named public health consultants.
 - e. To report to the Council's Executive Director of People on the performance of the function and to support the accountability of the Chief Executive for grant expenditure.
 - f. To ensure that the Council has up-to-date plans, meeting statutory requirements and the demands of good practice.
 - g. To be the officer responsible for leadership, expertise and formal advice on all aspects of the Public Health Service.
 - h. To provide advice to the public in any period where local health protection advice is likely to be necessary or appropriate, in conjunction with the Council's communications team.
 - i. To promote action across the life course, working together with Council colleagues and the NHS.
 - j. To work through local resilience fora to ensure effective and tested plans are in place for the wider health sector to protect the local population from risks to public health.
 - k. To work with local criminal justice partners and Police and Crime Commissioners to promote safer communities.
 - l. To work with the wider civil society to engage local partners in fostering improved health and wellbeing.
 - m. To be an active member of the Health and Wellbeing Board, advising on and contributing to the development of joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies, and commissioning appropriate services accordingly.
 - n. To take responsibility for the management of the Council's public health services, with professional responsibility and accountability for their effectiveness, availability and value for money.
 - o. To play a full part in the Council's action to meet the needs of vulnerable children, for example by linking effectively with the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

- p. To contribute to and influence the work of NHS Commissioners, ensuring a whole system approach across the public sector.

Agenda Item 8.1

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 1 – THE ETHICAL IMPLEMENTATION AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Dominic Stanton
- (ii) Councillor Aliya Afzal-Khan

Recognizing the potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving operational efficiency, public safety, and service delivery,

Acknowledging the deep-seated concerns among constituents regarding the potential implications of AI on their civil liberties, especially their right to privacy,

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring that technological advancements do not undermine fundamental human rights or lead to potential misuse,

This Council proposes the following resolutions:

1. Prior to the adoption or further implementation of any AI-powered system, the Council should commission an independent, comprehensive review to assess the system's impact on individual privacy rights, civil liberties, and potential societal implications.
2. The Council should develop and maintain a clear and transparent set of guidelines for the ethical use of AI, which includes provisions to:
 - Avoid misuse of technology
 - Ensure accuracy in decision-making
 - Provide a robust appeals process for the public
3. Active public engagement is paramount. The Council should establish channels for residents to voice their concerns, ask questions, and provide feedback on AI implementations, fostering an inclusive and transparent decision-making process.
4. An oversight committee, drawing expertise from fields including technology, law, ethics, and civil rights, should be established. This committee's role will be to evaluate, monitor, and ensure that all AI systems operate within ethical and legal parameters set by the Council and broader legislative bodies.
5. Financial transparency is vital. The Council should ensure that any revenue or savings generated from AI systems is reported transparently and reinvested into initiatives directly benefiting the residents, such as infrastructure improvements, public safety measures, and community development.

In conclusion, the Council reaffirms its commitment to harnessing the potential of AI while prioritizing the protection of the rights and interests of its constituents.

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 2 – CLIMATE CHANGE

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Wesley Harcourt
- (ii) Councillor Frances Umeh

This Council notes the leading work being done by its Climate Unit to deal with the Climate Emergency beginning with its ambitious Climate and Ecology Strategy that was rated the best in London and in the top ten in the UK. This Council notes the positive steps taken to implement this plan with the assistance of resident climate change commissioner in running the Climate Change Strategy Implementation Group. We note that as this Council moves ahead with its ambitious plans to deal with climate change the Government has announced a U-turn on its own key green targets.

This Council further notes that while it has introduced over 2,500 Electric Vehicle Charge Points in the borough, more than any other borough, the Government has moved in the opposite direction and rowed back on its policy on stopping the production of petrol and diesel vehicles after 2030.

While this Council has developed an Energy Strategy and Energy Efficiency Taskforce to reduce carbon emissions from fossil fuels the Government has given the go ahead for the development new oilfields and coal mines.

This Council notes that while it is developing ways of increasing the energy efficiency of our homes and is introducing heat pumps in the civic campus, the Government has failed to support households transition to heat pumps and away from gas boilers.

This Council aims to support residents improve the energy efficiency their homes with its Fuel Poverty Strategy which will help residents with the cost of living crisis, the Government has decided to scrap energy efficiency targets for landlords.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to adhere to its original green policies and targets and not compromise the country's future to satisfy the growing influence of climate sceptics within the Conservative Party.

Agenda Item 8.3

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 3 – H&F LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAM

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Nikos Souslous
- (ii) Councillor Rebecca Harvey

The council congratulates the members of H&F's Law Enforcement Team (LET), who in 2022 alone:

- took just under 100,000 actions around the borough
- launched 5,000 investigations into residents' reports of anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, unauthorised access into buildings, nuisance, etc.
- conducted 7,000 weapon sweeps
- ran 85,000 patrols across H&F:
 - Housing - 22,000
 - Highways – 50,000
 - Parks -13,000
- issued about 1,700 Fixed Penalty Notices
- investigated 7,500 instances of fly tipping and waste issues
- investigated around 100 instances of dog fouling.

The council regrets local Conservative opposition to the establishment of the LET, as well as the national Conservative government's disastrous policing and criminal justice record.

The council determines to build on the success of the LET and strive to keep residents safe.

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 4 – COUNCIL-OWNED PROPERTIES LEASEHOLDERS' REPAIR BILLS

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Adronie Alford
- (ii) Councillor Adrian Pascu-Tulbure

This Council notes with concerns the repair bills charged to residents in Council-owned properties across the borough, including at Verulam House where leaseholders have received bills of up to £21,500 for replacement windows an independent surveyor deemed to be unnecessary. This Council vows to protect leasehold residents against being hit with inflated bills for works that aren't needed and calls upon the Administration to ensure fair treatment for Council leaseholders.

Agenda Item 8.5

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 5 – UK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Max Schmid
- (ii) Councillor Patrick Walsh

This council notes the results of the general election on Thursday 4th July 2024.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Full Council

Date: 10/07/2024

Subject: Annual Report of the Policy and Oversight Board and Policy and Accountability Committees 2023/24

Report of: The Policy and Oversight Board and Policy and Accountability Committee Chairs

Report author: David Abbott, Head of Governance

Responsible Director: Sukvinder Kalsi, Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services

SUMMARY

The Chairs of the Policy and Oversight Board and Policy and Accountability Committees present the annual report of the activities of the scrutiny function in Hammersmith & Fulham.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Annual Report of the Annual Report of the Policy and Oversight Board and Policy and Accountability Committees 2023/24, be received and noted.

Wards Affected: None

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Taking pride in H&F	Ensuring a high standard of governance across the Council.

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Annual Report of the Policy and Accountability Committees 2023/24

Annual Report of the Policy and Oversight Board and Policy and Accountability Committees 2023/24

Policy and Accountability Committees (PACs) have the following key responsibilities:

- To hold the Cabinet to account.
- To be a critical friend to the Executive and to challenge the assumptions behind the policies and actions of the Council and other local service providers.
- To amplify the voice and concerns of residents and to give them a mechanism to comment on, participate in, and determine Council policy.
- To improve the Council's services by listening to residents and user groups.
- To scrutinise decisions made by partner organisations in the interest of the residents of the Borough.
- To be independent of party politics and ensure an informed evidence-based approach to policy development.

In May 2022, Full Council created the Policy and Oversight Board to oversee the Council's overview and scrutiny function, delivered through the PACs. The members of the Board include the Chairs of each of the PACs, who report their work and emerging issues to the Board for consideration.

In 2023/24 there were six PACs:

- Children and Education
- Climate Change and Ecology
- Health and Adult Social Care
- Housing and Homelessness
- Social Inclusion and Community Safety
- The Economy, Arts, Sports, and Public Realm

The Policy and Oversight Board and the PACs have continued to deliver engaging work programmes and have given residents the opportunity to be heard on the issues that matter to them. The following pages give an overview of the work of the Board and the PACs in 2023/24.

Policy and Oversight Board

Members

Councillor Lisa Homan (Chair)
Councillor Jacolyn Daly
Councillor Natalia Perez
Councillor Helen Rowbottom
Councillor Nikos Souslous
Councillor Nicole Trehy
Councillor Rory Vaughan
Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler

The Committee was supported throughout the year by Councillor Rowan Ree (Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform), Councillor Rebecca Harvey (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety), Matthew Sales (Assistant Director, Programmes and Assurance), and officers from across the Council.

The Board is responsible for the creation and monitoring of new policy development via the PACs and task and finish groups. It is also responsible for scrutinising the corporate budget, finance and resources, human resources and performance management, shared services, communications, elections, IT, research and innovation, customer care and complaints, corporate programmes and assurance, and other major cross-cutting functions of the Council. Below are the key issues that the Board looked at in the 2023/24 municipal year.

Update on Co-production following the Disabled People's Commission report

In June the Board received an update on the Council's co-production activity alongside a report on action following the recommendations of the Disabled People's Commission. Members invited Jane Wilmot OBE to speak about her experiences of the award-winning approach to co-production taken with the Civic Campus project. She highlighted the importance of involving a wide range of Disabled people who could bring their lived experience to the project and ensure it was 'ruthlessly inclusive'. Members discussed how the Council, other public sector organisations, and contractors could embed principles of co-production into the way they worked.

Introduction of Voter ID Requirements

In June and January the Board requested updates on the Council's operational response to requirements in the Elections Act 2022 for voters to provide photo identification in polling stations. Members made recommendations around producing election materials in a range of languages and making them accessible to Disabled people. The Board continues to monitor the impact of the requirements of the Elections Act.

Intergenerational Practice in Hammersmith & Fulham

In September the Board commissioned a report into intergenerational practices in the borough and opportunities for developing and embedding intergenerational activities to address loneliness and social isolation. Members invited Jazz Browne

(Chief Executive of Nubian Life), Precisa Getsevich (Youth Council), and Adam Semar (Youth Council) to attend the meeting and speak about their experiences and ideas.

Members discussed how best to promote intergenerational projects and how to support the borough's diverse range of third-sector organisations. Members highlighted a range of issues for further investigation, including intergenerational housing arrangements, voluntary sector grant funding and building intergenerational work into funding commitments, sharing life skills across generations, the Council's role as facilitator, and intergenerational wealth inequality.

Digital Inclusion Strategy for Hammersmith & Fulham

The Board considered the Council's new Digital Inclusion Strategy for the borough, which had been co-produced with residents and voluntary and community sector partners. The strategy aimed to make Hammersmith & Fulham a more digitally inclusive borough, where residents have access to the digital skills, devices, and support they need to achieve their aspirations.

Members made recommendations around improving performance monitoring, the availability of free Wi-Fi in community spaces, and the use of assistive technologies for older people.

The Council's Continuing Response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis

In December the Board looked at the support the Council was giving to residents and businesses through the Cost-of-Living crisis. Members invited Sarah Lumgair (People Arise Now), Stephan Wiedmer (Crosslight), and Phil Storey (H&F Food Bank) to give their insights into the level of need in the borough and what support was required.

Members discussed the Council Tax Support Scheme, how many families had been supported by the scheme, the innovative work carried out in partnership with community groups through the Cost-of-Living Alliance, and the uncertainty around continued funding caused by the Government.

2024 Medium Term Financial Strategy

In January the Board scrutinised the Council's budget proposals for 2024/25. Members and officers discussed the challenges of high inflation, increased pressures of household budgets, new legislative burdens, and uncertainty around local government funding.

The Board discussed the Council Tax Support Scheme, the use of reserves, the impact of the Household Support fund ending in March, funding for cybersecurity, and the ongoing impact of a lack of long-term financial commitments from Government.

Generative AI: Opportunities, Challenges and Risks

In April the Board invited experts from Microsoft and Agilysys to discuss the current state and future implications of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies. Members discussed governance around AI programmes and how to balance innovation and risk, particularly in complex areas such as social care.

Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee

Members

Councillor Helen Rowbottom (Chair)
Councillor Daryl Brown
Councillor Mercy Umeh
Councillor Lucy Richardson
Councillor Aliya Afzal-Khan
Eleanor Allen (Co-optee)
Nandini Ganesh (Co-optee)
Nadia Taylor (Co-optee)

The Committee was supported by Councillor Alex Sanderson (Cabinet Member for Children and Education), Jacqui McShannon (Director for Children's Services), and officers from across Children's Services.

The Committee covers a wide range of services aimed at children and families in the borough including education, children's social services, safeguarding, child protection, children in care, and services for children and young people with special educational needs. Below are the key issues that the Committee looked at in the 2023/24 municipal year.

A Year of Youth Voice

The Youth Council gave a presentation covering some of their highlights of 2022/23 including the launch of the Youth Voice Strategy, developing an inclusive Youth Voice Network, and the Youth Achievement Awards. The Committee offered their support for their future plans – including SEND strategy co-production, holding a youth-led hackathon in November, developing champions to support their priorities, and improving communication with schools and school councils.

Local Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

Mike Howard (Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership) presented the partnership's first annual report, covering 1 April 2021 to 31 October 2022. He spoke about the benefits of having a sovereign partnership including better collaborative working and more of a focus on local issues, which enabled the best outcomes for children and young people in the borough.

Members discussed ways to use the Council's Business Intelligence data to lobby Government for changes to the way the most serious cases were handled. In relation to one of the cases in the report, the Committee asked about how mould and damp housing issues could be escalated and resolved if children were involved. Officers also offered to attend an upcoming Parentsactive meeting to discuss how the referral process worked.

Virtual School Annual Report 2022/23

Members expressed appreciation for the work of the Virtual School, including the collaboration with University College London to enable care experienced young people to access opportunities made available by local business matched by the local authority. It was noted that through the “Attachment Aware Schools’ programme”, centralised training and individual support had been provided to schools to enable the provision of a clear bridge between education and social care. On capacity for expansion, it was understood that the duty of the Virtual School Head had been extended to include promoting the education of children who had had a social worker within the last 6 years. It was hoped that the stretched efforts could be articulated into sustainable values to shape future service delivery.

Hammersmith and Fulham Local Area Outcomes Framework

The Committee discussed the Framework which had been developed based on feedback from an annual school survey that had been co-produced with children and young people with SEND. It was noted that after setting up the Framework and gaining a clear picture from the data, the Council would measure the performance against the outcome framework for the two to be more closely aligned with each other. As regards how the performance measures would impact on the education outcomes, the Council undertook to provide a sample of scorecard which had captured the performance of the children and young people with SEND for information.

Implementing the Industrial Strategy in Education

Members received a briefing on the events held after the conference with teachers co-hosted by Imperial College to kick off the Industrial Strategy in Education, such as interviews of young people with local businesses in White City, curriculum mapping, and delivery by schools and businesses matched to work together. As regards strengthening the accredited teacher training to provide career guidance early, the local authority indicated its intention to start industrial education for students at Key Stage 2/3 and develop bespoke curriculum involving new internship and work experience opportunities which shall enable H&F’s children and young people to envision a future that might be quite different from now. More information on the oversight of the Industrial Strategy in Education would be provided when the Committee considered the Annual Education Report.

Summer in the City 2023

The Committee considered the planning and outcomes of the Summer in the City programme 2023. The programme, which supported up to 1,200 children per week, had been designed to ensure a diverse range of high-quality sessions including enriching activity, physical activity, nutritional education, and food.

Members commended the success of the programme, despite some difficulties like ghost booking and bad weather. Members asked for a breakdown of attendance to help understand the interest among children that might not benefit from summer vacations. Members also suggested additional promotional routes to support increased attendance in future, including encouraging schools to distribute leaflets to the parents early to help boost the attendance.

2024 Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Committee discussed the medium term financial strategy, including a corporate overview of the budget and the Children's Services departmental budget proposals. The key items discussed were:

- Funding for Family Hubs.
- The safety valve arrangement for SEND funding.
- The third sector investment fund.
- Council tax and the Council Tax support scheme.
- The Children and Education department's priorities for the coming year.

Education Performance Data

In March members discussed the annual school performance report of the academic year 2022-2023 assessments and examinations in Primary and Secondary schools. They were also briefed on Ofsted school inspections in the borough. Members were pleased to see strong results, and asked questions about the early years foundation framework, the support given to different types of schools, and how the Council monitored exclusions.

Children Missing Education and Elective Home Education

In March, the Committee heard from Elizabeth Spearman (Head of ACE and School Admissions) about the work of the ACE team – related to attendance, child employment and children in entertainment, elected home education, and children missing education. The Committee discussed data collection and measurement, the identification of unregistered children and safeguarding checks for them, and the need for greater funding and stronger legislation around home education.

Climate Change and Ecology Policy and Accountability Committee

Members

Councillor Nichole Trehy (Chair)
Councillor Laura Janes
Councillor Ross Melton
Councillor Stala Antoniadis
Councillor Jose Afonso

The Committee was supported throughout the year by Councillor Wesley Harcourt (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology), Bram Kainth (Strategic Director of Environment), Hinesh Mehta (Head of Climate Change), and other officers from across the Council.

The Committee is tasked to monitor the administration and spending in services within its scope, including climate change and the response to Climate Emergency, transport, parking and traffic management, planning policy, recycling and environmental sustainability, waste management and ecology & biodiversity. Below are some of the key issues that the Committee looked at in the 2023/24 municipal year.

Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document

The Committee discussed the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which helped ensure new homes and developments were more friendly to the environment. The new SPD offered guidance to developers, landowners, homeowners, planning officers and other interested parties when preparing and assessing planning applications.

The Committee stressed the urgency of introducing the necessary changes to the local plan. Members noted that this was vital to ensure that fundamental climate change issues particularly within new developments were being addressed and made mandatory in line with the Council's climate and ecological emergency target. Members were provided with an update on the timescales for the completion of the local plan. Officers would work in collaboration with the Climate Change team to review the local plan. Whilst officers had not yet committed to a timeframe for this, it was anticipated that an exercise to collect and build some evidence would take place this year with the view to begin consultation next year.

Commenting on the overall report, the Committee also recommended the importance of frequent pre-application planning discussions, to encourage the use of natural materials for the development of properties within the borough.

Solar Energy and Net Zero in H&F

In relation to the Solar energy and net zero item, the Committee discussed the Council's work on solar power and community energy, and the role it played delivering the Council's target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the borough by 2030.

The Committee welcomed Etta Dale (Solar Development Manager, Repowering London) who gave a presentation on the Council's partnership with Repowering London to establish the borough's first community energy group, Hammersmith & Fulham Community Energy, which enabled residents to become involved in solar schemes across the borough. The Committee were excited by the development of this initiative and requested that this be amplified as much as possible within the local community and requested that members be kept updated of any community engagement events.

Circular economy strategy outline and the introduction of food waste recycling and wheeled bins

The Committee discussed the Council's circular economy strategy which aimed to keep materials in use through improved product design, repair, reuse, sharing and recycling, to reduce the borough's reliance on extraction of new materials. Members heard how the Council was embedding circularity as an organisation and delivering it within the borough. This included examples of future projects and initiatives that could be implemented within the Council to embed circular economy principles.

The Committee highlighted the importance of effectively conveying this message across to residents, including the need to progress community engagement initiatives. Officers would continue to promote what the Council was already offering, including the monthly repair events held within the borough. In addition, residents would be encouraged to participate in workshops and surveys to provide feedback in the overall design of the circular economy strategy and how it was delivered. In relation to construction and the amount of carbon emissions emitted, members enquired if there was any scope to condition the materials which could be used by developers on new builds. It was noted that currently under the London Plan, only operational carbon emissions were regulated. In the longer-term, Officers confirmed that the intention was to move towards embodied carbon within the construction phase.

Members were keen to learn more about the recycling hubs available to residents within the borough. The Committee discussed the use of Livat Hammersmith as its main circular economy hub which offered many opportunities for circularity. Residents also had access to 'library of things' allowing them to rent out useful items. In addition, Officers were in the process of exploring a more permanent space within the borough 5 days a week.

The Committee felt that the repair events were a fantastic opportunity for residents and were pleased to note the learning opportunities available as part of the offering at these events. Training sessions were available for residents to ask any questions and learn the skills to repair their own electrical goods.

The Committee were briefed on the Council's food waste recycling and wheeled bins service. The Council would introduce new food waste collections for more than

50,000 local households in the coming months. In addition, more than 16,000 local households would receive new wheeled bins. Bins would only be given for those with suitable and accessible space and an assisted collection service was available for residents that needed additional support.

Members were pleased to hear about the Council's plans to extend the prototype service and discussed the options currently available for the disposal of batteries and medical blister packs across the borough. It was noted that Officers were working in collaboration with the colleagues in the Communications department to raise greater awareness on the importance of correctly recycling batteries and separating these from general waste.

In relation to water fountains, the Committee were keen to encourage more water fountains in the Council's tube stations. Officers noted that the Greater London Authority was looking at introducing water fountains to public spaces within London. The Committee heard that the Council had relatively low levels of assisted collections within the borough. This was mainly due to the smaller layout and design of the properties. This area would be closely monitored by Officers and the Council would contact residents who used the assisted collection service to ensure that it was still working for them.

The Chair thanked officers for their presentation and provided a summary of the key points discussed. It was noted that further updates would be provided around the disposal of medical blister packs and lithium-ion batteries. The Committee was also keen to learn more about the garden waste scheme going forward.

2024 Medium Term Financial Strategy

During the budget discussion, the Committee heard that the Council had delivered a balanced budget that protected core services and continued funding for the areas that were unique to the borough such as free home care, universal free school breakfasts, and the Law Enforcement Team.

The Committee was also updated on the recent achievements and budget implications relevant to the department and future strategic budget issues. This included significant funding requirements for addressing the climate and ecological emergency.

The Committee discussed the timeline for the Council's green investment scheme, including any planned projects to be funded as part of the scheme. This stood out as the largest of its kind. The Council was looking to raise up to £5 million to fund climate change projects across the borough.

The Committee enquired about the Council's success rate in securing grants for climate change related initiatives and were assured that officers were committed to pursuing all available grants and regularly sought new opportunities.

Flood risk and adapting to climate change

Cara Marie O'Keeffe and Francis Heil (Atkins Realis) joined to discuss the climate risk assessment and adaptation strategy. The discussion covered the following key points:

- The challenges faced by heatwaves including the impact of heat on the Council's social housing sector.
- Collaborating with public health to address some of the challenges related to sleep hygiene.
- The commonalities contributing to surface water flooding.
- Costs associated with previous events and their impact on Council services.

The Committee noted that the report on adaptation was particularly timely and felt that it's one of the most pressing issues needing consideration. Additionally, the Committee emphasised the essential nature of the work being carried out by the Council.

For the second presentation on the cause and impact of the flooding in 2021, the Committee was joined by Graeme Kasselmann and Michael Benke (Thames Water). The Committee discussed:

- The sewer flooding resilience programme. Including funding allocation to cover mitigation measures on all the properties that had reported flooding in the July 2021 floods.
- The strategy for alleviating flood risk in counter's creek catchment
- Fines issued by Ofwat as a result of sewage dumping in the Thames, and the actions being taken by Thames Water to address these concerns.
- The Committee expressed concerns about the minimal action taken to mitigate future flooding risk.
- The plans to significantly reduce the amount of sewage being dumped in the Thames by 2050. This included the completion timeline for the Thames tideway infrastructure.
- Thames Water's contingency plans for addressing call centre enquiries in the event of a recurrence of the 2021 floods.

The Chair emphasised the necessity for Thames Water to allocate further funding to accommodate the resilience programme and tackle the issues raised effectively. The Committee also urged Thames Water to offer further clarity on their plans regarding their communication with residents and meeting regulatory requirements set by Ofwat.

Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Accountability Committee

Members

Councillor Natalia Perez (Chair)
 Councillor Genevieve Nwaogbe
 Councillor Emma Apthorp
 Councillor Ann Rosenberg
 Councillor Amanda Lloyd-Harris
 Victoria Brignell (Co-optee)
 Lucia Boddington (Co-optee)
 Jim Grealy (Co-optee)
 Keith Mallinson (Co-optee)

The Committee was supported throughout the year by Councillor Ben Coleman (Deputy Leader with responsibility for Health and Adult Social Care), Linda Jackson (Strategic Director of Independent Living) and other officers from across the Council.

The Committee is responsible for scrutinising the health of both children and adults, the provision and improvement of primary and acute NHS services, the provision of mental health services, and adult social care services in the borough. Below are the key issues that the Committee looked at in the 2023/24 municipal year.

Impact of the delayed rebuilding of St Mary's, Hammersmith, and Charing Cross Hospitals

In July, the Committee welcomed Dr Bob Klaber from Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust to discuss the delayed rebuilding of Charing Cross, Hammersmith, and St Mary's Hospitals and the healthcare impacts on residents. Members highlighted the concerns that residents had over the delays, the importance of hospitals that were fit for purpose and met the needs of patients and the community, and the importance of partnership working.

North West London Adult Community-Based Specialist Palliative and End-of-Life Care Review Programme

The Committee also received an update on the new model of palliative and end-of-life care ahead of the launch of the official engagement process. Members were generally pleased with the progress made since the previous update, however there remained questions about the length of the engagement exercise and the Committee asked for an extension to ensure residents could have their say on the proposals.

Post Covid Syndrome Services Update

For the final item, Melissa Mellett (NW London ICB) gave an update on the post-Covid service offer in North West London. She discussed a new service due to open at Charing Cross Hospital in September. Members discussed digital inclusion, GP referrals, the funding for the service, reaching under-represented groups, and support for children and young people.

Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23

Mike Howard (Safeguarding Adults Board Chair) joined to discuss the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/23. The discussion covered a range of issues highlighted in the annual report including:

- Housing repairs issues in the public and private rented sectors.
- Fire safety training for frontline staff and training standards for partner organisations.
- Guidance for professionals and residents.
- Transitional safeguarding.
- Demographic pressures.

The Committee agreed actions around housing standards and domestic violence training.

Vaccination Services in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

For the second item on vaccination services, the Committee was joined by colleagues from the Council's Public Health team, NHS England, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, and the North West London ICB. The Committee discussed:

- Which populations were under-vaccinated and why.
- Efforts to improve the immunisation rate through targeted engagement programmes.
- The use of alternate venues and staffing issues.
- Vaccination rates in care homes and amongst care home staff.
- Why H&F's vaccinate rates were lower than its neighbours.

The Committee asked the NHS to consider Hammersmith & Fulham for a pilot to allow pharmacies to carry out childhood vaccinations and a dedicated vaccine coordinator for the borough. The Chair proposed a working group to look at improving vaccination rates in the borough.

2024 Medium Term Financial Strategy (including the corporate budget and the Adult Social Care and Public Health budgets)

On the budget item, members discussed the sustainability of the Local Government financial settlement, the impact of reductions to grant funding, the Council's commitment to providing free home care, and how the Council worked with the NHS.

Public Health Update (with a focus on vaccinations)

Under the Public Health update, members discussed improvements to childhood vaccine access through local pharmacies and work to progress this with the local Integrated Care Board.

Same Day Access to GP Primary Care

Following notification of planned changes to same day access to GP primary care services, members held a single-issue meeting to discuss the proposals. Members heard the concerns of Dr Kyla Cranmer (GP Chair of the H&F Local Medical Committee) and other professionals. Members discussed the need for further engagement with residents, the potential impact of the changes on patient safety and continuity of care, and the lack of evidence in favour of the proposed changes.

Members made a recommendation to formally withdraw the proposals in their current form and to publish clear proposals regarding access, including timelines.

Housing and Homelessness Policy and Accountability Committee

Members

Councillor Jacolyn Daly (Chair)
Councillor Paul Alexander
Councillor Asif Siddique
Councillor Sally Taylor
Councillor Adronie Alford

The Committee was supported throughout the year by Councillor Frances Umeh (Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness), Richard Shwe (Director of Housing), and officers from across the Council.

The Committee is tasked to monitor the policy, administration and spending of all aspects of housing (including privately owned, council, housing association, sheltered and supported housing), provision of homes for local residents and tackling and reducing homelessness. Below are the priority areas that the Committee considered during the 2023/24 municipal year.

Southern Housing Partnership

Representatives of Southern Housing Association outlined its partnership with the Council in managing 1,147 social homes in H&F, its recent merger and operating structure. Representatives addressed member questions about their approach to damp and mould cases, independent living for older residents, and subletting.

Private and Social Housing Standards

The Committee was briefed on private housing standards, landlord licensing and enforcement work taken by the Council, including acting as mediator between landlords and tenants to provide an opportunity for resolution before taking enforcement action. Members noted the challenges for residents and officers with regards to some landlord business models, and additional information on rogue landlords was provided to the Committee after the meeting.

Repairs Improvement Plan

On Repairs Improvement Plan, members noted the introduction of a “Home MOT” service, seen as a way to significantly improve resident satisfaction with the housing repairs service; and an initiative that seeks to bring contractors into resident group meetings, to enable repairs work to be done better and quicker.

Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Prevention

Members received an update on rough sleepers and homelessness and noted that the Housing First model proved to be the most sustainable method of ensuring former rough sleepers did not return to the street. They noted that the number of rough sleepers in the Borough was low for an inner-London Borough, probably due to a range of support options and work undertaken by the enforcement team in a

multi-disciplinary way. As the number of households living in temporary accommodation in England had recently hit a 25-year high, the Chair requested the team report on local impact and any stress to the budgets by increasing placements into temporary accommodation.

Homelessness Prevention Update

The Local Authority gave the Committee a heads-up on the challenges faced by the Housing Services, in particular the number of people housed in temporary accommodation in London was increasing, inasmuch that the London Government Association was reporting that spending by councils on temporary accommodation had reached a record high in England placing financial pressures on many local authorities. The Housing Service was working closely with the Finance team on an evidence-based approach around budget assessment and resources allocation from the General Fund for 2024/25, including keeping abreast of the wider situation in terms of homelessness and temporary accommodation across London. To tackle the homelessness issues, the Council would be building more homes, including more affordable family-sized homes. Officers agreed to provide a demographic breakdown of homelessness approaches received in the current year and to revert after looking at the impact relating to a recent change to Section 21 Eviction Notice.

Complaints Management in Housing

Members noted that a dedicated Complaints and Disputes Resolution Team had been set up to handle all housing-related complaints and deliver one-stop services through the Housing Hub. The Local Authority acknowledged that there had been backlog of repairs in H&F, but that the number of outstanding repairs cases, including aged cases, had been substantially reduced in recent months. The Housing team was working systematically to ensure the repairs were done more punctually and to a higher quality with improved customer care. Couple with the reduction in age profile of outstanding repairs, this should result in fewer complaints being made. The more focused approach to complaint-handling was improving the quality and timeliness of response once a complaint had been made.

Greening of the Housing Stock

On Greening of the Housing Stock, it was noted that the “Retrofit Strategy” developed so far would influence council policy in 4 key areas, namely Energy Efficiency, Low Carbon Heat, Fuel Poverty and Adaptation. It was believed that the capital delivery team was the most efficient vehicle to address the retrofit need at the required scale and pace. The low carbon heat networks were likely to be the cheapest option which needed detailed planning over several years, public and private finance and significant changes to Planning policy to be rolled out effectively. Once the approach was finalised, the residents concerned would be consulted on their preference in taking forward the retrofit works. The Local Authority undertook to brief the Committee again in the new year on other policy implications of the Strategy.

2024 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

In receiving the briefing on corporate budget 2024/25 and housing solutions under 2024 MTFS, members noted the following:

- Accessing housing and homelessness services through the Family Hubs.
- Growth allocations and quality of services.

- Continuation of Household Support Fund by central government.
- Efficiencies achieved and planned by the Housing Solutions team.
- Residents placed out of the borough to prevent homelessness.
- Acquisition of affordable housing stock.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2024/25

When considering the HRA budget 2024/25, members discussed the issues below:

- Residents' response to the proposed increase in rent and service charge.
- Community engagement in Council's major projects or improvement works. Residents were encouraged to report repair issues directly.
- HRA general reserve balances.
- Provision for tenant arrears.

Housing Ombudsman P49 report on Hammersmith & Fulham

The Committee noted the following during scrutiny of the Ombudsman report:

- The Council's sincere apology to affected residents.
- Actions taken in response to Ombudsman's 18 orders and recommendations.
- Ownership and commitment of the Chief Executive led taskforce and Housing Services to rectify the situation.
- Changes in policies and procedures of repairs and complaint handling, especially record keeping and contractor transition.
- That the level of compensation was consistent with the Ombudsman's recommendations.

Social Inclusion and Community Safety Policy and Accountability Committee

Members

Councillor Nikos Souslous (Chair)
Councillor Omid Miri
Councillor Trey Campbell-Simon
Councillor Sally Taylor
Councillor Andrew Dinsmore

The Committee was supported throughout the year by Rebecca Harvey (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety), Bram Kainth (Strategic Director of Environment), Matthew Hooper (Chief Officer - Safer Neighbourhoods & Regulatory Services), and other officers from across the Council.

The Committee is responsible for improving social inclusion, community safety and anti-social behaviour, licensing and gambling, neighbourhood governance, community engagement, the Council's equalities and diversity programmes and support for vulnerable groups, the Council's Voluntary Sector strategy, and increasing access to opportunity in all aspects of social and economic life in the borough. Below are the key issues that the Committee looked at in the 2023/24 municipal year.

Policing in Hammersmith & Fulham following The Casey Review

In July 2023 the Chair led a discussion with the Metropolitan Police, Councillors, Community Groups, and Residents about the future of policing in Hammersmith & Fulham following the Baroness Casey Review.

Superintendent Craig Knight, joined by Detective Chief Inspector Scott Ware and Detective Chief Inspector Anne Linton, presented the 'New Met for London Plan'. The plan was designed to deal with the impact of austerity, recruitment and standards, changing demographics and demands, returning to policing by consent, cultural change, and fixing the fundamentals around pay and conditions, training, and internal processes. The police also discussed recent changes to policing in the borough aimed at tackling sexual assault, taking a more robust approach to violence against women and girls, and improving response times.

Members and guests discussed their experiences of racism and sexism in relation to policing in the borough – and suggested a number of improvements. The Committee asked to see more from the police about local training, plans to improve response times, and how to ensure residents were fully aware of the policing structures and processes in place to support them.

The Committee continued its work on policing in Hammersmith and Fulham following the Casey Review at its meeting on 22 November 2023.

Superintendent Craig Knight, joined by Chief Inspector Tom Orchard, presented the progress update of the 'New Met for London Plan'. £530 million had been invested into policing across London affecting every aspect, from reviewing response times and approach, strengthening local team structure, and increasing visibility by assigning more PCSOs to local areas. Recruitment for Police Community Support Officers and PCs continued to be a challenge, further complicated by the ongoing weekend protests in Central London.

Committee members questioned the Police on several issues, including:

- team structure and tenure;
- allocation of PSPOs and PCs to each ward and their composition in terms of ethnicity and gender;
- pay structure and difficulties in officers' recruitment and retention;
- H&F's asset sharing of the proactive teams reporting to the Basic Command Units;
- strengthening background checks and vetting procedures, and effectiveness of psychological assessments,
- positive promotion of Met and visibility in policing;
- feedback from the police's local engagement events in the North of the Borough;
- role of ward panels and attendances;
- VAWG 100 offenders and better support to victims and survivors to sexual assault;
- Intelligence gathering at Tactical Enforcement Group (TEG) and Tactical Tasking & Co-ordination Group (TTCG); and
- harassment to female colleagues.

2024 Medium Term Financial Strategy

In receiving the corporate and departmental budgets 2024/25, members discussed the following:

- The Council was acting far from the assumptions of maximising council tax and social care percept under the proposed increase in core spending power of 6.7%.
- The increased use of AI in delivering Council services such as Adult Social Care while continuing investment in CCTV/LET to tackle crimes and maintain existing Prevent service.
- The success of green bond in raising £1 million.

Trustee Diversity in the Third Sector in Hammersmith and Fulham

Four guest speakers from the third sector briefed the Committee on their work taken to diversify the trustee boards of charities, including those in H&F. Members discussed the following issues:

- In identifying suitable trustees for charities targeted at multiple protected characteristics, the board would target individuals with skills and experience representing the systems and beneficiaries.
- To incentivise younger/less well-off people joining the boards, there were advocates for a more flexible system/structure for charities in terms of pay and days off for Trust work. Some charities set up as a Community Interest

Company or Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise could pay some of their Trustees for their work.

- Local Authorities were expected to give policy advice to the third sector and help address recruitment issues. They might appeal to under-represented groups in the local community and guide the boards to become more dynamic.

Annual Performance Report for the Law Enforcement Team (LET)

The Committee discussed:

- Outcomes about LET officers being assaulted and support available to them.
- Measures in place to deepen the cooperation between the Police and LET officers, including sharing information/intelligence and during emergency.
- The additional number of police officers allocated to H&F following the government's announcement of putting more police officers on the streets.
- Difficulties in recruiting police officers and increased interest in LET positions.

The Economy, Arts, Sports, and Public Realm Policy and Accountability Committee

Members

Councillor Rory Vaughan (Chair)
Councillor Liz Collins
Councillor Adam Peter Lang
Councillor Ashok Patel
Councillor Jackie Borland

The Committee was supported throughout the year by Councillors, Cabinet Member Sharon Holder Cabinet Member for Public Realm, and Andrew Jones, Cabinet Member for the Economy.

The Committee is responsible for monitoring the policy, administration and spending on the local economy and support for local businesses, local employment opportunities, regeneration, parks and open spaces, public sports facilities, arts and cultural services, libraries and adult education, and street scene. Below are the key issues that the Committee looked at in the 2023/24 municipal year.

Update on the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Hammersmith & Fulham

The Committee considered an update on The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Hammersmith & Fulham. Following the recommendations of the borough's Community Sport & Physical Activity Network (CSPAN) presented in the last report to the Committee in January, there had been further extensive engagement and consultation with CSPAN members, sports organisations, and local stakeholders including education and disability forum representatives. The draft strategy and action plan were close to completion and the Committee's view were sought on these developments.

Themes to emerge from the meeting included: the need to ensure fringe sports (skateboarding and walking football) were not omitted from the list of activities residents were encouraged to participate in, as well concerns about how realistic the consultation timetable was. The Committee stressed the importance of involving young people and schools in the consultation process and were pleased to learn that the inter school's games organiser was the CSPAN representative. Members recommended ensuring there was sufficient accessible green space within the borough that was not being used for organised sport, as well as the opportunities for repurposing brown field and industrial sites for sports and physical activity.

The Chair recommended steps were taken to ensure there was co-production with disabled residents in the development of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and sought assurances on this. He also asked what the measures of success of the strategy would be.

The Committee recommended the way in which the opportunities for sport and physical activity were currently being communicated to residents could be improved in the future, such as by celebrating achievements. In addition, questions were asked about how the Authority was working to deliver sports and physical activity on the fringes of the borough, given its geography and very porous boundaries in some places. For example, Shepherd' Bush Cricket Club in Acton but a 2-minute walk from the borough boundary, as well as Wormwood Scrubs bordering Brent and Acton.

Commenting on the overall report, the Committee supported the priorities which had been set out and the Committee looked forward to an update in about six months' time.

The Draft Tree Strategy

In relation to the draft tree strategy, the Committee noted this was the first tree strategy for Hammersmith & Fulham. The report provided details on the vision of the strategy, how it would be achieved, as well as why the borough needed a tree strategy. The Committee noted that the strategy included three main aims: increasing the canopy cover, preserving and improving existing trees and working closely with residents and stakeholders. Details were provided of how these three core areas broke down into a further twelve sub-sections.

Members highlighted how a significant proportion of their casework related to trees. Recent topics included: that trees were pruned at the wrong time of the year, for dead trees to be removed and replaced and finally, a group of residents had asked how they could go about getting trees planted in their road. While the Committee commended the planting of more trees, it noted that there was a paucity of dates within the draft strategy and recommended the draft could be strengthened by the inclusion of some key milestone dates.

In relation to improving communication, the Committee recommended that the Council's website was revamped to include FAQ's on trees, to assist residents and Councillors and also for key information such a ward tree inspections to be sent to respective ward councillors.

The Committee recommended officers investigate the merits of events possibly being held in the north, middle and south of the borough, and for these to be held in conjunction with the Tree Council to inform future strategy development.

The Committee agreed with the points raised by the Hammersmith Society (in writing), namely the type of materials used at the base of trees (the need for a permeable surface), the promotion of watering some street trees by local residents and in town centre areas, cages were required around some saplings. The Committee were pleased that officers would act on these suggestions.

Finally, the Committee noted that the draft tree strategy consultation document was due to go out at the end of September / early October, but the duration of the consultation had not been finalised. The Committee recommended that the consultation was circulated for a long as possible to ensure residents had a good opportunity to provide their views.

An Emerging Approach to Developing and Promoting our Visitor Economy

The Committee considered a report on an Emerging Approach To Developing and Promoting Our Visitor Economy. Themes to emerge from the meeting included: The need to engage with residents and harness ideas from within the community. The advantages of using a placed- based approach, referencing football clubs, theatres and events spaces.

For data to be gathered to determine the visitor profile to the borough. The need for a website to be created, providing an annual chronology of events being held within the borough and for this to feed into wider engagement through social media and other forms of channels. It was important that the 3-year strategy provided a strong steer to stakeholders, to ensure their actions actively promoted the visitor economy.

In addition, the strategy needed to spell out what the economic advantages of developing the visitor economy would be to residents. Further themes included branding (i.e., distinct themes - the home of Chelsea Football Club), a heritage / cultural trail (of blue plaques and their significance), and the need to utilise the river more. The Committee supported the revival of the Shepherd's Bush Comedy Festival. The committee suggested that businesses, hotels and the conference centre organisers should meet to promote activities within the borough.

Review of Performance of the New Household Waste Collection Contract / Implementation of Wheeled Bin and Food Waste Collection

The Committee examined a Review of Performance of the New Household Waste Collection Contract / Implementation of Wheeled Bin and Food Waste Collection. Themes to emerge from the meeting included: To make officers aware of missed collections and resultant fines. The issue of bins not being returned to their collection points which highlighted those properties which were vacant and hence at risk of burglary.

Further points included: the need to improve communication with residents so they knew that they needed to contact the Council if there were collection issues. The need for sampling / auditing of collections to assess how it the scheme was working. It was noted that the extended wheeled bin collection implementation had only been rolled out for 2 weeks, so its performance would need to be assessed in the future.

2024 Medium Term Financial Strategy

During the budget discussion, members commended the savings that were being made through the new waste management collection service. The Committee supported the additional investment in services including the new garden waste collection service, the community and cultural events programme and the ongoing contribution to the new H&F Black History Cultural Centre.

The Committee examined business rates and were assured that the Council was using big data and analytics to improve collection rates. In relation to the cost of living crisis, it was noted that the Council had frozen all charges in children's, adult social care and housing services while other charges had risen with inflation.

The Committee also discussed recreation and pitch hire fees, household waste collection charges and how finances had been leveraged for new affordable housing.

Further topics included the savings identified for corporate accommodation and the importance of these being reviewed and monitored.

Hammersmith & Fulham Cultural Compact

The Committee discussed the membership and structure of the Cultural Compact and agreed that 16 members was probably about the maximum number to achieve the desired breadth of experience for the Compact. Members also noted there would be a Cultural Forum so those groups that were not members of the Compact would have a vehicle for their views. To ensure the Compact was inclusive and representative, the Committee welcomed that the membership would be reviewed every 12 months and that the Compact would meet every two to three months depending on its workload.

The Committee commended the use of the Compact to deliver the Cultural Strategy more broadly and the use of the Compact to deliver the ideas which had been generated through the bid. The Chair welcomed that a disabled representative would be integral to the Cultural Compact and looked forward to the Cultural Strategy (rather than the Hammersmith and Fulham Council Cultural Strategy) being driven forwards.

Report to: Full Council

Date: 10/07/2024

Subject: Petitions Monitoring Report 2023/24

Report of: Councillor Stephen Cowan, The Leader of the Council

Report author: Amrita White, Committee Coordinator

Responsible Director: Sukvinder Kalsi, Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services

SUMMARY

This report outlines the operation of the Council's Petitions Scheme during the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the operation of the Council's Petitions Scheme be noted.

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Doing things with local residents, not to them	The Council's petitions scheme offers an important route for residents to take part in the democratic process.

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. The Council's Petitions Scheme was approved by the Council under the provisions of Section 11(1) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. It incorporates procedures to comply with the requirement under the act for the Council to set up an e-petitions scheme.

2. The Council welcomes paper petitions, petitions submitted via e-mail, or e-petitions submitted through the e-petitions portal on the Council's website. All petitions and petition responses are recorded on the Council's e-petition portal: <http://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/mgEPetitionListDisplay.aspx?bcr=1>
3. The table below shows how petitions are responded to based on the number of signatures they attract.

Minimum number of signatories	Type of petition	Decision maker
5,000	Council debate	Full Council
2,000	Calling a director to give evidence	Policy and Accountability Committee
250	Cabinet debate	The Cabinet
100	Petitions to Cabinet Members	The relevant Cabinet Member
Below 100	Officer petition	The relevant officer, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member

4. The petitions scheme is available in full on the Council's website: <https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/councillors-committees-and-decisions/take-part-democratic-process>
5. Appendix 1 contains a summary of all petitions received during the 2023/24 municipal year, including the subject of the petitions, where the petition was submitted, the number of signatures they received, and a link to the Council's response.
6. Overall, the petitions scheme has continued to operate well in 2023/24, offering an important route for residents to express their views to the Council and take part in the democratic process.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of Petitions received in 2023/24

Appendix 1 – Summary of petitions received in 2023/24

No	Petition Subject	Date Received	No of Signatures	Response
1	Caxton Village (W12) Parking Problems	16/05/2023	272	Cabinet addressed the issues raised. Details can be found: https://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=116&MId=7473&Ver=4
2	Stop the Clean Air Neighbourhoods in South Fulham from killing off Local Businesses	29/06/2023	503	Response: https://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=152&RPID=104126596&HPID=104126596
3	End tree felling on Shepherd's Bush Green	28/07/2023	15	Officer response: https://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=153&RPID=104126596&HPID=104126596
4	Build More Low Cost Social Housing	13/02/2024	1	Officer response: https://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=155&RPID=104126596&HPID=104126596
5	Brook Green Puddles	26/02/2024	14	Petition closed on 26/05/2024. Response pending.
6	Frithville Gardens Parking Restrictions	01/05/2024	1	Petition closes on 30/07/2024.