

COUNCIL MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2026



PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Sharon Holder
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Daryl Brown

Councillors:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Jones, Ann Rosenberg, Alex Sanderson, Rebecca Harvey, David Morton, Liz Collins, and Trey Campbell-Simon.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no formal declarations of interest, but Councillor Rory Vaughan said he would leave the meeting during Special Motions 3 and 7 for personal work reasons.

3. MINUTES

7.03pm – RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 October 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

New Year Honours 2026

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor extended the Council's congratulations to the local people who were recognised in the King's New Years Honours list:

- **Bill Bailey** – comedian, musician and broadcaster from Hammersmith, was awarded an MBE for services to entertainment.
- **Jazz Browne** – CEO of Shepherd's Bush charity Nubian Life, received a British Empire Medal for her services to the borough's Afro-Caribbean community.
- **Dominique Allwood** – director of Population Health at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, received an MBE for services to the NHS, recognising 20 years of senior leadership in public health medicine.
- **Val Birchall** – Hammersmith & Fulham Council's Assistant Director for Culture, Tourism and Sport, was awarded an MBE for services to public libraries and culture, marking 20 years in the cultural sector.
- **Billy McGranaghan** – founder of Fulham-based single-father charity Dads House, has been awarded an MBE.
- **Sir Tristram Hunt** – president of the William Morris Society in Hammersmith, has been knighted.
- **Neil Poulter** – Imperial College professor based in White City, was awarded an MBE for services to hypertension prevention.
- **Keira Walsh** – Chelsea Women midfielder, received an MBE for services to sport, following major success including Chelsea's domestic treble and England's European Championship victory with the Lionesses.

The Mayor thanked them for their hard work and service to the community. Speeches were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan and Dominic Stanton.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)

The Mayor thanked the residents who submitted questions. Questions 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 were taken in the meeting. The responses to all questions can be found in Appendix 1.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27

7.30pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by Councillor Rowan Ree.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Rowan Ree, Nikos Souslous, Lydia Paynter, Bora Kwon, and Patrick Walsh (for the Administration) – and Councillor Liam Downer-Sanderson (for the Opposition).

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

7.56pm – RESOLVED

That Full Council approved:

1. That the Council Tax Support Scheme in operation in 2025/2026 (included at Appendix 1) shall continue in 2026/2027.
2. That the Council shall apply the annual uprating of allowances, applicable amounts and income, set out in the DWP Housing Benefit circular, to the Council Tax Support scheme for 2026/2027.

6.2 Council Tax Base and Collection Rate 2026/27 and Delegation of the Business Rate Estimate

7.56pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by Councillor Rowan Ree.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Rowan Ree, Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, and Frances Umeh (for the Administration).

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

8.08pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council approves for the financial year 2026/27:
 - a. The estimated numbers of properties for each Valuation Band as set out in this report.
 - b. An estimated collection rate of 98.0%.
 - c. The Council Tax Base of 91,726 Band “D” equivalent properties.

- d. The delegation of authority to the Executive Director for Finance & Corporate Services to determine the business rates tax base for 2026/27.

6.3 Council Calendar of Meetings

8.08pm – 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 recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

8.08pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council approves the 2026/27 Council calendar of meetings in Appendix 1.

6.4 Review of the Constitution

8.08pm – 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 recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

8.08pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council notes the committee membership changes detailed in paragraph 5 and approves the committee appointment in paragraph 6.

6.5 Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2024/25 (to note)

8.09pm – The report and recommendations were moved for noting and Councillor Patrick Walsh made a speech on the report (for the Administration).

8.14pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council noted the report.

7. **SPECIAL MOTIONS**

Under Standing Order 16(d)3, Councillor Max Schmid moved that the special motions be taken in the order – 5, 4, 7, 1, 6, 2, and 3. The motion was agreed.

7.5 **Special Motion 5 - H&F Upstream Pathway Bond**

8.14pm – Councillor Zarar Qayyum moved, seconded by Councillor Helen Rowbottom, the special motion in their names.

“This Council agrees that, with the world changing faster than ever before, new measures to support every local young person to find the right pathway for them to pursue their dreams of their future is more important than ever before. The Council therefore welcomes the new and unique H&F Upstream Pathway Bond pioneered by the Labour Administration and thanks all the businesses and organisations who are taking part.

The Council notes that:

- 1. The H&F Upstream Pathway Bond was launched as part of the borough’s pioneering industrial strategy, Upstream London, to create stronger, sustainable linkages between education, skills development and local employment opportunities for young residents.*
- 2. Upstream London has already attracted £6.3 billion of business investment into the borough since its inception, contributing to the creation of more than 17,200 new jobs in high-growth sectors and making Hammersmith & Fulham the borough with the fastest economic growth in London.*
- 3. Already, 109 local businesses and 26 schools have shown exceptional commitment to inclusive economic growth by signing up to the Pathway Bond, agreeing to provide opportunities for young people in cutting-edge industries.*
- 4. This initiative builds on strong collaboration between the Council, Imperial College London, Imperial College NHS Trust, H&F’s international “Cooperative Growth Partners” and businesses to ensure that residents can directly share in the borough’s economic success.*

This Council believes that:

- 1. The Upstream Pathway Bond embodies the values of social democracy— harnessing cooperation between the private and public sectors. It is a powerful model of inclusive economic development that opens clear pathways from education through to rewarding local careers for H&F’s young people.*
- 2. Endorsing this programme aligns with the Council’s commitment to a strong local economy, skills development, opportunity-building, and the long-term prosperity of residents.*

3. *The breadth of business engagement in the Pathway Bond demonstrates the strength of local partnerships and confidence in the Labour administration's industrial strategy.*"

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Zarar Qayyum, Helen Rowbottom, Frances Umeh, Adam Peter Lang, and Nicole Trehy (for the Administration) – and Councillor Aliya Afzal-Khan (for the Opposition).

Councillor Qayyum made a speech winding up the debate before the motion was put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

8.44pm – RESOLVED

This Council agrees that, with the world changing faster than ever before, new measures to support every local young person to find the right pathway for them to pursue their dreams of their future is more important than ever before. The Council therefore welcomes the new and unique H&F Upstream Pathway Bond pioneered by the Labour Administration and thanks all the businesses and organisations who are taking part.

The Council notes that:

1. The H&F Upstream Pathway Bond was launched as part of the borough's pioneering industrial strategy, Upstream London, to create stronger, sustainable linkages between education, skills development and local employment opportunities for young residents.
2. Upstream London has already attracted £6.3 billion of business investment into the borough since its inception, contributing to the creation of more than 17,200 new jobs in high-growth sectors and making Hammersmith & Fulham the borough with the fastest economic growth in London.
3. Already, 109 local businesses and 26 schools have shown exceptional commitment to inclusive economic growth by signing up to the Pathway Bond, agreeing to provide opportunities for young people in cutting-edge industries.
4. This initiative builds on strong collaboration between the Council, Imperial College London, Imperial College NHS Trust, H&F's international "Cooperative Growth Partners" and businesses to ensure that residents can directly share in the borough's economic success.

This Council believes that:

1. The Upstream Pathway Bond embodies the values of social democracy—harnessing cooperation between the private and public sectors. It is a powerful model of inclusive economic development that opens clear pathways from education through to rewarding local careers for H&F’s young people.
2. Endorsing this programme aligns with the Council’s commitment to a strong local economy, skills development, opportunity-building, and the long-term prosperity of residents.
3. The breadth of business engagement in the Pathway Bond demonstrates the strength of local partnerships and confidence in the Labour administration’s industrial strategy.

7.4 Special Motion 4 - Civic Campus

8.44pm – Councillor Liam Downer-Sanderson moved, seconded by Councillor Jose Afonso, the special motion in their names.

“This Council calls on the Administration to set out the full details of the overspending and delays to the Civic Campus and explain why this has happened.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Liam Downer-Sanderson and Jose Afonso (for the Opposition).

Under Standing Order 16(d)5, Councillor Lisa Homan moved, seconded by Councillor Stala Antoniadou, an amendment:

“Delete all after “This Council” and replace with:

“... notes that the delay in the completion of the new Hammersmith & Fulham Civic Campus was due to an accident during which the subcontractor of the contractor dropped one of the main steel supports. Thankfully no one was hurt. As with all such developments, the building site is under the legal charge of the contractor until the works are completed. This accident initiated an immediate shut down of the site while the independent Health and Safety Executive carried out an extensive review. The Health and Safety Executive is the relevant independent national regulator for Great Britain. This is what has caused the delay.

The Council notes that this delay along with Brexit, the Pandemic and Liz Truss’ Fiscal Event, contributed a marginally higher cost than originally envisaged and this has been reported through all relevant channels which included a briefing to the opposition and an exempt report to the borough’s cabinet meeting which included members of the opposition. These slightly higher costs are in line with other building cost changes over this period.

*The Council also notes that despite these marginally higher final costs, the overall costs of the new Hammersmith & Fulham Civic Campus **is still significantly lower than the controversial Hammersmith Town Hall scheme which this borough’s former Conservative administration** had previously saddled the borough with.*

The Council also notes that additional to this, and in direct contrast to the Conservatives' former scheme, the Civic Campus scheme allows the council to:

- 1. Significantly reduce all its office costs across the borough*
- 2. Make a substantial annual profit that will contribute to the running of high quality services and keeping council tax low*
- 3. Builds into the sky over the old Town Hall Court Yard Carpark therefore leaving other council land for housing, retail, hospitality and rentable office space*
- 4. Rejuvenate the central belt of the borough with:*
 - a. A five-screen arthouse cinema*
 - b. A public sky park*
 - c. Homework space for local children*
 - d. Affordable work space for local start-up entrepreneurs*
 - e. A public sky restaurant*
 - f. Restaurants, cafes, shops and other public facilities*
 - g. A concert hall*
 - h. An art gallery*
 - i. Two new public squares*
 - i. Unity Square – on the site of the former Town Hall extension*
 - ii. The Town Square – on the site of the former Town Hall Court Yard Car Park for senior council directors and councillors*
 - j. 204 new homes for local people of which 52% are genuinely affordable.*
 - k. A new office building which will be let to a private firm bringing hundreds of new customers for the borough's shops, cafes, restaurants, cinema and pubs*
 - l. Encourage better private sector investment to meet the Council's aim of significantly improving King Street.*

The council supports the Green Energy measures built into the Hammersmith & Fulham Civic Campus and recognises that these will also keep energy costs low.

It also supports the work undertaken to make the Civic Campus one of the most accessible buildings in the world for Disabled people.

The Council recognises that the former Conservative administration's development scheme for Hammersmith Town Hall failed when the developers said it was not properly budgeted and was undeliverable. The Conservatives scheme involved:

- 1. Using council owned land to build 196 luxury flats which were to be marketed off plan to overseas property investors which at that time were largely those buyers in Russia, the Middle East, and the Far East*
- 2. Keeping the dreadful Town Hall Extension but using the Tri-Borough framework to procure cladding for it which the Conservatives argued would improve its look.*
- 3. Keeping the Town Hall Courtyard Car Park for senior council directors and councillors which the Conservatives argued was essential for their travel needs.*

4. *That despite putting in all the land, the minimal funds raised by that scheme would be shared with its private sector partners and that this would not have produced sufficient funds to refurbish the dilapidated old Town Hall. That meant:*
 - a. *The Conservatives' scheme would have continued to cost large amounts of the borough's annual budget just to meet health, safety and employment standards.*
 - b. *The old Hammersmith Town Hall would not have been fully refurbished*
 - c. *That would have required the council to continue to rent other expensive buildings across the borough.*
5. *Zero new public space*
6. *Zero genuinely affordable housing*
7. *Zero annual profits*
8. *Zero rejuvenation of the borough's central belt*

The Council notes that the Conservatives Town Hall scheme followed a pattern of financial incompetence that also saw the former Conservative administration financially unsound measures which include:

- *Selling of Fulham Town Hall for just over £8million*
- *Selling off the West Kensington and Gibbs Green estates for £102million while failing to recognise that this land formed one third of the total former Earls Court site which was immediately later valued at £12.05billion.*

This Council thanks the hundreds of residents who have worked with it to design the new Hammersmith & Fulham Civic Campus. In particular, it thanks the Civic Campus Commissioners and the Civic Campus Disabled Residents Team."

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Lisa Homan, Stala Antoniades, Callum Nimmo, Wesley Harcourt, and Stephen Cowan (for the Administration) – and Councillor Jose Afonso (for the Opposition).

The amendment was then put to the vote:

FOR	30
AGAINST	10
NOT VOTING	1

The amendment was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor Downer-Sanderson then made a speech winding up the debate before the amended motion was put to the vote:

FOR	30
AGAINST	10
NOT VOTING	1

The amended motion was declared **CARRIED**.

9.27pm – RESOLVED

This Council notes that the delay in the completion of the new Hammersmith & Fulham Civic Campus was due to an accident during which the subcontractor of the contractor dropped one of the main steel supports. Thankfully no one was hurt. As with all such developments, the building site is under the legal charge of the contractor until the works are completed. This accident initiated an immediate shut down of the site while the independent Health and Safety Executive carried out an extensive review. The Health and Safety Executive is the relevant independent national regulator for Great Britain. This is what has caused the delay.

The Council notes that this delay along with Brexit, the Pandemic and Liz Truss' Fiscal Event, contributed a marginally higher cost than originally envisaged and this has been reported through all relevant channels which included a briefing to the opposition and an exempt report to the borough's cabinet meeting which included members of the opposition. These slightly higher costs are in line with other building cost changes over this period.

The Council also notes that despite these marginally higher final costs, the overall costs of the new Hammersmith & Fulham Civic Campus **is still significantly lower than the controversial Hammersmith Town Hall scheme which this borough's former Conservative administration** had previously saddled the borough with.

The Council also notes that additional to this, and in direct contrast to the Conservatives' former scheme, the Civic Campus scheme allows the council to:

5. Significantly reduce all its office costs across the borough
6. Make a substantial annual profit that will contribute to the running of high quality services and keeping council tax low
7. Builds into the sky over the old Town Hall Court Yard Carpark therefore leaving other council land for housing, retail, hospitality and rentable office space
8. Rejuvenate the central belt of the borough with:
 - a. A five-screen arthouse cinema
 - b. A public sky park
 - c. Homework space for local children
 - d. Affordable work space for local start-up entrepreneurs
 - e. A public sky restaurant
 - f. Restaurants, cafes, shops and other public facilities
 - g. A concert hall
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 - i. Two new public squares
 - i. Unity Square – on the site of the former Town Hall extension
 - ii. The Town Square – on the site of the former Town Hall Court Yard Car Park for senior council directors and councillors
 - j. 204 new homes for local people of which 52% are genuinely affordable.
 - k. A new office building which will be let to a private firm bringing hundreds of new customers for the borough's shops, cafes, restaurants, cinema and pubs

- I. Encourage better private sector investment to meet the Council's aim of significantly improving King Street.

The council supports the Green Energy measures built into the Hammersmith & Fulham Civic Campus and recognises that these will also keep energy costs low.

It also supports the work undertaken to make the Civic Campus one of the most accessible buildings in the world for Disabled people.

The Council recognises that the former Conservative administration's development scheme for Hammersmith Town Hall failed when the developers said it was not properly budgeted and was undeliverable. The Conservatives scheme involved:

9. Using council owned land to build 196 luxury flats which were to be marketed off plan to overseas property investors which at that time were largely those buyers in Russia, the Middle East, and the Far East
10. Keeping the dreadful Town Hall Extension but using the Tri-Borough framework to procure cladding for it which the Conservatives argued would improve its look.
11. Keeping the Town Hall Courtyard Car Park for senior council directors and councillors which the Conservatives argued was essential for their travel needs.
12. That despite putting in all the land, the minimal funds raised by that scheme would be shared with its private sector partners and that this would not have produced sufficient funds to refurbish the dilapidated old Town Hall. That meant:
 - a. The Conservatives' scheme would have continued to cost large amounts of the borough's annual budget just to meet health, safety and employment standards.
 - b. The old Hammersmith Town Hall would not have been fully refurbished
 - c. That would have required the council to continue to rent other expensive buildings across the borough.
13. Zero new public space
14. Zero genuinely affordable housing
15. Zero annual profits
16. Zero rejuvenation of the borough's central belt

The Council notes that the Conservatives Town Hall scheme followed a pattern of financial incompetence that also saw the former Conservative administration financially unsound measures which include:

- Selling of Fulham Town Hall for just over £8million
- Selling off the West Kensington and Gibbs Green estates for £102million while failing to recognise that this land formed one third of the total former Earls Court site which was immediately later valued at £12.05billion.

This Council thanks the hundreds of residents who have worked with it to design the new Hammersmith & Fulham Civic Campus. In particular, it thanks the Civic Campus Commissioners and the Civic Campus Disabled Residents Team.

7.7 Special Motion 7 - H&F Green Investment

Councillor Rory Vaughan left the meeting for this item.

9.27pm - Councillor Rowan Ree moved, seconded by Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, the special motion in their names.

“The Council commends the successful H&F Green Investment, a pioneering £5m initiative that empowers local residents to invest directly in cleaner, greener, community-focused projects. This is the largest Community Municipal Investment of its kind, demonstrating the borough’s commitment to tackling the climate emergency.

The Council welcomes the transparency, fiscal responsibility, and climate ambition these bonds represent, delivering tangible benefits such as improved energy efficiency, cleaner air, increased resilience against flooding, and reduced carbon emissions while strengthening public trust and civic participation.

The Council commends officers and partners for their work in establishing this innovative model and affirms the administration’s commitment to expanding sustainable investment that builds a fairer, greener borough for all.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Rowan Ree, Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, Wesley Harcourt, Callum Nimmo (for the Administration) – and Councillor Alex Karmel (for the Opposition).

Councillor Ree then made a speech winding up the debate before the motion was put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

9.54pm – RESOLVED

The Council commends the successful H&F Green Investment, a pioneering £5m initiative that empowers local residents to invest directly in cleaner, greener, community-focused projects. This is the largest Community Municipal Investment of its kind, demonstrating the borough’s commitment to tackling the climate emergency.

The Council welcomes the transparency, fiscal responsibility, and climate ambition these bonds represent, delivering tangible benefits such as improved energy efficiency, cleaner air, increased resilience against flooding, and reduced carbon emissions while strengthening public trust and civic participation.

The Council commends officers and partners for their work in establishing this innovative model and affirms the administration’s commitment to expanding sustainable investment that builds a fairer, greener borough for all.

7.1 **Special Motion 1 - Celebrating Black History Month 2025 in Hammersmith & Fulham**

9.54pm – Councillor Frances Umeh moved, seconded by Councillor Max Schmid, the special motion in their names.

“This Council notes:

That the national theme for Black History Month 2025 is “Standing Firm in Power and Pride”, reflecting the resilience, strength, and enduring contributions of Black communities across the UK.

That Hammersmith & Fulham is a richly diverse borough, and our schools, community organisations, and cultural institutions play a vital role in amplifying Black history, heritage, and voices.

This Council believes that Black history is British history, and celebrating it strengthens our shared identity and social cohesion. That the theme “Standing Firm in Power and Pride” encourages us to not only honour past achievements but also to commit to power, representation, and dignity for all in our community.

This Council resolves to:

- 1. Promote and support Black History Month 2025 events across the borough, including the open-air King Street exhibition.*
- 2. Work with our schools and cultural partners to embed Black history in curricula and public programmes beyond October, ensuring sustained engagement and learning.*
- 3. Celebrate local Black leaders, artists, educators and organisations through Council communications, awards, and recognition, showing pride in our community’s heritage.”*

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Frances Umeh and Max Schmid (for the Administration).

The guillotine fell at 10pm. Councillor Frances Umeh made a short speech winding up the debate before the motion was put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

10.02pm – RESOLVED

This Council notes:

That the national theme for Black History Month 2025 is “Standing Firm in Power and Pride”, reflecting the resilience, strength, and enduring contributions of Black communities across the UK.

That Hammersmith & Fulham is a richly diverse borough, and our schools, community organisations, and cultural institutions play a vital role in amplifying Black history, heritage, and voices.

This Council believes that Black history is British history, and celebrating it strengthens our shared identity and social cohesion. That the theme “Standing Firm in Power and Pride” encourages us to not only honour past achievements but also to commit to power, representation, and dignity for all in our community.

This Council resolves to:

1. Promote and support Black History Month 2025 events across the borough, including the open-air King Street exhibition.
2. Work with our schools and cultural partners to embed Black history in curricula and public programmes beyond October, ensuring sustained engagement and learning.
3. Celebrate local Black leaders, artists, educators and organisations through Council communications, awards, and recognition, showing pride in our community’s heritage.

7.6 Special Motion 6 - Anniversary of Family Hubs

The special motion was withdrawn.

7.2 Special Motion 2 - Opposing Online Hate Speech

The special motion was withdrawn.

7.3 Special Motion 3 - Autumn Budget

The special motion was withdrawn.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 10.02 pm

Mayor

Appendix 1 – Public Questions and Responses

Questions 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 were taken in the meeting and received verbal responses that have been transcribed. Written responses were provided for all other questions.

Question 1

From: Una-Jane Winfield, Resident

To: Councillor Rebecca Harvey, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety

Question:

When and how will the Council start to enforce the judgement of the Supreme Court handed down on 16th April 2025 that "sex in the Equality Act 2010 means biological sex"? What changes will it make immediately and in the years to come to Council services, employment conditions, schools, and many other areas of direct and indirect influence?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety:

On 16 April 2025, the UK Supreme Court ruled that the term "sex" in the Equality Act 2010 refers to biological sex as recorded at birth.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), which regulates the Act, is updating its official guidance and, as a council, we have and shall continue to review our policies to ensure they follow the clarified legal definition and the law as it stands now. This includes areas where the Equality Act is directly relevant—such as employment, service provision, and equality monitoring.

Currently the Council believes that its policies and procedures are lawful and do not need amendment, this includes complying with providing toilet facilities that are compliant with the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992. The Council will, of course, further review the relevant policies as soon as the new EHRC code is formally issued.

As the Judgment itself cautioned, "We are aware of the strength of feeling which has been generated by the disagreements between campaigners seeking to represent the interests of each of these groups and that taxonomy itself can generate controversy". As such we remain committed to protecting all groups covered by the Act, including those with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment. Our approach will continue to be lawful, respectful, and based on national law and guidance. We will keep residents informed as further statutory guidance is published.

Question 2

From: Roxanne Roche, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, The Deputy Leader

Question:

How are you ensuring that those with the authority to do so (e.g. education staff, safeguarding officers in education and in the council, and others with key responsibilities for safeguarding children in education) are actually keeping children safe whilst in attendance at school and following the legal requirements and the policies as set out in government legislation? Particularly when any severe and ongoing safeguarding concerns are brought to your attention.

Response from the Deputy Leader:

In Hammersmith and Fulham, safeguarding in education operates within a clear statutory framework, including Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children, which all schools are required to follow.

A range of mechanisms are used to monitor and gain assurance about the quality of safeguarding practice across the borough. The Local Safeguarding Children Partnership -LSCP is central to this oversight, with a strong emphasis on statutory duties, effective partnership working and rigorous multiagency challenge.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) manages all allegations against staff and volunteers working with children.

We also have a Safeguarding in Education Manager who delivers safeguarding training, supports the DSL network, supports schools with safeguarding matters, and quality assures safeguarding practices.

In line with national guidance, the council actively promotes a culture of professional challenge, escalation and whistleblowing.

All schools are required to have a suitably trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Safeguarding is a routine and integral component of school visits, monitoring activity and engagement with governing bodies and academy trusts. These arrangements include regular review of safeguarding policies, single central records, safeguarding and referral practice, as well as staff awareness.

Safeguarding is an integral part of all Ofsted inspections. All H&F schools are judged effective in this regard.

Our approach ensures that safeguarding is robust and consistently applied.

Question 3

From: Brian Mooney, Resident

To: Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

H&F Council has committed to a feasibility study on 'eco' road user charging (aka road pricing, <https://bit.ly/4svcy3Y>, p76). This has long been considered feasible

technically, so has clear implications for over-taxed drivers. What criteria do you see as making its introduction desirable?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Hi, Brian. We haven't – the link that you've included in your question is a draft that went to public consultation that was reviewed by Cabinet in December 2023 and the final version doesn't have any commitment to introduce any such visibility study.

Question 4

From: Caroline Shuffrey, Resident

To: Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

Despite the best efforts by the Council to ensure that Uber and other private hire drivers are not fined when picking up or dropping off residents and their visitors inside our LTNs, the arrangements have failed and many drivers are refusing to cross the cameras even when residents offer to specifically put their registration numbers into RingGo. Would the Council now recommend that residents, particularly women on their own, only hire black taxis, who are automatically exempt from the camera fines, in order to ensure that they are not left stranded and forced to walk to and from home in the dark?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

First of all, let me say that women's safety is paramount to us, of course, as an Administration. You and I have been on the streets of South Fulham in the dark at night and you know that I always look out for my residents.

On the very topic of Uber and Bolt, I was involved with then Councillor Coleman, now our local MP, talking to Uber and Bolt to make sure that this didn't happen. That led to an agreement being signed in 2024 and last year I checked the latest data about 50,000 taxi rides went through our cameras in South Fulham.

If there are cases of people, these are companies that I talk to for a variety of other things that I look after, and I'll be sure to take it up with them. But from my indication, there's a large volume of traffic going to and from South Fulham through the cameras.

Question 5

From: Vivienne Goldstein, Resident

To: Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

The parklets were placed on Wandsworth Bridge Road nearly 18 months ago. Residents are very concerned about their safety especially as they have been involved in many well documented accidents and incidents. When will they be removed?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Thank you for your question.

The parklets and hospitality seating currently in place on Wandsworth Bridge Road are a temporary measure intended to demonstrate how small sections of the carriageway can be re-purposed to create better spaces for pedestrians, shoppers and local businesses. They are protected from traffic by planters. Planters and parklets are fixed objects. They do not cause accidents; speeding and reckless driving do.

They will be removed as part of the delivery of the wider transformational scheme, which will include permanent pavement build-outs and high-quality community seating and planting, introduced only where road-safety experts consider it appropriate. These permanent improvements are designed to reduce speeding, enhance pedestrian comfort, and support local businesses.

The Council is currently working with Transport for London on elements of the transformation scheme, also including improvements at the New King's Road and Carnwath Road junctions to increase pedestrian space and safety.

Once this joint work has progressed further, we will be able to provide clearer information on the programme and next steps.

Question 6

From: Donald Grant, Resident

To: Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

I am a resident of Wandsworth Bridge Road, and you told me and a neighbour in 2024, after the imposition of Fulham's LTNs, that we would be involved in any future changes to our road. One meeting was arranged by a neighbour in 2025, but the opposite to everything that we put forward was then pushed forward by our Officers. Fortunately these plans have been paused by TfL due to further impacting bus journey times. Now in 2026 we are left in limbo with bikes using pavements as the cycle space has been obstructed for nearly 18 months, and we have to live day and night with the congestion and danger caused by a wavy road experiment. Will you now acknowledge our views and arrange a public meeting to do things with residents not to them by allowing us to co-produce the plans for Wandsworth Bridge Road?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

I don't think it's fortunate that TfL have paused the works. I don't think it's good that we are slower on introducing new raised crossings that will make disabled people, elderly people, and people with pushchairs safer. That's how you see it, that's not how I see it. I'm working with TfL. I, in fact, trekked all the way to City Hall just yesterday to talk to them about that and finding ways that we can resolve the problems.

I'm unashamedly in favour of those things, I think they're a good thing, accessibility and safety. I've spoken to many people on the Wandsworth Bridge Road who've told

me that their children are almost getting run over by cars multiple times a year. I'll continue to push that. On the aspect of consultation, I continue to work with residents and businesses. In the last wave of letters I sent, some people expressed they didn't want some E-Bays in specific locations, and we listened to that and taken that on board. So, it does prove to you that I want to work collaboratively with you.

Question 7

From: Caroline Brooman-White, Resident

To: Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

Businesses were promised a new app to register customers to go through the cameras. We have now been waiting over two years. We were promised that it would definitely be working last August. Please could you give me a firm date as the existing app is very time consuming and businesses are having problems with it?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Thank you for your question. We've had to divert resources – we've got a small team working on improving the range of apps that we use for traffic and parking. They've shifted to resident experiences around the Ringo app. Now, they've been able to talk to businesses with a beta version of what we want to put out to people. We've had some really helpful feedback and we're hoping to go live in April.

Question 8

From: Nigel Singh, Resident

To: Councillor Max Schmid, Chief Whip

Question:

Shepherds Bush Market Station is the gateway to Shepherds Bush it's the first impression visitors get of our area. The station dilapidated and well past its best before date. How is the Council planning to work with TfL to modernise and improve Shepherd's Bush Market station?

Response from the Chief Whip:

Thank you, Nigel. I'd just like to thank you for all the time that you've put into improving Uxbridge Road, it's greatly appreciated.

I completely agree that Shepherd's Bush Market is a critical station. It's the gateway to the area and while it's owned by TfL, we have been working closely to try and get the condition improved. There's going to be some appearance improvement soon with the painting of the bridge, but obviously much more needs to be done, in particular to make it accessible for disabled people. I know from experience you can't get a pram up it, so making it more accessible as well as welcoming is a critical priority and it is one that we are pressing TfL on and we'll continue to press them on and as the Shepherd's Bush Market development happens hopefully, we can direct resources and convince TfL to also direct their resources to make that happen.

Question 9

From: Natalie Turner, Resident
To: Councillor Max Schmid, Chief Whip

Question:

What actions will the Council commit to improving Uxbridge Road from a visual, accessibility and accessibility perspective within the next month? What about 3 months?

Response from the Chief Whip:

Thank you very much for your question and for your interest in the future of Uxbridge Road. It is one of the Borough's most important high streets and we recognize the need to improve it from a visual accessibility and safety perspective and thankful of the time that residents have put in to help the council do that.

In response to concerns raised the Council has developed a comprehensive action plan that covers the activities of over 22 teams across the Council. We've shared that with residents we've had a meeting to go over it a few weeks ago, we're having another meeting tomorrow evening to go over it, continuing to update it as we develop the plan. To answer your question and just to pick a few things from it in the next month, things that residents will notice will be the preparatory works for the repainting of the tube bridge, decisions on a revised timed commercial waste collection which make the street much cleaner, further removal of unnecessary street furniture to improve pedestrian space, targeted enforcement activity to reduce illegal parking, making the road safer for cyclists and pedestrians, and that will include greater patrols and enforcement of the bus lanes. There'll be others, but those are just a few.

Over the next 3 months, we expect to see the visible completion of the much more welcoming bridge at Shepherd's Market Tube Station, increased greenery along the corridor, new rules for shopfront trading to make greater space for pedestrians, continued engagement with phone companies to press for the removal of their derelict phone boxes – hopefully seeing some of them removed in that time span, targeted law enforcement team patrols up and down the road responding to intelligence from residents of where those patrols are most needed, and progress towards establishing a business improvement district, which would go a long way to doing things like bringing in lighting in the festive period.

In addition, the Council already has open investigations on more than 160 properties along Uxbridge Road. We're already seeing some of those properties make the improvements the Council's asked them to make. We're engaging with them to make those improvements, but we will use our powers, including serving formal enforcement notices wherever necessary when those improvements aren't made. So, collectively, it's a team effort across the Council. I hope we'll see a lot of improvements along the road in the next month, in the next three months, and into the future. Thank you.

Question 10

From: Saul Udoma-Herman, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

The Fulham Bilingual school is a partnership with the Lycée Charles de Gaulle. As the Council will know, the future of that partnership appears to be at risk due to the desire of the Lycée to conclude the partnership. Will the Council say what steps have been taken to ensure that there is funding for the continuation of bilingual education on the Clancarty Road site should that partnership come to an end?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 11

From: Sara Allan, Resident

To: Councillor Rebecca Harvey, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety

Question:

Given the Law Enforcement Team's remit is limited not including core policing powers, can the Cabinet Member explain why the Council has chosen to invest further in recruiting LET officers rather than directing that funding—through partnership or lobbying—towards additional police officers with full statutory powers to address serious crime, anti-social behaviour and public safety concerns raised repeatedly by residents?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety:

Thank you for your question. While it is correct that the Law Enforcement Team (LET) does not hold core policing powers, the Council's decision to expand the team reflects the very specific role it plays in improving safety, reducing anti-social behaviour, and supporting policing across Hammersmith & Fulham.

Although LET officers do not have arrest powers, they carry out a wide range of practical enforcement and prevention tasks that complement the work of the Metropolitan Police providing a 24/7 presence – it is a unique service for our borough. The LET work to issue fixed penalty notices, enforce our Public Spaces Protection Orders, deter drug use, support rough sleepers, and addressing environmental offences such as fly-tipping and littering. These things matter to our residents as we strive to deliver a cleaner, safer, borough for all.

Investing in the LET also strengthens local policing partnerships and, unlike the police, LET officers are not subject to abstractions for matters of local, regional or national requirements. Borough police are often taken away from front line policing to attend state visits, manage protests, provide presence at international sporting venues, concerts etc which directly impact on our borough.

In addition, funding additional Metropolitan Police officers is not within the Council's core responsibilities. Police budgets, recruitment and deployments sit with the Home Office and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. What the Council can do—and continues to prioritise—is building strong operational partnerships, investing in prevention, and ensuring residents receive a visible, local, and immediate response to safety concerns. The LET forms a critical part of that strategy.

Overall, the LET is designed to add capacity, extend visibility, support policing, and address the issues residents report most frequently, including anti-social behaviour, environmental crime, and safety in public spaces.

Question 12

From: Julien Cornebise, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

With the looming collapse of the Fulham Bilingual partnership between the Lycée Français and Holy Cross school, many Fulham families risk being left without the educationally, culturally, and diplomatically rich bilingual education. While we are reassured to hear of the Council's support for Holy Cross's attempts by salvaging the partnership if possible, and most importantly by setting up a bilingual stream on its own if not, what concrete financial measures is the Council taking to give it the means to thus preserve the children's stability of bilingual studies and learning environment?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 13

From: Jonathan Couard, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

In light of the serious educational and community impact that would result from the withdrawal of the Lycée Charles de Gaulle from the Fulham Bilingual partnership, what concrete steps is the Council taking to actively engage with, influence, and apply pressure where appropriate to the Lycée and relevant French authorities, in order to do everything possible to secure the continuation of this partnership and preserve the stability of bilingual education for pupils at the Clancarty Road site?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 14

From: Malek Ben Hamida, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

We are a family living in the borough for 10 years now. Our 2 daughters go to the Fulham bilingual (year 5 and year 3) from holy cross side. We received lately the information that the lycée side would like to finish the partnership for financial reasons. How the borough could help to keep and maintain this amazing partnership, or is the borough preparing for a new public bilingual stream?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 15

From: Tania Grorud, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

I understand the council is trying to salvage the partnership with the Lycée to continue the wonderful program at Fulham Bilingual. But if that is not possible, what plans are being made to continue the wonderful Fulham Bilingual school for Holy Cross students?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 16

From: Manuk Asatryan, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

The Fulham Bilingual School currently operates in partnership with the Lycée Charles de Gaulle. However, it appears that this partnership may be at risk as the Lycée has indicated a desire to end it. Could the Council outline what measures are being taken to secure funding to ensure the continuation of bilingual education at the Clancarty Road site if the partnership does come to an end?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 17

From: Charles Malissard, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

The Fulham Bilingual school is a partnership with the Lycée Charles de Gaulle. As the council will know, the future of that partnership appears to be at risk due to the desire of the Lycée to conclude the partnership. Will the Council say what steps have been taken to ensure that there is funding for the continuation of bilingual education on the Clancarty Road site should that partnership come to an end?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 18

From: Kate Cranfield, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

What is the council doing to fight to preserve the Holy Cross/Lycée Partnership at the Fulham Bilingual School which would mean many Fulham families risk being left without the educationally, culturally and diplomatically rich bilingual education provided by this fantastic school and what concrete financial measures is the Council taking to preserve the children's stability of bilingual studies and learning environment?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 19

From: Johanna Penttilae, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

Fulham Bilingual is a popular school providing bilingual education through a long-standing partnership between the UK and France, with the UK side being state

funded. It has been reported that the Lycée Français de Londres is considering withdrawing from this partnership. In the event that this partnership with France comes to an end, what steps will the Council take to ensure the continuation of a high-quality, state-funded bilingual education offer in the local area for current and future pupils?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 20

From: Alexandra Desvignes, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

The Fulham Bilingual school (a partnership between Holy Cross and the French Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle based on Clancarty road in Fulham) is at risk of closure. What steps are the council taking to support Holy Cross School in their endeavours to save the partnership, which provides a unique education in a very popular dual curriculum that benefits hundreds of children in the borough, and what plans are being set out to provide a bilingual education alternative via the Borough and Holy Cross School, should the partnership come to an unfortunate end?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 21

From: Paul Micheron, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

Fulham Bilingual is a well-regarded school delivering bilingual education through a long-standing partnership between the UK and France, with the UK component being state-funded. It has been reported that the Lycée Français de Londres may be considering withdrawal from this partnership. Should this partnership come to an end, what measures would the Council put in place to maintain the provision of this high-quality, state-funded bilingual education for current and future pupils in the local area?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education

continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 22

From: Merije Delamare, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

We understand the Lycée Charles de Gaulle wants to pull out of the partnership with Holy Cross which forms the Fulham Bilingual School. Can you set out the main pain points for the Lycée wanting to discontinue the partnership and what hurdles does Holy Cross / the council need to overcome to continue the partnership? How can parents help to support Holy Cross and the council in this?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 23

From: Marie Lecointre-Brown, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

Given the Lycée Charles de Gaulle's intent to withdraw from the Fulham Bilingual partnership, what steps is the Council taking to guarantee funding for bilingual schooling on Clancarty Road if the agreement dissolves?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 24

From: Alexandra Green, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

The Fulham Bilingual represents a unique asset to our borough—a thriving bridge between British and French communities that enriches local life far beyond the classroom. Will the Council recognise this cultural and educational value by committing the funding required for Holy Cross to sustain bilingual provision, regardless of the Lycée's decision?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 25

From: Anna Quattrone, Resident

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

Please comment on how you intend to support the Fulham Bilingual school - to keep the partnership between HC and Lycées - to create a HC bilingual (50:50) curriculum. Could you propose to decrease/remove(?) the rent of the building and the VAT from fees for the Lycées if they stay in the partnership?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.

Question 26

From: Emma Bouché, Parent

To: Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader

Question:

The Fulham Bilingual school is a partnership with the Lycée Charles de Gaulle. As the council will know, the future of that partnership appears to be at risk due to the desire of the Lycée to conclude the partnership due to funding issues. Will the Council say what steps have been taken to ensure that there is funding for the continuation of bilingual education on the Clancarty Road site?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

We were extremely concerned to learn about the risk to Fulham Bilingual. It is a treasured part of the borough and we are determined to see bilingual education continue. The local MP and I met with parents last Friday and will remain in contact with them until a solution is found.