

COUNCIL MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2022



PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Emma Apthorp
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Daryl Brown

Councillors:

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Councillors Patricia Quigley and Lucy Richardson attended the meeting remotely and did not participate in the discussion or vote on decision items.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

7.06pm – The minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 13 July 2022 and 20 September 2022 were agreed as accurate records.

4. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)

The Mayor thanked all of the residents who submitted questions. She noted that public question time was limited to 20 minutes, and it would not be extended.

Questions 1, 2, 7, and 11 were addressed in the meeting. The Mayor noted that any questions not addressed in the meeting would receive written responses which would also be published in the minutes. All the questions and responses can be found in Appendix 1.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Review of the Constitution

7.23pm – 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**.

7.24pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council approves the revision to the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety's portfolio and new Lead Member responsibilities detailed in the report.
2. That Full Council appoints Councillor Helen Rowbottom as Lead Member for Flood Mitigation and Councillor Liz Collins as Lead Member for Energy Crisis Support.
3. That Full Council approves that the Members Code of Code be updated to include the requirement for Members to inform the Monitoring Officer if they commit any offence leading to disqualification as outlined in the Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022.
4. That Full Council approves the revisions to the Constitution listed in the report.

6.2 Dispensation of Absence

7.24pm – 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 Councillors Florian Chevoppe-Verdier and Helen Rowbottom (for the Administration).

NOTE: Due to a fire alarm the meeting was suspended for 38 minutes. The meeting resumed at 8.10pm.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

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

8.14pm – RESOLVED

1. To approve that a special dispensation be granted to Councillor Patricia Quigley for non-attendance in person at meetings of the authority due to shielding until further notice pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To note that Councillor Patricia Quigley will continue to attend meetings remotely.

6.3 Council Appointments to Outside Bodies

8.14pm – 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

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

8.14pm – RESOLVED

1. That Councillor Ben Coleman be appointed as the Council's representative to Sands End Arts and Community Centre to 31 October 2025.
2. To confirm the appointment of Councillor Ann Rosenberg as the Council's representative to Sands End Arts and Community Centre to 31 October 2023.

6.4 Revisions to the Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23

8.15pm – 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

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

8.15pm – RESOLVED

1. That the revised Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23 as set out in the report and attached as Appendix 1, be approved.

7. SPECIAL MOTIONS

8.16pm – Councillor Max Schmid moved a motion under Standing Order 15(e)3 to reorder special motions in the following order: 7, 2, 5, 6, 8, 1, 9, 4 and 3. Councillor Genevieve Nwaogbe seconded the motion, and it was agreed.

7.7 Special Motion 7 - Condemning the actions of the Iranian regime and reaffirming support for the rights of women and girls around the world

8.16pm – Councillor Omid Miri moved, seconded by Councillor Laura Janes, the special motion in their names:

“This Council unequivocally condemns the brutal actions of the regime in Iran against its own citizens following the murder of an innocent young woman, Mahsa Amini, for non-compliance with the compulsory hijab rule.

Since her murder, widespread protests have erupted across Iran calling for freedom of choice with regards to the hijab and the liberalisation of the political system - these protests have resulted in the deaths of many more Iranians of all ages at the hands of security forces.

On behalf of the large Iranian diaspora community in Hammersmith and Fulham, this Council stands with the Iranian people in their fight for freedom and calls on the UK Government to escalate its condemnation of the regime by summoning the Iranian ambassador immediately.

Furthermore, the Council condemns the ongoing persecution of women and girls in Afghanistan at the hands of the Taliban, and reaffirms its commitment to women's rights across the world.

The Council also calls on the UK Government to do more to provide safe haven and support to Afghans and Iranians, and all refugees, fleeing oppression and conflict - many of them settled in and supported by Hammersmith and Fulham.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Miri, Perez, Cowan, and Homan (for the Administration) and Councillors Brocklebank-Fowler and Stanton (for the Opposition).

The motion was then put to the vote.

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

8.45pm – RESOLVED

This Council unequivocally condemns the brutal actions of the regime in Iran against its own citizens following the murder of an innocent young woman, Mahsa Amini, for non-compliance with the compulsory hijab rule.

Since her murder, widespread protests have erupted across Iran calling for freedom of choice with regards to the hijab and the liberalisation of the political system - these protests have resulted in the deaths of many more Iranians of all ages at the hands of security forces.

On behalf of the large Iranian diaspora community in Hammersmith and Fulham, this Council stands with the Iranian people in their fight for freedom and calls on the UK Government to escalate its condemnation of the regime by summoning the Iranian ambassador immediately.

Furthermore, the Council condemns the ongoing persecution of women and girls in Afghanistan at the hands of the Taliban, and reaffirms its commitment to women's rights across the world.

The Council also calls on the UK Government to do more to provide safe haven and support to Afghans and Iranians, and all refugees, fleeing oppression and conflict - many of them settled in and supported by Hammersmith and Fulham.

7.2 Special Motion 2 - Clean Air Neighbourhoods

8.45pm – Councillor Ben Coleman moved, seconded by Councillor Patrick Walsh, the special motion in their names:

“This Council:

- Notes the high level of air pollution in our borough and the need for action to address this to protect residents, particularly children;*
- Welcomes the success of the project to reduce pollution and congestion in residential streets to the east of Wandsworth Bridge Road;*
- Notes that this has improved air quality in those streets as a result of removing 8,000 cars and a tonne of carbon dioxide a day from them by preventing out-of-borough drivers from using the area as a cut-through;*
- Notes that the scheme came in after extensive consultation with residents and that all borough residents with a car permit continue to enjoy unrestricted access to the area;*
- Notes that residents to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road have requested the scheme be extended to them and that the Council has committed to doing so on a trial basis with further consultation;*

- Welcomes the Council's commitment to make the whole of South Fulham a Clean Air Neighbourhood where the air is cleaner for families and children and the roads are quieter and safer for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Welcomes that this will include new environmental, traffic calming and safety improvements on Wandsworth Bridge Road to make it a better place to live, work and shop;
- Welcomes the 20mph speed limit recently introduced in Wandsworth Bridge Road at the request of residents;
- Welcomes the pre-engagement on the trial extension to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road that has already taken place with resident groups and hundreds of residents, chaired in a bi-partisan way by Labour and (now ex-) Conservative Councillors;
- Notes that the consultation and engagement that has taken in South Fulham is the biggest in the borough's history and has far exceeded what is required by the government; and
- Commits to consulting extensively further during the trial in line with government guidance.

This Council also:

- Confirms its ambitious target of protecting residents' health by reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030 for our borough;
- Notes that the government's own Net Zero Strategy contains a "key commitment" of delivering more so-called low traffic neighbourhoods "with the aim that half of all journeys in towns and cities will be cycled or walked by 2030";
- Notes that this Net Zero Strategy was introduced in the House of Commons on 19 October 2021 by Greg Hands, MP for Chelsea and Fulham, the then Minister for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change, who said, "We must continue to take decisive action if we are to meet our net zero goal";
- Regrets Mr Hands's hypocrisy in running a petition calling for the South Fulham scheme to be abolished despite its obvious clean air benefits, which sits at odds with the ministerial office he once held;
- Is disappointed that Mr Hands has consistently refused a briefing by council traffic engineers on the scheme, and believes this is so that he can claim not to know the facts and campaign disingenuously against it;
- Regrets that the Conservative opposition chose to put a misleading and untruthful attack on the scheme at the centre of their council election campaign in the Sands End ward and notes that they decisively lost the campaign; and
- Encourages the newly-elected opposition councillors for the streets to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road to learn from the approach taken by their Conservative predecessor Matt Thorley, who refused to be misled by Greg Hands and supported his constituents' desire to improve the air across South Fulham."

A speech on the motion was made by Councillor Coleman (for the Administration).

Under Standing Order 15(e)(6), Councillor Alex Karmel moved, seconded by Councillor Adrian Pascu-Tulbure, an amendment:

“This Council regrets that proposals to extend the existing Traffic, Congestion and Pollution Reduction (TCPR) scheme to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road have become a source of considerable local contention, and calls upon the Administration to grasp the issue, bring together residents and businesses, consult fully, and work constructively towards a solution.”

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Pascu-Tulbure, Lloyd-Harris, Afonso, and Stanton (for the Opposition) before it was put to the vote.

FOR	10
AGAINST	33
NOT VOTING	1

The amendment was declared **LOST**.

Speeches on the substantive motion were made by Councillors Walsh, Holder, and Harcourt (for the Administration).

Councillor Coleman then made a speech winding up the debate before the motion was put to the vote.

FOR	33
AGAINST	10
NOT VOTING	1

The substantive motion was declared **CARRIED**.

9.28pm – RESOLVED

This Council:

- Notes the high level of air pollution in our borough and the need for action to address this to protect residents, particularly children;
- Welcomes the success of the project to reduce pollution and congestion in residential streets to the east of Wandsworth Bridge Road;
- Notes that this has improved air quality in those streets as a result of removing 8,000 cars and a tonne of carbon dioxide a day from them by preventing out-of-borough drivers from using the area as a cut-through;
- Notes that the scheme came in after extensive consultation with residents and that all borough residents with a car permit continue to enjoy unrestricted access to the area;
- Notes that residents to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road have requested the scheme be extended to them and that the Council has committed to doing so on a trial basis with further consultation;
- Welcomes the Council’s commitment to make the whole of South Fulham a Clean Air Neighbourhood where the air is cleaner for families and children and the roads are quieter and safer for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Welcomes that this will include new environmental, traffic calming and safety improvements on Wandsworth Bridge Road to make it a better place to live, work and shop;
- Welcomes the 20mph speed limit recently introduced in Wandsworth Bridge Road at the request of residents;

- Welcomes the pre-engagement on the trial extension to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road that has already taken place with resident groups and hundreds of residents, chaired in a bi-partisan way by Labour and (now ex-) Conservative Councillors;
- Notes that the consultation and engagement that has taken in South Fulham is the biggest in the borough's history and has far exceeded what is required by the government; and
- Commits to consulting extensively further during the trial in line with government guidance.

This Council also:

- Confirms its ambitious target of protecting residents' health by reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030 for our borough;
- Notes that the government's own Net Zero Strategy contains a "key commitment" of delivering more so-called low traffic neighbourhoods "with the aim that half of all journeys in towns and cities will be cycled or walked by 2030";
- Notes that this Net Zero Strategy was introduced in the House of Commons on 19 October 2021 by Greg Hands, MP for Chelsea and Fulham, the then Minister for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change, who said, "We must continue to take decisive action if we are to meet our net zero goal";
- Regrets Mr Hands's hypocrisy in running a petition calling for the South Fulham scheme to be abolished despite its obvious clean air benefits, which sits at odds with the ministerial office he once held;
- Is disappointed that Mr Hands has consistently refused a briefing by council traffic engineers on the scheme, and believes this is so that he can claim not to know the facts and campaign disingenuously against it;
- Regrets that the Conservative opposition chose to put a misleading and untruthful attack on the scheme at the centre of their council election campaign in the Sands End ward and notes that they decisively lost the campaign; and
- Encourages the newly-elected opposition councillors for the streets to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road to learn from the approach taken by their Conservative predecessor Matt Thorley, who refused to be misled by Greg Hands and supported his constituents' desire to improve the air across South Fulham.

7.5 Special Motion 5 - Fiscal Statement

9.29pm – Councillor Rowan Ree moved, seconded by Councillor Ben Coleman, the special motion in their names:

"The Council notes the government's "mini-budget" on 23 September, in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the government would borrow billions of pounds to abolish the additional rate of income tax levied on those earning £150,000 a year.

This Council notes the reaction to the Chancellor's statement, which saw:

- *The pound fall to \$1.0327, an all-time low, increasing the cost of imported goods and services;*

- *The largest two-day sell-off of UK government debt on record, requiring the Bank of England to spend billions of pounds to protect the country's pensions;*
- *40% of available mortgages withdrawn from the market, notably those aimed at people on lower incomes or with fewer savings, thus increasing the cost of housing for this group; and*
- *A prediction by financial markets of an increase in interest rates to 6%, which would increase borrowing cost for households, businesses and the Council.*

The Council welcomes the government's U-turn on abolishing the top rate of income tax under pressure from groups as diverse as the Labour Party, people earning over £150,000 a year and some senior Conservative MPs, including Michael Gove and Grant Shapps, the latter describing it as "wrong on every level.

The Council regrets local MP Greg Hands' support, prior to the government's U-turn, for abolishing the top rate of tax, tweeting "There is nothing inherently revolutionary or wrong with what the Government is proposing on tax... All of the measures have strong merits."

The Council fears that the Chancellor plans to usher in a new era of austerity, following his refusal to reconsider departmental budgets in light of higher inflation, and notes that the Institute for Fiscal Studies has calculated this will result in a real terms cut of £18bn a year in government spending.

The Council notes that under the previous Conservative austerity policies:

- *The Council's funding was cut by 55% in real terms;*
- *Public services across the country were starved of the funding they needed; and*
- *Those most reliant on government support suffered the most from spending cuts.*

The Council calls on the government to:

- *Avoid further damaging austerity policies;*
- *Protect the public services that residents rely on; and*
- *Ensure that our poorest and most vulnerable fellow citizens do not pay the price for the government's ideologically-driven economic mismanagement."*

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Ree, Lang (who made his maiden speech), Collins, Daly, Melton (who made his maiden speech), Harvey, Schmid, and Coleman (for the Administration) and Councillors Dinsmore and Afzal-Khan (for the Opposition).

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

FOR	32
AGAINST	10
NOT VOTING	1

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

10.24pm – RESOLVED

The Council notes the government's "mini-budget" on 23 September, in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the government would borrow billions of pounds to abolish the additional rate of income tax levied on those earning £150,000 a year.

This Council notes the reaction to the Chancellor's statement, which saw:

- The pound fell to \$1.0327, an all-time low, increasing the cost of imported goods and services;
- The largest two-day sell-off of UK government debt on record, requiring the Bank of England to spend billions of pounds to protect the country's pensions;
- 40% of available mortgages withdrawn from the market, notably those aimed at people on lower incomes or with fewer savings, thus increasing the cost of housing for this group; and
- A prediction by financial markets of an increase in interest rates to 6%, which would increase borrowing cost for households, businesses and the Council.

The Council welcomes the government's U-turn on abolishing the top rate of income tax under pressure from groups as diverse as the Labour Party, people earning over £150,000 a year and some senior Conservative MPs, including Michael Gove and Grant Shapps, the latter describing it as "wrong on every level.

The Council regrets local MP Greg Hands' support, prior to the government's U-turn, for abolishing the top rate of tax, tweeting "There is nothing inherently revolutionary or wrong with what the Government is proposing on tax... All of the measures have strong merits."

The Council fears that the Chancellor plans to usher in a new era of austerity, following his refusal to reconsider departmental budgets in light of higher inflation, and notes that the Institute for Fiscal Studies has calculated this will result in a real terms cut of £18bn a year in government spending.

The Council notes that under the previous Conservative austerity policies:

- The Council's funding was cut by 55% in real terms;
- Public services across the country were starved of the funding they needed; and
- Those most reliant on government support suffered the most from spending cuts.

The Council calls on the government to:

- Avoid further damaging austerity policies;
- Protect the public services that residents rely on; and
- Ensure that our poorest and most vulnerable fellow citizens do not pay the price for the government's ideologically-driven economic mismanagement.

7.6 Special Motion 6 - 12 Years of Conservative Government

10.24pm – Councillor Bora Kwon moved, seconded by Councillor Nikos Souslous, the special motion in their names:

“The Council notes that over the last 12 year the Conservative government has caused immeasurable damage to the residents of Hammersmith and Fulham and the entire United Kingdom. This includes:

- The damaging programme of austerity that has left public services on their knees*
- A catastrophic Brexit that has undermined trade, soured relations with our closest neighbours and reduced British influence globally*
- A decline in support for the Union*
- The muddled, mishandled response to the Covid pandemic, including placing covid-positive residents into care homes*
- Degrading the office of Prime Minister through a series of scandals, including holding a flurry of parties at 10 Downing Street during Covid lockdowns and the failure to deal with improper conduct by senior Conservative MPs*
- An acute housing crisis leaving millions in overcrowded conditions and younger generations unable to enter the housing market*
- Surges in hospital, GP and ambulance waiting times alongside an increase in health inequality*
- Record levels of sewage flowing into our oceans and rivers and suffocating restraints on the expansion of onshore wind power*
- A justice system in crisis, with rising crime and fewer police, prosecutions and convictions*
- Mismanagement of the economy, which has seen anaemic growth, real terms reductions in salaries, the devaluation of sterling, a cost-of-living crisis and spiralling mortgage and rental payments*

The Conservative Party has seen four Prime Ministers since 2016, each presenting a different flavour of the same failed approaches.

The Council therefore calls on Councillors and MPs of all parties to put our country and our community first and demand a general election so this dying government can be retired before it does any more damage.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Kwon, Souslous, and Taylor (who made her maiden speech) (for the Administration).

The guillotine fell at 10.40pm.

Councillor Kwon then made a short speech winding up the debate before the motion was put to the vote.

FOR	32
AGAINST	10
NOT VOTING	1

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

10.42pm – RESOLVED

The Council notes that over the last 12 year the Conservative government has caused immeasurable damage to the residents of Hammersmith and Fulham and the entire United Kingdom. This includes:

- The damaging programme of austerity that has left public services on their knees
- A catastrophic Brexit that has undermined trade, soured relations with our closest neighbours and reduced British influence globally
- A decline in support for the Union
- The muddled, mishandled response to the Covid pandemic, including placing covid-positive residents into care homes
- Degrading the office of Prime Minister through a series of scandals, including holding a flurry of parties at 10 Downing Street during Covid lockdowns and the failure to deal with improper conduct by senior Conservative MPs
- An acute housing crisis leaving millions in overcrowded conditions and younger generations unable to enter the housing market
- Surges in hospital, GP and ambulance waiting times alongside an increase in health inequality
- Record levels of sewage flowing into our oceans and rivers and suffocating restraints on the expansion of onshore wind power
- A justice system in crisis, with rising crime and fewer police, prosecutions and convictions
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The Conservative Party has seen four Prime Ministers since 2016, each presenting a different flavour of the same failed approaches.

The Council therefore calls on Councillors and MPs of all parties to put our country and our community first and demand a general election so this dying government can be retired before it does any more damage.

7.8 Special Motion 8 - Taking action on violence against women and girls

10.43pm – As the guillotine had fallen, the special motion in the names of Councillors Rebecca Harvey and Lisa Homan was taken as moved and seconded:

“The Council notes that 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that commences on 25 November 2022, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December 2022, Human Rights Day. First created and launched in 1961 it calls on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls which this Council fully endorses.”

The Council is deeply concerned that VAWG is rampant across the country. It notes that under the current Government, sex-based offences such as rape and sexual assault have seen unprecedented rises and low prosecution rates and even lower conviction rates.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council has over many years consistently worked towards:

- the goal of eliminating violence against women and girls*
- devised our strategy of ending Violence Against Women and Girls through prevention and education and support*
- working with partners including the Angelou Project, Standing Together, Refuge*
- and encouraging businesses to support projects such as Ask Angela.*

The Council notes that in 2022, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence coincides with the World Cup in Qatar. Violence against women and girls increases from between 26 – 38% during international football competitions and that during Euro 2020 there was a spike in reported domestic abuse.

Considering the disastrous state of the underfunded criminal justice system in this country, there is a serious risk of an escalation in domestic violence cases in the coming months. This Council pledges to redouble its efforts to work with our partners including those in the Angelou Partnership, our residents and wider community to try and keep everyone safe and prevent VAWG.

The Council calls on the Government to properly fund the criminal justice system so that perpetrators can be held to account.

The Council calls on organisations in the borough working in all sectors to raise awareness of domestic violence and misogyny, making it clear that it is unacceptable at any time.”

The motion was then put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

10.43pm – RESOLVED

The Council notes that 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that commences on 25 November 2022, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December 2022, Human Rights Day. First created and launched in 1961 it calls on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls which this Council fully endorses.

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Considering the disastrous state of the underfunded criminal justice system in this country, there is a serious risk of an escalation in domestic violence cases in the coming months. This Council pledges to redouble its efforts to work with our partners including those in the Angelou Partnership, our residents and wider community to try and keep everyone safe and prevent VAWG.

The Council calls on the Government to properly fund the criminal justice system so that perpetrators can be held to account.

The Council calls on organisations in the borough working in all sectors to raise awareness of domestic violence and misogyny, making it clear that it is unacceptable at any time.

7.1 Special Motion 1 - The Conservative Government's Failing Justice System

The special motion was withdrawn.

7.9 Special Motion 9 - Standing up for Responsible Tax Conduct

10.43pm – As the guillotine had fallen, the special motion in the names of Councillors Rowan Ree and Zarar Qayyum was taken as moved and seconded:

“The Council notes that:

- 1. The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.*
- 2. Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.*
- 3. Two thirds of people (66%) believe the Government and local councils should at least consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.*

4. *Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.*
5. *It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.*
6. *The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.*

The Council believes that:

1. *Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn't be.*
2. *Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.*
3. *As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.*
4. *Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.*
5. *More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.*
6. *UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.*

The Council resolves to:

1. *Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.*
2. *Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.*
3. *Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.*
4. *Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.*
5. *Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.*
6. *Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.*
7. *Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.*
8. *Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.*

9. *Support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.”*

The motion was then put to the vote:

FOR	31
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	10

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

10.44pm – RESOLVED

The Council notes that:

7. The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.
8. Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.
9. Two thirds of people (66%) believe the Government and local councils should at least consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.
10. Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.
11. It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.
12. The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.

The Council believes that:

7. Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn’t be.
8. Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.
9. As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.
10. Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.
11. More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils’ ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.

- 12. UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.

The Council resolves to:

- 10. Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.
- 11. Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.
- 12. Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.
- 13. Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
- 14. Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.
- 15. Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.
- 16. Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.
- 17. Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.
- 18. Support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.

7.4 **Special Motion 4 - Traffic, Congestion and Pollution Reduction Scheme Extension**

The special motion was withdrawn.

7.3 **Special Motion 3 - Violent Crime**

The special motion was withdrawn.

Meeting started: 7.02 pm
Meeting ended: 10.44 pm

Mayor

Public Questions and Responses – 19 October 2022

Question 1

From: Andy Knowles, Resident
To: The Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

“Could the Council please capitalise on the success of the East TCPR by using the now superfluous filter phase of the traffic lights on the junction at the northern end of Wandsworth Bridge for a pedestrian Puffin crossing across all lanes.”

Response:

The Council has listened to resident requests throughout the trial of the East TCPR and many requests for more crossing facilities and greening were made throughout the experiment.

The reduction in traffic volumes on Wandsworth Bridge Road and to the east allows us to explore all of these including the aim of introducing more pedestrian crossing facilities at the northern end of Wandsworth Bridge Road.

The Council will fully explore the possibilities and options at this junction to provide safer crossing facilities on the desired walking routes.

Furthermore the trial extension to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road enables us to improve safer cycling and walking routes on Wandsworth Bridge Road and to look at reconfiguring the traffic lights at Carnwath Road and Townmead Road to improve safety there too for pedestrians and cyclists.

Question 2

From: David Morris, Resident
To: The Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

“The Department of Transport’s recent report (Gear Change: One Year On 2021) reveals that data from both longer established and recent Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes show that the common claim that LTNs simply displace traffic to other roads is in most cases not happening and that most schemes report reductions in traffic on the roads around the LTNs. Does the Council agree that this data fully justifies testing the experimental TCPR / Clean Air Neighbourhood scheme west of Wandsworth Bridge Road?”

Response:

In addition to research collated from national schemes, the Council conducted extensive traffic monitoring for the duration of the trial scheme in the east. The Councils own traffic study demonstrated that traffic did not displace after the trial had settled. H&F Clean Air Neighbourhood projects are a better option than other national schemes as there are no

physical barriers to vehicles and therefore allows residents and permitted vehicles such as emergency services to drive through any restrictions.

We are confident the success of the project can be replicated elsewhere in the borough including the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road. We would launch neighbourhood projects only after developing options with residents and as an experiment it allows the opportunity to consult and obtain feedback throughout. Any trial also allows officers to monitor, make amendments or enhance throughout the experimental period.

Question 3

From: James Burgoyne, Resident

To: The Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

“Maxwell Road has a garbage problem. I have made many complaints on the subject, but the problem seems to me structural. Granville Place rubbish is left in bin bags in front of the houses all week, where the fox gets at the bags. The bins provided are 1) too small 2) in hard to access bin housing. It would be a very easy fix to remove the wooden slate above the bins and provide large wheelie bins in their place. A) they would have capacity B) they would be accessible.

What is the Council doing to solve the Maxwell Road rubbish problem?”

Response:

Officers from the Contract Monitoring team are monitoring Maxwell Road weekly on collection day to ensure that all domestic waste collections are taking place as scheduled and the road is cleansed to an acceptable standard following collection.

Whenever we receive reports of littering, fly-tipping or missed waste collections via the contact centre or the Report It app the contractor is immediately informed and sent to bring the street to an acceptable standard of cleanliness or rectify the missed collection.

With specific reference to Granville Place, residents should present their waste for collection no earlier than 21:00 on the evening prior to the scheduled collection. We will ask colleagues in the council’s Law Enforcement Team to monitor the area, and letter drop to affected properties as necessary.

Residents of Granville Place should provide their own suitable receptacles for the storage of waste. With regard to the bin housings, their design and capacity would be a matter for the property owner, and it would be outside of the Authority or the Contractor’s remit to themselves remove any part of the bin housing.

Question 4

From: Asli Eler, Resident

To: The Leader of the Council

Question:

“Why is the implementation of the TCPR West scheme delayed even though the cameras are in place for some time now and we have all seen how successful the TCPR East

scheme was in reducing pollution for our residents? Our children should have the same chance to live in a cleaner environment on the west side too.”

Response:

The Council took a decision to launch a trial to the west at a Cabinet meeting in December 2021. Cameras were placed in the west area to better understand traffic profile and gain insight into the routes that out of borough through traffic takes.

In line with the Council’s values of doing things with residents it was important for the officers to develop and finalise proposals with residents’ groups from the area. By listening to their concerns on air quality, and requests for more greening and healthier streets the Council took it on board and developed the proposals for Clean Air Neighbourhoods which will include significant public realm and air quality benefits for areas in addition to tackling traffic and safety concerns.

Question 5

From: Ian Sellars, Resident

To: The Leader of the Council

Question:

“Can you tell me what the current status of the TCPR West scheme is, what decisions remain to be taken with regard to the scheme (and when will they be taken) and what further consultations and discussions are required before a definitive decision can be made?”

Response:

The Council took a decision to launch a trial to the west at a Cabinet meeting in December 2021. Cameras were placed in the west area to better understand traffic profile and gain insight into the routes that out of borough through traffic takes.

In line with the Council’s values of doing things with residents it was important for the officers to develop and finalise proposals with residents’ groups from the area.

Officers were delegated responsibility to begin a trial which we are now ready to do and expect an experiment to begin in November.

Question 6

From: Kristian Jenner, Resident

To: The Deputy Leader

Question:

“Given the Council’s commitment to net-zero, following the success of the current TCPR scheme against its stated aims, can the Council commit to extending the scheme to the rest of South Fulham and please outline a timetable for doing so?”

Response:

The Council took a decision to launch a trial to the west at a Cabinet meeting in December 2021. Cameras were placed in the west area to better understand traffic profile and gain insight into the routes that out of borough through traffic takes.

In line with the Council's values of doing things with residents it was important for the officers to develop and finalise proposals with residents' groups from the area.

Officers were delegated responsibility to begin a trial, which we are now ready to do and expect an experiment to begin in November.

Question 7

From: David Tarsh, Resident
To: The Leader of the Council

Question:

"Official data shows that C9 is a failure on all important metrics:

- *The route is NOT "safer" as TfL claims; it is more dangerous*
- *It is deeply unpopular with residents along the route*
- *Congestion is much worse*
- *The number of new cyclists attracted had fallen*
- *The costs are exorbitant*

Will you now acknowledge that C9 has caused massive inconvenience to the vast majority of residents impacted by it; that it has delivered no safety benefits to the tiny proportion of road-users that use it; and therefore, that it must be removed at the earliest opportunity?"

Response:

We do not agree with these statements.

Providing cycle lanes separated from traffic is safer for cyclists, providing more crossing facilities is safer for pedestrians.

We continue to receive lots of positive comments from the community since completing the works on the Safer Cycle Pathway on King Street and the Hammersmith gyratory. The aim of the safer cycle pathway is to encourage people to travel by bike especially those who may be less confident including children and young adults. It is an important enabler for members of the public who wish to take up cycling as a mode of choice for travel. We will be monitoring the number of cyclists who are using the cycle lanes and will keep monitoring this annually.

Question 8

From: Nick Walker, Resident
To: The Leader of the Council

Question:

"I would like to have reassurance that the roll out of the TCPR will not be delayed or watered down with the change in Government."

Response:

The council is committed to trialling the western extension of the Clean Air Neighbourhood project, which was formally known as the TCPR. It is in line with both the Mayor and the Secretary of State for Transport's clean air strategies. Following the adoption of the Clean

Air Neighbourhood programme at the Cabinet meeting of 10 October 2022, we are looking to roll-out trials across the borough to improve air quality and the health of our residents.

Question 9

From: Jeffrey Chandler, Resident
To: The Leader of the Council

Question:

“As a resident of Clancarty Road, I would like to know when the trial for the TCPR West extension is going to commence?”

Response:

The Council took a decision to launch a trial to the west at a Cabinet meeting in December 2021. Cameras were placed in the west area to better understand traffic profile and gain insight into the routes that out of borough through traffic takes.

In line with the Council’s values of doing things with residents it was important for the officers to develop and finalise proposals with residents’ groups from the area.

Officers were delegated responsibility to begin a trial, which we are now ready to do and expect an experiment to begin in November.

Question 10

From: Kay Boycott, Resident
To: The Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

“If the existing TCPR scheme is not extended to the west of Wandsworth Bridge Road what mitigation will be put in place to reduce the impact on residents of the current increased air pollution, sounding of horns and verbal abuse (including profanity) from gridlocked drivers, and restrictions in essential journeys at peak times?”

Response:

The Council took a decision to launch a trial to the west at a Cabinet meeting in December 2021. Cameras were placed in the west area to better understand traffic profile and gain insight into the routes that out of borough through traffic takes.

In line with the Council’s values of doing things with residents it was important for the officers to develop and finalise proposals with residents’ groups from the area.

Officers were delegated responsibility to begin a trial which we are now ready to do and expect an experiment to begin in November.

The trial to the east has resulted in a 23% reduction in traffic across South Fulham and a reduction of one tonne a day of polluting carbon emissions. We expect the trial to the west to bring similar clean air benefits.

Question 11

From: Caroline Brooman-White, Resident
To: The Leader of the Council

Question:

"I am very concerned for the local businesses in South Fulham. Would it be possible to allow residents in the neighbouring boroughs of Wandsworth and Kensington and Chelsea to travel freely on our roads in Hammersmith and Fulham without paying fines for going through the traffic cameras."

Response:

All areas and properties remain accessible to vehicular traffic by road without going through cameras so that residents from neighbouring areas and further away are able to access friends and family, shops and businesses in South Fulham without the need to drive through any access restrictions. The proposed locations of the cameras ensures this is the case. If for any reason they do drive through a camera, residents can grant free access via RingGo up until midnight on the day.

Question 12

From: Antonia Muir, Resident
To: The Leader of the Council

Question:

"Ever since the introduction of the TCPR in Sands End, horrendous rush hour traffic occurs daily on New Kings Road, Fulham Palace and Fulham Road as drivers divert to Putney Bridge. This causes misery for residents living nearby in terms of pollution, rat running and very slow public transport. What does the Council intend to do to resolve this issue?"

Response:

We do not agree with this statement. Rush hour traffic is unfortunately the plight of built-up areas across the capital and vehicles trying to travel to Central London at peak times, as well as school-related traffic further adds to this issue. The trial project to the east of Wandsworth Bridge Road has resulted in 23 per cent less traffic across South Fulham, and there is no evidence of displacement across the borough.

In addition to tackling residential roads, the council has committed to improving main roads by providing more walking, cycling and bus priority. A very large percentage of journeys made by car in London is between 2-5 miles in length and therefore can be made by travelling more sustainably. The council will work to provide more safer facilities for walking and cycling to encourage the uptake of sustainable travel.

Question 13

From: Elizabeth Hopkirk, Resident
To: The Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

"I'm writing to say thank you for the measures you've already introduced to make cycling and walking more attractive options, especially around Hammersmith Broadway. I

wholeheartedly support measures like these that should have the effect of reducing dependence on motor vehicles and thus improve air quality. My question is when do you think you might be able to make Fulham Road (esp through Fulham Broadway) and New King's Road safer for cycling? I can see it's a tricky one, but the 'cycle lane' on New King's Rd is currently dangerously narrow and not fit-for-purpose."

Response:

In addition to launching Clean Air Neighbourhoods across the borough, the Council will also provide more safer facilities for cycling on main roads. The aim is to repurpose the roads and make them a safer place and more pleasant for all that use them.

This includes the boroughwide 20mph speed limits being implemented on all our roads, segregated cycle tracks wherever the space allows, and also enhancing the public realm to make walking and accessing our shops and businesses a more amenable and pleasant experience.

Although delivering safer cycle routes on some roads and locations may be tougher than others, we do have plans to improve existing cycle facilities and provide more cycle lanes on all our roads, including New Kings Road and Fulham Road.