



UNRESTRICTED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET

MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2026

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, HACKNEY TOWN HALL,
MARE STREET, LONDON, E8 1EA

- Cabinet Members Present:** Mayor Caroline Woodley in the Chair
Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble (Vice-Chair), Cllr Robert Chapman, Cllr Sade Etti (Late), Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Deputy Mayor Guy Nicholson, Cllr Sam Pallis, Cllr Joe Walker, Cllr Sarah Young, Cllr Chris Kennedy
- Apologies:** Cllr Carole Williams
Cllr Anya Sizer (virtual)
- Officers in Attendance:** Juliet Babb, Assistant Director, Legal & Governance
Diane Benjamin, Director of Children's Social Work, Children's Social Care
Martin Bull, Governance Officer
Jacquie Burke, Group Director, Children and Education
Dawn Carter-McDonald, Chief Executive
Sandra Farquharson, Director, HR and Organisational Development
Louise Humphreys, Director, Legal, Democratic, Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer
Tessa Mitchell, Governance Services Team Leader
Kieran Read, Director of Corporate Strategy and Transformation
Josephine Sterakides, Senior Lawyer, Litigation and Public Realm
Shakeel Yasin, Director of Finance (Services)
- Also in Attendance:** Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock

Mayor's Opening Remarks

Mayor Woodley formally opened the meeting, acknowledging the arson attack

on Jewish community ambulances in Golders Green earlier that morning. She noted the support provided by the Hatzola Group in Golders Green and Hackney, the close work with local authorities, and that the incident had been treated as an antisemitic attack. The Mayor affirmed solidarity with affected communities, commended Cllr Fajana-Thomas for liaising with these communities and the police, and highlighted increased borough-wide enforcement patrols. It was affirmed that Hackney continued to uphold the principle that there was no place for hate and praised the Mayor of London's approach to promoting inclusivity.

The Mayor referred to recent celebratory events in the borough, commending young people in the Hackney Youth Parliament, participants in Town Hall awards ceremonies, those involved in the Kurdish celebration of Newroz and also the Persian community's celebration of Nowruz. It was recognised that these were important cultural milestones that strengthened community cohesion.

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Sizer (who had joined the meeting remotely) and Williams.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Etti.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Urgent Unrestricted Business

- 3.1 There was no urgent unrestricted business for consideration.

4. Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private, Any Representations Received and the Response to Such Representations

- 4.1 No representations were received.

5. Questions/Deputation/Petition

- 5.1 No questions were received.

Due to the deputation leader's absence at the beginning of the meeting, the Mayor decided to vary the order of the agenda considering the petition before the deputation.

5a Petition

- 5.2 Petition on the Proposed Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Hoxton received from Sandra Stewart. Ms. Stewart made the following comments:

- 5.3 *The 1,836 residents counted in Hoxton East and the reported 34% car ownership figures are misleading, as the latter excludes business owners and residents with driveways; crucially, Hoxton West, including Murray Grove and the Hoxton Market area, was not included. The consultation summary claiming slight agreement is disputed, as "I don't know" responses were included as agreement. The Spatial Awareness report is flawed due to four days of filming where heavy traffic was diverted onto quiet roads like Regan Way, and parking was suspended on six streets. This activity, involving trucks idling 24 hours a day for four days, contravening Department for Transport guidelines, skewed data for areas like Juliet House.*
- 5.4 *Business owners continue to fret; evidence from Chatsworth Road shows supermarkets lost 50% of their profit since their Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) was installed. The proposed "boxing in" effect would force traffic onto Orsman Road (an existing bottleneck) for Hoxton Street access via Kingsland Road. This, combined with Saturday markets, would increase traffic and pollution for New North Road residents, restricting access to Kingsland Road through Purcell Street only, putting significant pressure on that road.*
- 5.5 *Data shows no recent accidents involving vehicles in Hoxton. However, Ms Stewart stated that 'Streetscene' created problems by adding rain gardens in two parts of the markets which was not welcomed by the residents or business owners as it took up more parking availability.*
- 5.6 *The petition shows Hoxton has a large proportion of frail, disabled, and elderly residents; 80% of these residents rely on more than one person for support. The Blue Badge exemption only allows one car to be registered for companionship (HAC01 badge).*
- 5.7 *Despite repeated concerns voiced to councillors and the MP, the general feeling is that feedback is being ignored. Impact statements show concerning data that would increase with further LTNs: 87% longer journey times, 78% increased congestion, 46% of missed or delayed appointments, and an economic impact of 41% on trades and businesses. It is felt that the data is ignored by the Council. Ms Stewart reiterated that Hoxton has never had a traffic or pollution problem; the main issue is the CS1 cycle highway on Pitfield Street that was turned into an LTN six years ago, which causes problems with pedestrian safety and crime.*

Summary response from Cllr Walker, Deputy Cabinet Member for Strengthening Neighbourhoods

- 5.8 Cllr Walker thanked the petition leader for her concerns, clarifying that addressing congestion and reducing pollution was part of the wider Connecting Hoxton project, separate from the LTNs. He noted the importance of ongoing community engagement to ensure proposals reflect local needs.

Question from Cllr Walker

How could the Council continue to effectively engage with the community and local organisations about the broader Connecting Hoxton proposals to ensure the delivered changes truly reflect local needs and issues?

- 5.9 Ms. Stewart clarified that the Connecting Hoxton project is distinct from the LTNs. Responding to the question on community engagement, she detailed the community's existing methods for the LTNs, including an action group for feedback, monthly community meetings, and a membership base of over 1,400 residents in Wider Hoxton. She noted that a listening councillor is available to relay feedback. Ms Stewart then raised significant concerns, stating that while project funding has already been agreed, residents fear that 'Streetscene' is attempting to introduce measures not included in the original plans. She concluded that this practice causes considerable tension among business owners.

Question from Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble

Does the petition leader have any ideas around the school on Ivy Street and the children's centre? If there was any way that we could work together to improve travel for children, young people, parents, and carers in that area?

- 5.10 In response, Ms. Stewart, drawing on her work with the Tenant Management Organisation and Hoxton Action Group, elaborated on cycling safety issues near Ivy Street Hoxton Garden Primary School and the children's centre, noting that fast cyclists endanger pedestrians. She recommended the use of school-deployable movable barriers to compel cyclists to dismount. She informed councillors the approach would be necessary because existing fixed measures and 'Dismount' signs in Hoxton Market are ignored, creating an ongoing safety hazard near the children's centre gates.

Summary response from Cllr Young

- 5.11 Cllr Young affirmed the Council's ongoing engagement with the Connecting Hoxton regeneration project, which seeks to enhance the neighbourhood for all users including schools and local markets. The Council confirmed that all evidence gathered to date is informing the decision-making process. Members noted that forthcoming impact statements from Chatsworth Road would be reviewed alongside existing project data to ensure a comprehensive overview of the scheme's impact.
- 5.12 Positive feedback was reported following extensive consultation with Hoxton residents, businesses, and schools. Significant infrastructure milestones have been achieved, including upgraded access at Hoxton Hall and Shoreditch Library, alongside biodiversity enhancements and tree planting on the Geffrye Estate. Further 'Streetscene' improvements are scheduled for Ivy Street, Stanway Street, and Hare Walk in the next phase of delivery.
- 5.13 Cllr Young confirmed the Streetscene team would be conducting additional traffic surveys to provide an updated analysis of volume, speed, and vehicle weights. To ensure a robust final decision, the Council is integrating objective data, such as police road casualty reports, with subjective community impressions. Cllr Young noted that the decision timeline has been intentionally extended to ensure it is based on a complete evidence base, with a further progress update expected later this year.
- 5.14 Mayor Woodley subsequently reaffirmed the Council's commitment to consider

all evidence presented.

5b Deputation

- 5.15 Deputation on Changing Places and Accessible Toilet Strategy at Hackney Council was received from Ms Gemma Peramiquel-Borjas. Ms Peramiquel-Borjas made the following remarks in her statement:
- 5.16 *Hackney's disabled residents and allies are asking the Council to commit to a Changing Places and accessible toilet strategy. The strategy should adopt the Changing Places approach by providing extra equipment and space. This will ensure everyone can use a toilet facility hygienically and with dignity, regardless of their impairment or reliance on carers. Better facilities will allow everyone to shop, attend appointments, socialise, and travel freely.*
- 5.17 *According to the Changing Places campaign website, there are 245 accessible toilets in the borough of Hackney including parks and leisure facilities, where signage could be improved, especially for deaf and blind people. This information is relatively accessible only when residents have access to technology, whether by financial or cognitive means. This highlights the need for publicly accessible Changing Places facilities across the borough.*
- 5.18 *This benefits disabled people, public transport users, parents with children, the elderly, and those living in poor housing conditions. As everyone deserves access to hygiene, we ask the Council to co-produce and implement a Hackney strategy with user-led groups, such as Access Cohort.*
- 5.19 *The strategy should focus on an achievable and timely plan to return existing accessible toilets at council-managed sites to Changing Places standards while encouraging public and private venues across Hackney to voluntarily adopt the standards. It should substantially increase the number of Changing Places facilities across Hackney, establish a robust protocol for reviewing safety, hygiene, materials, and maintenance, ensure transparency and accountability to disabled residents, guarantee Radar Key accessibility, and provide free toilet paper, sanitary products, and proper cleaning protocols at all Changing Places toilets.*

Governance was informed of a change in the Councillor supporting the deputation, with Cllr Binnie Lubbock replacing Cllr Garbett.

- 5.20 Cllr Binnie-Lubbock, the supporting Councillor, welcomed the commitment to implementation and emphasised the Green Party's principle of recognising residents as experts in their own lives and expressed support for the Changing Places campaign. He noted Hackney Labour's manifesto commitment to the social model of disability and concluded that the strategy would substantially improve accessibility, dignity, and hygiene for residents.

Summary response from Cllr Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care, Voluntary Sector and Culture and Mayor Woodley

- 5.21 Cllr Kennedy expressed support for the Changing Places and accessible toilet

strategy, noting successful delivery at St. Mary's Secret Garden and Britannia Leisure Centre. He acknowledged that infrastructure challenges at Narrow Way and Wilton Way, specifically heritage integration, require further resolution.

- 5.22 Mayor Woodley highlighted the Council's commitment to accessibility, noting that £330,000 in government funding delivered facilities at Haggerston Park and other projects. Although some sites faced planning and heritage constraints, the Council remains committed to expanding provision in Central and North Hackney.
- 5.23 The Mayor confirmed that changes to UK Building Regulations from January 2021 requires Changing Places Toilets in many new or substantially refurbished public buildings, ensuring future developments will include accessible provision. She confirmed the Council's commitment to working with Changing Places to review neighbourhood-level opportunities, adding that planning, design, maintenance, and operational considerations are key to viable delivery.
- 5.24 In closing remarks, the Mayor reiterated the importance of public access standards, stating the Council will work across services and with stakeholders, including SEND parent/carer forums and existing users, to identify suitable sites, assess feasibility, and reflect community needs, coordinating with Changing Places' mapping system and using communications channels to gather feedback.

6. Unrestricted Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Cabinet

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 March 2026 was agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

7. The Unrestricted Minutes of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Committee

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Procurement and Insourcing Meeting held on 2 February 2026 were noted.

8. F S527 2025/26 Overall Financial Position Report - January 2026

- 8.1 Cllr Chapman introduced the report on the Council's financial position, emphasising the reduction in the forecast overspend of £583,000 this month as very positive news, alongside the additional core funding support from the Government reported in previous Officer Front Page (OFP), and acknowledging that, while considerable cost pressures remain, the Council is beginning to see a turning of the corner in its financial prospects, and thanking all those who have supported this progress.

RESOLVED:

1. **The overall financial position of the Council and in particular the overspend and the impact of the initiatives set out to mitigate this, as at January 2026, were noted.**
2. **To approve the extension of seven existing Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure grants into the first quarter of 2026/27.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 24 March 2026, and can be found [here](#).

9. F S517 Capital Update and Property Disposals And Acquisitions Report

- 9.1 Mayor Woodley introduced the report, adding that the capital programme is being used to promote biodiversity, celebrate the borough's diverse culture, and invest in improvements to public spaces.
- 9.2 Cllr Chapman noted that the report sets out details of the Council's £500 million capital programme for the year, which supports a wide range of infrastructure, new homes, and facilities for residents. In his remarks, Cllr Chapman also highlighted the agreement to accept the Greater London Authority (GLA) grant for the rewilding of the Old River Lea project, praising the habitat improvements for fish, bats, aquatic invertebrates, and people, which contribute to making Hackney a great place to live. He also referred to the £459,000 infrastructure levy allocated to the Culture Team to support their work and community cultural events, and commended the report to Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

1. **To approve the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) schemes outlined in section 7 and summarised below.**

NCIL	2025/26 £'000
Revenue	459
Total NCIL Revenue for Approval	459

2. **To note the s106 schemes outlined in section 8 and summarised below.**

S106	2026/27 £'000

Capital	231
Total S106 Capital for Noting	231

3. **To note the delegated powers report for £225,424 external grant revenue funding from the Mayor of London Grass Roots fund.**
4. **To note the Quarter 3 Capital Monitoring for 2025/26.**
5. **To approve the capital programme adjustments in 2025/26, summarised below and set out in detail in Appendix 1.**

Current Directorate	Capital Adjustments
	£'000
Non Housing	(386)
Housing	0
Total	(386)

6. **To approve, in the event of a surrender of the two existing leases to the current tenant, the grant of either one or two new leases of up to 15 years on ground floor and Basement 100-106 Leonard Street shown edged red on the plan at Appendix 2.**
7. **To delegate authority to the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and the Director of Strategic Property Services authority to agree to the lease(s), all commercial terms and any associated documentation and ensure that the transaction represents best consideration.**
8. **To delegate authority to the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services to complete the new leases and all other relevant and ancillary legal documents arising thereto on behalf of the Council.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 24 March 2026, and can be found [here](#).

10. CED S618 Use of Hackney's Crisis and Resilience Fund allocation April 2026 - March 2029

- 10.1 Mayor Woodley introduced the report, highlighting a three-year commitment to provide greater financial certainty than previous annual allocations. The Mayor welcomed central and regional anti-poverty measures, including the removal of the two-child benefit cap, wage increases, breakfast club

expansions, and the Mayor of London's £100m free school meals target. A strategic shift from crisis intervention toward building long-term resilience was highlighted as well as a commitment to work with communities to ensure a smooth transition.

- 10.2 Cllr Chapman, on behalf of Cllr Williams, welcomed the 25% increase in government support and the integration of the Household Support Fund into the Crisis and Resilience Fund. It was noted that the three-year allocation enables more reliable long-term planning. The impact of anti-poverty measures, specifically the removal of the two-child benefit cap, which affects over 15,000 local children, was highlighted. In closing remarks, Cllr Chapman confirmed that this funding secures the future of the "Here to Help" scheme, ensuring continued essential support for residents.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To accept and authorise the proposed Crisis and Resilience Fund programme grant funding, which is expected to be £6.1m from the Department for Work and Pensions in 2026/27, £6.1m in 2027/28 and £5.9m in 2028/29 as set out in this report.**
- 2. To accept and authorise the additional £147,563 in 2026/27 and 2027/28 to support the administration of Housing Payments.**
- 3. To approve the allocation of resources to the four strands of the programme for 2026/2027-2028/29 as set out in Section 5 of this report.**
- 4. To approve the launch of Grants or Commissioning programmes, which will provide funding for up to two and a half years from 2026/27 for VCS organisations to provide services that support Financial Resilience and improve the local support landscape in line with the Crisis and Resilience Fund Guidance - total value of £579,258 in Year 2026/27 and £1,470,242 in 2027/28 and £1,470,242 in 2028/29.**
- 5. To authorise the distribution of £532,560 to voluntary and community sector organisations in the first half of 2026/27 via a grants programme as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.**
- 6. To authorise £132,000 of funding from reserves to fund a small grants programme to voluntary and community organisations in 2026/27 via Hackney Giving, also detailed in Appendix 1.**
- 7. To approve the proposed update to Cabinet by the end of September 2026 on measures to support, or mitigate the impact of, the transition to new arrangements.**
- 8. To delegate authority to approve any amendments to the programme and the deployment of resources to respond to any requirements of funding received via guidance and to utilise any underspends from April 2026 to March 2029 to the Director of Corporate Strategy & Transformation in consultation with the**

Portfolio Holder for Employment, Human Resources and Equalities and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Insourcing and Customer Service to ensure the funding is fully utilised to deliver crisis and resilience support to Hackney residents.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 24 March 2026, and can be found [here](#).

11. HEC S691 New Homes Programme Tranche 1 Sites - Appropriation of Land for Planning Purposes

11.1 Cllr Nicholson introduced the report, highlighting that it brought forward four additional development sites. It was explained that, beyond the technical details, the public agenda outlined the delivery of 104 Council social rent homes and 32 Council shared ownership homes. Approval of the report would enable the timely progression of these four housing projects, delegating authority to professional officers across the Council to take the necessary legal and operational decisions. Cllr Nicholson further noted that additional detail was included in the exempt agenda, should Cabinet wish to discuss it at the end of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the appropriation for planning purposes under Section 122(2A) and 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 of the land at four NHP sites described in Section 6 and shown outlined in red on the plans at Appendix 1, to facilitate the carrying out of the development proposals in accordance with section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.**
- 2. To approve that following completion of the NHP developments noted at Section 6, the land shown edged red on the plans at Appendix 1 will no longer be required for planning purposes, and to approve the appropriation of the land from the General Fund back to the Housing Revenue Account for housing purposes, where it will then be administered from. The appropriation will be in accordance with Section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.**
- 3. To authorise the Group Director - Housing, Climate and Economy, and Group Director - Finance & Resources, to effect the appropriations set out in Sections 3.1 and 3.2.**
- 4. To authorise the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services to prepare, agree, settle and sign the necessary legal documentation to effect the proposals contained in this report and to enter into any other ancillary legal documentation as required.**

REASONS FOR DECISION

Monday, 23 March 2026

The reasons for the decision were included in the printed decisions, published on the 24 March 2026, and can be found [here](#).

Duration of the meeting: 18:00 - 18:46

DRAFT CABINET MINUTE