COUNCIL

Meeting held on 15th April 2019
at Main Hall - Old Town Hall, Stratford

Present: Councillor Joy Laguda MBE (Chair)
Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, Nazir Ahmed, Muhammad Ali,
Zulfiqar Ali, James Asser, Jennifer Bailey, James Beckles,
Daniel Blaney, Steve Brayshaw, Ken Clark, Rohit Dasgupta,
Sasha DasGupta, Omana Gangadharan, Joshua Garfield,
John Gray, Alan Griffths, Belgica Guaña, Zuber Gulamussen,
Lester Hudson, Anamul Islam, Nilufa Jahan, Mumtaz Khan,
Jane Lofthouse, Pushpa Makwana, Susan Masters,
Anthony McAlmont, Charlene McLean, Riaz Ahmed Mirza,
Shaban Mohammed, Mushtaq Mughal, Firoza Nekiwala,
Nareser Osei, Terry Paul, Quintin Peppiatt,
Mohammed Rahman, Sarah Ruiz, Suga Thekkepurayil,
Delphine Tohoura, Winston Vaughan, John Whitworth and
Neil Wilson

The meeting commenced at 7.03 p.m. and closed at 8.43 p.m.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Hanif
Abdulmuhit, Ayesha Chowdhury, Miriam Dawood, Ann Easter, Patricia
Holland, Gen Kitchen, Carleene Lee-Phakoe, Daniel Lee-Phakoe, Julianne
Marriott, Patrick Murphy, Mas Patel, Tahmina Rahman, Lakmini Shah,
Aisha Siddiqah, Rachel Tripp, Harvinder Singh Virdee and Tonii Wilson

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2019 were approved as a
correct record.

4. Newham’s Partners - Update

Duncan Bew, Clinical Director for Trauma at Kings College Hospital was
expected to address Council on “Violence in Perspective”; however due to
an unexpected emergency Mr Bew had to tender his apologies. Mr Bew
indicated that he would like to attend a future meeting of Full Council.
5. **Mayor's Appointments**

The Mayor made no appointments at this meeting.

6. **Any Announcements by the Chair**

The Chair welcomed Althea Loderick, the new Chief Executive to her first meeting of Full Council.

The Chair said that she would like to pay tribute to two Doctors who had sadly passed away recently and said it was a sad loss for Newham.

7. **Any Announcements by the Mayor**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

The Mayor welcomed the new Chief Executive, Althea Loderick stating that she had arrived at an important time to drive forward the corporate restructure.

(i) **Corporate restructure**

The Mayor stated that the corporate restructure report was a profoundly important document. The new corporate structure would set out an operational process to put residents at the heart of everything the Council does. The new structure ensured an organisational set up to deliver equality for every resident. The new structure would tackle financial disparity and was child friendly.

(ii) **Serious incidents**

The Mayor said that she had been alerted to the news of another attack on a young person and tragically a young man died. The Mayor stated that both she and Councillor Gray travelled to the area where the incident took place to provide reassurance to the local community.

In response to further incidents Councillor McLean and Councillor Beckles had attended ward meetings to provide reassurance.

The Mayor said that the local Somali community felt marginalised and she had met with them to rebuild their trust. The Mayor stated that Councillor Beckles and Council officers were working closely with the police to track down the criminals involved.

The Mayor added that she would be attending a memorial for a young man who was killed last year when travelling home from a West Ham United football game.
(iii) Vote of thanks

The Mayor advised the meeting that Matthew Hooper, Director for Commissioning (Enforcement and Safety) would be leaving the Council on Thursday 18th April 2019 and wanted to thank him for his dedication and commitment to the work in his area.

The Mayor also informed the meeting that Grainne Siggins, Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning would be leaving the Council at the end of April and thanked her for the commendable work she had done for the borough.

(iv) Young People

The Mayor reminded Councillors that the Council were investing money in young people and thanked Councillor Paul for allowing a budget to invest in young people.

The Mayor stated that Newham would be home to a small number of technical colleges based at Royal Albert Islands which local people and local young people could access. The Mayor said that this was the latest step in prioritising local people to develop skills.

(v) Motion

The Mayor conveyed her thanks to Councillor Sasha DasGupta and Councillor Joshua Garfield for bringing a motion to Council on climate change. The Mayor said that it was imperative that air pollution was tackled and that polices were designed to consider the environmental impact of air pollution. She added that Newham would work with the Mayor of London and partners to do so.

8. Any Announcements by the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive stated that she was delighted to be at Newham and was looking forward to working with everyone. She added that she would be writing to all Councillors and would be undertaking ward visits.

9. Deputations under Rule 26 of Part 4.1 of the Constitution

There were no requests for Deputations referred to Council by the Chief Executive.

10. Petitions under Rule 25 of Part 4.1 of the Constitution

There were no petitions.

11. Members’ Questions under Rule 24 of Part 4.1 of the Constitution

There were no questions received from Members.
12. Questions by the Public

There were no questions received from an members of the public.

13. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and Future Commissions

Councillor Anthony McAlmont, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave the following address to Council:

“Thank you Chair,

Since the last update to Council, the Overview and Scrutiny met on the 19th March 2019 to consider the proposed council structure and reported a number of findings and made recommendations to the Mayor and Chief Executive.

On the 9th April 2019 Overview and Scrutiny met and considered reports on the Strategic Procurement function of the Council and Budget Performance monitoring.

The Health and Adult Social Care Commission will be undertaking site visits with Barts Health NHS Trust.

Scrutiny Commissions have also undertaken visits with officers and the Police and undertaken visits to the homeless.

On the 3rd April 2019 the Inner North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the NHS long term plan.

Scrutiny continues to consider evidence around knife crime and have been concerned with the extent of violent knife crime.

The Air Quality Scrutiny Commission received a presentation on the Draft Air Quality Plan and made a series of recommendations to present to Cabinet.

The Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission would be meeting to consider the Ofsted Inspection and the next steps.

Thank you”

14. Speeches from Members

Council was advised that Councillor Rohit DasGupta had withdrawn his intended speech.

15. Motions

The following motion was submitted in accordance with Rule 12 of Part 4.1
of the Constitution.

Proposed by: Councillor Sasha DasGupta
Seconded by: Councillor Joshua Garfield

**Motion: Declare a Climate Emergency**

Full Council notes that:

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO2eq (Carbon Equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible.

Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc. to make low carbon living easier and the new society norm.

Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption.

Newham council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the fiduciary duties of pension funds. Having been successful pulling local government pension funds away from the tobacco industry on the grounds of public health. It is crucial that Newham reduces its carbon exposure of its pension funds so that it can meet London’s goal of becoming carbon zero by 2050 (1).

Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough; in Newham asthma remains one of most prevalent diseases of its constituents after diabetes, therefore it is in the public’s best health interests to further address air pollution and climate change (2). More needs to be done to improve existing infrastructure so that innovations in energy, alternative transport (e.g. electric car charging ports) and waste management can become more accessible to the majority. The U.K. is currently at risk of falling short on its carbon targets for 2023-2027, despite renewable power generation reaching its highest peak in 2018 (3).

The IPCC’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published last year, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities (4).
City and local Councils (5) around the world are responding by declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’ and committing resources to address this emergency. (6)

Full Council believes that:

All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Newham and the United Kingdom that cities commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.

Cities are uniquely placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as they are in many ways easier to decarbonise than rural areas- for example because of their capacity for heat networks and mass transport.

As Newham was instrumental in the set-up of the London Collective Investment Vehicle (LCIV), it is our duty to be a leader on environmental issues in the U.K. and ensure this is reflected in investment strategies for both Newham and London going forward (7).

The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity’s number one priority; and

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

Full Council calls on the Mayor to:

1. Declare a ‘climate and health emergency’;

2. Pledge to make the London Borough of Newham carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050, taking into account production and emissions;

3. Call on and work with other London Boroughs to pool power and resources together to make 2030 target possible;

4. Call on Westminster to provide power and resources to make 2030 target possible;

5. Work with other governments (both within the U.K. and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;

6. To commit to a Green audit of all council services to ensure that weight is given to the environmental and sustainability impact as well as cost.
7. To provide air quality monitoring devices in all schools.

8. Explore local renewable energy grid systems to provide free renewable energy for residents in social housing maximising our use of industrial land in the borough.

9. Council must lead by example to remove single-use plastic items from their premises.

10. Council to encourage plastic-free initiatives such as Surfers Against Sewage/Plastic Free Royal Docks, and support events intended to promote plastic reduction in the Borough.

11. A representative of the council must be named on the Surfers Against Sewage/Plastic Free Royal Docks steering group.

12. Council to publish annual reports on progress towards reaching carbon neutral target.

A number of Members spoke in favour of the motion. Following discussion the motion was put to the vote and the motion was carried.

16. **Democracy and Civic Participation Commission**

Council considered a report which updated members on the progress of establishing the Democracy and Civic Participation Commission including the indicative timescales and the draft terms of reference agreed at Cabinet on 5 February 2019.

On 5 February 2019, the Cabinet agreed to establish a Democracy and Civic Participation Commission. It agreed the scope of the Commission and to hold the Commission over a six month period. The Cabinet delegated the arrangements for recruiting the Commission Chair and members and the arrangements for supporting and resourcing the Commission to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance.

The Commission would address the following questions in its terms of reference:

- How we ensure we have decision making arrangements that are enabling, clear, co-ordinated, agile and take place at the right level.

- How we ensure transparency, accountability are in place in relation to the balance between resident and member democracy.

- How we understand and resolve the tensions and opportunities between representative and participatory democracy.
• How we improve the representative role whilst facilitating and enabling wider participation.

• What the role of the councillor is in the context of communities doing more themselves.

• The most appropriate models of governance to meet the Council’s aspirations.

The report set out that the Council needed decision making arrangements that reflected the Mayor’s and Council’s priorities to be people focused and transparent, encouraging maximum participation alongside engagement mechanisms that were enabling, coordinated, agile and take place at the right level.

The report also set out that the Commission would learn from the experience of other councils in the UK who have already held such Commissions. The Commission would also draw on the best available evidence internationally of what works in developing more effective civic participation.

For the reasons detailed in the report, it was RESOLVED to note:

1. The progress of establishing an independently chaired Commission, reporting within 6 months;

2. The indicative timetable for the Commission.

3. That the Commission would assist the Council in supporting the proposed public consultation in advance of a Council decision in respect of a referendum on its governance arrangements.

17. Governance Referendum

Council considered a report setting out the legal process for implementing a motion passed by Council at its meeting on 26th November 2018.

The motion passed was: “this Council commits to holding a binding referendum by May 2020; on a change of governance from a directly elected Mayoral model to a Leader and Cabinet model”.

The report set out that the Council has operated the Mayor and Cabinet model of governance since 2002. The motion agreed at the Council meeting on 26th November 2018 was not sufficient to be taken as part of the statutory process to commence a referendum. The motion did not comply with the statutory requirements for such a Council resolution and did not provide a rationale for holding a referendum, that would comply with the legal principles for making a council decision.

The Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) sets out the statutory
process, which Councils must follow before they can change their governance arrangements. Councils can only change from one available governance model to another and any referendum could therefore only be a choice between two of the models.

The report set out the available Governance Models and the Referendum procedure. It was reported that the Council’s Mayoral model could only be changed through a referendum because it was first adopted after a referendum. The procedure is set out in the Local Government Act 2000 as amended (Part 1A, Chapter 4, s.9K to 9MG). If a referendum is approved, it must be conducted in accordance with the Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2012. The statutory process has a number of mandatory steps but centres upon two Council resolutions.

A first resolution to change governance arrangements subject to the outcome of a referendum. This resolution would determine:

- The governance models that will be the choices available in the referendum. If the Motion is implemented by a resolution, this would be the Mayoral and Cabinet and Leader and Cabinet models;
- The date and timetable for the referendum. This must be a fixed date and currently the Motion only proposed a back stop of May 2020.
- The transitional governance arrangements that would be put into place if the referendum votes to change governance arrangements.

The report recommended that any resolution was preceded by a public consultation exercise to allow the Council decision to take account of residents’ views of the options available.

If the referendum voted for a change of governance arrangements, the Council must pass a second resolution to implement the change in a Special Council Meeting held for this purpose. Any change would take effect from after the next local government elections; in other words no earlier than May 2022.

For the reasons detailed in the report, it was RESOLVED to note the report.

### 18. Newham Air Quality and Climate Change Strategic Intent Part One: Air Quality Action Planning for LB Newham

Council considered a report, which asked that it be noted that addressing the urgent issue of climate change, and ensuring a healthy, sustainable environment locally and across London, was a high priority for the Mayor and Council. Limiting the rise in global temperatures and reducing the levels of dangerous toxins in the atmosphere requires immediate action, for the health and wellbeing of residents today and in years to come.
The evidence of the impact of climate change and the detrimental effects of deteriorating air quality is compelling. As a local authority which puts people at the heart of everything it does the council is committed to doing everything within its power to play its part in the global challenge to safeguard a sustainable future.

The report set out that Newham had specific issues to address in relation to the air that we breathe, with rising evidence linking dangerous levels of pollution with chronic illnesses, and even to the deaths of people in our borough and across London. Addressing this required a range of measures and raised many issues, from building and encouraging sustainable transport to people-centred environmental planning. To this end, the report advised that the Mayor and her administration would be taking forward a range of proposals and actions to improve air quality in the Borough of Newham and address the wider issue of climate change as its contribution to the environmental crisis facing the global community.

The proposals would involve working across the council and the borough through different departments and policy areas, engaging with residents and community groups, working with campaign groups and experts, as well as with the Mayor of London, Transport for London, other partner bodies and neighbouring boroughs.

It was noted that in line with the Mayor and Council’s firm commitment to tackling poor air quality and climate change, the report was the first of two reports to Full Council relating to the administration’s strategic approach to Air Quality and Climate Change.

For the reasons detailed in the report it was RESOLVE to:

1. **Note:** the current air quality, health impacts, trends and impacts upon residents in the Borough;

2. **Note:** the preparation of a draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the Borough prior to internal, public and statutory stakeholder consultation; and,

3. **Note:** The Regeneration, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Commission on Air Quality has been established

19. **Conclusion of Business of Council Meeting**

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.43pm.