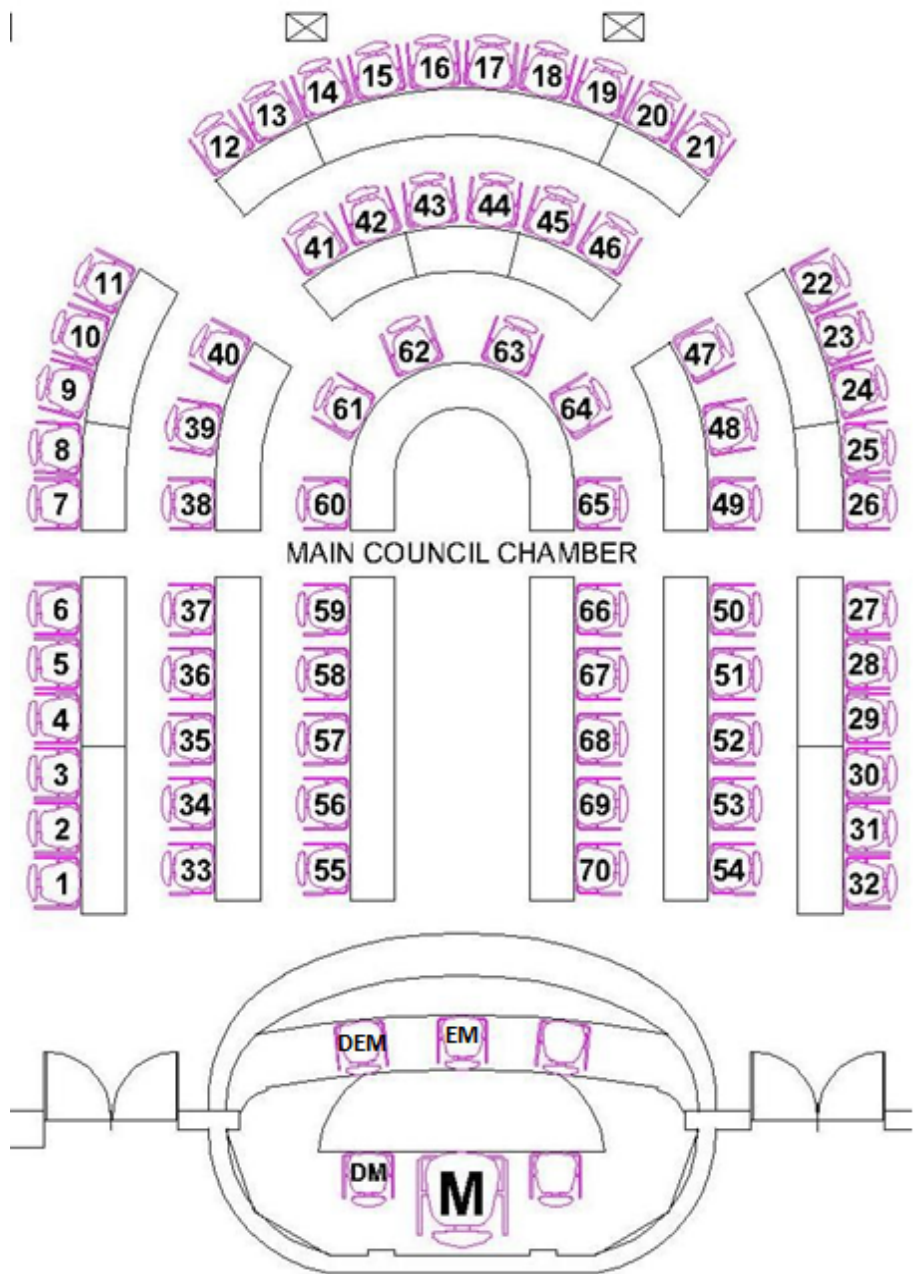




**COUNCIL  
AGENDA**  
for the meeting  
on  
12 July 2023 at  
6.30 pm

1. Stuart Collins
2. Alisa Flemming
3. Clive Fraser
4. Mohammed Islam
5. Patsy Cummings
6. Sean Fitzsimons
7. Catherine Wilson
8. Matt Griffiths
9. Ellily Ponnuthurai
10. Kola Agboola
11. Maddie Henson
12. Manju Shahul-Hameed
13. Mike Bonello
14. Humayun Kabir
15. Patricia Hay-Justice
16. Karen Jewitt
17.
18. Esther Sutton
19. Ria Patel
20.
21. Claire Bonham
22. Adele Benson
23. Sue Bennett
24. Endri Llabuti
25. Mark Johnson
26. Nikhil Sherine Thampi
27. Helen Redfern
28. Gayle Gander
29. Simon Fox
30. Holly Ramsey
31. Samir Dwesar
32. Luke Shortland
33. Nina Degrad
34. Chris Clark
35. Enid Mollyneaux
36. Amy Foster
37. Brigitte Graham
38. Leila Ben-Hassel
39. Louis Carserides
40. Eunice O'Dame
41. Sherwan Chowdhury
42. Stella Nabukeera
43. Tamar Barrett
44.
45. Fatima Zaman
46. Jade Appleton
47. Danielle Denton
48. Ian Parker
49. Simon Brew
50. Margaret Bird
51. Joseph Lee
52. Lara Fish
53. Alasdair Stewart
54. Robert Ward
55. Chrishni Reshekaron



56. Chris Herman
57. Janet Campbell
58. Callton Young
59. Stuart King
60. Rowenna Davis (Scrutiny Chair)
61. Richard Chatterjee (Scrutiny Vice-Chair)
62. Michael Neal
63. Andy Stranack
64. Scott Roche
65. Jeet Bains
66. Yvette Hopley
67. Ola Kolade
68. Maria Gatland
69. Jason Cummings
70. Mario Creatura
Notes etc.
<b>M</b> – Civic Mayor Councillor Tony Pearson
<b>DM</b> – Deputy Civic Mayor – Councillor Appu Srinivasan
<b>EM</b> – Executive Mayor Jason Perry
<b>DEM</b> – Deputy Executive Mayor – Councillor Lynne Hale
Please note that the numbers relate to microphone numbers.

To: To All Members of the Council

Date: 4 July 2023

A meeting of the **COUNCIL** which you are hereby summoned to attend, will be held on **Wednesday, 12 July 2023** at **6.30 pm** in **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX**

Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense  
Monitoring Officer  
London Borough of Croydon  
Bernard Weatherill House  
8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA

Marianna Ritchie, Democratic Services  
Democratic Services  
Marianna.ritchie@croydon.gov.uk  
[www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings)  
4 July 2023

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, or you can view the webcast both live and after the meeting has completed at <http://webcasting.croydon.gov.uk>

If you would like to record the meeting, we ask that you read the guidance on the recording of public meetings [here](#) before attending.

The agenda papers for all Council meetings are available on the Council website [www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings)

If you require any assistance, please contact officer as detailed above.

## **AGENDA – PART A**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence from any Members.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 9 - 22)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2023 and 17 May 2023 as accurate records.

Please note the minutes from the meeting on 1 March 2023 were previously agreed by Council. However, subsequently a factual error has been identified, and Council is presented with a tracked change version to make the amendment clear.

**3. Disclosure of Interests**

Members are invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) they may have in relation to any item(s) of business on today's agenda.

**4. Urgent Business (if any)**

To receive notice of any business not on the agenda which in the opinion of the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

**5. Announcements**

To receive Announcements, if any, from the Chair, the Mayor, and the Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer.

**6. Member Petitions**

To receive notice of petitions presented by Members on behalf of local residents.

One Member Petition has been received ahead of this Council meeting from Councillor Chris Clark, Fairfield Ward. This petition is directed to Mayor Jason Perry.

The petition has been verified and is worded as follows:

We the undersigned call upon the Directly Elected Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry, to install a speed visor on Chatsworth Road, to tackle the continuing problem of speeding on this and neighbouring roads.

## **7. Croydon Question Time**

### **a) Public Questions (30 minutes)**

To receive questions from the public gallery and questions submitted by residents in advance of the meeting.

The following Public Questions will be heard at this meeting, which will be responded to. The questioners will have the opportunity to ask a supplementary question based on the answer received.

The questions are as follows:

1. You have referred to this 15% increase as a one-off. Does this mean that in 2024 this increase will be reversed? If you increase the tax again in 2024 this 15% will be "baked in". Can you please confirm?
2. What is the Council doing to promote recycling of soft plastics?
3. As South Croydon councillor and candidate for Mayor a year ago, you campaigned strongly against the council proposal for a segregated cycle lane along the Brighton Road between Purley and South Croydon.

Please set out the reasons you gave last year for why this was a bad idea and should be scrapped.

I say your reasons then were correct.

You now say the council is short of money and must avoid unnecessary expense.

Why then have you now as mayor spent our taxes imposing this dangerous cycle lane which damages travel on this key main road?

Why should we trust you?

4. I welcome that you have got the police involved regarding Croydon council finances. Can you assure the people of Croydon that if any criminal activity is discovered you will proceed to get the money back through the Proceeds of Crime Act which the government bought in?
  
5. With the failings of Brick by Brick from an operational perspective having been acknowledged by the council, could the Mayor please commit to providing a detailed explanation/plan for how Shared Owners'/tenants' rights are to be safeguarded and enforced against Brick by Brick with respect to their obligations under the various head leases they have entered into for the properties developed?

**b) Mayor and Cabinet Member Questions (65 minutes)**

To receive questions from Councillors.

**8. Maiden Speeches**

To hear maiden speeches from up to five Councillors newly elected at the election held on 5 May 2022.

**9. Appointments**

For Council to agree any in-year changes to Appointments to committees or other bodies made.

**10. Council Debate Motions**

To debate any motions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

The following two Motions, one from the Administration and one from the Labour Group, will be debated:

**Conservative Administration Motion**

This Council RESOLVES:

That the Administration is getting Croydon moving.

From fixing the finances and bringing back Westfield, to relaunching Purley Pool and improving Council housing, this Council is listening to residents and straining every sinew to correct the terrible policies of the previous Administration that all but destroyed Croydon.

---

### **Labour Group Motion**

Croydon Council welcomes the campaign 'Treating Care Experienced as a Protected Characteristic'. Despite the resilience of many care-experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account and they often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics.

Croydon has a large population of children and young people in care and care leavers. As corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority. Councillors should be mentors and champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exist in all aspects of society.

Croydon Council therefore RESOLVES:

1. When making any decisions in relation to its policies or formulating its Business Plan, that it recognises that care-experienced people are a vulnerable group which faces discrimination.
2. That it has a duty to put the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
3. That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes the experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a Protected Characteristic in services and employment.

4. It will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic and review its Equality Impact Assessment process so that future services and policies made an adopted by the Council are assessed to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a Protected Characteristic.
5. To formally call upon all Croydon partner organisations to adopt corporate parenting values / processes for children in care and care experienced people and to treat care experience as a Protected Characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
6. To follow best practice in reporting education, health, housing and employment outcomes of care-experienced people in Croydon.
7. To proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care-experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.

Should the motion be approved, we call on the Executive Mayor to ensure that councillors be updated on progress on the above 7 points before the end of the civic year, including on how services' processes, ways of working and culture have been embedded to recognise care-experience as a protected characteristic.



## Council

Meeting held on Wednesday, 1 March 2023 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall,  
Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor Alisa Flemming (Chair);  
Councillor Sue Bennett (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors Kola Agboola, Jade Appleton, Jeet Bains, Leila Ben-Hassel, Adele Benson, Margaret Bird, Claire Bonham, Mike Bonello, Simon Brew, Janet Campbell, Louis Carserides, Richard Chatterjee, Chris Clark, Sherwan Chowdhury, Stuart Collins, Mario Creatura, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Nina Degrad, Rowenna Davis, Danielle Denton, Samir Dwesar, Lara Fish, Sean Fitzsimons, Clive Fraser, Amy Foster, Simon Fox, Gayle Gander, Maria Gatland, Brigitte Graham, Matt Griffiths, Lynne Hale, Patricia Hay-Justice, Maddie Henson, Christopher Herman, Yvette Hopley, Mohammed Islam, Karen Jewitt, Mark Johnson, Humayun Kabir, Stuart King, Ola Kolade, Joseph Lee, Endri Llabuti, Enid Mollyneaux, Stella Nabukeera, Michael Neal, Tamar Barrett, Eunice O'Dame, Ian Parker, Ria Patel, Tony Pearson, Jason Perry, Ellily Ponnuthurai, Holly Ramsey, Helen Redfern, Chrishni Reshekaron, Scott Roche, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Nikhil Sherine Thampi, Luke Shortland, Appu Srinivasan, Andy Stranack, Stewart, Esther Sutton, Catherine Wilson, Robert Ward and Callton Young

### 25/21 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 and 14 December 2022 were agreed as accurate records.

### 26/21 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

### 27/21 **Urgent Business (if any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

### 28/21 **Announcements**

The Chair of Council announced on behalf of Councillor Richard Chatterjee that an event by The Fairtrade Organisation would be taking place in the Civic Mayor's Reception Area the following week and that all were invited.

The Chair then MOVED that Council standing orders be waived in order that a Borough Petition Debate regarding the proposed increase in Council Tax be held, as it was highly in the public interest. This was SECONDED by Councillor Mario Creatura and, RESOLVED to allow Council to hear the petition debate to reject an increase in Council Tax.

## 29/21 **The Croydon Debate**

Council heard from residents that Croydon had not been treated fairly by the Government which had permitted the council to increase Council Tax by more than 5% without the need to hold a referendum. Ken Towl, speaking on behalf of the petition, appealed to Conservative members of Council to allow the people of Croydon to keep their money and spend it in the borough, rather than through a rise in tax, for the sake of their political survival.

Mayor Jason Perry thanked the petitioner and recognised the anger caused by the proposal. Mayor Perry explained, however, that without the increase the council would need to make an extra £20m worth of cuts to services, which would be dangerous to the most vulnerable members of the community.

Councillor Christopher Herman, in support of the petition, outlined previous financial decisions made by Conservative group members of Council which had contributed to the need to make cuts now.

Councillor Andy Stewart, speaking on behalf of the Executive, argued that he believed in allowing people to spend their own money and advocated for cutting taxes overall. However, he concluded that the rise in Council Tax was a last resort as there was no other realistic option for returning Croydon to financial stability.

In support of the petition, Councillor Mohammed Islam argued that Central Government was not supporting Local Authorities across the board, and that the Mayor had not listened to residents, nearly 30,000 of whom had signed the petition.

A second member from the petition group described to members how unfair the decision would be on residents who were tired of being unable to afford

the most basic standards of living, holding multiple jobs and still being unable to feed their children or turn on their heating.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Jason Cummings, concluded that this rise in tax was a one-off, and that residents should not have to foot the bill for the mistakes of others. He stated that the council was going to take every step possible to ensure that those who were responsible for the financial mismanagement of the council in the past were held to account.

30/21

### **Review of Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24**

The Mayor, when moving the recommendations sought approval to amend recommendation 2.1.2 so that it read, 'For 2023/24 only, to change the rate at which the income bands are increased annually from the level of CPI 10.1% to the amount Council Tax is increased for that year which could be up to 15% cap. For 2024/25 the scheme will revert to one where the income bands are increased annually by the level of CPI'.

Council agreed that the original recommendation could be amended.

The Chair MOVED to allow Councillors Stuart King and Jason Cummings to speak for two minutes each on the topic, and also to waive Council Procedure Rules 1.2 and 1.3 in order to vote on the recommendations. This was SECONDED by Councillor Mario Creatura and **RESOLVED**:

1. To waive standing orders to vote on recommendation 2.1.1;
2. To vote on recommendations 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 together; and,
3. To vote on recommendation 2.2.

Councillor King stated that although the Labour group continued to support linking the increase in Council Tax bands to the rate of inflation, it could not support the proposed changes as the proposed Council Tax increase would severely disadvantage residents accessing the Support Scheme. Councillor King declare that Labour members had no choice but to abstain from the vote.

**RESOLVED**, with 68 in favour and 2 abstentions, to:

- 2.1.1 Remove the application of the minimum income floor to households where the claimant or partner are disabled.

**RESOLVED**, with 33 in favour and 37 abstentions, to:

2.1.2 For 2023/24 only, to Cchange the rate at which the income bands are increased annually from the level of CPI 10.1% to the amount Council Tax is increased for that year which could be up to 15% cap. For 2024/25 the Scheme will revert to one where the income bands are increased annually by the level of CPI.

2.1.3 Introduce non-dependent deductions (NDD) to disabled not working households, except where the non-dependent is in receipt of Employment Support Allowance or Limited Capability to Work, or in receipt of carers allowance for the claimant or partner.

**RESOLVED**, with 33 in favour and 37 abstentions, to:

2.2 Agree The Councils Council Tax Support Scheme is amended as set out above, from 1 April 2023

31/21 **Croydon Pay Policy Statement 2023/24**

The Chair of the General Purposes Committee, Councillor Amy Foster, MOVED the recommendations as contained in the report. Councillor Jason Cummings SECONDED the motion, and Council:

**RESOLVED**, unanimously to:

2.1 Approve the annual Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023-24, (as recommended by General Purposes Committee on 23 January 2023) and proceed to publish it in accordance with the requirements of section 39 of the Localism Act 2011;

2.2 Note the change to the benchmarking arrangement regarding the appropriate remuneration for the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service;

2.3 Note the approval process regarding Special Severance Payments and severance packages within the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/2024 and in particular with regard to urgency;

2.4 Agree, as recommended by the General Purposes Committee on 23 January 2023 that paragraph 6 of the General Purposes Committee's terms of reference, as set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution - Responsibility of Functions, section 2, sub-section 2.5, be amended as

follows (to include the underlined wording): “6. The function in respect of voting on severance packages of staff above such specified thresholds as may, from time to time, be updated by statutory guidance if the proposals are being made in the context of litigation and the making of the decision is urgent”;

2.5 Note that any review of whether the function of voting on severance packages and Special Severance Payments of £100,000 and above in the context of litigation and where the making of the decision is urgent (in accordance with the amendment to the General Purposes Committee’s terms of reference set out in paragraph 2.5 of this report, above), should move to the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee, will be considered by the Constitution Review Group; and,

2.6 Agree the following consequential change to paragraph 11 of the General Purposes Committee’s terms of reference as underlined: 11. Subject to paragraph 6 any matter reserved to the Council and a nonexecutive function, or a matter reserved to a non-executive committee or subcommittee of the Council which requires, in the Committee’s view or on the recommendation of the Mayor, the Chief Executive or a Corporate Director, action as a matter of urgency.

## 32/21 **Scheme of Members' Allowances**

The Chair of the General Purposes Committee, Councillor Amy Foster, MOVED the recommendations as contained in the report. This was SECONDED by Councillor Jason Cummings and Council:

**RESOLVED**, unanimously:

2.1 That no increase is applied to the Member Allowance Scheme for 2022/23;

2.2 That the Members’ Allowances Scheme for 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix 3, being materially the same as the 2022/23 scheme;

2.3 That the Director of Legal Services is authorised to comply with the statutory requirements to publicise the 2023/24 Members’ Allowances Scheme and make all necessary updates to the Constitution; and, to note:

2.4 That the General Purposes Committee will review and bring proposals to Council with regards to the Basic and Special Responsibilities

Allowances and other allowances, such as carer responsibilities, travel, maternity/paternity, and Subsistence, following the publication of the next report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) on 'The Remuneration of Councillors in London'.

### 33/21 **Council Tax and Budget Report**

The first fifteen minutes of this item were dedicated to allowing members of Council to ask questions about the Budget and Council Tax setting to the Executive Mayor.

In response to questions the Mayor explained the following:

- That the lack of referendum on the Council Tax setting was necessary due to financial failings of the past political leadership, and that details of the financial support to residents who would struggle would be published in due course;
- That the increase in Council Tax was part of a wider support package from Central Government;
- That the council's upcoming Transformation Programme would deliver savings for residents; and,
- That the Executive was lobbying Central Government for all avenues of support possible.

The next fifteen minutes of the item were dedicated to allowing members of Council to ask questions of the Cabinet Member for Finance, who responded as follows:

- That the decision to increase Council Tax was a collective negative and that the Executive would continue lobbying Central Government for other means of support;
- That the London Borough of Croydon received considerably less funding per capita than inner London councils;
- That it was incumbent on the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee to make a decision on whether there should be a police investigation into the findings of the Penn Report;
- That the Labour group had declined to put forward an amended budget as it would not be possible to make any alternative proposals that would not include the proposed rise in Council Tax; and,
- That the Opening the Books exercise had uncovered two main sources of loss of funds: the £161m capitalisation direction related to historic issues, and the £49m per year interest payments.

There were then ten minutes dedicated to allowing members of Council to ask questions of the Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, who first gave thanks to officers who supported Scrutiny, and subsequently responded that:

- Half the committee had found the Council Tax rise justifiable but that the other half had asked to investigate a menu of options;
- The options requested had not been provided to the committee, and so alternative budgets could not be formed;
- Scrutiny would continue monitoring the need for and successes of the Hardship Fund that was in place to support those who could not afford the increase, and to ensure that enforcement on any who did struggle to pay was not heavy-handed; and,
- They had found that members and officers had been cooperative, engaging and open throughout the budget-setting process, and that people were being honest about the challenges the council faced.

Members then engaged in a debate on the recommendations. Council heard that:

- It was not fair that residents should pay more to receive a reduction in services;
- Residents had lost their right to have their say about the Council Tax rise and that the impact would continue for years to come;
- Housing services had been extremely poor in previous years and residents had been ignored under the Labour leadership of the council, and the lack of a housing strategy had left significant legacy issues for the council;
- Better commissioning, more efficient systems and better management had led to £1.7m of savings for Children's Services since May 2022, and that the council now was investing in transformation projects;
- The Executive Mayor had put forward a statement on tackling crime, and the council had produced its first strategy for ending Violence Against Women and Girls, and that this budget would allow members to continue work in these areas;

In conclusion, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Jason Cummings, stated that hard decisions needed to be made, and that it would be unsafe to cut services any further.

Members then voted on the Budget and Council Tax Report and,

**RESOLVED**, with 34 votes for and 37 votes against, to reject the Budget and Council Tax-setting proposals before Council.

The Leader of the Opposition then summarised the reasons for this resolution, asking the Executive Mayor to revise the proposals in light of the principle objection to the increase in Council Tax levels for this year. Opposition members believed they had not been provided with adequate options, and that they were unable to vote on something without seeing alternatives.

The Green group, which submitted an amendment, added that they wanted it clearly outlined in the budget how residents would access support funding before they could agree to the budget, and that they also wanted to see more focus on environmental issues within the budget.

The Chair then **MOVED** that an Special Council meeting be scheduled to take place before the Ordinary Council meeting on Wednesday 29 March. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Creatura and:

**RESOLVED**, to hold a Special Council meeting for the appointments of the Civic Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Committee on 29 March 2023 at 6 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.54 pm

**Signed:**

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**Date:**

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# Public Document Pack

## Council

Meeting held on Wednesday, 17 May 2023 at 6.30 pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall,  
Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

## MINUTES

**Present:** Councillor Alisa Flemming (Chair);  
Councillor Sue Bennett (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors Kola Agboola, Jeet Bains, Leila Ben-Hassel, Adele Benson,  
Margaret Bird, Claire Bonham, Simon Brew, Janet Campbell,  
Louis Carserides, Richard Chatterjee, Chris Clark, Sherwan Chowdhury,  
Mario Creatura, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Nina Degrads,  
Rowenna Davis, Danielle Denton, Samir Dwesar, Lara Fish, Sean Fitzsimons,  
Clive Fraser, Amy Foster, Simon Fox, Gayle Gander, Maria Gatland,  
Brigitte Graham, Matt Griffiths, Lynne Hale, Patricia Hay-Justice,  
Maddie Henson, Christopher Herman, Yvette Hopley, Mohammed Islam,  
Karen Jewitt, Mark Johnson, Humayun Kabir, Stuart King, Ola Kolade,  
Joseph Lee, Endri Llabuti, Enid Mollyneaux, Stella Nabukeera, Michael Neal,  
Tamar Barrett, Eunice O'Dame, Ian Parker, Ria Patel, Tony Pearson,  
Jason Perry, Ellily Ponnuthurai, Holly Ramsey, Helen Redfern,  
Chrishni Reshekaron, Scott Roche, Manju Shahul-Hameed,  
Nikhil Sherine Thampi, Luke Shortland, Appu Srinivasan, Andy Stranack,  
Aladair Stewart, Esther Sutton, Catherine Wilson, Robert Ward and  
Callton Young

**Apologies:** Councillor Jade Appleton, Mike Bonello and Stuart Collins

## PART A

### 52/21 Disclosure of Interests

There were none.

### 53/21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 29 March were agreed as accurate records.

### 54/21 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of Council for the Municipal Year 2023-24

Councillor Alisa Flemming gave words of thanks on behalf of herself and Councillor Sue Bennett, to all those who had supported them in their year as

Civic Mayor and Deputy Civic Mayor of Croydon, stating that it was a privilege and an honour to share the mayoralty with Councillor Bennett.

Councillor Flemming recognised the challenges of the role, but declared it an honour to have served the people of Croydon in this way.

Councillor Flemming thanked her children and her sister for their support; her Consort John Wentworth and his wife; Councillors Appu Srinivasan, Mohammed Islam, Patsy Cummings, Enid Mollyneaux, Chris Clark, Callton Young, Ola Kolade and other Conservative members who had supported her. Councillor Flemming also extended thanks to the Mayor; the Deputy Lieutenant and his wife; and to the officers – among other staff, the registry team, Town Hall Concierge, the photographers, also thanked Bishop Rosemary for agreeing to be involved in reintroducing the Chaplaincy.

Councillor Flemming wished the new Civic Mayor and Deputy Civic Mayor the best of luck for the year of their Mayoralty.

The Chair then asked for nominations. Mayor Jason Perry nominated Councillor Tony Pearson as Civic Mayor and Councillor Appu Srinivasan as Deputy Civic Mayor for the 2023-24 municipal year. This was seconded by Councillor Stuart King, and:

RESOLVED, unanimously to appoint Councillors Tony Pearson and Appu Srinivasan to the roles of Civic Mayor and Deputy Civic Mayor respectively for the 2023-24 municipal year.

Mayor Jason Perry then spoke in favour the nominations, stating that Councillor Pearson was a well-known figure in his ward who worked hard for the community, as a champion of the armed forces and a military veteran. He also welcomed the nomination for the Deputy Civic Mayor.

Councillor Stuart King, Leader of the Opposition, then spoke on behalf of the Labour Group, and welcomed the nominees mentioning Councillor Srinivasan's extraordinary record of public service from working in local food banks to international work on behalf of the Tamil community in the UK.

The Chair then retired to the parlour followed by the procession.

There was a short adjournment while Councillor Pearson changed into the Mayoral robes, after which the Mayoral procession returned.

Cllr Pearson made his declaration of acceptance of office, which was signed before the Chief Executive, Katherine Kerswell. Councillor Appu Srinivasan

then made his declaration of acceptance of office, which was signed before the Chief Executive.

The Civic Mayor then presented the past Civic Mayor's Badge and past Civic Mayor's Consort badge to Councillor Flemming and John Wentworth, and presented flowers to Councillor Sue Bennett.

Mayor Jason Perry then gave words of thanks, followed by Councillor King, who gave words of thanks on behalf of the Labour Group.

The Chair then addressed Council, giving thanks to his wife and family, and his colleagues. He also thanked his predecessors for their hard work the previous year. He also stated his keenness to form good working relationship with officers and outlined the need for respect between members, and respect for the position of the Chair of Council. The Chair then stated that his two charities for the year were the Duffus Community Foundation, and the Brenda Kirby Cancer Charity.

The Chair then invited the Deputy Civic Mayor, Councillor Appu Srinivasan, to make his acceptance address, during which he emphasised that he wished his journey to be a symbol of hope for others, and that he looked forward to serving the borough in this role.

#### 55/21 **Political Balance of the Council and Composition of Committees**

The Chair moved the recommendations as contained in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Mario Creatura, Conservative Group Chief Whip, and:

**RESOLVED**, unanimously to:

- 2.1 Note that the Council is comprised of 34 Labour Group members, 34 Conservative Group members (including the Executive Mayor), two Green Group members, and one Liberal Democrat member; and,
- 2.2 Agree the size of committees and the allocation of seats on committees as set out in this report.

#### 56/21 **Appointments**

The Chair drew members' attentions to appointment number 4a of Appendix B, to make it clear that a decision had been taken by the Mayor on 12 May 2023 to dissolve the Cycle Forum, the Mobility Forum, and the Public Transport Liaison Panel, and replace them with the Croydon Advisory Forum

on Active, Sustainable and Accessible Transport, and that it was that forum to which members were being asked to appoint.

The Chair then moved the recommendations as contained in the report, which was seconded by Councillor Creatura and:

**RESOLVED**, to:

- 2.1 Make appointments to committees giving effect to the wishes of the relevant political groups as set out in Appendix A to this report, where political balance rules apply;
- 2.2 Make appointments to other committees, panels, working groups, boards and outside bodies as set out in Appendix B to this report;
- 2.3 Agree the suspension of paragraph 2.3 of the Non-Executive Procedure Rules (Part 4F of the Constitution) for the 2023/24 municipal year;
- 2.4 Wherever applicable, to appoint Chairs and Vice/Deputy-Chairs and substitutes to those non-executive committees detailed in Appendix A to this report, without prejudice to the provisions set out in paragraph 2.4 of Part 4F of the Constitution, which would continue to apply enabling in-year vacancies to either the Chair or Vice/Deputy-Chair to be filled by election at the first meeting of the relevant committee or sub-committee, following notification to the Monitoring Officer;
- 2.5 Receive, for information, the following executive appointments made by the directly elected Mayor;
  - i) The appointments of Cabinet Members, Cabinet Committees and Deputy Cabinet Members (as appropriate) (Appendix A);
  - ii) The appointments to Joint Committees (as appropriate) (Appendix A);
  - iii) The appointments to London Councils Committees (as appropriate) and panels and Local Government Association bodies (Appendix B);and,
- 2.6 Receive, for information:
  - i) The appointments by the directly elected Mayor to those outside bodies, which relate to the exercise of an executive function (marked (\*) as detailed in Appendix B);
  - ii) The appointments of Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Cabinet (Appendix A); and,
  - iii) The appointments of political party group officers (Appendix A).

Mayor Jason Perry confirmed to Council that there would be no amendments to the Scheme of Delegation for the municipal year 2023-24.

## 58/21 **The Mayor's Annual Statement**

Mayor Jason Perry made his annual statement, outlining the instability experienced by the council in previous years, but that despite this the community had thrived. The Mayor stated that he had had the privilege to visit great community groups, businesses, and people who wanted to make Croydon successful. He thanked all of them for their welcome and willingness to move forward, and their optimism for the borough. The Mayor gave a simple message for people to get on board to fix the challenges facing the borough, starting by working with communities and Central Government, and the Improvement and Assurance Panel. The process of fixing the council's finances had been a top priority this year. A difficult but achievable budget had been set, which included a £33m Council Tax support scheme and a £2m hardship fund. The Penn and Kroll reports had been referred to the police to investigate misconduct in public office, and residents could be assured those responsible for the council's financial crash would be held accountable. The Mayor had introduced the Graffiti Removal Team; reintroduced Public Space Protection Orders; revoked the planning design document, SPD2; launched a review of the Local Plan; begun the process of delivering a community pool in Purley; begun to deliver the Housing Transformation plan; established a Mayoral Town Centre Advisory Board; secured good CQC ratings for the council's extra care services; provided funding for activities during school holidays; established the ant-Violence Against Women and Girls strategy; and launched the London Borough of Culture, and had done all this by involving residents along the way.

The Mayor then pledged to continue fixing the finances, negotiating a support package from Central Government; improve the housing service and housing repairs contract; work to regenerate the town centre and increase meantime use of the empty units; remove graffiti; cut the grass, and develop a new robust waste contract. The Mayor expressed his desire to see Croydon returned to a vibrant, clean, thriving borough, and expressed his hope that everyone in the chamber would help to deliver a better future for residents and make Croydon a place people were proud to call home.

Councillor Stuart King, Leader of the Opposition, responded by firstly congratulating the Mayor on his first year in office, and stated that he had witnessed the commitment and determination to the role demonstrated by the Mayor. Increasingly more residents were turning to the council for help during the cost of living crisis; nonetheless the Mayor had made progress in a

number of areas. In particular the progress that had been made with regards to the problems at the Regina Road estate and more widely in the council's housing stock. The financial problem was a shared one, he said, requiring a shared solution, but it was a shame the council had not achieved more of a cross party consensus about facing those challenges. Councillor King urged members to ensure the Mayoral system flourished and succeeded because Croydon voted for it and its success would be the town's success. Labour supported the revocation of SPD2 and welcomed the graffiti removal service and supported ending the Veolia contract. It was a shared objective to return the council to financial stability.

59/21 **Civic Awards Ceremony**

The Council then presented citations for the awards of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman to previous members.

Mayor Jason Perry and Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Stuart King, congratulated and gave words of thanks to those receiving awards for their years of service to the council. They also spoke in honour of those receiving the awards of Freedom of the Borough.

The meeting ended at 8.23 pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**

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