

PRESENT

Members of the Council

THE MAYOR, CLLR PREETY HUDD

THE DEPUTY MAYOR, CLLR DORI SCHMETTERLING

CLLR SARAH ADDENBROOKE
CLLR HAMISH ADOURIAN
CLLR DR MONA AHMED
CLLR KASIM ALI
CLLR AARIEN ARETI
CLLR MOHAMMED BAKHTIAR
CLLR TOM BENNETT
CLLR TOBY BENTON
CLLR ELIZABETH CAMPBELL
CLLR EMMA DENT COAD
CLLR MARWAN ELNAGHI
CLLR JANET EVANS
CLLR CATHERINE FAULKS
CLLR JOANNA GARDNER
CLLR STUART GRAHAM
CLLR GREGORY HAMMOND
CLLR GERARD HARGREAVES
CLLR WALAA IDRIS
CLLR EVA JEDUT
CLLR CEM KEMAHLI

CLLR WILL LANE
CLLR SINA LARI
CLLR DAVID LINDSAY
CLLR SAM MACKOVER
CLLR SOF MCVEIGH
CLLR LLOYD NORTH
CLLR ABDULLAHI NUR
CLLR WILL PASCALL
CLLR JOSH RENDALL
CLLR MARIE-THERESE ROSSI
CLLR CLAIRE SIMMONS
CLLR KIM TAYLOR-SMITH
CLLR JOHNNY THALASSITES
CLLR PORTIA THAXTER
CLLR LINDA WADE
CLLR MARY WEALE
CLLR ROBERTO WEEDEN-SANZ
CLLR EMMA WILL
CLLR SIDNEY YANKSON
CLLR SONIA ZVEDENIUK

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed relatives of Kodjo Yenga, a 16-year-old who was a victim of a knife crime and who is here for one of the public speaking questions.

The Mayor informed Council of the deaths of two former senior officers: Alan Taylor, who was the Chief Executive here from 1990 until his retirement in 2000 and Craig Wilson, who worked at the local authority from 1978 to 2005, and was Director of Transportation and Highways from 1996-2005. She said the Council's thoughts and prayers were with their families.

Councillor Weale spoke about Alan Taylor and Craig Wilson.

The Mayor also informed Council that the following residents had been recognised by His Majesty the King in the New Year Honours.

William Salomon, President, Young Enterprise, was awarded the OBE. Jacqueline Ferguson, President, London College of Dance Network and Volunteer, Healthwatch and Louisa Jane Mitchell, Chief Executive, West London Zone were awarded the MBE. Ian Henderson, a former Councillor, was awarded a BEM.

Councillors Faulks, Gardner, Rendall and Will spoke about the recipients and their contributions.

4 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COMMUNICATIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mona Adam, Anne Cyron, Marwan Elnaghi, Dahabo Isse, Quentin Marshall, and Tim Verboven.

5 PUBLIC SPEAKING

(i) Coronation Court and City Living, Local Life application

The Mayor read a question submitted by a resident who did not wish to be named. Why was the Coronation Court Residents' Association City Living, Local Life fund application refused? On what basis do councillors get their councillor allowance if they fail to attend to their councillor's duties and engage with the residents?

Councillor Sarah Addenbrooke, Lead Member for Communities & Community Safety, thanked the questioner and said the City Living, Local Life bids required ward councillors' unanimous support. This was not working in some wards, and she had hoped the issue would have been resolved before the meeting. She added that the basic allowance was paid to all councillors and was not performance-related. It was up to each councillor to determine how best to serve residents, and if the questioner had concerns, he or she should contact the Monitoring Officer

Councillor Kasim Ali acknowledged the issue over the City Living, Local Life bid and informed the questioner that this was now resolved. He would welcome an opportunity to meet the person who asked this so that he or she understands the process. He added that his communications with the Lead Member were bringing progress. Regarding Councillors' allowances, he said that 100% attendance was expected. However, he added that allowances had remained the same over recent years. He invited the public to observe all the work councillors do and stated that Members seek election for their communities, not the money.

(ii) Access to and safety at tennis courts.

Mr Vedant Chellaram said he was advocating accessible and affordable public tennis courts in Kensington and Chelsea. He stated that tennis is a sport that promotes physical and mental well-being, as well as friendships and community building. Unfortunately, not everyone had equal access to it due to the limited availability of affordable facilities. By investing in constructing and maintaining

more affordable tennis courts, the Council could create a network of inclusive facilities that reflect the spirit of the community. He called on the Council to work with partners to foster a healthier, more connected, and more vibrant community through the joy of tennis.

Councillor Emma Will, Lead Member for Property, Parks & Leisure, thanked Vedant and replied that she agreed with the points about the importance of tennis and sports in general. However, the Borough has a problem with availability as there are only 16 courts, which are also used for other sports, including football. She noted the issue of tennis court costs and undertook to write to Mr Chellaram with more details. She would invite him to speak to officers about his suggestions. Councillor Will said that finding space for new courts was challenging due to limited space and expensive land. She valued Vedant's enthusiasm and energy in advocating for sports and would address his pricing concerns in more detail.

Councillor Kasim Ali thanked Vedant for attending and asking such an important question. He reminded everyone that he purchased his first tennis racket 23 years ago, although he realised quickly that swimming was his passion. He acknowledged the importance of supporting the next generation of athletes from the Borough and their dreams of winning Wimbledon. He added that it was crucial for the local community that the Council provides financial and service support, especially for young people who need to build resilience and resist negative influences. He agreed with Vedant's suggestions and would be happy to campaign with him on this matter. Ultimately, he hoped to see the next Wimbledon champion come from Kensington and Chelsea.

(iii) Supporting Designated Pollinator zones and biodiversity

Mr Rai Chellaram spoke about how the Borough was a haven for diverse ecosystems, which can play a pivotal role in preserving and enhancing biodiversity. He proposed creating designated pollinator garden zones across the Borough, increasing native plant species that attract and sustain these crucial contributors to the ecosystem. He informed Members about how sustainable gardening practices supported pollinators and contributed to a healthier, more resilient local ecosystem. He added that engaging in sustainable activities has been linked to improved mental well-being by fostering a sense of accomplishment and connection with the environment. He noted the councillors' goal of Peel Street as the first Bee Superhighway in Campden Ward and said that the Borough-Wide Pollinator Garden Initiative was an invitation to transform the Borough into a sanctuary of natural beauty, community engagement, environmental stewardship, and mental well-being.

Councillor Emma Will, Lead Member for Property, Parks & Leisure, thanked Rai and agreed with all his comments. She stated how the Council had set up a bee superhighway, how it sought to include pollinators in its planting schemes and that there were 80-odd community gardens to provide access and support mental health.

As the question differed to the one initially submitted, there was no response from the Principal Opposition Group.

(iv) Reducing or removing pavement clutter

Maighread Condon Simmonds, a former councillor and a community nurse, addressed the meeting about the risks to residents from the increasing clutter on the pavements, including A-boards, e-bikes, and e-scooters that obstruct pedestrians. She noted that broken paving, builders' rubbish, and other obstacles also posed difficulties. These obstacles made it hard for many, including wheelchair users, electric buggies, those using walking sticks, zimmer-frames or crutches, the blind, parents with buggies, children, and others. She thanked officers for the work they were doing. She hoped the Council would take action to make improvements and reduce the level of obstruction.

Councillor Cem Kemahli, Lead Member for Planning & Public Realm, thanked the Maighread and agreed there had been an increase in items on pavements across London, causing issues for those with limited mobility. To address this in Kensington and Chelsea, a street enforcement team has been launched and issued 150 fines in January for various offences, including erecting scaffolding without a licence. The team is also working with the planning department to take enforcement action against A boards placed without permission. The Council has removed defunct phone boxes to clear pavements and aims to remove more. He added that while business is not being stopped, rules around pavement licensing need to be tighter to ensure safe and unobstructed passage for pedestrians.

Councillor Abdullahi Nur also thanked Maighread and added that the Localism Act allowed the communities in Kensington and Chelsea to act and develop positive outcomes for their neighbourhoods. He noted that although more work needs to be done, there were ongoing projects to produce improvements. He was confident that local enforcement officers and environmental agencies would take prompt and relevant actions. However, there was a need to lobby the Lead Members and council officers, and he was willing to volunteer for this purpose. Councillor Nur was pleased to report that the issue of parked e-bikes, which often take up more than their designated space, has been considered and concluded that there was a need to work together to address this issue and other related concerns.

(v) Supporting Idris Elba's 'Don't Stop Your Future' campaign

Marianne Alapini, a former councillor, spoke about the impact of knife crime in the Borough, which was ranked the 15th worst in Greater London, with the highest number of incidents in Colville, Notting Dale, and Golborne wards. She informed Council about a knife-related death at Notting Hill Carnival in 2022 and reminded Members about the murder of Kodjo Yenga on 14 March 2007, some of whose relatives and friends were also at the meeting. She called on the Council to support Idris Elba's 'Don't Stop Your Future campaign,' which included banning the sale of more 'zombie' knives and machetes and increasing funding for youth services. Marianne also asked the Council to meet concerned residents, schools, youth centres, grassroots organisations, and the police to identify why young people were carrying weapons and then develop a strategy to prevent this. She also called on the Council to support a knife surrender scheme across the whole Borough.

Councillor Sarah Addenbrooke, Lead Member for Communities & Community Safety, thanked Marianne and the family members for attending and welcomed the campaign. She would write to the Home Secretary to urge bringing forward the ban on such weapons as so many lives were being lost, causing a significant impact on families. Councillor Addenbrooke pointed out that the Council spends

more than any other central London borough on youth services and that the Council's Violence and Exploitation Strategy focused on how prevention, intervention, enforcement, and support. She noted that the Council's community safety team works with residents, voluntary and community organisations, faith organisations, police and statutory services to reduce the harm caused by violence but that the Council was not complacent. Councillor Addenbrooke would be happy to meet the Kodjo trust and contact the police about a knife surrender campaign.

Councillor Mohammed Bakhtiar also thanked Marianne for raising the issue and congratulated Idris Alba's campaign for saving lives; however, he emphasised that the problem is more significant than a single campaign. He stated that legislation was one part of the solution; however, steps also needed to be taken to improve education and prevention. He noted that one-quarter of the Borough's children lived in poverty and whose parents could not care for them, which left young people at risk. He stated that the Labour Group was willing to work with Marianne and to visit the community to discuss this more. He added that Councillor Kasim Ali would also refer to this issue in his response to the Leader's speech.

(vi) Problems from feeding wildlife in public spaces

Elizabeth Ashley informed Council that although feeding pigeons was neither new nor exclusive to the Gloucester Road area, it had become a daily ritual two or three times a day, creating a large flock of pigeons, which left more droppings on the pavements. She added that the leftover food was attracting mice and rats as well and that when dry, the droppings could be toxic; when wet, they made the surfaces slippery. Her solution was to use enforcement to stop feeding as other deterrents, such as motorised hawks, were ineffective. In a recent consultation, there had been overwhelming support from residents for a Public Space Protection Order to enable effective enforcement.

Councillor Cem Kemahli, Lead Member for Planning & Public Realm, thanked Elizabeth and acknowledged that the problem affects many high-traffic areas. He had challenged one pigeon feeder and agreed that he must ensure the Council uses its enforcement powers and makes spaces clean. He added that Gloucester Road was scheduled for monthly jet washing and twice-a-day street warden team visits. He would work on developing a Public Spaces Protection Order with the Lead Member for Communities & Community Safety, such as the one in Harrow. The aim was to find a solution to keep the Borough's amazing spaces looking amazing.

Councillor Sina Lari also thanked Elizabeth and agreed with all comments about pigeons. While he welcomed Councillor Kemahli's challenge to a bird feeder, he stated there needed to be a more substantial commitment from the Lead Member and the Council, such as for a Public Space Protection Order. This issue clearly fits within the scope of such Orders, which would also make such activities criminal offences. He added that such feeding is unhealthy for the animals themselves, a point that Harrow and Brent councils highlighted in their PSPOs and asked the Council to take the same approach.

(vii) Support for Disabled People's living conditions

Ms Sheila Lewis informed Council about a distressing visit to a new property where no support worker was present to assist her. Hence, she had to be carried

by her daughter. She wanted to know when the Council would change to allow disabled people to know that a place is suitable for them.

Councillor Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety, and Building New Homes, thanked Sheila, apologised for the lack of support, and undertook to follow up on this along with the housing issue outside the meeting. Councillor McVeigh said she was happy to come and visit Ms Lewis in her home.

Councillor Claire Simmons noted that the Council's inclusive housing policy was dated and needed to be reviewed to account for subsequent legislation. She made a formal request that the Lead Member commence the review urgently, which she would also put in writing. She would like to meet Ms Lewis to discuss this problem further.

(viii) Bicycle stands and rehousing issues

Ms Kerdy Gallardo informed Council that she had lived in Golborne Road and then Barlby Road, but she has been waiting 11 years to be rehoused along with her two children. The current home is unsuitable, which is causing health problems for her children as well as herself. She lives in the area affected by the Grenfell fire. Although she has a medical ground category A for rehousing, she was offered a first-floor flat, which she declined due to fire safety fears and accessibility concerns as she would not be able to evacuate in the case of a fire. She pointed out the lack of ground-floor, three-bedroom, accessible flats. She has been fighting for suitable housing for 11 years and was frustrated with the lack of action from the Council.

Councillor Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety and Building New Homes, thanked Kerdy and apologised for the distress that had been caused. Councillor McVeigh stated that officers who knew Kerdy required a ground-floor, three-bedroom flat suggested these properties as no such ground-floor flat was available. She said the Council was encouraging those who no longer needed ground-floor properties to move and it was committed to building more social homes and planned to construct ground-floor, three-bedroom units; however, the officer showed Kerdy a first-floor unit instead due to the current lack of availability. Councillor McVeigh said she understood Kerdy's needs have changed and housing officers had promised to adapt a unit to her requirements. The Council would prioritise disability access in its allocation scheme, and officers would work with the Registered Provider to address any issues. She offered to meet to discuss any further concerns.

Councillor Claire Simmons also thanked Kerdy and apologised for the many years of trouble she had experienced with the lack of suitable housing. Councillor Simmons offered to meet her to discuss her case and provide assistance. She mentioned the New Homes programme, in which 300 of the 600 proposed homes would be for social rent, but expressed concern about the suitability of housing for wheelchair users. Councillor Simmons noted that some of the new flats she had visited had homes described as wheelchair accessible on the first floor, which were unsuitable, especially after the Grenfell fire. She challenged the Lead Member to ensure that future new homes must include ground-floor, accessible, three-bedroom flats.

Councillor Sina Lari raised a point of order under Standing Order 8 that the Labour Group had not been notified of the revised question and had, therefore, been unable to respond as it was entitled to do. The Lead Member confirmed that she, too, was unaware of the change. The Mayor requested that any councillors who have advance notice of such a revision should notify both the Majority and the Principal Opposition Groups.

6 PETITIONS

No petitions were submitted.

7 STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND RESPONSE BY THE LEADER OF THE MINORITY PARTY (STANDING ITEM)

Councillor Johnny Thalassites moved, and Councillor Sina Lari seconded that, in accordance with Standing Order 42, Standing Order 30 be suspended to allow the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Principal Opposition Group 10 minutes each for their speeches. Council gave its consent.

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council to address the meeting. The Leader then rose to speak:

Madam Mayor, it's been six and a half years since a fire at Grenfell ripped through people's homes and ripped families and lives apart. Seventy-two wonderful people lost their lives, 18 children, including one yet-to-be-born baby boy. And the families and friends of the 72 still don't have justice, still don't have answers. They don't yet have an inquiry report to establish – in basic terms – what went wrong and what the country should do about it.

Last week, alongside Maxine, Kim, and senior colleagues from the Council, I attended every single day of Grenfell Testimony Week. Many of you will have seen the reports from writers and broadcasters, but it is impossible for anybody to truly relay the emotion, the anger, the sadness, the searing truth, so eloquently spoken by bereaved families and survivors. I sat, and I listened. I felt ashamed. It was a reminder that this organisation is to blame for what happened, and we should continue to shoulder that blame every single day. And no matter what you think of companies gaming the system, a broken building safety regime, or the response of the emergency services that night, none of that should matter to us. We're a public authority; we should have a higher bar set for us, and we should be meeting the very highest bar.

Madam Mayor, Testimony Week sits alongside our efforts to compensate families and victims and to put in place a long-lasting fund for those in the local community. However, six years on, it is clear that we are still not doing enough. People have a right to be angry. I sat alongside anonymous lawyers and representatives throughout last week. One company failed to send anyone at all. After fronting public meetings in the days after the fire and the opening of the Inquiry, I know what happened. I've sat face-to-face with families, and I have some understanding of how people feel. I'm glad that others in that room now do, too. The one thing I want to make clear tonight to them and to ourselves once again: it is not enough just to turn up, it is not enough just to listen. You have to take action.

For us, it is not enough if we don't complete a fundamental change of culture across the entire organisation. For me, and I know for Maxine, who joined us

last year, it is not enough just to turn up; it is what we take from Testimony Week and what we do with it that counts. I stood here in 2017 and pledged that we would not forget. I haven't. But people as companies are bought up by others or dissolved, and as ministers and Governments change, and as people utter the words 'I cannot recall' time and time again, I always wanted this Council to be a positive constant. Somewhere for bereaved and survivors to look to when they feel nobody is listening and nothing is changing.

But last week, I asked myself, have we done enough? The answer is no – but we must continue to try and try harder. If admission of failure feels uncomfortable – that is fine with me. I am speaking from the heart. Unless we can collectively look at ourselves in the mirror and honestly say we are what bereaved and survivors have challenged us to be, then we have failed.

Madam Mayor, I'm only human, and I'd be lying if I didn't say last week was incredibly difficult, and I'm sure colleagues who were there feel the same. It should feel difficult for us. It must take such courage to speak in those circumstances to turn to representatives of organisations you know had a hand in the death of your loved ones and then tell them why Grenfell was so wrong. It should not have happened; the tragedy should never have happened.

It is also clear that more change should have happened by now. For so many families, the clock has just stopped. Time is standing still. The Inquiry must work faster. It must pull out all the stops. I know the police will be thorough, and of course, they must look at all of their options and evidence, but justice for Grenfell should have been swift. To date, it has not been. That is an additional kick in the teeth on top of the tragedy itself. Just as the Hillsborough families had to wait, just as the post office workers had to wait, just like those who will now have to wait for conclusions from a COVID inquiry.

The system doesn't work. It is too stacked in favour of those that would like to forget. The anger at the lack of action was palpable throughout last week. Palpable, and perfectly understandable. Sure, it is uncomfortable when the finger is pointed in our direction with such raw emotion. But every single person delivered their message with dignity. I'm not sure how families managed to do it. I'm not sure I could if faced with the same situation. It demands respect and demands attention.

Madam Mayor, I am not going to stand here tonight and give a long list of the changes we've made as a Council; it doesn't take away the pain the hurt. It doesn't bring families back together or loved ones back to life. And too often, it is what politicians tend to do. The evidence at the Inquiry already chimes with what we heard last week: the Council didn't care enough before 2017. It wasn't inquisitive enough. We outsourced services, we outsourced caring, and we didn't listen to people who knew something was wrong. Of course, I feel strongly that significant progress has been made, and we are a different organisation now to the one before 14 June 2017. Our commitments, promises, and policies have been guided by what happened on that date. The continued investment and care we take in our social housing – listening to people who live here being the first public sector organisation to be guided by the Hillsborough Charter through an inquiry process and building social homes for the first time in a generation. We are continually striving to become a leader in safety after bringing our housing services back in-house, closer to us – never again at arms-length. And the dedicated service – a unique set of people in the Council who we hope will show others the way.

But Madam Mayor, I am more aware than ever that a lot of what we label as progress is too focused on process, paperwork, systems, contracts, commitments, and money spent. We still haven't done enough on the ground, face to face, where it matters. People don't need to be told about change; they need to see and feel the changes.

Grenfell, the opening to the Inquiry, last week, these are moments that have changed my life. For as long as I am Leader of this authority, we will never forgive ourselves, nor seek forgiveness, never pat ourselves on the back for what we do now, never think the job is done. There is not a time now, nor in the future, simply to move on. Last week was a reminder of that for all of us here and our entire workforce – a message I will make sure gets through. Grenfell has already shaped the future path of this organisation, but it is up to us to choose how we wish to walk down that path.

Madam Mayor, colleagues, thank you for listening tonight. As you can tell, I am still incredibly moved by the events of last week – and I wanted to share these emotions and words with you. I feel it is one of the most important roles I have as Leader. But I will end with the words of someone else tonight. Sandra Ruiz, whose niece, Jessica Urbano Ramirez, died in the fire aged 12. Leaders, she said, should be held to a higher level of accountability. That means us. That means me. Last week, the depth of grief, the hurt and the sorrow, the fury and the frustration, the raw pain and searing testimonies – especially about children are all things I will never forget, and I will use it to drive me on, and we will use it to drive all of us on.

Thank you.

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Opposition to address the meeting. Cllr Ali then rose to speak:

Madam Mayor, we all saw the demonstration outside the Council and the protesters standing at the entrance of the council chamber as the war between Israel and Hamas continues with losses of civilian lives. A permanent ceasefire and the two-state solution is the only way forward for an everlasting peace in the Middle East.

Last week was Grenfell Testimony Week. The testimony week was designed to be a platform for those affected by the Grenfell Tower disaster in 2017 who wish to speak about the impact it has had on them and their loved ones.

The sixth year Grenfell Anniversary has passed, and the seventh year Grenfell Anniversary is just five months away and yet no one is held accountable for the 72 victims who lost their lives. The Labour Group of Councillors will continue to demand justice for Grenfell victims.

I personally will never forget what happened on that fateful night, and the disaster will forever be remembered as a man-made disaster, and the shocking thing is that those who are responsible are still free and live in a normal life whereas the lives of the families impacted by the disaster have changed forever. The local community will not rest until those responsible for the disaster are brought to justice, and the sooner will be better.

I was informed that the Testimony Week events formed part of a Settlement Agreement signed in 2023, which was the result of a civil claim brought by a group of bereaved, survivors and residents affected by the Grenfell Tower Fire

against a group of defendants, including local government organisations, private companies, central government departments, and the London Fire Brigade.

However, it is worth noting that the link between former Grenfell Tower residents and the other defendants, including the private companies, is the council. Therefore, the local communities want to know who is responsible for the disaster and how long will it take to get justice done for the families.

Although the Testimony Week was framed as a wider civil claim settlement, which could be seen as events independent of the ongoing Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Many of our residents are asking if this is part of delaying tactics to delay justice for Grenfell victims, and they want to know what happened to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report, which was delayed several times last year.

They also would like to know if the Testimony week will have an impact on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and the forthcoming decision to be made by the Crown Prosecution Service to pursue unlawful charges against any individuals or organisations after publication of the Inquiry's final report this year – which I suspect will be delayed yet again to after the general election.

Madam Mayor, this Council leadership claims that the Council has changed, and it is now a fairer council that listens to its residents. Well, I and many others believe that this Council has not changed, and if anything, it has gone backwards since Grenfell Tower disaster. I would, however, agree with one point that the word 'change' has been overused on paper, which we all heard many times. Justice is what the local people are demanding, not the word change on paper.

Another example that the Council has not changed is that the Conservative Councillors attended the Testimony week. However, the local Labour Councillors who represent the ward where the disaster unfortunately took place were not invited. Where is the fairer Borough that we and the residents were promised, or was the word promise just another word on paper?

The Grenfell Housing disaster has impacted a large group of people in North Kensington and beyond. My colleagues and many local community members have lost their loved ones, and no amount of money will replace their losses, therefore, once again justice is what the local people are demanding.

Madam Mayor, the safety and the security of our residents is a top priority for the Labour Group of Councillors, and we are supporting the world famous British-African heritage Actor Idris Elba who is leading Knives down campaign that I believed he has started.

As mentioned earlier, RBKC is sadly ranked 15th out of the 32 London Boroughs for Knife Crime. The wards with the highest number of knife crime with injury offences were Colville (31 offences), Notting Dale (28 offences) and Golborne (27 offences).

I urge the council leadership to prioritise the safety and the security of our residents and join us to support Idris Elba's 'Don't Stop Your Future, campaign'.

I, as the Leader of Kensington and Chelsea Labour Group of Councillors, would like to say to Actor Idris Elba 'Mahadsanid' (Thank You) – which is a word I'm sure that he understands.

We, the Labour Group of Councillor, are supporting your campaign Idris, and we have to deal with the root causes of knife crimes. Since this Conservative government has failed us all.

I hope that the next Labour government will deal with this issue by providing world-class youth services and centres, a good education system, and fixing the economic crisis that hit everyone hard.

Together we can, and we will show our youth that there is a pathway to a prosperous future so that they do not stop their bright future through knife crime.

Thank you, Madam Mayor.

8 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Mayor confirmed that the order of business would be as printed on the agenda.

9 REPORTS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

(i) Treasury Management Mid-Year Report KD06579

Councillor Campbell moved the report's reception, and Councillor Taylor-Smith seconded it.

Council RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management mid-year report 2023-24 be noted.

10 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROVISIONS

Councillor Campbell moved the report's reception, and Councillor Taylor-Smith seconded it.

Council RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

11 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL-SIDE COMMITTEES

Councillor Taylor-Smith moved the report's reception, and Councillor Thalassites seconded it.

Council RESOLVED

- (i) to amend and re-adopt the Constitution
- (ii) to adopt the Annual Pay Policy Statement'

12 MATTERS REFERRED TO FULL COUNCIL FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Councillor Knight moved the reception of the report from the Inner West London Mental Health Services Reconfiguration Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which Councillor Dr Ahmed seconded.

Councillors Knight and Dr Ahmed summarised the main issues from the Overview, namely:

- (i) How the NHS's proposal would affect residents.
- (ii) That the NHS appeared to have made its choice already.
- (iii) How both community health services and in-patient beds were equally important, but the NHS proposals implied that having one would mean cutting funding to the other.
- (iv) Existing savings from the Gordon Hospital's closure have not produced better outcomes.
- (v) The key user and community groups have not been part of co-producing the reorganisation plans.
- (vi) The lack of data to support the business case for change.
- (vii) How the Equalities Impact Assessment revealed that significant users of mental health services – young adults and those from ethnic communities – were not represented sufficiently.
- (viii) The rising demand for emergency care and the number of patients waiting more than 12 hours at Accident and Emergency for beds indicated that the community-based treatment model was not sufficient.
- (ix) Patients from North Kensington were particularly likely to be subject to longer waiting times.

Councillors Lari, Rendall, Simmons, Thaxter, and Weale also spoke.

Council RESOLVED:
That the report be noted.

13 QUESTIONS ASKED OF LEAD MEMBERS

(i) E-bikes and e-scooters left on pavements

Councillor Dent Coad drew Council's attention to the lack of progress made over the last year in addressing the problem of e-bikes and e-scooters obstructing the pavements and asked what the local authority was doing to address this problem.

Councillor Kemahli responded, noting that this local authority was only the second council in London to have introduced dedicated bays, which had led to an improvement from the e-bike hire companies. He added that having to report incidents was insufficient, and he had made representations to London Councils for a pan-London solution, for which the operations are also supportive. He added that more bays would be provided, although that was not a perfect solution.

Councillor Dent Coad stated in her supplementary question that she would send photos from St Helens Ward, where there has yet to be any improvement.

Councillor Kemahli replied that the ward's councillor had refused to have any bays, so there is nothing for the Council's enforcement officers to regulate.

(ii) Urban Foxes

Councillor Idris informed Council about concerns from residents that urban foxes were becoming more common on the Borough's streets as well as being pseudo-domesticated. She was concerned they could cause safety and health implications for residents.

Councillor Kemahli replied that the Council would not kill foxes but, to discourage them and other animals, it was important to encourage residents not to leave food waste on the streets but to store it in proper vaults or receptacles before collection. He pointed out that the Borough still had twice-weekly collections but that crows were picking open bags, in which foxes and other animals would rummage. While 82 fixed penalty notices had been issued to those who put out waste incorrectly in January, the key was to cut access to food.

Councillor Idris asked as a supplementary if the Council could add more to the website to help residents, to which Councillor Kemahli agreed.

(iii) Grenfell – compensation to the immediate community

Councillor Thaxter drew Members' attention to the accounts given during Grenfell Testimony week and noted the tragedy's ongoing health effects. She asked the Leader what redress and compensation were being provided to the immediate community and residents affected by the fire, given that it had already agreed to a global settlement.

The Leader replied and referred to the testimony she had heard. She noted that during the recent consultation, residents expressed that the immediate community is still suffering both physically and mentally due to the tragedy. She added that the Restorative Justice programme, part of the Global Settlement Agreement, would provide help to all living within the community and that the Council is working with local residents to design future support that meets their needs. Councillor Campbell added that Testimony Week demands more than specific support programs; it demands fundamental cultural change, so the Council is always treating people with humanity, respect, and dignity. The Council would redouble its efforts to become the organisation the community expects it to be.

Councillor Thaxter asked a supplementary question, drawing Council's attention to the fact that service provisions were not reaching people and the ongoing mental health impact where people were existing rather than living. She asked what compensation would be provided.

Councillor Campbell responded that the Council would continue working with and asking residents what they need, with a report due to come to the Leadership Team in late spring, but that no further compensation would be provided.

(iv) Low Measles, Mumps, and Rubella immunisation rates

Councillor Lari informed Council about the extraordinary rise in rates of measles infections across Europe and low Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccination rates in the Borough and asked how the Council was cooperating with health authorities to ensure there is adequate preparation, protection, and response.

Councillor Rendall agreed with Councillor Lari's comments and responded, noting the exponential outbreak and emphasised the importance of addressing it in the Borough. He stated that the Council was working closely with partners at the Integrated Care Board and community members to ensure that as many children as possible receive both vaccine doses. The Council and partners also collaborated with schools and nurseries to increase vaccinations. He noted that

the outbreak was not as severe as in other areas, but the Council closely monitored the situation with its partners.

Councillor Lari asked a supplementary question, noting that the Borough is amongst the worst for the uptake of any vaccine in the country, with less than half of the elderly residents having taken flu vaccine, and he asked how could the Council promote prevention of disease, and inform and educate better to prevent epidemics?

Councillor Rendall replied that vaccination was the best prevention and stated that in 2016 the Borough was measles-free. He emphasised that everyone must encourage vaccination and set out the roles of community champions and the NHS to do this, for example, through a 'popup clinic' in a bus outside a school to give access other than at GP surgeries.

14 MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN RAISED UNDER STANDING ORDER 11

Councillor Joanna Gardner provided an update on the Notting Hill Gate Community Group and how the Council's growth and delivery teams were working with the local community to launch a consultation on an action plan that would run until 10 March 2024. The consultation would seek residents', visitors', and businesses' views on making the area greener, fairer, and safer and address environmental concerns. The draft action plan would be on the Council's website, and she invited all Members to promote the consultation.

Councillor Tom Bennett referred to a local development order for permitted development rights being introduced in Redcliffe Road. This planning mechanism would allow residents to proceed with building mansard rooves without needing permission, provided they used an approved design. He noted that 70% of the Borough was within conservation areas, and the permitted development would support residents and protect distinctive features of roads and neighbourhoods.

Councillor Will Lane raised an issue in McLeod's Mews about a wall in disrepair over the Circle and District lines. In May 2022, TfL admitted that it was responsible for the wall. In June 2023, TfL stated it would complete the work by October 2023. However, the wall is still falling away, and TfL now plans to finish works in 2026 but could not share any engineering report about the wall. He asked for pressure to be put on TfL so residents of the Mews can have the wall repaired.

Councillor Linda Wade informed the Council about the 328 bus crash into a building at the junction of Warwick Road and Old Brompton Road, which highlighted the issues of speed and safety there as it was not the first crash. She added that Earls Court ward councillors have made representations to TfL and the Borough over many years. She noted that the crossing near elderly residents' homes was dangerous and asked how many deaths or injuries must happen before TfL acts.

15 MOTIONS FOR MAIN DEBATE

- (i) Motion: Antisocial behaviour by some delivery drivers**

The Mayor informed the meeting that this item would be deferred as Councillor Verboven, the mover, was not present.

(ii) **Motion: Bring parking services in-house**

This item was deferred.

(iii) **Motion: Producing an AI Framework**

The Mayor informed the meeting that this item would be deferred as Councillor Areti, the seconder, was not present.

(iv) **Motion: River Thames Conservation Area Management Plan**

With Full Council's consent, Councillor Gerard Hargreaves moved, and Councillor Sonia Zvedeniuk seconded the altered text set out in the supplementary papers that:

'The Chelsea houseboat community is a true part of the local Chelsea community, comprising an eclectic mix of painters, artists but also financiers and lawyers.

Following the introduction of a number of larger houseboats, including boats now being subdivided and marketed for short-term let, the council is concerned that there are potential heritage impacts on the Thames conservation area and listed buildings in the vicinity.

Therefore, we call on the council urgently to carry out a review of all the relevant policies contained in the Local Plan and complete work on the River Thames Conservation Area Management Plan to ensure that we further protect Chelsea Riverside Ward from overdevelopment along the Chelsea foreshore.'

A debate ensued with contributions from Councillors Kemahli, Rendall, Simmons, Taylor-Smith, Wade, and Will.

The motion was then put to the vote by the Mayor and declared carried.

(v) **Motion: Call for Council to support a ceasefire in Gaza**

This item was deferred.

16 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The following appointments were agreed:

Councillor Kim Taylor-Smith to replace Councillor Gerard Hargreaves as the voting member at Al-Manaar (Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre).

Councillor Toby Benton was appointed to the Planning Committee pool.

17 ANY OTHER ORAL OR WRITTEN ITEMS WHICH THE MAYOR CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items that the Mayor considered urgent.

The meeting ended at 9.16 pm

Mayor

Draft