

# COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING Minutes

**Place**

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wellington Street,  
Woolwich SE18 6PW

**Date**

Wednesday 25 May 2022

**Time**

7.00pm

**Present**

The Worshipful Mayor  
Councillor Denise Hyland

**Councillors**

Majella Anning	Rowshan Hannan	Simon Peirce
Nas Asghar	Matt Hartley	Majid Rahman
Joshua Ayodele	Elizabeth Ige	Jit Ranabhat
Olu Babatola	Adel Khaireh	Maisie Richards Cottell
Sammy Backon	Averil Lekau	Denise Scott-McDonald
Peter Baker	Sam Littlewood	Pat Slattery
Sandra Bauer	Chris Lloyd	Aidan Smith
Linda Bird	Mariam Lolavar	Christine St Matthew-Daniel
Clare Burke-McDonald	Christine May	Dave Sullivan
Issy Cooke	Dominic Mbang	Rachel Taggart-Ryan
Ann-Marie Cousins	Odetta McGahey	Sandra Thomas
Gary Dillon	Sarah-Jane Merrill	Jo van den Broek
Lauren Dingsdale	Asli Mohammed	Ivis Williams
John Fahy	Matthew Morrow	Nick Williams
Leo Fletcher	Calum O'Byrne Mulligan	Miranda Williams
David Gardner	Anthony Okereke	
Pat Greenwell	'Lade Hephzibah Olugbemi	

A webcast of the meeting of the Council is displayed on the Council's website <https://royalgreenwich.public-i.tv/core/portal/home> for a period of six months subsequent to the meeting.

## Minutes

**Item**    **Item**  
**No.**

### **1**            **Election of Mayor**

Councillor Anthony Okereke proposed, and Councillor Matt Hartley seconded, that Councillor Leo Fletcher be Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich for the municipal year 2022/23.

Councillors Anthony Okereke and Matt Hartley gave thanks to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Denise Hyland; they also gave thanks to the retiring councillors and welcomed the recently elected councillors to Council.

Councillors Anthony Okereke and Matt Hartley wished Councillor Leo Fletcher well going forward as the new Mayor.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Leo Fletcher for his work as Deputy Mayor during her absence and wished him well as the new Mayor.

The matter was put to the vote and it was unanimously

#### **Resolved –**

That Councillor Leo Fletcher be appointed as the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich for the municipal year 2022/23

### **2**            **Appointment of Deputy Mayor**

Councillor Leo Fletcher stated that he intended to appoint Councillor Dominic Mbang as his Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2022/23.

#### **Resolved -**

That Councillor Leo Fletcher had given notice that he intended to appoint Councillor Dominic Mbang as his Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2022/23 be noted.

### **3 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cathy Dowse, Lakshan Saldin, Jackie Smith and Danny Thorpe

### **4 Declarations of Interest**

#### **Resolved -**

That the list of Councillors' membership (as Council appointed representatives) on outside bodies, joint committees and School Governing Bodies is noted.

### **5 Announcements**

It was with sadness that the Mayor noted the deaths of two former Councillors Babubhai Masters and Steve Offord. Babubhai Masters had been a Councillor from 1978 to 1982 for the then Slade Ward in Plumstead and had served on a number of the then committees, including social services. He had worked with the community and had been a founder member of the Greenwich Islamic Centre. Steve Offord had been a Councillor from 2002 to 2018 for the then Abbey Wood Ward, and had served on a number of committees including Cabinet and had been Mayor of Greenwich in 2008-09 and had been made an honorary alderman of the borough in 2021.

Councillors Denise Hyland and Linda Bird spoke in remembrance of Steve Offord. It was recalled that he had worked for Greenwich Council in Environmental Health and for the Youth Service, and that he had been Chair of Governors at Crown Woods School. Tribute was paid to his wife, Jackie, and his children, who had nursed him through his illness and final days

The Mayor also noted the death of Mr. E.G Jones MM (known as Len) at the age of 102. He has been the borough's oldest World War II veteran, and had collected for the poppy war remembrance for many years and had always been on Parade both on Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Weekend. He had received the Civic Award 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in 2020. Councillor John Hills spoke in remembrance of Mr Jones, recalling that they had marched together at the Cenotaph for 25 years.

The Mayor called for a minute's silence for the two former Councillors, Mr Jones, and also for the victims of the murders in the school in Uvalde, Texas.

*Council held a minute silence*

## **6 Election of Leader of the Council**

Councillor Peter Baker proposed and Councillor Elizabeth Ige seconded that Councillor Anthony Okereke be elected Leader of the Council.

The Mayor put the proposal to Council and it was unanimously

### **Resolved -**

That Councillor Anthony Okereke be elected as Leader of the Council.

Councillor Anthony Okereke said it was an honour to be elected to lead the Royal Borough of Greenwich, which was his home and where he had grown up, and he looked forward to working to improve the quality of life of all the borough's residents

Councillor Okereke paid tribute to the outgoing Leader, Councillor Danny Thorpe, and spoke of Councillor Thorpe's commitment and the work he done for residents during the pandemic. He said he was determined to build on his work when delivering the Labour Party's manifesto.

Councillor Matt Hartley paid tribute to Councillor Danny Thorpe and his commitment to the borough and public services, and for his work during the pandemic. Councillor Hartley congratulated Councillor Okereke on his election and wished him well. Councillor Hartley paid tribute to his predecessor as opposition leader, Nigel Fletcher.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Anthony Okereke on his election as Leader of the Council, and thanked Councillor Danny Thorpe for his work as Leader of the Council.

## **7 Appointment of Cabinet Members**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Anthony Okereke, informed the Council of the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet for 2022/23.

### **Resolved -**

That the Members of Cabinet, as appointed by the Leader of the Council, be noted as follows:

Councillor Anthony Okereke - Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet

Councillor Averil Lekau - Deputy Leader and Vice-Chair of Cabinet

Councillor Ann-Marie Cousins

Councillor Adel Khaireh

Councillor Mariam Lolavar\*

Councillor Matthew Morrow

Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald

Councillor Pat Slattery

Councillor Aidan Smith

Councillor Ivis Williams

\* Councillor Lolavar is presently on maternity leave. For the period of her absence, Councillor Denise Hyland is appointed as the Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy, Business and Skills.

## **8 Delegations and Executive Responsibilities**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Anthony Okereke, presented the report.

### **Resolved -**

1. That the allocation by the Leader of the Council of Cabinet portfolios, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report be noted.
2. That the Leader's General Scheme of Delegation for 2022/23, as detailed in appendix 2 of the report be noted

3. That the appointments made by the Leader of the Council to serve on joint committees and outside bodies which exercise executive functions or which advise on executive matters, as detailed in appendix 3 of the report be noted.

**9 Council Chief Whip, Deputy Chief Whip, Leader of the Opposition and Opposition Party Whip**

The Mayor moved the report.

**Resolved –**

That the appointment of Members by their Party Groups to the offices listed below for the 2022/23 Municipal Year be noted:-

Council Chief Whip	Councillor Peter Baker
Deputy Chief Whip	Councillor Elizabeth Ige
Leader of the Opposition	Councillor Matt Hartley
Chief Whip of the Opposition	Councillor Pat Greenwell

**10 Establishment of Committees to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions; determination of the terms of reference and number of seats on such committees and the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Anthony Okereke, moved the recommendations in the reports

The Mayor put the recommendations to the vote and it was unanimously

**Resolved -**

I. That it be agreed to establish the following Member-level Bodies for 2022/23 to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions:

Standing Member-Level Bodies

Audit and Risk Management Panel  
Borough-wide Housing Panel (Vice-Chair only)

Corporate Parenting Board  
Eltham and Kidbrooke Area Planning Committee  
General Purposes Committee  
Greenwich Area Planning Committee  
Health and Well-Being Board  
Highways Committee  
Licensing Committee  
Local Housing Panels (Vice Chairs only)  
Margaret McMillan Field Study Centre Sub-Committee  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Overview and Scrutiny Call In Sub-Committee  
Pension Fund Investment and Administration Panel  
Planning Board  
Scrutiny Panels (x6)  
Standards Committee  
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)  
Woolwich Area Planning Committee

#### Consultative Bodies

Greenwich Council Joint Committee  
Schools Forum

2. That the allocation of seats on Member-level bodies as set out in Appendix A of the report, and that Part 3 Schedule B of the Constitution [membership numbers] be updated accordingly be agreed.
3. That the terms of reference of all Member level bodies for 2022/23 (Appendix B of the report) and that Part 3 of the Constitution (Responsibility for Functions) be updated accordingly be agreed.
4. That the Chairs of the Scrutiny Panels for 2022/23 (Appendix C of the report) be agreed.
5. That that Dr Susan Blackall be appointed as Chair of the Standards Committee (and consequently Vice-Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Panel) and that Dr Susan Blackall (vice-chair) be appointed as an independent member of the Standards Committee be agreed.

6. That the Chief Executive be authorised to (a) establish, in consultation with the Party Group Leaders, individual Appointment Panels based on the requirements of the post; and (b) appoint, in consultation with the Leader and Party Whips, Members to Appointment Panel be agreed.
7. That Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the relevant Party Whip, be authorised to appoint to any vacancies on the bodies listed above or any that may arise during the Municipal Year 2022/23 be agreed.

## **11 Appointment of Members to Council Committees and Panels and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs and membership for 2022/23**

The Chief Whip, Councillor Peter Baker, moved the report.

The Mayor put the recommendations in the report to the vote and it was unanimously

### **Resolved -**

That Members be appointed to the Member-Level Bodies that deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions for the 2022/23 Municipal Year, as detailed in the report.

## **12 Outline Calendar of Meetings of the Council and other Member-Level Bodies – 2022/23**

The Mayor moved the report.

### **Resolved –**

That the outline calendar of meetings of the Council and other Member-Level Bodies for the Municipal Year 2022/23 be approved.

## **13 Appointment of Members to Outside Bodies for 2022/23**

The Chief Whip, Councillor Peter Baker, moved the nominations for the Royal Borough of Greenwich's representatives on outside bodies, as detailed in the appendix to the report.



The Mayor noted that the minority group's nominations had been incorporated within the Chief Whip's recommendation.

The Mayor put the Chief Whip's nominations to the vote and it was unanimously

**Resolved –**

That the appointment of Members to serve on outside bodies for the Municipal Year 2022/23, in accordance with the Chief Whip's Nominations as listed in the appendix to the report be agreed

The meeting closed at 7.43pm

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Mayor