



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

Council

Summons and Agenda

Date: Thursday 30 November 2023

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Kadwa Patidar Centre, Kenmore Avenue, Kenton,
Harrow, HA3 8LU

All Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the Council Meeting for the transaction of the business set out.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Farmer.' The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jessica Farmer
Interim Director of Legal and Governance Services

Despatch Date: 22 November 2023

Scan this code for the electronic agenda:



Useful Information

Joining the Meeting virtually

The meeting is open to the public and can be viewed online at [London Borough of Harrow webcasts](#)

Attending the Meeting in person

The Kadwa Patidar Centre can be found using [Google Maps to Kadwa Patidar Centre](#)

The venue is accessible to people with special needs. If you have specific requirements, please contact the officer listed on the front page of this agenda.

You will be admitted on a first-come-first basis and directed to seats.

Please:

- (1) Stay seated.
- (2) Access the meeting agenda online at [Browse meetings - Council – Harrow Council](#)
- (3) Put mobile devices on silent.
- (4) Follow instructions of the Security Officers.
- (5) Advise Security on your arrival if you are a registered speaker.

Filming / recording

This meeting may be recorded or filmed, and if you choose to attend, you will be deemed to have consented to this. Any recording may be published on the Council website.

Agenda publication date: Wednesday 22 November 2023

Prayers

Yogvivekdas Swami, Head Swami of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir ('Neasden Temple'), will open the meeting with Prayers.

1. Council Minutes (Pages 9 - 18)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary interests, arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from all Members of the Council.

3. Procedural Motions

To receive and consider any procedural motions by Members of the Council in relation to the conduct of this Meeting. Notice of such procedural motions, received after the issuing of this Summons, will be tabled.

4. Petitions

To receive any petitions to be presented:

- (i) by a representative of the petitioners;
- (ii) by a Councillor, on behalf of petitioners;
- (iii) by the Mayor, on behalf of petitioners.

5. Public Questions

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for members of the public to ask questions of members of the Executive, Portfolio Holders and Chairs of Committees, of which notice has been received no later than 3.00 pm two clear working days prior to the day of this Meeting. Any such questions received will be tabled.

6. Leader and Portfolio Holder Announcements

To receive a presentation from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders on business since the last ordinary meeting, followed by a question and answer session. The item is allotted 20 minutes.

7. Long Service Award - Councillor Simon Brown

Further to the decision of Council on 28 September 2023, to make a presentation to Councillor Simon Brown marking 25 years' service on Harrow Council which he completed in May 2023.

8. Employment Arrangements for the Head of Paid Service (Managing Director) (Pages 19 - 22)

Recommendation I: Chief Officers' Employment Panel
(16 November 2023)

9. **Constitution Update** (Pages 23 - 40)

Report of the Interim Director of Legal and Governance Services

10. **Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee Annual report** (Pages 41 - 58)

Recommendation I: Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee
(20 September 2023)

11. **Annual Youth Justice Plan** (Pages 59 - 108)

Recommendation I: Cabinet
(16 November 2023)

12. **Information Report - Use of Urgency Procedure - Council** (Pages 109 - 114)

13. **Information Report - Remuneration Packages of £100,000 or greater** (Pages 115 - 122)

14. **Questions with Notice**

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for asking written questions by Members of Council of a member of the Executive or the Chair of any Committee:-

- (i) of which notice has been received at least two clear working days prior to the day of this Meeting; or
- (ii) which relate to urgent matters, and the consent of the Executive Member or Committee Chair to whom the question is to be put has been obtained and the content has been advised to the Director of Legal and Governance Services by 12 noon on the day of the Council Meeting.

Any such questions received will be tabled.

15. **Motions**

The following Motions have been notified in accordance with the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 15, to be moved and seconded by the Members indicated:

(1) **Tamil Heritage Month Motion**

To be moved by Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar and seconded by Councillor Kuha Kumaran:

“This Council notes:

- that January 2024 will be Tamil Heritage Month.
- The tremendous contributions that Tamils make to Harrow’s diverse community.
- The richness of Tamil culture and the positive difference it has made to our society locally.

- January is an important month for Tamils as it marks Thai Pongal, the Tamil Harvest Festival.
- The importance of increasing awareness about the accomplishments of the Tamil diaspora.

This Council resolves to:

- Reaffirm our strong commitment to support Tamil Heritage Month events in Harrow.
- Continue to work with and support the local Tamil community.”

(2) Supporting Voter ID Motion

To be moved by Councillor Paul Osborn and seconded by Councillor Marilyn Ashton:

“The London Borough of Harrow recognises the importance of public trust in the security of the electoral process.

This Council notes:

- The threats to the democratic process must be combated to protect the integrity of our democracy.
- That the independent electoral Commission has called for a resolution to issues relating to voter ID in the UK.
- The recent law change allows for the provision of free voter ID cards (Voter Authority Certificates) which are issued by local authorities. This means financial hardship will not be a barrier to a voter’s ability to get an ID and cast their ballot.

This Council believes:

- Considering how frequently residents now require ID in their day-to-day lives, the new requirement for voters to have ID to vote is a reasonable approach to reducing the threat of voter fraud and ensures that there are still not significant barriers to voting.
- That the system for applying for voter ID for those without a valid voter ID is simple and has ensured that all can access the electoral process.

This Council resolves:

- To fulfil its duty to properly inform residents about the latest change in voting requirements.
- To commit to continuing to use its communication channels to notify residents about the need for voter ID in next year’s Mayoral, GLA and parliamentary elections.”

(3) Motion – Mortgages and Rent in Harrow

To be moved by Councillor Antonio Weiss and seconded by Councillor David Perry:

Council recognises that people across our borough are struggling to

make ends meet and are in urgent need of support.

- One in five adults in the UK has less than £100 in savings.
- Nearly four million children in Britain live in poverty.
- Areas of Harrow are the most deprived in the country, with many residents living in overcrowded accommodation.

High inflation and borrowing rates have hit lower-income households hardest, mostly because of the sharp increases in mortgage rates and rent.

Council notes that:-

- The Resolution Foundation estimate that about 21% of the 7.586m households with mortgages or loans (around 1.6 million households) will see their fixed-rate mortgage deal expire between Q1 2023 to Q1 2024, and are set to face an average increase in their annual mortgage bill of around £2,300 if they re-fix.
<https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/publications/macroeconomic-policy-outlook-q2-2023/>. In Harrow, that is the equivalent of 5771 households paying a combined £13,273,806
- For a typical mortgage couple in their 30s that would translate into a fall in disposable income of around 11%.
- The Bank of England Bank Rate was just 0.25% at the beginning of 2022 and although the Bank of England kept interest rates at 5.25% in November 2023, analysts expect more pain to come with some predicting rates will go as high as 5.75% and remaining above 5% until the summer of 2024 before starting to fall towards 3.6% in five years' time.
- Mortgage stress levels are set to hit heights not seen since the 1980s.
- Private landlords will also be looking to pass this increase onto their tenants through increased rents.
- Between April 2019 and September 2023 there were 753 no fault evictions in Harrow.

'No-fault evictions', also known as Section 21 notices, allow landlords to order tenants to leave with a minimum of two months' warning - without having to prove that the tenant is at fault in any way.

The figure of 753 is based on the number of no-fault eviction letters that have been followed up with a possession claim in the courts. The true scale of the problem in Harrow could be worse, as not all Section 21 notices will necessarily reach this stage.

- According to the latest Government data, in 2021 there were:-
 - 22,629 households privately renting in Harrow
 - 9,234 properties were let at social rent.
- According to the latest Bank of England data, 43% families are struggling to pay their rent – 13,700 households in Harrow.
- Due to the lack of leadership in government from successive Conservative Prime Ministers and Chancellor's, the economy has suffered from bad policy to bad decisions, thus negatively impacting mortgage payers and renters in Harrow.

Council resolves: -

- To use all available routes to urge central government to take a more proactive approach in supporting Harrow residents through the ongoing cost of living crisis and high inflation, in particular: -
 - to immediately adopt measures to ease the mortgage crisis and halt repossessions and evictions by guaranteeing support from lenders for struggling mortgage borrowers.
 - Mandatory mortgage flexibility and support from lenders, not voluntary.
 - recognise the pressures that high inflation is placing on local government finances and provide proper funding to councils to support residents to remain living locally in Harrow; like through Discretionary Housing Payments that allow councils to support those in the greatest need.
- To clearly signpost the support, networks and guidance that is available in Harrow, and promote through appropriate channels to our residents and businesses.
- To ensure our local voices are heard, the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition will form a delegation with all Harrow MP's and request a meeting with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Council must stand up for our local residents and aim for the above positive changes to alleviate the pressure on mortgage and rent payers.

Data Protection Act Notice

The Council will record the meeting and will place the recording on the Council's website.

[Note: The questions and answers will not be reproduced in the minutes.]