



Council (Council Tax)

Minutes

22 February 2024

Present: Councillor Ramji Chauhan (The Worshipful the Mayor)

Councillor Salim Chowdhury (The Deputy Mayor)

Councillors:

Ghazanfar Ali	Eden Kulig
Dan Anderson	Kuha Kumaran
David Ashton	Jean Lammiman
Marilyn Ashton	Jerry Miles
Peymana Assad	Vipin Mithani
Christopher Baxter	Amir Moshenson
June Baxter	Janet Mote
Philip Benjamin	Phillip O'Dell
Govind Bharadia	Paul Osborn
Nicola Blackman	Nitin Parekh
Simon Brown	Mina Parmar
Kandy Dolor	Varsha Parmar
Dean Gilligan	Anjana Patel
Matthew Goodwin-Freeman	Pritesh Patel
Stephen Greek	David Perry
Chetna Halai	Natasha Proctor
Graham Henson	Kanti Rabadia
Maxine Henson	Aneka Shah-Levy
Stephen Hickman	Samir Sumaria
Nitesh Hirani	Krishna Suresh
Asif Hussain	Sasi Suresh
Thaya Idaikkadar	Yogesh Teli
Ameet Jogia	Zak Wagman
Rashmi Kalu	Antonio Weiss
Hitesh Karia	

Apologies received:

Councillor Shahania Choudhury	Councillor Norman Stevenson
Councillor Susan Hall	

Virtual: Councillor Rekha Shah

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by Kirit Wadia, representative of the Head Swami of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir ('Neasden Temple')

124. Minute Silence

Members of Council stood and observed one minute silence for former Mayor and Councillor John Nickolay who had passed away in January.

125. Council Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on be 30 November 2023 as read and signed as a correct record.

126. Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared:

Item 8 – Corporate Plan 2023-26:Review of first year and Flagship Actions 2024/25

Councillor Janet Mote declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a Carers' Champion and was a member of Headstone Manor Museum and Park. She would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Item 19 – Motion: NHS Waiting Times

Councillor Peymana Assad declared a non-pecuniary interest in that members of her family worked for the NHS. She would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Simon Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in that one of his daughter's worked for Central North West London NHS Trust. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Janet Mote declared a non-pecuniary interest in that her daughter was a nurse at Northwick Park Hospital. She would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

127. Procedural Motions

The Mayor drew Council's attention to the Procedural Motion set out in the Tabled Documents. The procedural motion under Rule 26.1 was agreed so that, in line with previous years and for the purposes of the debate on the Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27, the rules of debate be varied, as set out in the Tabled Documents, and that the procedure therein also be applied to the reports on the Corporate Plan 2023-2026:Review of first year and Flagship Actions 2024/25, the Housing

Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2025/26 to 2026/27, Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 and 30 year HRA Business Plan, the Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 and Capital Strategy for 2024/25, the Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27, in so far as the recommendations be debated jointly.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the partial suspension under Rule 26.1, regarding the moving of recommendations from Cabinet and the rules of debate (including extended time for opening speeches by the political groups), as set out in the Supplemental Summons be approved for the purposes of the debate upon**

Item 8 - Corporate Plan 2023 – 26: Review of first year and Flagship Actions 2024/25

Item 9 Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27

Item 10 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2025/26 to 2026/27, Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 and 30 year HRA Business Plan

Item 11 Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 and Capital Strategy for 2024/25

Item 12 Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27

- (2) **the Procedural Motion be agreed.**

128. Petitions

In accordance with Rule 10, the following petitions were received:

- (i) Petition submitted by Councillor Matthew Goodwin-Freeman containing 185 signatures in relation to the condition of the roads and pavements surrounding Ufford Road, Hatch End.

129. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

130. Leader and Portfolio Holder Announcements

- (i) The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Osborn, introduced the item highlighting the Administration's achievements, challenges and plans since the last ordinary meeting.
- (ii) Other Members spoke and asked questions of the Leader of the Council which were duly responded to.

131. Members Allowances' Scheme 2024/25

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the current Members' Allowances Scheme be amended to reflect the proposed changes set out on pages 37 – 46 of the supplemental summons and be backdated to 1 January 2024;**
- (2) **the Members' Allowances Scheme 2024/25, as set out on pages 37 – 46 of the supplemental summons, be approved.**

132. Corporate Plan 2023-26: Review of first year and Flagship Actions 2024/25

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Plan and new Flagship Actions for 2024/25 be approved.

133. Final Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27

Upon the meeting moving to the vote on the substantive Recommendation it was carried. The voting was as follows:

In Favour of the Recommendation: His Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Ramji Chauhan, David Ashton, Marilyn Ashton, Christopher Baxter, June Baxter, Benjamin, Bharadia, Blackman, Chowdhury, Goodwin-Freeman, Greek, Halai, Hirani, Idaikkadar, Jogia, Karia, Kumaran, Lammiman, Mithani, Moshenson, Mote, Osborn, Mina Parmar, Anjana Patel, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Sumaria, Teli and Wagman.

Against the Recommendation: Councillors Ali, Anderson, Assad, Brown, Dolor, Gilligan, Graham Henson, Maxine Henson, Hickman, Hussain, Kalu, Kulig, Miles, O'Dell, Parekh, Varsha Parmar, Perry, Proctor, Shah-Levy, Krishna Suresh, Sasi Suresh and Weiss.

Absent: Councillors Shahania Choudhury, Susan Hall, Rekha Shah and Norman Stevenson.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **being mindful of the consultation responses and the tabled comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the 2024/25 budget be approved to enable the Council Tax for 2024/25 to be set;**

- (2) the Model Council Tax Resolution 2024/25, as set out in Appendix 11 of the officer report, be approved;
- (3) in accordance with Section 38 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Managing Director be instructed to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 2 above within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision;
- (4) the new council tax premium for empty furnished properties (under section 11C of the Local Government Finance Act 1992) at a premium of 100% from 1 April 2025 (Paragraphs 1.21-1.24 of the officer report) be applied;
- (5) the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, as set out in Appendix 2 of the officer report, be approved;
- (6) the 2024/25 Annual Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix 12 of the officer report, be approved;
- (7) the Capital Receipts Flexibility Strategy, as set out in Appendix 13 of the officer report, be approved.

134. Housing Revenue Account Budget 2024-25 & Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2026-27, HRA Capital Programme 2024-25 to 2028-29 and 30 year HRA Business Plan

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budgets for 2024-25, as set out in Appendix 1 to the officer report, be approved;
- (2) the HRA Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix 6(a) to the officer report, be approved.

135. Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 and Capital Strategy for 2024/25

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/25 be approved, including:

- (1) Prudential Indicators for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27
- (2) Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2024/25, (see paragraph 2.20 and Appendix C of the officer report)
- (3) Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 (Appendix F of the officer report)
- (4) Annual Capital Strategy (Appendix G of the officer report).

136. Final Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the officer report, be approved.

137. Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2024-2025

RESOLVED: That, having considered whether to review the local Council Tax Support scheme, the continuation of the existing Council Tax Support Scheme, as previously adopted by Full Council, for the 2024/25 financial year be approved.

138. Non-Executive Fees and Charges 2024/25

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the fees and charges for the financial year 2024/25 listed in Appendix 1 to the officer report be approved and set;**
- (2) the Director of Finance be authorised to amend fees and charges in year and agree new fees and charges, following consultation with the Corporate Director of Place and the relevant Portfolio Holder.**

139. Calendar of Meetings 2024/25

RESOLVED: That the Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2024/25 be approved.

140. Information Report - Use of the Urgency Procedure - Executive

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

141. Information Report - Remuneration and Severance Packages of £100,000 or greater

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

142. Questions with Notice

There were no Questions with Notice.

143. Motions

Motion – NHS Waiting Times

Motion in the names of Councillor David Perry and Councillor Natasha Proctor.

Having been moved, seconded and put to the vote the Motion was lost.

(Close of Meeting: All business having been completed, and having adjourned at 7.57pm and reconvened at 8.09pm, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.22 pm).