

Council (Council Tax)

Minutes

23 February 2023

Present: Councillor Janet Mote (The Worshipful the Mayor)

Councillor Ramji Chauhan (The Deputy Mayor)

Councillors:

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

Apologies received:

Councillor Ghazanfar Ali

Councillor Vipin Mithani

Joined Virtually: Councillor Kandy Dolor

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by
Monsignor Vincent G Brady of St Luke's Church, Pinner.

55. Minute Silence

Members of Council stood and observed one minute silence for those affected by the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey.

56. Council Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2022 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

57. Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared:

Item 4 – Petitions

Councillor Hitesh Karia declared a pecuniary interest and would leave the room for the discussion and vote on this item.

Councillor Varsha Parmar declared a pecuniary interest and would leave the room for the discussion and vote on this item.

Item 9 – Revenue Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26

Councillor Jean Lammiman declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was in receipt of social care provision.

Councillor Paul Osborn declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was Chair of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, a precepting Authority.

Item – 19 – Motion supporting Harrow Council's opposition to the ULEZ expansion

Councillor Stephen Greek declared a pecuniary interest and he worked for the London Assembly and would leave the room for the discussion and vote on this item.

Councillor Susan Hall, during the course of the meeting, declared a pecuniary interest and would leave the room for the discussion and vote on this item.

Councillor Asif Hussain declared a pecuniary interest and would leave the room for the discussion and vote on this item.

Councillor Norman Stevenson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a member of Friends of the Earth.

58. Procedural Motions

The Mayor drew Council's attention to the Procedural Motions under Rule 26.1 included in the Supplemental Summons and also the Urgent Motion, Supporting Harrow Council's opposition to the ULEZ expansion, and Procedural Motion in 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 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2025/26, 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, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 to 2025/26, Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28 and HRA Business Plan, the Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24 and Capital Strategy for 2023/24, the Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2025/26, 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 - 2026

Item 9 - Revenue Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2025/26

Item 10 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 to 2025/26, Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28 and HRA Business Plan

Item 11 Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24 and Capital Strategy for 2023/24

Item 12 - Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2025/26

- (2) **the Procedural Motion be agreed.**
- (3) **the urgent Motion, Supporting Harrow Council's opposition to the ULEZ expansion, be accepted for the reasons set out in the Tabled Documents.**
- (4) **having, accepted the urgent Motion, Council agreed that item 6, Leader and Portfolio Holder Announcements, be deleted from the agenda and the urgent Motion be debated after item 7, Constitution Update.**

- (5) **having been moved and seconded, Council agreed that the Urgent Motion not stand referred to the Executive.**

59. Petitions

In accordance with Rule 10, the following petition was received:

- (i) Petition submitted by Scott Flashman containing over 2,000 signatures in relation to Tesco Towers.

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, debate was held on the content of the above-mentioned petition which had the following terms:-

"Residents Say No to Tesco Towers and Notting Hill Genesis Development in Harrow

This petition is to object to the proposal by Notting Hill Genesis and Tesco to turn the store on Station Road Harrow into a high-rise development called Greenmead Place - Notting Hill Genesis 'Tesco Towers' including a 15 storey building.

We ask Harrow Council to consider why the community objects:

- The proposed development is overbearing and will dominate the surrounding homes of mainly two-storey houses and low-rise flats.
- The development design totally ignores the surrounding community.
- There are no infrastructure improvements, no additional GP surgeries, capacity at Northwick Park Hospital, improvement to public transport links, roads, water supply or sewage disposal.
- The increased congestion and pollution from high density housing in one of the busiest roads in Harrow, adds 155 cars to a road where two schools are within a few metres.
- 20% reduction in the Tesco store size and 33% less parking spaces for Tesco customers yet further increasing congestion on the roads and less jobs for residents in a smaller store.
- NHG says '35%' of the new accommodation will be 'affordable' but this includes shared ownership which is anything but affordable with prices in Harrow.

This development does not benefit the community and would be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the area.

We ask Harrow Council to not approve the application of this development."

RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director of Place for consideration.

[Note: Councillors Hitesh Karia and Varsha Parmar left the room for the discussion and vote on this item].

60. Public Questions

To note that four questions from members of the public had been received and the recording was on the Council's website.

[Note: Councillor Hitesh Karia left the room for question 4].

61. Leader and Portfolio Holder Announcements

This item was deleted from the Summons.

62. Constitution Update

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council, Committee, Health and Wellbeing and Executive Procedure Rules, as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the officer report, be approved and**
- (2) the amendments take effect immediately and be applied to all remaining agenda items at the meeting.**

63. Corporate Plan 2023 - 2026

RESOLVED: That the new Corporate Plan for 2023-26 be approved.

64. Revenue Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26

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

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

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

Abstain: Councillor Sasi Suresh

Absent: Councillor Ghazanfar Ali, Kandy Dolor, Vipin Mithani.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the 2023/24 budget, being mindful of consultation results, be approved to enable the Council Tax for 2023/24 to be set;
- (2) the Model Council Tax Resolution 2023/24, as set out in Appendix 11 to the officer report, be approved;
- (3) in accordance with Section 38 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Chief Executive be instructed to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under Resolution 2 above within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision.
- (4) the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, set out in Appendix 2 to the officer report, be approved;
- (5) the 2023/24 Members' Allowances Scheme, set out in Appendix 12 to the officer report, be approved;
- (6) the 2023/24 Annual Pay Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 13 to the officer report, be approved;
- (7) the Capital Receipts Flexibility Strategy, set out in Appendix 14 to the officer report, be approved.

65. Housing Revenue Account Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2025/26, Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2027/28 and HRA Business Plan

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023/24 and the Housing Revenue Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix 1 and 6 to the officer report, be approved.
- (2) the proposed average weekly rent for general needs and sheltered accommodation of £132.00 and £113.52 for 2023-24 respectively as set out in paragraph 32 and Appendix 2 to the officer report, be approved;
- (3) the proposed average weekly rents for affordable and shared ownership properties of £197.49 and £210.64, which reflected increases of 7% in line with the national rent policy for social housing, be approved;
- (4) a five-year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital programme of £181,228,214 made up of £52,965,240 planned investment, £54,617,799 Building Council Homes for Londoners (BCHfL), £212,249 Grange Farm phase 3, £2,615,000 Grange Farm Infrastructure, £70,817,926 Homes for Harrow Phase 2, as set out in paragraphs 59 to 65 Appendix 6 to the officer report, be approved;

- (5) the HRA 30-year Business plan and assumptions, as set out in Appendices 7 and 7a to the officer report, be approved;
- (6) the flexibility under the Government's Rent Policy, to allow void properties to be re-let at formulae rent plus 5% and 10% for general needs and sheltered properties respectively, be approved;
- (7) the proposed average weekly general need service charge of £8.22 and sheltered services charges of £16.95 per week, be agreed, noting that the charges proposed reflected the outcome of the service charge review as set out in paragraph 38 and Appendix 2 to the officer report;
- (8) the proposed average weekly services charges for affordable and shared ownership properties of £15.86 and £8.91 respectively as set out in Appendix 2 to the officer report, be approved;
- (9) an average weekly facility charge of £30.77 for sheltered properties be agreed, noting that the charges proposed reflected the impact of significant increases in utility costs;
- (10) an average weekly heating charge for general needs properties of £18.77, be approved;
- (11) an increase of up to 7.5% to water charges, as set out in paragraph 40 and Appendix 4 to the officer report, be approved;
- (12) weekly parking spaces and garage charges of £10.16 and £15.55 respectively as set out in paragraph 39 and Appendix 3 to the officer report, be approved;
- (13) a 10% increase to the 2022/23 hourly hire charges applied to Community Halls, as set out in Appendix 5 to the officer report, be approved;
- (14) the use of Section 106 Affordable Housing contributions held by the Council for the purpose of providing affordable housing as part of the Council funding for the development of this 100% affordable housing scheme, be approved.

66. Treasury Management Strategy Statement Including Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24 and Capital Strategy for 2023/24

RESOLVED: That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24 be approved, including:

- Prudential Indicators for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26;
- Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2023/24, as set out in paragraph 2.17 and Appendix C to the officer report;
- Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix F to the officer report;
- Annual Capital Strategy, as set out in Appendix G to the officer report.

67. Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2025/26

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

68. Statutory Officer Roles

Having noted the amendment set out in the Tabled Documents it was

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the role of Returning Officer be assigned to the Chief Executive;
- (2) the designation of the roles of Monitoring Officer, RIPA Monitoring Officer, Proper Officer for Births, Deaths & Marriages, and Proper Officer under the Local Government Act 1972 to the acting Director of Legal & Governance Services, Jessica Farmer, be confirmed;
- (3) the roles of Electoral Registration Officer, Land Charges Registrar and the Honorary Secretary of the Mayor of Harrow's Charity and the Edward **Harvist** Charity be assigned to the Democratic, Electoral & Registration Services Manager; and
- (4) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any necessary changes to the Constitution to reflect the above.

69. Non-Executive fees and charges for 2023-24

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the fees and charges listed for the financial year 2023-24 set out in Appendix 1 to the officer report be set and approved;**
- (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.**

70. Revised Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003)

RESOLVED: That the revised Statement of Licensing Policy be approved.

71. Information Report - Decisions taken under the Urgency Procedure - Executive

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

72. Information Report - Remuneration Packages of £100,000 or greater

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

73. Questions with Notice

To note that three questions from Councillors to Portfolio Holders had been received. Written responses would be provided.

74. Motions

(i) “Motion supporting Harrow Council’s opposition to the ULEZ expansion

Motion in the names of Councillor Paul Osborn and Councillor Marilyn Ashton

This Council notes:

- In the summer of 2022, Harrow Council agreed a motion to oppose Sadiq Khan’s ULEZ expansion and protect our poorest and most vulnerable residents as well as businesses.
- There have been serious concerns raised by many Harrow residents about the impact of this expansion on their family finances and businesses.
- Once expanded, the ULEZ could cost a family with a non-compliant car up to £87.50 per week (£350 per month).
- The Mayor’s own research shows that the ULEZ expansion will make only minimal difference to outer London’s air quality. When weighed with the economic and financial devastation the ULEZ will cause to Harrow, this nominal benefit is not justifiable.
- The £200 million minimum cost of expanding the ULEZ could be spent on far better and more positive schemes that work with local people to improve London’s air quality.
- Harrow Council, alongside Hillingdon, Bexley, Bromley and Surrey County Council, has applied for permission for a Judicial Review of the Mayor’s decision to expand the ULEZ to outer London.

This Council believes:

- It is highly likely that Sadiq Khan will move the goalposts and widen the criteria for the ULEZ scheme sometime after it is expanded and does not believe the Mayor is expanding the scheme using £200 million only to generate ‘nominal income’.

This Council resolves:

- To fully support local residents in opposing Sadiq Khan’s money making ULEZ tax.
- To fully support the Administration in refusing to cooperate with TfL in installing any ULEZ infrastructure.
- To fully support the administration’s application for a Judicial Review of the Mayor’s decision.”

RESOLVED: That the Motion, as set out above, be adopted.

[Note: Councillors Susan Hall, Asif Hussain and Stephen Greek left the room for the discussion and vote on this item].

75. Termination of Meeting

At 9.19 pm, during the debate on items 8-12, it was proposed that the guillotine be extended until the conclusion of the budget debate. Members assented to continue until the budget debate was completed following which the guillotine be applied.

RESOLVED (unanimously): That the provisions of Rules 9.2 and 9.3 be applied.

(Close of Meeting: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.10 pm).