



# Council

## Minutes

### 23 October 2024

**Present:** Councillor Salim Chowdhury (The Worshipful the Mayor)

Councillor Anjana Patel (The Deputy Mayor)

**Councillors:**

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

**Apologies  
received:**

Councillor Kandy Dolor	Councillor Varsha Parmar
Councillor Matthew Goodwin-Freeman	Councillor Natasha Proctor
Councillor Maxine Henson	Councillor Yogesh Teli

## PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by Mr Owais Khan Malik,  
Shahjalal Islamic Centre

### 160. Declarations of Interest

The Monitoring Officer reported that a dispensation had been granted by the Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee via the urgency procedure to enable Members that may otherwise have a pecuniary interest in Motion 2, Motion to condemn the Government's Winter Fuel Allowance cut, to take part in the debate for this meeting only and to remain, speak and vote.

The following interests were declared:

#### Item 10 – New Harrow Local Plan – proposed version for pre-submission (Regulation 19 stage) consultation

Councillor Christopher Baxter declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor June Baxter declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association. She would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Ramji Chauhan declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Stephen Greek declared non-pecuniary interests in that he was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association and was also an employee of the Greater London Authority. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Susan Hall declared non-pecuniary interests in that she was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association and was also a member of the Greater London Authority. She would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West

constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Ameet Jogia MBE declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Hitesh Karia declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Jean Lammiman declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association. She would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Janet Mote declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association. She would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Paul Osborn declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Norman Stevenson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a Conservative Councillor representing a ward within the Harrow West constituency and Chapter 11: Site Allocations, pages 347 to 348 included Site O8 – Harrow West Conservative Association. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

## **161. Council Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 16 May 2024 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

## **162. Procedural Motions**

The Procedural Motion that the lead petitioner presenting the Petition in relation to item 5, Free Parking Provision in Harrow and Wealdstone Town Centres, be permitted to respond to the Member debate was not agreed.

The Procedural Motion that the time for speakers be extended beyond the 10 minutes for debate set out in the Council's Petition Scheme in relation to item 5 - Petition – Protect the Free Parking Provision in Harrow and Wealdstone's Town Centres was not agreed.

### **163. Petitions**

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

- (i) Petition submitted by Councillor Nitesh Hirani containing 164 signatures in relation to an LED Street Lamp upgrade on St Paul's Avenue.
- (ii) Petition submitted by Councillor Krishna Suresh containing 136 signatures requesting the re-surfacing of Exeter Road.
- (iii) Petition submitted by Councillor Krishna Suresh containing 12 signatures requesting the installation of a security gate in Oxley Road.
- (iv) Petition submitted by Councillor Nitin Parekh containing 59 signatures requesting the re-surfacing of the road and repair of the footpath in Tenby Road, Nolton and Prescelly Place.
- (v) Petition submitted by Councillor Stephen Hickman containing 48 signatures requesting the repairs of the footpaths on Roxeth Hill.

### **164. Petition - Protect the Free Parking Provision in Harrow and Wealdstone Town Centres**

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council received a petition containing over 2,000 signatures as follows

- (i) Petition submitted by Chris Perdue, a representative of businesses, containing over 2,000 signatures stating

#### **“Petition - Protect the Free Parking Provision in Harrow and Wealdstone Town Centres**

“We, the undersigned, oppose the Conservative run Council's plans to;

- Remove Evening Free Parking after 6.30pm (all week) in Greenhill Way Car Park and Davy House, Lyon Road Car Park (Harrow Town Centre)
  - Remove Free Evening Parking (Mon - Sat) and All Day on Sundays in Palmerston Road Car Park (Wealdstone Town Centre)
  - We are also concerned with the reduction in Maximum Stay in Canons Park Parade, Whitchurch Lane, Merrion Avenue, Neptune Road, The Gardens and West Harrow (4 hours to 2 hours).”
- (ii) Debate was held on the content of the petition.

**RESOLVED: That the petition referred to the Acting Strategic Director for Culture, Environment and Economy for consideration.**

**165. Public Questions**

To note that one public question had been received and responded to.

**166. 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.

**167. Recognition of Long Service - Councillor Marilyn Ashton**

**RESOLVED: That a Long Service Award marking Councillor Marilyn Ashton's 25 years' service as a Member for Harrow Council in July 2024 be approved.**

**168. Designation of Director of Adult Social Services**

**RESOLVED: That James Mass, Strategic Director of Adults and Public Health (Director of Adult Social Services) be designated as the statutory Director of Adult Social Services.**

**169. New Harrow Local Plan – proposed version for pre-submission (Regulation 19 stage) consultation**

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) consultation on the draft Local Plan ('Regulation 19' consultation), as attached at Appendix 1 to the officer report and accompanying documents (including those attached as appendices to the report), and the consultation arrangements as outlined in section 14 of the report, be agreed;
- (2) the Chief Planning Officer be authorised following consultation with the Planning and Regeneration Portfolio Holder and the Leader of Council, to submit the draft Plan and accompanying documents under Regulation 22 to the Secretary of State, subject to no major modifications arising from the Regulation 19 statutory public consultation and where needed due to the draft National Planning Policy Framework 2024 being published in its final form prior to the outcome of the Regulation 19 consultation;
- (3) it be noted that Regulation 19 Version of the Local Plan would be used for development management purposes and determining planning applications, with appropriate weight given in

accordance with paragraph 48 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

**170. Refresh of the Contract Procedure Rules**

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the Contract Procedure Rules February 2025, attached as Enclosure 1 to the officer report, be approved;**
- (2) the Strategic Director of Legal and Governance be authorised to update the constitution once the Act comes into force;**
- (3) the Financial Scheme of Delegation for award of contracts be revised as set out in the financial section of the officer report.**

**171. Amendments to the Constitution**

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the changes to the Constitution set out in the officer report be agreed; and**
- (2) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the Constitution in accordance with these changes.**

**172. Annual Youth Justice Plan**

**RESOLVED: That the Harrow Youth Justice Plan be approved.**

**173. Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Annual Report 2023/24**

**RESOLVED: That the Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee 2023/24 Annual Report be noted.**

**174. Pension Fund Committee - Membership**

**RESOLVED: That the change in membership of the Pension Fund Committee, in that for Unison, Varsha Patel replaced John Royle and for GMB Ann Jones replaced Pamela Belgrave, be approved.**

**175. Use of the Urgency Procedure - Executive**

**RESOLVED: That the information report be noted.**

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

**RESOLVED: That the information report be noted.**

## 177. Questions with Notice

There were no Questions with Notice.

## 178. Motions

### (i) **“Motion to protect Harrow’s greenbelt and oppose government plans to weaken planning rules**

Motion in the name of Councillor Marilyn Ashton and seconded by Councillor Stephen Greek:

This council notes:

- The government’s proposed new National Planning Policy Framework proposes to:
  - Create a concept of ‘Greybelt’, blurring the lines and protections against inappropriate development on greenspaces.
  - Reduce resistance to development within the Greenbelt.
  - Expunge the requirement for developments to be ‘beautiful’.
  - Remove the requirement for extensions and loft conversions to ‘harmonise with the original building’.
  - Delete the emphasis on ensuring developments support ‘placemaking’.
  - Omit references to ‘achieving appropriate densities’ of housing in new applications.
  - Erase mention of extensions and loft conversions having to keep in character with the height of neighbouring properties.
  - Wipe out the stipulation that new developments cannot be ‘wholly out of character with the existing area’.
- Harrow has 1,090 hectares of designated greenbelt land and 310 hectares of Metropolitan Open Land.
  - Unlike most other local authority areas, Harrow has not seen any reduction in Greenbelt land for more than 17 years.
- The government has signalled its desire ‘to modernise planning committees’ which will reduce the role of democratically elected councillors in planning decisions and therefore weaken accountability to local residents.

This Council believes:

- Our Greenbelt and Metropolitan Open Land is one of the defining features of our borough. These green and open spaces are what gives Harrow its reputation as a leafy borough, in keeping with its Metroland heritage.
- These green areas are the lungs of the borough.
- There is clearly a need to build more houses, but there must be a balance. Loosening regulations and blurring protections for Greenbelt land and green spaces could cause irreparable harm to the leafy character of our borough.

- Proposals to allow ‘low quality Greenbelt land’ to be released from the Greenbelt for development is deeply problematic and misguided.
  - This policy change would encourage landowners and/or developers to neglect their Greenbelt land, allowing it to fall into disrepair and become ‘low quality’.
  - Unscrupulous landowners/developers could then cynically seek permission to have the land released from the Greenbelt.
  - This alteration to regulations will fire the starting gun for as vandalism of our green spaces and countryside.
- Local decision making, by locally elected councillors, is a key part of the planning system and delivers accountability and transparency to our residents.

This Council resolves:

- To support the submission made by the Council to the Proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework consultation.
- To put on record the Council’s commitment to do everything possible to support sensible and proportionate developments, while protecting Harrow’s Greenbelt and open land from inappropriate, dense and ugly developments.
- To publicly oppose the introduction of a ‘grey belt’ category which will incite neglect and vandalism of our Greenbelt.
- To state our conviction that developments in Harrow should be beautiful as well as in keeping with the height, scale and character of existing neighbourhoods.
- To ensure our local voices are heard, to ask the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition shall form a delegation with all Harrow MP’s and request a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister & Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government. The Council must stand up for our local residents to alleviate the pressure on our precious Greenbelt and Metropolitan Open Land.”

A tabled amendment in the names of Councillor David Perry and Councillor Eden Kulig was received, put to the vote and was lost.

**RESOLVED: That the Motion, as set out at (i) above, be adopted.**

(ii) **“Motion to condemn the government’s Winter Fuel Allowance cut**

Motion in the name of Councillor Paul Osborn and seconded by Councillor Marilyn Ashton:



This Council notes:

- The Winter Fuel Allowance was introduced in 1997 by the Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown.
- The Household Support Fund was introduced in 2021 by the Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak.
- The first major decision taken by this new Labour government was to cut this grant for pensioners.
- The second major decision taken by the new Labour government was to award train drivers earning more than £60,000 per year a £7,000 pay rise.
- Over 27,000 pensioner households in Harrow were eligible for the Winter Fuel Allowance before the Labour government's cut.
- Using current government statistics, Channel 4's 'FactCheck' unit estimate that the number of eligible households will decrease by an average of 88% because of this cut. On this basis nearly 24,000 pensioner households in Harrow will lose out on £200 to £300 per year.
- The new criteria for Winter Fuel Allowance payments means that single pensioners receiving £11,343 or more, and pensioners couples receiving £17,313 or more, will no longer be eligible. Both these figures are well below the annual minimum wage salary for a full-time worker.
- Analysis carried out by the Labour Party's own researchers in 2017 suggested that cutting the Winter Fuel Allowance could lead to 4,000 deaths due to fuel poverty.
- In the Corporate Plan adopted by Harrow Council's Conservative administration in 2023, one of our three priorities is to be 'a Borough that supports those in need'.
- According to the DWP, only 6 out of 10 pensioners entitled to Pension Credit actually claim it.

This Council believes:

- Harrow's older people deserve dignity and security in retirement.
- The government is wrong to cut the Winter Fuel Allowance for most pensioners. Pensioners have worked hard and paid into system all their lives.
- This cut will result in many pensioners who will only just over the threshold for Pension Credit, who are still struggling to make ends meet, will miss out on this vital payment.
- As 'a Borough that supports those in need', we need to call out this injustice and stand with those pensioners who will have to choose between whether to eat or heat their homes this winter.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the government to reconsider this poorly thought-out policy, which will punish some of the most vulnerable members of Harrow's community.
- To support the Conservative administration's plans to use the

Household Support Fund to provide a Winter Fuel Payment to 1,342 pensioners who are not eligible for pension credit but receive Council Tax Support, at a rate of £200 for those under 80 years old and £300 for those over 80 years old on the DWP qualifying date.

- To support the Conservative Council's efforts, through the Household Support Fund, to encourage those pensioners who eligible for Pension Credit but have not yet signed up to apply. This will mean the average pensioner family could receive £2,200 per year in extra support.
- To ask the Council's communications team to redouble efforts to advertise the support available to Harrow's older people to help them if they find themselves in financial hardship this winter, due to the government's Winter Fuel Allowance cut.
- To call on the government to release the detailed impact assessment for this policy that they have kept hidden."

**RESOLVED: That the Motion, as set out at (ii) above, be adopted.**

**(iii) "Motion: National Economic Inheritance**

Motion in the name of Councillor David Perry and seconded by Councillor Graham Henson:

**This council notes:**

- Over the last fourteen years of Conservative governments, UK government debt has risen to its highest level since the 1960's; from 64.7% of GDP in 2010, to 96.5% in 2024.
- The NHS has been badly mismanaged, with waiting lists and times soaring; in December 2023, 7.6 million people were on NHS waiting lists, compared with just over 2 million in 2010.
- The UK's trend rate of economic growth has fallen since 2008; despite George Osborne's "long-term economic plan", trend annual growth stalled at 1.2%.
- UK goods trade has fallen 15% below the rest of the G7 since 2016.
- Taxation levels under the last Conservative Government were at a postwar high.
- The lack of wage growth since 2008 has cost the average worker £10,700 a year (Resolution Foundation).
- The number of food bank parcels being distributed has spiralled, from fewer than 100,000 in 2010 to over 3 million in 2023.
- Over 5,000 Harrow residents a week still receive food support locally from surplus food contributions.
- GDP has remained stagnant or fallen for seven quarters up to the end of 2023.
- In June a staggering 149051 residents were waiting longer than two weeks for a GP appointment within the NHS North-West London ICB area.

### **The Council believes:**

- Harrow residents are still being significantly impacted by the national economic inheritance.
- Serial mismanagement of the UK economy by consecutive Conservative administrations have significantly impacted the short-and-medium term stability of the UK.
- The Conservatives left the new Labour government a £22 billion black hole in the UK finances.
- The lack of growth, investment or real terms wage increases over the last 14 years have inevitably led to future difficult economic choices to be made by the new Labour government.
- The disastrous decision being made by various Conservative Chancellors, and the Liz Truss 'Mini Budget' directly led to a huge increase in inflation and also in turn higher mortgage payments of homeowners, exacerbating the cost-of-living crisis in the UK.

### **The Council resolves to:**

- Agree that the key priority is to safeguard Harrow and the Council from the dire national economic inheritance left by the former Conservative government and to support our residents most in need who suffered the worst and are still being impacted by the economic crisis caused by the decisions made by the previous Government.
- Request that the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition, Head of Paid Service and Section 151 Officer request a formal meeting with Ministers and Government Treasury Officials to seek a proper and fairer settlement for Harrow so we can safeguard Harrow residents and businesses, and strengthen our own local interventions.”

A tabled amendment in the names of Councillor Paul Osborn and seconded by Councillor Marilyn Ashton was received, put to the vote and was carried.

### **RESOLVED: That the Motion, as set out below, be adopted:**

#### **“This council notes:**

- **UK government debt has risen to its highest level since the 1960's; from 64.7% of GDP in 2010, to 96.5% in 2024. This was largely fuelled by the unprecedented economic shock caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and Putin's invasion of Ukraine.**
- **Similarly to the economy, the NHS is still suffering from the pressures caused by the Covid pandemic. Waiting lists and times soared meaning that in December 2023 7.6 million people were on NHS waiting lists.**

- The UK's trend rate of economic growth has fallen since 2008, this was due to the economic damage caused by Gordon Brown's mismanagement of the economy, which took nearly 5 years to fix, as well as the impacts of Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine..
- Taxation levels under the last Conservative Government regrettably rose to a high level, but the levels of necessary spending caused by Covid, and protecting vulnerable people from the economic consequences of the war in the Ukraine, had to be responsibly financed..
- The lack of wage growth since 2008 has cost the average worker £10,700 a year (Resolution Foundation).
- The number of food bank parcels being distributed has increased, from fewer than 100,000 in 2010 to over 3 million in 2023, although Job Centres were actively discouraged from signposting vulnerable people to foodbanks under the Brown government.
- Over 5,000 Harrow residents a week still receive food support from HelpHarrow using surplus food contributions. This has been funded using £148,000 from the previous Conservative government's flagship Household Support Fund.
- GDP has remained stagnant or fallen for seven quarters up to the end of 2023, due to the ongoing fallout from the Covid pandemic and the economic consequences of the war in Ukraine. Despite these challenges, the UK's growth was still one of the highest in the G7 in 2023.
- In June a staggering 149,051 residents were waiting longer than two weeks for a GP appointment within the NHS North-West London ICB area.

**The Council believes:**

- Harrow residents are still being significantly impacted by the national economic inheritance.
- Covid and Putin's war in Ukraine have significantly impacted the short-and-medium term stability of the UK.
- The new Labour government has created a £22 billion black hole in the UK finances by inflation busting pay increases for train drivers.

**The Council resolves to:**

- Agree that the key priority is to safeguard Harrow and the Council from this dire government and to support our residents most in need.
- Request that the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition, Head of Paid Service and Section 151 Officer request a formal meeting with Ministers and Government Treasury Officials to seek a proper and fairer settlement for Harrow so we can safeguard Harrow residents and

**businesses, and strengthen our own local interventions.”**

**179. Termination of Meeting**

At 9.05 pm, during the debate on item 19, Motion 2, the Mayor asked Council if the guillotine should be extended until 9.45 pm. This was not agreed.

At 9.17 pm it was proposed that the guillotine be extended until the conclusion of the debate on Motion 2 and all speakers that had been notified to the Mayor in advance had spoken. This was agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the provisions of Rules 9.2 and 9.3 be applied as set out above.**

**(Close of Meeting:** All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.43 pm).