

HARROW BUSINESS CONSULTATIVE PANEL

7 FEBRUARY 2008

Chairman: * Councillor Manji Kara

Councillors: * Mrinal Choudhury * Susan Hall
* Keith Ferry

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**PART II - MINUTES**39. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no Reserve Members in attendance at this meeting.

40. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

41. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following item be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances / Grounds for Urgency</u>
9. Feedback from Consultation on Council Tax and Business Rates	The report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated as the Consultation meeting, was held two days after the dispatch of this agenda. The Panel was asked to consider this report, as a matter of urgency, to ensure feedback was provided to Cabinet before its meeting on 14 February 2008.

(2) all items be considered with the press and public present.

42. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman:**

Councillor Mrinal Choudhury was nominated and seconded and Susan Hall was nominated and seconded. Upon a vote it was

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Susan Hall as Vice-Chairman of the Harrow Business Consultative Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2007/08.

43. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2007 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

44. **Public Questions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 16 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

45. **Petitions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were received at this meeting under the provisions of the Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 14 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

46. **Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

47. **Feedback from Consultation on Council Tax and Business Rates:**

The Panel received a report from the Director of Planning, Development and Enterprise on the consultation with local businesses on Non Domestic Rates and Council Tax for 2008/09.

The officer outlined the history of the Panel and its reformatting due to consistently low attendance at formal meetings. Discussions with local businesses were now being held at informal quarterly meetings, which had proved a more successful way of engaging with local businesses.

A Member queried what feedback had been provided at the consultation meeting. The officer responded that businesses were primarily interested in the rate relief available to small businesses. Members agreed that the consultation was useful and productive, but considered there had not been sufficient time for the responses to be fed back to the Panel and suggested there should be two weeks between the consultation meeting and the Panel meeting. The Panel requested that that future reports include details of feedback from businesses at the consultation meeting. Additionally, the officer was asked to submit feedback to the Panel after all quarterly meetings.

A discrepancy was noted in the number of small business that received rate relief and clarification was sought. It was also queried if the deadline stated in the report was correct. The officer would report back to the Panel with the correct details. After a general discussion of the report, the Panel

RESOLVED: That the report be referred to Cabinet for noting.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.00 pm, closed at 7.35 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR MANJI KARA
Chairman