

Council (Council Tax)

Thursday 23 February 2023

Index of Tabled Documents/Information

Item on Summons	Document/Subject	Document Pages
3.	<p>Procedural Motions The Conservative Group would like to alter the agenda order to delete 'Leader and Portfolio Holder Announcements' and bring forward the debate on the Urgent Motion (providing Council agrees to accept it) to after item 7.</p>	
5.	<p>Public Questions There are four questions attached</p>	3 - 8
13.	<p>Statutory Officer Roles There is an amendment to the wording of recommendation 2 of the report as follows:-</p> <p>Confirm 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 <u>acting</u> Director of Legal & Governance Services, <u>Jessica Farmer</u>.</p>	
18.	<p>Questions with Notice There are three questions attached</p>	9 - 12
19.	<p>Motions There is one urgent motion attached. The reason for the urgency is the Council had not agreed to submit the judicial review until after the motion deadline had passed, and the next Council meeting may be too late.</p>	

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

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23 FEBRUARY 2023

PUBLIC QUESTION

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by members of the public or a Member of the Executive or the Chair of any Committee.

Questioner: Ms Flora Clemett

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

Question 1:

“Harrow prides itself on being a climate friendly borough, so I’d like to think we put climate considerations at the heart of governance. However, this awareness needs to include every aspect of council activities, including the provision of food. Other London boroughs, for example Lewisham & Enfield, have committed to serve only plant-based food at their meetings and events, or not to serve meat. Outside of London, Oxfordshire, Cambridge City, Faversham and Hythe councils have made similar commitments and I’d like Harrow to do the same. This is the logical, and necessary next step after having declared a climate emergency. It will help normalise plant-based eating, which according to an Oxford University study is the single most effective thing an individual can do to reduce their environmental impact.

We are currently in a cost of living crisis. Meat and dairy products are almost always the most expensive part of a meal - whole food plant-based meals are considerably cheaper. By doing the right thing for the planet, and promoting eating for good health, the council can also save money by serving more plant-based foods. The multiple crises we are currently facing make it even more important to feed grain directly to humans, not to farmed animals. We can and must move away from meat and dairy, towards climate-friendly eating, and I believe councils can lead the way with this.

There have been substantial evidence-based recommendations calling for a move away from meat and dairy. The National Food Strategy, led by Henry Dimbleby last year, recommended a reduction in meat and dairy of 30% within ten years. A new report by the Boston Consulting Group, one of the world’s biggest consultancy firms, states that investment in plant-based alternatives to meat is by far the biggest green investment that can be made.

I would like to see our council be part of the solution, not continue to spend money on meat and dairy, which we know to be part of the problem. As

stated on the climate change page of the Harrow council website: 'One of the biggest changes we can all make is to eat a more climate friendly diet, particularly by reducing our dairy and meat consumption and eating fruit and vegetables that are in season.' **Given the climate emergency and Harrow Council's stated aim to reduce their emissions, will the council consider committing to serving fully plant-based food at any future catered meetings and events as other councils have done?** This will be a positive and forward-thinking step, bringing its food policy in line with other climate-aware policies. Thank you. "

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Questioner: Mr Steven Michaels

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

Question 2:

“When will the work on Orchard Grove be carried out?”

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Questioner: Mr Mohamed Altaf

Asked of: Councillor Marilyn Ashton (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration)

Question 3:

“How many dwellings, including office conversions, have been completed in the opportunity area since 2012?”

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Questioner: Dr Yunus Luqmani

Asked of: Councillor Marilyn Ashton (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration)

Question 4:

“My understanding is that the Harrow and Wealdstone Area Action Plan says that developments on Station Rd should be medium density and 3 to 6 storeys. Will the proposal for the massive development on the current Tesco site on Station Rd/ Hindes Rd intersection be assessed using this criteria and if not, then what would be the guiding principle considering the large number of local residents who have expressed their opposition to the proposals put forward by Tesco/Notting Hill Genesis?”

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Questioner: Councillor Stephen Hickman

Asked of: Councillor Hitesh Karia (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)

Question 1:

"Could the Portfolio Holder confirm what reduction in staffing levels would be needed to deliver the savings of £1.5m in the 'Social Care Staffing' budget?"

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Questioner: Councillor Peymana Assad

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel (Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Safety)

Question 2:

"The Parking Review budget proposal indicates an additional £3.5m will be delivered through various measures of parking enforcement. Can the Portfolio Holder explain how many more Penalty Charge Notices will be issued from current levels to make up this substantial income target?"

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Questioner: Councillor Peymana Assad

Asked of: Councillor Anjana Patel (Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Safety)

Question 3:

“How will cutting £200k, 2 waste rounds and 6 front-line staffing posts from the Waste Department improve the service residents receive?”

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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.

Proposed by: Cllr Paul Osborn

Seconded by: Cllr Marilyn Ashton

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