



## **Council**

**Thursday 28 November 2024**

### **Index of Tabled Documents/Information**

<b>Item on Summons</b>	<b>Document/Subject</b>	<b>Document Pages</b>
3.	<b>Procedural Motions</b> Motion 3, Motion: Additional £500 million for local road maintenance and Motion 5, Motion: Young Carers in Harrow shall stand referred to the Executive.	
6.	<b>Public Questions</b> There are four public questions attached.	3 - 6
13.	<b>Questions with Notice</b> There are three public questions attached.	7 - 10
14.	<b>Motions</b> An amendment to Motion 1, Motion: £22.6 billion additional funding to the NHS and Motion 2, Motion: Increases to the Minimum Wage and Motion 4, Motion to condemn the Labour Government's National Insurance Hike are attached.	11 - 16

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

-

**28 NOVEMBER 2024**

**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: Mr Christopher Perdue**

**Asked of: Councillor Norman Stevenson (Portfolio Holder for Business, Employment and Property)**

**Question 1:**

“At the last full Council meeting a petition was submitted with more than 2000 signatories calling for the reinstatement of free parking in Harrow Town centre at nighttime.

18 months ago, I and other nighttime businesses met with Council leaders and were assured that the nighttime economy of Harrow was one of their priorities.

Given that, and the public outcry on this policy, could you please explain why free nighttime parking has been removed from Harrow town centre, creating yet another barrier to already cash strapped residents in frequenting the town at night as well as making working for such businesses untenable for many of their staff and performers, who are not served by public transport late at night? ”

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28 NOVEMBER 2024

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**Questioner:** Sanjay Kotak

**Asked of:** Councillor Pritesh Patel (Portfolio Holder for Cleaner Streets and Public Safety)

#### **Question 2:**

“Over the past 12 months, there has been a noticeable decline in the state of South Harrow around the shopping centre. While the interventions previously agreed upon by the council, traders, and residents initially improved the area for visitors, these efforts now seem to have ceased. Currently, there appears to be little to no deterrence against littering, spitting, fly-tipping on side roads and behind shops, cars / vans/ delivery drivers parking on pavements, drug dealing in broad daylight, aggressive street drinkers, and shoplifting.

As local traders in South Harrow, we have also observed a significant decrease in enforcement from APCOA, which is now even less visible than Kingdom Security. Could you provide information on how many APCOA staff are regularly patrolling Northolt Road, and during what hours?”

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**28 NOVEMBER 2024**

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**Questioner:**           **Reverend Daniel Norris**

**Asked of:**           **Councillor Paul Osborn, Leader of the Council**

#### **Question 3:**

“As Headteacher of Saint Jerome Church of England Bilingual School, I am here to raise a concern on behalf of parents, governors, students and school council about the planned development on the Tesco site on Station Road. I was disappointed with the lack of consultation process undertaken before this development was announced, and I fear that insufficient investigation into the impacts on the school community of Saint Jerome School has been undertaken. The disruption and noise over an extended period of time that would ensue from such a development, as well as the lack of privacy with windows overlooking the school which poses a serious safeguarding risk, should be of paramount importance in the consideration of such a development.

Therefore, what will the Council do to ensure that this development is not passed without due consideration for my school and consultation with us to guarantee no development occurs that would be deleterious to the education and opportunities of our children?”

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**COUNCIL MEETING**

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**28 NOVEMBER 2024**

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**Questioner: Mrs Andriana Neal**

**Asked of: Councillor Paul Osborn, Leader of the Council**

#### **Question 4:**

“In October 2023, you promised me that the council would fix the ability of South Harrow residents being able to pay for parking with cash, by Christmas. Its been more than a year and this promise remains unfulfilled. Can you explain why this issue has not been resolved, provide a clear timeline for when it will be resolved and outline the steps the council will take to ensure this promise is met?”

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

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**28 November 2024**

**QUESTION WITH NOTICE**

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**Questioner: Councillor Kandy Dolor**

**Asked of: Councillor Pritesh Patel, Portfolio Holder for Cleaner Streets & Public Safety**

**Question 1:**

“On two of my recent walkabouts with local police and residents in Wealdstone, concerns were highlighted that there is no joint up approach with council enforcement teams to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and enforce the borough-wide PSPO. What efforts will the portfolio holder make to actually ensure APCOA enforcement is working with police officers to work together and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in Wealdstone?”

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING -**

**28 November 2024**

### **QUESTION WITH NOTICE**

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**Questioner: Councillor Simon Brown**

**Asked of: Councillor Stephen Greek, Portfolio Holder for Performance, Communications & Customer Experience**

#### **Question 2:**

“At the recent Headstone Safer Neighborhood Team meeting, concerns were raised regarding the long standing issue of anti social parking in the Harrow Recreation Ground car park. This leaves very few places for genuine park users. The car park gates are locked overnight by volunteers and upon opening at 9.30 in the morning, up to half the spaces are taken by vehicles left in overnight, and then almost straight away non-park users arrive and fill up most of the remaining places. What actions will the Portfolio Holder take to ensure that the car park is available for park users?”



## **LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

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**28 November 2024**

### **QUESTION WITH NOTICE**

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**Questioner:**            **Councillor Asif Hussain**

**Asked of:**            **Councillor Pritesh Patel, Portfolio Holder for Cleaner Streets & Public Safety**

#### **Question 3:**

“Following the horrendous assault on Springway in the Honeybun Estate earlier this year, the police undertook significant community engagement to reassure local residents and neighbours. Will the council be taking any action as a result of interaction with the Metropolitan Police about what improvements could be made to the public realm in the area to better prevent violence against women and girls and other residents, especially during these early winter nights?”

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**Motion: £22.6 billion additional funding to the NHS**

**Proposed by David Perry**

**Seconded by Simon Brown**

**This council notes:**

- For the first time in the 41-year history of the British Social Attitudes survey, less than a quarter of people are satisfied with the way the NHS is running. ~~Satisfaction had previously peaked in 2010, when 7 out of 10 people reported being satisfied with the health service.~~
- Overall public satisfaction with how the NHS runs now stands at 24% – a fall of 5 percentage points from the previous year. Since 2020, satisfaction has fallen by 29 percentage points. Dissatisfaction is also at an all-time high, with more than half (52%) of respondents saying they were dissatisfied with the NHS.
- ~~From 2020 to 2021 the UK was hit by the Covid-19 Pandemic, which heaped never before seen levels of pressure onto our NHS and led to a vast backlog in operations, appointments and treatments.~~
- A study on waiting times at the end of August showed that 55% of patients in the London North-West University Healthcare trust were waiting over 18 weeks to start treatment, well above the NHS operational standard of 8%.
- This study showed over 100,000 people in the local area were still waiting to start treatment at the start of August.
- ~~Despite yearly Conservative governments' have delivered yearly~~ increases in NHS funding over the last 14 years, ~~however~~ satisfaction in the NHS has steadily dropped and waiting times have increased, pointing to ~~challenges the NHS faces due to worsening demographic pressures (i.e. an increasingly aging population), a lower standard of care.~~
- As part of the new government's first budget, buildings which are in "disrepair" will be allocated £2.5bn for upgrades as part of Labour's first budget in more than 14 years.
- Chancellor Rachel Reeves also revealed that the day-to-day health budget of the service will increase by £22.6 billion.

**The Council believes:**

- ~~Harrow's NHS care services took a hit over the last 14 years, which are now being addressed with more funding from the new Labour government.~~
- There is a back log of repair work needed on Northwick Park Hospital.
- Harrow is currently experiencing a crisis in social care with more funding desperately needed to provide for the needs of an ageing population.
- Action must be taken to ensure that the worrying statistics on obesity in Harrow, especially among our young population and certain demographics, are not exacerbated by a lack of funding and preventative measures being put in place.

**The Council resolves to:**

- ~~Harrow Council to e~~Commend ~~the both Conservative and~~ Labour Governments for standing up for our NHS.

- Support the government’s plan to increase day-to-day spending in the NHS by £22.6 billion to relieve the pressures on local health services.
- ~~Ask the~~ Leader of the Council ~~and Leader of the Opposition to collectively to~~ raise with the Health Minister the massive backlog of repairs in Northwick Park Hospital, and also funding for the council to support patients when returning home from hospital to help reduce the overall costs of healthcare, ultimately seeking our fair share of this recently announced funding.
- ~~Ask the~~ Leader of the Council, ~~Leader of the Opposition and Managing Director~~ to ~~collectively and individually~~ stand up for our local NHS and those services impacting the Council and argue for our fair share of funding.

[Proposed by Cllr Paul Osborn](#)

[Seconded by Cllr Marilyn Ashton](#)

## Motion: Increases to the minimum wage

Proposed by Graham Henson

Seconded by Dan Anderson

### This council notes:

- Since its introduction by Tony Blair's government in 1999, the minimum wage has driven up the pay of thousands of Harrow's lowest earners by £6,000 a year; ~~making it the single most successful economic policy in a generation, according to a study published by the Resolution Foundation.~~
- Harrow Council is a fully accredited London Living Wage employer having paid the London Living Wage hourly rate to its lowest paid employees since 2013, which has improved the Council's recruitment and retention of staff.
- The Resolution Foundation said analysis of the UK showed that between 1980 and 1998, hourly pay growth in the UK was twice as fast for the highest earners as it was for the lowest earners – 3.1% versus 1.4% a year. "But since 1999 this trend has reversed, and hourly pay inequality has fallen with pay growth for the lowest earners five times that seen by the highest earners – 1.6% versus 0.3 per cent per year," it said. Therefore, ~~because of Labour's introduction of the minimum wage,~~ thousands of families in Harrow have seen their standards of living improving.
- The Conservative government introduced the National Living Wage in April 2016.
- Successive rises by the coalition and Conservative governments mean a full-time worker is over £9,000 better off than they would have been in 2010.
- Since April 2024, the UK's minimum wage has been £11.44 for those aged over 21. But it is lower for younger workers: for example, those aged under 18 are only guaranteed £6.40 per hour.

### The Council believes:

- Regular increases to the minimum wage made by successive governments since its inception in 1999 shows that ~~the it is not only a successful policy that enjoys cross-party support, but is the single most successful economic policy in a generation for the people of Harrow.~~
- Increases to the minimum wage means that more people have more disposable income to spend which boosts the economy and increases growth, as well as the living standards of individuals who benefit from the rise.
- Given the increased pressures of the current cost-of-living crisis, more needs to be done to support those on the lower end of the pay scale in Harrow and an increase in minimum wage is a good means of doing this while incentivising people to get into work.
- That a balance needs to be struck so that employers are able to afford any increases, especially when they are facing increased National Insurance contributions and the threshold for National Insurance being lowered, significantly increasing employers wage bill.

### The Council resolves to:

- Support ~~thi~~se ~~Labour~~ government's continuing the policy of the previous government to increase of the minimum wage ~~to £12.21 an hour~~ to help tackle the cost of living in Harrow and ensure that living standards improve ~~rather than stagnate as they have done since 2008.~~
- ~~Commend Chancellor Rachel Reeve's~~ Acknowledge the decision to uprate the minimum wage for 18–21-year-olds to £10 per hour.
- ~~Harrow Council to e~~Commend the Labour past and present ~~G~~governments for standing up for low wage workers.
- ~~Ask~~T the Leader of the Council, ~~Leader of the Opposition and Managing Director to collectively and individually to~~ stand up for our low wage workers in Harrow and argue for further local funding to support them through the cost-of-living crisis.

Proposed by Cllr Paul Osborn

Seconded by Cllr Marilyn Ashton

## **Amended Motion to condemn the Labour government's National Insurance hike**

This Council notes:

- The Labour Party's 2024 Manifesto clearly stated that if they won the election they would not increase taxes on working people National Insurance.
- Since the General Election, the OBR has said that the conservatives government did not disclose the full financial facts, which has meant the Labour government has had to find a way of stabilising the country's finances suddenly decided to add multiple caveats to many of their promises which they didn't clearly disclose during the election campaign.
- ~~Despite claiming their Manifesto was fully costed, government had disclosed, the Labour government has just delivered one of the biggest tax hiking budgets in UK history with the majority of the tax hikes not having been mentioned in their Manifesto or by Labour politicians during the election campaign.~~
- The Labour government focussed on growth and investment in broke their Manifesto. ~~promise by increasing the employer National Insurance contributions.~~
- Changes to employer National Insurance contributions include a 1.2% increase and a reduction in the threshold at which employers begin paying NICs from £9,100 to £5,000 a year.
- More than 87% of all Harrow businesses employ less than 4 people, and they can employ the equivalent of four full-time workers on the national living wage without paying any national insurance on their wages
- Labour politicians have had to make difficult choices to restore the countries finances. By raising revenue from businesses and through borrowing, it increases spending for state schools, investment in the NHS and public services, minimum wage rises, and freezes the fuel duty – measures that the International Monetary Fund has commended. ~~claim they have protected working people from tax rises. But this claim is economically illiterate, as employers will pass at least some, if not all, of the increased tax cost onto their staff by cutting wages, making redundancies or reducing/cancelling planned pay rises.~~
- More than 200 hospitality bosses warned the sharp increases in National Insurance contributions are “unsustainable” but many will benefit from future economic growth and public investment ~~and will lead to venues shutting down and slashing jobs within a year.~~
- While local authorities and public sector organisations have been shielded from the employer National Insurance tax hike, for the private sector, these changes were counter-balanced by the increased employment allowance, which lets eligible businesses reduce their NI liabilities, from £5,000 to £10,500 a year. It works by letting some companies pay less in NI contributions each payroll until the allowance is used up, and the move was an attempt by Rachel Reeves to protect the smallest employers from increased NI contributions. An estimated 1 million employers will pay the same or less in employer NI contributions than they did previously ~~the reality is that this is not true.~~

## **Amended Motion to condemn the Labour government's National Insurance hike**

All councils contract workers from private sector companies to provide Council services. In particular, adult social care workers, whose companies will likely have to increase their charges to the Council and thus diverting taxpayers money away from delivering services.

This Council believes:

- Hitting Raising revenue through employers with a National Insurance increase tax hike is about fixing the black hole in public finances. wrong.
- This revenue increase tax hike will give greatly needed investment in public services.
- That many hospitality businesses that struggled to survive during the Covid pandemic, and were supported by the Conservative government's furlough scheme and business rates relief; this was also supported by the then, Labour opposition.
- The government's revenue increase tax hike will drive up public investment and growth. the cost of our third-party contractors which increases the strain on the Council's resources.
- The Labour government's claim to have inherited a £22 billion blackhole from commitments not funded by the previous Conservative government, this financial blackhole was acknowledged by some economists. is false and has been discredit by economists as well as the OBR who have refused to back up the figure.

This Council resolves:

- To put on record our condemnation of the previous conservative government financial mismanagement of the economy and condemnation of the necessary Labour government's employer National Insurance revenue increase. tax rise raid.
- ~~To call on all Councillors to campaign against this damaging tax increase.~~
- To investigate what support is available for hospitality businesses in Harrow to support them in growing their business. ~~dealing with this massive increase to their costs.~~

### **Amendment**

**Proposed by: Cllr Stephen Hickman**

**Seconded by: Cllr Graham Henson**