

**EMPLOYEES' CONSULTATIVE FORUM****30 JANUARY 2008**

Chairman: \* Councillor Mrs Camilla Bath

Councillors: \* David Ashton \* Graham Henson  
 \* Bob Currie \* Chris Mote  
 \* Keith Ferry (2) \* Paul Osborn

Representatives of HTCC: (Currently no appointees)

Representatives of UNISON: \* Ms M Cawley \* Mr G Martin  
 \* Mr S Compton \* Mr R Thomas  
 \* Ms A Jackson

Representative of GMB: \* Mr J Dunbar

\* Denotes Member present/Employee Representative present  
 (2) Denote category of Reserve Member

[Notes: (1) Ms S George-Duesbury also attended the meeting as a representative of GMB and Harrow Council Black Workers' Group;

(2) See Appendix 1 for list of officers in attendance.]

**PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL****PART II - MINUTES**89. **Mr Malcolm Blake and Councillor Dhirajlal Lavingia:**

A minute of silence was observed in memory of Malcolm Blake, a long-serving member of staff, and Councillor Dhirajlal Lavingia.

90. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

**RESOLVED:** To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-

Ordinary Member

Councillor Navin Shah

Reserve Member

Councillor Keith Ferry.

91. **Declarations of Interest:**

**RESOLVED:** To note the following declarations of interest made by Members present relating to the business to be transacted at this meeting:

- (i) Councillor Graham Henson declared a personal interest in that he was a member of the Communication Workers' Union and his cousin was a Council employee. Accordingly, he would remain in the room and take part in the discussion and decision-making on all items of the agenda.
- (ii) Councillor Bob Currie declared a personal interest in that he was a retired member of UNISON. Accordingly, he would remain in the room and take part in the discussion and decision-making on all items of the agenda.
- (iii) Councillor Keith Ferry declared a personal interest in that he was an active member of GMB. Accordingly, he would remain in the room and take part in the discussion and decision-making on all items of the agenda.
- (iv) Councillor Chris Mote declared a personal interest in that his sister was a teacher in the borough. Accordingly, he would remain in the room and take part in the discussion and decision-making on all items of the agenda.

92. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

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

<u>Agenda items</u>	<u>Special Circumstances / Grounds for Urgency</u>
5a. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2007	Due to an error, this item had not been included on the agenda at the time it was dispatched. Members were asked to consider the item, as a matter of urgency, in order to allow the actions recorded in the minutes to be taken forward.
10/11. Draft Capital Programme/ Draft Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy	Due to an oversight, these items, together with a covering report, which was tabled at the meeting, had not been included on the agenda at the time it was dispatched. Members were asked to consider the items, as a matter of urgency, in order to allow the consultation to take place and the views to be fed back to Cabinet.

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

93. **Minutes:**

**RESOLVED:** That (1) the minutes of the meetings held on (i) 29 August 2007, which were tabled, and (ii) 1 November 2007, be taken as read and signed as correct records;

(2) the resolution of the issue of the Access Harrow front desk, discussed at the 1 November 2007 meeting, be expedited by a meeting between the relevant Business Transformation Partnership (BTP) officer and the trade unions, to be arranged by the Portfolio Holder, Strategy and Business Support Services;

(3) in the event of the Council's staff support groups wishing to place items on the agenda, they should request that the Chairman do so on their behalf.

94. **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).

95. **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).

96. **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).

97. **UNISON Report on Asbestos:**

The Forum received a report from UNISON, expressing concern at the lack of progress in supplying information to the unions on the removal of asbestos-containing materials during construction of the Access Harrow contact centre. The Chairman apologised for the delay. The Forum was informed that a meeting had taken place on 29 January 2008 between the Chairman, the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Business Support, officers and the unions. A further meeting had been organised to discuss the matter on 27 February 2008.

**RESOLVED:** That the report and the comments above be noted.

(See also Minute 98).

98. **Response to Request from Unison:**  
The Forum received a report of the Corporate Director, Community and Environment, setting out information on the continuing dialogue with UNISON in relation to works in the Access Harrow area completed in 2006.

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

(See also Minute 97).

99. **Draft Capital Programme 2008-09 to 2010-11:**  
The Forum received a report of the Corporate Director, Finance, setting out the draft Capital Programme for 2008/09 to 2010/11, published as part of the annual budget review process, together with a covering report, which was tabled.

**RESOLVED:** That the reports be noted.

100. **Draft Revenue Budget 2008-09 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008-09 to 2010-11:**

The Forum received a report of the Corporate Director, Finance, setting out, for the purposes of consultation, the draft Revenue Budget for 2008/09 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2008/09 to 2010/2011, together with the tabled covering report referred to in item 99 above. An officer gave a presentation on the proposed budget for 2008/09, with a description of the current position, an analysis of the funding gap, a summary of savings identified, a strategy for closing the funding gap, and the arrangements for consultation. The officer and the Portfolio Holder, Finance and Portfolio Co-ordination, answered questions from union representatives on the impact of savings, the performance of the Council's partners and the cost of hiring consultants. The Portfolio Holder agreed to attend a separate meeting with union representatives to answer more detailed questions on the proposed budget.

**RESOLVED:** That the report and the comments above be noted.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.35 pm, closed at 9.21 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR CAMILLA BATH  
Chairman

**APPENDIX 1****Officers in attendance:**

- |                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| Mike Brown     | - | Service Manager - Asset Management and Facilities            |
| Lesley Clarke  | - | HRD Strategy Manager   |
| Eddie Collier  | - | Interim Head of Property and Infrastructure                  |
| Sheela Thakrar | - | Finance Manager for Finance, Community and Environment       |
| Jon Turner     | - | Interim Divisional Director, Human Resources and Development |
| David Ward     | - | Head of Audit & Risk   |