



**MINUTES
of the
(COUNCIL TAX) MEETING
of the
COUNCIL
of the
LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW
held on
THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2009**

Present: **The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor John Nickolay)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Eric Silver)**

Councillors:

Husain Akhtar
David Ashton
Mrs Marilyn Ashton
Miss Christine A. Bednell
Robert Benson
Don Billson
Mrs Lurline Champagnie
Mrinal Choudhury
John Cowan
Bob Currie
Margaret Davine
Mano Dharmarajah
Anthony Ferrari
Keith Ferry
Archie T. Foulds
Brian E. Gate
David Gawn
Mitzi Green
Susan Hall

Graham Henson
Thaya Idaikkadar
Nizam Ismail
Krishna James
Manji. Kara
Ashok Kulkarni
Jean Lammiman
Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Julia Merison
Salim Miah
Myra Michael
Jerry J. Miles
Vina Mithani
Narinder Singh Mudhar
Mrs Joyce Nickolay
Christopher D. Noyce
Phillip O'Dell
Asad Omar
Paul Osborn

Anjana Patel
David Perry
Raj Ray
Richard David Romain
Paul Scott
Anthony Seymour
Navin Shah
Mrs Rekha Shah
Stanley Sheinwald
Dinesh Solanki
Bill Stephenson
Mrs Sasikala Suresh
Yogesh Teli
Keekira Thammaiah
Mark A. Versallion
Thomas Weiss
Jeremy Zeid

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by the
Reverend Antony Ford Rablen

308. MINUTE'S SILENCE:

Having opened the meeting, the Mayor requested Council to remain standing and to observe a minute's silence in memory of former Councillors Janet Skipworth, Bill Williams and David Rogers and former Mayoress Frances Bourne and former Mayor Graham Hines, who had died since the last Council meeting.

309. COUNCIL MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2008 be signed as a correct record.

310. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The Mayor invited appropriate declarations of interest by Members of the Council in respect of the business on the Summons.

- (i) Item 7 on the Summons – Revenue Budget 2009/10 to 2011/12
A number of Members declared personal interests in the above item (set out at Appendix I to these Minutes) and accordingly remained in the Chamber and took part in the debate and voting on this item.
- (ii) Item 14 on the Summons – Motions: Ghurkha Rights
Councillor Tony Ferrari declared a personal interest in the above item as an active fundraiser of the Ghurkha Welfare Trust, but considered that he could still speak and vote thereon.

311. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor spoke briefly on several of his recent engagements. He expressed his gratitude to the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Eric Silver) and Councillor Lurline Champagne for representing him at certain events.

The Mayor then reminded Members of upcoming engagements, requesting that Members note the engagements within their diaries.

The Mayor also noted with pleasure the attendance of a Harrow Youth Parliament representative.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Worshipful the Mayor upon his official duties, as tabled, be noted and received.

312. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS:

- (i) The Mayor moved a procedural motion under Rule 15.6 that the Motion included at Item 14(2) of the Summons be considered after item 6 (Public Questions).
- (ii) The Mayor moved a procedural motion under the general provisions of Rule 15.6 that the Motion included at Item 14(1) of the Summons be considered after Item 10 (Harrow Corporate Plan 2009/12).
- (iii) The Mayor announced that following the issue of the Council Summons, he had agreed, under Council Procedure Rule 7.2, to the addition of a new item of business to the Summons, namely "Item 12(A) – Amendments to Committees and Outside Body Appointments".
- (iv) The Council received notification in the tabled papers of an Urgent Motion, relating to the Sustainable Communities Act.
- (v) The Leader of the Council, Councillor David Ashton, moved a procedural motion under Rule 26.1 that the rules of debate be varied, as set out in the tabled documents, for the purposes of the debate on the Revenue Budget, and that the tabled procedure be also applied to the debate on the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators, the Capital Programme and the Corporate Plan insofar as the recommendations and amendments be debated jointly.

- (vi) Councillor Bill Stephenson rose and asked whether the Leader of the Council would make a statement on the position of Councillor Mrs Kinnear. The Leader of the Council advised that Councillor Mrs Kinnear had been expelled from the Conservative Group.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the procedural motion under Rule 15.6, seeking that the Motion included at Item 14(2) of the Summons be considered after Item 6 (Public Questions), be agreed;
- (2) the procedural motion under Rule 15.6, seeking that the Motion included at Item 14(1) of the Summons be considered after Item 10 (Harrow Corporate Plan 2009/12), be agreed;
- (3) the Urgent Motion be admitted to the Summons under Rule 15.2 as Item 14(3) (Sustainable Communities Act);
- (4) the partial suspension under Rule 26.1 of Rules 14.1 and 17 regarding the moving of Recommendations from Cabinet and the rules of debate (including extended time for opening speeches by all three political groups) as set out in the tabled papers, be approved for the purposes of the debate on Items 7 (Revenue Budget 2009/10 to 2011/12), 8 (Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10 and Prudential Indicators 2009/10 – 2011/12), 9 (Capital Programme 2009/10 – 2011/12) and 10 (Harrow Corporate Plan 2009/12).

313. PETITIONS:

No petitions were presented in accordance with Rule 11.

314. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

The following question had been submitted by a member of the public in accordance with Rule 12.3:-

<u>QUESTION BY</u>	<u>QUESTION OF</u>	<u>TEXT OF QUESTION</u>
Peter McLoughlin	Councillor Chris Mote (responded to by Councillor David Ashton in his absence)	"Is the Council aware that the Dean of Media Arts and Design based on the Harrow campus of the University of Westminster has proposed the closure of the Harrow BA Ceramics? Are you also aware that this course has a widespread international reputation for its outstanding quality of both teaching and research and has served the local boroughs for nearly 50 years? Is the Council aware of the widespread and gathering campaign across the arts and crafts world both within the UK and internationally to save this gem of a course? Will the Council approach the Vice Chancellor (Prof Geoff Petts) to seek a meeting with him to reverse this short sighted and foolish decision?"

[Note: Under the provisions of Rule 12.7, the question was answered orally by the Leader of the Council. The member of the public asked a supplementary question, which was also answered orally].

315. REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10 TO 2011/12:

- (i) Further to Item 7 on the Summons, the Council received Recommendation II of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 February 2009.
- (ii) The Leader of the Council, Councillor David Ashton, formally moved the Recommendation.

- (iii) The Labour Group tabled an amendment to the Recommendation. Councillor Bill Stephenson moved and Councillor Phillip O'Dell seconded the amendment, which included specific proposals for the Authority's budget for 2009/10, a revised Medium Term Budget Strategy and a revised model Council Tax resolution, on the basis of those proposals.
- (iv) Further to the decision outlined at Resolution 312 above, the amendment and the Recommendation were debated jointly.
- (v) Further to the amendments submitted, a proposal to vote upon the amendments individually was voted upon but not carried.
- (vi) Following a full debate, the amendments outlined at (iii) above were voted upon but not carried.
- (vii) Upon the meeting moving to a vote upon the substantive Recommendation this was carried and adopted.

RESOLVED: That the substantive Recommendation be adopted in the following form:

- (1) The 2009/10 Revenue Budget be approved to enable the Council Tax for 2009/10 to be set;**
- (2) The model Council Tax Resolution set out below be approved;**

Council Tax Resolution 2009/10

- (1) To note that at its meeting on 18 December 2008 the Council calculated the amount of 85,755 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2009-2010 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2009-2010, in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (i) Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a) to (e) of the Act. **(Gross expenditure)** £532,402,127
 - (ii) Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3)(a) to (c) of the Act. **(Gross income including use of reserves)** £363,563,769
 - (iii) Being the amount by which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, **as its budget requirement for the year.** £168,838,358
 - (iv) Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, reduced by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year to its General Fund from its Collection Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Collection Fund Surplus) £67,085,763
 - (v) Being **the amount to be raised from Council Taxes** Calculated as the amount at 2 (iii) above less the amount at 2 (iv) above. £101,752,595
 - (vi) Being the amount at (v) divided by the Council Tax Base, calculated by the Council at its meeting on 18 December 2008 in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year. **(The average Band D Council Tax)** £1,186.55

(vii) Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	791.03	922.87	1,054.71	1,186.55	1,450.23	1,713.90	1,977.58	2,373.10

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (vi.) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (3) That it be noted that for 2009-2010 the Greater London Authority stated the following amount in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below

Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	206.55	240.97	275.40	309.82	378.67	447.52	516.37	619.64

- (4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2)(vii) and (3) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2009-2010 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below

Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	997.58	1,163.84	1,330.11	1,496.37	1,828.90	2,161.42	2,493.95	2,992.74

- (3) **The Housing Revenue Account for 2009/10 be approved and in particular it be agreed with effect from 1 April 2009 to increase:**

- (i) **rents by 6.15% on average;**
(ii) **service charges by 5.5% for tenants and for leaseholders by 10.6% on average;**
(iii) **energy (heating) charges by 2.5% on average;**
(iv) **water charges, garage rents and car park rents by 2.5% on average;**

- (4) **The Members' Allowances Scheme for 2009/10 be approved.**

[Notes to the Resolution: (i) The budget summary relating to the Resolution is enclosed at Appendix II to these Minutes;

(ii) The Housing Revenue Account for 2009/10 is enclosed at Appendix III to these Minutes;

(iii) The Members' Allowances Scheme for 2009/10 is enclosed at Appendix IV to these Minutes].

316. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2009/10 & PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS:

Further to Item 8 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Ashton, moved Recommendation IV of the Cabinet meeting on 12 February 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators be approved;**
(2) **the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Strategy for 2009/10 be approved;**

(3) the new MRP requirements be implemented with effect from 1 April 2007.

317. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 - 2011/12:

Further to Item 9 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Ashton, moved Recommendation III of the Cabinet meeting on 12 February 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme for 2009/10 to 2011/12 be endorsed.

318. HARROW CORPORATE PLAN 2009/12:

- (i) Further to Item 10 on the Summons, with the assent of the Council, Councillor Paul Osborn formally moved Recommendation I of the Cabinet meeting of 12 February 2009 on behalf of the Leader of the Council.
- (ii) The Labour Group tabled an amendment to the Recommendation. Councillor Bill Stephenson moved and Councillor Phillip O'Dell seconded the amendment, which involved the addition of a new Corporate Priority and four associated flagship actions.
- (iii) Further to the decision outlined at Resolution 312 above, both amendments and the Recommendation were debated jointly.
- (iv) Following a full debate, the amendment outlined at (ii) above was voted upon but not carried.
- (v) Upon the meeting moving to a vote upon the substantive Recommendation this was carried and adopted.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Plan 2009/12 be approved, and the Leader of the Council be authorised to approve final changes, particularly relating to information on performance assessment.

319. JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ACUTE STROKE AND MAJOR TRAUMA SERVICES IN LONDON:

Further to Item 11 on the Summons, the Council received Recommendation I from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 January 2009. The Recommendation was formally moved by Councillor Stanley Sheinwald.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Councillor Vina Mithani be appointed as the Council's representative on the pan-London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the second stage of the Healthcare for London consultation; and**
- (2) Councillor Margaret Davine be appointed as the Council's reserve representative.**

320. AMENDMENT TO REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

Item 12 on the Summons provided for the receipt of proposals from the Political Groups as to the appointment of representatives of the Authority to two outside bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09.

RESOLVED: That the following appointments for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09 be approved:

Name of Outside Body	Name of Councillor
Harrow Refugee and Minorities Forum	Councillor Paul Scott
North London Collegiate School Board of Governors	Councillor Husain Akhtar (nominee)

321. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS:

Further to Resolution 312 above, the Leader of the Council, under the general provisions of Rule 14.1, moved proposals for various amendments to Committee memberships and outside body appointments, which were agreed, as follows:

Name of Committee	Name of Councillor to be replaced	Appointee for the remainder of 2008/09	Political Group holding nomination
Licensing and General Purposes Committee	Councillor Mrs Kinnear	Councillor Salim Miah	Conservative
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Reserve: 4. Councillor Mrs Kinnear	Reserve: 4. Councillor Don Billson	Conservative
Standards Committee	Councillor Mrs Kinnear	Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagne	Conservative
Standards Committee	Reserve: 1. Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagne	Reserve: 1. Councillor Paul Osborn	Conservative
Name of Outside Body	Name of Councillor to be replaced	Appointee for the remainder of 2008/09	Political Group holding nomination
(Brent and Harrow) Trading Standards Joint Advisory Board	Deputy: Councillor Mrs Kinnear	Deputy: Councillor Don Billson	Conservative
London Councils' Crime and Public Protection Panel	Deputy: Councillor Mrs Kinnear	Deputy: Councillor Mark Versallion	Conservative
London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee (Associated Joint Committee)	Deputy: Councillor Mrs Kinnear	Deputy: Councillor Julia Merison	Conservative

RESOLVED: That the changes to the Committee memberships and Outside Body appointments, as set out above, be approved.

322. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE:

The following questions were submitted by Members of Council in accordance with Rule 13.2:-

<u>QUESTION BY</u>	<u>QUESTION OF</u>	<u>TEXT OF QUESTION</u>
(1) Councillor Graham Henson	The Leader of the Council (Councillor David Ashton)	"Could you tell us how much was spent in the last financial year on (a) consultants (b) agency staff in each directorate?"
(2) Councillor Bill Stephenson	Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services (Councillor Chris Mote)	Headstone Manor is an iconic Harrow building which is mentioned over and over again in the Council's publicity and latterly in the newly adopted Tourism Strategy.

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Can Cllr Mote explain why the Headstone Manor Steering Group, which is overseeing the development of this important site, has not met in the last eighteen months and has only met twice under since this administration took power? |
| (3) | Councillor Phillip O'Dell
Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise
(Councillor Marilyn Ashton) | What is the reaction of the Portfolio Holder to the proposals for a light railway line in Brent? |
| (4) | Councillor Navin Shah
Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing
(Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane) | Have you or any of your colleagues had any negotiations with the Mayor of London and/or his advisers about Harrow's target share of affordable housing in the context of 50,000 units being targeted for London? |
| (5) | Councillor Navin Shah
Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise
(Councillor Marilyn Ashton) | Why has Harrow Council not responded or made any representations to the planning application for a massive expansion of Brent Cross Shopping Centre? |

[Notes: (i) Under the provisions of Rule 13.4, question (1) was answered orally by the Leader of the Council;

(ii) further to Resolution 328 and in accordance with Rule 10.3, a written response would be provided by the relevant Portfolio Holders to questions (2), (3), (4) and (5).

323. MOTION AT ITEM 14(1) - GHURKHA RIGHTS:

- (i) The Mayor welcomed the representative of the Royal British Legion and local Ghurkha representatives to the meeting. The Council rose to express their appreciation of the attendees.
- (ii) At Item 14(1) on the Summons, the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors David Ashton, Christopher Noyce and Navin Shah in the following terms:

"This Council notes and welcomes the opening in Reading of the first UK office of the United British-Ghurkha Ex-Servicemen's Association.

This Council notes that Ghurkhas have played an active front line part in the British Army's activities in times of war and peace for nearly 200 years. In this period approximately 300,000 have fought alongside United Kingdom soldiers, with 45,000 of them being either killed or wounded.

This Council notes that the Government announced in September 2004 a change in immigration rules that allowed Ghurkhas who had served in the British Army to settle in the United Kingdom with their families.

This Council notes with concern however that this offer has only been extended to cover those Ghurkhas who had served at least four years and been discharged after 1 July 1997.

This Council believes that, given the exceptional service they have given to the United Kingdom, Ghurkhas and their families should be given fast track eligibility for either the right to remain or citizenship.

This Council:

- (1) Urges Harrow MPs to support the Campaign for Ghurkha rights.
- (2) Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Local Government Association to support asking them to lobby the Government on this matter.
- (3) Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister to support demanding that all retired Ghurkhas who fought in the British Army, get the right to citizenship, as well as a fair deal on pensions.
- (4) Asks the Chief Executive to view sympathetically any request from Harrow Ghurkhas for a street collection in aid of Ghurkhas living in Harrow who are suffering financial hardship.
- (5) Asks the Chief Executive to write to Reading Borough Council thanking them for their letter and to express our support for their campaign."

RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as set out at above, be adopted.

[Note: The Mayor (John Nickolay), the Deputy Mayor (Eric Silver) and Councillors Husain Akhtar, David Ashton, Marilyn Ashton, Miss Christine Bednell, Robert Benson, Don Billson, Mrs Lurline Champagnie, Mrinal Choudhury, John Cowan, Bob Currie, Mrs Margaret Davine, Mano Dharmarajah, Tony Ferrari, Keith Ferry, Archie Foulds, B E Gate, David Gawn, Mitzi Green, Susan Hall, Graham Henson, Thaya Idaikkadar, Nizam Ismail, Krishna James, Manji Kara, Ashok Kulkarni, Jean Lammiman, Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Julia Merison, Salim Miah, Mrs Myra Michael, Jerry Miles, Mrs Vina Mithani, Narinder Singh Mudhar, Joyce Nickolay, Christopher Noyce, Phillip O'Dell, Asad Omar, Paul Osborn, Anjana Patel, David Perry, Raj Ray, Richard Romain, Paul Scott, Anthony Seymour, Navin Shah, Mrs Rekha Shah, Stanley Sheinwald, Dinesh Solanki, Bill Stephenson, Mrs Sasikala Suresh, Yogesh Teli, Keeki Thammaiah, Mark Versallion, Tom Weiss and Jeremy Zeid wished to be recorded as having voted for the substantive motion to be adopted].

324. MOTION AT ITEM 14(2) - CERAMICS BA DEGREE - UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER:

At Item 14(2) on the Summons, the Council received a Motion in the name of Councillors Bill Stephenson and David Ashton in the following terms:

"This Council notes that the Ceramics BA Degree at the University of Westminster has a long and prestigious history. It originally started as a pottery course in the former Harrow School of Art as part of Harrow Technical College. In the late sixties it developed into a studio pottery course and began to gain worldwide recognition. Supported by David Leach, the son of Bernard Leach, it became internationally acclaimed and famous and remains so. Following the change into University of Westminster, the course became the Ceramics BA Degree. The course is considered to be a world leader which achieves top research ratings. Throughout its existence many Harrow residents have been taught on the course or have taught students on the course.

In the light of this, Council expresses its grave concern at the proposal of the University of Westminster to close its acclaimed Ceramics BA Degree which it would regard as an act of vandalism.

Harrow has a long tradition of high quality education in the arts, which is sustained in the very high standards of art in our local schools and colleges.

Council believes that the University of Westminster is the guardian of this great Harrow tradition at Higher Education level and that the Ceramics BA Degree is one of the jewels in its crown which it should do everything in its power to preserve.

Council asks the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to write jointly to:

- (i) the Chairman of the Council of the University of Westminster and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Westminster, asking them to reconsider the University's decision to close its Ceramics BA Degree;
- (ii) David Lammy, the Minister with responsibility for Higher Education, the two Harrow MPs, the Brent and Harrow London Assembly Member and the Mayor of London asking them to intervene to stop the closure of the University of Westminster Ceramics BA Degree."

RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as set out at above, be adopted.

[Note: Councillors Husain Akhtar, David Ashton, Marilyn Ashton, Miss Christine Bednell, Robert Benson, Don Billson, Mrs Lurline Champagnie, Mrinal Choudhury, John Cowan, Bob Currie, Mrs Margaret Davine, Mano Dharmarajah, Tony Ferrari, Keith Ferry, Archie Foulds, B E Gate, David Gawn, Mitzi Green, Susan Hall, Graham Henson, Thaya Idaikkadar, Nizam Ismail, Krishna James, Manji Kara, Ashok Kulkarni, Jean Lammiman, Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Julia Merison, Salim Miah, Mrs Myra Michael, Jerry Miles, Mrs Vina Mithani, Narinder Singh Mudhar, Joyce Nickolay, Christopher Noyce, Phillip O'Dell, Asad Omar, Paul Osborn, Anjana Patel, David Perry, Raj Ray, Richard Romain, Paul Scott, Anthony Seymour, Navin Shah, Mrs Rekha Shah, Stanley Sheinwald, Dinesh Solanki, Bill Stephenson, Mrs Sasikala Suresh, Yogesh Teli, Keeki Thammaiah, Mark Versallion and Jeremy Zeid wished to be recorded as having voted for the substantive motion to be adopted].

325. MOTION AT ITEM 14(3) - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT:

In accordance with Rule 15.2, the Council received an Urgent Motion in the names of Councillors David Ashton and Paul Osborn, which had been circulated in the tabled papers. The Urgent Motion read as follows:

"This Council notes that the Sustainable Communities Act has particular relevance to one of its three priorities for 2009/10, that of 'Building Stronger Communities'. The Council thus:

- (i) supports the bottom up process in the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the help that central government gives in reversing community decline and promoting thriving, sustainable communities;
- (ii) notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to:
 - make proposals to government on the action and assistance government
 - must take or give to promote sustainable communities, and that
 - those proposals can be for a transfer of public money and function from central to local control;
- (iii) notes that the Act defines sustainable communities broadly:
 - that definition having the four aspects of
 - the improvement of the local economy,
 - protection of the environment,
 - promotion of social inclusion, and
 - participation in civic and political activity;
- (iv) notes that reasons for a local authority choosing to use the Act include gaining new assistance from government, determining that assistance, being able to argue for transfers of public monies from central to local control and involving citizens in democracy.
- (v) resolves, having been invited to by central government in October 2008, to use the Act by preparing and submitting proposals on how central government can help by 31st July 2009."

RESOLVED: That the substantive Urgent Motion, as set out at above, be adopted.

326. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS/LEADER AND CABINET AND USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE:

Further to Item 15 on the Summons, the meeting received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services which provided a summary of the urgent decisions taken by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders and Cabinet, and the use of the special urgency procedure, since the last meeting of Council on 30 October 2008.

RESOLVED: That the urgent decisions taken by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders and Cabinet since the last Council meeting, be noted.

327. URGENT DECISION ON A MATTER RESERVED TO COUNCIL:

The Director of Legal and Governance Services advised of an urgent decision he had taken in respect of a matter reserved to Council, following consultation with the Chairman and Nominated Member of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee, since the last meeting of Council held on 30 October 2008.

RESOLVED: That the decision taken under delegation by the Director of Legal and Governance Services, on behalf of Council, be noted.

328. PROCEDURE FOR TERMINATION OF MEETING:

(i) At 10.28 pm, during the debate on the Item 13 (Questions with Notice) of the Summons, the Mayor put to the vote a procedural motion under Rule 10.2(ii) that the closure of time for the Council meeting be extended until the completion of all remaining business on the Summons. Upon a formal vote, this proposal was not agreed;

(ii) At 10.29 pm, in the course of the consideration of Item 13 (Questions with Notice), the Mayor advised that the 'guillotine' procedure had come into operation for the determination of the remaining business on the summons and was applied to Items 13 (Questions with Notice), 14(3) (Sustainable Communities Act), 15 (Decisions Taken Under the Urgency Procedure by Portfolio Holders/Leader and Cabinet and Use of Special Urgency Procedure) and 16 (Urgent Decision on a Matter reserved to Council).

RESOLVED: That the provisions of Rules 10.2 and 10.3 be applied as set out at (i) and (ii) above.

(CLOSE OF MEETING: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.31 pm).

APPENDIX I

COUNCIL (COUNCIL TAX) MEETING – 19 FEBRUARY 2009**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL – MINUTE 315**

The following Members of Council declared their interests in Minute 315 - **Revenue Budget 2009/10 – 2011/12.**

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Councillor David Ashton	Has a relative employed on a contract with Harrow Council
Councillor Marilyn Ashton	Has a relative employed on a contract with Harrow Council
Councillor Bob Currie	Has a relative employed on a contract with Harrow Council
Councillor Graham Henson	Has a relative employed on a contract with Harrow Council
Councillor Mrs Margaret Davine	Has a relative in receipt of Meals on Wheels.
Councillor Brian E Gate	Has a relative in receipt 25% discount of Council Tax rate
Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar	Has a relative in sheltered accommodation and receiving financial assistance from the Council.
Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane	Has a relative who teaches in a School in Harrow.
Councillor Yogesh Teli	Has a relative in receipt of Meals on Wheels.

APPENDIX II

HARROW COUNCIL
REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2009-2010

	2008-2009 Original Budget £000	2009-2010 Original Budget £000
Local Demand - Borough Services		
Adults and Housing	63,918	64,596
Children's	38,172	38,962
Community and Environment	46,594	47,867
Place Shaping	2,881	3,011
Legal and Governance	1,997	2,215
Assistant Chief Executive	3,212	3,389
Corporate Finance	19,210	19,986
Total Directorate Budgets	175,984	180,026
Inflation and Corporate items	4,973	4,212
Capital Financing adjustments	-6,972	-6329
Interest on Balances	-3,135	-185
Total – Baseline	170,850	177,724
Capitalisation	-590	-390
Contribution to Balances	1,000	500
Total Net Expenditure	171,260	177,834
Collection Fund Surplus()/Deficit b/f	1,365	-300
Redistributed Business Rates	-57,670	-54,261
Revenue Support Grant	-8,028	-12,524
Area Based Grant	-8,423	-8,996
Local Demand on Collection Fund	98,504	101,753
Funds / Balances		
Balances Brought Forward	2,154	4,031
Adjustment to Balances	1,000	500
Balances Carried Forward	3,154	4,531
Council Tax for Band D Equivalent		
Harrow (£)	1,152.55	1,186.55
<u>Increase</u>		
Harrow (%)	2.95%	2.95%
Taxbase	85,466	85,755

APPENDIX III**Housing Revenue Account 2009-10 to 2011-12**

	Budget 2009-10	Budget 2010-11	Budget 2011-12	Comments
Expenditure				
Employee Costs	1,928,850	1,918,280	1,958,590	Pay inflation assumed as 2%
Supplies & Services	444,830	464,830	444,830	Increase 2010-11 represents bi-annual tenant survey
Utility cost (Water & Gas)	626,250	645,040	664,390	Inflation assumed at 16.7% 09-10 and 3% annually thereafter
Estate & Sheltered Services	1,956,980	1,988,600	2,020,950	
Central Recharges	1,971,700	2,020,990	2,071,530	Inflation assumed at 2.5%
Operating Expenditure	6,928,610	7,037,740	7,160,290	
Contingency - general	200,000	200,000	200,000	Provision for unforeseen expenditure
Charges for Capital	6,917,220	7,104,390	6,971,940	Includes £123k HARP costs, CRI @ 5.45%, interest on balances @ average 2.1%
Contribution to Repairs Account	4,800,680	4,800,680	4,800,680	
RCCO	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	Annual contribution
Bad or Doubtful Debts	250,000	250,000	250,000	
HRA Subsidy	6,874,870	7,387,500	8,088,030	Based on final determination issued by CLG [payment redistributed to other parts of the country]
Total Expenditure	26,971,380	27,780,310	28,470,940	
Income				
Rent Income – Dwellings	-22,671,580	-23,818,210	-24,941,900	Average increase 2009-10 6.15% in line with Government rent model

	Budget 2009-10	Budget 2010-11	Budget 2011-12	Comments
Rent Income – Non Dwellings	-869,840	-882,010	-894,490	Average increase of 2.5% for garages. Commercial premises reflect lease agreements
Service Charges - Tenants	-1,150,430	-1,184,940	-1,220,490	Average increase 2009-10 5.5% in line with Government rent model
Service Charges - Leaseholders	-424,350	-424,350	-424,350	Average rent increase 2009-10 10.6% reflecting leaseholder costs to be recovered
Facility Charges (Water & Gas)	-487,480	-499,490	-511,490	
Interest	-17,000	-17,000	-17,000	
Other Income	-8,010	-8,010	-8,010	
Transfer from General Fund	-83,000	-83,000	-83,000	Amenities shared by Council and non- Council residents.
Total Income	-25,711,690	-26,917,010	-28,100,730	
In Year Deficit / Surplus)	1,259,690	863,300	370,210	
BALANCE carried forward	-3,810,590	-2,947,290	-2,577,080	
BALANCE Business Plan	-4,764,000	-5,319,000	-5,460,000	

APPENDIX IVLONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

1. This scheme shall have effect until 31st March 2010. It replaces all former schemes.

Basic Allowance

2. A basic allowance of £8,160 per annum shall be paid to each Councillor.

Special Responsibility Allowances and Mayoral Allowances

3. (1) A special responsibility allowance shall be paid to those Councillors who have the special responsibilities in relation to the posts specified in Schedule 1 to this scheme. The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in that schedule.
(2) An allowance of £10,250 per annum shall be paid to the Mayor and an allowance of £2,040 per annum shall be paid to the Deputy Mayor.
(3) No Member may receive special responsibility allowances in respect of more than one post. For the purposes of this paragraph, the mayoral allowances referred to in 3(2) above are considered to be special responsibility allowances.

Uprating the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances

4. The basic allowance and special responsibility allowances will be uprated annually in line with an index approved by the London Councils Independent Panel. The index to be used will be the level of the Local Government Pay Settlement. When making the scheme for 2011-12, the indexing arrangements will be reviewed.

Travel and Subsistence Allowances

5. The reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in respect of **approved duties** (as set out in Schedule 2) **undertaken outside the Borough boundaries** can be claimed by Members, co-optees to formal Council committees and Independent Members of the Standards Committee at the rates paid and on the conditions specified in the officer scheme for travel and subsistence allowances.

Carers' Allowance

6. (1) The allowance shall only be paid for attendance at approved duties as listed in Appendix (i).
(2) The maximum basic rate of pay is £2.90 per half hour for the duration of the meeting together with the Member's travel time between home and the place of the meeting and the carer's reasonable travelling time.
(3) The allowance is claimable in respect of children aged 15 or under or where a professional carer is required to meet a specialist need (eg a nurse for an elderly person).
(4) Actual costs will be paid **on production of an invoice or receipt**.
(5) Where the length of the meeting cannot be predicted and payment to the carer is necessarily contractually committed then a payment of up to 4 hours will be made. (For day time quasi-judicial meetings, payment of up to 8 hours may be made if the estimated length of the meeting is for the whole day).
(6) In addition, the reasonable travelling expenses of the person taking care of the dependent shall be reimbursed either at the appropriate public transport rate, or in cases of urgency or where no public transport is available, the amount of any taxi fare actually paid.
(7) The allowance is not to be paid where the carer is a member of the Member's household.

- (8) Any dispute as to the entitlement and any allegation of abuse should be referred to the Standards Committee for adjudication.

Co-optees' Allowance

7. A basic allowance of £445 per annum shall be paid to co-optees to formal Council committees and Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

Claims and Payments

8. (1) A claim for allowances or expenses under this scheme shall be made in writing within two months of the date of undertaking the duty in respect of which the entitlement to the allowance or expense relates.
- (2) Payment shall be made
- (a) in respect of basic and special responsibility allowances, in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme each month;
- (b) in respect of out-borough travel and subsistence expenses and Carers' Allowance, each month in respect of claims received up to one month before that date.

Backdating

9. Any changes made to this scheme during the year may be backdated to 1st April 2009 by resolution of the Council when approving the amendment.

Pensions

10. Allowances paid under the Harrow Members' Allowances Scheme will **not** be pensionable for the purposes of the Superannuation Act.

Renunciation

11. A person may, by notice in writing given to the Chief Executive, elect to forgo any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.

Withholding Allowances

12. (1) In the event that a Member is suspended from duties, that Member's basic allowance and special responsibility allowance (if any) will be withheld for the whole period of the Member's suspension.
- (2) In the event that a Member is partially suspended from duties, that Member's basic allowance will be paid but their SRA, if any, will be withdrawn for the period of the partial suspension.

Appendix (i)Approved duties for Carers' Allowance

- A meeting of the Executive.
- A meeting of a committee of the executive.
- A meeting of the Authority.
- A meeting of a committee or sub-committee of the Authority.
- A meeting of some other body to which the Authority make appointments or nominations, or
- A meeting of a committee or sub-committee of a body to which the Authority make appointments or nominations.
- A meeting which has both been authorised by the Authority, a committee, or sub-committee of the Authority or a joint committee of the Authority and one or more other authorities, or a sub-committee of a joint committee and to which representatives of more than one political group have been invited (if the Authority is divided into several political groups) or to which two or more councillors have been invited (if the authority is not divided into political groups).
- A meeting of a Local Authority association of which the Authority is a member.
- Duties undertaken on behalf of the Authority in pursuance of any Procedural Rule of the Constitution requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened.
- Duties undertaken on behalf of the Authority in connection with the discharge of any function of the Authority conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises.
- Duties undertaken on behalf of the Authority in connection with arrangements made by the authority for the attendance of pupils at a school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996.

SCHEDULE 1
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES (SRAs)

There are 7 bands of SRAs:-

Band	Post	SRA - £/annum
1	Leader of the third largest Group Deputy Leader of the second largest Group Chief Whips of the two largest Groups Chairman of Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee Chairman of Licensing and General Purposes Committee Chairman of Standards Committee Support Members for Cabinet	£2,040
2	Performance Lead Members for Scrutiny Policy Lead Members for Scrutiny	£3,060
3	Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee (<i>see Note 1</i>) Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Development Management Committee (<i>see Note 1</i>) Chairman of the Traffic Advisory Panel Chairman of the Grants Advisory Panel	£4,590
4	Chairman of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£6,630
5	Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee (<i>see Note 2</i>) Chairman of the Development Management Committee (<i>see Note 2</i>) Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Leader of the Second Largest Group	£8,670
6	Deputy Leader Cabinet Members	£19,890
7	Leader	£31,110

NOTES

- (1) If the same person is the Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the chair on both the Strategic Planning Committee and the Development Management Committee, they will receive 1.5 times the Band 3 allowance.
- (2) If the same person is the Chairman of both the Strategic Planning Committee and the Development Management Committee, they will receive 1.5 times the Band 5 allowance.
- (3) In the Council for 2006 to 2010, the Groups are as follows:-
Largest Group = Conservative Group
Second Largest Group = Labour Group
Third Largest Group = Liberal Democrat Group

SCHEDULE 2**CLAIMS FOR OUT-OF-BOROUGH TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES****Duties Undertaken Out-of-Borough**

Claims for travel and subsistence expenses incurred can normally only be paid in respect of approved duties undertaken at venues out of the Borough. Expenses will be reimbursed at the rates paid and on the conditions specified in the officer scheme for travel and subsistence allowances.

1. Members may claim travel and subsistence expenses in respect of the following **out-of-Borough** duties:-
 - (a) Attendance at any meeting which may be convened by the Authority provided that Members of at least two groups are invited and the meeting is not convened by officers.
 - (b) Attendance at a meeting of an outside body to which the Member has been appointed or nominated as a representative of the Council, where the Outside Body does not itself operate a scheme to reimburse travel and subsistence expenses.
 - (c)
 - (i) attendance at an appropriate out-of-Borough conference, seminar, meeting or other appropriate non-political event as a representative of an Outside Body to which that Member has been either nominated or appointed by Council to serve in a role with a specific pan-Authority remit;
 - (ii) attendance at meetings in the capacity of a direct appointee of a Local Authority Association, joint or statutory body or other London-wide or national body subject to the following proviso:

that the Member serves on the appointing body by virtue of an appointment made by Council to an authorised Outside Body;

subject in either case to the Outside Body/Bodies concerned themselves not making provision for any travel and subsistence expenses necessarily incurred.

 - (d) Attendance at a meeting of any association of local authorities of which the Authority is a member and to which the Member has been appointed as a representative.
 - (e) Attendance at a training session, conference, seminar or other non-political event, the attendance fees for which are being funded by the Council through a Departmental or a corporate budget.
 - (f) Attendance at any training session, conference, seminar or other non-political event for which there is either no attendance fee or any attendance fee is being met by the Member him/herself (or from the relevant political group secretariat budget) subject to the relevant Director confirming that the content of the training, conference, seminar or event is relevant to the Member's responsibilities in respect of the services provided by the Authority or to the management of the Authority.
2. Duties for which out-of-Borough travel and subsistence expenses may **not** be claimed include:-
 - (a) Political meetings or events.
 - (b) Any meetings of 'Outside Bodies' to which the Member has not been appointed or nominated by the Council as its representative.
 - (c) Meetings of the Governing Bodies of Schools.