2008 - 2009

HARROW COUNCIL COUNCIL SUMMONS

MEETINGThursday 2 April 2009



COUNCIL SUMMONS

Legal and Governance Services Department

Civic Centre

Harrow

25th March 2009

Dear Member

I hereby request and summon you to attend a **Meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Harrow** to be held in the **Council Chamber** at the **Civic Centre**, **Station Road**, **Harrow**, **on Thursday**, **2nd** day of **April 2009 at 7.30 pm** to consider the following numbered matters and to make such orders thereon as may then be determined.

Yours sincerely

Director of Legal and Governance Services

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Antony Ford Rablen, will open the meeting with Prayers.

1. COUNCIL MINUTES: (Pages 1 - 22)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2009 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

To receive declarations of personal or prejudicial interests arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from all members of the Council.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

To receive any announcements from the Mayor.

[Note: Information as to recent Mayoral engagements will be tabled].

4. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS:

To receive and consider any procedural motions by Members of the Council in relation to the conduct of this Meeting.

[Note: Notice of such procedural motions, received after the issuing of this Summons, will be tabled].

5. PETITIONS:

To receive any petitions to be presented:

- (i) by a representative of the petitioners;
- (ii) by a Councillor, on behalf of petitioners; or
- (iii) by the Mayor, on behalf of petitioners.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for members of the public to ask questions of members of the Executive, Portfolio Holders and Chairmen of Committees, of which notice has been received no later than 5.00 pm two clear working days prior to the day of this Meeting.

[Note: Any such questions received will be tabled].

7. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

To receive a presentation from the Leader of the Council on business since the last ordinary council meeting. This will be followed by a question and answer session of 15 minutes relating to issues raised in the presentation.

8. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY - REFRESH: (To Follow)

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE: (Pages 23 - 28)

Recommendation I: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(16 March 2009)

10. PROPOSED CHANGES - STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES: (Pages 29 - 32)

Recommendation I: Strategic Planning Committee

(11 March 2009)

Recommendation I: Development Management Committee

(To follow) (25 March 2009)

11. MONITORING OFFICER - ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09: (Pages 33 - 36)

Recommendation I: Standards Committee

(17 March 2009)

12. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE:

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for asking written questions by Members of Council of a member of the Executive or the Chairman of any Committee:-

- (i) of which notice has been received at least two clear working days prior to the day of this Meeting; or
- (ii) which relate to urgent matters, and the consent of the Executive Member or Committee Chairman to whom the question is to be put has been obtained and the content has been advised to the Director of Legal and Governance Services by 12 noon on the day of the Council Meeting.

[Any such questions received will be tabled].

13. MOTIONS:

The following Motions have been notified in accordance with the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 15, to be moved and seconded by the Members indicated:-

(1) Reaffirmation of Twinning Agreement

To be moved by Councillor David Ashton and seconded by Councillors Bill Stephenson and Christopher Noyce:

"This Council notes and welcomes the opportunity to celebrate its links with Douai, France and, as part of the 30th Anniversary celebrations, agrees the reaffirmation of the Twinning Agreement between Harrow and Douai by signature of both Mayors' at a celebratory event to be held on 2nd May 2009. The text of the 2009 Twinning Agreement reaffirmation to read as follows:

"We John Nickolay, Mayor of Harrow and Jacques Vernier, Le Maire de Douai On this Thirtieth Anniversary of the Accord linking Our two great Towns do re- affirm and uphold the aspirations set out by our Forbears on the 5th Day of May 1979

Freely appointed on behalf of the peoples of our two Towns
Committed to the aspirations and needs of our peoples
Conscious that western civilisation was cradled in our ancient
communities and that the spirit of liberty was deeply entrenched in
these freedoms which our Communities are certain will prevail
Aware that the fruits of history must continue in the larger world
and that the world will continue to be a truly humanitarian one as
long as mankind can live freely in free towns.

Solemnly pledge on this day

To maintain permanent links between the Councils of our communities and to encourage in all fields of exchanges between our peoples in order to promote a lively spirit of European brotherhood by better mutual understanding.

To co-ordinate our efforts with a view to furthering to the greatest extent possible through the means at our disposal the success of that very necessary enterprise for peace and prosperity: European Unity.

Douai, Harrow: the 2nd of May 2009"

(2) Absence of Chairman at meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels

To be moved by Councillor Paul Osborn and seconded by Councillor David Ashton:

"This Council supports amendments to Part 4B (Committee Procedure Rule 8.4 and to Part 4E (Advisory / Consultative Rule 6.2 to read as follows:

Absence of Chair at Meetings

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall preside.

If after 15 minutes since the identified start time of the Committee, sub-committee or Panel neither the Chair or Vice-Chair are present then the meeting shall elect a Chair for that meeting as its first order of business.

Where the Chair and Vice-Chair have both submitted apologies in advance of the meeting to the Director of Legal & Governance Services then the first order of business shall be to elect a Chair for the meeting."

(3) Business Rates

To be moved by Councillor David Ashton and seconded by Councillor Jeremy Zeid:

"This Council notes that from April 1st 2009 business rates across the country are due to increase by 5%. This Council notes that this increase has been called "unacceptable" by the Local Government Association. This Council thus:

- I. is resolved to allow, on application, small businesses in the Borough to pay their business rates over 12 months rather than the usual 10.
- II. urges all local businesses to investigate whether they qualify for the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme. This Council estimates that over half of the Borough's businesses are likely to qualify, but that at present nearly two-thirds of those businesses do not claim this relief.
- III. urges the Government to defer the increase on the grounds that:
 - a) it will hit small businesses hard at a time when the majority of them are struggling through the recession.
 - b) the 5% increase is linked to September 2008's RPI figure, but the economic situation has changed dramatically since then.
 - c) if the increase had been linked to December's RPI figure

it would have only been 0.9%, and if linked to February 2009's it would have been 0%.

IV. is resolved to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to express the aforementioned concerns."

(4) Harrow Residents and Businesses

To be moved by Councillor Bill Stephenson and seconded by Councillor Phillip O'Dell:

"This Council believes that the current economic downturn poses a serious threat, not only to the Council itself but, individually to the well-being of many Harrow residents and businesses. This Council further believes that it should do everything in its power to help.

This Council:

- (i) welcomes the initiatives already being taken but agrees that much more needs to be done;
- (ii) believes that it is vital for all partners and organisations in Harrow to work together, and, in particular, welcomes the fact that the Harrow Partnership Board will be considering this matter at its next meeting;
- (iii) suggests to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that it should consider setting up a Challenge Panel to look at the best ways to help Harrow residents and businesses in this very difficult situation.

(5) Harrow on the Hill Station

To be moved by Councillor Bill Stephenson and seconded by Councillor Phillip O'Dell:

"This Council notes that Harrow-on-the-Hill station is a major tube and rail hub which is used by thousands of travellers every day. However, it still remains inaccessible to the vast a majority of passengers with physical disabilities and also to many others such as the less able bodied, those with young children or even for those with heavy luggage.

This Council declares in the strongest possible terms that this is totally unacceptable and believes that Harrow-on-the-Hill station should be made DDA compliant as a matter of urgency.

This Council is dismayed to learn that Transport for London is proposing to delete the proposed DDA upgrade of Harrow-on-the-Hill station from its current business plans.

This Council will support a campaign to reverse this decision which it would hope would involve the Harrow Public Transport Users association, the two Harrow MPs, the Brent and Harrow London Assembly Member, the Harrow Association for Disabled people, and all other interested organisations."

(6) North West London Light Railway

To be moved by Councillor Phillip O'Dell and seconded by Councillor Brian Gate:

"This Council notes that the North West London Light Railway is a proposal for the construction of an orbital light railway system centred on the planned £5 billion Brent Cross/Cricklewood development with potential branches to Mill Hill East, Wembley Stadium, Park Royal, Ealing Broadway and Finchley Road via West Hampstead. It would largely make use of existing little-used freight lines or abandoned railway tracks and would both provide an attractive alternative to the estimated 29,000 extra vehicle movements likely to be generated by the expanded Brent Cross and offer orbital light rail routes across the whole of North West London. This will benefit the residents of Harrow, for example, by improving access to public transport connections and decreasing traffic congestion.

This Council supports the North West London Light Railway proposal in principle and instructs the Chief Executive to write to Transport for London asking it to provide the funding for a feasibility study for this proposal.

This Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the two Harrow MPs, the Brent and Harrow Assembly Member and to 'London Councils' to inform them of this motion and to ask for their support."