

2009 - 2010

HARROW COUNCIL  
COUNCIL SUMMONS

MEETING  
Thursday 29 October 2009





## COUNCIL SUMMONS

Legal and Governance Services Department

Civic Centre

Harrow

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 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, 29th** day of **October 2009 at 7.30 pm** to consider the following numbered matters and to pass such resolutions and to make such orders thereon as may then be determined.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'H' and 'R' in a stylized, cursive font.

Director of Legal and Governance Services

## **PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rabbi Mendel Lew, will open the meeting with Prayers.

### **MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CHARTER**

To note the Council's success in attaining the Member Development Charter.

**1. COUNCIL MINUTES:** (Pages 1 - 14)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2009 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

To receive declarations of personal or prejudicial interests.

**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 (a) a petition from Councillor Narinder Singh Mudhar on behalf of residents of Grove Hill Road;

(b) any further 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 meeting. This will be followed by a question and answer session of 15 minutes relating to issues raised in the presentation.

## **8. REVISED GAMBLING POLICY FOR APPROVAL:** (Pages 15 - 18)

Recommendation I: Licensing and General Purposes Committee  
(7 September 2009)

## **9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE:** (Pages 19 - 22)

Recommendation I: Standards Committee  
(21 September 2009)

## **10. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY - PREFERRED OPTIONS DOCUMENT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION:** (To Follow)

## **11. 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].

## **12. 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) Declaration of Unity**

To be moved by Councillors David Ashton, Bill Stephenson and Christopher Noyce and seconded by Councillors Susan Hall, Phillip O'Dell and Paul Scott:

“This Council deplores the holding of an ‘anti-Mosque demonstration’ on September 11, and congratulates the police, all Council staff and the Central Mosque as well as the residents of Harrow for the dignified and controlled way they handled themselves thus ensuring that the

'demonstration' passed off relatively peacefully.

Council, further, expresses its appreciation for the motion passed by Brent Council on Sept 14 in support of Harrow and its residents as well as its appreciation for the organisation of the Unity Walk and Vigil organised by the Council on October 11.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to make these congratulations and its appreciation widely known to all those concerned.

Council deplores the proposal for a further 'anti-Mosque demonstration' on December 13 which is likely to lead to violence, severe disruption to Harrow residents and very large expense for the Police and the Council.

Council calls on the organisers to cancel this 'demonstration' and, failing this, Council pledges that working together with the Police, the Central Mosque, faith groups and local residents to do everything in its power to minimise any violence and disruption. In particular, Council instructs the Chief Executive to take up as a matter of urgency the offer, by the Home Secretary, to meet a high-level delegation from Harrow to discuss the proposed demonstration".

**[Note:** In order to consider this Motion, it must be moved that Council Procedure Rule 15.3 be suspended, for this Motion only, to allow for three proposors and three seconders to the Motion].

## (2) **Freedom Pass Cuts**

To be moved by Councillor Paul Scott and seconded by Councillor Christopher Noyce:

"This Council notes that the Government is considering reviewing the last year of the 3-year special grant for concessionary fares to support the introduction of the English National Concession which could very well lead to the grant to London being cut by up to £50 million a year.

This Council rejects any move by central Government that threatens the future of the much cherished Freedom Pass for elderly and disabled people.

This Council further notes that the concessionary fares scheme in London is currently only 66% funded by Government grant and that if the special grant is withdrawn this would reduce to about 50%.

This Council views with alarm that London Councils estimate that the possible shortfall in funding could equate to £18 on the

average Council Tax bill at a time of economic hardship.

This Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Sadiq Khan MP to urge him not to withdraw the special grant to London and to maintain the funding at the promised level.

This Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the two Harrow MPs and the London Assembly Member to urge them to support efforts to ensure London gets an equal share of future concessionary fare funding”.

**(3) Increase in Fares**

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

“This Council deplores the decision by Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, to increase bus fares by 12.7% overall and tube fares by 3.9% overall at a time when CPI inflation is 1.1%. Council is dismayed to hear that six more accessibility schemes for tube stations are being abandoned and that on some bus and tube routes passengers will face less frequent services. These increases will wipe out by many times any of the savings of 12p a week made by the zero increase in the GLC precept –based on increases in previous years.

Council notes that the Mayor claims that he can find £5 billion ‘efficiency savings’ in the Transport for London (TfL) budget, and urges him to concentrate on this rather than increasing fares which hit the most hard-up in the middle of a recession. Council also notes that the Mayor will lose £70 million by halving the size of the congestion charge zone; will lose £50 million potential revenue by dropping proposals to charge the most polluting 4x4 vehicles and will lose £30 million in revenue by the replacement of ‘bendy’ buses. This money would be far better spent on providing cheap reliable public transport at the same time as improving traffic flow and cutting noxious vehicle emissions.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to convey this motion to the Mayor of London, the Brent and Harrow London Assembly Member as well as the Leaders of the Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Green Groups on the London Assembly”.

**(4) Recession Busting Committee**

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

“This Council is reminded that the Labour Group at the Council in February 2009 proposed:

*the setting up a cross-party working group with outside membership from the voluntary sector and the local business community such as Harrow in Business and Chambers of*

*Commerce, with the aim of helping Harrow residents and businesses to cope with the economic downturn, and of seeking external and partnership funding both financial and in kind. This group to be allocated an annual contingency fund of £30K to pursue its important work.*

Although this motion was not accepted, Council notes with pleasure that the current administration has set up just such a working group, initially called the 'Economic Downturn Committee' and now re-named the 'Recession Busting Committee'. Council also welcomes the setting up of the Harrow Credit Union also a suggestion made by Labour Group members.

Council also welcomes the further measures agreed by Cabinet on October 22 to help small businesses and is of the view that similar measures should be introduced to help local residents. In particular, Council agrees that there should be a provision for non direct debit paying local residents to apply to pay their Council Tax in twelve instalments, instead of ten, if the person can demonstrate that they are facing financial difficulties with each case being assessed on its merits. Council further believes that other measures to help hard pressed local residents should be investigated as a matter of urgency.

Any extra costs arising from these proposals to be met from the contingency fund".

**[Note:** Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 15.6, it is considered that the subject matter of this Motion refers to matters within the powers of the Cabinet and the Motion therefore stands referred to its next meeting.

It may be moved that such referral should not apply and any procedural motion moved and seconded to that effect shall be voted on without discussion].

#### **(5) Concessionary Fares Scheme**

To be moved by Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane and seconded by Councillor Husain Akhtar:

"This Council notes that:

1. The Government is trying to renege on a three-year funding deal, agreed in April 2008, to help London's boroughs subsidise the costs of off-peak bus travel for disabled and older people and re-direct that money to other parts of the country;
2. The financial consequences of this decision by Labour's Transport Minister, Siddiq Khan MP, would be an annual funding loss to London of over £50 million annually, with Harrow losing upwards of £1.6 million annually;
3. That this loss of funding puts at risk the future of the

Freedom Pass – much-valued by the capital’s older or disabled residents for its 24-hour free travel on bus, Tube and rail in London;

This Council therefore condemns the actions of Labour’s Transport Minister, Siddiq Khan MP, in renegeing on the three-year funding deal with London’s boroughs in year three and attempting to take money from supporting vital services for the elderly and disabled in the capital;

This Council further condemns the actions of Labour’s Siddiq Khan for putting the future of the Freedom Pass at risk.

This Council further notes that because Siddiq Khan MP is taking these actions as the Transport Minister in the present Labour Government, so his attack on the Freedom Pass must constitute official Labour Party policy – and is something that this Council condemns.

This Council therefore resolves:

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to Transport Minister, Siddiq Khan MP, to express our opposition to his plans to take over £50 million of funding from elderly and disabled residents across London (including £1.6 million in Harrow);
2. To instruct the Chief Executive to similarly write to the Minister for London, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Equalities Minister and the Shadow Secretary of State for Transport and Shadow Minister for London expressing our concerns about Siddiq Khan’s ill-judged actions;
3. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to our local MPs asking them whether they support Siddiq Khan’s decision, which will hurt Harrow’s elderly and disabled residents. And that, if they oppose it, ask them to vow to attend and vote against any and all motions in the House authorising the loss of money from London.
4. To instruct the Chief Executive to advise the local and national media of our concerns and to brief those voluntary sector organisations such as Age Concern, Harrow Carers, Harrow Mencap and HAD as to the implications of the decision by Labour Government’s Transport Minister, Siddiq Khan, to put the Freedom Pass at risk”.

**(6) Garden Grabbing**

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

“This Council is deeply concerned by ‘Garden Grabbing’; whereby new dwellings are built on residential land, obliterating

the gardens and green spaces. This practice has increased significantly over the last decade:

1. The percentage of new dwellings built on previously residential land has risen from 11% in 1997, to 27% in 2007. This number represents a rise of 5% on 2006 alone.

2. By 2010 there will be 2.2 million homes in the UK without a private garden, compared with 1.6 million in 1995. This number is expected to reach 2.6 million by 2020.

3. London is the second-worst affected region; in 2006, 29% of new housing was built on garden-grabbed land. This is up from 13% in 1997.

4. Over the next 10 years, Britain will lose an area of garden equivalent in size to 2,755 Wembley pitches to new housing.

This Council believes that the powers available to local authorities are not sufficient, and therefore calls on the Government to amend planning legislation to give a duty to local planning authorities to recognise the value of gardens and urban green spaces to communities, the environment and social sustainability.

This Council proposes an amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; inserting after section 71A:

“71B Duty as respects gardens and urban green space in exercise of planning functions

In exercise of any function under or by virtue of the planning Acts, the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (c.29) or the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (c.5), special regard shall be had to the desirability of preserving gardens and urban green spaces.”

In section 336, after the definition of “function”, insert

““green space” means –

- (a) land laid out as a public garden;
- (b) land used for the purposes of public recreation; or
- (c) an area of open space which benefits wildlife and biodiversity”.

This Council believes that this minor amendment will have a profoundly positive impact on Harrow by ensuring the preservation of more of our gardens and green spaces. It is for this reason that this Council has submitted such a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007”.

**13. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, LEADER AND CABINET & USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE:** (Pages 23 - 30)

Report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services.

**14. DECISIONS ON URGENT MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL:** (Pages 31 - 34)

Report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services.