

COUNCIL MINUTES

18 FEBRUARY 2010

- Present:**
- * Councillor Eric Silver (The Worshipful the Mayor)
 - * Councillor Chris Mote (The Deputy Mayor)
- Councillors:**
- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| * Husain Akhtar | * Julia Merison |
| * Ms Nana Asante | * Salim Miah |
| * David Ashton | * Mrs Myra Michael |
| * Marilyn Ashton | * Jerry Miles |
| * Mrs Camilla Bath | * Mrs Vina Mithani |
| * Miss Christine Bednell | * Janet Mote |
| Robert Benson | * Narinder Singh Mudhar |
| * Don Billson | * John Nickolay |
| * Mrs Lurline Champagnie | * Joyce Nickolay |
| * Mrinal Choudhury | * Christopher Noyce |
| * G Chowdhury | * Phillip O'Dell |
| * John Cowan | * Asad Omar |
| * Bob Currie | * Paul Osborn |
| * Mrs Margaret Davine | * Mrs Anjana Patel |
| * Mano Dharmarajah | * David Perry |
| * Tony Ferrari | * Raj Ray |
| * Keith Ferry | * Richard Romain |
| * Archie Foulds | * Paul Scott |
| * B E Gate | * Anthony Seymour |
| * David Gawn | * Navin Shah |
| * Mitzi Green | * Mrs Rekha Shah |
| * Susan Hall | * Stanley Sheinwald |
| * Graham Henson | * Dinesh Solanki |
| * Thaya Idaikkadar | * Bill Stephenson |
| * Nizam Ismail | * Mrs Sasi Suresh |
| * Krishna James | * Yogesh Teli |
| * Manji Kara | Keeki Thammaiah |
| * Mrs Kinnear | * Mark Versallion |
| * Ashok Kulkarni | * Tom Weiss |
| * Jean Lammiman | * Jeremy Zeid |
| * Barry Macleod-Cullinane | |

* Denotes Member present

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by the Rabbi Mendel Lew.

420. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Item 7 on the Summons – Revenue Budget 2010/11 to 2012/13

The following Members declared personal interests for the reasons stated in the above item and accordingly remained in the Chamber and took part in the debate and voting on this item:

Councillor David Ashton - relative employed by Harrow Council

Councillor Marilyn Ashton - relative employed by Harrow Council

Councillor Margaret Davine – member of Harrow Women’s Centre

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane - relative employed by Harrow Council

Councillor Anthony Seymour – relative in receipt of employment benefits and homeseekers allowance.

421. COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings held on 29 October 2009 be signed as correct records.

422. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor spoke briefly on several of his recent engagements. He expressed his congratulations to Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagnie on her recent New Year’s Honour’s Award.

The Mayor also noted with pleasure that his Chauffeur/Macebearer, Robert Deans, had been awarded the freemanship of the City of London.

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

423. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

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 Housing Revenue Account, the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators

and Minimum Revenue Provision, the Capital Programme and the Corporate Plan insofar as the recommendations and amendments be debated jointly.

RESOLVED: That the partial suspension under Rule 26.1 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 2010/11 to 2012/13), 8 (Housing Revenue Account 2010/11 – 2012/13), 9 (Capital Programme 2010/11 – 2012/13), 10 (Treasury Management Strategy 2010/11, Prudential Indicators & Minimum Revenue Provision 2010/11) and 11 (Corporate Plan 2010/13).

424. PETITIONS

In accordance with Rule 11, the following petitions were presented by Members of Council on behalf of Petitioners:

- (i) Submitted by Councillor David Perry containing 18 signatures of residents opposing the conversion of 59 Warrington Road into three self-contained flats.

[The petition stood referred to the Planning Committee and the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise].

- (ii) Submitted by Councillor Eileen Kinnear containing 206 signatures requesting Post Office service provision in South and Central Harrow and Harrow on the Hill.

[The petition stood referred to the Leader of the Council].

425. 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> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Mr Pravin Seedher | Councillor David Ashton | <p>“With reference to the London Borough of Harrow organisational assessment for 2009 and I quote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harrow Council has improved significantly in recent years (since May 2006);• invested extra money in priority areas;• In nearly two-thirds of the key performance indicators the Council can show improvements; |

- An independent study showed that when measured against other London councils. Harrow is the second most improved council in London;
- It was also recently runner-up in the Municipal Journal annual competition to find the best achieving council in the country.

The assessment concluded that the Council is more financially stable than it has been in the past and awarded Harrow 3-star status.

This is more than just the outcome of a set of policies - so how did this administration achieve this when the previous 2 administrations struggled to avoid relegation to 1 star?"

[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].

426. REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11 - 2012/13

- (i) Further to Item 7 on the Summons, the Council received Recommendation I of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 February 2010.
- (ii) The Leader of the Council, Councillor David Ashton, formally moved the Recommendation.
- (iii) Following a full debate and upon a vote the Substantive Recommendation was carried and adopted.

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

- (1) The Revenue Budget 2010/11 to 2012/13 be approved to enable the Council Tax for 2010/11 to be set;**
- (2) The model Council Tax Resolution set out below be approved;**

Council Tax Resolution 2010/2011

Cabinet to approve as part of the Summons for Council, the model budget and Council Tax resolutions reflecting the recommendations of Cabinet and the GLA precept.

Council is requested to determine the level of the Council Tax for 2010/2011 in the light of the information on the precept and make the calculations set out in the resolution shown below.

- (1) To note that at its meeting on 17 December 2009 the Council calculated the amount of 86,362 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2010/2011 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 2010/2011, in accordance with Sections 32 - 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)** £551,155,712
 - (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)** £379,471,174
 - (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.** £171,684,538
 - (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, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund its Collection Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Collection Fund Surplus) £69,211,707
 - (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. £102,472,831
 - (vi) Being the amount at (v) divided by the Council Tax Base, calculated by the Council at its meeting on 17 December 2009 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 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 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 current approved Members' Allowances Scheme be adopted for 2010/11.**

[Note: (1) The budget summary relating to the Resolution is enclosed at Appendix I to these Minutes]

Councillors Nana Asante, Mrinal Choudhury, Bob Currie, Mrs Margaret Davine, Mano Dharmarajah, Keith Ferry, Archie Foulds, B E Gate, David Gawn, Mitzi Green, Graham Henson, Thaya Idaikkadar, Nizam Ismail, Krishna James, Jerry Miles, Phillip O'Dell, Asad Omar, David Perry, Raj Ray, Navin Shah, Mrs Rekha Shah, Bill Stephenson and Mrs Sasikala Suresh wished to be recorded as having abstained from voting.

427. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2010/11 - 2012/13

Further to Item 8 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Ashton, moved Recommendation II of the Cabinet meeting on 11 February 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Housing Revenue Account for 2010/11 be approved together with the following:

- (i) increasing rents by 2.85% on average with effect from 1 April 2010;**
- (ii) increasing service charges for tenants by 2.85% and freeze charges for leaseholders pending a review of the service and charging methodology with effect from 1 April 2010;**
- (iii) increasing garage and car parking rents by 2% with effect from 1 April 2010;**
- (iv) increasing energy (heating) charges by 2% with effect from 1 April 2010;**
- (v) increasing Community Centre charges by 2% with effect from 1 April 2010**

[Note: (1) The Housing Revenue Account for 2010/11 - 2012/13 is enclosed at Appendix II to these minutes]

Councillors Nana Asante, Mrinal Choudhury, Bob Currie, Mrs Margaret Davine, Mano Dharmarajah, Keith Ferry, Archie Foulds, B E Gate, David Gawn, Mitzi Green, Graham Henson, Thaya Idaikkadar, Nizam Ismail, Krishna James, Jerry Miles, Phillip O'Dell, Asad Omar, David Perry, Raj Ray, Navin Shah, Mrs Rekha Shah, Bill Stephenson and Mrs Sasikala Suresh wished to be recorded as having abstained from voting.

428. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/2011 - 2012/13

Further to Item 9 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Ashton, moved Recommendation III of the Cabinet meeting on 11 February 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme for 2010/11 to 2012/13 be agreed.

Councillors Nana Asante, Mrinal Choudhury, Bob Currie, Mrs Margaret Davine, Mano Dharmarajah, Keith Ferry, Archie Foulds, B E Gate, David Gawn, Mitzi Green, Graham Henson, Thaya Idaikkadar, Nizam Ismail, Krishna James, Jerry Miles, Phillip O'Dell, Asad Omar, David Perry, Raj Ray, Navin Shah, Mrs Rekha Shah, Bill Stephenson and Mrs Sasikala Suresh wished to be recorded as having abstained from voting.

429. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2010/11, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS & MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION 2010/11

Further to Item 10 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Ashton, moved Recommendation IV of the Cabinet meeting on 11 February 2010.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators be approved;**
- (2) the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Strategy for 2010/11 be approved;**
- (3) the proposal to allocate the responsibility for the scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy, Policy and Activity, to the Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee be noted.**

Councillors Nana Asante, Mrinal Choudhury, Bob Currie, Mrs Margaret Davine, Mano Dharmarajah, Keith Ferry, Archie Foulds, B E Gate, David Gawn, Mitzi Green, Graham Henson, Thaya Idaikkadar, Nizam Ismail, Krishna James, Jerry Miles, Phillip O'Dell, Asad Omar, David Perry, Raj Ray, Navin Shah, Mrs Rekha Shah, Bill Stephenson and Mrs Sasikala Suresh wished to be recorded as having abstained from voting.

430. CORPORATE PLAN 2010/13

- (i) Further to Item 11 on the Summons, with the assent of the Council, Councillor Paul Osborn formally moved Recommendation I of the Cabinet meeting of 11 February 2010 on behalf of the Leader of the Council.
- (ii) Following a full debate and upon a vote on the Substantive Recommendation, this was carried and adopted.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Corporate Plan 2010/11 – 2012/13 be approved;**
- (2) Cabinet be authorised to make any subsequent minor changes required to the Corporate Plan.**

[Note: Councillors Nana Asante, Mrinal Choudhury, Bob Currie, Mrs Margaret Davine, Mano Dharmarajah, Keith Ferry, Archie Foulds, B E Gate, David Gawn, Mitzi Green, Graham Henson, Thaya Idaikkadar, Nizam Ismail, Krishna James, Jerry Miles, Phillip O'Dell, Asad Omar, David Perry, Raj Ray, Navin Shah, Mrs Rekha Shah, Bill Stephenson and Mrs Sasikala Suresh wished to be recorded as having abstained from voting].

431. REVISED POLICIES FOR FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

Further to Item 12 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the Cabinet held on 12 November 2009.

The Recommendation was formally moved by Councillor David Ashton, Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Contract Procedure Rules, Anti-Fraud Policy, Anti-Money Laundering Policy and Code of Corporate Governance be adopted.

432. REVISED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Further to Item 13 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the Cabinet held on 14 January 2010.

The Recommendation was formally moved by Councillor David Ashton, Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the revised Financial Regulations be adopted.

433. MEMBERS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION (GUIDANCE & PROTOCOL)

Further to Item 14 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the Standards Committee meeting held on 8 December 2009.

The Recommendation was formally moved by the Mayor.

RESOLVED: That the revised Members' Access to Information – Guidance and Protocol be approved and adopted.

434. PROTOCOL ON GIFTS & HOSPITALITY

Further to Item 15 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the Standards Committee meeting held on 8 December 2009.

The Recommendation was formally moved by the Mayor.

RESOLVED: That the revised Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality be approved and adopted.

435. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

No questions were submitted by Members of Council.

436. MOTION - LONDON POLICING SERVICES

- (i) At Item 17(1) the Council received a motion in the names of Councillors Brian Gate and Navin Shah, in the following terms:

“This Council notes with great concern the decision by the Mayor of London to cut the amount of money spent on London policing services by £16.4 million in the financial year 2010/11, leading to a reduction of 455 police officers in London, over the next three years. This is despite his election promise to increase the number of police officers on the beat and his pledge that ‘tackling crime would be central to all that he does’. These cuts will inevitably lead to cuts in specialist teams for example those tackling fraud and rape, and will again put Safer Neighbourhood teams under threat.

This Council further, notes that in addition each Borough Commander will have to make 5% cuts in their budgets in each of the next three years amounting to a total of £540,000 for Harrow over three years. These cuts will mean that officers on the beat will have less civilian and back-office support and will have to spend more time doing paperwork rather than being on the beat and other important work will have to cease.

This Council furthermore notes that the Mayor of London has also reneged on his election promise to build a new police station in Harrow which, in particular, would have enough custody suites to avoid the necessity for Harrow police officers having to drive around outside Harrow looking for somewhere to detain the people they have arrested.

This Council condemns these cuts in policing in the strongest possible terms threatening as they do the excellent policing we have in Harrow and putting at risk the safety and security of our local diverse community.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to convey this Motion and the Council’s strong concerns about these matters to the Mayor of London, the Group Leaders on the London Assembly and the Home Secretary.”

- (ii) Upon a vote, the Motion was not carried.

RESOLVED: That the Motion be not adopted.

437. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, LEADER AND CABINET & USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE

Further to Item 18 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 29 October 2009.

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

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

**HARROW COUNCIL
REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2010-2011**

| | 2009- 2010 Original Budget £000 | 2010- 2011 Original Budget £000 |
|--|---|---|
| Local Demand - Borough Services | | |
| Adults and Housing | 65,192 | 69,934 |
| Children's | 38,835 | 40,629 |
| Community and Environment | 46,917 | 46,245 |
| Place Shaping | 4,364 | 4,199 |
| Legal and Governance | 943 | 876 |
| Assistant Chief Executive | 2,508 | 3,300 |
| Corporate Finance | 22,483 | 24,388 |
| Total Directorate Budgets | 181,242 | 189,571 |
| Inflation and Corporate items | 3,669 | 1,964 |
| Capital Financing adjustments | -6,917 | -6148 |
| Area Based Grant | -9,020 | -12922 |
| Interest on Balances | -245 | -690 |
| Total – Baseline | 168,729 | 171,775 |
| Capitalisation | -390 | -90 |
| Contribution to Balances | 500 | 0 |
| Total Net Expenditure | 168,839 | 171,685 |
| Collection Fund Surplus b/f | -300 | -1448 |
| Formula Grant | -66,786 | -67,764 |
| Local Demand on Collection Fund | 101,753 | 102,473 |
| Funds / Balances | | |
| Balances Brought Forward | 4,031 | 5,716 |
| Adjustment to Balances | 500 | 0 |
| Balances Carried Forward | 4,531 | 5,716 |
| Council Tax for Band D Equivalent | | |
| Harrow (£) | 1,186.55 | 1,186.55 |
| <u>Increase</u> | | |
| Harrow (%) | 2.95% | 0.00% |
| Taxbase | 85,755 | 86,362 |

APPENDIX 2

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2010-11 TO 2012-13

| | Budget 2010-11 £ | Budget 2011-12 £ | Budget 2012-13 £ | Comments |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Operating Expenditure: | | | | |
| Employee Costs | 1,165,490 | 1,187,720 | 1,210,390 | Pay inflation assumed at 0% 2010-11, then 2% ongoing. Includes 0.25% pension contributions. |
| Supplies & Services | 439,360 | 439,360 | 439,360 | |
| Utility cost (Water & Gas) | 684,500 | 711,800 | 741,500 | Inflation assumed at 2.82% 2010-11 then 4.24% ongoing |
| Estate & Sheltered Services | 2,185,760 | 2,232,450 | 2,280,800 | Salaries inflated as above |
| Central Recharges | 2,892,500 | 2,947,950 | 3,004,500 | Inflation assumed at 1% 2010-11, then 2% ongoing. Includes Access Harrow at £120k per annum |
| Operating Expenditure | 7,367,610 | 7,519,280 | 7,676,550 | |
| Repairs Expenditure: | | | | |
| Repairs – Voids | 554,150 | 620,310 | 631,670 | Assumed 318 voids per annum and £101k transfer to Capital |
| Repairs - Responsive | 2,634,850 | 2,829,220 | 2,867,590 | Assumes annual volume of 13,337 day to day repairs |
| Repairs – Other | 1,596,570 | 1,613,850 | 1,631,430 | Includes external decoration, cyclical repairs and repairs salaries |
| Total Repairs Expenditure | 4,785,570 | 5,063,380 | 5,130,690 | |
| Other Expenditure: | | | | |
| Contingency - General | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | |
| Charges for Capital | 6,915,910 | 6,969,320 | 6,987,050 | Consolidated Rate of Interest 4.72% |

| | Budget 2010-11 £ | Budget 2011-12 £ | Budget 2012-13 £ | Comments |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| RCCO | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | |
| Bad or Doubtful Debts | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 | |
| HRA Subsidy | 6,178,250 | 6,719,690 | 6,995,040 | Based on Government Final Determination |
| Total Other Expenditure | 14,044,160 | 14,639,010 | 14,932,090 | |
| | | | | |
| Total Expenditure | 26,197,340 | 27,221,670 | 27,739,330 | |
| Income | | | | |
| Rent Income – Dwellings | -22,424,930 | -23,456,560 | -24,568,180 | Average rent £86.60 2010-11 and void losses of 0.5%. Assumes Mill Farm transfer May 2010. |
| Rent Income – Non Dwellings | -840,900 | -843,780 | -851,940 | Includes Garages which will increase at 2% p.a. |
| Service Charges - Tenants | -1,164,480 | -1,237,020 | -1,280,800 | |
| Service Charges – Leaseholders | -415,640 | -421,560 | -427,730 | |
| Facility Charges (Water & Gas) | -497,230 | -502,200 | -507,220 | Fees & charges increase 2% annually |
| Interest | -6,120 | -6,120 | -6,120 | Mortgage interest at 4.78% |
| Other Income | -8,010 | -8,010 | -8,010 | |
| Transfer from General Fund | -163,000 | -163,000 | -163,000 | Amenities shared by the community |
| Total Income | -25,520,310 | -26,638,250 | -27,813,000 | |
| | | | | |
| In Year Deficit / (Surplus) | 677,030 | 583,420 | -73,670 | |
| | | | | |
| BALANCE brought forward | -3,947,416 | -3,270,386 | -2,686,966 | |
| BALANCE carried forward | -3,270,386 | -2,686,966 | -2,760,636 | |
| BALANCE Business Plan | -5,319,000 | -5,460,000 | -4,539,000 | |