

CABINET MINUTES

23 JUNE 2010

Chairman: * Councillor Bill Stephenson

Councillors:

* Bob Currie	* Graham Henson
* Margaret Davine	* Thaya Idaikkadar
* Keith Ferry	* Phillip O'Dell
* Brian Gate	* Mrs Rekha Shah
* Mitzi Green	

In attendance:	Susan Hall	Minute 7
(Councillors)	Barry Macleod-Cullinane	Minute 7
	Paul Osborn	Minute 7

* Denotes Member present

3. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

Agenda Item 9 – Response to Scrutiny Standing Review of the Budget (Report from Phase 2)

Councillor Brian Gate declared a personal interest in that he had been a Member of the Scrutiny Review of the Budget. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Agenda Item 12 – Introductory and Demoted Tenancies

Councillor Bob Currie declared a personal interest in that he attended the Eastcote Lane Tenants' Meetings on a monthly basis. He would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared an interest in that he had chaired the meeting of the Tenants' and Leaseholders' Consultative Forum

when this matter was first discussed. He would remain in the room to listen to the discussion on the report.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 18 March 2010 and the special on 10 June 2010, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

5. Petitions

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were submitted.

6. Public Questions

RESOLVED: To note that the following public questions had been received:

1.

Questioner: Marilyn Ashton

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: "In your Party's manifesto and in the press you have made categorical statements that your administration will not sell the Gayton Road Library and Car Park site and that your administration will not rebuild the Leisure Centre. Would you care to share with the people of Harrow your vision and plans for the Gayton Road site and under what circumstances would you be prepared to affect a sale, bearing in mind that the Council has a legal duty to realise best price for its assets, or are you saying that you will never be willing to sell it under any circumstances. In relation to the tired, old and well passed its sell buy date Leisure Centre, it is time that the people of Harrow knew whether your pledge never to rebuild it is because you think that the existing facility is acceptable for the people of Harrow to use going forward or do you think, as most people do, that Harrow's citizens deserve in the future better and more up to date leisure facilities and, if so, how will your administration deliver that?"

Answer: Thank you for the question.

Please be advised that at no time have I said that a Labour administration would not sell the Gayton Road Library and the adjacent Car Park site, nor does it say that in my Party's Manifesto. Moreover, I have never said that my Party would not rebuild the Leisure Centre, nor does it say that in the Manifesto.

The Manifesto mentions that a Labour administration

- would not support the high-rise overdevelopment of the Gayton Road site and the sub-standard half size replacement Leisure Centre.
- would establish a cross-party Major Developments Panel, with advisers, to oversee and co-ordinate the development of the Town Centre and all other major projects in Harrow, as set out in Harrow's Core Strategy. It is intended to set up the Panel in July 2010. The Labour administration also intends to revive plans for combining the central and Civic Centre libraries on one site in the Town Centre, complimented with an exhibition of performance, which would be based on the Gayton Road site. This course of action will involve the sale of an element of the Gayton Road site.
- would consider the long term future of the Leisure Centre, Byron Hall and Byron Park and how sports facilities will be provided, including, in the long term, the replacement of the existing Leisure Centre.

You will appreciate that I have had difficulty in answering your question, as the premise of your question is incorrect.

Supplemental Question: Is it not better to deliver on projects that are viable, such as the Hindu School and the Prince Edward Playing Fields that the Conservative administration helped to establish and which are of benefit to the community instead of trying to deliver on unviable projects that will never materialise?

Supplemental Answer: I do agree with your sentiments. With this in mind, the Labour administration intends to set up a Major Developments Panel. It is intended to develop the Town Centre in line with the Core Strategy and which people of Harrow can be proud of. I hope that, as the recession slows down, my administration will be able to bring plans to fruition.

2.

Questioner: David Ashton

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: "Will the Leader of the Council, in his responsibility for Finance, join me in congratulating the previous administration on the state of finances he has inherited, notably a third underspend in succession, totalling for the last year alone around £5m, and reserves up substantially from March 2006, and agree that a critical factor in that performance that he would maintain is attention to detail?"

Answer: Thank you for the question.

Of course, I am happy to join you in congratulating the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors and staff who have delivered an underspend of £1m. I also congratulate our in-house treasury investment team who have achieved a return of £2m more than that budgeted for.

For last year, the underspend was £5m before some money was allocated to reserves, balances, commitments and proposed carry forwards. Allowing for these, the underspend reduces to £1.7m that is available for other Council priorities. This is welcomed.

However, on the downside, we have been made aware that there was an overspend on the Children's Services budget of up to £2m. In addition, my administration will have to consider an in-year cut of £4m, which will reduce the Local Area Agreement (LAA) reward grant in half.

As the former Chair of the Harrow Partnership Board, you will appreciate the work that the Council and its partners carried out to achieve the reward grants. I hope you will join me in deploring these unfair and devastating cuts.

Supplemental Question: May I refer Cabinet to the table on page 96 of the agenda, which I find difficult to follow since it is listed with anomalies and errors, Could the Leader of the Council explain whether this is a result of an inattention to detail in his review of the document or an inattention to detail of not reviewing the document?

Supplemental Answer: If you have any detailed comments, these can be resolved at a later stage.

3.

Questioner: Pravin Seedher

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: "For each year-end beginning in March 1994 - March 2010, what was the position with regard to the following?"

Reserves

Amount of Reserves and as a % of all Council income.

Council Tax, GLA Tax and Combined Total Council Tax

Actual yearly rise and average over 4 yr term.

CPA and CAA assessment

Ratings and/or stars."

Note: The questioner asked for a written reply to the question instead of an oral answer (appendix 1 to these minutes), and proceeded to ask a supplementary question with the Leader of the Council's permission.

Supplemental Question: I am concerned about the levels of reserves held by the Council. I would like to know the Leader of the Council's personal opinion on the reserves held, whether he is committed to adding to them or will his administration draw down on the reserves?

Supplemental Answer: Please be advised that, Cabinet this evening, will be agreeing to add £78,000 to reserves. My administration will want to continue to add to the reserves. However, it will also have to take into account the Council's financial situation and do what it considers to be right for the residents of Harrow.

If possible, the Labour administration will maintain the reserves held and keep adding to them; that would be prudent.

7. Councillor Questions

In light of the number of questions received, the Leader sought Cabinet's approval to extend the time limit to 30 minutes for the asking and answering of Councillor questions. Having extended the time limit, it was noted that this should not be seen as setting a precedent.

RESOLVED: To note the following Councillor Questions had been received:

1.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, and Business Transformation

Question: In February, you referred to our plans to transform the Council and save £50 million over the next three years as "a bitter deal for residents." Now having admitted that your administration will need to make these same savings, how much do you plan to save over the next year, and where will these savings come from?

Answer: Thank you for the question.

Yes, in the budget debate I did make a reference to a "bitter deal for residents" and that was in a pre-election debate. A number of politicians have said things in pre-election debate. At that debate, I also said that in the end the electorate should decide. Therefore, my comments were in the context of a possible Conservative administration in Harrow and the cuts that would be imposed.

The Labour administration is proud of and believes in the public sector. It will not be making cuts for cuts sake. The administration believes that it will be able to transform Harrow and generally offer a better deal for residents.

There are a lot of difficult choices to make, many of which should have been addressed earlier before the election. By the postponing of decisions, the Council has delayed taking savings which my administration is gearing up to take.

The administration has the task of dealing with an in-year cut of £4m which will be challenging. In addition, savings in the region of £16m for the next financial year and following years will need to be

made.

My administration is in discussions with officers on how the savings will be achieved and intends to take decisions on the direction of a 3-year programme at the July 2010 Cabinet meeting. The choices my administration has made will be available at that time.

Supplemental Question: Would you not agree that the sooner the harsh decisions are made the better it will be for the residents?

Supplemental Answer: I would agree the administration should make the decisions and that some of those decisions could have been made before and were postponed. My administration will be making the hard choices at the July 2010 Cabinet following consultations and discussions.

2.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: How many people are currently employed by the Public Realm Department?

Answer: Currently the Public Realm employs 340 full time equivalent staff.

3.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: Regarding Neighbourhood Champions, what are the most up to date figures for:

- a) The number of people who have completed training?
- b) The number of people currently awaiting training?

Answer: At present, 491 Neighbourhood Champions have been trained and a further 345 have registered and are waiting to be trained.

May I place on record my thanks to you for leading

that training and driving the programme forward. You spent a great deal of time on developing the programme and I would like to pay tribute to you for this work. It is on our behest to continue with that training and to roll out the programme in partnership with the Police.

Supplemental Question: You are welcome, and I did offer to continue to do this. So therefore your personal view of it is a good one?

Supplemental Answer: Yes.

4.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: What were the percentage figures for recycling for 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10?

Answer: The combined recycling National Indicator (NI) 192 is as follows:

06/07 - 27.7%
07/08 - 39.0%
08/09 - 43.2%
09/10 - 46.4%.

Supplemental Question: What is the administration's target for 2014?

Supplemental Answer: The target for 2014 is laid out in our manifesto and is a leap to 65%, which will be challenging. To achieve this, the Council will need to work closely with West Waste Authority in future procurement contracts.

5.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: What were the levels of street litter, etc., for 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10, as measured by NI 195 and the previous equivalent indicator?

Answer: The previous indicator BVP1 199 scores were as follows:

Year	Litter and Detritus	Graffiti	Fly Posting
2007/08	30.66	8	1
2006/07	34	8	1

In years 2008-9 and 2009-10, it moved to National Indicator 195 and the scores were as follows:

Year	Litter	Detritus	Litter and Detritus	Graffiti	Fly Posting
2009/10	4	8	6	7	0
2008/09	18.54	22.8	20.67	7.8	0

Supplemental Question: These are excellent figures. Therefore, why does the Labour Manifesto say “look around Harrow, it is shabby, streets not swept properly, weeds, neglect everywhere”?

Therefore, what should the target be and how much money is the administration going to put into the Public Realm Department in order to deliver that target?

Cllr O'Dell The administration intends to seek to maintain performance at current top quartile levels of performance.

6.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: Despite the Labour government's claims of billions more for the NHS, at Harrow Primary Care Trust's Board meeting of April 27 2010 – and thus before the General Election and the change of government – a deficit of £32 million was reported, necessitating spending cuts of approximately £15.5m in 2010-11 and £16m in 2011-12. Can the Leader explain the financial and service consequences of Harrow PCT's financial mismanagement on our residents, the Council, local NHS services and the voluntary sector and what measures his administration is taking in response?

Answer: Thank you for the question. Neither I nor the Council have any direct responsibility for NHS Harrow, nor can I vouch for the figures which you cite in your question and which I have reason to believe have changed considerably.

However, as Chairman of the Harrow Partnership Board, I have arranged for NHS Harrow to attend a special meeting of the Board on 22 July 2010 to explain its current financial situation and answer any questions from Board Members. It was partly through your initiative that this meeting has been arranged.

The administration is concerned about the financial situation of NHS Harrow, and the problem has been ongoing for some time. The impact on Adult Services and our partners in the Third Sector is of concern.

There are several unresolved issues which are being pursued. The Council intends to work with NHS Harrow to ensure that service users and patients do not fall through any gap between the organisations. The Portfolio for Adult Social Care, Health and Well-Being and I recognise that this is a difficult situation for the Council.

Supplemental Question: With regard to the proposed cuts by the PCT for the current year to The Bridge and other mental health services within Harrow and the impact that these cuts will have on our most vulnerable residents, has the Council looked at the contingencies it might have to put in place to deal with the situation?

Supplemental Answer: The administration is pursuing the issues and, as Nominated Member, the Corporate Director and the Portfolio Holder will share with you the problems and the measures put in place to resolve the situation.

I hope that we are moving away from silo working and that the Council and its partners will work together to resolve issues for the benefit of the patients and the residents.

7.

Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bob Currie, Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: What is the Portfolio Holder doing to maximise the Housing Revenue Account's income?

Answer: The Housing Ambition Plan sets out a series of actions to maximise income collected through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and other service actions to improve value for money.

Value for money is one of the cross-cutting themes in the Harrow Action Plan (HAP) and all staff at the Housing Department have committed to do more to improve value for money, doing their best to deliver more for less in one of the 'Doing Things Differently' commitments that all housing projects within the HAP are judged by.

Specific actions include:

- action to increase rent collection to 98.5% by the year 2011;
- to introduce an inductory and demoted tenancy to encourage more tenants to pay their rent regularly and to seek help if they are experiencing difficulties;
- action to reduce re-letting time to 25 days by December 2010 which will in turn increase rental income;
- action to increase leaseholders' service charge collecting to 98% by the year 2011;
- developing a new charging model from scratch, which the Leaseholders' Support Group has helped to design;
- action to maximise income by increasing the use of our garages and halls by 50% by the year 2011.

These are a whole series of other actions in the plan designed to improve income and value for money. In due course, I shall be happy to discuss them in detail.

Supplemental Question: Does the Portfolio Holder think that the HRA should recover all funds owed to it and is he ensuring that the HRA is doing so?

Cllr Currie: Yes, the Council will be seeking to do this.

Cllr Stephenson: The Council is looking forward to the review of HRA, which the government intends to carry out. Whether there is a HRA in the next 2 or 3 years will be a matter of some interest.

8.

Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: Will Councillor Stephenson join me in congratulating the Communications Department for winning two LG Communications Reputation awards; for Crisis Communication regarding the December mosque protests, and Value for Money for the 'Have You Heard' campaign?

Answer: Thank you for the question.

I warmly welcome any achievement by any of the Council's staff or teams; be it winning a national award, a qualification, or a CREATE award; all of which should be celebrated.

Supplemental Question: Given the success, will the administration continue with the contract with Westminster Communications or will it seek to exercise the break clause in the contract?

Supplemental Answer: Like any prudent administration, we have a break clause. My administration will enter into discussions with Westminster Communications to ensure value for money.

9.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Mrs Rekha Shah, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services

Question: Your manifesto states that you intend to: "Explore the potential for extra funding for grants to voluntary and community groups and further develop grants policies especially for Service Level Agreements (SLAs)." What sort of increase in grant funding do you hope to achieve, and which SLAs are you intending to focus on?

Answer: Thank you for the question.

The Council recognises the valuable role and the contribution of the voluntary and community sector in Harrow. The administration would like to increase the

funding both through grants and commissioning. However, in light of the current adverse economic climate and, in light of the government's recent budget announcement, all funding will reviewed.

The administration is reviewing the grants system and examining the position of the SLAs. It is also making efforts through London Councils to cut back the amount the Council pays to the organisation with a view to using the resources to provide grants in Harrow.

Supplemental Question: Would you agree that the grants system and the SLAs need to be looked at?

Supplemental Answer: Yes, I do.

10.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts

Question: Do you intend to make any adjustments to any major Council contracts?

Answer: At present all contracts are being looked at. Any changes to contracts that would benefit the residents of Harrow will be considered.

Supplemental Question: Will you support the outsourcing of the Council's IT provision?

Supplemental Answer: All contracts are being looked at.

8. Forward Plan 1 June - 30 September 2010

The Leader of the Council advised that reports relating to 'Dangerous Dogs', 'Children's Services Placement Costs' and 'IT Strategy' listed on the June 2010 Forward Plan had been deferred to the July 2010 Cabinet meeting.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the Forward Plan for the period 1 June 2010 – 30 September 2010.

RESOLVED ITEMS

9. **Timetable for the Preparation and Consideration of Statutory Plans and Strategies**

Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services, which set out the requirements of the Council's Constitution in terms of the development of its policy framework and sought approval to the timetable for consideration of statutory plans and strategies.

The Leader of the Council stated that reference to the Local Area Agreement be deleted, as the government had announced that this was to be discontinued.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) subject to the deletion of the Local Area Agreement, the timetable for the preparation and consideration of the statutory plans and strategies at Appendix A to the report be approved;
- (2) variation to the timetable be reserved to the Leader of the Council.

Reason for Decision: To comply with the requirements of paragraph 3 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in Section 4C of the Council's Constitution.

10. **Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and Audit Fee Letters 2010/11**

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Finance, which provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed work plan and fees of the Audit Commission and the External Auditor.

The Leader of the Council stated that detailed discussions had taken place on the fees at the Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee (GARMC), the levels of which had been the subject of cross-party concern. Whilst there would be some saving on the fees charged in the future due to the discontinuation of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and Use of Resources by the government, Cabinet remained concerned about the levels already charged, particularly in the light of the fact that some local authorities had been charged below the scale audit fee.

The Leader moved a number of recommendations, which were duly seconded.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the GARMC be congratulated on the excellent job it had done in monitoring the Audit and Inspection fees, which were 10% above the Audit Commission's recommended scale fee;

- (2) GARMC keep the Audit and Inspection fees under review in subsequent years and monitor the fee for 2010/11 given that all CAA work was to be discontinued;
- (3) Cabinet is of the view that, in these difficult financial times, audit fees should be subject to the same cuts as in other parts of the private and public sector.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that Cabinet had a view of the work to be undertaken by the Audit Commission and the External Auditor in 2010/11.

11. Response to Scrutiny Standing Review of the Budget (Report from Phase Two)

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Finance, responding to the recommendations following the Phase 2 of the Scrutiny Standing Review of the Budget.

The Leader of the Council commended Members and officers for their work on the scrutiny review and welcomed all the recommendations made by the Standing Review Group, particularly that relating to the charging framework. He hoped that the review of the budget by scrutiny would continue.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Standing Review of the Budget, Phase 2 at Appendix A to the report, be approved;
- (2) the timetable for implementation be noted.

Reason for Decision: To address the recommendations from the Scrutiny Standing Review of the Budget.

12. Key Decision – Revenue and Capital Outturn 2009/10

Cabinet considered a report, which set out the Council's revenue and capital outturn position for 2009/10.

The Leader of the Council advised that the position at the end of 2009/10 was positive and that a total of £5.1m underspend had been delivered. After allowing for the required allocations to reserves and balances and commitments and carry forwards, this reduced to £1.7m which was available for Council priorities. He thanked the Directorates for their achievements.

It was noted that due to various pressures in the Children's Services Directorate, an overspend of approximately £2m had been registered. It was further recognised that the budget allocation for 2010/11 for Children's services was not sufficient so that it £1m extra funding had been allocated to Children's Services. This might not be sufficient to address the challenges that the Directorate continued to face.

The Leader drew attention to appendix 4 of the report and welcomed the decision that no carry forwards were to be released until they had been scrutinised. He was pleased to report that a sum of £100k from the Community and Environment underspend would be used to help repair the pot holes. This money was in addition to £250k agreed in 2009/10. In addition, Sunday opening of Gayton Road library would be introduced from September 2010, the cost of which would be met from existing library budget.

Cabinet noted that some difficult decisions lay ahead and that proposals for in-year savings would be submitted to the July 2010 Cabinet meeting. Furthermore, it was disappointing that the Local Area Agreement Reward Grant would no longer be available due to central government policy changes.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the revenue and capital outturn position for 2009/10 be noted;
- (2) the allocation of underspend of £1.6m at paragraph 21 to the report be approved;
- (3) the proposed revenue carry forwards and commitments at appendix 4 to the report be approved;
- (4) the position on general balances be noted and the additional contribution of £78,000 be approved;
- (5) the timetable for the audit committee meetings and external audit reviews be noted;
- (6) the carry forward on capital projects at appendix 2 to the report be approved.

Reason for Decision: To confirm the financial position as at 31 March 2010.

13. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2009/10

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Finance setting out a summary of Treasury Management activities for 2009/10.

The Divisional Director, Finance and Procurement, stated that the performance set out in the report was positive and outlined the favourable position in relation to lending, borrowing and investment activities. As a result of the investment rate obtained and a lower borrowing rate achieved, a contribution of £2m had been made to the underspend. She was pleased to report that the Council had performed within the treasury and prudential indicators.

The Leader of the Council noted that this report would be referred to Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee for their comments.

RESOLVED: That the outturn position for Treasury Management activities for 2009/10 be noted.

Reason for Decision: To promote effective financial management, comply with the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2003 and other relevant guidance. To be informed of Treasury Management activities and performance.

[Call-In does not apply to the Decision.]

14. Key Decision - Introductory and Demoted Tenancies

Cabinet considered a report of the Divisional Director Housing Services, which set out proposals for introducing an introductory and demoted tenancy regime, as part of the provisions set out in Section 124 of the Housing Act 1996, and the Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Act 2003.

The Divisional Director informed Cabinet that the Tenants' and Leaseholders' Consultative Forum had considered the matter on 25 February 2010, which had unanimously supported the proposals. She was of the view that the proposals would help change tenant behaviour and explained how aspects of the two introductory and demoted tenancy regimes would operate.

Cabinet noted that further work on the proposals would be carried out and reported on with a view to introducing the regime. The Divisional Director added that any eviction would continue to involve proceedings in the court of law.

RESOLVED: That an Introductory and Demoted Tenancy Regime be introduced.

Reason for Decision: To help ensure that new tenants behaved within the remit of their tenancy agreement and that secure tenancies were granted to those who, after 12 months of having been an introductory tenant, had demonstrated that they could be responsible tenants. If there were any breaches in the introductory 12 months, the Council would be able to determine the tenancy more quickly.

To allow the Council to apply to the County Court for a 'demotion order' under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 to terminate a secure tenancy and create a demoted tenancy (which will have the status of a non-secure tenancy) in circumstances where the tenant or a person residing or visiting the tenant's property had engaged in or had threatened to engage in anti-social behaviour or had used the premises for unlawful purposes.

Introductory and Demoted tenancies would provide greater options to resolve tenancy breaches, and would benefit other members of the community.

15. Key Decision - Food Law Enforcement Policy

The Corporate Director of Community and Environment introduced the report, which sought approval of the Food Law Enforcement Policy to meet the requirements of the Food Standards Agency (FSA). It was noted that the Policy, if approved, would incorporate the existing enforcement principals contained in general enforcement policy for environmental health functions.

As a result, a stand-alone policy for the enforcement of food safety legislation would be created.

RESOLVED: That the Food Law Enforcement Policy be approved.

Reason for Decision: To meet the requirements of the FSA and to undertake statutory food safety functions, as contained within the Food Standards Act 1990.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.25 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR BILL STEPHENSON
Chairman

APPENDIX 1



Cllr Bill Stephenson
Leader of the Council
Tel: 020 8420 9691 / 020 8427 0247
Email: bill.stephenson@harrow.gov.uk

Pravin Seedher
(response sent by electronic mail)

28 June 2010

Dear Pravin,

Thank you for your question to the Cabinet meeting held on 23 June 2010.

Please find attached the response in relation to your main question.

Regards,

Yours sincerely

Bill Stephenson

**Bill Stephenson (Cllr)
(Leader of the Council)**

QUESTION

“For each year-end beginning in March 1994 - March 2010, what was the position with regard to the following?

Reserves

Amount of Reserves and as a % of all Council income.

Council Tax, GLA Tax and Combined Total Council Tax

Actual yearly rise and average over 4 yr term.

CPA and CAA assessment

Ratings and/or stars.”

Reserves

Please refer to the excel table (attached separately).

Council Tax, GLA Tax and Combined Total Council Tax

Please refer to the excel table (attached separately).

CPA and CAA assessment

CPA began in 2002, prior to which there was no overall performance assessment issued for local authorities. Our results from that time:

Year	Overall category	Direction of travel
CPA		
2002	Weak	None issued
2003	Fair	None issued
2004	Fair	None issued
CPA - Change of methodology to “The Harder Test”		
2005	2 stars (out of 4)	Improving well
2006	2 stars	Improving adequately
2007	2 stars	Improving adequately
2008	2 stars	Improving well
Change to CAA – Organisational Assessment		
2009	3 out of 4	None issued
2010	(CAA abolished)	

**PUBLIC QUESTION 3 RESERVES
CABINET - 23 JUNE 2010**

Year Ending	Income £000	Reserves £000	% of income
31.03.1994	241,743	25,833	10.69%
31.03.1995	262,096	27,836	10.62%
31.03.1996	253,293	24,687	9.75%
31.03.1997	258,699	15,724	6.08%
31.03.1998	264,665	10,736	4.06%
31.03.1999	297,516	10,368	3.48%
31.03.2000	280,835	7,549	2.69%
31.03.2001	317,086	7,045	2.22%
31.03.2002	376,442	13,603	3.61%
31.03.2003	378,908	11,370	3.00%
31.03.2004	469,021	9,174	1.96%
31.03.2005	442,879	11,513	2.60%
31.03.2006	451,653	2,607	0.58%
31.03.2007	474,764	1,552	0.33%
31.03.2008	503,428	5,004	0.99%
31.03.2009	513,554	10,623	2.07%
31.03.2010	561,094	13,255	2.36% Provisional

HARROW COUNCIL
 BUSINESS CONNECTIONS - CORPORATE FINANCE
 TAX LEVELS SINCE 1993 (Band D)

Year	Harrow		4 Year average	GLA etc		4 Year average	Total		4 Year average
	Council Tax	% Change		Council Tax	% Change		Council Tax	% Change	
1993-1994	407.20			145.80			553.00		
1994-1995	396.53	-2.62%	a	152.47	4.57%		549.00	-0.72%	
1995-1996	492.33	24.16%	a	66.84	-56.16%		559.17	1.85%	
1996-1997	509.34	3.45%	a	70.35	5.25%		579.69	3.67%	
1997-1998	586.94	15.24%	a	81.76	16.22%	-7.5%	668.70	15.35%	5.0%
1998-1999	627.19	6.86%	a	96.32	17.81%	-4.2%	723.51	8.20%	7.3%
1999-2000	662.52	8.62%	a	105.01	9.02%	12.1%	767.53	8.85%	9.0%
2000-2001	729.65	6.91%	b	122.98	17.11%	15.0%	852.63	8.27%	10.2%
2001-2002	788.07	8.01%	b	150.88	22.69%	16.7%	938.95	10.12%	8.9%
2002-2003	835.38	6.00%	b	173.88	15.24%	16.0%	1,009.26	7.49%	8.7%
2003-2004	1,001.16	19.84%	b	224.40	29.05%	21.0%	1,225.56	21.43%	11.8%
2004-2005	1,033.89	3.27%	b	241.33	7.54%	18.6%	1,275.22	4.05%	10.8%
2005-2006	1,041.28	0.71%	b	254.62	5.51%	14.3%	1,295.90	1.62%	8.6%
2006-2007	1,067.19	2.49%	b	288.61	13.35%	13.9%	1,355.80	4.68%	7.9%
2007-2008	1,119.50	4.90%	b	303.88	5.29%	7.9%	1,423.38	4.98%	3.8%
2008-2009	1,152.55	2.95%	b	309.82	1.95%	6.5%	1,462.37	2.74%	3.6%
2009-2010	1,186.55	2.95%	b	309.82	0.00%	5.1%	1,496.37	2.32%	3.7%
2010-2011	1,186.55	0.00%	b	309.82	0.00%	1.8%	1,496.37	0.00%	2.5%

a = Met. Police & London Fire CD Authority
 b = GLA