

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## 7 JULY 2011

**Present:**

- \* Councillor Mrinal Choudhury (The Worshipful the Mayor)
- \* Councillor Nizam Ismail (The Deputy Mayor)

**Councillors:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Husain Akhtar</li> <li>* Sue Anderson</li> <li>* Nana Asante</li> <li>* Mrs Camilla Bath</li> <li>* Christine Bednell</li> <li>* James Bond</li> <li>* Mrs Lurline Champagnie OBE</li> <li>* Kam Chana</li> <li>* Ramji Chauhan</li> <li>* Bob Currie</li> <li>* Margaret Davine</li> <li>* Mano Dharmarajah</li> <li>* Tony Ferrari</li> <li>* Keith Ferry</li> <li>* Ann Gate</li> <li>* Brian Gate</li> <li>* David Gawn</li> <li>* Stephen Greek</li> <li>* Mitzi Green</li> <li>* Susan Hall</li> <li>* Graham Henson</li> <li>* Thaya Idaikkadar</li> <li>† Krishna James</li> <li>* Manji Kara</li> <li>* Jean Lammiman</li> <li>* Barry Macleod-Cullinane</li> <li>* Kairul Kareema Marikar</li> <li>* Ajay Maru</li> <li>* Jerry Miles</li> <li>* Mrs Vina Mithani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Amir Moshenson</li> <li>* Chris Mote</li> <li>* Janet Mote</li> <li>* John Nickolay</li> <li>* Joyce Nickolay</li> <li>* Christopher Noyce</li> <li>* Phillip O'Dell</li> <li>* Asad Omar</li> <li>* Paul Osborn</li> <li>* Varsha Parmar</li> <li>* David Perry</li> <li>* Bill Phillips</li> <li>* Raj Ray</li> <li>* Richard Romain</li> <li>* Anthony Seymour</li> <li>* Lynda Seymour</li> <li>* Navin Shah</li> <li>* Mrs Rekha Shah</li> <li>* Sachin Shah</li> <li>* Zarina Sheikh</li> <li>* Stanley Sheinwald</li> <li>* Victoria Silver</li> <li>* Bill Stephenson</li> <li>* William Stoodley</li> <li>* Krishna Suresh</li> <li>* Sasi Suresh</li> <li>* Yogesh Teli</li> <li>* Ben Wealthy</li> <li>* Simon Williams</li> <li>* Stephen Wright</li> </ul>
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\* Denotes Member present  
† Denotes apologies received

### **130. MUNICIPAL JOURNAL AWARDS**

Following a welcome of the receipt for the Municipal Journal Best Achieving Council Award and having been invited by the Mayor, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bill Stephenson, spoke on the Council's achievement. He explained that the Award had been adjudicated on by a high calibre of judges and demonstrated the Council's significant achievements which had led to this success.

### **131. COUNCIL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED: That**

- (i) the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 April and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 12 May 2011, be taken as read and signed as correct records;**
- (ii) the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 10 May 2011 be taken as read and signed as a correct record subject to the following minor amendment at minute 110:**

**"The retiring Mayor, Councillor Asad Omar, then invested the Mayoress, Mrs Rama Choudhury, with her medallion of office".**

### **132. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Mayor invited appropriate declarations of interest. Members declaring interests considered these to be personal and that they could speak and vote thereon.

#### Item 10 – Revenue and Capital Outturn 2010/11

Councillor Husain Akhtar declared that his son worked for the NHS.

Councillor Sue Anderson declared that she worked for the NHS.

Councillor Ann Gate declared that she was employed by the NHS.

Councillor Brian Gate declared that his wife was an employee of the NHS.

Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar declared that his daughter worked for the NHS.

Councillor Chris Mote declared that a relative was in receipt of disability benefits and accommodation from the Council and his daughter was a nurse in the NHS.

Councillor Janet Mote declared that she was a member of ATL and a relative was in receipt of disability benefits and accommodation from the Council.

#### Item 14 – Amendments to Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Husain Akhtar declared that he was a local authority appointed member on the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Sue Anderson declared that she was a trustee of the Welldon Activity Group, the Harrow Association of Disabled People and the Harrow Nature Conservation Forum.

Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagnie declared that she was a member of Relate North West London.

Councillor Ramji Chauhan declared that he was a member of Harrow Agenda 21.

Councillor Margaret Davine declared that she was a trustee of Relate North West London and a member of Harrow in Europe.

Councillor Brian Gate declared that he was a member of Harrow in Europe and Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Susan Hall declared that she was the Chairman of the Community Safety Committee for LFEPA.

Councillor Manji Kara declared that he was a member of Harrow in Europe, Aid UK and the Harrow Refugees' Forum.

Councillor Jean Lammiman declared that she was a member of Harrow in Europe, Harrow Young Musicians, Harrow Association of Voluntary Services, Harrow Equalities Centre and Relate North West London.

Councillor John Nickolay declared that he was the chairman of trustees for the Welldon Activity Group and a member of Harrow in Europe.

Councillor Joyce Nickolay declared that she was a member of the Harrow Association of Voluntary Services, Bentley Priory, Harrow Weald Common Conservators and Harrow in Europe.

Councillor Raj Ray declared that he was a member of the National Autistic Society – Harrow Branch.

Councillor Navin Shah declared that he was a member of the Harrow Equalities Centre and the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation.

Councillor Yogesh Teli declared that he was a trustee and Chairman of the Ashiana Trust.

#### Item 16(1) – Motions – London Grants

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared that he was an employee of London Councils Ltd.

### Item 16(2) – Motions – Strike Action

Councillor Sue Anderson declared that she was a member of Unison and the Public Commercial Services Union.

Councillor James Bond declared that he was an employee of the London Underground.

Councillors Bob Currie and Margaret Davine declared that they were retired members of Unison.

Councillor Keith Ferry declared that he, along with his wife, were members of the GMB Union.

Councillor Stephen Greek declared that he was an employee of the London Assembly.

Councillor Jerry Miles declared that he was a member of Unison.

Councillor Amir Moshenson declared that his wife was a member of NASWT.

Councillor Lynda Seymour declared that she was a member of Unison.

Councillor Navin Shah declared that he was a member of the GMB Union and the London Assembly.

Councillor Sachin Shah declared that he was a member of the Unite Union.

Councillor William Stoodley declared that he was a former branch secretary for the Public Commercial Services Union.

### **133. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor requested that Council note the engagements he had undertaken. The Mayor paid particular attention to the following:

- that he had attended 95 engagements so far, the Deputy Mayor had attended 27 and the Alderman 11. Additionally the Mayor had been supported by other Members of Council;
- the Mayor had particularly enjoyed the events relating to the Carers' week and Harrow College.

The Mayor also congratulated those residents of Harrow who had recently been awarded in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours.

**RESOLVED: That the report of the Worshipful the Mayor, as tabled, be received.**

## 134. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- (i) In accordance with Rules 14.6 and 14.7, the Mayor advised that the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Susan Hall, had exercised her right that the referral of the London Grants Motion to Cabinet be disapplied. This allowed Council to debate the Motion and offer comments or recommendations to Cabinet in its consideration of the matter.
- (ii) The Mayor announced that he had received notice within the tabled papers of 3 amendments in respect of Motions on the Summons. These would be dealt with at the items concerned.
- (iii) Councillor Paul Osborn rose to request the Mayor to rule concerning the admission of the proposed amendment to the Motion at Item 16(1) – London Grants in that in his view, it negated the substantive Motion. The Mayor ruled that the Motion was in order and was to be considered by Council.

### **RESOLVED: That**

- (1) It be agreed the London Grants Motion would be the final Motion debated by the Council;**
- (2) the 3 amendments submitted in respect of Motions on the Summons, be dealt with at the Motions concerned.**
- (3) the ruling, by the Mayor, of the amendment to Motion 16(1) “London Grants” as being In Order, be noted.**

## 135. PETITIONS

In accordance with Rule 10, the following petitions were presented:

- (i) Petition submitted by Councillor James Bond containing 54 signatures of residents requesting the Council to maintain the road surface at Imperial Close, North Harrow including repairing potholes.

[The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].

- (ii) Petition submitted by Councillor Susan Hall containing 25 signatures of Members and residents expressing their disappointment “that Harrow Council has received a rebate totaling at least £300,000 from the London Boroughs’ Grant Scheme, but has so far refused to allocate the entirety of this rebate to its central Grants pot”.

[The petition stood referred to the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation].

- (iii) Petition submitted by Councillor Susan Hall containing 25 signatures of Members and residents expressing their concern “that Harrow Council has received £2.1 million from NHS Harrow (Under a s.256 agreement) for the purposes of funding adult care, but has instead chosen to allocate this money to the newly formed Transformation and Priority Initiatives Fund”.

[The petition stood referred to the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation].

- (iv) Petition submitted by Councillor Ramji Chauhan containing 42 signatures of residents requesting the Council to repair potholes in Weald Rise.

[The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].

- (v) Petition submitted by Councillor Ramji Chauhan containing 37 signatures of residents requesting the Council to repair potholes in The Avenue, HA3.

[The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].

- (vi) Petition submitted by Councillor Ramji Chauhan containing 32 signatures of residents requesting the Council to repair potholes in the Chestnut Drive, HA3.

[The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].

- (vii) Petition submitted by Councillor Tony Ferrari containing 31 signatures of residents requesting the Council to repair potholes in Whitegate Gardens.

[The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].

- (viii) Petition submitted by Councillor Tony Ferrari containing 12 signatures of residents requesting repairs to the road surface at Bancroft Road and Courtney Gardens.

[The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].

- (ix) Petition submitted by Councillor Tony Ferrari containing 22 signatures of residents requesting investment in repairs to Monro Gardens.
- [The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].
- (x) Petition submitted by Councillor Tony Ferrari containing 34 signatures of residents requesting the Council to repair potholes in Hampden Road.
- [The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].
- (xi) Petition submitted by Councillor Stephen Greek containing 24 signatures of residents requesting the Council to repair potholes in Hitherwell Drive, Harrow Weald.
- [The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].
- (xii) Petition submitted by Councillor Stephen Greek containing 19 signatures of residents requesting the Council to repair potholes in Marcias Avenue.
- [The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].
- (xiii) Petition submitted by Councillor Stephen Greek containing 13 signatures of residents requesting the Council to repair potholes in Silver Close, Harrow Weald.
- [The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].
- (xiv) Petition submitted by Councillor Stephen Greek containing 12 signatures of residents requesting the Council to repair potholes in Wilsmere Drive.
- [The petition stood referred to the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety].
- (xv) Petition submitted by Ms Angela Dias containing 1600 signatures requesting the Council to re-consider its use of the allocation of funding of £2.1 million from the Department of Health.

[The petition stood referred to the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee].

#### **136. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

In accordance with Rule 11, the questions submitted by members of the public and responded to by Portfolio Holders are contained at Appendix I.

#### **137. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader of the Council introduced his report highlighting achievements and proposals since the last ordinary meeting.

At the conclusion of his report, the Leader responded to questions from Members of the Council.

**RESOLVED: That the report of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.**

#### **138. TRANSPORT LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Further to Item 8 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the meeting of Cabinet held on 19 May 2011.

The Recommendation was formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bill Stephenson.

**RESOLVED: That the revised Transport Local Implementation Plan (LIP2) be adopted.**

#### **139. COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN**

Further to Item 9 on the Supplemental Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the meeting of Cabinet held on 22 June 2011.

The Recommendation was formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bill Stephenson.

**RESOLVED: That the Community Safety Plan be adopted.**

#### **140. REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2010/11**

(i) Further to Item 10 on the Supplemental Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the meeting of Cabinet held on 22 June 2011.



- (ii) The Recommendation was formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bill Stephenson.
- (iii) Following a full debate an amendment was moved by Councillor Susan Hall, seconded by Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane to recommendation (ii) that *“the transfer of 50% of the funding received from the PCT to establish a Voluntary Sector Fund be approved, to provide financial support for social care related voluntary organisations”*. Following the rising of 10 Councillors making the request a Roll Call Vote was held:

**FOR:** Councillors Akhtar, Bath, Bednell, Bond, Mrs Champagne, Chana, Chauhan, Ferrari, Greek, Hall, Kara, Lammiman, Macleod-Cullinane, Mrs Mithani, Moshenson, Chris Mote, Janet Mote, John Nickolay, Joyce Nickolay, Noyce, Osborn, Romain, Anthony Seymour, Lynda Seymour, Sheinwald, Teli, Williams and Wright.

**AGAINST:** The Mayor (Councillor Choudhury), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Ismail), Councillors Anderson, Currie, Dharmarajah, Ferry, Ann Gate, Brian Gate, Gawn, Green, Henson, Idaikkadar, Khalid, Marikar, Maru, Miles, O’Dell, Omar, Parmar, Perry, Phillips, Ray, Navin Shah, Mrs Rekha Shah, Sachin Shah, Silver, Stephenson, Stoodley, Krishna Suresh, Sasikala Suresh and Wealthy.

**ABSTAIN:** Councillors Asante and Davine.

- (iv) Upon the Roll Call vote, the amendment at (iii) was lost;
- (v) Following the loss of the amendment a second amendment was moved to recommendation (ii) by Councillor Susan Hall, seconded by Councillor Osborn that: *“the transfer of 50% of the funding received from the PCT to establish a Transition Relief Fund be approved, for the purpose of providing transitional support to any social services users who face increased costs as the result of the outcome of the Adult Services Consultations”*.
- (vi) During the debate on the new amendment, Councillor Phillip O’Dell moved a Motion that the amendment now be put. Upon a request by more than 10 Councillors a roll call vote was held with regard to the motion.
- (vii) During the voting process a Member rose in accord with Rule 18.1 to query whether a vote should be counted and the Mayor, after due consideration and receiving advice, stated that the Member’s vote would not be accepted as he had not been seated in the Chamber at the commencement of the Roll Call process.

**FOR:** Councillors Akhtar, Bath, Bednell, Bond, Mrs Champagne, Chana, Chauhan, Ferrari, Greek, Hall, Kara, Lammiman, Macleod-Cullinane, Mrs Mithani, Moshenson, Janet Mote, John Nickolay, Joyce Nickolay, Noyce, Osborn, Romain, Anthony Seymour, Lynda Seymour, Sheinwald, Teli, Williams and Wright.

**AGAINST:** The Mayor (Councillor Choudhury), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Ismail), Councillors Anderson, Currie, Dharmarajah, Ferry, Ann Gate, Brian Gate, Gawn, Green, Henson, Idaikkadar, Khalid, Marikar, Maru, Miles, O'Dell, Omar, Parmar, Perry, Phillips, Ray, Navin Shah, Mrs Rekha Shah, Sachin Shah, Silver, Stephenson, Krishna Suresh, Sasikala Suresh and Wealthy.

**ABSTAIN:** Councillors Asante, Davine and Stoodley.

- (viii) Upon the carrying of the Roll Call vote, a further vote held on the amendment at (v) was lost;
- (ix) Upon a final vote the substantive recommendations set out in the Council Summons, were agreed.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (i) **the allocation of the net £2.1 million received from the Primary Care Trust (PCT) in 2011/12 to the Adult Social Care Budget be approved;**
- (ii) **the transfer of £2.1 million of funding previously allocated by the Council to the Adult Social Care Budget to the Transformation and Priority Initiatives Fund be approved;**
- (iii) **the addition of £1.0 million to the 2011/12 capital budget to fund disabled adaptations to housing in Harrow be approved, with the proviso that overall spend on the Council's general fund capital budget in 2011/12 does not exceed the previously agreed amount.**

#### **141. SOCIAL MEDIA PROTOCOL**

Further to Item 11 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 16 June 2011.

The Recommendation was formally moved by the Mayor.

**RESOLVED: That the Social Media Protocol be adopted and incorporated into the Constitution.**

#### **142. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11**

Further to Item 12 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 April 2011.

The Recommendation was formally moved by the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Jerry Miles, who also registered his thanks to all Councillors and officers involved in scrutiny.

**RESOLVED: That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/11 be noted.**

**143. OPERATION AND PROVISIONS FOR CALL-IN & URGENCY 2010/11**

The Council received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services providing information in relation to the operation of the Call-in and Urgency procedures during the Municipal Year 2010/11.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

**144. AMENDMENTS TO REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Item 14 on the Summons provided for the receipt of proposals to amend the representation of the Authority to serve on three Outside Bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2011/12. The nominations of the Groups were notified in the Summons.

**RESOLVED: That the amendments to representatives of the following Outside Body appointments for the Municipal Year 2011/12, be approved:**

<b>OUTSIDE BODY</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE TO BE REPLACED</b>	<b>NEW REPRESENTATIVE</b>	<b>POLITICAL GROUP HOLDING NOMINATION</b>
<b>LBH Bus &amp; Highways Liaison Meeting</b>	<b>Councillor Susan Hall</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs Camilla Bath</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
<b>LBH Rail Liaison Meeting</b>	<b>Councillor Susan Hall</b>	<b>Councillor Mrs Camilla Bath</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
<b>Victoria Hall, Harrow</b>	<b>Councillor Bill Phillips</b>	<b>Councillor Ben Wealthy</b>	<b>Labour</b>

**145. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

In accordance with Rule 12, the questions submitted by Councillors and responded to by Portfolio Holders, are contained at Appendix II. Responses to those questions which were not reached during the period allowed for questions are also included and were circulated to all Members in written form.

## 146. MOTION - LONDON GRANTS

- (i) At item 16(1) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Susan Hall and Barry Macleod-Cullinane in the following terms:

“This Council commits to:

- allocating the entire rebate (totalling at least £300,000) obtained this year from the London Boroughs’ Grants Scheme to Harrow Council’s central Grants pot.
- allocating all and any such future rebates from the London Boroughs’ Grants Scheme to Harrow Council’s central Grants pot.

This Council believes such actions will be of enormous benefit to Harrow’s voluntary organisations.”

- (ii) There was an amendment in the names of Councillors Bill Stephenson and David Perry, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

“This Council notes that in an ideal world the Council would wish to use a significant part or all of the London Council’s grant refund for funding grants and commissioning the voluntary and third sector locally and regionally.

However this Council notes:

- that over the next four years it has to make £62 million savings which is equivalent to a third of its controllable budget and that every part of the Council needs to contribute to the savings;
- that the budget set in February had to make £19 million savings to deal with unprecedented cuts to Local Government grant and that savings of £357,000 made by London Councils to its grants programme were included in this budget;
- that in the light of the above the Council grants programme was only cut by 15% rather than 30% and that this compares favourably with many other councils which have made much larger cuts to their grants programmes;

This Council requests Cabinet to continue to press London Councils to further cut back its grants programme and asks Cabinet to consider how any money so saved may be used to support the voluntary and third sector both locally and regionally.”

- (iii) Upon a vote, the amendment as (ii) was carried;
- (iv) Upon a vote the substantive Motion, as amended, was agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the substantive motion as amended and set out at (ii) above, be referred to the Executive.**

#### **147. MOTION - STRIKE ACTION**

- (i) At item 16(2) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Barry Macleod-Cullinane and Susan Hall in the following terms:

“This Council welcomes the efforts made by Harrow East MP Bob Blackman and London Assembly Member Richard Tracey, among others, to convince the Government of the merits of Unions being required to secure a majority of their total membership in favour of strike action before undertaking a strike.

This Council notes that:

- the estimated cost to London for each strike on the Underground and transport system is around £50 million per day;
- a recent opinion poll shows fewer than 1 in 4 believe Unions should be able to call a strike without requiring a majority of their membership voting for strike action;
- last summer’s strikes on the Underground network were triggered by the votes of only a third of RMT members;
- as an outer-London borough, Harrow relies heavily on the transport links provided by London Underground, and is therefore severely impacted when strike action closes tube lines.

This Council believes that it is imperative that legislation is passed swiftly requiring Unions to secure a majority of their entire membership in favour of strike action before calling a strike and calls upon Harrow’s three local MPs – Bob Blackman, Nick Hurd and Gareth Thomas – to lobby for such legislation.

This Council further notes that, with barely a year to the start of the Olympics and the eyes of the world turning upon our great city, London’s public transport system cannot be allowed to be held hostage by a tiny minority of union militants.

This Council therefore also calls upon its three local MPs – Bob Blackman, Nick Hurd, and Gareth Thomas – to lobby for a “no-strike” deal to be in place in the run-up to and during the London 2012 Olympics.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to The Mayor of London, the Greater London Assembly, Harrows three MPs and the

Secretary of State for Transport to inform them of the content of this motion.”

- (ii) There was an amendment in the names of Councillors Nana Asante and Jerry Miles, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

“This Council notes the efforts made by Harrow East MP Bob Blackman and London Assembly Member Richard Tracey, among others, to convince the Government of the merits of Unions being required to secure a majority of their total membership in favour of strike action before undertaking a strike. This Council notes:

- that in 2007 the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry estimated the cost to London for each strike on the Underground and the transport system is around £50 million per day and further notes that the Chartered Institute of Management (CMI) survey of more than 900 managers, published in March 2010, showed that 54% believed their organisations were prepared "to a great extent" for remote working;
- that it would be hypocritical to ask that Unions have a majority of their total membership in favour of strike action before undertaking a strike given when that the Conservative Mayor of London was elected on a 45% turn out in the 2008 elections;
- that as an outer-London borough, Harrow relies heavily on the transport links provided by London Underground, and is therefore severely impacted when strike action closes tube line.

This Council is aware of the media campaign to seek a change in legislation to require Unions to secure a majority of their entire membership in favour of strike action before calling a strike and believes this to be totally disproportionate.

This Council believes that it is imperative that the Conservative Mayor of London meet the with the Trade Unions representing London Underground employees face to face as soon as possible and strike a deal as soon as possible through negotiation similar to the one with London Overground with regards to the Olympics and calls upon Harrow’s three local MPs – Bob Blackman, Nick Hurd and Gareth Thomas to lobby the Mayor of London to ensure he meets with the Unions who represent London Underground workers including the RMT ASLEF, TSSA and UNITE.

This Council takes the opportunity to point out to the Conservative Mayor of London that Harrovians are fed up with inconvenient week-end closures, inadequate rail replacement service, the endless engineering works, delays, cancellations, and fare rises. This Council notes with some concern that there was only one day in the last year when the Underground offered a good service on all lines for the whole day!

This Council notes that 43% of people think that the proposed pension reforms are wrong. This is not surprising, public service workers are highly regarded by the general public and people know that the pay freezes and job losses that have been introduced are a deeply unfair consequence of the actions of highly-paid bankers from the private sector.

This Council further notes that taking lawful industrial action is a fundamental human right that workers in many undemocratic regimes are demonstrating for and being praised for so-doing by this Government. Strong civil engagement and industrial action are a key to hope and progress. This Council notes that workers are not 'strike happy', and that industrial action is a last resort.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Conservative Mayor of London, the Greater London Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow, Harrow's three MPs and the Secretary of State for Transport to inform them of the content of this motion."

- (iii) Upon a vote, the amendment as (ii) was carried;
- (iv) Upon a vote the substantive Motion, as amended, was agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as amended and set out at (ii) above, be adopted.**

#### **148. MOTION - COMMENDATION OF STAFF**

- (i) At item 16(3) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Nana Asante and Phillip O'Dell in the following terms:

"This Council notes with great pleasure the contribution made by staff to winning the MJ Award for the Best Achieving Council. The Council notes the impressive journey of improvement, achievement and ambition. This Council also puts on record its thanks for the Leadership of the Chief Executive and his Senior Management Team who worked tirelessly with the present Administration to deliver £19 million in year savings. We wish to place on record our thanks to staff for supporting residents in making Harrow the best performing borough for composting and second best for recycling. It is a matter of record that Harrow is one of the safest London boroughs contributing less than 2% to London's overall crime rate.

We commend staff for embracing the Council's new Vision: 'Working together, our Harrow, our Community' and helping to deliver our new priorities:

- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe;
- United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads;

- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need;
- Supporting our town Centre, our local shopping centres and businesses.

We place on record our thanks to all staff for their work in delivering the innovative 'Let's Talk' campaign helping us transform service delivery and improve resident satisfaction. It is thanks to our staff that Harrow is now a leader in personalisation, service for carers, engagement and reablement. 85% of Harrow's schools are rated good or outstanding and our GCSEs place us in the top 12 LEAs in the country. 100% of Harrow's Schools are judged by Ofsted to have good or outstanding standards of behaviour and safeguarding. Harrow delivers the highest adoption rate in the country and credit for all the good work listed goes to our staff and partners. Our staff led CREATE values have helped drive the transformation which has led to this well earned recognition by the MJ Awards.

The Council recognises that without our staff, we cannot keep the momentum and deliver innovation and improvements which benefit our residents. It is a great pleasure to place on record our thanks and encourage them to keep the momentum for more extraordinary achievements in the future."

- (ii) There was an amendment in the names of Councillors Susan Hall and Barry Macleod-Cullinane, which sought to amend the Motion as follows:

"This Councils notes with great pleasure the enormous contribution made by our staff to winning the 2011 Municipal Journal Award for Best Achieving Council.

This Council recognises that without our staff and the leadership of the Chief Executive and his senior management team, this award would not have been achieved.

This Council is delighted to place on record its thanks to all our staff, and pledges to continue encouraging them towards further excellent achievements in the future."

- (iii) Upon a vote, the amendment at (ii) was lost.
- (iv) Upon a further vote the substantive Motion at (i) above was agreed.

**RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as set out at (i) above, be adopted.**

**(CLOSE OF MEETING:** All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.39 pm).



## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

### COUNCIL MEETING

7 JULY 2011

#### PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by members of the public of a Member of the Executive, or the Chairman of any Committee.

1. **Questioner:** Matthew Lloyd

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

Responded to by Councillor David Perry (Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services)

**Question:** "Will your administration continue the Councils' commitment, to protect the much needed youth facilities such as, Harrow libraries from government spending cuts?"

**Answer:** We are committed to protecting libraries in the borough. As you are very much aware, we have taken steps to make savings of over £1,000,000 to put in self-service machines within our libraries. We are passionate to protect our libraries not only for the young but the old as well. We are committed to improving the provision and protecting our Library Service.

**Matthew Lloyd:** In relation to the Youth facilities I asked for, you said that you would defend them. So I am asking will you also defend our facilities from backdoor privatisation and abolition based on ideological scaremongering and debt myths?

**Supplemental Answer:** We will of course protect the service. It might be an ideal opportunity to promote and plug the "Let's Talk" campaign. You, yourself, friends and others will be able to shape the cultural strategy for libraries and others, I am sure you are a user. So there are lots of applications downstairs on the foyer or I am happy to send you one and you can get involved and help protect and improve our Library Service going forward.

**2. Questioner:** Mark Gillham

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

**Question** “What specific initiatives would the newly established Transformation and Priority Initiatives Fund pay for, which the Council could not otherwise afford?”

**Answer:** Thank you for your question. The general guidelines for the use of the Transformation Priorities Fund were given in the July Cabinet report and the general outline is ‘invest to save’ initiatives, including paying up-front redundancy costs and other transformation one-off priority actions. It is very much ‘one-off’ money.

We are currently considering help for a bid to the Mayor’s Outer London Commission Town Centre £50m fund. A one-off development to the web both to increase channel migration, develop more efficient methods for customers to transact business with us, as well as improving our ability to engage with residents better through the web.

We are also considering to fund a project to help modernise the terms and conditions of our staff and to fund further Voluntary Severance redundancy schemes in support of invest to save schemes.

This is ‘one-off’ money put into invest to save which will improve revenue savings in the future. Any proposal will be carefully vetted before being approved and any use of the fund will be reported to the next Quarterly Monitoring Report to the Cabinet. Any savings that we make by using this fund will help us to find £30m savings we need to make over the next 3 years, will benefit all directorates including Adult and Social Care. Adult and Social Care, and all other directorates can, and I know will, bid for funds for their own innovative invest to save schemes.

**Supplemental Question:** We strongly are urging Councillors tonight to vote against the establishment of this fund because of the serious implications for the most vulnerable Harrow residents.

Will the Harrow Leader recommend a change to the purpose of this fund so that it is spent solely on Adult Social Care, as the Council agreed formally with the Department of Health?

**Supplemental Answer:** We feel we have used the grant from the Department of Health properly in the proper way. Any savings we make by

this fund will help us not to have to make cuts in frontline services. We have got £30m savings to make over the next 3 years that is a tremendous difficulty for us. I am not going to recommend that we do what you ask and we will come that debate later on.

**3. Questioner:** Angela Dias

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

**Question** “How does the Council intend to fill the gaps in necessary services for local people, (such as the Welfare Benefit service at HAD), arising from services which are no longer being funded, or to deal with the consequent difficulties which will result for vulnerable people?”

**Answer:** We are facing very serious financial cuts in our funding. We cannot and never have, been able to fund everything we would like to fund. It is even more difficult given the cuts being imposed on us by the Government.

The Main Grants Programme is an annual competitive funding round and we had a record number of 131 applications, most of them a very high standard and the total applied for was £2.3m against an available budget of £600,000. We had a strict selection criteria of panels across the council, each application being assessed against the criteria as rigorously as possible. Sadly, we are not able to fund a large number of organisations who applied for funding this year.

For 2012/13, we are working towards the adoption of a Commissioning/small grants model which has been consulted on with the voluntary and third sector and other organisations. If this is implemented, then some of the problems that some of the large funders are facing will be able to be dealt with by commissioning. So again, if you have an annual competitive process I do not think this is a very good way to fund some of the major, like the Citizens' Advice Bureau or Welfare to Work in your area. Therefore I think commissioning will help to solve that problem and this is an interim year and we will be moving to a new system next year.

**Supplemental Question:** Given that there is a legal duty to consider possible adverse effects of significant decisions on protective groups, can you explain why there was no consultation or equality impact assessment that was considered to be important on the removal of the Department of Health funding from Adult

Social Care, given that in the consultation that we are supporting Adult Social Care with now, we have done a very thorough equality impact assessment which has identified a number of important equality issues, which need to be addressed when asking people to contribute towards the cost of their own services?

**Supplemental Answer:** I am happy to answer the question. I do not know that it necessarily follows that it is a supplementary.

We do not agree with you. We have put the £2.1m into the Social Care. Originally we were not sure that we would get the money, when we did get the money we put it into Social Care and we then put the money which was no longer needed for Social Care into the Priority and Transformation Fund. So I do not agree with the premise of the question.

4. **Questioner:** Deven Pillay

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

Responded to by Councillor Margaret Davine (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing)

**Question** "Can the Leader of the Council tell us how much the current consultation on proposals to reduce and charge for Adult services will cost the Council and how much savings the Council will make if these proposals are agreed and implemented?"

**Answer:** Thank you Deven, for your question. The full cost of the consultation is an estimated cost, of course because we are not halfway through yet, is £100,000. The anticipated savings from the proposals will depend, of course, on the outcome of the consultation exercise and whether these are agreed by Cabinet in October, but as part of the Council's 2011/12 budget approved in February we estimated possible savings for the Social Care budget of £950,000 and for the finance budget which is to do with the travel concessions of a further £500,000. This of course depends on what is agreed through the consultation. So we cannot possibly be firm about those savings. That is why we are going out and asking people.

**Supplemental:** Proposed supplemental was ruled by the Mayor to not be related to the question.

- 5. Questioner:** Avani Modasia
- Asked of:** Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)
- Question** "When was the application for funding to Department of Health made?"
- Answer:** I have had to make an assumption about the question you are asking. I assume this question relates to the money that the Department of Health has paid to PCTs for directing to local authorities. In this respect there is not a bidding or application process. Resources were notified to Council following the Comprehensive Spending Review and as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement in January 2011.
- Negotiations took place between the Council and PCT between January and March and the 256 agreement was signed in March 2011.
- Supplemental Question:** In that case, when was the Department of Health notified that the Section 256 agreement relating to the specific PCT allocation for Social Care to meet the rising costs of provision has now been apportioned for other purposes?
- Supplemental Answer:** I will have to give you an answer in writing.
- 6. Questioner:** Brewster White
- Asked of:** Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)
- Question** "Why was a Temporary Events Notice (TEN) issued to the Council for an event under s100 of the Licensing Act 2003 for a music event, and granted, for Yeading Walk from 2-4 July 2011, even though Yeading Walk is a Conservation Area?"
- According to the Harrow Council Unitary Development Plan: Environmental Protection and Open Space, EP45, 'Yeading Walk is designated a Green Chain. Green Chains are managed for nature conservation, public access and open air recreation'.
- Were the personnel in Public Realm Maintenance Service - Community & Environment not aware of the Council's policies. Why did they act Ultra Vires?

This application was submitted 12 months ago yet only the residents in the lower half of Lincoln Road and Suffolk Road were informed on Monday 27 June 2011 that such an event would be taking place. The residents of Lincoln Road, Suffolk Road and the surrounding roads are truly dissatisfied with this blatant disregard for the officers' duty to residents and their non adherence to Council's policy."

**Answer:** Thank you for your question Mr Brewster. The event in question was a Traditional Hindu wedding celebration. The main activities were held within a marquee. Although a wedding celebration would normally fall outside the licensing controls, a Temporary Events Notice (TEN) was issued to the Council for the event under s100 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the live music at the event. No alcohol was served at this event. Also, I wish to point out the holding of temporary events in parks and open spaces is not prevented by the UDP Plan or the 1906 Act.

**Supplemental Question:** I have looked at all the legislation.gov.uk legislation and there is no indication that a licence should have been granted for this Green Chain. What it has done is, it has resulted in the effect of creating atmosphere of animosity and distrust within the micro community where none existed before.

So we want to know why was a licence granted because we have not got that explanation yet.

**Supplemental Answer:** The issuing of a Temporary Events Notice is to Harrow Council. The only responsible authority that can object to the issuing of that licence is the Police Authority. Harrow Council did not receive any objection by the Police so therefore the law, under the Licensing Act 2003, presumes granting of that. So therefore the licence was granted.

**7. Mr Pravin Seedher was not in attendance and it was agreed that the written answer set out below be circulated after the Council meeting.**

**Questioner:** Pravin Seedher

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

**Question** "Will the Leader agree to passing on my congratulations to the Executive and staff of Harrow Council in winning the MJ Award for the Best Achieving Council and to what does the leader attribute the reasons for Harrow winning this award?"

**Answer:** I very much appreciate your congratulations which I know are sincere, and of course I will pass them on to all concerned.

I think I have really answered your question in my statement to Council. I can only repeat what the eminent MJ judges said:

'Harrow delivered sustained and embedded change using a modern approach to doing business but never losing sight of its priorities, namely its residents.'

'Harrow's political and managerial leaders showed both maturity and professionalism, and their sense of passion and pride for Harrow is tangible.'

There are, of course, so many different successes achieved over the last year it is difficult to put them in one single category. As our motion 3 later on indicates this was very much a collective effort between staff, councillors, partners and local residents all 'working together.'

**8. Questioner:** Donald Kerr

**Asked of:** Councillor Phillip O'Dell (Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question** "I would like to know why this wedding event was allowed to take place in Yeading Walk for some 400 people when officers advise us we have to respect the privacy of the event which is a little difficult to do with the marquees and pavilions being right up against the path through the park. This alone would surely have been enough reason together with absolutely no facilities in Yeading walkway for the event to be redirected to a much more suitable park venue with facilities. Residents have seen the officers' excuses and they are not adequate for professional staff".

**Answer:** In addition to the response I provided to the answer in Question 6, I would like to add that events involving a number of people are not unusual in our parks and open spaces, although there has not been one at this location previously. Our response to the notice for the event followed our standard consideration at any event application and while I accept that a number of residents were unhappy about the event, the Council did not consider that the event should be prevented from taking place. Although the event was a private function, the park was not closed to the public and access was retained for

passage through the park. However officers did reasonably ask the public to respect the privacy of the function.

**Supplemental Question:** As the site appears to be referred to as a Nature Conservation Area in Council plans, will outside professionals be employed to do a damage assessment to the flora and fauna disturbed by the event under the 1981 Wildlife Act with a view to prosecution of those responsible?

**Supplemental Answer:** I would suggest that the Council has already made an initial examination to see if the area which you relate to has been damaged and if it has, I am sure the department concerned will take necessary action to restore that park's open space.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

### COUNCIL MEETING

7 JULY 2011

#### QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE (ITEM 15)

Fifteen minutes will be allowed for Members of the Council to ask a Portfolio Holder a question on any matter in relation to which the Executive has powers or duties.

1. **Questioner:** Councillor James Bond

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

**Question:** "Last year, Harrow's Citizens Advice Bureau helped over 12,000 people, an increase of almost 80%. It has the second lowest core grant of all 32 London Boroughs, now under £80,000, which is less than a third of the average.

The CAB's Chief Executive tells me that with a grant of this level, its future financial viability is at risk.

Given that the service is mainly delivered by 39 local trained volunteers who donate time which if paid for would have cost the council more than £225,000, is this the right time to have cut their grant by 27% and leave the CAB facing potential closure?

Should we not instead make a special case for the CAB and actually be working to expand their service to meet the inevitable increase in demand for their services by the most vulnerable members of the population?"

**Answer:** The CAB does a fantastic job and it is totally over-stretched now and it will be even more totally over-stretched with the effects of the Government's reforms on housing benefits.

The Council also supports its residents. We have our own Housing Advice Bureau and a Recession Busting Group helps the unemployed and helps people with debt problems.

The CAB receives funding of 2 streams. One from the Main Grants Programme but also receives an SLA from the Council. The Main Grants Programme is an annual competitive funding round and again as I have pointed out, has a large number of applications for a relatively small amount of money, £600,000. It is my view that the CAB

should not be part of that process. It is the wrong way to do it and that is why we are moving towards the idea of commissioning. Nevertheless, they got 73% of what they asked for, that is £72,000.

Adults and Housing commission advice services from the CAB and they have a Service Level Agreement of £91,000 added to the £72,000 and again, it seems to me, commissioning is the right way forward.

Harrow Strategic Partnership has received an application from the CAB for support to enable it to expand its capacity in a sustainable way for the immediate recruitment of additional volunteers and a training officer to recruit and train further volunteers for the future.

Harrow Strategic Partnership will be considering this application on 12 July 2011 and I can confirm that Harrow Chief Executives have recommended that the CAB's application is supported in full and that will give a grant of £70,000 and they will be training volunteers to train other volunteers and help make that sustainable.

It still is not a very satisfactory situation and yes, I will be asking the Adults and Housing to look carefully about commissioning. CAB does a fantastic job and we must support them.

**Supplemental Question:** I take on board everything Councillor Stephenson says and I am sure he is very sincere in this, I know he is. I just believe that the Citizens' Advice Bureau should stand alone by its very alone. By its very name "Citizens' Advice", it is there for all sections of the community to call upon and it should not be put through this again.

We heard in earlier debates in the Council this evening various pots of money that cannot just be used willy nilly but I would strongly urge, my question to Councillor Stephenson is, can we not use a small portion of other monies to add to whatever is being committed to ensure that this service is expanded because I truly believe that is what is necessary for the community.

**Supplemental Answer:** Commissioning seems to me to be the way forward and I just pointed out to you that they are likely to get a grant of £90,000 from the Harrow Strategic Partnership to make them a lot more sustainable with more and more volunteers. To remind you, the Council itself does provide services, the Housing Advice Centre and also the Recession Busting Group does a lot of work with the Credit Union. We are doing our very, very best to help those who are most in

need. The real problem is that the Government is causing the problem with their reforms on housing benefits and rents etc.

**2. Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

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

**Question:** “Can you confirm whether, in the Council's meetings with NHS Harrow over the £2.1 million that has been received under a s.256 agreement, the possibility of giving some of that funding to service-providing voluntary groups was discussed, which s.257 of the Act suggests may be possible?”

**Answer:** I was not at the actual negotiations but I am advised that prior to and following the signed Section 256 on 29 March, regular meetings took place with appropriate officers of the Council & NHS Harrow to discuss opportunities of integrated working offering positive outcomes for vulnerable people in the community. Within these specific meetings there was no discussion of passporting this specific funding to the voluntary groups although there are a variety of initiatives in the Adult Social Care Department that offer opportunities to the third sector.

I will certainly ask that consideration be given to this when we come to consider the next Section 256 agreement which will deal with the £2.4m which has been assigned for 2012-2013.

**Supplemental:** Proposed supplemental was ruled by the Mayor to not be related to the question.

**3. Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Phillip O’Dell (Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety)

**Question:** “While I'm pleased to see the town centre police team is being retained, I am still concerned that the size of the team is being cut by two. Given the success the team has had at combating pick-pocketing and other such crimes, can you clarify how the newly sized team can operate as effectively as before?”

**Answer:** Thank you for your question Councillor Hall. We would just like to remind Members of Council that the previous

agreements for funding for the additional police officer in the Town Centre had expired. The old scheme had been successful in reducing crime in Harrow Town Centre but during discussions it became clear that the Metropolitan Police Authority, the local police service in Harrow and the Council wanted a new scheme to be put in place.

It is proposed that these officers support principally to the main retail areas in Harrow Town Centre and the Wealdstone Corridor but should operational pressures demonstrate need, the team could be deployed in any of the retail and business areas of our borough. This will be a way of supporting a wider number of businesses and help keep the vitality in our hard pressed shopping centres and therefore we and our partners are confident that the new arrangements will be as effective as the old.

**Supplemental Question:** It is unfortunate that the dithering that happened for the whole year did not mean that the team was kept as it was and it was guaranteed by our administration that it would but, as ever, loads of things took so long that it was too late.

Given that you are proud to say you want to keep the neighbourhoods clean and green and safe, how on earth can you justify this by reducing money towards the specific team that did so well?

**Supplemental Answer:** I would like to add my congratulations to the team that did so well. However, if it was not for my previous predecessor in this, she would have actually signed the two year contract that would have kept the Town Centre team. It was we who inherited another piece of gross incompetency by the last administration that they failed to sign the contract to keep this going and it was our fortune that we inherited the scheme that we could benefit from the Mayor's generous office to match funding. So therefore only would we provide an effective team in partnership with the Harrow Police Service, we will actually save the Council Tax payers of the London Borough of Harrow £93,000 a year. Will she join me in the congratulation of saving that money?

**4. Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Bob Currie (Portfolio Holder for Housing)

**Question:** "Can you please confirm how much external decoration work to the Council's housing stock was completed in 2010-11?"

**Answer:**

In 2010-11 decision was taken not to progress the external decoration programme because we wanted to make sure that:

- (a) the property really needed decorating; and
- (b) we wanted to make sure we charged leaseholders properly using Section 20.

For the first time this year we have made a really good start and the current year's programme has already started and is progressing well, in good weather. A positive move not to be decorating in the winter, which I have raised many, many times in the past before.

237 properties are being decorated this year. Having looked properly at the conditions of the properties we have identified that significant repairs need to be undertaken due to the history of not complying decorations in previous years. As a result we are now developing the new approach to external decorations that has the following strands:

- Wherever possible, removing the need for external decorating;
- Use of a plastic and other timber products, fascia, gutterings and downpipes will wherever practical be low maintenance;
- Scaffolding a building only once and undertaking comprehensive overhaul of the external decorations of the building;
- Focus our spend on internal decorations, making properties bright and more attractive;
- We only have 175 properties with timber frames and 59 blocks with communal timber windows left. All possible wooden window replacements will be made by 2012.

In summary whilst we didn't do any external decorations last year or the year before, we have now started a good programme at the right time of the year and I am optimistic the programme will start rolling properly from now on.

**GUILLOTINE REACHED (the following answers were circulated after the Council, by written response, at the request of the Mayor)**

- 5. Questioner:** Councillor Paul Osborn
- Asked of:** Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)
- Question:** “In December last year, you said at a Cabinet meeting that the cost of the 'Let's Talk' campaign to date was just under £13,000. Can you provide both an update on this figure and a breakdown of the areas of cost?”
- Answer:** The second phase of our successful Let's Talk programme has cost a total of £9,800.
- This can be broken down into £6,622 for the survey forms which will go into Harrow People, giving every household in the borough an opportunity to take part.
- The rest was spent on our stand at Under One Sky, banners, other marketing material, advertising and the pop up garden.
- Let's Talk is an important vehicle for this council to re-engage with residents and build trust. We are already seeing its impact on how residents view this Council as indicated in the results of our recent Involvement Tracker. They show an increase from 29% to 43% in the number of residents who think the Council takes account of the views. Proof that Let's Talk is a far better way of engaging and involving residents than Have You Heard!
- Let's Talk II launched at Under One Sky over a week ago and we carried out our second roadshow on Saturday in Harrow town centre.
- There are a further four roadshows coming up and thank you to all those councillors who have signed up to take part and I extend the invitation to take part in this important programme of engagement to my colleagues in opposition.
- 6. Questioner:** Councillor Kam Chana
- Asked of:** Councillor David Perry (Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services)
- Question** “Can you please detail the cost (if any) to the Council of this year's Under One Sky event, as well as confirming the attendance figures?”

**Answer:** The attendance was 8,000 at this year's Under 1 Sky. The net cost to the council was £27,310 including waste/litter clearance and regulatory services/CCTV support. This does not include staff planning time where this is integral to staff post roles or staffing on the day where this operated on a TOIL basis, which we have never costed in the past.

7. **Questioner:** Councillor Paul Osborn

**Asked of:** Councillor Graham Henson (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services)

**Question:** "Can you provide an update on when the Council is expecting to switch to the Exchange system?"

**Answer:** The move to the Exchange system will take place between August and the end of October 2011.

This is later than originally planned as a result of work to improve and de-risk the approach to transition. Obviously, as Capita are paid on the basis of delivery milestones, payments will follow the amended timetable.

8. **Questioner:** Councillor Anthony Seymour

**Asked of:** Councillor Keith Ferry (Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise)

**Responded to By:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)

**Question** "Can you please confirm that the North Harrow Library is to remain on its current site now that Children's Services are moving out of the first floor of the building?"

**Answer:** This administration is absolutely committed to "improving library services".

We made this commitment clear to the electorate in our manifesto, and our actions to date, during our first year in office, demonstrate proudly our commitment to this important undertaking to the residents of Harrow.

We are in a period of unparalleled challenge, and our Administration is rising to this challenge through strong leadership and making tough decisions in an open and transparent way.

Our aim is to develop library services. Our aim is to improve library services. Our intention is to ensure that library services meet both now, and perhaps more importantly in the future, the needs, of all our residents.

So Cllr Seymour, I will confirm that North Harrow, during the term of this Administration, will always have a library to serve the local community. I can confirm that we will work to modernise and improve the North Harrow Library service.

Will it remain in the current building? - to answer absolutely yes to this question, could prevent us from modernising and improving this really important community facility.

What I will say, is that we do not have plans to move the library at the moment, but if a compelling proposal can be developed to improve the service, and this involves relocation, we will off course consider this opportunity and engage fully with our residents and the local businesses, before any decision to relocate is taken forward.

We consider our libraries to be part of the Council family. We are proud of our libraries and we will work tirelessly to ensure that this key service is developed to benefit future generations.

- 9. Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
- Asked of:** Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)
- Question:** “After Harrow’s excellent result at the MJ Awards – winning Best Achieving Council – do you believe you have the best possible leadership team with you in Cabinet to continue and build on this success?”
- Answer:** Thank you for the congratulations. The Award was achieved very much by teamwork, ‘working together’ with our staff, our partners, VCS and local residents. I fully intend to continue to build on this success with my team of thirty four hard working and dedicated councillors.
- 10. Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
- Asked of:** Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation)



**Question:** “Since you last updated us at May’s Cabinet, have you appointed any more members of the Labour Group as trial portfolio holder assistants and have any of them received backdated payments?”

**Answer:** No. If and when I appoint any portfolio holder assistants they will be announced in the normal way as at last May’s Cabinet.