

Harrow Business Consultative Panel

AGENDA

DATE: Monday 23 January 2012

TIME: 7.30 pm

VENUE: Committee Rooms 1 & 2,
Harrow Civic Centre

MEMBERSHIP (Quorum 3)

Chairman: Councillor Keith Ferry

Councillors:

Ajay Maru

Kam Chana
Susan Hall

Reserve Members:

1. Bill Phillips
2. Sasi Suresh

1. Yogesh Teli
2. John Nickolay

Contact: Vishal Seegoolam, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8424 1883 E-mail: vishal.seegoolam@harrow.gov.uk

AGENDA - PART I

1. ATTENDANCE BY RESERVE MEMBERS

To note the attendance at this meeting of any duly appointed Reserve Members.

Reserve Members may attend meetings:-

- (i) to take the place of an ordinary Member for whom they are a reserve;
- (ii) where the ordinary Member will be absent for the whole of the meeting; and
- (iii) the meeting notes at the start of the meeting at the item 'Reserves' that the Reserve Member is or will be attending as a reserve;
- (iv) if a Reserve Member whose intention to attend has been noted arrives after the commencement of the meeting, then that Reserve Member can only act as a Member from the start of the next item of business on the agenda after his/her arrival.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of personal or prejudicial interests, arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from:

- (a) all Members of the Forum;
- (b) all other Members present in any part of the room.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

To appoint a Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2011/12.

4. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2011 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive questions (if any) from local residents or organisations under the provisions of Executive Procedure Rule 51 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

6. PETITIONS

To receive petitions (if any) submitted by members of the public/Councillors under the provisions of Executive Procedure Rule 49 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

7. DEPUTATIONS

To receive deputations (if any) under the provisions of Executive Procedure Rule 50 (Part 4D of the Constitution).

8. INFORMATION REPORT - BUSINESS RATES IN 2012/13 (Pages 5 - 10)

Presentation by the Divisional Director, Collections & Housing Benefits.

9. INFORMATION REPORT - BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY PROPOSALS (To Follow)

Presentation by the Corporate Director Finance.

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.

AGENDA - PART II - NIL

This page is intentionally left blank

HARROW BUSINESS CONSULTATIVE PANEL MINUTES

24 JANUARY 2011

Chairman: * Councillor Keith Ferry

Councillors: * Kam Chana * Yogesh Teli (1)
* Ajay Maru

* Denotes Member present
(1) Denotes category of Reserve Members

1. Appointment of Reserve Member

RESOLVED: To note the appointment of Councillor John Nickolay as a Reserve Member of the Harrow Business Consultative Forum for the 2010/11 Municipal Year in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 1.5.

2. Attendance by Reserve Member

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:

Ordinary Member

Councillor Susan Hall

Reserve Member

Councillor Yogesh Teli

3. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made.

4. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED: That Councillor Ajay Maru be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Harrow Business Consultative Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2010/11.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2010 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

6. Public Questions, Petitions and Deputations

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were put, or petitions or deputations received at this meeting.

RESOLVED ITEMS

7. INFORMATION REPORT - Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy Proposals

The Panel received a presentation from the Corporate Director Finance on the budget and medium term financial strategy proposals.

In response to questions from Members it was noted that:

- the estimate for commercial business rates for a particular property is provided by the Valuation Office. The rateable value for business premises was the same as for the Council Tax, the only variation being the multiplier;
- the rateable value was calculated by the Valuation Office. The multiplier was set by the government which was the figure charged by the Council;
- Harrow Council did not receive all the Business Rates generated in the area, the distribution was calculated by the government. Information was available on the web which identified the valuation of all buildings. However, professional advice should be sought on the basis of the valuation as it was not a straightforward exercise;
- details for applications for hardship relief were distributed with the rate demands and were available on the Council's website;
- the reference to service charges in the presentation did not apply to businesses. It referred to adjustments in Housing being made to service charges, such as for communal areas.

The Panel discussed the lack of attendance at the meeting by business representatives. Officers explained that this meeting was part of a programme of consultation and that there was a statutory requirement to

consult the Business Community on the budget proposals. Business representatives had been invited to the meeting.

Initiatives had previously been taken to encourage business participation, such as the holding of quarterly meetings of the Panel. Thereafter the meetings had been arranged by Harrow In Business and the Chamber of Commerce but the attendance remained poor. There was also Councillor representation on outside bodies such as the Harrow In Business Board and North West London Chamber Board.

Members were aware that Harrow Council did not have control of the distribution of business rates collected in the area as this was undertaken by Government. However, meetings of the Panel provided the opportunity for business representatives to comment on the levels of spend and budget categories.

A Member undertook to provide information on whether there was a statutory requirement to assist businesses with Business Continuity. If there was such a requirement, the information could be included in the booklet which accompanied the tax demand.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 7.55 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR KEITH FERRY
Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank

Business Rates in 2012/13

By Fern Silverio
Divisional Director – Collections &
Housing Benefits



Proposed 2012/13 Multipliers

- In line with Local Government Act 2003, there are 2 multipliers:
 - The non domestic rating multiplier [which includes the supplement of £0.08p to pay for the small business relief]
 - The small business non-domestic rating multiplier which is applicable to those that qualify for the small business relief
- **Standard 0.458p** (0.433p)
- **Small Business 0.450p** (0.426p)
- **Adjusted September 2011 RPI** – a figure of **5.6%**

Supplementary Business Rates – Crossrail precept

- **All Properties over rv55,000 will have the supplementary element added to their bill which started 1/4/2010**
- Properties with rateable values under 55,000 are exempt and do not pay BRS
- Supplement is 2p in the £
- In Harrow 430 Properties pay the supplement

Small Business Rate Relief Changes for 2012/13

- Legal requirement for an application form removed
- Single property criterion in order to be eligible also removed
- Properties with rateable value under 6,000 now qualify for 100% relief up until 31/3/2013 – 50% thereafter
- Properties with rv's between 6,000 and no more than 12,000 will receive relief on a sliding scale with each 120 of rv over 6,000 equating to 1% less relief
- Properties with rateable values of 12,000 and 25,499 will have their rates calculated using the small Business Rates Multiplier rather than the higher multiplier
- Relief does not apply to Empty Properties or those occupied by Charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC's)

Contact Details

- Should you wish further information please contact:
 - The Revenues office via tel. 0208 424 1670
 - Via email: ctax@harrow.gov.uk

Myself, Fern Silverio on tel 0208 736 6818 or via e-mail fern.silverio@harrow.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank