

Council SUMMONS AND AGENDA

DATE: Thursday 24 September 2015

TIME: 7.30 pm

VENUE: Council Chamber, Harrow
Civic Centre

All Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the Council Meeting for the transaction of the business set out.



Hugh Peart
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Despatch Date: [16 September 2015]

PRAYERS

Reverend Matthew Stone, Mayor's Chaplain & Rector of St John the Evangelist, Stanmore, will open the meeting with Prayers.

1. COUNCIL MINUTES (Pages 11 - 16)

That the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 19 May 2015 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary interests, arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from all Members of the Council.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Mayor. Information as to recent Mayoral engagements will be tabled.

4. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

To receive and consider any procedural motions by Members of the Council in relation to the conduct of this Meeting. Notice of such procedural motions, received after the issuing of this Summons, will be tabled.

5. PETITION: BELMONT CIRCLE BUSINESSES (Pages 17 - 20)

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, a petition containing more than 2,000 signatures will be considered/debated by full Council. The following Petition meets the threshold of signatures needed to engender a Council debate.

A representative of the petitioners will read the terms of the petition on behalf of the petition signatories. There is a period of one minute allocated to present. A period of ten minutes is permitted for Members to debate the Petition terms and issues.

Following discussion the Council may choose to refer the petition to the Cabinet, a Committee or Corporate Director to determine the matter, taking into account the views expressed by Council.

6. PETITIONS

To receive any petitions to be presented:

- (i) by a representative of the petitioners;
- (ii) by a Councillor, on behalf of petitioners;
- (iii) by the Mayor, on behalf of petitioners.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS *

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for members of the public to ask questions

of members of the Executive, Portfolio Holders and Chairs of Committees, of which notice has been received no later than 3.00 pm two clear working days prior to the day of this Meeting. Any such questions received will be tabled.

8. LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive a presentation from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders on business since the last ordinary meeting, followed by a question and answer session. The item is allotted 20 minutes.

9. PRESENTATION CEREMONY - RECOGNITION OF LONG SERVICE - COUNCILLOR MRS CAMILLA BATH

Further to the decision of Annual Council on 19 May 2015, there will be a presentation to Councillor Mrs Camilla Bath, marking her 25 years' service on Harrow Council which she completed in May 2015.

10. PRESENTATION CEREMONY - RECOGNITION OF LONG SERVICE - COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER NOYCE

Further to the decision of Annual Council on 19 May 2015, there will be a presentation to Councillor Christopher Noyce, marking his 25 years' service on Harrow Council which he completed in May 2015.

11. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY (Pages 21 - 24)

Recommendation I: Cabinet
(23 April 2015)

12. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT (CTS) SCHEME FOR 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR (Pages 25 - 28)

Recommendation I: Cabinet
(17 June 2015)

13. PROPERTY PURCHASE INITIATIVE OF GOOD QUALITY TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION (Pages 29 - 34)

Recommendation I: Cabinet
(14 July 2015)

14. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2014/15 (Pages 35 - 38)

Recommendation I: Cabinet
(14 July 2015)

15. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY (Pages 39 - 42)

Recommendation I: Cabinet
(14 July 2015)

16. 'BUILDING A BETTER HARROW' - DELIVERY PROGRAMME (to follow)

Recommendation I: Cabinet
(17 September 2015)

17. GAYTON ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS (to follow)

Recommendation I: Cabinet
(17 September 2015)

18. REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING (to follow)

Recommendation I: Cabinet
(17 September 2015)

19. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISMISSAL OF/DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE AND CHIEF OFFICERS (Pages 43 - 54)

Report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services.

20. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES (Pages 55 - 60)

Report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services

21. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE *

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for asking written questions by Members of Council of a member of the Executive or the Chair of any Committee:-

- (i) of which notice has been received at least two clear working days prior to the day of this Meeting; or
- (ii) which relate to urgent matters, and the consent of the Executive Member or Committee Chair to whom the question is to be put has been obtained and the content has been advised to the Director of Legal and Governance Services by 12 noon on the day of the Council Meeting.

Any such questions received will be tabled.

22. MOTIONS

The following Motions have been notified in accordance with the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 14, to be moved and seconded by the Members indicated:

(1) Budget cuts to Welfare Motion

To be moved by Councillor Pamela Fitzpatrick and seconded by Councillor Sachin Shah:

“Council notes that:

- In George Osborne’s emergency Budget, £12bn of cuts to the UK’s vital safety net for people who have hit on hard times were laid out, with a further £19bn to be cut from non-protected government departments, including the Department for Communities & Local Government.
- In the budget many of the welfare cuts will detrimentally affect Harrow’s residents, including:
 - 18 – 21 year olds in Harrow will no longer be automatically eligible for housing benefit.
 - Employment & Support Allowance, which helps people with severe medical conditions will be cut (i.e. Working age benefits will be cut in real terms each and every year for four years).
 - Cutting the benefit cap to below the level needed by a family with two children living in the private rented sector. Tax credit, housing benefit and universal credit will be limited to two children from April 2017.
 - A new national ‘living wage’ to be introduced for over 25s, which is set almost £2 an hour lower than the London living wage.

Council believes that:

- Making 18 – 21 year olds exempt from housing benefit will be a further hit to a generation of young people both in Harrow and across the UK who are struggling to get on the housing ladder.
- The cut to Employment & Support Allowance is unjustified and will penalise people with disabilities through no fault of their own; people with severe medical conditions may no longer be able to afford to eat or heat their homes, leading to their condition deteriorating.
- The effects of these cuts will push more and more people in to severe poverty, rent arrears and homelessness.
- Setting the benefit cap at £23,000 will force families out of Harrow and London, forcing children to move schools and putting more pressure on families.
- Limiting certain benefits to families with a maximum of two children has put families in a terrible place by making no allowance for women who have become pregnant with a third child after being a victim of a traumatic sexual crime.

- The new national ‘living wage’ is solely an increase to the minimum wage, and falls below the actual living wage, which in London is £9.15.

Council resolves that:

- The Council will monitor the impacts of these welfare cuts on our residents.
- The Council is committed to supporting the most vulnerable, and is prohibited in doing this within the financial constraints placed on it by the Conservative Government.
- The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive jointly writes to Harrow’s three MPs and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to express our concern about these changes on Harrow’s residents.
- The Council will lobby national government to reverse some cuts if they are found to impoverish or have a significant and damaging impact on the lives of our residents.”

(2) National Park City Motion

To be moved by Councillor Adam Swersky and seconded by Councillor Graham Henson:

“Council notes that:

- There is a campaign by the Greater London National Park City to make London the world’s first National Park City.
- The proposed organisation would bring together public, private and third sector organisations to enhance our natural and cultural heritage, encourage a better understanding and enjoyment of the city, foster wellbeing and inspire others to share these purposes.
- Air pollution in London is a real problem and is linked to 1 in 12 deaths in London; taking measures to improve London’s green spaces and parks will help reduce levels of air pollution, and be of benefit to all our residents health & well-being.
- Living in a green city with easy access to local parks, nature and wildlife improves the well-being of local residents.
- The London Assembly have passed a motion approving the plans to turn London into a National Park City.
- That under the guidance of the Labour administration, the Council has set a target to be the best Borough in London for recycling, as a part of its campaign to make the Borough cleaner and more green.
- The Borough of Harrow has over 100,000 trees, with a third of the

Borough categorised as green space – including five parks that have been awarded green flag status.

- Good quality green spaces are an essential component of the urban fabric of Harrow and, with over 1,300 hectares of open space within the borough, this make a profound contribution to the quality of life of local communities.
- The Council has set up Park User Group Forums to allow local people to have a greater say in how their parks are maintained, and to encourage community use of our parks.
- The Council has a fully developed open spaces strategy to preserve our parks and green spaces.

Council believes that:

- That the £83m of cuts imposed by the Conservative Government on Harrow Council and our residents, has put severe pressure on our ability to maintain our parks and open spaces to the highest possible standard.
- As a Council we should work with all organisations to improve our parks and green spaces, as well as reduce air pollution and help support our residents to access and enjoy our many parks.
- We should welcome and fully support the excellent campaign to make London the world's first National Park City.
- The Greater London National Park City initiative would bring together public, private and third sector organisations to enhance our natural and cultural heritage, encourage a better understanding and enjoyment of the city, foster wellbeing and inspire others to share these purposes.

Council resolves that:

- The Portfolio Holder for Business, Planning & Regeneration should meet with Greater London National Park City to explore how the plans to make a London a National Park City can fit in with the Labour administration's ambitious regeneration plans for the Borough.
- All Harrow Councillors should sign to declare their Wards support on the http://www.nationalparkcity.london/ward_support website.
- The Council should support the organisation in developing its vision, in particular by setting out how Harrow Council and its local partners could contribute towards its aims.”

(3) National Review of Planning Permission Motion

To be moved by Councillor Barry Kendler and seconded by Councillor Keith Ferry:

“Council notes that:

- Overcrowding is an increasing problem not just in Harrow but across London.
- There is an increasing problem with ‘beds in sheds,’ where Landlords are cramming vulnerable people into unsuitable accommodation, often asking for extortionate rents.
- In 2008 there was a relaxation of planning permission laws to allow large structures to be constructed in rear gardens for domestic purposes without planning permission – this received cross party support under the Permitted Development Order SI 2362:2008.
- This change to planning law is now being exploited to build structures to house vulnerable people and charge them extortionate rents.

Council believes that:

- Everyone should have access to good quality and affordable accommodation.
- Tenants should not be exploited; the Tories disastrous housing policies have created a housing crisis in London and Harrow that is leading to vulnerable people being exploited.
- The abuse of SI 2362:2008 is creating overcrowded and insanitary living conditions, especially for migrant communities. This is damaging community relations and is creating hazardous living conditions.
- These problems were not envisaged in 2008 and the legal framework Planning Departments are working within are too weak to allow proper enforcement to take place.
- Due to the prevalence of this issue across the UK there should be a national review of SI 2362:2008.

Council resolves that:

- The Director of Planning and Chief Executive write a joint letter to Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and Brandon Lewis MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning to ask them to look at bringing in a national review on SI 2362:2008.”

(4) Supporting the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) Motion

To be moved by Councillor Jeff Anderson and seconded by Councillor Antonio Weiss:

“Council notes that:

- Harrow Council had to make savings of £70m from 2010 to 2014 and £83m from 2014 to 2018.
- Extending the current FTT on shares to other asset classes such as bonds and derivatives could raise £20bn of additional revenue in the UK a year.
- At least 11 European nations including France, Germany, Italy and Spain are moving ahead with FTTs on shares, bonds and derivatives which is estimated to raise £30bn a year.

Council believes that:

- Revenues from the FTT could help repair the damage caused by cuts in public services since 2010.
- Local government deserves to receive a significant proportion of FTT revenues, making an important contribution to both capital and revenue expenditure to help us meet the cost of an increasing and ageing population.
- Whilst an FTT might have a negligible effect on jobs in the City of London, investing FTT revenues in a smart and progressive way would see a significant increase in employment levels in other sectors, and more locally in Harrow.

Council resolves that:

- The UK government should extend the current FTT on shares to other asset classes, such as bonds and derivatives.
- The Council will write to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Chancellor and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Local MPs stating this council’s support for extending FTTs.”

23. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information in breach of an obligation of confidence, or of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:

<u>Agenda Item No</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
25.	Information Report – Remuneration Packages and Severance Payments of £100,000 or Greater	Information under paragraph 1 (contains information relating to any individuals).

24. INFORMATION REPORT - REMUNERATION PACKAGES AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS OF £100,000 OR GREATER (Pages 61 - 68)

Report of the Divisional Director of Human Resources, Development and Shared Services.

*** Data Protection Act Notice**

The Council will audio record items 7 and 21 (Questions with Notice) and will place the audio recording on the Council's website, which will be accessible to all.

[Note: The questions and answers will not be reproduced in the minutes.]