

# COUNCIL (COUNCIL TAX)

## MINUTES

### 28 FEBRUARY 2013

- Present:**
- \* Councillor Nizam Ismail (The Worshipful the Mayor)
  - \* Councillor Nana Asante (The Deputy Mayor)
- Councillors:**
- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| * Husain Akhtar              | * Mrs Vina Mithani  |
| * Sue Anderson               | * Amir Moshenson    |
| * Marilyn Ashton             | * Chris Mote        |
| * Mrs Camilla Bath           | * Janet Mote        |
| * Christine Bednell          | * John Nickolay     |
| * James Bond                 | * Joyce Nickolay    |
| * Mrs Lurline Champagnie OBE | * Christopher Noyce |
| * Kam Chana                  | * Phillip O'Dell    |
| * Ramji Chauhan              | * Asad Omar         |
| * Mrinal Choudhury           | * Paul Osborn       |
| * Bob Currie                 | * Varsha Parmar     |
| * Margaret Davine            | * David Perry       |
| * Mano Dharmarajah           | * Bill Phillips     |
| * Tony Ferrari               | * Raj Ray           |
| * Keith Ferry                | * Richard Romain    |
| * Ann Gate                   | * Anthony Seymour   |
| * David Gawn                 | * Lynda Seymour     |
| * Stephen Greek              | * Navin Shah        |
| * Mitzi Green                | * Mrs Rekha Shah    |
| * Susan Hall                 | * Sachin Shah       |
| * Graham Henson              | * Stanley Sheinwald |
| * Thaya Idaikkadar           | * Victoria Silver   |
| * Krishna James              | * Bill Stephenson   |
| * Manji Kara                 | † William Stoodley  |
| * Zarina Khalid              | * Krishna Suresh    |
| † Jean Lammiman              | * Sasi Suresh       |
| * Barry Macleod-Cullinane    | * Yogesh Teli       |
| * Kairul Kareema Marikar     | * Ben Wealthy       |
| * Ajay Maru                  | * Simon Williams    |
| * Jerry Miles                | * Stephen Wright    |

- \* Denotes Member present
- † Denotes apologies received

## PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by Imam Anas Mohamed.

### 268. COUNCIL MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 November 2012 and the Extraordinary Council meeting on 21 January 2013 be taken as read and signed as correct records.

### 269. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor invited appropriate declarations of interest.

#### Item 7 – Proposed ‘Virtual Licensing Panel’ Procedure

Councillors Sue Anderson, Ramji Chauhan, Mrinal Choudhury, Mano Dharmarajah, Ajay Maru, Amir Moshenson, Varsha Parmar, Anthony Seymour, Lynda Seymour, Mrs Rekha Shah declared that they had non-pecuniary interests in that they were Members of the Licensing Panel.

#### Item 8 – Corporate Plan 2013-15; Item 9 – Final Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17; Item 10 – Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2016/17; Item 11 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2013-14 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-15 to 2016-17; Item 12 – Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy and Strategy 2013/14

Councillor Nana Asante declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a member of the Voluntary Sector Forum and a pecuniary interest in that she was in receipt of Council Tax and Housing Benefit but had been granted a dispensation from the Standards Committee to stay, speak and vote on the items.

Councillor Husain Akhtar declared a non-pecuniary interest in that one of his children was in receipt of Council Tax Benefit.

Councillor Sue Anderson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she worked for Harrow PCT whose public health functions would be transferring to the Council in the future.

Councillor David Gawn declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

Councillor Graham Henson declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his wife was an employee of a voluntary organisation in Harrow.

Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his mother was in receipt of Council Tax Benefit.

Councillor Krishna James declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a member of Rethink did occasional work for Mind in Harrow.

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was an employee of London Councils Ltd and his sister was a teacher at Hatch End High School.

Councillor Kareema Marikar declared a non-pecuniary interest in that her son was in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

Councillor Chris Mote declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his brother was in receipt of Housing Benefit and Disability Living Allowance.

Councillor Janet Mote declared a non-pecuniary interest in that her brother in law was in receipt of Housing Benefit and Disability Living Allowance.

Councillor Anthony Seymour declared a non-pecuniary interest in that his sister was in receipt of Council Tax Benefit.

Councillor Lynda Seymour declared a non-pecuniary interest in that her sister in law was in receipt of Council Tax Benefit.

Councillors Navin Shah and Mrs Rekha Shah declared non-pecuniary interests in that their daughter worked for a local charity.

Councillor Yogesh Teli declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was the Chair of a local charity.

#### Item 15(3) – Motion – Fire Service

Councillor Susan Hall declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a member of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority.

Councillor Navin Shah declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was the Vice-Chair of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority.

## **270. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor requested that Council note the engagements he had undertaken.

The Mayor also congratulated, on behalf of the Council, those Harrow residents that had been awarded in the recent Queen's New Year's Honours List.

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

## 271. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

- (i) The Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, moved a procedural motion under Rule 25.1 that in line with previous years and for the purposes of the debate on the Final Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17, the rules of debate be varied, as set out in the tabled documents, and that the procedure therein be also applied to the reports on the Corporate Plan 2013-15, the Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2016/17, the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2013-14 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-15 to 2016-17 and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provisions (MRP) Policy and Strategy 2013/14, insofar as the recommendations and amendments be debated jointly. This was agreed.
- (ii) The Mayor announced that he had received notice, within the Summons and Supplemental Summonses, of amendments in respect the recommendations from Cabinet on item 9 – Final Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17. This consisted of changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme, the Model Council Tax Resolution and the Annual Pay Policy Statement.
- (iii) The Mayor announced that if the debate on items 8-12 was continuing at 10.00pm, he would ask for the winding up speeches to commence. In accord with Rule 9.3, at 10.30 pm he would consider the guillotine as having been reached and put all remaining items on the Summons to the vote without debate.
- (iv) The Mayor stated that he had received notice of an alteration to the proposer for Motion 15(5) – Indian Rape Victim / Violence Against Women. Councillor Krishna James would now be the proposer.
- (v) The Mayor announced that he had received notice, within the tabled papers, of amendments in respect of Motions 15(3) Fire Service and 15(5) Indian Rape Victim / Violence Against Women from its proposers and seconders. These would be dealt with individually at the items concerned.
- (vi) The Mayor announced that he had received notice, within the tabled papers, of 2 further amendments in respect of Motions on the Summons. These would be dealt with individually at the items concerned. The Mayor also announced that the Conservative Group had withdrawn their proposed amendment to Motion 15(5) – Indian Rape Victim / Violence Against Women.

### **RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the partial suspension under Rule 25.1, regarding the moving of recommendations from Cabinet and the rules of debate (including extended time for opening speeches by both political groups), as set out in the tabled papers, be approved for the purposes of the debate upon**

- Item 8 – Corporate Plan 2013-15;
- Item 9 – Final Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17;
- Item 10 – Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2016/17;
- Item 11 – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2013-14 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-15 to 2016-17;
- Item 12 – Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy and Strategy 2013/14

- (2) the amendments to the recommendations from Cabinet in respect of the recommendations from Cabinet on item 9 – Final Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17, contained in the Summons and Supplemental Summonses, be noted;
- (3) it be noted that if the debate on items 8-12 was continuing at 10.00 pm, The Mayor would ask for the winding up speeches to commence;
- (4) the change of proposer for Motion 15(5) – Indian Rape Victim / Violence Against Women be noted;
- (5) the amendments tabled by the proposers and seconders in respect of Motions on the Summons, be dealt with at the Motions concerned;
- (6) the 2 further amendments tabled in respect of Motions on the Summons, be dealt with at the Motions concerned.

## **272. PETITIONS**

In accordance with Rule 10, the following petition was presented:

- (i) Petition submitted by Councillor James Bond containing 109 signatures of residents objecting to planning application ref: P/0172/13 for the change of use of a traditional family house into a residential care home at 37 Headstone Lane, North Harrow.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration].

## **273. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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

#### **274. PROPOSED 'VIRTUAL LICENSING PANEL' PROCEDURE**

Further to item 7 on the Summons, Councillor Mano Dharmarajah moved Recommendation I of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 26 November 2012.

**RESOLVED:** That the 'Virtual Licensing Panel' procedure in relation to Section 106A of the Licensing Act 2003 relating to imposition of conditions on standard temporary event notices in cases where the objection(s) seek the imposition of conditions and all parties agree that a hearing was unnecessary, be approved.

#### **275. CORPORATE PLAN 2013-15**

Further to item 8 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, moved Recommendation I of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 February 2013.

**RESOLVED:** That the Corporate Plan for 2013/15 be adopted.

#### **276. FINAL REVENUE BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2013/14 TO 2016/17**

Further to item 9 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, moved Recommendation II of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 February 2013 together with amended versions of the Council Tax Resolution, the Members' Allowances Scheme, and the Annual Pay Policy Statement, which had been subject to minor amendments and to reflect new legislative requirements.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the budget be approved to enable the Council Tax for 2013/14 to be set;**
- (2) the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved;**
- (3) the policy on the use of Contingency be approved;**
- (4) the Schools budget be approved;**
- (5) the Reserves Policy be approved;**
- (6) the Members' Allowances Scheme, at appendix II to these minutes, be approved for 2013/14;**
- (7) the Model Council Tax Resolution, at appendix III to these minutes, be approved;**
- (8) the Annual Pay Policy Statement for 2013-14, at appendix IV to these minutes, be approved.**

**277. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/14 TO 2016/17**

Further to item 10 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, moved Recommendation III of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 February 2013.

**RESOLVED:** That the Capital Programme for 2013/14 to 2016/17 be approved.

**278. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2013-14 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2014-15 TO 2016-17**

Further to item 11 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, moved Recommendation IV of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 February 2013.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2013/14, including the additional rent to be generated by the proposed Rental Strategy, be approved;
- (2) the HRA Capital Programme be approved;
- (3) the Portfolio Holders for Housing and Finance, in conjunction with the Corporate Directors of Community, Health and Wellbeing and Resources, be delegated authority to adjust the Capital Programme, within the overall capital envelope for 2013/14, without seeking approval from Cabinet to ensure delivery of works.

**279. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) POLICY AND STRATEGY 2013/14**

Further to item 12 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, moved Recommendation V of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 February 2013.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) and Prudential Indicators be approved;
- (2) the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Strategy for 2013/14 be approved.

## 280. RECOMMENDED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Further to Item 13 on the Supplemental Summons, the Council considered the recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Group.

**RESOLVED: That the proposed Constitutional changes be approved, as set out in Appendix V to these minutes.**

## 281. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

In accordance with Rule 12, the questions submitted by Councillors to Portfolio Holders and responses circulated in writing, are contained at Appendix VI.

## 282. MOTION - FAIR DEAL

- (i) At item 15(1) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Thaya Idaikkadar and Sachin Shah in the following terms:

“This Council believes that, for a considerable time under successive governments, the grant which it receives from central funds is inadequate for the needs of the residents of this Borough.

This Council notes that for the coming financial year our grant equates to £1,608 for every resident in Harrow. In comparison the neighbouring Borough of Brent gets £3,317 for each of their residents. This equates to an extra £400 million pounds annually.

This Council is unable to understand this disparity given the similarity of both Boroughs’ needs and demography. Further comparison with other London Boroughs presents a similar inequality in Harrow’s annual settlement.

This Council notes that although Harrow has an enviable reputation as a leafy suburb but there are pockets of deprivation which a fair grant would help us address better.

This Council resolves the following:

1. That representations be made to relevant government Ministers and officials to bring this matter to the attention of those in positions of decision making.
2. That Officers are instructed to examine the formula that is used for the funding calculation and to identify parameters that could be considered to unfairly weigh against the interests of the Borough.
3. That Officers are instructed to consult the results of the 2011 census and to establish, where possible, a basis for appeal to the government on grounds of the population characteristics and



diversity of the Borough having regard to the characteristics of other comparable Boroughs.

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

“This Council believes that there is room for a sensible debate on the amount of grant funding Harrow receives. It notes that Harrow receives around £450 less per-resident than the outer London average.

This Council does not believe, however, that talking Harrow down and comparing it with boroughs which suffer far more deprivation is the best strategy in arguing for more funding. When other outer London boroughs such as Merton have similar levels of deprivation to Harrow – while also receiving nearly £50 grant per-resident less – it is disingenuous to compare Harrow with Brent, which is the 24<sup>th</sup> most deprived local government area nationally.

Additionally, this Council notes that it is much harder to make the case to the Government that Harrow needs more funding after the Council’s administration turned down nearly £1 million to assist in freezing council tax, and over £300,000 to assist with the localisation of council tax benefit.

This Council therefore believes that representations made to the Government regarding Harrow’s grant funding should be logical and reasonable in both ambition and approach.

This Council resolves the following:

1. That representations be made to relevant government Ministers and officials to bring this matter to the attention of those in positions of decision making.
2. That Officers are instructed to examine the formula that is used for the funding calculation and to identify parameters that could be considered to unfairly weigh against the interests of the Borough.
3. That Officers are instructed to consult the results of the 2011 census and to establish, where possible, a basis for appeal to the government on grounds of the population characteristics and diversity of the Borough having regard to the characteristics of other comparable Boroughs.”

- (iii) Upon a vote, the amendment at (ii) was lost.

- (iv) Upon a further vote the substantive Motion at (i) was agreed.

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

## 283. MOTION - POLICE SERVICE

- (i) At item 15(2) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Sue Anderson and Phillip O'Dell in the following terms:

"This Council believes that the safety and security of Londoners, including the residents of Harrow, is being put at risk as a result of cuts to police service being pushed through by the London's Mayor and the Coalition Government.

The Council believes that the unprecedented cuts are going too far and too fast and that these cuts to the budget of the Metropolitan Police Service will inevitably endanger families and communities across London and Harrow. This council believes that the cuts are being carried out without consideration of the impact on Londoners' safety.

Most inadequate and sham of a consultation undertaken in Harrow by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has raised more questions than answered. We have serious concerns about the Mayor's proposed 'New Policing Model' for London and its impact on Harrow and raise the following issues:

1. Reduction of Police: There will be loss of 17 police officers as compared to police officers in the year 2010 (Reduction from 402 to 385).
2. Scrapping of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs): Replacing the current dedicated SNT of six in each and every ward of Harrow with only one Police Constable will see the end of the current successful ward-wide policing and leave the local areas exposed to more crime and increase the fear of crime.
3. Base Stations for SNTs: We are concerned that no assurance is given that these will not be closed.
4. Closure of Police Stations and Front Counters: We oppose the plans to close the police stations at Pinner and Wealdstone and oppose the loss of police facilities at the Harrow Civic Centre. The Mayor has promised new and better front counters before closing the police stations but we have not seen any evidence of this for any of our areas in Harrow.
5. Closure of Custody Suites: We are concerned that MOPAC has not yet finally confirmed the future of Harrow's custody suites which are planned for closure. We are opposed to any such closure as we do not believe that the alternative of Kilburn is a viable one.

This Council challenges the Mayor's position that the scale of the cuts are necessary and acceptable. This council calls on the Chief Executive of Harrow Council to respond to MOPAC's consultation and oppose the Mayor's planned changes for policing of Harrow. The Council also calls upon Harrow's MPs and Harrow's Assembly Member

to oppose the Mayor's plans and draconian cuts in policing which will put Harrow's residents and community at risk from crime and the fear of crime."

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

"This Council believes that the safety and security of Londoners, including the residents of Harrow, is being put at risk as a result of cuts to police service being pushed through by the London's Mayor and the Coalition Government and therefore calls upon the Mayor of London to publicise more vigorously that closing rarely-visited police stations and counters, the disposal of surplus police properties and reducing high-paid managers will not only release more officers to patrol our streets but also will enable the Met Police to recruit extra officers over and above the increases secured so far.

The Council believes that the unprecedented cuts are going too far and too fast and that these cuts to the budget of the Metropolitan Police Service will inevitably endanger families and communities across London and Harrow and that, to counter this false belief, the Mayor must do more to explain the positive impact on police numbers and crime levels that these changes will bring about. This council believes that the cuts are being carried out without consideration of the impact on Londoners' safety and that the Mayor could do more to explain how public safety will be improved by more police patrolling than sitting behind desks.

Most inadequate and sham of a consultation undertaken in Harrow by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has raised more questions than answered, not least why the MP for Harrow West left halfway through the MOPAC consultation held in Harrow. We have serious concerns about the Mayor's proposed 'New Policing Model' for London and its impact on Harrow and raise the following issues:

1. Reduction of Police: There will be loss of 17 police officers as compared to police officers in the year 2010 (Reduction from 402 to 385).
2. Scrapping of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs): Replacing the current dedicated SNT of six in each and every ward of Harrow with only one Police Constable will see the end of the current successful ward-wide policing and leave the local areas exposed to more crime and increase the fear of crime – something not helped by this council's decision to reduce funding of the town centre policing team.
3. Base Stations for SNTs: We are concerned that no assurance is given that these will not be closed.
4. Closure of Police Stations and Front Counters: We oppose the plans to close the police stations at Pinner and Wealdstone and

oppose the loss of police facilities at the Harrow Civic Centre. The Mayor has promised new and better front counters before closing the police stations but we have not seen any evidence of this for any of our areas in Harrow.

5. Closure of Custody Suites: We are concerned that MOPAC has not yet finally confirmed the future of Harrow's custody suites which are planned for closure. We are opposed to any such closure as we do not believe that the alternative of Kilburn is a viable one.

This Council is additionally appalled by the decision of the Council's administration to cut the size of the Council-funded police team, while refusing to take up an offer from the MPA/MOPAC which would have allowed it to be increased in size while still saving money.

This Council also notes the various public comments from the new councillor for West Harrow regarding police numbers, and therefore encourages and invites her to add her voice to the campaign against the police cuts made by the Council's administration.

This Council challenges the Mayor's position that the scale of the cuts are necessary and acceptable. This council calls on the Chief Executive of Harrow Council to respond to MOPAC's consultation and oppose the Mayor's planned changes for policing of Harrow, as well as to note how this council has already cut its local funding for policing in Harrow, whilst, under the Mayor of London's plans, police numbers would rise. The Council also calls upon Harrow's MPs and Harrow's Assembly Member to oppose the Mayor's plans and draconian cuts in policing, except in so far as they will reduce crime and the fear of crime in Harrow."

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

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

## **284. MOTION - FIRE SERVICE**

At Item 15(3) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Navin Shah and Ajay Maru in the following terms:

"This council believes that the safety and security of Londoners, including the residents of Harrow, is being put at risk as a result of cuts to the fire service being pushed through by the London's Mayor.

The Council believes that the unprecedented cuts are going too far and too fast and that these cuts to the budget of the London Fire Emergency & Planning Authority (LFEPA) will inevitably endanger families and communities

across London and Harrow. This council believes that the cuts are being carried out without consideration of the impact on Londoners' safety.

We oppose the London Mayor's budget requirements resulting in the Draft LSP5 proposal to close 12 fire stations, remove 18 fire appliances and delete 520 firefighter posts. We welcome the potential for an additional fire appliance at Stanmore fire station proposed in the plan but Harrow will still be fully exposed from the downgrading of the fire cover London wide and therefore the real risk of safety and security.

We deplore the Mayor's legal direction requiring LFEPA to ignore the democratic decisions made by the Fire Authority and majority members of the Assembly Members to enable the Mayor to consult on his closure programme.

We welcome LFEPA's decision taken on 26 February to consult every Borough in London and look forward to participating in the consultation process. This council calls on the Chief Executive of Harrow Council to respond to the consultation on the draft LSP5 in due course.

This Council challenges the Mayor's position that the scale of the cuts is necessary and acceptable. This council calls on the Chief Executive of Harrow Council to write to the Mayor of London and the Commissioner of the LFEPA expressing the concerns of Harrow about the closure plans. The Council also calls upon Harrow's MPs and Harrow's Assembly Member to oppose the Draft LSP5 proposals promoting closure plans and reckless cuts in the fire service which will put at risk the safety and security of Harrow's residents and community".

**RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, set out above, be adopted.**

## **285. MOTION - TORY WELFARE REFORM ACT 2012**

At Item 15(4) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Krishna James and Kareema Marikar in the following terms:

"This Council believes that the Welfare Reform Act 2012 is causing untold anxiety and will cause great distress to vulnerable Harrow residents.

The draconian measures, such as, the capping of rent and the so called 'bedroom tax' is causing families to be uprooted. Children are having to move locations and change schools which could lead to long term instability and future problems.

These short sighted measures will cause long term problems resulting in high costs to the public purse.

This Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister & Deputy Prime Minister urging them to rethink their misguided reforms.

This Council urges its three MPs to raise the matter in Parliament on behalf of vulnerable residents in Harrow".

**RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, set out above, be adopted.**

**286. MOTION - INDIAN RAPE VICTIM / VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

At item 15(5) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Kareema Marikar and Zarina Khalid in the following terms:

“The recent rape case leading to the death of a young girl in New Delhi was a deeply distressing event which has brought into focus the heinous violence perpetrated towards women and lack of values and respect accorded to women across the world in many societies.

In particular, female infanticide continues to happen in many parts of the world. The fundamental problem is that women are not valued enough in all societies.

In Harrow, this is reflected by a worrying increase in Domestic Violence which is affecting many families.

Mother earth is crying and it is time we took notice.

This Council thanks the former Borough Commander of Police for implementing a Zero Tolerance policy to tackle violence against women and girls and the abuse they are subjected to. But, much needs to be done.

This Council pays a tribute to and reaffirms its support to the voluntary and statutory organisations in Harrow who actively engage in supporting women and girls.

Approaching International Women’s Month in March, this Council believes that International Communities must work together in a spirit of partnership to exchange and implement good practices to eradicate the evil of violence, abuse and discrimination of women and girls worldwide.

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to

- Write to the former Borough Commander, placing on record our thanks for his commitment to women’s rights.
- Write to the borough’s Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations thanking them for the work they do for and with the borough’s women.
- Write to the Indian High Commissioner regarding the gender imbalance that has been identified in society and offering Harrow’s experience in creating a cohesive society by meeting its Public Sector Equality Duty as published in Our Harrow, Our Story where the Council articulates the services and projects being delivered and advances Equality and fosters good relations.

- Write to the new Borough Commander asking him to work with the Council in partnership to raise awareness of the evil of Domestic Violence”.

**RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as set out above, be adopted.**

## **287. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURE - COUNCIL**

The Director of Legal and Governance Services advised of two urgent decisions taken in respect of matters reserved to Council since the last meeting.

**RESOLVED: That the decision taken under delegation by the Director of Legal and Governance Services, on behalf of Council, be noted.**

## **288. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER, AND USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE**

The Council received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services providing a summary of the urgent decisions taken by Cabinet, the Leader and Portfolio Holders, and the use of the special urgency procedure since the last meeting.

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

## **289. PROCEDURE FOR TERMINATION OF MEETING**

At 10.30 pm, in the course of the consideration of Item 14 (Questions with Notice), the Mayor advised that the ‘guillotine’ procedure had come into operation for the determination of the remaining business on the Summons and was applied to Items 14 (Questions With Notice), 15(1) (Motion: Fair Deal), 15(2) (Motion: Police Service), 15(3) (Motion: Fire Service), 15(4) (Motion: Tory Welfare Reform Act 2012), 15(5) (Motion: Indian Rape Victim / Violence Against Women), 16 (Decisions Taken Under the Urgency Procedure – Council) and 17 (Decisions Taken Under Urgency Procedure by Portfolio Holders, Leader and Deputy Leader and Use of Special Urgency Procedure).

**RESOLVED: That the provisions of Rules 9.2 and 9.3 be applied as set out above.**

**(CLOSE OF MEETING:** All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.32 pm).

**COUNCIL – 28 FEBRUARY 2013**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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:** Mic Sayer

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

**Question:** “On behalf of the environmental groups of Harrow can the Council please advise us when the consultations will be for the proposed Budget open space savings e.g. opening and locking park gates and park maintenance?”

**Answer:** Thank you Mr Sayer.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those groups that Mic is representing tonight, whether they be the Harrow environmental forums or the Friends of parks groups, like Canons Park, your own Harrow Recreation Ground. I would like to commend to Council that we do congratulate the work and our continued work with those groups, in making our parks and open spaces a success for the residents of Harrow.

The engagement with the community will be implemented after tonight's budget meeting and consultation will take place in March and April of this year.

2.

**Questioner:** Angela Dias

**Asked of:** Councillor David Perry (Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services)

**Question:** “There is a substantial body of evidence which proves that the Third sector provides excellent social and economic value on the contracts we deliver, and also makes a firm impact on the Council being able to meet its targets in areas where they receive ratings/accreditation. Given that our services make a massive difference to well over 25% of Harrow people in key



areas such as achieving independence, economic well being etc, can you explain why such a small proportion of Council contracts are with the third sector?"

**Answer:** Thank you for your question Angela.

In 2012 Cabinet approved a Sustainable Procurement Policy to deliver local opportunities for the Third Sector to engage in the delivery of services to the Council. In developing the new Third Sector strategy with the voluntary sector the Council will be undertaking to conduct a review of the implementation of the Sustainable Procurement Policy. This will be coming to Cabinet in March and I think you have actually played a role in that, so thank you. Departments across the Council already have contracts with Third Sector organisations to deliver a wide range of services and therefore the Council is interested in hearing where the Third Sector feel they can add value in the future.

**Supplemental Question:** I think there has been, from time to time, indications that the Council may not recognise the full value of the Third Sector and I cite examples where statements have been made that the Council gives the sector a certain amount of money or SLAs describe the financial transaction between the sector and the Council, using terms such as financial aid. Giving sounds like a donation that has been made and financially it sounds like funding has been to rescue and support us. This does not reflect the experience we have which is about receiving money in return for services provided.

Can you reassure us that you do in fact value the sector and will follow through in the promises made by the Leader to the hardest hit and at the GAP meeting to meet with us and take seriously all ideas we have for helping the Council reduce funding whilst adding to the sustainability of the sector?

**Supplemental Answer:** Yes and just to elaborate on that slightly, I think at the recent Grants Advisory Panel this was something which you and other representatives of the voluntary and community sector raised and I gave a commitment there. I will happily give the same commitment this evening to meet with yourself and other voluntary sector representatives because I know you have lots of ideas on how the sector can deliver further services for the Council and I think you have already alluded to some it would be cheaper through the sector than through some current contract.

So as I said, not just myself but other relevant Portfolio Holders would be happy to meet with you in order to hear your ideas.

3.

**Questioner:** Jeremy Zeid

**Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)

**Question:** “Does the Council's Code of Conduct for members still have a blanket exclusion from members participating in any debate or vote, to the point of having to leave the room/chamber if they have declared, or have a prejudicial or pecuniary interest in a particular item?”

**Answer:** Thank you Jeremy.

Harrow's Code of Conduct for Councillors provides that if a Councillor has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in an item they should not participate in the debate; not vote and leave the room in which the meeting is being held unless they have an exemption to that, a dispensation, they should be able to leave.

**Supplemental Question:** Does the Leader agree with the Standards Panel that changed the rules so that Members claiming Council Tax benefits would otherwise have to leave the room or face criminal proceedings, can now participate?

**Supplemental Answer:** You have got to think about all the people consulted. Do you leave out people claiming benefit?

It is a fundamental principle of civilisation. People elected here have the right to vote whether they are claiming or not. If you do not do that, you are going back to the dark ages where only the rich can vote. There was a time when only men can vote.

This is why they are disclosing properly and everyone is aware of it. They are exercising their right and they have a dispensation, they are voting. I do not see anything wrong with that.

4.

**Questioner:** Jack Welby

**Asked of:** Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio Holder for Finance)

**Question:** “Can the Portfolio Holder for Finance and magician in finances kindly explain why he does not use the £350,000 profit from the sale of Endeavour House whose value was £1 million according to Councillor Ferry, in keeping front line services running and the balance for restoring cuts to the budget for 2013/14.”

**Answer:** Thank you for the question.

I assume you mean Enterprise House. The short answer to this is it is not allowed under law. We cannot use money from the sale of assets to pay for the day to day running of the Council.

What we can do is use the money to fund investments in other areas or use it to spend on things we would have to borrow for, which allows us to borrow less money than we would have done and that saves us money on interest and that is exactly what we are going to do and that is why we can reduce the amount of cuts that we would have otherwise had to have done.

**Supplemental Question:** It has been brought to my notice this evening, unfortunately I could not bring it to the attention to the appropriate authority, there is a likelihood to be £45m worth of cuts to the Council budget and 256 members of staff are going to be made redundant and that was in the web this evening and in view of the demise of the Council, I have a presentation being a resident of Harrow Council for 33 years, that I present these flowers in memorial for the Council demise.

**Supplemental Answer:** I think that is the best supplementary question I have had in my time on Cabinet.

You are absolutely right, there are huge cuts at this Council and that is because of an appalling Government and their unfair cuts to Local Government. If this Government would cut local government less, you would not need to have bought those flowers and not present them.

This Council has also launched the Fair Grant for Harrow Campaign because we do not get a fair grant from Government and if we got the fair grant then we would also not have to make those cuts. So I hope you will sign the petition. You can at [www.harrow.gov.uk/fairgrant](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/fairgrant). I hope that you will sign that petition.

5.

**Questioner:** Steve Porter

**Asked of:** Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio Holder for Finance)

**Question:** "Further to my question and later letter to Sachin Shah concerning the removal of DDR to charity shops, would he now agree that this issue needs looking into again?"

**Answer:** Thank you for your question.

I think the deadline for submitting questions was past before I had replied to the email you sent me.

I said in that email I would be willing to meet with you and others in the voluntary sector to discuss how we best take this forward and I hope you will take me up on that offer.

The changes you mention were the second stage of changes to rate relief. In the budget today we are making a further reduction in the budget of a further £50,000 in the second year of our two year budget. As this change will affect everybody, we will carry out a full 12 week consultation which will start in the early summer.

I hope that this wider and more inclusive consultation will lead to more engagement and I look forward to receiving your views as part of this process.

6.

**Questioner:** Julie Browne

**Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)

**Question:** "Subsequent to the decision to cut the VCS Grants budget by 25% Cabinet reinstated 100k to the budget. Can the Leader of the Council please assure us that this reallocation did not impact adversely on the total funding available to the Third Sector to deliver services".

**Answer:** Thank you Julie. Before I answer your question, may I congratulate you for what you are doing for Kids Can Achieve and also I hope to come to your raffle and contribute in the near future.

In 2010 the Government's austerity measures meant Local Government (along with the Welfare System) received the most challenging funding settlement in decades, resulting in a 28% cut to the Council's controllable costs over the 4 years to 2014/15, some £62m in Harrow's case from 2010/11 levels of expenditure. This has since increased by £13m to £75m as a result of adverse moves in grant funding and the impact of Welfare Reform. This is impacting on our spend in all areas. It is impossible to deliver this range of savings without reducing spend to the Third Sector. However we are working closely with the Third Sector to identify potential impacts and assist where possible with alternative forms of funding and other mitigations.

**Supplemental Question:** In a recent question to Cabinet regarding the cuts to the voluntary sector budget, the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services responded by telling us to check the budget. How can he expect us mere mortals to understand your or his budget if you do not know if yourself?

**Supplemental Answer:** I can offer you a private meeting. I am quite happy to sit with you, go through all the figures, line by line and explain to you.

7.

**Questioner:** Gerry Devine

**Asked of:** Councillor David Perry (Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services)

**Question:** "The reduction in the amount available for grant funding will have a serious impact on the voluntary sector in Harrow, which for some organisations may prove terminal. Whilst the efforts of the Council to restore some funding for 2013-4 are appreciated, the seriousness of the funding situation makes it essential that process of sourcing and allocating funds is as transparent as possible.

Can the Council explain what has happened to the net cut of £70,000, made without notice to the grant allocation, compared to the figures presented during consultation with the voluntary sector last autumn?"

**Answer:** Thank you for your question Gerry and just to respond briefly to the previous question, I have never said check the budget. I try to give as much information, so it is never as blunt as that and I will try to do as I say with this question.

We have already heard briefly from the Finance Portfolio Holder about the financial situation facing this Council. I personally was there and you were there when we had the consultation on grants back in autumn and the Council under an assumption of projected grant which we received. Then in December when we produced the draft budget, the settlement was again slightly worse than expected. So with all of those the Council had to look at all areas of spend and the grants budget was one of them. You have alluded to the additional £100,000 which we returned to the grants budget but in short, the £70,000 or £69,000 which was removed has gone in help to plug the gap of millions and millions of pounds.

8.

**Questioner:** Pravin Seedher

**Asked of:** Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio Holder for Finance)

**Question:** In view of the fact that Local government minister Brandon Lewis urged Councils to find savings of between 0.5% to 0.9% to achieve a council tax freeze, why has this administration rejected a government hand out in order to increase council tax on residents - whilst in the same breath bemoaning the level of government assistance to Harrow even though other outer London Boroughs which are implementing a freeze receive less assistance?

**Answer:** I think the comments of the Local Government Minister show he does not really understand what is going on.

The BBC is today reporting 40% of Councils have taken the decision to increase Council Tax. The reason for this is the government is already cutting councils by 28%. Much of these cuts are being funded through efficiencies but there are some real cuts to services.

Freezing Council Tax would lead us to have to make a further cut of £2m over the next 2 years. It is easy for the Local Government Minister to use numbers like 0.5% but £2m is 50 social workers. These are people who save the lives of children. I simply do not agree with the Local Government Minister that we should turn local government into a rump. I know Harrow Council can transform the lives of people in the borough and I simply will not let this Government destroy it.

## **Members' Allowances Scheme**

1. This scheme shall have effect until 31st March 2014. It replaces all former schemes.

### **Basic Allowance**

2. A basic allowance of £8,160 per annum shall be paid to each Councillor.

### **Special Responsibility Allowances and Mayoral Allowances**

3. (1) A special responsibility allowance shall be paid to those Councillors who have the special responsibilities in relation to the posts specified in Schedule 1 to this scheme. The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against that special responsibility in that schedule.  
(2) An allowance of £10,250 per annum shall be paid to the Mayor and an allowance of £2,040 per annum shall be paid to the Deputy Mayor.  
(3) No Member may receive special responsibility allowances in respect of more than one post. For the purposes of this paragraph, the mayoral allowances referred to in 3(2) above are considered to be special responsibility allowances.

### **Upgrading the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances**

4. The basic allowance and special responsibility allowances may be upgraded annually in line with an index approved by the London Councils Independent Panel. The index to be used will be the level of the Local Government Pay Settlement. When making the scheme for 2014/15, the indexing arrangements will be reviewed.

### **Travel and Subsistence Allowances**

5. The reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in respect of **approved duties** (as set out in Schedule 2) **undertaken outside the Borough boundaries** can be claimed by Members, co-optees to formal Council committees and Independent Members of the Standards Committee at the rates paid and on the conditions specified in the officer scheme for travel and subsistence allowances.

### **Carers' Allowance**

6. (1) The allowance shall only be paid for attendance at approved duties as listed in Appendix A.

- (2) The maximum basic rate of pay is £2.90 per half hour for the duration of the meeting together with the Member's travel time between home and the place of the meeting and the carer's reasonable travelling time.
- (3) The allowance is claimable in respect of children aged 15 or under or where a professional carer is required to meet a specialist need (eg a nurse for an elderly person).
- (4) Actual costs will be paid **on production of an invoice or receipt**.
- (5) Where the length of the meeting cannot be predicted and payment to the carer is necessarily contractually committed then a payment of up to 4 hours will be made. (For day time quasi-judicial meetings, payment of up to 8 hours may be made if the estimated length of the meeting is for the whole day).
- (6) In addition, the reasonable travelling expenses of the person taking care of the dependent shall be reimbursed either at the appropriate public transport rate, or in cases of urgency or where no public transport is available, the amount of any taxi fare actually paid.
- (7) The allowance is not to be paid where the carer is a member of the Member's household.
- (8) Any dispute as to the entitlement and any allegation of abuse should be referred to the Standards Committee for adjudication.

### **Co-optees' Allowance**

7. A basic allowance of £445 per annum shall be paid to co-optees to formal Council Committees and Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

### **Claims and Payments**

8. (1) A claim for allowances or expenses under this scheme shall be made in writing within two months of the date of undertaking the duty in respect of which the entitlement to the allowance or expense relates.
- (2) Payment shall be made
  - (a) in respect of basic and special responsibility allowances, in instalments of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme each month;
  - (b) in respect of out-borough travel and subsistence expenses and Carers' Allowance, each month in respect of claims received up to one month before that date.

### **Backdating**

9. Any changes made to this scheme during the year may be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 by resolution of the Council when approving the amendment.

### **Pensions**

10. Allowances paid under the Harrow Members' Allowances Scheme will **not** be pensionable for the purposes of the Superannuation Act.



## **Renunciation**

11. A person may, by notice in writing given to the Chief Executive, elect to forgo any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this scheme.

## **Withholding Allowances**

12.
  - (1) In the event that a Member is suspended from duties, that Member's basic allowance and special responsibility allowance (if any) will be withheld for the whole period of the Member's suspension.
  - (2) In the event that a Member is partially suspended from duties, that Member's basic allowance will be paid but their SRA, if any, will be withdrawn for the period of the partial suspension.

### Approved duties for Carers' Allowance

- ◆ A meeting of the Executive.
- ◆ A meeting of a committee of the Executive.
- ◆ A meeting of the Authority.
- ◆ A meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Authority.
- ◆ A meeting of some other body to which the Authority make appointments or nominations.
- ◆ A meeting of a committee or sub-committee of a body to which the Authority make appointments or nominations.
- ◆ A meeting which has both been authorised by the Authority, a committee, or sub-committee of the Authority or a joint committee of the Authority and one or more other authorities, or a sub-committee of a joint committee and to which representatives of more than one political group have been invited (if the Authority is divided into several political groups) or to which two or more councillors have been invited (if the authority is not divided into political groups).
- ◆ A meeting of a Local Authority association of which the Authority is a member.
- ◆ Duties undertaken on behalf of the Authority in pursuance of any Procedural Rule of the Constitution requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened.
- ◆ Duties undertaken on behalf of the Authority in connection with the discharge of any function of the Authority conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises.
- ◆ Duties undertaken on behalf of the Authority in connection with arrangements made by the authority for the attendance of pupils at a school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996.

## Schedule 1

### Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)

There are 9 bands of SRAs:

<b>Band</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>SRA £/an num</b>
<b>1</b>	Leader of the third largest Group Deputy Leader of the second largest Group Chief Whips of the two largest Groups Chairman of Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee Chairman of Standards Committee Support Members for Cabinet	<b>£2,040</b>
<b>2</b>	Performance Lead Members for Scrutiny Policy Lead Members for Scrutiny	<b>£3,060</b>
<b>3</b>	Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Planning Committee Chairman of the Traffic Advisory Panel Chairman of the Grants Advisory Panel	<b>£4,590</b>
<b>4</b>	Chairman of Licensing and General Purposes Committee Chairman of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub Chairman of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee  Portfolio Adviser (The SRA to be paid only if there is agreement from the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member. In such an event the entire SRA paid to the Portfolio Adviser at Band 4 will be deducted from the SRA of the Leader at Band 7 or the relevant Cabinet Member at Band 6)	<b>£6,630</b>
<b>5</b>	Chairman of the Planning Committee Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Leader of the Second Largest Group	<b>£8,670</b>
<b>6</b>	Deputy Leader with Portfolio Adviser Cabinet Members with Portfolio Adviser	<b>£13,060</b>

<b>Band</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>SRA - £/an num</b>
<b>7</b>	Deputy Leader without Portfolio Adviser Cabinet Members without Portfolio Adviser	<b>£19,690</b>
<b>8</b>	Leader with Portfolio Adviser	<b>£24,169</b>
<b>9</b>	Leader without Portfolio Adviser	<b>£30,799</b>

**NOTE**

In the Council for 2010 to 2014, the Groups are as follows:-

Largest Group = Labour Group

Second Largest Group = Conservative Group

## Schedule 2

### Claims for Out-Of-Borough Travel and Subsistence Expenses

#### Duties Undertaken Out-of-Borough

Claims for travel and subsistence expenses incurred can normally only be paid in respect of approved duties undertaken at venues out of the Borough. Expenses will be reimbursed at the rates paid and on the conditions specified in the officer scheme for travel and subsistence allowances.

1. Members may claim travel and subsistence expenses in respect of the following **out-of-Borough** duties:-
  - (a) Attendance at any meeting which may be convened by the Authority provided that Members of at least two groups are invited and the meeting is not convened by officers.
  - (b) Attendance at a meeting of an outside body to which the Member has been appointed or nominated as a representative of the Council, where the Outside Body does not itself operate a scheme to reimburse travel and subsistence expenses.
  - (c)
    - (i) attendance at an appropriate out-of-Borough conference, seminar, meeting or other appropriate non-political event as a representative of an Outside Body to which that Member has been either nominated or appointed by Council to serve in a role with a specific pan-Authority remit;
    - (ii) attendance at meetings in the capacity of a direct appointee of a Local Authority Association, joint or statutory body or other London-wide or national body subject to the following proviso:  
that the Member serves on the appointing body by virtue of an appointment made by Council to an authorised Outside Body;  
  
subject in either case to the Outside Body/Bodies concerned themselves not making provision for any travel and subsistence expenses necessarily incurred.
  - (d) Attendance at a meeting of any association of local authorities of which the Authority is a member and to which the Member has been appointed as a representative.
  - (e) Attendance at a training session, conference, seminar or other non-political event, the attendance fees for which are being funded by the Council through a Departmental or a corporate budget.

- (f) Attendance at any training session, conference, seminar or other non-political event for which there is either no attendance fee or any attendance fee is being met by the Member him/herself (or from the relevant political group secretariat budget) subject to the relevant Director confirming that the content of the training, conference, seminar or event is relevant to the Member's responsibilities in respect of the services provided by the Authority or to the management of the Authority.
2. Duties for which out-of-Borough travel and subsistence expenses may not be claimed include:-
- (a) Political meetings or events.
  - (b) Any meetings of 'Outside Bodies' to which the Member has not been appointed or nominated by the Council as its representative.
  - (c) Meetings of the Governing Bodies of Schools.

**Model Council Tax Resolution****Harrow Council****Council Tax Resolution 2013-2014**

To approve the model budget and Council Tax resolutions reflecting the recommendations of Cabinet and the GLA precept.

Council is requested to determine the level of the Council Tax for 2013-2014 in the light of the information on the precept and make the calculations set out in the resolution shown below.

- (1) To note that at its meeting on 22 January 2013 Cabinet calculated the amount of 76,874 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2013-2014 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 made under Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
  
- (2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2013-2014, in accordance with Sections 31A and 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
  - (i) Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) [(a) to (f)] of the Act. (**Gross expenditure**)  
[£586,864,067]
  
  - (ii) Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3)[(a) to (d)] of the Act. (**Gross income including use of reserves**)  
[£420,516,542]
  
  - (iii) Being the amount by which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, **as its budget requirement for the year.**  
[£166,347,525]
  
  - (iv) Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of revenue support grant, increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Collection Fund Surplus)  
[£73,308,460]

(v) Being **the amount to be raised from Council Taxes**

Calculated as the amount at 2 (iii) above less the amount at 2 (iv.) above.

[£93,039,065]

(vi) Being the amount at (v) divided by the Council Tax Base, calculated by the Council at its meeting on 22 January 2013 in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amount of its Council tax for the year. **(The average Band D Council Tax )**

£1,210.28

(vii) Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	806.85	941.33	1075.80	1210.28	1479.23	1748.18	2017.13	2420.56

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (vi.) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(3) That it be noted that for 2013-2014 the Greater London Authority stated the following amount in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below

Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	202.00	235.67	269.33	303.00	370.33	437.67	505.00	606.00

(4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2)(vii) and (3) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2013-2014 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below

Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	1,008.85	1,177.00	1,345.14	1,513.280	1,849.56	2,185.85	2,522.13	3,026.56



- (5) Determine for the purposes of 52ZB and Section 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2013/14 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) Report (England) 2013/2014 and Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Alternative Notional Amounts) Report (England) 2013/2014.

**HARROW COUNCIL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2013/14**

Harrow Council supports openness and accountability and is pleased to publish its Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14. In compliance with the Localism Act 2011 this statement outlines the Council's policy on pay and benefits for Council employees (excluding Schools)<sup>1</sup> and specifically for its senior management for 2013/14.

**Context**

The context for the Council's Pay Policy is the Council's Strategy for People<sup>2</sup>  
[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11213/strategy\\_for\\_people](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11213/strategy_for_people)

The Strategy for People 2013-2016 is currently being developed and will reflect that the significant change experienced in recent years will continue in the foreseeable future and will be felt by all Council staff, regardless of level or role. Delivery models will continue to be developed, which will affect individual members of staff as we see more services delivered with partners, by private, public or third sector providers and through shared services.

The scale of the challenges facing the Council requires that our workforce and that of our partners is suitably skilled and motivated. At the time of writing this statement the Council is in the process of drafting its new Strategy for People which, when completed, will be published on the Council's website.

The Council's new Strategy for People will set out the Council's strategy to ensure this collective workforce is able to meet those challenges and deliver against the priorities set out in this plan.

The new Strategy will therefore remain focused on ensuring our workforce has the capability, competence and confidence to deliver quality services to our community and builds on the foundations of our previous Strategy to achieve this through:

- Recruiting and retaining the **Right People**
- Who have the **Right Skills**
- Working on the **Right Things**
- And are supported to work in the **Right Way**
- With the **Right Motivation**

The Council seeks to reduce income inequality and ensure that the pay, terms and conditions of Council employees comply with the Council's duties under the Equality Act. The Council recognises that a significant proportion of the workforce lives locally<sup>3</sup> and that therefore its pay policy helps support a strong local economy.

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<sup>1</sup> The Pay Accountability provisions of the Localism Act 2011 do not apply to staff employed in Schools

<sup>2</sup> The Council's current Strategy for People 2010-12 was agreed by Cabinet in March 2010 a new Strategy is being developed for 2013-16

<sup>3</sup> 60% of employees have a permanent address with a Harrow (HA) postcode

## Modernising Terms & Conditions Review 2011/12

In 2011/12 the Council undertook a review of pay and terms and conditions for employees. The objectives of the review, which were agreed by Cabinet, were to:

- Modernise: to support the future needs of the Council
- Simplify: wherever possible, to make terms and conditions easier to understand and reduce administration
- Reduce cost: to reduce the costs of terms and conditions of employment as part of its plan to make savings over the next 3 years
- Give greater choice: to continue to have core terms and conditions but to provide each individual with an element of choice beyond that.

The modernising review was completed in 2012 and the Council reached a collective agreement with the relevant recognised trade unions, which introduced changes to the pay, terms and conditions of all employees covered by this Pay Policy Statement, including those of senior management, from January 2013.

The collective agreement is published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/13003/collective\\_agreement-novemeber\\_2012](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/13003/collective_agreement-novemeber_2012)

The changes introduced through the collective agreement are in accordance with the Council's Pay Policy Statement 2012/13 and include the following key provisions:

- 2.5% pay cut for the Chief Executive and Corporate Directors
- 1% pay cut for staff earning £21,375 and above
- Revised grading structure so that the Council's lowest paid employees are paid not less than the London Living Wage.<sup>4</sup>
- A pilot scheme making incremental pay progression subject to performance
- No enhancements for overtime or weekend working except for Bank Holidays and night work
- Reduced redundancy compensation payments
- Improved salary sacrifice schemes and other employee benefits

### Council Pay Rates / Scales

The Council considers it important to be able to locally determine pay rates. This enables it to respond to regional and local labour market conditions. The Council

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<sup>4</sup> London Living Wage is set periodically by the Mayor of London and rose to £8.55 per hour in November 2012.

benchmarks its pay rates with other London Boroughs to ensure that it is able to recruit and retain qualified and competent employees.

The following Council pay scales were revised by the Council in January 2013 as a result of the modernising review:

- Harrow pay scale
- Senior Professional & Managerial pay scale
- Chief Officer pay scales
- Chief Executive pay scale

The Council also revised the pay scales for employees who are Education Psychologists (Soulbury), Nursery Nurses and Youth & Community Workers.

The January 2012 pay scales are published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/3321/harrow\\_pay\\_scale](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/3321/harrow_pay_scale)

### **Remuneration of Senior Management (Chief Officers)**

The Council defines its senior management as the top 3 tiers in the management structure commencing with the Chief Executive (Tier 1), Corporate Directors (Tier 2) and Divisional Directors (Tier 3), this includes all statutory and non-statutory Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer posts.

A revised senior management structure<sup>5</sup> was implemented during 2012 and appointments have been made to all posts in the new structure.

The current senior management structure including employee payments, names, job descriptions, responsibilities, budgets and numbers of staff is published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200026/council\\_departments/2172/harrow\\_council\\_organisation\\_and\\_managers/2](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200026/council_departments/2172/harrow_council_organisation_and_managers/2)

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/2623/harrow\\_council\\_senior\\_managers\\_salaries](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/2623/harrow_council_senior_managers_salaries)

From April 2013 the Council will take over specific public health function from the NHS and is required to appoint a statutory Chief Officer post of Director of Public Health. The post holder will be paid on NHS pay scales and the information published on the Council's website will be updated.

The Council's policy is to minimise the senior management pay bill. The pay rates and numbers of senior managers reduced in 2012/13. Further reductions in the number of senior managers are planned.

The Council may, in exceptional circumstances, employ senior managers under contracts for services. The Council publishes details of all payments made under contracts for services in excess of £500 at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200110/council\\_budgets\\_and\\_spending/2226/council\\_spending](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200110/council_budgets_and_spending/2226/council_spending)

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<sup>5</sup> A revised senior management structure was agreed by Cabinet in December 2011

## **Remuneration of Lowest Paid Employees**

The Council defines its lowest paid employees as those paid at the lowest pay spine column point on the lowest Harrow pay grade, excluding trainees and apprentices. This changed as a result of the modernising review and from 1 April 2013 will be spinal column point 1 of grade 1 on the Harrow pay scale. This means the Council's lowest paid employees are paid not less than the London Living Wage.

## **Pay Multiple**

The 'pay multiple' is the ratio between the highest paid salary and the median average salary of the Council's workforce. The Council's highest paid employee is the Chief Executive and the current pay multiple is published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11582/senior\\_manager\\_salaries\\_2012-13](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11582/senior_manager_salaries_2012-13)

## **Pay Grading**

In 2004 the Council entered into a single status agreement with its recognised trade union, introducing common job evaluation schemes<sup>6</sup> and pay scales for the Council's former manual workers, administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees with the exception of Education Psychologists, Nursery Nurses, Youth & Community Workers, Chief Officers and the Chief Executive.

In 2007 job evaluation was extended to include Chief Officers.

From April 2013 the Council will take over specific public health functions from the NHS and staff who transfer from the NHS to the Council will remain on NHS grades and pay scales.

## **Pay on Appointment**

All employees, including Chief Officers are normally appointed on the lowest pay spine column point for their job evaluated grade. In exceptional circumstances employees may be appointed at a higher point within the evaluated grade.

The Council delegates authority to the Chief Officer Employment Panel to make recommendations to Council on the appointment of the Head of Paid Service and to make appointments of Chief Officers in accordance with the Council's Pay Policy.

## **Pay Progression**

All employees are able to incrementally progress through the pay spine column points for their job evaluated grade.

Progression will normally be one increment (pay spine column point) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April each year until they reach the top of their grade.

Progression for Chief Officers is subject to the following qualifications:

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<sup>6</sup> The Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) Scheme is used for all Harrow grade jobs and the Hay Scheme for senior professional and managerial jobs

- i. increments may be accelerated within a Chief Officer's scale at the discretion of the council on the grounds of special merit or ability.
- ii. an increment may be withheld following an adverse report on a Chief Officer (subject to that Chief Officer's right of appeal). Any increment withheld may be paid subsequently if the Chief Officer's services become satisfactory.

The criteria for pay progression for other staff was changed as a result of the modernising review so that progression for all staff is now subject to satisfactory performance.

### **Performance Related Pay**

Council employees including the Chief Executive and Chief Officers do not currently receive performance related payments or bonuses.

The Council operates a Reward and Recognition Scheme for employees who, subject to meeting the criteria of the scheme, may receive payments of £250 or £500. Details of Reward and Recognition payments to senior management are published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11582/senior\\_manager\\_salaries\\_2012-13](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11582/senior_manager_salaries_2012-13):

### **National / Regional Pay Agreements**

The Council supports the national (JNC/NJC<sup>7</sup>) and regional (GLPC) collective bargaining arrangements for pay and conditions of service and the pay scales for all employees, including the Chief Executive and Chief Officers, are increased in line with national and regional pay agreements.

The last pay agreement increasing pay for the Chief Executive and Chief Officers was implemented in 2008/9.

The last pay agreement increasing pay for all other non-teaching employees was implemented in 2009/10.

### **Market Supplements**

The Council may apply market supplement payments to jobs with recruitment or retention difficulties. Details of market supplement payments to senior management are published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11582/senior\\_manager\\_salaries\\_2012-13](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11582/senior_manager_salaries_2012-13)

### **Fees for Election Duties**

The Council's policy for payment of fees for election duties is published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/687/elections\\_information/2560/election\\_fees\\_and\\_charges](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/687/elections_information/2560/election_fees_and_charges)

Details of fees for election duties paid to senior management are published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11582/senior\\_manager\\_salaries\\_2012-13](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11582/senior_manager_salaries_2012-13)

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<sup>7</sup> Joint Negotiating Committee / National Joint Council

## **Pension**

All employees are able to join the Local Government Pension Scheme and receive benefits in accordance with the provisions of that Scheme as applied by the Council. Details of the Council's policy and decisions in respect of discretionary elements of the Scheme are published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/3317/pension\\_fund\\_statement](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/3317/pension_fund_statement)

From April 2013 the Council will take over specific public health functions from the NHS and staff who transfer from the NHS to the Council will continue to be members of the NHS Pension Scheme and receive benefits in accordance with the provisions of that Scheme.

## **Other Terms and Conditions of Employment**

The pay, terms and conditions of council employees are set out in employee handbooks. Handbooks are produced for all employees, including managers and senior professionals, Chief Officers and the Chief Executive and the latest editions are published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/3343/employee\\_handbooks](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/3343/employee_handbooks)

## **Payments on Termination of Employment**

In the event that the Council terminates the employment of an employee on the grounds of redundancy or efficiency of the service they will be entitled to receive compensation and benefits in accordance with the Council's Redundancy and Early Retirement schemes, which are published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/3343/employee\\_handbooks](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/3343/employee_handbooks)

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/3306/early\\_retirement\\_scheme](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/3306/early_retirement_scheme)

The Council's Redundancy scheme was changed as a result of the modernising review and compensation payments to employees will reduce from 2014.

Where payments on termination amount to £100,000 or greater, full council will be asked to determine whether it wishes to vote on the decision.

Details of redundancy compensation payments paid to senior management are published at:

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11582/senior\\_manager\\_salaries\\_2012-13](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/11582/senior_manager_salaries_2012-13)

## **Re-employment of Employees**

Section 7 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that every appointment to paid office or employment in a local authority shall be made on merit.

## **Further Information**

For further information on the Council's pay policy please contact the Council's Human Resources & Development Service email [StaffBenefits@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:StaffBenefits@harrow.gov.uk) DD 020 8424 1110.

## (A) Leader’s Announcements

Currently at Council Procedure Rule 4.3, there is a procedure for the Leader of the Council to address Full Council meetings and make announcements in relation to current achievements and issues involving the Council. The Group considered amendments to this rule to ensure that all Portfolio Holders could speak under this provision, if they wished. This would ensure that Full Council meetings may be provided with a range of information from all different areas of the Council. Set out below is the Working Group’s suggested amendment to the Rule for Council to consider.

### 4.3 Leader and Portfolio Holders’ Announcements

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4.3.1 Announcements by the Leader and Portfolio Holders submitted in accordance with Rule 4.2 will be dealt with at ordinary meetings of the Council in the following way:

4.3.1.1 A Leader and Portfolio Holders’ Announcements item will appear on the Council’s order of business paper as a separate item and the Leader and / or Portfolio Holders may give a short summary statement updating the Council on matters of interest and relevant issues which have come to the fore since the previous meeting of the Council;

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4.3.1.2 The Leader and Portfolio Holders’ Announcements will last not more than twenty minutes. Up to 10 minutes will be allowed for the announcements and the remainder of the time will be allowed for questions from Members;

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4.3.1.3 Members will be permitted to ask questions in relation to the announcements on a “first called, first answered” basis;

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4.3.1.4 A Councillor asking a question under Rule 4.3.1.3 may ask one supplementary question at the Council meeting at which the Leader’s answer is given. The supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.

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4.3.1.5 Leader’s Announcements does not apply to Annual, Extraordinary, Council Tax or adjourned meetings of the Council.

*AGREED: That the amendments to the Council’s Constitution be agreed.*



## **(B) Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 20 September 2012**

The Working Group received a reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 September 2012 which set out amendments to the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference as follows:

### **PROPOSED REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **PERFORMANCE & FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Performance and Finance Sub-Committee has the following powers and duties:

1. To be the key driver of the scrutiny function's work programme and the body responsible for monitoring the performance of the council and partners in relation to their stated priorities;
2. To consider/monitor, on an exception basis, the financial and service performance of the organisation;
3. To consider/monitor the performance of the council's partners;
4. To undertake specific investigation of identified 'hot spots' through Q&A, reports or challenge panels – subject to endorsement by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
5. To refer 'hot spots' to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for more detailed investigation where necessary;
6. To consider such urgent items

*AGREED: That the revised Terms of Reference for the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee be incorporated into the Council's Constitution.*

## **(C) Sealing of Documents**

The Contract Procedure Rules (at para. 30.6) referred to contract sealing being the responsibility of the 'Director of Legal Services'. To ensure that there was full clarity that this also related to land deeds it has been proposed that the group proposed that a further delegation be added for the Director of Legal and Governance Services in part 3b of the constitution, page 75, as follows:

<p>Director of Legal and Governance Services</p> <p>1. To institute, defend or participate in any legal proceedings, in any Court or Tribunal and in any case where such action is necessary to give effect to decisions of the Council, or in any case where he or she considers that such action is necessary to protect the Council's interests.</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p><b>Formatted:</b> Font: (Default) Arial, 12 pt</p>
<p>2. To delegate to any officer authority to institute defend or participate in any legal proceedings, in any Court or Tribunal and in any case where such action is necessary to give effect to decisions of the Council, or in any case where he or she considers that such action is necessary to protect the Council's interests.</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p><b>Formatted:</b> Font: (Default) Arial, 12 pt</p>
<p>3. To authorise officers to appear in Court on the Council's behalf.</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p><b>Formatted:</b> Font: (Default) Arial, 12 pt</p>
<p>4. To act as the proper officer for the purposes of Births, Deaths and Marriages</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p><b>Formatted:</b> Font: (Default) Arial, 12 pt</p>
<p>5. To undertake any action necessary to ensure the effective development and implementation of the Council's Corporate Governance Framework.</p>	<p>Council and Executive</p>	<p><b>Formatted:</b> Font: (Default) Arial, 12 pt</p>

6. <u>To authorise the affixing of the Council's seal and execution of deeds</u>	<u>Council and Executive</u>
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*AGREED: That the amendments to the Council's Constitution be agreed.*

**COUNCIL – 28 FEBRUARY 2013**

**QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

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

1.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

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

**Question:** "Could you provide a breakdown of the £273,000 cut to the highways maintenance budget?"

**Answer:** This will include a review of the highways maintenance contract and the scale back on response times for some these the services and a review of standards.

2.

**Questioner:** Councillor Stanley Sheinwald

**Asked of:** Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio Holder for Finance

To be responded to by Councillor Graham Henson (Portfolio Holder for Performance, Customer Services and Corporate Services)

**Question:** "I see from the council tax budget papers that you propose to reduce the number of formal council committee meetings so can you tell me which ones are you considering and how much money will this save?"

**Answer:** We plan to make savings of £30k in 2013-14, and £70k in 2014-15. In order to deliver these savings we will condense the minutes we produce, scale back democratic services support to some meetings, and reduce some meetings. The final decision as to which meetings will be reduced has not yet been made.

3.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

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

**Question:** "Could you provide breakdowns of the £490,000 and £273,000 procurement savings in Environment and Enterprise over the next two years?"

**Answer:** The £490k includes a specific savings target of £350k against the Council wide Fraikin contract. The remainder is to be found in collaboration with Procurement on review of contracts, category management.

4.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Margaret Davine (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing)

**Question:** "Could you provide a breakdown of the £350,000 'voluntary sector funding' investment that has been added to the final revenue budget? Additionally, "investment" implies a return; what is the rate of return to that £350k 'investment'?"

**Answer:** In December the council considered a number of options to reduce budgets in order to meet the financial challenge for the next 2 years. This included savings across voluntary sector funding. In response to the consultation on the December budget proposals the council has decided to look elsewhere for this saving and has reinstated funding to the voluntary sector for work with vulnerable adults.

5.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Margaret Davine (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing)

**Question:** "At February's Cabinet, you spoke of how Circles of Support (funded by the TPIF) had improved services for users and made savings the council. If all the £2.1m of the s256 money from the Department of Health to support "social care services with health benefits" had actually been invested on social care services with health benefits, like Circles of Support, can you describe the resultant service improvements for users and savings for the Council that would have been achieved?"

**Answer:** I am pleased that this budget allows us to invest in our community by developing the Circles concept in Harrow. You reference the 2011-12 s256 monies allocated to Harrow. The £2.1m replaced the Council's own resources in funding Adult Social Care and enabled known demographic pressures of £1.5m to be fully funded. In addition, through the Corporate contingency, provision was made to manage risks around from the PCT's financial position and cover any savings proposals subject to consultation which could not be achieved. As a result of this decision, the Council did not consider any alternative proposals, therefore, it is not possible to speculate the resultant service improvements for users and savings for the Council.

6.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio Holder for Finance)

**Question:** "Can you confirm how the hoped for income from Treasury Management investments essentially doubled to £939,000 between December and February's budgets?"

**Answer:** Yes. This council has an excellent in house treasury management team who do a great job for the council, and their work has taken us in to the top 20 for investment returns on the money we hold.

The council holds money on behalf of other organisations such as WLWA, who were getting the benefit of the councils work free of charge.

We will now use, to allocate returns will be the higher of

- (1) the annual average 3 month Libid rate and
- (2) the rate earned for call deposits with the Council's main bank.

The change will provide a range of benefits to third party balances:

- greater certainty as to interest income
- increased transparency
- protection against any investment losses
- provide a rate at least comparable with that available if balances were separately invested
- align Harrow's approach with the majority of London Boroughs.

7.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Sachin Shah (Portfolio Holder for Finance)

**Question:** "In closing the budget gap between December and February, nearly £1.5 million of 'transformation' savings were found. Can you itemise and detail these savings, and explain why they did not feature in the draft budget?"

**Answer:** The Transformation savings included between December and January were

Procurement - Category Management savings	£500K
Agency Staff - reduction in usage	£500k
Staffing - Vacancy management	£470K

As you are aware the budget presented to Cabinet in December 2012 was not balanced and officers and members continued to develop proposals to enable a balanced budget to be set.

The procurement saving was identified following a review undertaken during December with external support that confirmed their achievability via improved category management. They are currently being broken down to spending areas to enable them to be incorporated into budgets prior to April.

The agency staff and vacancy management savings will be realised through improvements in the operation of establishment controls. These will involve a tightening up of existing controls and an additional element of scrutiny of all recruitment, compared to previous practice. The detail of these controls is still being developed but will be in place from April.

8.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Mitzi Green (Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families)

**Question:** "Could you provide a breakdown of the £260,000 'Business Support' savings in the Children's Services Budget?"

**Answer:** The £260,000 is all staffing within Business Support. The implementation of Business Support was on the basis that it would take some time for the structure to bed in and that 9 staff would be required during 2012-13 but not in 2013-14. This saving is removing the budget for those 9 staff.

9.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

**Asked of:** Councillor David Perry (Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services)

**Question:** "Could you itemise and break down the £600,000 over two years saving from the Cultural Strategy Review?"

**Answer:** In January 2012 Cabinet approved the future of cultural services review report which outlined a cross borough project to investigate the feasibility of commissioning two key cultural services (libraries and leisure) in partnership with Ealing and Brent councils. In June 2012 Cabinet approved a formal commissioning process to deliver joint leisure management services with Ealing and Brent and joint library management services with Ealing. The outcome of this process is currently under conclusion and the result will be brought for Cabinet approval in April 2013. There is the potential to deliver significant savings for Harrow by working in partnership with other boroughs, however, no decisions have yet been taken on the outcome.

10.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

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

**Question:** "Can you confirm what form of service impact assessment was conducted on the PRISM transformation?"

**Answer:** PRISM was agreed by Cabinet in Nov 2012, and this included a comprehensive business case on the benefits to be achieved from the investment we have made in the PRISM project.

11.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

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

**Question:** "Earlier this month your administration announced £200,000 extra for fixing potholes, and £70,000 for free parking at Christmas. Can you confirm where this funding is coming from, as it appears to be outside the budget framework?"



**Answer:** The 200K for highways improvements comes from the Transformation Priority and Initiatives Fund. The free parking concession does not run up to Christmas but once implemented will be on going benefit to the community funded by a growth bid in the MTFS .

12.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

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

**Question:** "Could you provide a breakdown of the £70,000 free parking figure, and confirm where in the borough this scheme will be implemented?"

**Answer:** This is a borough wide implementation

We are not sure where the £70k figure has come from.

13.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

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

**Question:** "How much does it cost to change the tariff on all the pay-and-display machines in the borough?"

**Answer:** All machines are able to be changed to meet the requirement. There are approximately 40 different tariffs in the borough and 210 machines. On average, every 6 machines will require a master chip at £174.00 and then £55.60, equalling an approximate cost of £452.00 per 6 machines x 35 = £15820.

In addition there are two barrier controlled car parks which will require the equipment to be upgraded as it is outdated and passed its useful life. The approximate cost is £65,000 per site, giving an approximate total of £150,000.

14.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

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

**Question:** “Are all our pay-and-display machines compatible with providing 20 minutes free parking for a set period of time?”

**Answer:** No. They will need to be modified.

15.

**Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

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

**Question:** “Over what time period is this free parking scheme set to run - from when until when - and how much loss of revenue is anticipated to arise from it?”

**Answer:** Times of operation will be as per current times and it is anticipated that the loss of revenue income will be approx. £522K pa.

16.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)

**Question:** “Could you provide the page and paragraph references in the Budget papers presented to Cabinet on February 14th 2013 that set out the role profile and list of responsibilities for the new Portfolio Adviser role, newly created at paragraph 56, page 121, of the documentation?”

**Answer:** The overall JD for any given Portfolio remains the same and the job description for any possible Portfolio Adviser will be based on the same principle as the Portfolio Assistants. It may be that none of the Portfolio Holders may wish to appoint a Portfolio Adviser.

If a Portfolio Holder requires a Portfolio Adviser then there will be a discussion and an agreement reached about allocation of responsibilities depending on each specific area since it may differ for each area. We will be happy to publish the agreement once in place.

I have also provided the details about the role to you at the Cabinet meeting on 14 February.

17.

- Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
- Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)
- Question:** “Could you provide the role profile and list of responsibilities for the Portfolio Adviser role?”
- Answer:** Not applicable, please read the answer given to Q16, along with the answer to Cabinet question.

18.

- Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
- Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)
- Question:** “Could you clarify why you chose to amend the SRA schedule to allow for Portfolio Holders and Portfolio Advisers to split SRAs upon the appointment of the latter?”
- Answer:** This appointment is only considered at the request of the Portfolio Holder as explained to you at the Cabinet meeting. This will only come into play where a Portfolio Holder would request to share their responsibilities due to a number of factors, such as, employment, health, family commitments etcetera to name a few. It may be that no Portfolio Holder may wish to do that.
- This will help with the forward planning, capacity building and to provide effective leadership among other things – at no extra cost to Council or tax payers.

19.

- Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
- Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)
- Question:** “Had legal advice been sought on the legality of an arrangement whereby a Portfolio Adviser would be paid personally by their Portfolio Holder, in the absence of suitable bandings on the SRA schedule?”
- Answer:** Portfolio Holder advisers will not be paid personally by portfolio holders, and so there was no need to seek legal advice on the point.

20.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)

**Question:** “Was legal advice sought on whether this arrangement would have established a pecuniary interest for the Portfolio Adviser?”

**Answer:** Portfolio holder advisers are appointed by the Leader, and so the issue of whether the adviser has an interest in that decision does not arise.

21.

**Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

**Asked of:** Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Property and Major Contracts)

**Question:** “And, if this proposed arrangement would have established a pecuniary interest, was legal advice taken as to whether and to what extent that pecuniary interest would have hampered the Portfolio Adviser in the carrying-out of their role?”

**Answer:** Not applicable, given the response to question 20.