

# COUNCIL (COUNCIL TAX)

## MINUTES

### 26 FEBRUARY 2015

- Present:**
- \* Councillor Ajay Maru (The Worshipful the Mayor)
  - \* Councillor Krishna Suresh (The Deputy Mayor)
- Councillors:**
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Ghazanfar Ali</li> <li>* Richard Almond</li> <li>* Mrs Chika Amadi</li> <li>* Jeff Anderson</li> <li>* Sue Anderson</li> <li>* Marilyn Ashton</li> <li>* Mrs Camilla Bath</li> <li>* June Baxter</li> <li>* Christine Bednell</li> <li>* James Bond</li> <li>* Michael Borio</li> <li>* Simon Brown</li> <li>* Kam Chana</li> <li>* Ramji Chauhan</li> <li>* Bob Currie</li> <li>* Niraj Dattani</li> <li>* Margaret Davine</li> <li>* Jo Dooley</li> <li>* Keith Ferry</li> <li>* Ms Pamela Fitzpatrick</li> <li>* Stephen Greek</li> <li>* Mitzi Green</li> <li>* Susan Hall</li> <li>* Glen Hearnden</li> <li>* Graham Henson</li> <li>* John Hinkley</li> <li>* Ameet Jogia</li> <li>* Manjibhai Kara</li> <li>* Barry Kendler</li> <li>* Jean Lammiman</li> <li>* Barry Macleod-Cullinane</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Kairul Kareema Marikar</li> <li>* Jerry Miles</li> <li>* Mrs Vina Mithani</li> <li>* Amir Moshenson</li> <li>* Chris Mote</li> <li>* Janet Mote</li> <li>* Christopher Noyce</li> <li>* Phillip O'Dell</li> <li>† Paul Osborn</li> <li>* Nitin Parekh</li> <li>* Ms Mina Parmar</li> <li>* Varsha Parmar</li> <li>* Primesh Patel</li> <li>* Pritesh Patel</li> <li>* David Perry</li> <li>* Kanti Rabadia</li> <li>* Kiran Ramchandani</li> <li>* Mrs Christine Robson</li> <li>* Lynda Seymour</li> <li>* Aneka Shah</li> <li>* Mrs Rekha Shah</li> <li>* Sachin Shah</li> <li>* Norman Stevenson</li> <li>* Sasi Suresh</li> <li>* Adam Swersky</li> <li>† Bharat Thakker</li> <li>* Antonio Weiss</li> <li>* Georgia Weston</li> <li>* Anne Whitehead</li> <li>* Stephen Wright</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

- \* Denotes Member present
- † Denotes apologies received

## PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by His Grace Srutidharma Das, Mayor's Chaplain.

### 63. COUNCIL MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 13 November 2014 and of the Extraordinary meeting held on 22 January 2015 be taken as read and signed as correct records.

### 64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor invited appropriate declarations of interest.

#### Item 8 – Corporate Plan 2015-2019

Councillor Sue Anderson declared non-pecuniary interests in that a family member was in receipt of Adult Social Care, she was a member of ADHD and Autism Support, a member of the National Autistic Society, a community champion, a volunteer for Harrow Health Walk and a friend of Harrow Rec.

#### Item 9 – Final Revenue Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2018/19

Councillor Richard Almond declared an interest as he was appointed to the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Councillor Jeff Anderson declared an interest in that he was a retired member of Unison.

Councillor Sue Anderson declared non-pecuniary interests in that she was a member of ADHD and Autism Support, a member of the National Autistic Society, a Friend of Harrow Museum, a Friend of English Heritage and a Friend of Harrow Association of Disabled People.

Councillor Bob Currie declared an interest in that he was a member of Unison.

Councillor Pamela Fitzpatrick declared a non-pecuniary interest in that she was a Director of the Harrow Law Centre.

Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he worked for the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

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

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

Councillor Primesh Patel declared an interest in that he was a member of Unison.

Councillor Lynda Seymour declared a non-pecuniary interest in that a family member was in receipt of Council Tax benefit.

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

Councillor Adam Swersky declared an interest in that he was appointed to the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Councillor Antonio Weiss declared an interest in that he was the Chair of Trustees of Harrow Law Centre.

## **65. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS**

- (i) Councillor James Bond moved a tabled procedural motion in relation to item 9 - Final Revenue Budget 2015 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2018/19. The motion was duly seconded by Councillor Georgia Weston and on being put to the vote was lost.
- (ii) Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane moved that item 14 - Petition Scheme, be taken ahead of item 6 - Petitions. This was seconded by Councillor Kam Chana and on being put to the vote was lost.
- (iii) The Leader of the Council, Councillor David Perry, 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 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2018/19, 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 2015-2019, the Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Prudential Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16, the Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2018/19, the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19, insofar as the recommendations be debated jointly. This was agreed.
- (iv) Having asked whether there were any further Procedural Motions, Councillor David Perry moved that item 7 – Leader and Portfolio Holders' Announcements, be taken ahead of item 6 - Petitions. This was seconded by Councillor Keith Ferry and was agreed. Councillor David Perry moved that Council Procedure Rule 18.5 – Roll Call, be suspended for the Budget items. This was seconded by Councillor Keith Ferry and upon being put to the vote was agreed.

**RESOLVED: That 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 the political groups),**

as set out in the tabled papers, be approved for the purposes of the debate upon

Item 8 –	Corporate Plan 2015 -2019
Item 9 –	Final Revenue Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2018/19
Item 10 -	Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Prudential Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16
Item 11 –	Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2018/19
Item 12 –	Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19.

## **66. PETITIONS**

The petitions detailed at Agenda Item 6a – Funding to the Voluntary Sector, Agenda Item 6c – Rayners Lane Library Closure and Agenda Item 6e – Brown Bin ‘Garden Tax’ were received.

In accordance with Rule 10, the following petitions were presented

- (i) Petition submitted by Councillor Georgia Weston containing 125 signatures requesting that the Council make road safety improvements to Elmcroft Crescent.

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

- (ii) Petition submitted by Councillor John Hinkley containing 2,086 signatures of residents requesting that Hatch End Library remain open.

The Leader of the Council indicated that, as the petition contained the threshold number of signatures to engender debate at Council, it should be debated at the meeting rather than the next ordinary meeting. This was agreed.

## **67. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

To note that three questions from members of the public had been received and responded to, and the recording of these questions and the answers given had been placed on the Council’s website.

## 68. PETITIONS

### (a) FUNDING TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR:

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council received a petition containing over 2,000 signatures as follows

- (i) Petition submitted by MIND in Harrow containing 2,072 signatures stating "Please do not cut funding for Age Concern, Citizens' Advice Bureau, MIND in Harrow, Harrow Association for the Disabled & other voluntary organisations."
- (ii) Debate was held on the content of the petition.

**RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to Cabinet for consideration.**

### (b) SAVE THE BOB LAWRENCE LIBRARY:

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council received a petition containing over 2,000 signatures as follows

- (i) Petition submitted by residents containing approximately 5,000 signatures stating "We the undersigned residents would like the local authority to keep the library open at its present location 6-8 North Parade, Mollison Way, HA8 5QH."
- (ii) An Open letter from the Bob Lawrence Library Campaign Team and a petition from children attending Stag Lane Junior School were also considered alongside the aforementioned petition.
- (iii) Debate was held on the content of the petition.

**RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to Cabinet for consideration.**

### (c) RAYNERS LANE LIBRARY CLOSURE:

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council received a petition containing over 2,000 signatures as follows

- (i) Petition submitted by residents and students of Nower Hill High School containing approximately 2,300 signatures stating "We, the undersigned, deplore the proposed closure of Harrow Libraries, particularly that of Rayners Lane, which serves a densely populated area with very few facilities. This Library does excellent work with students and pre-school children and serves as a hub for its diverse community. The loss of this resource would be destructive to the life of the area."
- (ii) Debate was held on the content of the petition.

**RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to Cabinet for consideration.**

(d) SAVE OUR LIBRARY - NORTH HARROW LIBRARY:

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council received a petition containing over 2,000 signatures as follows

- (i) Petition submitted by residents containing approximately 2,797 signatures stating "We, the undersigned, ask Harrow Council to reconsider the proposal to close North Harrow Library. Closure will have a serious detrimental effect on the local community. It will also lead to a further decline of the North Harrow Town Centre."
- (ii) Debate was held on the content of the petition.

**RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to Cabinet for consideration.**

(e) BROWN BIN 'GARDEN TAX':

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council received a petition containing over 2,000 signatures as follows

- (i) Petition submitted by residents containing approximately 3,000 signatures stating "Harrow Council's Labour administration recently announced, as part of their budget proposals, that residents could face a £75 charge for the collection of their brown waste bins. The bins, which are currently used for garden and food waste, would change to being for garden waste only – and would be collected once a fortnight for a £75 per year fee. We believe this proposal is an unreasonable 'garden tax' on Harrow residents, who already pay the third highest council tax in London, and who should reasonably expect waste collection to be included in their bills. The proposal is also unfair on low income households, and will likely have a disproportionate impact on elderly and disabled residents.

We the undersigned therefore petition the administration/Council to drop their plans for a £75 brown bin charge."

- (ii) Debate was held on the content of the petition.

**RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to Cabinet for consideration.**

(f) HATCH END LIBRARY:

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Council received a petition containing over 2,000 signatures as follows

- (i) Petition submitted by residents containing 2,086 signatures stating "We the undersigned Petition Harrow Council to keep the well liked and well

used Hatch End Library open for the people of Harrow and surrounding areas”.

- (ii) Debate was held on the content of the petition.

**RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to Cabinet for consideration.**

## **69. LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (i) The Leader of the Council, Councillor David Perry, introduced the item highlighting the achievements, challenges and proposals since the last ordinary meeting.
- (ii) Other Members of the Council spoke and/or asked questions of the Leader of the Council which were duly responded to.

## **70. CORPORATE PLAN 2015-2019**

Having agreed that the guillotine be extended until 11.00 pm and then agreed that the guillotine be extended until all notified speakers had spoken on agenda items 8 to 12, the Mayor advised that the ‘guillotine’ procedure would come into operation for the determination of the remaining business on the Summons.

**RESOLVED: That the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 be adopted.**

## **71. FINAL REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2015/16 TO 2018/19**

- (i) Further to Item 9 on the Summons, the Council received Recommendation I of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 February 2015 and a report of the Chief Finance Officer.
- (ii) The Leader of the Council, Councillor David Perry, formally moved the Recommendation.
- (iii) Upon the meeting moving to a vote upon the substantive Recommendation and the report of the Chief Finance Officer it was carried. The voting was as follows:

**In Favour of the Motion:** Councillors Ali, Amadi, Jeff Anderson, Sue Anderson, Borio, Brown, Currie, Dattani, Davine, Dooley, Ferry, Fitzpatrick, Green, Hearnden, Henson, Kendler, Marikar, Miles, O’Dell, Parekh, Varsha Parmar, Primesh Patel, Perry, Ramchandani, Robson, Aneka Shah, Mrs Rekha Shah, Sachin Shah, Sasikala Suresh, Krishna Suresh, Swersky, Weiss and Whitehead.

**Against the Motion:** Councillors Almond, Ashton, Mrs Bath, Baxter, Bednell, Bond, Chana, Chauhan, Greek, Hall, Hinkley, Jogia, Kara, Lammiman,

Macleod-Cullinane, Mithani, Moshenson, Chris Mote, Janet Mote, Noyce, Mina Parmar, Pritesh Patel, Rabadia, Seymour, Stevenson, Weston and Wright.

**Abstain:** His Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Ajay Maru.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the budget be approved to enable the Council Tax for 2015/16 to be set;
- (2) the Medium Term Financial Strategy at Appendix I to the Cabinet Recommendation be approved;
- (3) the 2015/16 Schools' Budget at Appendix II to the Cabinet Recommendation be approved;
- (4) the 2015/16 Members' Allowance Scheme at Appendix III to the Cabinet Recommendation be approved for 2015/16;
- (5) the Annual Pay Policy Statement at Appendix IV to the Cabinet Recommendation be approved;
- (6) the Model Council Tax Resolution, at Appendix 1 to the Council report, be approved;
- (7) in accordance with section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Council instructs the Chief Finance Officer to place a note of the amounts set out in paragraph (4) of appendix 1 to the Council report within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision.

**72. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2015/16**

**RESOLVED:** That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2015/16 be approved, including the:

- Prudential Indicators for 2015/16;
- Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2015/16;
- Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16;
- upper limit for borrowing of under 12 months be increased to 30%;
- lower limit for borrowing of 5 to under 10 years be reduced to 0%;
- deletion of the "Viability" criteria for Specified and Non-specified investments.



**73. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 TO 2018/19**

**RESOLVED:** That the Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2018/19, as detailed at the Appendix to the Cabinet Recommendation, be approved.

**74. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2015/16 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016/17 TO 2018/19**

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for 2015-16 be approved;**
- (2) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme, as detailed at the Appendix to the Cabinet Recommendation, be approved.**

**75. STANDARDS COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the new procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors, as amended by the Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee and contained in Appendix 1 to the Committee's Recommendation be agreed;**
- (2) a new Standards Working Group be established;**
- (3) the Assessment Working Group and the Hearing Working Group be disbanded;**
- (4) the Assessment Sub-Committee and Hearing Review Sub-Committee be disbanded;**
- (5) the delegations to the Monitoring Officer, as contained in Appendix 2 to the Committee's Recommendation be agreed;**
- (6) the Constitutional amendments contained in Appendix 2 to the Committee's Recommendation be agreed.**

**76. PETITION SCHEME**

The tabled amendment was moved by Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane was seconded by Councillor Susan Hall and was voted upon but not carried.

**RESOLVED:** That the revised Petition Scheme and other constitutional changes detailed in the report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services be approved.

## **77. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

To note that nine questions from Councillors to the Leader of the Council had been received and that a written response would be provided and placed on the Council's website.

## **78. MOTIONS**

At Item 16 the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillor Adam Swersky and Councillor Anne Whitehead in the following terms:

- (i) "Harrow Council moves to tackle the explosion of e-cigarette usage across the Borough.

E-cigarettes are a promising and effective tool to help smokers quit. However, they are also a highly addictive nicotine-based product, with a range of chemicals whose impact on "vapers" has not yet been properly researched.

E-cigarettes, which have been prominently advertised in St Ann's Shopping centre and will soon be promoted on TV screens nationwide, have risen dramatically in popularity recently, with 2.1 million users in the UK alone. This equates to over 7,000 users in Harrow. Sales of e-cigarettes quadrupled in 2013, an exponential rate of growth for a product that is as addictive as heroin or cocaine.

This Council congratulates the efforts of Transport for London to extend its ban of smoking to e-cigarettes, and welcomes the cautionary approach taken by cities such as New York. This is in line with the WHO's recommendations to ban e-cigarette smoking in public places and in work places.

To avoid a new generation of young people in Harrow becoming hooked on nicotine, this Council resolves to take action against the proliferation of e-cigarettes for uses other than to stop smoking.

To this end, we call on the Director of Public Health and other Council officers to:

- Robustly enforce the ban on sales of e-cigarettes to under-18 year olds.
- Remove any advertising of e-cigarettes on Harrow Council property and include a ban on e-cigarette advertising in the Council's policy on acceptable advertising, with the exception of adverts providing information on appropriate use at points of sale.
- Take all appropriate steps to discourage the use of e-cigarettes for any purpose aside from to quit smoking tobacco. Smoking

prevention campaigns, particularly those targeted at children and young people should include warnings about the addictive properties of e-cigarettes and the significant unknown health risks.”

(ii) Upon a vote, the Motion was agreed.

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

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

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

**80. CABINET - APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE - CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

**RESOLVED: That the Council’s Constitution be amended as set out in the report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services to enable a member of the voluntary sector to be appointed as a Non Executive member of Cabinet.**

**81. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED: That in accordance with Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) for the reasons set out below:**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reason</u>
19.	Information Report – Remuneration Packages and Severance Payments of £100,000 or Greater	Information under paragraphs 1 and 3 (contains information relating to any individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

**82. INFORMATION REPORT - REMUNERATION PACKAGES AND SEVERANCE PAYMENTS OF £100,000 OR GREATER**

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

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

At 10.10 pm, prior to the consideration of item 8 – Corporate Plan 2015-2019 the Mayor sought agreement to the extension of the guillotine until 11.00 pm. This was agreed.

At 10.57 pm, the Mayor sought agreement to the extension of the guillotine until all the speakers notified to him in advance had spoken on the budget items. This was agreed.

At 11.29 pm, the meeting adjourned until 11.35 pm.

**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 0.16 am).