

## **EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EMPLOYEES' CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

**1 FEBRUARY 2006**

Chair: \* Councillor Marie-Louise Nolan

Councillors: \* Mrs Bath \* Mrs Joyce Nickolay  
\* Janet Cowan \* N Shah  
\* Currie \* Toms

Representatives of HTCC: (Currently no appointees)

Representatives of UNISON: \* Ms M Cawley Mr K McDonald  
\* Ms S Duffell † Mr M Nolan  
\* Ms A Jackson Shankar Sivashankar  
Mr G Martin

\* Denotes Member present/Employee Representative present

† Denotes apologies received

### **PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**

### **PART II - MINUTES**

191. **Revenue Budget 2006-2007 and Medium Term Budget Strategy 2006-07 to 2008-09:**

The Forum received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy. An officer stated that the grant awarded to the Council was expected to increase by 2% in 2006/07 and 2.7% in 2007/08. These rises were below the national average but comparable to those in boroughs similar to Harrow. The low rises combined with an intended Council Tax increase of 2.95% meant that there would be limited provision for any growth in services. Funding for schools was now ring-fenced and was expected to be 6.6% per pupil in 2006/07.

The officer stated that a risk assessment would be carried out to determine the level of reserves to be held. This would be submitted to Cabinet.

In response to questions from Members, the officer stated that debt restructuring would cut costs and the use of Voice Over Internet Protocol would reduce expenditure on telephone services.

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