



**MINUTES
of the
COUNCIL TAX MEETING
of the
COUNCIL
of the
LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW
held on
THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2008**

Present: **The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Jean Lammiman)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor John Nickolay)**

Councillors:

Husain Akhtar
David Ashton
Mrs Marilyn Ashton
Mrs Camilla Bath
Miss Christine A. Bednell
Robert Benson
Don Billson
Mrs Lurline Champagne
Mrinal Choudhury
Golam Sobhan Chowdhury
Bob Currie
Margaret Davine
Mano Dharmarajah
Anthony Ferrari
Keith Ferry
Archie T. Foulds
Brian E. Gate
David Gawn
Mitzi Green

Susan Hall
Graham Henson
Thaya Idaikkadar
Nizam Ismail
Manji. Kara
Mrs E.M. Kinnear
Ashok Kulkarni
Barry Macleod-Cullinane
Julia Merison
Salim Miah
Myra Michael
Jerry J. Miles
Vina Mithani
Chris Mote
Mrs Janet Mote
Narinder Singh Mudhar
Mrs Joyce Nickolay
Christopher D. Noyce
Phillip O'Dell

Asad Omar
Paul Osborn
Anjana Patel
David Perry
Raj Ray
Richard David Romain
Paul Scott
Anthony Seymour
Navin Shah
Stanley Sheinwald
Eric Silver
Dinesh Solanki
Bill Stephenson
Mrs Sasikala Suresh
Yogesh Teli
Keekira Thammaiah
Mark A. Versallion
Thomas Weiss
Jeremy Zeid

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by the
Reverend Mike Hall

212. MINUTE'S SILENCE:

Having opened the meeting, the Mayor requested Council to observe a minutes silence in memory of the late Councillor Mrs Janet Cowan, Councillor Dhirjlal Lavingia, past Mayor Phyllis Harkett and former long serving employee Malcolm Blake who had all died recently.

213. MAYOR'S WELCOME:

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Husain Akhtar to his first meeting of Council since his election and also the newly appointed Youth Parliament representatives who were viewing the evenings proceedings. She further congratulated Councillor Gawn as he celebrated his 30th birthday.

214. COUNCIL MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2007 be signed as a correct record.

215. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

(i) Item 7 on the Summons – Revenue Budget 2007/08 – 2009/10
A number of Members declared personal interests in the above item (set out at Appendix I to these Minutes) and accordingly remained in the Chamber and took part in the debate and voting on this item.

(ii) Item 9 on the Summons – Corporate Plan
Councillor Paul Osborn declared a personal interest in the above item as a resident in the vicinity of the Travis Perkins site the redevelopment of which was identified as a flagship action within the Plan, but considered that he could still speak and vote thereon.

Councillor Margaret Davine also declared a personal interest in the above item by virtue of her mother being in receipt of social care. She remained in the room and participated in the debate and voting on this item.

(iii) Item 16 on the Summons – Appointments to Outside Bodies
Councillor Archie Foulds declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item as an employee of Stanmore College and accordingly took no part in the discussion thereon.

Councillor Mrs Bednell declared a personal interest in the item as an appointed governor and remained in the Chamber and took part in the debate and voting on this item.

(iv) Item 18(2) on the Summons – Motion (Land Registry Office in Harrow)
Councillors Christopher Noyce and Anthony Seymour declared a personal interest in the above item as Solicitors who dealt with Harrow Land Registry but considered that they could still speak and vote thereon.

(v) Item 18(4) on the Summons – Urgent Motion (Post Offices in Harrow)
Councillor Henson declared an interest in the above item, as an employee of the Post Office.

216. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the report of the Worshipful the Mayor upon her official duties, as tabled, be noted and received.

217. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS:

(i) The Leader of the Council, Councillor Chris Mote, moved a procedural motion under Rule 26.1 that, in line with the practice in previous years, the rules of debate be varied, as set out in the tabled note, for the purposes of the debate on the Revenue Budget, and that the tabled procedure also apply to the debate on the Corporate Plan insofar as the Recommendation and amendments be debated jointly. This was agreed.

- (ii) The Council also received notification in the tabled papers of two Urgent Motions, relating to an extension of approved absence on behalf of Councillor John Cowan, and Post Office Closures. It was agreed by general assent to admit the Motions to the business to be transacted at the meeting under the provisions of Rule 15.2.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the partial suspension under Rule 26.1 of Rules 14.1 and 17 regarding the moving of a Recommendation from the Cabinet and the rules of debate (including extended time for opening speeches by all three political groups) as set out in the tabled note, be approved for the purposes of the Revenue Budget debate (Minute 220);**
- (2) **the partial suspension of Rule 17.6 regarding the rules of debate be approved for the purposes of the debate on the Corporate Plan (Minute 222);**
- (3) **the two Urgent Motions be admitted to the Summons under Rule 15.2 as Items 18(3) and 18(4) respectively.**

218. PETITIONS:

In accordance with Rule 11, the following petitions were presented.

- (1) By Members of Council on behalf of petitioners:
- (i) Submitted by Councillor Noyce containing 57 signatures, objecting to Planning Application P/3845/07 for the construction of a single and two storey detached dwelling house.
[The petition stood referred to the Development Management Committee].
- (ii) Submitted by Councillor Perry containing 35 signatures, drawing attention to concerns regarding the Leisure Centre redevelopment plans and seeking a consultation process.
[The petition stood referred to Portfolio Holders for Planning, Development & Enterprise and for Community & Cultural Services].
- (iii) Submitted by Councillor Choudhury containing 42 signatures, drawing attention to commuter parking in Buckingham Road.
[The petition stood referred to the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel].
- (iv) Submitted by Councillor Mrs Eileen Kinnear containing 196 signatures, supporting the plans for St Anselm's RC Primary School.
[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Planning Development & Enterprise].
- (v) Submitted by Councillor Mrs Eileen Kinnear containing 573 signatures, supporting the extension, reconfiguration and refurbishment of St Anselm's RC Primary School.
[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Planning Development & Enterprise].
- (vi) Submitted by Councillor Navin Shah containing 62 signatures, seeking to stop the sale of the Gayton Road Library and public car park sites.
[The petition stood referred to Portfolio Holders for Planning Development & Enterprise and Community & Cultural Services].
- (2) By the Mayor on behalf of petitioners:
- (i) Petition containing 702 signatures, drawing attention to an objection to the shutting down of the Harrow Leisure Centre and that consultation on this issue should be held prior to any further action being taken.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Community & Cultural Services].

- (ii) Petition containing 60 signatures, drawing attention to Grimsdyke Road public realm issues relating to street cleansing.

[The petition stood referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment Services].

219. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Further to Item 6 on the Summons, no questions had been received from members of the public under the provisions of Rule 12.3.

220. REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09 TO 2009/10:

- (i) Further to Item 7 on the Summons, the Council received Recommendation I of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 February 2008, together with a revised model Council Tax resolution, which reflected changes in the GLA precept notified since the Cabinet meeting, and which had been circulated in the tabled papers.
- (ii) The Leader of the Council, Councillor Chris Mote formally moved the Recommendation, and further moved that Schedule 1 relating to Members Allowances be considered and voted upon separately to the overall Revenue Budget.
- (iii) The Labour Group tabled an amendment to the Recommendation. Councillor Navin Shah moved and Councillor Bill Stephenson seconded the detailed amendment, which included specific proposals for the Authority's budget for 2008/09, and a revised Medium Term Budget Strategy and a revised model Council Tax resolution on the basis of those proposals. The proposals sought to make £75,000 in 2008/09 and £100,000 in subsequent financial years available for the provision of additional services to some residents with moderate care needs, with the aim of preventing a move to "substantial" or "critical" categories – such funding to be found from a reduction in the contribution to bad debts and litigation provision.
- (iv) Further to the decision outlined at Resolution 217 above, the amendment and the Recommendation were debated jointly.
- (v) Following a full debate, the amendment outlined at (iii) above was voted upon but not carried.
- (vi) The Council voted upon Schedule 1 relating to Members Allowances which was carried and adopted.
- (vii) Upon the meeting moving to a vote upon the substantive Recommendation this was carried and adopted.

RESOLVED: That the substantive Recommendation be adopted in the following form:

- (1) the 2008/09 Revenue Budget be approved to enable the Council Tax for 2008/09 to be set;
- (2) the model Council Tax Resolution set out below be approved;

Council Tax Resolution 2008/09

- (A) To note that at its meeting on 17 January 2008 the Council calculated the amount of 85,466 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2008-2009 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (B) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2008-2009, in accordance with Sections 32 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 32 (2) (a) to (e) of the Act. **(Gross expenditure)** £518,871,202
- (ii) Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3)(a) to (c) of the Act. **(Gross income including use of reserves)** £356,033,572
- (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 32(4) of the Act, **as its budget requirement for the year.** £162,837,630
- (iv) Being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, reduced by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its General Fund to its Collection Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Collection Fund Deficit). £64,333,461
- (v) Being **the amount to be raised from Council Taxes** calculated as the amount at (iii) above less the amount at (iv) above. £98,504,169
- (vi) Being the amount at (v) divided by the Council Tax Base, calculated by the Council at its meeting on 17 January 2008 in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year. **(The average Band D Council Tax)** £1,152.55
- (vii) Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	768.37	896.43	1,024.49	1,152.55	1,408.67	1,664.79	1,920.92	2,305.10

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 Act, 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 Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (C) That it be noted that for 2008-2009 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
£	206.55	240.97	275.40	309.82	378.67	447.52	516.37	619.64

- (D) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (B)(vii) and (C) 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 2008-2009 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below

Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	974.92	1,137.40	1,299.89	1,462.37	1,787.34	2,112.31	2,437.29	2,924.74

(2) the Housing Revenue Account for 2008/09 be approved and in particular it be agreed with effect from 1 April 2008 to increase:

- (i) rents by 5.61% on average;
- (ii) service charges by 4.26% on average;
- (iii) water charges, garage rents and car park rents by 3% on average;
- (iv) increase energy (heating) charges by £3.78 on average;

(3) the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2008/09 be approved.

[Notes to the Resolution: (i) The budget summary relating to the Resolution is enclosed at Appendix II to these Minutes;

(ii) the Housing Revenue Account for 2008/09 is enclosed at Appendix III to these Minutes;

(iii) the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2008/09 is enclosed at Appendix IV to these Minutes].

221. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2008/09 & PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2008/09 - 2010/11:

Further to Item 8 on the Summons, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Chris Mote, moved Recommendation II of the Cabinet meeting on 14 February 2008.

RESOLVED: That

(1) **the Treasury Management Strategy for 2008/09 be approved (as set out in paragraphs 5 to 17 of the report of the Corporate Director of Finance submitted to the cabinet meeting);**

(2) **the Prudential Indicators for 2008/09 – 2010/11 be approved (as set out in paragraphs 18 to 39 of the report of the Corporate Director of Finance submitted to the Cabinet meeting).**

222. CORPORATE PLAN:

(i) Further to Item 9 on the Summons, with the assent of the Council, Councillor Paul Osborn formally moved Recommendation III of the Cabinet meeting of 14 February 2008 on behalf of the Leader.

(ii) The Labour Group tabled two amendments to the Recommendation. Councillor Bill Stephenson moved and Councillor Jerry Miles seconded amendment 1, which proposed the temporary withdrawal of proposals for the Gayton Road and Byron Park sites, pending the submission of new proposals for a combined Central Library/ Performance Space/ Exhibition Space on Gayton Road and a new enhanced Leisure Centre on the Byron Park site.

(iii) Councillor Mrs Margaret Davine moved and Councillor Bill Stephenson seconded amendment 2, which proposed the inclusion of an additional Flagship Action to work in partnership with the Voluntary Sector and other bodies to support those people having "moderate" social care needs so that by early intervention they could be prevented from falling onto the categories of having "substantial" or "critical" needs.

(iv) Further to the decision outlined at Resolution 217 above, both amendments and the Recommendation were debated jointly.

(v) Following a full debate, the amendment outlined at (ii) above was voted upon but not carried.

(vi) The amendment outlined at (iii) above was then voted upon, but not carried.

(vii) Upon the meeting moving to a vote upon the substantive Recommendation this was carried and adopted.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Plan 2008-11 be adopted.

223. PROCEDURE FOR TERMINATION OF MEETING:

- (i) At 10.15 pm, during the debate on the Corporate Plan at Item 9 of the Summons, the Council agreed a procedural motion to extend the meeting beyond the formal closure time of 10.30 pm until 10.45 pm.
- (ii) At 10.41 pm, at the conclusion of the debate on Item 9, the Leader, Councillor Chris Mote, moved a procedural motion to further extend the meeting until 10.55 pm for the determination of the remaining business on the Summons.

RESOLVED: That the procedure for the termination of the meeting, as set out above, be applied.

224. HEALTHCARE FOR LONDON - JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Further to Item 10 on the Summons, the Council received Recommendation I from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 November 2007 in this matter. The Recommendation and a proposed additional recommendation, within the tabled documentation, was formally moved by Councillor Stanley Sheinwald.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the appointments of Councillors Mrs Rekha Shah and Mrs Margaret Davine as 3rd and 4th reserve representatives on the pan-London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee be rescinded;
- (2) Councillor Mrs Vina Mithani be appointed as the Council's representative to serve on the pan-London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Myra Michael and Councillor Mrs Margaret Davine be appointed as the reserve Member in place of Councillor Mrs Vina Mithani.

225. COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION AND LOCAL PETITIONS:

Further to Item 11 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 February 2008 to effect a change in its Terms of Reference and those of the Performance and Finance Sub-Committee in order to ensure arrangements were in place should the provisions in the relevant legislation come into force from 1 April 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Performance and Finance Sub-Committee be amended as set out in the Appendix to the Recommendation, to enable both Committees "To consider Councillor Calls for Action".

226. RECOMMENDED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES:

At item 12 on the Summons, the Council received a report of the Chief Executive which proposed an amendment to the Constitution, following consultation with the Constitution Review Working Group members.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Overview and Scrutiny Rule 2.1 be amended to read as follows:

"All Councillors except Members of the Executive may be Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any Scrutiny Sub-Committee."
- (2) Article 7.13 be amended to read as follows:

"Non-Executive Councillors may be appointed as assistants to Portfolio Holders. These assistants may not exercise any of the powers of the Portfolio Holder nor act in the absence of the Portfolio Holder. Confirmation of the appointment of any assistants must be given by the Executive"

[Note: Under Rule 13.1 (Questions Without Notice), Councillor B E Gate asked a question of Councillor Paul Osborn, the Chairman of the Constitution Review Working Group, to which an oral answer was provided].

227. 10TH LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES BILLS - CONFIRMING RESOLUTION:

Further to Item 13 on the Summons, the Council received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services in this matter.

RESOLVED: That the confirming resolution of Harrow's continued participation in the promotion of the 10th London Local Authorities Bill be adopted as set out at Appendix V to these minutes.

228. ALLOCATION OF PROPER OFFICER FUNCTIONS:

Further to Item 14 on the Summons, the Council received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services in respect of his formal appointment as the Proper Officer for various functions relating to the business of the Authority.

RESOLVED: To appoint the Director of Legal and Governance Services as the Proper Officer of the London Borough of Harrow for the functions identified at Appendix 6 to these minutes.

229. APPOINTMENT TO VACANCY - STANDARDS COMMITTEE:

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Chris Mote, notified the Council of the nomination of Councillor Husain Akhtar to the vacancy in the membership of the Standards Committee and also to the fourth and fifth reserve memberships respectively of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Development Management Committee, on behalf of the Conservative Group.

RESOLVED: That the above appointments be agreed.

230. APPOINTMENTS TO VACANCIES - REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

(i) Item 16 on the Summons provided for the receipt of proposals from the Political Groups as to the appointment of representatives of the Authority to several vacancies on outside bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2007/08 and the replacement of a representative on an Outside Body. The proposals were circulated in the tabled documents.

(ii) The Conservative and Labour Groups having nominated Councillors Husain Akhtar and Mrs Margaret Davine respectively to the vacancy relating to Stanmore College, the appointment to this vacancy was the subject of a separate vote, upon which Councillor Husain Akhtar was appointed.

RESOLVED: That the substantive proposal as to the Appointments to Vacancies on Outside Body appointments for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2007/08 be approved as follows:

Name of Outside Body	Name of representative to be replaced	Proposed replacement representative	
Stanmore College	Vacancy	Councillor Husain Akhtar	
North London Collegiate School	Vacancy	Councillor John Cowan	(to end March 2008)
Age Concern Harrow	Vacancy	Councillor Asad Omar	
Harrow Council for Racial Equality	Councillor Nizam Ismail	Councillor Navin Shah	

231. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE:

The following two questions had been submitted by a Member of Council in accordance with Rule 13.2:-

<u>QUESTION BY</u>	<u>QUESTION OF</u>	<u>TEXT OF QUESTION</u>
(1) Councillor Raj Ray	The Leader of the Council (Councillor Chris Mote)	"The recent Audit Commission report reveals that most local Councils employ officers with salaries over £50,000. How many officers do we have with salaries of £50,000 and over?"
(2) Councillor Raj Ray	The Leader of the Council (Councillor Chris Mote)	"Since June 2006 - how many Agency Staff are employed and what are their average salaries?"

[Note: Both questions were answered orally, and in respect of question (2) the Leader undertook to provide the Member with a detailed written reply].

232. MOTION AT ITEM 18(1): FAIR GRANT FUNDING FOR HARROW:

- (i) At Item 18(1) on the Summons, the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Navin Shah and Councillor Bill Stephenson in the following terms:

"Council acknowledges the London Mayor's support for fair grant funding for Harrow in particular, and London in general. The joint letter signed by the London Mayor and the Leader of the Council makes a well-argued and persuasive case for better grant funding from the Government. The Council resolves to work on this project on a cross party basis deriving support from the local MPs, the GLA Member for Brent & Harrow, the Mayor of London, and other regional, sub-regional bodies to enhance the chances of success".

- (ii) There was an amendment in the names of Councillor Chris Mote and Councillor David Ashton, which sought to amend the Motion to read as follows:-

"This Council acknowledges the support and hard work of the Chairman of London Councils for fair grant funding for London. The joint letter signed by the Leader of Harrow Council and the London Mayor makes a well argued and persuasive case for well deserved grant funding for Harrow from the Government."

- (iii) Upon a vote, the amendment was carried.
 (iv) The substantive Motion, as amended, was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as amended and set out at (ii) above, be adopted.

233. MOTION AT ITEM 18(2): LAND REGISTRY OFFICE IN HARROW:

- (i) At Item 18(2) on the Summons, the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Navin Shah and Councillor Bill Stephenson.
 (ii) The Motion was the subject of a cross party amendment in the names of Councillor Navin Shah and Councillor Chris Mote, which sought to amend the Motion to read as follows:-

"This Council condemns the decision to close the Land Registry Office in 2010 and to stop serving customers from the end of March. This is likely to lead to the closure of both the Harrow Land Valuation and Harrow Tax Offices with a consequent loss of nearly seven hundred jobs and a loss of services to Harrow residents in particular and to North London residents in general.

This Council agrees to offer support in whatever way it can to the staff of

the Land Registry in order to retain a presence within the Harrow area. In addition Council agrees to write to the Chief Executive of the Land Registry expressing its and local residents' deep concern about the decision, and urging him to reconsider it; to hold genuine discussions with all interested parties so as to properly examine all options that may lead to the extension of the lease; to safeguard the long term viability of Lyon House as a centre that delivers key central Government services to the local communities; to protect the jobs of dedicated staff"

- (iii) The amendment, and subsequently the amended substantive Motion were agreed by general assent.

RESOLVED: That the substantive Motion, as amended and set out at (ii) above, be adopted.

234. MOTION AT ITEM 18(3): ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE AUTHORITY AT SECTION 85(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF APPROVED ABSENCE ON BEHALF OF COUNCILLOR JOHN COWAN:

In accordance with Rule 15.2, the Council received an Urgent Motion in the names of Councillor Chris Mote and Councillor David Ashton in the following terms:

"In the eventuality that Councillor Cowan were unable to attend the meeting on 21 February that this Council approves under the provisions of Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 an extension of time beyond the statutory six months during which Councillor Cowan may remain absent from meetings of the Authority and retain his elected office by reason of bereavement which precludes him from attending meetings at the Civic Centre or elsewhere for the time being and that the extension of time shall run until 8 May 2008."

RESOLVED: That the Urgent Motion be adopted.

235. MOTION AT ITEM 18(4): POST OFFICES IN HARROW:

- (i) In accordance with Rule 15.2, the Council received an Urgent Motion in the names of Councillor Navin Shah and Councillor Graham Henson, which had been circulated in the tabled papers.
- (ii) The Motion was the subject of a cross party amendment in the names of Councillor Navin Shah and Councillor Chris Mote which amended the Motion to read as follows:-

This Council notes with grave concern the recent announcement by the Post Office that they plan to close 20% of post offices in Harrow. Council further notes the social importance of post offices to the well being of both the community and individuals in Harrow and a lifeline for the elderly, the disabled and those without their own transport who rely heavily on local Post Office services and also for local shopping centres.

Council reiterates its stance against the proposed closure of local post offices in Harrow; seeks an extension to the consultation period from 6 to 12 weeks and resolves the following

- 1 – The Chief Executive Harrow Council writes to Alan Cook, Managing Director Post Office Ltd and Allan Leighton, Chairman Royal Mail Group.
- 2 – We respectfully ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake an urgent review of the proposed closures; the effect they will have on the community; the provision and access to Post Offices in Harrow".

- (iii) The amendment, and subsequently the amended substantive Motion, were agreed by general assent.

RESOLVED: That the Urgent Motion be adopted as amended and set out at (ii) above.

236. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER THE URGENCY PROCEDURE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS/LEADER AND CABINET AND USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURE:

Further to Item 19 on the Summons, the meeting received a report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services which provided a summary of the urgent decisions taken by Portfolio Holders and the Leader and the use of the special urgency procedure, since the last meeting of Council on 18 October 2007.

RESOLVED: That the urgent decisions taken by the Portfolio Holders and the Leader and Cabinet since the last Council meeting be noted.

237. URGENT DECISIONS ON MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL:

The Director of Legal and Governance Services advised of an urgent decision he had taken in respect of a matter reserved to Council, following consultation with the Leaders of each of the Political Groups on the Council, since the last meeting held on 18 October 2007.

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

238. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

With the consent of the Mayor, Councillors Mrs Camilla Bath and Navin Shah both spoke briefly on the swift and efficient response by officers to the gas explosion that had occurred the previous week and commended the attitudes of both the workers on the site and the residents in distressing circumstances. They further praised the actions of Mr Ross Simpson, a local resident and representative of Roxeth Green Church who had assisted with the aid of evacuated residents and the emergency services accessing the scene.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the various appropriate parties involved in the event thanking them for their assistance in managing the circumstances around the explosion.

(CLOSE OF MEETING: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 11.02 pm).

APPENDIX I**COUNCIL (COUNCIL TAX) MEETING – 21 FEBRUARY 2008****DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL – MINUTE 220**

The following Members of Council declared their interests in Minute 220 - **Revenue Budget 2008/09 to 2010/11**:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Councillor David Ashton	Has a relative employed on a temporary contract with Harrow Council
Councillor Marilyn Ashton	Has a relative employed on a temporary contract with Harrow Council
Councillor Mrs Margaret Davine	Has a relative in receipt of Meals on Wheels.
Councillor Eileen Kinnear	Chairman of West London Waste Authority Member of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
Councillor Stanley Sheinwald	Chairman of the Carers Partnership Group.

APPENDIX II

HARROW COUNCIL
REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2008-2009

	2007-2008 Original Budget £000	2008-2009 Original Budget £000
Local Demand - Borough Services		
Adults and Housing	52,058	54,417
Children's	31,211	29,698
Community and Environment	41,303	43,306
Corporate Strategy	17,490	17,841
Corporate Finance	17,230	17,603
Total Directorate Budgets	159,292	162,865
Inflation and Corporate items	4,170	7,710
Capital Financing adjustments	(3,460)	(3,460)
Interest on Balances	(4,688)	(4,688)
Total – Baseline	155,314	162,427
Capitalisation	(1,240)	(590)
Contribution to Balances	1,000	1,000
Total Net Expenditure	155,074	162,837
Contribution re Collection Fund Deficit b/f	350	1,365
National Non-Domestic rate (NNDR)	(51,676)	(57,670)
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	(8,673)	(8,028)
Local Demand on Collection Fund	95,075	98,504
Funds / Balances		
Balances Brought Forward	1,354	2,154
Adjustment to Balances	800	1,000
Balances Carried Forward	2,154	3,154
Council Tax for Band D Equivalent		
Harrow (£)	1,119.50	1,152.55
<u>Increase</u>		
Harrow (%)	4.90%	2.95%
Taxbase	84,926	85,466

APPENDIX IIIHOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) 2008-09 to 2010-11

	Revised Budget 2008-09 (Feb 08)	Revised Budget 2009-10 (Feb 08)	Original Budget 2010-11 (Feb 08)	Key areas of change from the December budget report
Expenditure				
Employee Costs	3,065,408	3,000,389	3,045,395	Budgets from 2009-10 reflects savings from the new HARP project. Increase to energy costs to reflect recent industry indicative price increases. Budgets from 2009-10 reflects savings from the new HARP project.
Supplies & Services	2,065,771	2,265,771	2,292,771	
Central Recharges	1,411,180	1,411,180	1,411,180	Contribution to Housing General Fund reflects actual estimated costs uplifted for pay inflation at 2.5%.
Employee Costs - Needs / Strategy	427,425	438,111	449,063	
Recharge to other services	-502,530	-502,528	-502,528	
Home Ownership service	68,921	69,955	71,004	Reflects increased admin and insurance costs to be recovered from leaseholders.
Baseline expenditure	6,536,175	6,682,878	6,766,886	
Contingency	200,000	200,000	200,000	
Operating Expenditure	6,736,175	6,882,878	6,966,886	
Charges for Capital	5,520,644	5,866,672	6,020,207	Borrowing costs reflects a reduced estimated consolidate rate of interest (CRI) at 4.5% (previously 5.08%) in line with the Council's restructured debt.
Contribution to Repairs Account	4,617,000	4,661,000	4,705,000	Estimated service improvement costs to be contained within identified budget.
Bad or Doubtful Debts	100,000	100,000	100,000	
Total Expenditure	16,973,819	17,510,549	17,792,093	

	Revised Budget 2008-09 (Feb 08)	Revised Budget 2009-10 (Feb 08)	Original Budget 2010-11 (Feb 08)	Key areas of change from the December budget report
Income				
Rent Income – Dwellings	-21,160,318	-22,345,296	-23,592,163	Average rent to increase by 5.61% (previously 5.66%) in 08-09 in line with final determination.
Rent Income – Non Dwellings	-990,810	-1,013,599	-1,036,911	
Service Charges - Tenants	-1,079,423	-1,126,162	-1,175,375	Average tenant service charges to increase by 4.26% (previously 3.50%) in 08-09 in line with final determination.
Service Charges - Leaseholders	-210,000	-219,093	-228,667	Average leaseholder service charge to increase by 4.26% in line with charges to tenants.
Facility Charges	-469,980	-616,980	-643,980	Heating charges to increase to ensure full recovery of costs and to reflect recent indicative industry price increases.
Interest	-19,000	-19,000	-19,000	
Other Income	-8,010	-8,010	-8,010	
Transfer from General Fund	-83,000	-83,000	-83,000	
HRA Subsidy	6,837,598	7,678,736	8,607,902	Negative subsidy payable reflects the final determination and the revised CRI at 4.50%.
Total Income	-17,182,943	-17,752,404	-18,179,206	
Net Operating Expenditure	-209,124	-241,854	-387,113	
Revenue Contribution to Capital	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	
In Year Deficit / (Surplus)	790,876	758,146	612,887	
BALANCE	-5,287,534	-4,529,388	-3,916,501	

APPENDIX IVLONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW
MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

1. This scheme shall have effect until 31st March 2009. It replaces all former schemes.

Basic Allowance

2. A basic allowance of £8,000 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 £10,050 per annum shall be paid to the Mayor and an allowance of £2,000 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.

Uprating the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances

4. The basic allowance and special responsibility allowances will be uprated annually in line with an index approved by the ALG Independent Panel. The index to be used will be the level of the Local Government Pay Settlement. When making the scheme for 2008/2009, 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 1.
(2) The maximum basic rate of pay is £2.84 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 £435 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 1st April 2007 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.

Appendix A**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, or
- 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 7 bands of SRAs:-

Band	Post	SRA -£/annum
1	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 Licensing and General Purposes Committee Chairman of Standards Committee Support Members for Cabinet x 11	£2,000
2	Performance Lead Members for Scrutiny x 4 Policy Lead Members for Scrutiny x 4	£3,000
3	Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee (<i>see Note 1</i>) Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the Chair of the Development Management Committee (<i>see Note 1</i>) Chairman of the Traffic Advisory Panel Chairman of the Grants Advisory Panel	£4,500
4	Chairman of the Performance and Finance 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	£6,500
5	Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee (<i>see Note 2</i>) Chairman of the Development Management Committee (<i>see Note 2</i>) Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Leader of the Second Largest Group	£8,500
6	Deputy Leader Cabinet Members x 8	£19,500
7	Leader	£30,500

NOTES

- (1) If the same person is the Nominated Member of the largest party not holding the chair on both the Strategic Planning Committee and the Development Management Committee, they will receive 1.5 times the Band 3 allowance.
- (2) If the same person is the Chairman of both the Strategic Planning Committee and the Development Management Committee, they will receive 1.5 times the Band 5 allowance.
- (3) In the Council for 2006 to 2010, the Groups are as follows:-
Largest Group = Conservative Group
Second Largest Group = Labour Group
Third Largest Group = Liberal Democrat 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.

APPENDIX VCONFIRMING RESOLUTION OF LONDON BOROUGH COUNCILHARROW LONDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

R E S O L V E D that the resolution of this Council passed at a meeting of the Council held on 18 October 2007 to promote a Bill or Bills, pursuant to which the Bills intituled "A Bill to confer further powers upon local authorities in London; and for related purposes"; "A Bill to introduce in London a prohibition on the supply of certain bags by retailers, to confer powers upon local authorities in London to enforce the prohibition; and for related purposes" and "A Bill to confer further powers upon local authorities in London and upon Transport for London; and for related purposes" have been deposited in Parliament, be and the same is hereby confirmed.