
REPORT OF CABINET

MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2009

Chairman: * Councillor David Ashton

Councillors: * Marilyn Ashton * Jean Lammiman
 * Miss Christine Bednell * Barry Macleod-Cullinane
 * Tony Ferrari * Paul Osborn
 * Susan Hall * Mrs Anjana Patel

* Denotes Member present

[Note: Councillors Nizam Ismail and Bill Stephenson also attended this meeting to speak on the item indicated at Minute 692 below].

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION I: Key Decision: Local Development Framework Core Strategy - Preferred Option Document for Public Consultation

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Place Shaping, which set out the context and the work that had been carried out in progressing the Harrow Local Development Framework (LDF) and the preferred option for the Core Strategy for the purposes of carrying out public consultation.

Members noted that the Core Strategy was the Council's top priority for the LDF. The Core Strategy provided a spatial vision, strategic objectives and an overarching policy framework to guide development and change within Harrow over the next 15 years and beyond. It set out the context for all other LDF documents the Council intended to prepare.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise stated that the Core Strategy reflected the desire to harness opportunities to deliver economic, physical and social benefits while making certain that the essential investment to ensure that it was delivered sustainably could be harnessed and managed effectively. The Portfolio Holder added that Harrow's Core Strategy set out the Council's commitment to delivering high quality, environmentally sound new homes through directed planning policies rather than by incremental change through standard conversions and development on back gardens. She was of the view that without robust planning policies Harrow would not realise its long-term spatial vision to be a more sustainable community. She welcomed the prominence and status given to Harrow as an area of intensification by the Mayor of London in the London Plan. It was now important that residents engaged in the consultation process, which would commence in November 2009 for a period of six weeks.

Having considered the report, together with the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Local Development Framework Panel, including the timetable for the submission of the Core Strategy, Cabinet thanked the officers for their work in preparing the Core Strategy.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That (1) in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, the Core Strategy Preferred Option at Appendix 1 to the officer report be approved for the purposes of public consultation;

(2) officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise, make any final minor amendments to the Core Strategy Preferred Option.

Reason for Recommendation: To approve the preferred option and authorise public consultation. To publish the preferred option to ensure that the Council complied with the new statutory process for preparing LDF documents under the recently amended Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. To adhere to the corporate priority to prepare a series of statutory planning policy documents, which together comprised the LDF for the borough that would eventually replace the Unitary Development Plan adopted in July 2004.

(See also Minute 698).

PART II - MINUTES688. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members.

689. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2009, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

690. **Petitions:**

1. A representative who resided in Courtfield Crescent presented a petition, signed by 172 residents, in relation to the Richards Close development and the decision to grant planning permission for the site. He read out the terms of the petition to the meeting, which were as follows:-

"We the undersigned deplore the decision by the Council to grant permission for this development to replace the existing 2-storey elderly care homes with a large mixed use 3 and 4 storey blocks. The Council have:

1. Granted permission which is overbearing, dominates the skyline, does not fit in architecturally with the surrounding area and intrudes into the privacy of residents.
2. Have failed to consult residents of Courtfield Crescent.
3. Made a decision on a flawed and misleading report.

We the undersigned therefore call upon the Council to take immediate action to put a stop to this development and to reconsider downsizing the development. We also call upon the Council to commission an independent inquiry into its conduct and its partner Harrow Churches Housing Association in progressing this application."

RESOLVED: That the petition be received and referred to the Planning Committee, and as advised by the Director of Legal and Governance Services.

2. Councillor Mrs Eileen Kinnear presented a petition signed by 44 residents requesting a controlled crossing in Shaftesbury Avenue. She read out the terms of the petition, which were as follows:-

"There is no pedestrian crossing along the whole length of Shaftesbury Avenue: from the traffic lights at Imperial Drive to the traffic lights at Roxeth Corner.

Traffic often speeds along certain parts of this road and (elderly) residents who need to cross can feel frightened by that, particularly since parked cars can often impede their passage and visibility of the on-coming traffic.

In the interests of pedestrian safety, we ask that Harrow Council investigates the feasibility of putting in a crossing – ideally near the junction with Whitmore Road – and takes action to install this as soon as possible."

RESOLVED: That the petition be referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment Services and Community Safety for consideration.

691. **Public Questions:**

RESOLVED: To note that the following public questions had been received:

- 1.

Questioner: Mrs Jane Galbraith
(on behalf of the Campaign for a Better Harrow Environment)

Asked of: Councillor Marilyn Ashton, Planning, Development and Enterprise

Question: “To meet Harrow's housing targets to 2025, how will the Council protect land urgently needed for employment, infrastructure and amenities and avoid creating large blocks of small flats of low quality accommodation which may be environmentally damaging and lead to social problems?”

Answer: The Council has been requested to build 5,345 new dwellings by 2026, approximately 350 dwellings per annum. The new units do not have to be built every year and can be taken as an aggregate. However, the Council is expected to deliver on the new homes and meet its target, and we have been in discussions with the Greater London Authority (GLA) on this subject.

To understand the context of the question, some background might be helpful. An interesting statistic, which I would like to share, is that over the last 12 years the Council has delivered 4,800 units. This is one of the reasons why the Council has not been given a higher figure. The Council's housing trajectory target is reasonable.

The other issue to consider is that in 2004 we adopted a Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The UDP regime and the supplementary planning guidance are no longer really an extant method of planning policy. Many of the policies were deleted in September 2007. In the 2004 UDP, which was not supported by the Conservative Group, some of these policies were damaging to Harrow. For example, a density policy of 250 habitable rooms per hectare was replaced with a minimum of 150. The removal of a minimum number of parking spaces and the number of conversions that could be allowed in a road did not help Harrow either.

As a result of the UDP not being a current planning document, the Council has now produced the Local Development Framework and hopefully Harrow will be successful in getting the policy adopted. Through the Core Strategy, the Council will be able to protect the character of the borough, whilst ensuring that Harrow is recognised as an important borough in the London Plan produced by the Mayor of London.

It is vital that we do have an intensification area. It should not be confused with an opportunity area which is much more intensive. The Council believes that if it manages its reasonable housing trajectory growth alongside its robust planning document, it will help place shape the borough and prevent it from being at the mercy of what the developers want to build.

The point of the Core Strategy is to safeguard Harrow against the very things that Mrs Galbraith has raised in her question.

Supplemental Question: This document will shortly go out to consultation. Would you agree that may residents should response to it and that the Council will take their comments seriously?

Supplemental Answer: The LDF Core Strategy has been scrutinised and one of the issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is that the Council needs to ensure that a large number of people submit their responses as part of the consultation process.

Mrs Galbraith attended the Local Development Framework Panel meeting and I am keen to engage with the Campaign for Better Harrow.

I would like to see as many people as possible respond to the LDF Core Strategy because that it is one of the ways the Council can judge that it is on the right track.

2.

Questioner: Patrick Stoupe

Asked of: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

Question: "Members of the 'Confidence for Life' group for mental health service users would like to arrange a date for a presentation of their experience of this course to you and other interested colleagues from Harrow Council. Family carers of those on the course would also like to arrange a date for a separate meeting with you to give their perspective on this course. How can these meetings be arranged so that Harrow Council can understand the need for this course?"

Answer: I am interested in this course but, unfortunately due to diary commitments, I have not been able to attend. I will ensure that officers accompany me and we will set up the presentation meeting(s) soon.

It is important that the Council hears the different points of view from both the users and the carers. In addition, as part of the review of that the Council is carrying out with Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, it will seek user and carer views on how current services can be modernised to incorporate programmes such as 'Confidence for Life'.

Supplemental Question: Can we arrange a date for these two presentations?

Supplemental Answer: Yes, we can compare diaries at the end of this meeting. If you are unable to stay for the whole meeting, I will telephone you tomorrow to arrange a suitable time, including my colleagues present here this evening.

3.

Questioner: Mr J A Shahbazian

Asked of: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

Question: "What arrangements have been put in place to improve the Harrow Mental Health Service and feed back results to users and carers (after many meetings we have seen no improvements)?"

Answer: The existing arrangements (Section 75 agreement) with Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust are being reviewed and the review is expected to last up to five months.

The social care world has changed quite significantly in the last couple of years, since the current arrangements were put in place. As the Council moves forward, it wants to ensure that the arrangements for dealing with mental health issues and the support provided to users with mental health problems and their carers is correct.

To this end, the Council will involve users and carer groups to make sure that the outcome of the review meets the needs of the users because, in my own experience, this is an issue that is often hidden and not seen and yet it can lead to very devastating consequences for the users and their families and neighbours.

I will ensure that the officers are fully conversant with this intention, and that the Council is making the representations of the users known to the Partners involved in this review.

Supplemental Question: Having heard these statements before, I would like to know what concrete arrangements have been made? As a customer whose money is being spent on these services, I look to see if value for money is being provided. We are not receiving feedback and I would like to know what action is being taken instead of the Council making promises. We have met with officers and discussed flowcharts and identified changes needed. These have

not come to fruition.

Supplemental Answer: In partnership with NHS Harrow, the Council has appointed a Joint Commissioner for Mental Health who has been charged with taking the issues associated with caring for those with mental health forward.

With regard to feedback, I have met with various colleagues on a regular basis to discuss the issues. I will ensure that, over the next five months of the review, the Council holds at least two meetings with users and carers with a view to providing feedback on the review process. This will help to ensure that information on the review is being passed back and that the right results are being sought.

4.

Questioner: Ann Freeman

Asked of: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

Question: "As a carer on NHS Harrow's Mental Health Partnership Board, I would like to know how the unsatisfactory situation that services for social needs of people in Harrow with mental illness, and their carers, are not being commissioned?"

Answer: As indicated in my response to a previous question, the Council is currently undertaking a review of the Section 75 agreement with Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust.

The Council will involve users and carers in that review, making sure that we take on board problems and experiences they have had - both good and bad. This will help ensure a robust outcome of the review; the very best outcome in terms of improved services for mental health users and carers within Harrow.

Supplemental Question: It is not enough to give those suffering from mental illness anti-psychotic medication, pat them on the head and say "go away and lead your life", after they have been sectioned and incarcerated for months with their life on hold? The Council has to use the Section 75 agreement review as a springboard for those young and older people, including their parents and friends, whose lives have been devastated by mental illness. Would you agree?

Supplemental Answer: I fully agree with the worries about use of drug treatments. I have made this case to Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust's council member body, which I serve on. I have also lobbied them to look at alternative approaches rather than prescription medication to treat mental illness.

I have asked them to put more effort, more time, more attention into other types of therapies to deal with mental illness because the last thing we want to be doing is to 'park' an issue rather than solve it. This course of action is unfair to users, their families and the wider society. I fully support that the underlying problems need to be solved and I will carry on fighting for this.

5.

Questioner: Joan Penrose, Carer Representative, Mental Health Partnership Board and Local Implementation Team

Asked of: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

Question: 'What are you going to do to ensure that a vocational strategy for Harrow is produced which is acceptable to people who use mental health services and their families?'

Answer: NHS Harrow is leading on the vocational strategy. I will ensure that it matches Harrow's expectations. NHS Harrow's strategy needs to align with the Council's approach to the social care needs of people with mental health illnesses.

Given the present financial climate facing local government and the public sector in general, I think it would behove the NHS Harrow to be working closer with the Council in getting the right outcome so that we can make savings and, most fundamentally, improve the quality of support and service to the people who are suffering from mental illness and their families and carers.

Supplemental Question: There seems to be growing support in Harrow from staff, as well as users of mental health services and their carers, for more development work in bringing 'Confidence for Life' into the mainstream before the vocational strategy is finalised. Would the Cabinet consider this?

Supplemental Answer: The Council will take it under advisement. In terms of making sure that we get the right kind of services and going back to the question that was raised by Mrs Freeman earlier, these are some of the wider issues relating to the support for people with mental illness. It is not just about prescription medication. It is often about treating underlying problems. 'Confidence in Life' is one of those things. I would like to ensure that it is integrated with the vocational strategy.

692. **Councillor Questions:**

RESOLVED: To note the following Councillor Questions had been received:

1.

Questioner: Councillor Bill Stephenson

Asked of: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing

Question: "Could you tell me and all those concerned what the time-line is for determining the future of Wiseworks?"

Answer: In terms of Wiseworks, it is an important part of our provision of support for people with mental health needs. There are no plans to do anything other than to support and expand the provision of mental health services within Harrow.

Supplemental Question: Does this mean that the future of Wiseworks is safe and you have no intention of changing it or closing it down? It was under review and I believe the users have a right to know whether or not the review is ongoing?

Supplemental Answer: Currently, the Council is examining how mental health services are provided in Harrow. It will involve users and ask them how they would assess the various facilities provided. I have heard comments about Wiseworks which have expressed a need for the quality of the service to be expanded and improved. If we hold something in aspic, we will not allow it to evolve, and that is likely to result in a disservice to mental health users in Harrow. I am committed to ensuring that we provide the service that our users want and would benefit from. This includes Wiseworks in some form going into the future.

2.

Questioner: Councillor Bill Stephenson

Asked of: Councillor David Ashton, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnership and Finance

Question: "Can Councillor Ashton provide me with the detailed accounts ward by ward of the expenditure of Prosperity Action Team (PAT) moneys over the last three financial years and will he ensure these are published on the Council website?"

Answer: Up until part way through 2007/08 the amounts incurred were not broken down by ward but by actual expenditure. Subsequent to that it was by ward and, subject to that minor caveat, yes I will.

Supplemental Question: Is Councillor Ashton aware that I have not received, even for this last financial year, a breakdown for my own ward? Would he agree that each ward should have been provided with a breakdown on the amount of money expended in previous financial years? Would he look into the possibility of providing a breakdown for all wards?

Supplemental Answer: I do not intend to have officers spend large amounts of time going over previous figures but I will provide the figures that are available and to the extent we have it by ward.

3.

Questioner: Councillor Nizam Ismail

Asked of: Councillor Susan Hall, Portfolio Holder for Environment Services and Community Safety

Question: Would the Portfolio Holder please explain what specific arrangements are in place with Brent Council, in relation to Saturday and Sunday Muslim burials, at Carpenders Park Cemetery?

Answer: We are a one-third partner for the Carpenders Park Cemetery with Brent Council. The cemetery accepts burials throughout the week, Monday to Friday, and receives a large number of visitors on Saturday and Sunday. As there appeared to be a preference for a quieter Sunday, burials have not been allowed on a Sunday to date.

There is provision for burials, at an extra cost, on a Saturday morning and the Council is looking to expand this service. However, the expansion would depend on the outcome of negotiations with Brent Council.

Supplemental Question: Is Councillor Hall aware that Muslim burials need to take place ideally within 24 hours? At present, it is not possible to arrange burials at Carpenders Park Cemetery on a Thursday or Friday evenings for burials on a Saturday or Sunday. There are no permanent grave diggers on duty at Carpenders Park Cemetery, even on a Saturday.

Supplemental Answer: The average demand for Muslim burials on a Saturday is between six to ten a year. The cost implications of having grave diggers and registrars on stand-by, including funeral directors would be high. As the Muslim community expands we will look to expand the service. With the current demand of between six to ten Sunday burials a year, the cost implications are too high to justify. Therefore, any extension of the service to include Sunday would not be progressed for the time being.

693. **Forward Plan 1 October 2009 - 31 January 2010:**

The Leader of the Council advised that one of the items marked as a key decision "Joint Waste DPD Draft Submission Document" had not been included on the agenda and deferred to the December 2009 meeting of Cabinet. The item on the "Extension of Tookes Green Conservation Area", which was also on the Forward Plan as a key decision, was not a matter for Cabinet.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the Forward Plan for the period 1 October 2009 – 31 January 2010.

694. **Progress on Scrutiny Projects:**

The Leader of the Council commended the work being carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the number of projects that were underway.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the current progress of the scrutiny reports.

695. **Strategic Performance Report - Quarter 1:**

Cabinet received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, which summarised the Council's performance against key measures and identified areas requiring action.

The Portfolio Holder for Performance, Communication and Corporate Services highlighted the successes and challenges facing the Council. He was proud that the Council's work during 2008/09 had culminated in the Council being a runner-up for the prestigious Municipal Journal (MJ) Award of 'Best Achieving Council'. The satisfaction levels amongst the public had risen and work was underway to show that the Council offered value for money whilst being a low spending Council. Despite the recent demonstrations outside Harrow Central Mosque, 70% of the residents had agreed that people from different backgrounds got on well. There were marked improvements in the delivery of cleaner and safer streets and support for vulnerable people. The proposed change in the flagship action, if approved, would align it to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy which was also on the meeting's agenda.

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services referred to the launch of the Harrow Youth Website in April 2009. She was pleased to report that there had been approximately 3,000 hits per quarter since its introduction. She congratulated the Children's Services Directorate for its work on providing a medium to enhance the Council's engagement with young people. The Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing commended officers for bringing to fruition three neighbourhood resource centres and supporting social care clients to manage their care budgets. The Portfolio Holder for School's and Children's Development reported that, together with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services, she had recently attended the opening of a Day Centre at Nower Hill School. She referred to the number of Children's Day Centres that the Council had opened recently which offered a meeting place for the communities thereby helping to maintain and further strengthen the Council's excellent record of community cohesion.

It was noted that should Cabinet approve the recommendations, a 3D digital model of the Harrow growth corridor would be completed by December 2009, together with an initial assessment of the capacity of the area to accommodate future growth requirements by January 2010 and a set of design principles by April 2010.

RESOLVED: That (1) the report be noted and the Portfolio Holders continue to work with officers to achieve improvement against identified key challenges;

(2) the flagship action 'Prepare a Town Centre Design Guide to promote the development of Harrow Town Centre' be redefined as to 'Develop a planning framework to guide the redevelopment and rejuvenation of Harrow Town Centre, Wealdstone and the Station Road corridor';

Reason for Decision: To enable Cabinet to be informed of performance against key measures and to identify and assign corrective action where necessary. To exploit opportunities for a more rounded approach to secure a proper and managed regeneration of the town centre built on a sound evidence base.

696. **Integrated Planning 2010/11 to 2012/13:**

Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director Finance, which provided an update on integrated planning for 2010/11 to 2012/13. An integrated planning framework had been adopted to ensure that the Corporate Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) were developed in tandem.

The Corporate Director Finance identified the funding gaps and the challenges facing the Council. It was important that the expenditure was in tandem with the resources available to the Council. Moreover, central government funding was expected to fall and would create additional pressures on the budget. In order to mitigate some of the challenges facing the Council, the Corporate Directors were working closely with the Portfolio Holders with a view to identifying strategies for closing the funding gaps. This would culminate in a report to the December 2009 Cabinet meeting.

Members' attention was drawn to the issue of concessionary fares, which was considered to be a high-risk area in 2010/11, as it had been suggested that the settlement received might be revisited by central government. This course of action would affect London boroughs adversely, and consultation on this matter was expected in the near future.

The Leader of the Council voiced his concerns in relation to the possible withdrawal of the concessionary fares grant, and the uncertainty about future grant levels received from central government. He outlined the adverse impact of such actions in real terms, and stated that together with the demographic pressures that Harrow was likely to experience the situation was looking bleak. The Council was therefore working with its Partners to ensure that a joined-up approach with a view to minimising risks.

RESOLVED: That (1) the context and the current position on the development of the new Corporate Plan and the MTFS be noted;

(2) the approach towards closing the remaining funding gaps be noted;

(3) the planning totals for the capital programme be approved.

Reason for Decision: To ensure that the Council was in a position to approve a final Corporate Plan and a balanced budget in February 2010.

697. **Key Decision: Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2009/10:**

Members received a report of the Corporate Director Finance setting out the Council's revenue and capital forecast position for 2009/10.

The Corporate Director identified the budget pressures in various Directorates, including the variances in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). She briefed Cabinet on the capital programme, the general balances position which were forecasted as £6.3m and the position on the reserves held by the Council.

The Leader of the Council stated that whilst the position on the reserves held by the Council had improved drastically, the levels held were insufficient in relation to the size of the Council. In relation to the capital programme, each Portfolio Holder was charged with controlling the spend in their areas and would continue to do so in the future.

RESOLVED: That (1) the revenue and capital forecast outturn position for 2009/10 be noted;

(2) the implications of the 2008/09 outturn be noted;

(3) the following allocations of one-off funding be approved;

- (a) £1.600m for Targeted Investment in Services;
- (b) £0.650m for Special Project Fund;
- (c) £0.100m for Contingency;
- (d) £0.500m for Transformation Programme; and

	£000 from	£000 to
Targeted Investment in Services	1,600	
Community and Environment		1,000
Place Shaping		40
Adults and Housing		200
Assistant Chief Executive		210
Children's		150
Special Project Fund	650	
Healthy Living Centre		50
Branding		100
Contingency	100	
Recession busting		50
Transformation	500	
Allocation		460

it be noted that the allocation would leave a balance of £500,000 on a Special Project Fund, £50,000 on Contingency and £40,000k on the Transformation Programme;

(4) the amendments to the Capital Programme set out in Appendix 4 to the officer report be approved.

Reason for Decision: To note the forecast financial position and actions required.

698. **Key Decision: Local Development Framework Core Strategy - Preferred Option Document for Public Consultation:**

In accordance with the Local Government Act (Access to Information) Act 1985, the Committee considered the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 October 2009 and the Local Development Framework Panel meeting held on 15 October 2009, both of which were admitted late to the agenda to allow Cabinet to take into account the views of these bodies prior to taking a decision on the report of the Corporate Director Place Shaping on the Core Strategy Preferred Option. Due to the proximity of meetings, the comments had not been available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated.

Further to Recommendation I, and having considered the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet noted as follows.

RESOLVED: To note (1) that as part of the continued production of the Harrow Local Development Framework, a series of further technical reports would need to be prepared to ensure compliance with national policy and for use in consultation and engagement with targeted stakeholders, groups and residents;

(2) the need for a future report to Cabinet on a revised Local Development Scheme, incorporating changes to bring about the production of an Area Action Plan for the Harrow and Wealdstone Intensification Area;

(3) the opportunities arising from the Core Strategy to align the Council's activities to secure the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy together with the associated implications for the alignment of Council resources;

(4) the timetable for the Core Strategy submission.

Reason for Decision: To adhere to the corporate priority to prepare a series of statutory planning policy documents, which together comprise the Local Development Framework (LDF) for the Borough that would eventually replace the existing Unitary Development Plan adopted in July 2004.

699. **Key Decision: Hardship Rate Relief Policy:**

Members considered a report of the Corporate Director Place Shaping, which set out the Hardship Rate Relief Policy proposed to be adopted for 2009/10 and future years together with proposals for budget and appeal requirements. The proposed Hardship Relief Fund would enable businesses suffering financial hardship to receive a discount on business rates where business closure would be detrimental to Harrow residents.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning Development and Enterprise welcomed the report and highlighted the key aspects of the policy. The Portfolio Holder stated that the scheme would support viable and sustainable businesses only and would not support poor investment or poor business models that the market could not sustain. She commended the report to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That (1) the report be noted and the Hardship Rate Relief Policy at appendix B to the report be agreed;

(2) funding to establish a Hardship Rate Relief Fund to provide a discount on business rates to Harrow businesses as set out below be agreed;

Council contribution	Government Contribution	Total
50k	150k	200k

(3) resolution (2) to operate where business closure would be detrimental to Harrow residents; the term 'detrimental' to include the loss of jobs and the loss of services to Harrow residents.

Reason for Decision: To replace the existing out of date policy and ensure that a new policy, which would support businesses in the current recession, was in place.

700. **Support for the Vulnerable:**

In response to the public questions received relating to support for the vulnerable, the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Housing undertook to ensure that a report setting out the progress made since this meeting would be submitted to a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That a report setting out the progress made following the responses given to the public questioners be presented to a future meeting.

(See also Minute 691).

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.35 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR DAVID ASHTON
Chairman