

COUNCIL MINUTES

8 JULY 2010

- Present:**
- * Councillor Asad Omar (The Worshipful the Mayor)
 - * Councillor Mrinal Choudhury (The Deputy Mayor)
- Councillors:**
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Husain Akhtar * Sue Anderson * Nana Asante * Mrs Camilla Bath * Christine Bednell * James Bond * Mrs Lurline Champagne OBE * Kam Chana * Ramji Chauhan * John Cowan * Bob Currie * Margaret Davine * Mano Dharmarajah * Tony Ferrari * Keith Ferry * Ann Gate * Brian Gate * David Gawn * Stephen Greek * Mitzi Green * Susan Hall * Graham Henson * Thaya Idaikkadar * Nizam Ismail * Krishna James * Manji Kara * Zarina Khalid * Jean Lammiman * Barry Macleod-Cullinane * Kairul Kareema Marikar Ajay Maru | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jerry Miles * Mrs Vina Mithani * Chris Mote * Janet Mote * John Nickolay * Joyce Nickolay * Christopher Noyce * Phillip O'Dell * Paul Osborn * Varsha Parmar David Perry * Bill Phillips * Raj Ray * Richard Romain * Anthony Seymour * Lynda Seymour * Navin Shah * Mrs Rekha Shah * Sachin Shah * Stanley Sheinwald * Victoria Silver * Bill Stephenson William Stoodley * Krishna Suresh * Sasi Suresh * Yogesh Teli * Mark Versallion * Ben Wealthy * Simon Williams * Stephen Wright |
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* Denotes Member present

PRAYERS

The meeting opened with Prayers offered by the Imam Hafiz Muhammad Akram.

24. COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED: That

- (i) **the minutes of the annual meeting held on 25 May 2010 be taken as read and signed as a correct record subject to an amendment at page 5, (5 – Presentation of Medallions to the Immediate Past Mayor) to read “Councillor Asad Omar...”.**
- (ii) **the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 27 May 2010, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.**

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor invited declarations of interest by Members of the Council in respect of the business on the Summons.

- (i) Item 13(3): Motions: Magistrates’ Court Motion
Councillor Husain Akhtar declared a personal interest in the above item as he was currently the deputy chair of the Crime Prevention Panel, but considered that he could speak and vote thereon.

Councillor Stephen Greek declared a personal interest in the above item as his father was a magistrate, but considered that he could speak and vote thereon.

Councillor Chris Mote declared a personal interest in the above item as he was a magistrate in a London borough other than Harrow, but considered that he could speak and vote thereon.

- (ii) Item 12: Questions With Notice
Councillor Bob Currie declared a personal interest in that he attended regular meetings of the Eastcote Lane Tenants’ Association, but considered that he could speak and vote thereon.

26. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor requested that Council note the engagements he had undertaken. The Mayor drew particular attention to his attendance at the Harrow Youth Games and congratulated the badminton team for achieving a gold medal.

The Mayor also congratulated those residents of Harrow who had received honours in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List, particularly the Borough Commander Dal Babu who was awarded an OBE.

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

27. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

In accordance with Rules 14.6 and 14.7, the Leader of the Opposition exercised her right that the referral of the Kenton Road Motion to Cabinet be disapplied. This allowed Council to debate the Motion and offer comments or recommendations to Cabinet in its consideration of the matter.

28. PETITIONS

In accordance with Rule 10, the following petitions were presented:

(1) by Members of Council on behalf of petitioners:

- (i) Submitted by Councillor Tony Ferrari, containing 46 signatures of residents, requesting that the Council consider the appropriateness of issuing parking tickets in Kynaston Wood.

[The petition stood referred to the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel].

- (ii) Submitted by Councillor Stephen Wright, containing 2487 signatures requesting that the Council address parking issues in Pinner.

[The petition stood referred to the next ordinary meeting of Council].

(2) By members of the public:

- (i) Petition containing 67 signatures requesting that
 - the Council implement a 20mph speed camera as a solution to act as a deterrent for future accidents;
 - concerns be addressed relating to un-doctored kerbs in Taunton Way;
 - concerns be addressed in relation to a tree in Taunton Way blocking a 30mph warning board.

[The Petition stood referred to the next meeting of the Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel].

29. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The questions submitted by members of the public and responded to by Portfolio Holders, in accordance with Rule 11, are contained at appendix I.

30. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council introduced his report highlighting achievements and proposals since the last ordinary meeting.

At the conclusion of his report, the Leader responded to questions from Members of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Leader of the Council be received and noted.

31. LICENSING POLICY

Further to Item 8 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the Licensing and General Purposes Committee held on 15 June 2010.

The Recommendation was formally moved by Councillor Mano Dharmarajah (Chairman of the Committee).

RESOLVED: That the revised Licensing Policy be approved and adopted.

32. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

Further to Item 9 on the Summons, the Council received a Recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 April 2010.

The Recommendation was formally moved by Councillor Jerry Miles (Chairman of the Committee).

RESOLVED: That the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2009/10 be endorsed.

33. OPERATION AND PROVISIONS FOR CALL-IN & URGENCY 2009/10

- (i) In accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 47, which required Members to monitor annually the operation of the provisions for call-in and urgency, the Council received a report on this matter;
- (ii) During the debate, the Leader of the Opposition raised an issue that one of the methods for initiating call-in required amending. This related to the requirement that signatures from six Members, from at least two political groups, were needed to request a call-in. It was agreed that the Constitution Review Working Group would investigate this issue.

RESOLVED: That the operation of the call-in and urgency procedures, as reported, be noted.

34. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PETITION SCHEME

The Council received a report which requested the approval of a Petition Scheme, in accordance with the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

The recommendation was formally moved by Councillor Bill Stephenson (Leader of the Council).

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Petition Scheme be approved, as set out in Appendix II to these minutes;**
- (2) the consequential amendments to the Constitution be approved, as set out in Appendix III to these minutes.**

35. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

The questions submitted by Councillors and responded to by Portfolio Holders, in accordance with Rule 12, are contained at appendix IV.

36. MOTION - COUNCIL TRANSPARENCY

- (i) At item 13(1) the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Barry Macleod-Cullinane and Susan Hall in the following terms:

“This Council welcomes the proposals recently put forward by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), as part of its efforts to improve local government transparency and accountability.

This Council therefore commits itself to complying with the DCLG recommendations, and by 1st January 2011 at the latest will publish and continue publishing online:

1. Details in full of total cumulative spending over £500.
2. Information on all staff earning over £50,000 per annum (including details of salaries, benefits, and expenses) and their job descriptions.
3. Councillor allowances and expenses (in a real-time rather than annual format).

4. Frontline service data, including rubbish and recycling rates, as well as council tax collection rates.
5. Automatic energy reading to measure energy consumption and enable residents to monitor the council's drive towards lower emissions and energy use.
6. Full answers to Questions with Notice at Council meetings (to be published in the Council minutes).

None of the above shall include information that:

- a) Relates to a commercial arrangement in negotiation.
- b) Is not publishable under the data protection act.
- c) Relates to the protection of vulnerable adults and children.

This Council also pledges that this information will be published at zero cost to taxpayers, with its collation and presentation forming part of other processes the Council already carries out.

With some of this information already available, this Council further pledges to make itself even more transparent by requiring that the various strands of information be collected and brought together on the main council website – with a link from the frontpage – under the heading, “www.harrow.gov.uk/transparency” to make it easy for residents to find.”

This Council believes that enacting these proposals will encourage financial responsibility, improve accountability, and be of substantial benefit to Harrow residents”.

- (ii) Upon a vote, the Motion was not carried.

RESOLVED: That the Motion be not adopted.

[Note: Councillors Husain Akhtar, Mrs Camilla Bath, Christine Bednell, Mrs Lurline Champagnie OBE, Kam Chana, Ramji Chauhan, John Cowan, Tony Ferrari, Stephen Greek, Susan Hall, Manji Kara, Jean Lammiman, Barry Macleod-Cullinane, Mrs Vina Mithani, Chris Mote, Janet Mote, John Nickolay, Joyce Nickolay, Paul Osborn, Richard Romain, Anthony Seymour, Lynda Seymour, Stanley Sheinwald, Yogesh Teli, Mark Versallion, Simon Williams and Stephen Wright wished to be recorded as having voted against the decision].

37. MOTION - MAGISTRATES' COURT

- (i) At Item 13(3) on the Summons, the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Chris Mote and Susan Hall in the following terms:

“This Council notes that, as part of proposals recently put forward by the Ministry of Justice to reorganise magistrates' and county court services in London, Harrow Magistrates' Court is recommended for closure.

This Council believes it is in Harrow's best interests for Harrow Magistrates' Court to remain open, and therefore instructs the Chief Executive to prepare, in conjunction with all political groups, a robust response as part of the Ministry of Justice consultation process”.

- (ii) There was an amendment proposed in the names of Councillors Bill Stephenson and Zarina Khalid, which sought to amend the Motion to read as follows:

“Council notes with deep concern the proposal by the Justice Department to cut 103 Magistrates Courts and 54 County Courts including the closure of Harrow Magistrates' Court.

Council believes it is in Harrow's best interest and in the best interests of justice for Harrow Magistrates' to remain open.

Council welcomes the initiative in setting up an officer working group to draft a strong response to the Justice Department's consultation paper which will be considered by the Partnership Board of Harrow Strategic Partnership on July 22.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the three Harrow MPs and the Brent and Harrow London Assembly member to seek their support in opposing the closure of Harrow Magistrates' Court and on a cross-party basis to take any further measures such as seeking meetings with ministers, holding meetings, promoting petitions to further these ends”.

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

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

38. MOTION - 2M

RESOLVED: That the Motion at Item 13(2) of the Summons stand referred to the next meeting of Cabinet, as being a matter within the remit of the Executive.

39. MOTION - KENTON ROAD

- (i) In accordance with Rules 14.6 and 14.7, the Council received a Motion in the names of Councillors Yogesh Teli and Vina Mithani in the following terms.

“This Council notes that the removal of the right turning from Kenton Road into Kenton Lane has proven unpopular with residents, and that a petition on this issue was presented to the Mayor of London by Cllrs. Teli, Mithani and Zeid in March 2010. The removal of the turning has resulted in increased congestion and a larger number of vehicles travelling down the narrower back roads.

This Council therefore pledges to work with Brent Council – who maintain responsibility for the junction – to ensure that the right-turn is reintroduced, and to liaise with Transport for London to ensure that it is swiftly implemented once Brent has agreed to its reintroduction”.

- (ii) There was an amendment proposed in the names of Councillors Bill Stephenson and Phillip O’Dell, which sought to amend the Motion to read as follows:

“This Council notes that the removal of the right turning from Kenton Road into Kenton Lane has proven unpopular with residents, and that a petition on this issue was presented to the Mayor of London by Cllrs. Teli, Mithani and Zeid in March 2010.

This Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the Mayor of London regarding what action has been taken.”

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

RESOLVED: That the substantive motion, as amended and set out at (ii) above, be referred to the Executive.

(CLOSE OF MEETING: All business having been completed, the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.15 pm).

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL – 8 July 2010

29. Public Questions

1. Questioner: Pravin Seedher

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson
Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: “Do you intend to follow the previous Conservative administration’s financial strategy to work with the new government on the proposals laid out in their budget to achieve a Council Tax freeze for Harrow in 2011/12?”

Answer: In the emergency budget on 22 June the Chancellor announced that the Government will help councils to freeze or reduce Council Tax in 2011/12.

It is not at all clear how this will be funded, if at all. Assuming that grant funding is provided to support councils if there were a Council Tax freeze, then we would of course, welcome the support and benefit to residents. However, the previous Conservative green paper which was mentioned in the Cabinet’s budget papers in February, suggests that there would be a freeze for two years. There has already been some back tracking on that commitment and the green paper also said the measure would be funded entirely in savings on central government advertising consultancy and now, there are references to removing ring-fencing. This may suggest, or almost certainly suggests, more of the burden and if not all of it, will fall on councils.

If the funding comes via formula grant then there is a risk that authorities that are below the grant floor, like Harrow, and other authorities will not see any benefit of this. Finally, if this is simply a one-off grant funding then it would mean a bigger Council Tax in 2012/13 to keep the services going or even more savings having to be made. Until we see the precise details of what is being proposed, I think we should reserve judgement.

Supplemental Question: What steps did the Labour group take in the previous four years in terms of helping Harrow to get a better grant

settlement from the then Labour Government?

Supplemental Answer: We fully supported the campaign for a better grant settlement for all outer London boroughs as compared to inner London boroughs. We were supported by our two local Labour MPs.

2. **Questioner:** Amir Moshneson

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O'Dell
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety

Question: "Last Friday my wife chased burglars away from our back garden. From the evidence collected and left in the area, it seems that the burglars spent some time, first trying to get in through the front, and then making their way through several gardens to try and get in through the back. All this was done in broad daylight and on a main street. The previous administration has done quite a bit to improve the crime rates in Harrow including initiatives such as smartwater property marking. What does this administration intend to do in order to improve on personal safety and security and to ensure that our children are not scared to go out to their own gardens?"

Answer: I hope Mr Moshneson and his wife are getting over their very traumatic experience of an attempted burglary at their property.

Harrow remains one of the safest places in London to live and work. Locally we have had many successes including the reducing of domestic burglary experienced. The Council intends to continue this work and remains committed to offering smartwater to all local households who request it.

We are also developing our partnership with the Police to tackle the full range of crime related problems that face our residents and continue to develop initiative solutions.

Supplemental Question: I am obliged Councillor. Are there any new initiatives that you could propose? Something that perhaps was not done before.

Supplemental Answer: Yes, let me explain one of the new initiatives that the council has taken up recently. Last week there was a trend in burglary that was highlighted by our partners in the Police. So the Police and the Council acted quickly by sending out advice to local media, to our network of Neighbourhood Champions and staff, asking that advice be passed onto their friends and neighbours.

3. Questioner: Jeremy Zeid

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson
Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: “After the elections, one of your members is quoted in the Harrow Times stating ‘This is not a surprise, it was on the cards’. Meanwhile in your literature made wildly varying claims of anything from 30 to 50 million Pounds in unspecified shortfalls. Assuming that there is any truth in these claims, why after two months have neither you nor the cabinet consulted on, nor published any substantive findings or plans to steer Harrow safely through the next three years, while the government realising the urgency published in 42 days, a week early?”

Answer: The council does face significant funding challenges in the coming years. The funding gaps for the next three years are estimated to be around £50m which will require savings to be made of about 30% of our controllable budget.

The final precise figures will not be known until the autumn when the three year settlement is announced. £50m is a realistic estimate made in the medium term financial strategy presented to February Cabinet and agreed by the Full Council, which you yourself voted for I believe.

The situation has been further exacerbated by the imposition of £4m worth of in-year cuts and reductions in our Local Area Agreement awards. Funding had previously been agreed by the Government, which has now been reneged on. This has an impact right across Harrow, both for ourselves and partners. Furthermore, coming to the 2010/11 budget, there is an ongoing £2m overspend in Children’s Services and the pressure of £1m in Community and Environment.

The Council does face very significant funding challenges in the next few years. The new administration has been working hard with officers to agree plans for how the challenges should be approached. Officers have been working for several years in anticipation of the situation to draw up contingency plans and options. Having carefully considered all these plans, refining, updating, then we will bring our three year plan to the July Cabinet, setting out our proposals to deal with this very difficult financial situation.

Supplemental Question: Having read the Labour manifesto promising a “Future fair for All”, we are seeing Adult Services and other frontline services threatened, or at least in headlines. How do you propose to deliver without blowing the balances again and delivering a future, as did the last Government, of “Debt for All”?

Supplemental Answer: The debt for Adults & Housing comes from the £1.3m cut arbitrarily imposed by the Government. This was unnecessary because the Office for Budget Responsibility said that Alistair Darling’s predictions for the structural deficit and the deficit were correct. Therefore there was no need for harsh cuts in this year.

We have to live with that. We are having to sort it out. Yes, it will hit frontline services but it is the Conservative/Lib Dem Government which is imposing these cuts on us in-year and it is quite wrong.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL – 8 July 2010

London Borough of Harrow Petition Scheme

1. Petitions

1.1 Harrow Council recognises that petitions can be a good way to highlight issues that people feel strongly about. A petition may be used by people who live, work or study in the borough to formally register a collective request or concern about the Council or its services. We have a duty to consider and respond to all petitions we receive.

1.2 All petitions submitted to the Council will be acknowledged within 15 working days of receipt by the Legal and Governance Services Department, setting out what will happen to the petition. We will treat as a petition anything that is identified as a petition or seems to us intended to be a petition.

1.3 Paper petitions can be sent to:

The Monitoring Officer
Legal and Governance Services Department
Harrow Council
PO Box 2
Civic Centre
Station Road
Harrow HA1 2UH

1.4 E-petitions can be created, signed and submitted online by following [**this link**](#).

1.5 Alternatively, petitions may be presented at a meeting of the Council, Executive or a committee. Please follow [**this link**](#) to the Council's Constitution which contains Procedure Rules for the Council, the Executive and the committees. These rules explain the procedure for presenting petitions at meetings of the different bodies.

2. What must a petition include?

2.1 Petitions submitted to the Council must include

- a clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition, including the action the petitioners wish to take; and
- the names addresses and signatures of people who support the petition and who live, work or study in the Borough of Harrow. The address given must be a home, work or study address in the Borough.

- 2.2 Petitions should be accompanied by contact details, including an address, for the petition organiser. This is the person we will contact to explain how we will respond to the petition. The contact details of the petition organiser will not be placed on our website.
- 2.3 Petitions which are considered by the Monitoring Officer to be vexatious, abusive or otherwise inappropriate will not be accepted or published and no further action will be taken.
- 2.4 If a petition does not follow the guidelines set out above we may decide not to do anything further with it. In that case we will write to you to explain this.
- 2.5 In the period immediately before an election or referendum we may need to deal with your petition differently – if this is the case we will explain the reasons and discuss any revised timescale which will apply.

3. What will the Council do when it received my petition?

3.1 Acknowledgement

- 3.1.1 We will send an acknowledgement to the petition organiser within 15 working days of receiving the petition. The acknowledgement will explain what will happen next and when they can expect to hear from us again.
- 3.1.2 If we think it is appropriate to take the action requested immediately, the acknowledgement will explain this, and the petition will be closed.
- 3.1.3 If another procedure is more suitable for dealing with the petition (for example, if the petition applies to a planning or licensing application, or if the matter is already in the process of being dealt with under another procedure) we will inform the petition organiser of this. We will not take any action on a petition which the Monitoring Officer considers is vexatious, abusive or otherwise inappropriate, and will explain the reasons for this in our acknowledgement of the petition.

3.2 Publication

- 3.2.1 To ensure that people know what we are doing in response to the petitions we receive, the details of all the petitions submitted to us will be published on our website, except where this would be inappropriate. We will also publish correspondence relating to a petition as appropriate (all personal details will be removed). When a person signs an e-petition they can elect to receive this information by email. We will not send anything which is not relevant to the e-petition, unless the signatory chooses to receive other emails from us.

4. What will happen next?

- 4.1 The next steps will depend on what a petition asks for and how many people have signed it. An officer of the Council will consider the petition initially and decide how to deal with it most effectively. For example, this might involve the officer writing to the petition organiser; undertaking research or an inquiry; or organising a meeting with the petitioners or other interested parties.

- 4.2 If the petition concerns a particular area of Council business, it will usually be referred to the committee or sub-committee or other body that deals with that area and may be considered at a meeting. Committee meetings are usually held in public, so people who are interested in the petition will be able to observe any discussion that takes place.

5. Petitions involving partners / other authorities

- 5.1 If the petition is about something over which we have no direct control (for example the local railway or hospital) we will consider referring the matter to the Executive to take up the matter on behalf of the community with the relevant body. We work with a large number of official partners and where possible will work with these partners to respond to your petition. If we are unable to do this then we will explain why. You can find out more about the services for which we are responsible by following [this link](#).
- 5.2 If the petition is about something that is the responsibility of a different Council we will forward the petition to the other Council, or take other appropriate action, and will notify the petition organiser about what we have done.

6. Petitions with over 2000 signatures

- 6.1 If a petition contains more than 2000 signatures of people who live, work or study in the Borough (the address in the Borough at which they live, work or study must be provided), it will be considered / debated by the full Council, unless it is a petition asking for a senior Council officer to give evidence at a public meeting (see section 7 below). This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting which all Councillors can attend. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting, although in some circumstances this may not be possible - for example, when the petition is submitted too close to the meeting date, in which case consideration will take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be invited to the meeting to present the petition and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors. The presentation must last no longer than one minute and the discussion will last a maximum of 10 minutes.
- 6.2 Following consideration / discussion the Council may refer the petition to the Cabinet, a committee or a Corporate Director to determine the matter, taking into account the views expressed by the Council.
- 6.3 The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision. This confirmation will also be published on our website.

7. Officer evidence

- 7.1 A petition may ask for a senior Council officer to give evidence at a meeting about something for which the officer is responsible as part of their job. The petition must relate solely to the officer's job and not their personal circumstances or character. For example, your petition may ask a senior official to explain progress on an issue, or to explain the advice given to elected members to enable them to make a particular decision.

7.2 Only staff in the following senior posts may be called to give evidence:

- Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive)
- Assistant Chief Executive
- Director of Legal and Governance Services
- Corporate Director, Finance
- Corporate Director, Children's Services
- Corporate Director, Community and Environment
- Corporate Director, Adults and Housing
- Corporate Director, Place Shaping

7.3 If a petition contains at least 1000 signatures of people who live, work or study in the Borough the relevant senior officer will be called to give evidence in public at a meeting of our overview and scrutiny committee. The committee may decide that it would be more appropriate for another officer to give evidence instead of any officer named in the petition – for instance if the named officer has changed jobs. The committee may also decide to call a relevant Councillor or invite relevant officers from one or more partner agencies to attend the meeting. Committee members will ask the questions at this meeting, but the petition organiser will be able to suggest questions to the chair of the committee up to three working days before the meeting.

8. E-petitions

8.1 We welcome e-petitions which are created and submitted through our website (www.harrow.gov.uk). E-petitions must follow the same guidelines as paper petitions set out above. The petition organiser will need to provide us with their name, postal address and email address. They must also decide how long the petition will be open for signature. Most petitions run for 6 months but you can choose for a shorter or longer timeframe, up to a maximum of 12 months.

8.2 When you create an e-petition, it may take up to 10 working days before it is published online and made available for signature.

8.3 If we cannot publish your petition, we will contact you to explain why. You will be able to change and resubmit your petition if you wish. If you do not do this within 10 days of us contacting you, a summary of the petition and the reasons why it has not been accepted will be published under the 'rejected petitions' section of the website.

8.4 When an e-petition has closed, the petition organiser will be sent an acknowledgement within 15 working days.

8.5 A petition acknowledgement and response will be emailed to everyone who has signed the e-petition and elected to receive this information. The acknowledgement and response will also be published on the website. The petition will then be dealt with in the same way as paper petitions.

9. How to 'sign' an e-petition

- 9.1 When you sign an e-petition you will be asked to provide your name, postcode and a valid email address. When you have submitted this information you will be sent an email to the address you have provided. This email will include a link which you must click on in order to confirm the email address is valid. Once this step is complete your 'signature' will be added to the petition. People visiting the e-petition will be able to see your name in the list of those who have signed it but your contact details will not be visible.

10. Reviewing the Council's response to a petition

- 10.1 If you feel that we have not dealt with your petition adequately, the petition organiser has the right to request that the Council's overview and scrutiny committee reviews the steps taken in response to the petition. The petition organiser should provide a short explanation of the reasons why our response is not considered to be adequate.
- 10.2 The committee will endeavour to consider the request at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will take place at the following meeting. Should the committee determine that we have not dealt with your petition adequately, it may make recommendations on how to put this right.
- 10.3 Once the review has taken place the petition organiser will be informed of the outcome within 5 working days. The outcome of the review will also be published on our website.

11. Alternatives to a petition

- 11.1 There are other ways in which you can let us know what you think about our actions and decisions that may be more appropriate than a petition. Follow **[this link](#)** to see how else you can have your say.

Annex B

**Petition Scheme
Consequential Constitutional Amendments**

1. Council Procedure Rules

The following minor amendments are required:

Petitions

10.1 Presentation of Petitions

10.1.1 All petitions received shall normally be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme (at Appendix A to these Rules) and will be referred to the appropriate Council Committee or sub-committee, or to the Executive, Portfolio Holder, Advisory Panel or Consultative Forum of the Executive. If the petitioners request that the petition be presented at a meeting of Council this can be done in the following ways:

10.1.1.1 a representative of the petitioners may attend at the time stated for the start of the Council meeting and request to read the petition to the meeting;

10.1.1.2 the petitioners may approach a Councillor and ask the Councillor to read the petition on their behalf;

10.1.1.3 the petitioners may send the petition to the Monitoring Officer and request for the Mayor to read the petition.

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10.1.2 The person presenting the petition may only read the terms of the petition and may not make any further comments. That person will have one minute to read the terms of the petition unless the Mayor determines that this time limit should be extended or reduced.

10.2 Notice and Consideration of Petitions

10.2.1 There is no need for any advance notice to be given of the wish to present a petition to Council but if 7 clear working days notice is given to the Monitoring Officer a note of the petition will appear on the summons for the meeting.

10.2.2 After all petitions have been read they shall stand to be dealt with in accordance with the Petition Scheme and will usually be referred to the appropriate Council Committee, sub-committee or Executive, Advisory Panel, Consultative Forum or

Portfolio Holder. Subject to 10.2.3 Unless the Mayor decides otherwise, no discussion shall take place on any petition.

- 10.2.3 Petitions that meet the criteria set out in Section 6 of the Petition Scheme will be considered by the Council in accordance with the provisions of that Section.

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2. Executive Procedure Rules

The following minor amendments are required:

Petitions

15.1 Presentation of petitions

15.1.1 All petitions received relating to Executive functions shall be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme (at Appendix A to the Council Procedure Rules) and will normally be referred to the Executive or appropriate Portfolio Holder, Advisory Panel or Consultative Forum. If the petitioners request that the petition be presented at a meeting of the Executive this can be done in the following ways:

15.1.2 a representative of the petitioners may attend at the time stated for the start of the Executive meeting, or prior to an individual Executive member making a decision, and request to read the petition to the meeting;

15.1.3 the petitioners may send the petition to the Monitoring Officer and request for the Leader, Deputy Leader or an Executive Member to read the petition.

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15.2 The person presenting the petition may only read the terms of the petition and may not make any further comments. That person will have one minute to read the terms of the petition unless the Chair determines that this time limit should be extended or reduced.

15.3 Notice and consideration of petitions

15.3.1 Save as is mentioned in paragraph 15.1.3 above there is no need for any advance notice to be given of the wish to present a petition to the Executive but if 10 days notice is given to the Monitoring Officer a note of the petition will appear on the agenda for the meeting.

3. Committee Procedure Rules

The following minor amendments are required:

Petitions

15.1 Presentation of Petitions

15.1.1 Petitions relating to a function of a Committee or sub-committee shall be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme (at Appendix A to the Council Procedure Rules) and will usually be presented to the appropriate meeting of the Committee or sub-committee. If the petitioners request that the petition be presented at a meeting of a Council Committee or sub-committee this can be done in the following ways:

15.1.1.1 a representative of the petitioners may attend, at the time stated for the start of the Committee or sub-committee meeting, and request to read the petition to the meeting;

Deleted: who will arrange

15.1.1.2 the petitioners may approach a Councillor and ask the Councillor to read the petition on their behalf;

15.1.1.3 the petitioners may send the petition to the Monitoring Officer and request for the Chair to read the petition.

15.1.2 The person presenting the petition may only read the terms of the petition and may not make any further comments. That person will have one minute to read the terms of the petition unless the Chair determines that this time limit should be extended or reduced.

15.2 Notice and Consideration of Petitions

15.2.1 There is no need for any advance notice to be given of the wish to present a petition to a Committee or sub-committee but if seven clear working days notice is given to the Monitoring Officer a note of the petition will appear on the agenda for the meeting.

4. Overview and Scrutiny Terms of Reference

The additional of the following power of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required:

...

13. 'to call senior officers to give evidence in response to petitions and/or to review the actions taken by the Council in response to petitions in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme'.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL – 8 July 2010

35. Questions With Notice

1. Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Margaret Davine
Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

Question: “Can you provide a statement about Harrow PCT’s financial situation and its impact on the Council, the voluntary sector and our residents.”

Answer: The financial position of NHS Harrow has changed considerably during the last couple of months since April. At their last Board meeting there was a deficit of £26.2m, with a savings plan of £18.3m in place and sector support of £7.9m which is non-recurring and non returnable. That would leave £1.8m not allocated savings to find. That is the position as it was at the last Board meeting and we will see how far they have got next time.

This is still a very serious situation and I do appreciate that. Our Corporate Directors of Adults & Housing and Finance have tried unsuccessfully to get details of the savings proposed so as to assess the likely impact on the Council, voluntary sector and residents but I will be seeking more information. I have a meeting on Monday in order to inform our planning and I know that the Corporate Director of Adults and Housing also is going to a meeting next week.

It is true there are disputed amounts between NHS Harrow and the Council and I will ensure that meetings are held to address this and make sure that the impact on residents is minimised. I am sure we all know that when partners get into difficulties that it is very important that we work them, sit down and talk with them so that we can reach amicable solutions which will help both sides. So the last thing we need is starting talking again about cost shunting. I have lived through that before and seen shutters go up and things become more difficult rather than get resolved.

Everyone in this Chamber knows that all authorities and partner organisations, including ourselves are facing

enormous financial challenges but that makes it more important that we work together. As Portfolio Holder, I will be seeking to bring partners together to build a consensus for the benefit of residents and our community. As you know, Councillor Stephenson, as Chairman of Harrow Partnership Board has already invited NHS Harrow to attend the special meeting of the Board on 22 July to explain its current financial situation. This should enable further clarity on the potential impact of the PCT position on the Council, voluntary sector and residents.

2. Questioner: Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane

Asked of: Councillor Bob Currie
Portfolio Holder for Housing

Question: "What is the Portfolio Holder doing to ensure that Harrow obtains the maximum benefit from the new Government's devolution agenda"

Answer: I am aware that the planned Decentralisation and Localism Bill is designed to provide council and neighbours with greater control over important services' decisions.

As Portfolio Holder for Housing I welcome any measure that gives residents greater control. Even though this Bill will not be presented to Parliament until the autumn, officers have been looking at the implications from recent papers and speeches and are working to ensure that the Housing Ambition Plan is implemented in the way that gives residents a greater say in how things are done.

I am aware of suggestions likely to end up on the Bill, for example providing existing social tenants with a share in their properties in return for good behaviour and the desire to develop new affordable housing through community led delivery models.

Clearly there are many more suggestions likely to materialise in the Bill and I will ensure that each and every one of the ideas is given due consideration and discussed with residents before making a decision on how we should proceed to ensure that Harrow Council and its residents obtain maximum benefits.

Supplemental Question: Can the Portfolio Holder give us one example of how the Housing Ambition Programme, which was being developed before this Bill being mooted, is going to have to be altered in order to accommodate the new proposals coming through from Government.

Supplemental Answer: As I explained, the Bill does not come before Parliament until autumn. Once I get more information on what the Bill is entitled, then I will respond.

3. **Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Rekha Shah
Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services

Question: “Your manifesto states that you intend to promote and facilitate the building of a new function hall to replace Byron Hall. What sort of consultation, feasibility study and research do you intend to conduct into this pledge, and has a timetable been established for it?”

Answer: The ambitions set out within our manifesto are intended to provide a long-term vision for the development of our Borough and in particular, the development of essential community facilities.

The Area Action Plan during the course of this year will provide the basis for the research, feasibility and most importantly, the arrangements for the consultation regarding the development of the modern, high quality community facility.

To answer to your question, consultation will be wide-ranging research and feasibility work will be effective and we will ensure that all new facilities are developed in a way which will ensure their long-term success and viability.

Supplemental Question: Can you tell me how you are going to pay for any of that?

Supplemental Answer: Once we do the feasibility and we have more information, we will of course release the information. I am not going to say anything now.

4. **Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Phillip O’Dell
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Safety

Question: “In your manifesto, you promised to sign up to the 10:10 Charter; a pledge to reduce the Council’s carbon emissions by 10% in 2010. What progress has been made in signing up to 10:10?”

Answer: Harrow Council is committed to making a contribution to combat climate change by reducing carbon emissions of the Council.

The 10:10 campaign is one that has caught the imagination of the country and is providing a strong impetus for individuals and organisations to reduce their carbon emissions. The campaign provides encouragement and practical examples that can be followed by residents, staff as well as the Council.

We are currently calculating our baseline data. That is being undertaken anyway for the National Indicator 185 and we expect to make a formal commitment once this is available.

5. Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Bill Stephenson
Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation

Question: “How much is the new Government’s decision to scrap the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) inspection regime expected to save the Council in compliance and other costs over the course of the next four years?”

Answer: The decision to scrap CAA and use of resources should result in a reduction from our audit and inspection fees but we have not been notified of details yet by the Audit Commission.

It is anticipated almost all of the fees will be payable in the current year as most of the work to inform the 2010 assessment had already been completed when the announcement was made.

The total audit and inspection fee for 2010/11 is £527,000. This includes £80,000 for use of resources and £20,000 for the CAA. Much of the use of resources work will still be required to support the Value for Money conclusion in the Council’s accounts, so whilst the Council should save some of this £100,000, it is not yet clear how much.

There will be some savings in officer time. It should be noted that many inspection activities, such as those carried

out by Ofsted and CUQSC are expected to continue. Officers have found some of the use of resources inspection very useful and may wish to continue with aspects of it in the future.

- 6. Questioner:** Councillor Susan Hall
- Asked of:** Councillor Bill Stephenson
Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation
- Question:** “What level of reserves does the Audit Commission require Councils to maintain as a percentage of their budget, and what amount in pounds does this mean for Harrow Council?”
- 7. Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
- Asked of:** Councillor Bill Stephenson
Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation
- Question:** “Why, in the June 2010 edition of Harrow People, did you say that "central government cuts mean that we will have to save nearly £50 million over the next three years?”
- 8. Questioner:** Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane
- Asked of:** Councillor Bill Stephenson
Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation
- Question:** “When London Assembly Members chair certain public meetings, the GLA conducts surveys of the audience members to gain feedback on the performances of the chairmen. Do you think that such an initiative could have a part to play in the Member Development programme of the Council?”

In respect of questions 6, 7 and 8 which were not answered within the time available for Councillors questions, it was agreed that the relevant Portfolio Holders would provide written responses to the relevant Members and copied to all Councillors.