

# London Borough of Harrow

## COUNCIL - 7 JULY 2011

### Item 16 (1) - Proposed Amendment by Labour Group

#### 16(1) London Grants Motion

"This Council notes:

- that over the next four years it has to make £62 million savings which is equivalent to a third of its controllable budget and that every part of the Council needs to contribute to the savings;
- that the budget set in February had to make £19 million savings to deal with unprecedented cuts to Local Government grant and that savings of £357,000 made by London Councils to its grants programme were included in this budget;
- that in the light of the above the Council grants programme was only cut by 15% rather than 30% and that this compares favourably with many other councils which have made much larger cuts to their grants programmes;

This Council requests Cabinet to continue to press London Councils to further cut back its grants programme and asks Cabinet to consider how any money so saved might be used to support the voluntary and third sector both locally and regionally.

**Proposer:** Councillor Bill Stephenson  
**Seconder:** Councillor David Perry

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### Item 16 (2) - Proposed Amendment by Labour Group

#### 16(2) Strike Action

"This Council notes the efforts made by Harrow East MP Bob Blackman and London Assembly Member Richard Tracey, among others, to convince the Government of the merits of unions being required to secure a majority of their total membership in favour of strike action before undertaking a strike. This Council notes:

- that in 2007 the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry estimated the cost to London for each strike on the Underground and the transport system is around £50 million per day and further notes that the Chartered Institute of Management (CMI) survey of more than 900 managers, published in March 2010, showed that 54% believed their organisations were prepared "to a great extent" for remote working.
- that it would be hypocritical to ask that unions have a majority of their total membership in favour of strike action before undertaking a strike given when that the Conservative Mayor of London was elected on a 45% turn out in the 2008 elections
- that as an outer-London borough, Harrow relies heavily on the transport links provided by London Underground, and is therefore severely impacted when strike action closes tube line.

This Council is aware of the media campaign to seek a change in legislation to require unions to secure a majority of their entire membership in favour of strike action before calling a strike and believes this to be totally disproportionate.

This Council believes that it is imperative that the Conservative Mayor of London meet the with the Trade Unions representing London Underground employees face to face as soon as possible and strike a deal as soon as possible through negotiation similar to the one with London Overground with regards to the Olympics and calls upon Harrow's three local MPs – Bob Blackman, Nick Hurd and Gareth Thomas to lobby the Mayor of London to ensure he meets with the Unions who represent London Underground workers including the RMT ASLEF, TSSA and UNITE.

This Council takes the opportunity to point out to the Conservative Mayor of London that Harrovians are fed up with inconvenient week-end closures, inadequate rail replacement service, the endless engineering works, delays, cancellations, and fare rises. This Council notes with some concern that there was only one day in the last year when the Underground offered a good service on all lines for the whole day!

This Council notes that 43% of people think that the proposed pension reforms are wrong. This is not surprising, public service workers are highly regarded by the general public and people know that the pay freezes and job losses that have been introduced are a deeply unfair consequence of the actions of highly-paid bankers from the private sector.

This Council further notes that taking lawful industrial action is a fundamental human right that workers in many undemocratic regimes are demonstrating for and being praised for so-doing by this Government. Strong civil engagement and industrial action are a key to hope and progress. This Council notes that workers are not 'strike happy', and that industrial action is a last resort.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Conservative Mayor of London, the Greater London Assembly Member for Brent and Harrow, Harrow's three MPs and the Secretary of State for Transport to inform them of the content of this motion.

**Proposer: Councillor Nana Asante**  
**Secunder: Councillor Jerry Miles**