

Council (Council Tax)

Thursday 24 February 2022

Index of Tabled Documents/Information

Item on Summons	Document/Subject	Document Pages
3.	Procedural Motions The Budget Procedural Motion is attached.	3 - 4
6.	Public Questions Three public questions are attached	5 - 8
9.	Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25 An amendment from the Conservative Group is attached	9 - 16
19.	Motions An amendment from the Conservative Group is attached	17 - 18

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ITEMS 8 - 12 Borough Plan Update

**Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy
2023/24 to 2024/25**

**Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term
Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2024-25**

**Treasury Management Strategy Statement Including Annual
Investment Strategy for 2022/23 and Capital Strategy for 2022/23**

Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25

This note reflects a consensus between the Political Groups on the procedures that will apply for the determination of all the above items.

OPENING	The Leader will move the Council report, and Cabinet Recommendations and the Mayor will then request any amendments.
AMENDMENTS	Any amendments will then be moved and seconded.
JOINT DEBATE	The Council will hold one comprehensive debate on Items 8 - 12, and so <u>all</u> amendments will be considered together.
ADJOURNMENT	Should significant amendments be received, the Mayor may propose an adjournment of up to thirty minutes to allow Members to read and assimilate them.
EXTENDED SPEECHES	<p>Up to three identified Members of each Group will be allowed a total of 15 minutes to talk to the items and respond to any amendments. The order will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Labour (15 minutes)(2) Conservative (15 minutes) <p>Further to this, one speaker from the Administration and one from the Opposition Group will have 5 minutes each during the debate.</p>
DEBATING RULES	<p>All other speakers will be restricted to the usual 3 minutes.</p> <p>To conclude the debate the Groups will be allocated 1 winding-up speech of 5 minutes, in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Conservative(2) Labour
VOTING ON AMENDMENTS	Following the final winding-up speech, the Council will immediately move to voting on the amendments. <u>NO</u> further debate will take place between the voting on the amendments.

The amendments will be voted on in the following order:

- (1) Conservative
- (2) Labour

One separate vote will be taken on each amendment. If any amendment is carried it becomes the substantive proposal.

Following votes on each amendment, the Council Meeting will have either:

- if an amendment has been carried, a new substantive proposal on the Borough Plan, Budget, Council Tax, Housing Revenue Account Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Capital Programme; or
- if no amendment has been carried, the original Recommendations.

DETERMINATION OF ITEMS 8 – 12

A new substantive Budget/Council Tax proposal (if an amendment has been carried) or the Cabinet Recommendation (if not amended) will be put to a formal vote of the Council for adoption, without further debate. A record of all Members voting on the Budget will be taken.

SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL RULES

The procedures set out above vary the rules regarding the moving of a recommendation from the Executive and the rules of debate. Council will be assumed to have endorsed, under Rule 26.1, the partial suspension of the relevant rules for the limited purposes of items 8 – 12 on the Summons, to enable them to be taken as a single item.

Voting Procedure

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19.4, the vote of each Member present has to be recorded. Given the restrictions on numbers in the Council Chamber, to facilitate this voting will be staggered to enable Members to have their vote recorded safely

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

-

24 FEBRUARY 2022

PUBLIC QUESTION

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by members of the public of a Member of the Executive or the Chair of any Committee.

Questioner: Ms Ann Freeman

Asked of: Councillor Simon Brown (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Social Care)

Question 1:

"Why did Harrow Council fail to consult the people who used their service at The Bridge and their families and consider the impact of the decision to change the structure of provided services, as dictated in the Public Sector Equality Duty?"

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

-

24 FEBRUARY 2022

PUBLIC QUESTION

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by members of the public of a Member of the Executive or the Chair of any Committee.

Questioner: **Matthew Goodwin-Freeman**

Asked of: **Councillor Peymana Assad (Portfolio Holder for
Community Cohesion, Crime and Enforcement)**

Question 2:

“Will the Council outline how it plans to get a grip on the uncontrolled fly-tipping in Harrow?”

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

COUNCIL MEETING

-

24 FEBRUARY 2022

PUBLIC QUESTION

A period of up to 15 minutes is allowed for the asking of written questions by members of the public of a Member of the Executive or the Chair of any Committee.

Questioner: David Phelops

Asked of: Councillor Simon Brown (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Social Care)

Question 3:

"My Name is David Phelops, coordinator of More Than Just A Choir, part of the Harrow Rethink Support Group, a registered Group of the charity Rethink Mental Illness, working with adults, in Harrow, affected by mental illness and social isolation.

Now that the long term mentally ill are being given only six months provision of membership of what was the Bridge Day Service, how do the council propose to support the people abandoned to isolation below the radar?"

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By amending this budget, we are not endorsing Labour's financial blueprint for Harrow or that we accept a number of the assumptions and decisions built into their budget. However, we present this to demonstrate how better choices can be made to deliver for the residents of Harrow.

In the last year, Harrow has been recovering from the devastating effect of Covid-19 on our communities and our families. The Council has received £1.4 billion in funding from central government to support the local authority before and during the pandemic. Despite the generous level of government funding, we accept that finances are tight for the Council. We have been able to identify funds which should be spent elsewhere as well as utilising our reserves. What has been clear from the original budget is that Labour has no plan for Harrow, and no clue about how to deliver meaningful change for local people.

The Harrow Council Conservative Group proposes this amendment to the budget (as set out in appendix one) so that we have a budget that delivers on what matters to Harrow's residents.

- By using funds already raised from prosecuting illegal developments and planning breaches as well as removing previous increased spending from HR, **we will create a Planning Enforcement Taskforce, which will specifically target illegal HMOs and beds-in-sheds** in the borough.
- By utilising funds intended for the flawed Accommodation Strategy, **we will invest in a 'Street Cleaning Taskforce', helping to fight the blight of fly-tipping which is affecting Harrow.**
- In order to help local businesses to get back on their feet as we recover from the Covid epidemic, **we are proposing an increase in free on-street parking from 20 minutes to 60 minutes throughout the borough.** This will allow residents to park and shop, go to the bank, or the Post Office for longer, helping support small businesses.
- Furthermore, **we intend to introduce 60 minutes free parking in all car parks** owned by the Council. This will further support businesses and give something back to residents.
- **We propose introducing a free bulk waste collection scheme**, which would remove the charge for collecting items like mattresses and sofas. This will encourage residents to do the right thing and have the Council pick up these items from where they live. We believe this will help reduce fly-tipping throughout the borough. **It is not right that Harrow residents pay one of the highest Council Tax in London** only to be charged again to have their waste collected.
- **Harrow Council has increased Council Tax by 31.1% since 2011, which is the biggest increase in London.** We do not believe it is right that Councillors get a pay rise when the Council is putting Council tax up by the maximum amount again and not dealing with the problems facing Harrow residents. **Having regard to the report of the Independent Panel titled 'The Remuneration of Councils in London 2022', the members allowances increase should not be introduced.**

The Conservatives do not control the Council. These amendments are proposed alterations to the Labour budget from the perspective of an opposition group. In the event the Conservatives take control in May we would introduce significant and far-reaching changes which would improve the quality of life for all. We believe this demonstrates that, even with

Conservative Amendment (Budget)

the limited changes listed above, Harrow's Conservative Councillors will put residents' interests first.

Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) comments:

"I have reviewed the proposed amendment to the 2022/23 Budget put forward by the Conservative Group and I make the following points:

- The investment proposals are based on prudent and realistic assumptions and include an estimated sum for relevant implementation costs where known
- In 2022/23, the Bulky Waste Collection Pilot is assumed to start on 1 June with the remainder of the proposals starting on 1 August. This is to ensure that all the actions required to implement the proposals can be fully completed and these timescales are viewed as reasonable.
- It is considered realistic that a proportion of the Accommodation Strategy Reserve is applied on the understanding that the use of ancillary sites, as reported to Cabinet, are not taken forward.
- A permanent structure has not yet been implemented for the Regeneration Team therefore is it considered feasible to reduce the budget envelope at this stage
- Whilst the budget amendment neither reduces nor increases the reported MTFS budget gap of £16.6m, the amendment proposes to re-instate 50% of the Transformation Savings target (£1m) in 2023/24. Appendix 10 of the Final Budget Report (Report of the Chief Finance Officer) detailed my concerns and actions required to address the budget gap and I repeat these concerns in light of £1m Transformation savings being re-instated into the budget and the challenge of achieving this alongside those required to manage the £16.6m gap and this must be reported when stating my opinion on the budget amendment."

D Calvert – Director of Finance and Assurance (S151 Officer) 23 February 2022

Proposed by Councillor Paul Osborn

Seconded by Councillor Pritesh Patel

Appendix One

Table One

Budget Savings

Project/Scheme	2022/23	2023/24
Re-instate Transformation Savings Target	0	1,000,000
Regeneration Team - Reduce 2022/23 one off funding	280,000	-280,000
Regeneration Team - Reduce permanent budget	0	450,000
Reversal of prior years HR growth	100,000	0

Draw Down from Reserves

Reserve	2022/23	2023/24
Proceeds of Crime Reserve Planning*	175,000	-175,000
50% of Accommodation Strategy Reserve	350,000	-350,000

*=This reserve can only be used or

Total Savings and Draw Down from Reserves	905,000	645,000
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Budget Redistributions

Scheme	2022/23	2023/24
Planning Enforcement Taskforce (Beds-in-sheds & illegal HMOs)*	175,000	0
Street Cleaning Task Force	135,000	65,000
Introduce 60 mins free parking in Car Parks	0	350,000
One-off implementation costs for parking proposals	30,000	0
Increase free on street car parking from 20 mins to 60 mins	400,000	200,000
Bulk Waste Collection Pilot	165,000	30,000

*= The funding for the first year of f

	2022/23	2023/24
Total Budget Redistributions	905,000	645,000

	2022/23	2023/24
Surplus/Deficit	0	0

Planning enforcement related projects.

Planning Enforcement Taskforce comes solely from the Proceeds of Crime Reserve Planning.

Appendix Two - Costings

Street Cleaning Taskforce

Annual cost for a 7.5tonne vehicle: £25,000 (estimate)

Annual cost of an enforcement officer: £57,200

Annual cost of a 3-person crew: £114,400

Total cost is estimated at, say, **£200k** per annum.

Increase Free On-Street P&D Car Parking from 20mins to 60mins

The free 20 mins to become free one hour										
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%
Scenario	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued
Reduction in the number of paid tickets	44,046	88,093	132,139	176,186	220,232	264,279	308,325	352,372	396,418	440,465
Potential loss of P&D income	£60,516	£121,031	£181,547	£242,062	£302,578	£363,094	£423,609	£484,125	£544,640	£605,156

If free parking is extended from 20 minutes currently to an hour, it is highly possible that there would be a significant reduction in the number of paid tickets because the normal maximum stay for on street parking is 2 hours (esp. of those in the vicinity of shops). The on street parking facilities tend to be used by motorists for short stay. Having one hour free means that a large proportion of paid tickets would become free.

At 50% reduction in paid tickets, the **estimated loss of income** would be around **£600k**.

Introducing Free 60mins parking in Car Parks

Introducing one hour free parking in car parks										
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%
Scenario	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued	Less Paid tickets issued
Reduction in the number of paid tickets	71,183	142,366	213,548	284,731	355,914	427,097	498,279	569,462	640,645	711,828
Potential loss of P&D income	£69,997	£139,993	£209,990	£279,986	£349,983	£419,979	£489,976	£559,972	£629,969	£699,965

Appendix Two - Costings

For car parks, if one hour free parking is introduced, it is expected that there would be less number of paid tickets issued. Motorists using car parks tend to be for longer stays than those using on street parking facilities. Therefore, introducing one hour free parking in car parks could mean that a large proportion of motorists are still paying for parking but at a reduced charge.

At 25% reduction in paid tickets, the **estimated loss of income** would be around **£350k**.

Bulk Waste Collection Pilot

Income budget from Bulky Household waste collection is £130k per annum. By changing this from a chargeable service to a free service, there would be a **loss of income of £130k**.

In addition, it is likely that there would be an increase in take up of the service, hence increasing disposal costs. Assuming the bulky waste tonnage is increased by 50%, the **additional disposal cost** is around **£65k**.

Savings and Draw Down from Reserves

Re-instate 50% Transformation Savings Target – Save £1 million (Year Two)

Regeneration Team – Reduce 2022/23 one-off funding – Save £280,000

Regeneration Team – Reduce permanent budget – Save £450,000 (Year Two)

Proceeds of Crime Reserve (Planning) – Draw Down of £175,000

Accommodation Strategy Reserve – Draw Down of £350,000

Our better choices

Planning Enforcement Taskforce – cost £175,000

Street Cleaning Taskforce – investment of £200,000

Free Bulk Waste Collection – cost £195,000

Increase free on street car parking from 20 mins to 60mins – cost £600,000 over two years.

One-off implementation costs for parking proposals – cost £30,000

Introduce 60 mins free parking in all Council Car Parks – cost £350,000 (Year Two)

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**MOTION - Recognition of Tamil Heritage Month & Partnership with
Tamil Community in Harrow**

24th February 2022

Since 2011 we have been celebrating Thai Pongal in Harrow and it was the Leader of Harrow Council who first announced in 2020 the recognition of Tamil Heritage Month and Harrow Council was the first ever council to do so.

Under this administration, Harrow has been a trailblazer in recognising the rich contribution made by our Tamil community in Harrow, London and across the country. In January we celebrated Tamil Heritage month and the celebration of Thai Pongal.

It is a matter of pride for us that Harrow's significant Tamil population typifies the immense contribution made by Tamils in the UK in every walk of life including health & social care, support & sacrifices during the pandemic, politics, education, social, cultural and economic aspects.

The Council has been privileged to work with our Tamil community over the years. It's been a joy this year too to mark Tamil heritage month and celebrate Thai Pongal event, as we have done for the last 11 years, in Harrow Civic Centre showcasing the amazing talent of Tamil youth and celebrating the depth of Tamil culture and history. Additionally, this year we have promoted Tamil language and poetry books in Harrow's libraries and continued to work constructively with our Tamil community organisations to further their rich heritage and support the vulnerable people.

For Harrow, recognition of the contribution made by our Tamil community is year round and not just limited to the Tamil Heritage Month. In recognising the contribution of the Tamil community and saluting Tamil Heritage.

Council resolves;

- Continue and commit to its partnership with the Tamil community celebrating Tamil heritage month and ensure that our much-valued Tamil community is supported across the borough.
- Thank the Tamil community for their invaluable contribution to our borough and our city. We are profoundly grateful for the work that they do.
- Continue the excellent and cohesive work with all of Harrow's communities ~~and support the wider effects of austerity in fighting the cost of living crisis imposed by the Government.~~

Proposer of the motion: Cllr Krishna Suresh

Seconder of the motion: Cllr Peymana Assad

[Proposer of the amendment: Cllr Paul Osborn](#)

[Seconder of the amendment: Cllr Marilyn Ashton](#)

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