

# **COUNCIL MINUTES**

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2020**



## PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Daryl Brown  
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Mercy Umeh

### Councillors:

Colin Aherne  
Adronie Alford  
Andrew Brown  
Daryl Brown  
Jonathan Caleb-Landy  
Iain Cassidy  
Ben Coleman  
Adam Connell  
Christabel Cooper  
Stephen Cowan  
Larry Culhane  
Sue Fennimore  
Wesley Harcourt  
Rebecca Harvey

Sharon Holder  
Lisa Homan  
Donald Johnson  
Andrew Jones  
Alex Karmel  
Bora Kwon  
Rachel Leighton  
Amanda Lloyd-Harris  
Mark Loveday  
Sue Macmillan  
David Morton  
PJ Murphy  
Natalia Perez  
Zarar Qayyum

Patricia Quigley  
Rowan Ree  
Lucy Richardson  
Alexandra Sanderson  
Max Schmid  
Asif Siddique  
Fiona Smith  
Frances Stainton  
Dominic Stanton  
Matt Thorley  
Matt Uberoi  
Mercy Umeh  
Rory Vaughan  
Guy Vincent

## 1. MINUTES

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the two Council meetings held on 22 January 2020 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler and Belinda Donovan.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Andrew Brown and Ben Coleman.

### **3. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor paid tribute to Hitesh Jolapara, Strategic Director for Finance and Governance, who was leaving after ten years of dedicated service to the borough.

Speeches were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan, Max Schmid, and Alex Karmel paying tribute to him.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No public questions were submitted.

### **6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **6.1 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2020/21**

7.14pm – In accordance with Council convention, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Andrew Brown, were given unlimited time to speak on the Budget report.

Speeches on the report were also made by Councillors Christabel Cooper, Andrew Jones and Max Schmid (for the Administration).

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, then made a speech winding up the debate.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote and a roll-call was undertaken, in accordance with Council convention when voting on the budget:

<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>NOT VOTING</b>
Aherne	Alford	Brown (D) (Mayor)
Caleb-Landy	Brown (A)	
Cassidy	Johnson	
Coleman	Karmel	
Connell	Lloyd-Harris	
Cooper	Loveday	
Cowan	Stainton	
Culhane	Stanton	
Fennimore	Thorley	
Harcourt		
Harvey		
Holder		
Homan		

Jones
Kwon
Leighton
Macmillan
Morton
Murphy
Perez
Qayyum
Quigley
Ree
Richardson
Rowbottom
Sanderson
Schmid
Siddique
Smith
Uberoi
Umeh
Vaughan
Vincent

<b>FOR</b>	<b>33</b>
AGAINST	9
NOT VOTING	1

The report and the recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

### 8.29pm – RESOLVED

That Council, for the reasons set out in this report and appendices, agree:

1. To increase the Hammersmith & Fulham element of council tax by 1.99% for 2020/21.
2. To apply central government’s modelled “adult social care precept” levy of 2% for 2020/21.
3. To set council tax for 2020/21 for each category of dwelling, as calculated in accordance with Sections 31A to 49B of the Localism Act 2011, as outlined in the table below and in full in Appendix A:
  - (a) ***The element of council tax charged for Hammersmith & Fulham Council will be £792.42 per Band D property in 2020/21.***
  - (b) *The overall Council Tax to be set at £1,124.49 per Band D property in 2020/21 as follows.*

Category of Dwelling	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ratio	6/9	7/9	8/9	1	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
a) H&F	528.28	616.33	704.37	792.42	968.51	1,144.61	1,320.70	1,584.84
b) GLA	221.38	258.28	295.17	332.07	405.86	479.66	553.45	664.14
<b>c) Total</b>	<b>749.66</b>	<b>874.61</b>	<b>999.54</b>	<b>1,124.49</b>	<b>1,374.37</b>	<b>1,624.27</b>	<b>1,874.15</b>	<b>2,248.98</b>

4. To note the element of council tax charged by the Greater London Authority in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 will be £332.07 per Band D property in 2020/21.
5. To set the Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2020/21 at £121.003m.
6. To approve £8.3m of new investment on key services for residents.
7. To approve fees and charges as set out in paragraph 3.1 below including freezing charges in adult social care, children's services and housing.
8. To note the budget projections to 2023/24 made by the Strategic Director, Finance and Governance in consultation with the Strategic Leadership Team.
9. To note the statement of the Strategic Director, Finance and Governance, under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, regarding the adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates (section 10).
10. To approve the reserves strategy and realignment of reserves as set out in Appendix J and Appendix K.
11. To authorise the Strategic Director, Finance and Governance to collect and recover National Non-Domestic Rate and Council Tax in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended), the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
12. To require all Directors to report on their projected financial position compared to their revenue estimates in accordance with the Corporate Revenue Monitoring Report timetable.
13. To authorise Directors to implement their service spending plans for 2020/21 in accordance with the recommendations within this report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, relevant Schemes of Delegation and undertake any further consultation required regarding the Equalities Impact Assessment.

## 6.2 **Four Year Capital Programme 2020 to 2024 and Capital Strategy 2020/21**

8.30pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan. A speech on the report was made by Councillor Max Schmid (for the Administration).

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

<b>FOR</b>	<b>UNANIMOUS</b>
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The report and the recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

### 8.34pm – RESOLVED

1. To approve the four-year General Fund Capital Programme budget at £492.2m for the period 2020/21-2023/24 (paragraph 2.1, Table 2 and Appendix 1).
2. To approve the four-year rolling programmes, set out in Table 3 (paragraph 2.2), funded from the Council’s mainstream resources:

- Capital receipts and borrowing:

	£m
Planned Maintenance/DDA Programme [F&G]	2.40
Column Replacement [ENV]	0.10
Footways and Carriageways [ENV]	2.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.53</b>

- Contributions from revenue (Parking):

	£m
Controlled Parking Zones [ENV]	0.275
Column Replacement [ENV]	0.246
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.521</b>

3. To note the existing mainstream funded schemes previously approved, but now reprofiled to 2020/21 and future years as detailed in Table 3 (paragraph 2.2).
4. To approve the four-year Housing Capital Programme at £199.97m for the period 2020/21-2023/24 as set out in Table 5 (paragraph 3.2) and Appendix 1.
5. To delegate the potential application of capital receipts brought forward (up to £3.5m) under the Government’s Flexible Use of Capital Receipts provisions to fund Invest to Save schemes in 2019/20 and 2020/21 (as identified in Appendix 5) to the Strategic Director, Finance and Governance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services, as part of the closure of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 accounts.
6. To approve an additional budget envelope of £50m, from 2020/21 onwards, to provide operational flexibility, for taking forward the major projects set out in Capital Strategy Report. Use of this budget will be subject to Cabinet approval, agreement of funding sources and sign-off of an appropriate business case.
7. To approve Capital Strategy 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 4.
8. To approve annual Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 6.

### 6.3 Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21

8.35pm – The report and recommendations were moved by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services, Councillor Max Schmid, before being put to the vote:

<b>FOR</b>	<b>33</b>
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	10

The report and recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

#### 8.37pm – RESOLVED

1. That approval is given to the future borrowing and investment strategies as outlined in this report.
2. That the Strategic Director of Finance and Governance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services, be delegated authority to manage the Council's cash flow, borrowing and investments in 2020/21 in line with this report.
3. In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year, to approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in this report and the revised Annual Investment Strategy set out in Appendix E.

### 6.4 Pay Policy Statement 2020/21

8.37pm – The report and recommendations were moved by the Cabinet Member for Public Services Reform, Councillor Adam Connell. Councillor Adam Connell made a speech on the report before it was put to the vote:

<b>FOR</b>	<b>UNANIMOUS</b>
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The report and recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

#### 8.43pm – RESOLVED

1. That Council approve the pay policy statement for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
2. That Council note the benchmarking of the Council's median pay multiple against the average of other Inner London Boroughs contained in section 2.5 of the report.
3. That Council note the new Senior Manager Pay Scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

6.5 **Members Allowances Scheme Annual Review 2020/21**

8.43pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors PJ Murphy, Larry Culhane, and Patricia Quigley (for the Administration).

*(The Opposition left the room at 8.45pm during the speeches)*

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

<b>FOR</b>	<b>UNANIMOUS</b>
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The report and recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

**8.57pm – RESOLVED**

That the Members' Allowances Scheme 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 be adopted.

6.6 **Council Calendar of Meetings 2020/21**

8.57pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, before being put to the vote:

<b>FOR</b>	<b>UNANIMOUS</b>
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

The report and recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

**8.57pm – RESOLVED**

That the schedule of meetings in the 2020/21 Council calendar be approved.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm  
Meeting ended: 8.57 pm

Mayor .....