

# COUNCIL MINUTES

(BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2009



PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Andrew Johnson)  
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Alex Karmel)

Councillors:

Michael Adam  
Colin Aherne  
Mrs Adronie Alford  
Helen Binmore  
Nicholas Botterill  
Paul Bristow  
Victoria Brocklebank-  
Fowler  
Aidan Burley  
Jean Campbell  
Michael Cartwright  
Alex Chalk  
Stephen Cowan  
Gill Dickenson  
Belinda Donovan

Gavin Donovan  
Rachel Ford  
Sarah Gore  
Stephen Greenhalgh  
Lucy Gugen  
Steve Hamilton  
Wesley Harcourt  
Lisa Homan  
Robert Iggulden  
Lucy Ivimy  
Donald Johnson  
Jane Law  
Antony Lillis  
Ali de Lisle  
Mark Loveday

Reg McLaughlin  
Lisa Nandy  
Ed Owen  
Dame Sally Powell  
Alexandra Robson  
Minnie Scott Russell  
Greg Smith  
Frances Stainton  
Peter Tobias  
Mercy Umeh  
Rory Vaughan  
Eugenie White

### **39. MINUTE SILENCE**

The Mayor announced the death of former Councillor Mr Thomas Liscomb, who had served as an elected member at Hammersmith and Fulham from 1986 to 1990. He was also sad to note the death of David and Samantha Cameron's young son Ivan earlier that day. The Council observed a minute silence as a mark of respect.

### **40. MINUTES – 28 JANUARY 2009**

7.03pm - The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 January 2009 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record, subject to an amendment to the attendance page to reflect that Councillor Michael Adam had been present at the meeting.

### **41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caroline Ffiske, Harry Phibbs and Will Bethell. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Sarah Gore.

### **42. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor's Announcements were circulated and tabled at the meeting. (Copy attached as **Appendix 1** to these minutes).

### **43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Mayor advised Councillors that, in relation to agenda item 6.4 – 'Councillors' Allowances Scheme: Annual Review', the Standards Board had advised that it was necessary for all Councillors to declare their allowances as personal interests under the Code of Conduct. In order to manage this with the minimum of disruption, all Councillors present in the Chamber would be deemed as having declared a personal interest in this item (unless the Councillor objects), and this fact would be duly noted and recorded in the minutes. This was agreed unanimously.

### **44. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

### **45. ITEMS FOR DECISION / COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **7.05pm – Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2009/10**

The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e)(i), Councillor Reg McLaughlin moved, seconded by Councillor Lisa Nandy, an amendment to the report to insert a new recommendation:

“That the Director of Children’s Services be instructed to reverse the funding cuts to services for children with complex needs (p.359), to be funded by back office efficiencies’.

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillor Reg McLaughlin, Councillor Lisa Nandy and Councillor Dame Sally Powell (for the Opposition) and Councillor Antony Lillis (for the Administration), before it was put to the vote:

FOR	13
AGAINST	29
ABSTENTIONS	0

The amendment to the report was declared **LOST**.

In accordance with Council convention, the Leader of the Administration, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Stephen Cowan, were then given unlimited time to speak on the Budget report.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	29
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	13

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

8.12pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the Council Tax decrease, for the Hammersmith & Fulham element, of 3% for 2009/10 and 2010/11 and, for planning purposes, no change for 2011/12;
2. The Council Tax be set for 2009/10 for each category of dwelling, as calculated in accordance with Sections 30 to 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as outlined below and in full in Appendix A:
  - (a) The element of Council Tax charged for Hammersmith & Fulham Council will be £836.89 per Band D property in 2009/10;
  - (b) The element of Council Tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £309.82 per Band D property in 2009/10.
  - (c) The overall Council Tax to be set will be £1,146.71 per Band D property in 2009/10;

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	557.93	650.91	743.90	836.89	1,022.87	1,208.84	1,394.82	1,673.78
b)GLA	206.55	240.97	275.40	309.82	378.67	447.52	516.37	619.64
<b>c)Total (Draft)</b>	<b>764.48</b>	<b>891.88</b>	<b>1,019.30</b>	<b>1,146.71</b>	<b>1,401.54</b>	<b>1,656.36</b>	<b>1,911.19</b>	<b>2,293.42</b>

3. The Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2009/10 is set as £185.764m;
4. That fees and charges are approved as set out in paragraph 5.1;
5. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services' budget projections to 2011/12 be noted;
6. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services' statements under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 regarding adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates be noted (paragraphs 6 and 7);
7. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services be authorised 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 Schemes of Delegation;
8. That all Chief Officers be required to report monthly on their projected financial position compared to their revenue estimates (as part of the Corporate Monitoring Report);
9. That all Chief Officers be authorised to implement their service spending plans for 2009/10 in accordance with the recommendations within this report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and relevant Schemes of Delegation.

#### **46. 8.13pm – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT**

The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

The report and recommendation was put to the vote:

FOR	29
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	13

The report and recommendation was declared **CARRIED.**

8.13pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the future borrowing and investment strategies;
2. In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year 2009/10, approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 3 of this report;
3. To approve the methodology for establishing credit criteria as described in paragraph 10 and Appendix B;
4. To delegate future amendments to the credit criteria methodology to Cabinet;
5. To authorise the use of Money Market Funds and Government Liquidity Funds as described in para.11 and Appendix D.

**47. 8.14pm – CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 TO 2013/14**

The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

The report and recommendation was put to the vote:

FOR	29
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	13

The report and recommendation was declared **CARRIED.**

8.14pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. To note that the General Fund Capital Programme for 2009/10 is £33.910m. (Appendix 1);
2. To note the level of capital receipts needed to support the capital strategy (detailed in Table 2);
3. To agree that capital contingency of £2m be retained to meet unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure (Para 2.5 refers);
4. To approve the following initiatives within the Capital Programme:
  - The continuation at current funding levels of the uncommitted mainstream capital schemes for Expansion of Wendell Park School (£1.250m), The modernisation of secondary schools (£1.074m), Park Improvements (£1.5m) and Bishops Park (£2m) (Para 2.8 refers);

- The continuation of the rolling programmes for Corporate Planned Maintenance (£2.5m), repairs to Carriageways and Footways (£2.1m), private sector housing grants (£1.4m) and Disabled Access Works (£0.250m).
5. To approve that £0.727m be set aside for debt reduction in 2009/10;
  6. To approve the position where the Council does not increase its borrowing by the amount the government assumes in its formula grant calculation;
  7. To approve that the capital bids evaluation process will not be undertaken for 2009/10;
  8. To note the level of resource forecast as detailed in Table 5 and indicative expenditure for the Housing regeneration programme;
  9. To approve the annual drawdown of £1m from Parking Reserve;
  10. To note the updated HRA resource forecast as detailed in Table 6 and indicative capital programme as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
  11. To approve the actions detailed in paragraph 6.2 to address the temporary 2010/11 funding deficit and note that a further report will be presented to Members regarding the HRA capital programme during 2009/10;
  12. To approve the prudential indicators as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report;
  13. To approve the following Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement:
    - For debt which is supported by Revenue Support Grant this authority will calculate the Minimum Revenue Provision in accordance with current regulations (namely 4% of the Capital Financing Requirement net of Adjustment A);
    - For debt which has arisen through prudential borrowing it shall be written down in equal instalments over the estimated asset life. The debt write-off will commence the year after an asset comes into use.

#### **48. 8.15pm – COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME: ANNUAL REVIEW**

The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

The report and recommendation was declared **CARRIED.**

8.15pm - **RESOLVED:**

That the Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2009-10, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

**49. 8.16pm – REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION: CHANGES TO SCHEMES OF DELEGATION**

The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

FOR	29
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	13

The report and recommendation was declared **CARRIED.**

8.16pm - **RESOLVED:**

That the changes and amendments proposed to the Council Constitution, as summarised in Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed.

**50. INFORMATION REPORTS TO COUNCIL (IF ANY)**

There were no information reports to this meeting of the Council.

\* \* \* \* \* CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS \* \* \* \* \*

Meeting ended: 8.17 pm. - Wednesday, 25 February 2009.

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MAYOR



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY**

### **THE MAYOR**

1. I am sure everyone shares my sadness to hear of the death of a former Councillor Mr Thomas Lipscomb on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 in Barnes. Thomas Lipscomb served as a Councillor from 1986 to 1990 representing Colehill Ward and a number of various committees.
  
2. Our thoughts and prayers go out to David & Samantha Cameron and their family on the death of their young son, Ivan, who died earlier today at St Mary's Hospital, London.  
  
I invite you all to stand for one minute silence in their memory.
  
3. On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009, I attended Hammersmith Town Hall staff lunchtime Charity fundraising event in aid of the RNLI SOS Day, Small Hall, HTH
  
4. On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, I attended the funeral service for former Councillor Mrs Josie Wicks at Mortlake Crematorium
  
5. On 5<sup>th</sup> February, I attended Fulham Cross Girls School morning assembly, Munster Road, SW6
  
6. On 7<sup>th</sup> February, I attended the Mayor of Ealing's Charity Race Night, Meadvale Road, W5
  
7. On 11<sup>th</sup> February, I attended St Paul's School morning assembly, Worlidge Street W6
  
8. On 11<sup>th</sup> February, I was delighted to attend India's Republic Day celebration, Mountbatten Auditorium, Bhavan Centre, W14
  
9. On 12<sup>th</sup> February, I attended the Mayhew Animal Home, Trenmar Gardens, NW10
  
10. On 13<sup>th</sup> February, I was delighted to host a reception for the delegates of the Independent Electoral Commission of Afghanistan, Mayor's Parlour
  
11. On 17<sup>th</sup> February, I was delighted to host a presentation ceremony for Albert and Friends Instant Circus, who were winners at the New Years Day Parade 2009, winning £5000 in aid of my chosen charity, The Alzheimer's Society Hammersmith, Mayor's Parlour, HTH
  
12. On 17<sup>th</sup> February, I attended the official launch reception of QPR in the Community Trust, House of Lords, Westminster, SW1A

13. On 18<sup>th</sup> February, I attended a performance of The Permanent Way, LAMDA, Talgarth Road, W14
14. On 24<sup>th</sup> February, I attended a service of remembrance for the late Cllr Jonathan Driver, who was the Mayor of Croydon, Croydon Parish Church, Church Street, Croydon
15. On 24<sup>th</sup> February, I attended the Brackenbury Residents Association 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, Godolphin School, Iffley Road, W6