

# COUNCIL MINUTES

(ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2008



PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

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  
Harry Phibbs  
Dame Sally Powell  
Alexandra Robson  
Greg Smith  
Frances Stainton  
Peter Tobias  
Mercy Umeh  
Rory Vaughan

#### **14. MINUTES – 28 MAY 2008**

7.05pm - The minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 28 May 2008 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

#### **15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Adam, Will Bethell, Caroline Ffiske, Minnie Scott-Russell and Eugenie White.

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Alex Chalk, Harry Phibbs and Mercy Umeh.

#### **16. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The Mayor announced that instead of appointing a chaplain for the year, he would ask a different vicar to say prayers before each Council meeting.

He congratulated the following individuals on their awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours list:-

- Sir William Atkinson, Head teacher of Phoenix High School (Knighthood);
- Lord Richard Rogers (awarded Companion of Honour for public services and for services to architecture);
- Edward Fitzgerald QC (CBE);
- Bronwyn Curtis (OBE);
- Allegra McEvedy (OBE);
- Susan Moore (MBE).

The Council was also informed that Monica Mason OBE had been appointed a Dame.

The Mayor advised that the National Anthem would be played at the conclusion of the meeting.

#### **17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Lucy Ivimy declared a personal interest on Special Motion Number 6, as the individual named in the motion.

#### **18. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

7.06pm - The Mayor informed the Council that Question No. 1 submitted by Mr Ian Griffiths to the Leader of the Council had been deferred at his request to the next meeting. A written response to Question No. 2 would be sent to Mr O'Callaghan-Williamson by the Cabinet Member for Housing.

[A copy of the public question submitted and the reply given is attached at **Appendix 2** to these minutes.]

## 19. SPECIAL MOTIONS

### **Special Motion No. 1 – Home Care Charging**

7.08pm – Councillor Rory Vaughan moved, seconded by Councillor Reg McLaughlin, the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council supports the campaign by Hammersmith and Fulham Coalition Against Community Care Cuts of “no to charging disabled and older people for essential services in Hammersmith and Fulham” and calls on the Administration to honour its manifesto commitment not to introduce Home Care charging.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Rory Vaughan and Reg McLaughlin.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (vi), Councillor Antony Lillis moved, seconded by Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, an amendment to the motion to delete all words after “this Council’ and insert:

“...acknowledges the Administration’s commitment to providing high quality social care and commends the £5.8m growth in the adult social care budget.

This Council further recognises the Administration’s decision to retain the ‘Greater Moderate’ banding of social care criteria, one of only 8 London Councils to do so.

This Council welcomes the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health’s admission that there is a £6 billion funding gap and looks forward to the opportunity to participate in the six month consultation as to the future funding of social care which has been announced.”

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Antony Lillis, Stephen Greenhalgh and Peter Tobias before it was put to the vote:

FOR	26
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTION	1

The amendment to the motion was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor Rory Vaughan made a speech winding up the debate before the substantive motion was put to the vote. On a request for names to be recorded, a roll-call vote was taken:

FOR 26

(Councillors Alford, Binmore, Botterill, Bristow, Brocklebank-Fowler, Burley, Chalk, De Lisle, B Donovan, G Donovan, Ford, Gore, Greenhalgh, Gugen, Hamilton, Iggulden, Ivimy, D Johnson, Karmel, Law, Lillis, Loveday, Robson, Smith, Stainton and Tobias).

AGAINST 13

(Councillors Aherne, Campbell, Cartwright, Cowan, Dickenson, Harcourt, Homan, McLaughlin, Nandy, Owen, Powell, Umeh and Vaughan).

ABSTENTION 1

(The Mayor).

The substantive motion (as amended) was declared **CARRIED**.

7.37 pm - **RESOLVED**:

This Council acknowledges the Administration's commitment to providing high quality social care and commends the £5.8m growth in the adult social care budget.

This Council further recognises the Administration's decision to retain the 'Greater Moderate' banding of social care criteria, one of only 8 London Councils to do so.

This Council welcomes the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health's admission that there is a £6 billion funding gap and looks forward to the opportunity to participate in the six month consultation as to the future funding of social care which has been announced.

### **Special Motion No. 2 – Adult Social Care Budget**

7.38pm – With the consent of the Council, the motion was withdrawn by the mover and seconder.

### **Special Motion No. 3 – Post Office**

7.39pm – Councillor Paul Bristow moved, seconded by Councillor Donald Johnson, the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council welcomes the decision by the Post Office to keep the branches at Starch Green, Shepherds Bush Road, and Kenyon Street open; thanks local residents, voluntary groups and Greg Hands MP for supporting the Council's campaign against branch closures in Hammersmith & Fulham; deeply regrets the closure of three branches in the borough and the fact that W14 is only postcode in London without a post office; notes the crucial role that post office branches have in supporting our local neighbourhoods; condemns the Government's drive to

close 169 branches across London; and resolves to campaign against any future post office closures in the borough and look at innovative ways to support the network, such as offering the use of libraries and other Council buildings.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Paul Bristow, Donald Johnson and Helen Binmore.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (vi), Councillor Lisa Homan moved, seconded by Councillor Gill Dickenson, an amendment to the motion to delete all words after “this Council” and insert:

“...welcomes the decision by Post Office Ltd to maintain five post offices threatened with closure serving residents in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The Council thanks local residents, voluntary groups, Murad Qureshi AM and Andy Slaughter MP for the role they all played in saving the Starch Green, Shepherd’s Bush Road and Kenyon Street post offices. We also note the wider success of Andy Slaughter’s campaign, which has resulted in keeping the East Acton post office open, which serves residents on the Old Oak Estate and will now stay open as part of a Costcutter store, and in winning assurances from Post Office Ltd that they will reopen the Olympia Post Office, which shut at Christmas.

The Council welcomes the Government’s £150 million a year subsidy towards loss-making branches and recognises the stark contrast between Labour’s £2 billion investment into post offices since 1997 and the refusal of the Conservative Government to invest anything at all. We further note that the Government has committed a further £1.5 billion of support going forward and condemn the Conservative Party’s current policy, which would see the number of post offices falling to a mere 4000 outlets if ever implemented.”

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Lisa Homan and Gill Dickenson (for the Opposition) and Councillor Paul Bristow (for the Administration) before it was put to the vote:

FOR	13
AGAINST	26
ABSTENTIONS	0

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

Councillor Paul Bristow made a speech winding up the debate before the substantive motion was put to the vote:

FOR	26
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

8.10 pm - **RESOLVED:**

This Council welcomes the decision by the Post Office to keep the branches at Starch Green, Shepherds Bush Road, and Kenyon Street open; thanks local residents, voluntary groups and Greg Hands MP for supporting the Council's campaign against branch closures in Hammersmith & Fulham; deeply regrets the closure of three branches in the borough and the fact that W14 is only postcode in London without a post office; notes the crucial role that post office branches have in supporting our local neighbourhoods; condemns the Government's drive to close 169 branches across London; and resolves to campaign against any future post office closures in the borough and look at innovative ways to support the network, such as offering the use of libraries and other Council buildings.

### **Special Motion No. 4 – Cutting Crime in H&F**

8.11pm – Councillor Greg Smith moved, seconded by Councillor Belinda Donovan, the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council warmly welcomes the reduction in crime in Hammersmith & Fulham during 2007/08, with over 2,000 fewer crimes being committed compared to the previous year; further welcomes the achievements of the 24/7 pilots in Fulham Broadway and Shepherds Bush in cutting those crimes where an increased police presence has an immediate effect and tackling crimes such as drug dealing where the offences only make it to the books because of police activity; further welcomes the increase of Neighbourhood Watch groups in the borough from 6 to 100 in two years; and looks forward to Hammersmith and Fulham Council and Hammersmith and Fulham Police working closely together to drive down crime and anti-social behaviour yet further over the coming months and years.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Greg Smith, Belinda Donovan and Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (vi), Councillor Ed Owen moved, seconded by Councillor Lisa Homan, an amendment to the motion to delete all words after “this Council’ and insert:

“...welcomes the reduction in crime in Hammersmith and Fulham over the last five years and commends the Government's and former Mayor of London's commitment to work with local police and councils to crack down on crime. However, we note with disappointment that many borough residents are not seeing crime reduced to a level that could be expected in comparison to the resources allocated and calls on the Administration to review its crime fighting strategy and provide the five wards with the highest rates of crime with 24/7 Police Task Squads, as proposed to this Council by Labour in 2006.”

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Ed Owen and Lisa Homan (for the Opposition) and Councillor Alex Chalk and Greg Smith (for the Administration) before it was put to the vote:

FOR	13
AGAINST	27
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was declared **LOST**.

Further speeches were made by Councillor Stephen Cowan (for the Opposition) and Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh (for the Administration), following which Councillor Greg Smith made a speech winding up the debate. The substantive motion was then put to the vote:

FOR	27
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

8.52 pm - **RESOLVED**:

This Council warmly welcomes the reduction in crime in Hammersmith & Fulham during 2007/08, with over 2,000 fewer crimes being committed compared to the previous year; further welcomes the achievements of the 24/7 pilots in Fulham Broadway and Shepherds Bush in cutting those crimes where an increased police presence has an immediate effect and tackling crimes such as drug dealing where the offences only make it to the books because of police activity; further welcomes the increase of Neighbourhood Watch groups in the borough from 6 to 100 in two years; and looks forward to Hammersmith and Fulham Council and Hammersmith and Fulham Police working closely together to drive down crime and anti-social behaviour yet further over the coming months and years.

### **Special Motion No. 5 – Election of Boris Johnson as Mayor for London**

8.54pm – Councillor Mark Loveday moved, seconded by Councillor Aiden Burley, the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council welcomes the election of Boris Johnson as Mayor for London on 1 May 2008 and supports his platform to:

- **Beef up the police presence** in the borough by increasing police numbers and cutting red tape at the Metropolitan Police Service
- **Implement serious strategies on knife and gun crime** and arm the police with handheld weapon scanners
- **Crack down on the culture of casual disorder** that leads to more serious crime, with live CCTV on buses and a community service scheme for young people who abuse free travel
- **Make transport safer** in Hammersmith and Fulham by putting more uniformed officers on buses and station platforms



- **Protect our green, open spaces** and encourage more recycling across the borough
- **Scrap the proposed £25 congestion charge** and make the existing system fairer and more flexible for residents in Hammersmith & Fulham
- **Work in partnership with the borough Council** to build the homes that people in the borough want and can afford
- **Stretch the taxpayer pound** to give Hammersmith & Fulham Council Tax payers more bang for their buck and axe the waste and overspending at City Hall.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Mark Loveday, Aiden Burley and Robert Iggulden.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (vi), Councillor Stephen Cowan moved, seconded by Councillor Michael Cartwright, an amendment to the motion to delete all words after “this Council” and insert:

“...is pleased that Ken Livingstone, the outgoing Mayor of London, provided the Capital with the highest ever number of police officers, pioneered the introduction of the highly successful ward specific Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams, saw the biggest increase in bus riders since the Second World War, won £16billion for the Crossrail project, was delivering over 50,000 new affordable homes to buy and to rent and helped bring the Olympics to London.

We congratulate Boris Johnson on his election as the new Mayor of London and recognise that, earlier this week, he showed leadership in sacking James McGrath after he made racially abusive remarks.”

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillor Stephen Cowan (for the Opposition) and Councillors Mark Loveday and Stephen Greenhalgh (for the Administration) before it was put to the vote:

FOR	12
AGAINST	26
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was declared **LOST**.

Councillor Mark Loveday (for the Administration) made a speech winding up the debate before the substantive motion was put to the vote:

FOR	26
AGAINST	12
ABSTENTIONS	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

9.20 pm - **RESOLVED:**

This Council welcomes the election of Boris Johnson as Mayor for London on 1 May 2008 and supports his platform to:

- **Beef up the police presence** in the borough by increasing police numbers and cutting red tape at the Metropolitan Police Service
- **Implement serious strategies on knife and gun crime** and arm the police with handheld weapon scanners
- **Crack down on the culture of casual disorder** that leads to more serious crime, with live CCTV on buses and a community service scheme for young people who abuse free travel
- **Make transport safer** in Hammersmith and Fulham by putting more uniformed officers on buses and station platforms
- **Protect our green, open spaces** and encourage more recycling across the borough
- **Scrap the proposed £25 congestion charge** and make the existing system fairer and more flexible for residents in Hammersmith & Fulham
- **Work in partnership with the borough Council** to build the homes that people in the borough want and can afford
- **Stretch the taxpayer pound** to give Hammersmith & Fulham Council Tax payers more bang for their buck and axe the waste and overspending at City Hall.

### **Special Motion No. 6 – Councillor Lucy Ivimy**

9.21pm – Councillor Stephen Cowan moved, seconded by Councillor Michael Cartwright, the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council roundly condemns Councillor Lucy Ivimy for her appalling and unjustified attack on ‘foreign born residents’.

This Council rejects entirely her specific attack on members of the ‘Indian’ community.

This Council calls on her to resign forthwith. We ask that the Leader of the Council sacks her as the Cabinet Member for Housing.”

Under Council Procedure Rule 15(c) , as the person named in the motion, Councillor Lucy Ivimy was permitted to first make a speech. She sincerely apologised to both the Council and the residents of Hammersmith and Fulham for any embarrassment or offence that might have been caused by her recent email. Furthermore, she pledged her intention to improve the quality of the lives of all residents in the borough, especially those living in council estates, regardless of race or creed.

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan and Michael Cartwright.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (vi), Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh moved, seconded by Councillor Frances Stainton, an amendment to the motion to delete all words after “this Council’ and insert:

“...acknowledges Councillor Ivimy’s full apology for her remark, which unintentionally gave offence when responding to a major anti-social issue on the Charecroft Estate; further notes that this apology has been fully accepted by the Bhavan Community; and further confirms its confidence in Councillor Ivimy as Cabinet Member for Housing.”

A speech on the amendment was made by Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15(h), Councillor Stainton moved that the question now be put. The motion was put to the vote by the Mayor without debate:

FOR	25
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTIONS	1

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

The amendment to the motion was then put to the vote:

FOR	25
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTIONS	1

The amendment was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor Stephen Cowan made a speech winding up the debate before the substantive motion was put to the vote:

FOR	25
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTIONS	1

The substantive motion (as amended) was declared **CARRIED**.

9.44 pm - **RESOLVED**:

This Council acknowledges Councillor Ivimy’s full apology for her remark, which unintentionally gave offence when responding to a major anti-social issue on the Charecroft Estate; further notes that this apology has been fully accepted by the Bhavan Community; and further confirms its confidence in Councillor Ivimy as Cabinet Member for Housing.

**Special Motion No. 7 – Audit Commission Report**

9.44pm – Councillor Lisa Nandy moved, seconded by Councillor Michael Cartwright, the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council notes the Audit Commission’s report that H&F Homes has deteriorated from a two star service with excellent prospects for improvement to one star with promising prospects for improvement, further notes the series of failures that have taken place since the Conservative administration was elected in May 2006 and roundly condemns the Council’s poor record in relation to key housing services and value for money for the people of the Borough.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Lisa Nandy and Michael Cartwright.

Under Council Procedure Rule 24.3, Councillor Frances Stainton moved that the guillotine be extended until 10.10pm in order to hear the remaining items on the agenda. The motion was put to the vote by the Mayor without debate and was unanimously agreed.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15(e) (vi), Councillor Lucy Ivimy moved, seconded by Councillor Mrs Adronie Alford, an amendment to the motion to delete all words after “this Council’ and insert:

“...welcomes the Audit Commission’s designation of H & F Homes service as having promising prospects for improvement and has confidence that the new Interim Chief Executive appointed by this Administration will greatly achieve a greatly improved service.”

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Lucy Ivimy, Mrs Adronie Alford and Stephen Greenhalgh (for the Administration) and Councillor Lisa Nandy (for the Opposition) before it was put to the vote:

FOR	26
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	13

The amendment was declared **CARRIED**.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote:

FOR	26
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	13

The substantive motion (as amended) was declared **CARRIED**.

10.07 pm - **RESOLVED**:

This Council welcomes the Audit Commission’s designation of H & F Homes service as having promising prospects for improvement and has confidence that the new Interim Chief Executive appointed by this Administration will greatly achieve a greatly improved service.

**Special Motion No. 8 – Video Link**

10.08pm – Councillor Stephen Cowan moved, seconded by Councillor Wesley Harcourt, the special motion standing in their names:

“This Council believes that Hammersmith and Fulham’s residents should be able to view all of the debates at the full council meetings broadcast via a video link on the LBHF website, YouTube and other open access media. This should be streamed live and available as a podcast. The Council believes that the public have a right to witness what their elected representatives say and vote for and that this Council is obliged to make it easier for residents to do so.

We resolve to have this accomplished within six months of this being voted through.”

A speech on the motion was made by Councillor Stephen Cowan before it being put to the vote:

FOR	12
AGAINST	26
ABSTENTIONS	0

10.10pm - The motion was declared **LOST**.

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

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

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

Meeting ended: 10.10 pm. - Wednesday, 25 June 2008.

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MAYOR

APPENDIX 1

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY  
THE MAYOR**

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008, accompanied by my Mayoress, Ms Joanna Richardson, I attended the Lord Mayor of London Church Service at St. Paul's Cathedral followed by a reception at The Mansion House, EC4
2. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, I attended the Belgian Embassy and the Belgium Motocross Team reception cruise, Tower Millennium Pier, EC3
3. On 5<sup>th</sup> June, accompanied by my Mayoress, Ms Joanna Richardson, I attended the Household Division "Beating Retreat", Horseguards Parade, SW1
4. On 6<sup>th</sup> June, accompanied by my Mayoress, Ms Joanna Richardson, I attended the H&F District Billiards and Snooker Association Annual Presentation Night, Shepherds Bush Club, 205 Goldhawk Road, W12
5. On 10<sup>th</sup> June, I attend the Khilafat Centenary VIP reception, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, SW1
6. On 11<sup>th</sup> June, I attended a photo call to launch the 2008 Balfour Beatty London Youth Games, Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, SW6
7. On 11<sup>th</sup> June, accompanied by my Mayoress, Ms Joanna Richardson, I was honoured to attend the Artois Tennis Championships; HRH Duchess of Gloucester, was guest of honour, Queens Club, W14
8. On 13<sup>th</sup> June, I was delighted to attend the H&F Pensioners Forum AGM, Small Hall, HTH
9. On 14<sup>th</sup> June, accompanied by my Mayoress, Ms Joanna Richardson, I was honoured to attend Her Majesty The Queen, "Trooping the Colour" Birthday Parade, Horseguards Parade, Whitehall, SW1
10. On 14<sup>th</sup> June, I was delighted to attend Fr. Norbert Fernandes leaving party, St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Rylston Road, SW6
11. On 15<sup>th</sup> June, I attended Lewisham Chair of Council's charity concert by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and reception, Lewisham Town Hall, Catford
12. On 18<sup>th</sup> June, I was delighted to host a small reception, with Cllr Antony Lillis, Cabinet Member for Community and Children's Services and other senior officers to welcome the Mayor, Heinz Buschkowsky and delegation from Neukoelln our twinned town in Berlin, Mayor's Parlour, HTH

13. On 19<sup>th</sup> June, I attended the H&F Refugee Forum, music and cultural event, Assembly Hall, HTH
14. On 20<sup>th</sup> June, accompanied by my Mayoress, Ms Joanna Richardson, I attended the 31<sup>st</sup> Signal Regiment Mayor Making Dinner, TA Centre, Merton Road, SW18
15. On 21<sup>st</sup> June, I attended and opened St Paul's School Summer Fair to commemorate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Worlidge Street W6
16. On 21 June, I attended the TA 100, National Pageant, Horse Guards Parade, SW1
17. On 21<sup>st</sup> June, I attended the Fulham and Hammersmith Choral Society Concert, St Paul's Church followed by a reception at St Paul's Girls' School, Brook Green
18. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, accompanied by my Mayoress, Ms Joanna Richardson, I attended the Hurlingham Garden Party and I.L.T.C. reception, The Hurlingham Club, SW6
19. On 24<sup>th</sup> accompanied by my Mayoress, Ms Joanna Richardson, I attended the Lord Mayor of Westminster, reception for new London Mayors', Westminster City Hall, SW1.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING – 25 JUNE 2008**

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Question by: John O’Callaghan-Williamson, 22 William Banfield House, Munster Road,  
London, SW6 4EX

To the: Leader of the Council

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*Please note that this is a supplementary question to a question raised at the Council Meeting on 27 February 2008 (see below).*

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

I note that the Audit Commission’s report of June 2007 for Hammersmith & Fulham ALMO states -

“108 Service charges have not been introduced for tenants. Charges for communally provided services such as grounds maintenance have not been de-pooled and applied as a separate service charge. HFH and the Council have agreed a way forward for the introduction of service charges but will only do this when efficiencies are achieved in key service areas”.

Why was I misled with the previous response, given that the report is the subject of consultation with the Council over a period of time? Within what time frame do the Council propose to introduce this charge? Will rent lower as a result of the service charge being “split out” or “de-pooled”? What is the “way forward agreed by HFH Homes & the Council for the introduction of this charge”, that is what is the plan?

**RESPONSE**

At the time of my previous response neither Hammersmith & Fulham Homes nor Council Officers had presented any detailed proposals recommending separate service charging for Council Tenants.

The Administrations position has been a consistent one being that there would be no consideration of separate service charging until HFHs had demonstrated that it had achieved efficiencies in key areas of service delivery where separate service charges might be applied (e.g. concierge, caretaking, horticultural maintenance).



HFH and Council Officers in discussions with the Housing Inspectorate clearly stated this position and resisted recommendations from them that Service Charges should be separately applied before the end of this financial year.

Both the Council and HFH have to recognise and acknowledge that the Audit Commission view separate service charging for some services as a priority that must be addressed. We shall therefore work on the implications and prepare a plan for discussion with our tenants. We will not be bringing in any changes until tenants have seen all the details and we have fully considered all the points that may be raised.

QUESTION TO FULL COUNCIL ON 27 FEBRUARY 2008

*“Does the current administration propose, during the course of its current term in office to make an additional charge to council tenants, in addition to rent, for the provision of Estate Maintenance and up keep? If so, when?”*

*RESPONSE:*

*There have been no proposals put to my Administration either by Hammersmith & Fulham Homes or by Council Officers recommending separate service charging for services provided to Council tenants although of course council leaseholders are already separately service charged for a range of housing and estate management services.*