

COUNCIL MINUTES

(BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2008



PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Minnie Scott Russell)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Andrew Johnson)

Councillors:

Colin Aherne
Mrs Adronie Alford
William Bethell
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
Steve Hamilton
Wesley Harcourt
Lisa Homan
Robert Iggulden
Lucy Ivimy
Donald Johnson
Alex Karmel
Jane Law
Antony Lillis
Mark Loveday

Lisa Nandy
Ed Owen
Harry Phibbs
Dame Sally Powell
Alexandra Robson
Greg Smith
Frances Stainton
Peter Tobias
Mercy Umeh
Rory Vaughan
Eugenie White

54. MINUTES – 30 JANUARY 2008

7pm - The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 30 January 2008 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record, subject to the amendment to page 271, Special Motion No.3, to replace the number of votes recorded for the motion to “27” instead of “28”.

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adam, Bentley, Binmore, Ffiske, Gugen and McLaughlin. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Dickenson and Phibbs.

56. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

57. 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.

58. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

7.05pm - The Mayor called on those members of the public who had submitted questions to the Leader or to Cabinet Members to ask their questions:

Question 1 – Mr Jon Burden, 82a Minford Gardens, London W14 0AP

Question 2 - Mr John O’Callaghan-Williamson, 33 William Banfield House, Munster Road, Fulham, London, SW6 4EX

Question 3 – Mr John Griffiths, 122c Edith Road, West Kensington, London, W14 9AP

Public Question No.2 was not asked and a written reply would be sent to the questioner following the meeting.

(Copies of all public questions submitted and the reply given are attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.)

59. ITEMS FOR DECISION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.13pm – **Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2008/09**

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

An amendment to Appendix G of the report was circulated and tabled at the meeting.

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

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	27
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	11

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

8.43pm - **RESOLVED:**

- (1) To note the Council Tax decrease, for the Hammersmith and Fulham element, of 3% for 2008/09 and the planned decrease of 3% for 2009/10 and 2010/11;
- (2) The Council Tax be set for 2008/09 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 of the report:
 - (a) The element of Council Tax charged for Hammersmith and Fulham Council will be £862.77 per Band D property in 2008/09.
 - (b) The element of Council Tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £309.82 per Band D property in 2008/09.
 - (c) The overall Council Tax to be set will be £1,172.59 per Band D property in 2008/09.

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	575.18	671.04	766.91	862.77	1,054.50	1,246.22	1,437.95	1,725.54
b)GLA	206.55	240.97	275.40	309.82	378.67	447.52	516.37	619.64

c)Total (Draft)	781.73	912.01	1,042.31	1,172.59	1,433.17	1,693.74	1,954.32	2,345.18
----------------------------	--------	--------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

- (3) The Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2008/09 is set as £186.502m;
- (4) That fees and charges are approved as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report;
- (5) That the Director of Finance's budget projections to 2010/11 be noted;
- (6) That the Director of Finance's statements under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 regarding adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates be noted (paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report);
- (7) That the Director of Finance 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); and
- (9) That all Chief Officers be authorised to implement their service spending plans for 2008/09 in accordance with the recommendations within the report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and relevant Schemes of Delegation.

8.44pm – **Capital Programme 2008/09 to 2012/13**

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

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	27
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	10

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

8.44pm - **RESOLVED:**

- (1) To note that the General Fund Capital Programme for 2008/9 is £27.115m. (Appendix 1 of the report);
- (2) To note the level of capital receipts needed to support the capital strategy (detailed in Table 1 of the report);

- (3) To agree that capital contingency of £2m be retained to meet unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure (paragraph 2.6 of the report 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 (£1.1m), The modernisation of secondary schools (£1.074m), White City Community Centre and Nubian Life (£0.733m) and Park Improvements (£1.5m).(paragraph 3.3 of the report refers)
 - The continuation, at current funding levels, of the rolling programmes for Corporate Planned Maintenance, repairs to Carriageways and Footways, private sector housing grant and Disabled Access Works.(paragraph 3.4 of the report refers);
- (5) To approve that £10.059m be set aside for debt reduction in 2008/09;
- (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 2008/09;
- (8) To approve that the following provision be set aside for new investment:
 - £0.5m for repairs to the Thames River wall.
 - £2m as a match funding contribution to a lottery bid for the restoration of Bishops Park and Fulham Palace.
 - The progression of both these schemes will be subject to final cost confirmation and separate Member approval;
- (9) To note the level of resource forecast as detailed in Table 3 of the report and indicative expenditure for the Housing regeneration programme;
- (10) To approve the annual drawdown of £1m from Parking Reserve;
- (11) To note the updated HRA resource forecast as detailed in Table 5 of the report and indicative capital programme as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (12) To note, given the forecast level of overprogramming, that a further report will be presented to Members regarding the HRA capital programme following the finalisation of the 2007/08 outturn;
- (13) To approve the prudential indicators as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report; and
- (14) To approve the following Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement from 2007/08 onwards:
 - 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.

8.45pm – **Treasury Management Strategy**

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

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	27
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	10

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

8.45pm - **RESOLVED:**

- (1) To approve the future borrowing and investment strategies;
- (2) In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year 2008/09, approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 3 of the report;
- (3) To approve the Lending List of Financial Institutions;
- (4) To authorise the use of LOBO's as described in paragraph 12.2 and Appendix C of the report; and
- (5) To authorise the use of Certificate of Deposits and Government Gilts as described in paragraphs 8.3 and 8.4 of the report.

8.46pm – **Councillors' Allowances Scheme: Annual Review**

The report and recommendation was formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Greenhalgh.

The report and recommendation was put to the vote:

FOR	27
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	10

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

8.46pm - **RESOLVED:**

That the Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2008-09 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

60. SPECIAL MOTIONS

There was none.

61. INFORMATION REPORTS TO COUNCIL (IF ANY)

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

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

Meeting ended: 8.47pm – Wednesday 27 February 2008.

.....
MAYOR

APPENDIX 1

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY
THE MAYOR**

1. On 2 February 2008, I attended a farewell service for Bishop Michael and Cynthia Colclough. The thanksgiving service was held at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington. The service marked the end of Bishop Michael's ministry as Bishop of Kensington. Bishop Michael will be installed as Residentiary Canon of St Paul's Cathedral on 20 April 2008.
2. On 5 February I visited the High Sheriff for London, Jan Pethick at King Edward Street, EC1.
3. On 6 February I hosted a visit to Hammersmith Town Hall for representatives of the Westminster Squadron Royal Yeomanry, 10 Coy 4 Para, and the RFCA.
4. On 7 February, I attended a retirement party for Special Inspector Cynthia Hatcher, held at QPR. Cynthia Hatcher became a Special Constable in 1974 and was posted to Shepherds Bush Police station in 1975, where she has worked ever since.
5. On 19 February, accompanied by my consort, I visited St James School for senior girls.
6. On 19 February, I attended LAMDA's, final year, performance of Cole Porter's Can Can, held at the MacGowan Theatre, Logan Place W8.
7. On 20 February, I hosted a presentation ceremony for the New Year's Day Parade special award winners, Albert and Friends, at Hammersmith Town Hall.
8. On 25 February, accompanied by my consort, I attended the Girl Guiding Thinking Day Celebrations, hosted by the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides of the Fulham Division, held at All Saints Church Hall, Fulham High Street, SW6.
9. On 26 and 27 February, I attended the H & F Primary Schools' Sports Association, Skittleball Championships 2008, held at Hammersmith Town Hall.

APPENDIX 2

No. 1

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 27 FEBRUARY 2008

Question by: Mr Jon Burden, 82a Minford Gardens, London W14 0AP

To the: Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment

QUESTION

“What are the Council’s policies regarding recycling of car batteries, in particular providing other options than going to recycling facilities in Wandsworth?”

RESPONSE:

The vast majorities of car batteries are collected when owners have a replacement fitted at a garage. Dangers arising from the acid contained in car batteries mean they must be collected, transported and disposed of responsibly and totally separately from other materials. They cannot be added to the range of materials collected from households through the existing “Smart Sack” kerbside recycling scheme as these materials are collected mixed, compacted within the collection vehicles and then sorted, post collection, at a remote site. The presence of car batteries in this process would contaminate the other materials and present a danger to collection and processing staff.

The disposal of car batteries is most suited to static and secure reception facilities like Civic Amenity sites of which there are none within Hammersmith & Fulham. For this reason Hammersmith & Fulham residents are entitled to use the public tip facilities provided at Smugglers’ Way and Cringle Dock, in Wandsworth.

Although the Council has no plans either to offer separate doorstep collections for car batteries or to provide secure facilities within the borough at which they may be deposited, various local car accessory and tyre retailers like Halfords and Kwikfit do provide facilities through which batteries may be safely disposed of.

- Budget Council Minutes – 27 February 2008 -

Halfords stores located in Chiswick (512-518 Chiswick High Road (Tel: 0208 7476110) and at 59 Lombard Road Battersea SW11 (Tel: 0207 223 7780) will take unwanted batteries regardless of whether a replacement has been purchased at the store.

Kwikfit will also take batteries, although they may levy a charge of £1 per battery for doing so. Their nearest local outlets are located as follows:

332-336, Goldhawk Road,
London W6 0XF **Tel: 020 8748 4955**

231, The Vale
Acton London
W3 7QE **Tel: 020 8743 0645**

763 Fulham Road
London
SW6 5UQ **Tel: 020 7736 1114**

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 27 FEBRUARY 2008

Question by: Mr John O’Callaghan-Williamson, 33 William Banfield House, Munster Road, Fulham, London. SW6 4EX

To the: Leader of the Council

QUESTION

“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.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 27 FEBRUARY 2008

Question by: John Griffiths, 122c Edith Road, West Kensington, London, W14 9AP

To the: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Environment

QUESTION

“Westfield have designed the Southern Interchange to accommodate predicted traffic and bus flows. LBHF are using the designs presented to them by Westfield, or more precisely by their transport consultants Halcrow. Westfield have conducted a Non-Motorised User audit for that part of the Southern Interchange that is on Westfield land, to seek out and reveal dangers to vulnerable road users. Westfield have not conducted a Non-Motorised User audit for that part of the Southern Interchange that is on LBHF land.

The proposed Toucan Crossing across the Uxbridge rd and Shepherds Bush Green, part of the Southern Interchange, has been designed by Westfield to cater for pedestrians and cyclists on LBHF land. Cyclists will be using the carriageway designed by Westfield on LBHF land.

Has LBHF conducted a Non-Motorised User audit for that part of the Southern Interchange covered by the Planning Application 2007/02266/FUL that is on LBHF land, and if not when will it be completed, and what figures are LBHF using for the predicted pedestrian and cyclist flows on the crossing, and, for cyclists, on the carriageway and cycle tracks?”

RESPONSE:

Non motorised road user audits are used to assess performance and conflict within pedestrianised areas such as town centres and transport interchanges. It is not a recognised approach to apply them to strategic road junction redesigns where the standard road safety audit procedures will pick up any conflict points between non motorised users and motorised traffic.

The final design of the southern interchange was the result of over six months worth of multi agency discussion, modelling and negotiation involving the developer, the local and strategic road authority, London Buses, London Underground and Transport for London’s traffic signal management team. Many design options were deliberated over and investigated until the final design was agreed upon, based on the results of many performance indicators.

The predicted levels of pedestrian and cyclist activity through the southern interchange has been supplied by the developer based on industry recognised methods, and agreed by the both the relevant highway, traffic and transport authorities, Hammersmith and Fulham Council and Transport for London. The resulting design is one that can achieve the best use of the limited available road space to accommodate all road users.