

COUNCIL MINUTES

(BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2007



PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Michael Adam

Colin Aherne

Mrs Adronie Alford

Jeanette Bentley

Will Bethell

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

Caroline Ffiske

Rachel Ford

Stephen Greenhalgh

Lucy Gugen

Steve Hamilton

Wesley Harcourt

Lisa Homan

Robert Iggulden

Lucy Ivimy

Donald Johnson

Alex Karmel

Jane Law

Antony Lillis

Mark Loveday

Reg McLaughlin

Lisa Nandy

Ed Owen

Harry Phibbs

Alexandra Robson

Greg Smith

Frances Stainton

Peter Tobias

Mercy Umeh

Rory Vaughan

Eugenie White

45. MINUTES – 31 JANUARY 2007

7.00pm - The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 31 January 2007 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record, subject to the following corrections:

- p.97 – Declaration of personal interest by Councillor Gill Dickenson as Chair of Governors James Lee Nursery and Governor at Vanessa Nursery School;
- p.98 – Declaration of personal interest by Councillor Andrew Johnson as a Governor at St.Augustine’s School;
- p.107 – vote on Special Motion No.7 – Home Care Provision – should read “12 For, 27 Against” and not as printed

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gore and Powell

47. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor advised Councillors that, in relation to item 6.4 – Councillors’ Allowances Scheme: Annual Review - legal advice received was that it was necessary for all members to declare a personal interest in the item, and in order to facilitate this with the minimum of disruption, all members present in the Chamber would be deemed as having made the declaration (unless there were objections) which would be duly noted and recorded in the minutes. This was agreed unanimously.

49. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (20 MINUTES)

7.08pm - The Mayor called on those members of the public who had submitted questions to the Leader or Cabinet Members to ask their questions:

Question No.1 – Ms.Virginia Ironside, 5 Loftus Road W12 to the Leader of the Council (Cllr.Stephen Greenhalgh).

[Copies of the questions asked and the reply given are attached at **Appendix 2** to these minutes.]

50. MOTION THAT AN ITEM OF BUSINESS TAKE PRECEDENCE

7.10pm – Councillor Stainton moved, seconded by Councillor Botterill, that item 7 - Special Motion No.1 – Sustainable Communities - take precedence. The motion was put to the vote by the Mayor without debate and was agreed unanimously.

Special Motion No.1 – Sustainable Communities

Councillor Greenhalgh moved, seconded by Councillor Botterill, the special motion standing in their names, with the following correction:

“This Council notes the Parliamentary Private Members Bill sponsored by Nick Hurd MP on sustainable communities, and is supportive of the aims contained within this Bill.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Greenhalgh, Bristow, Burley and Cowan before being put to the vote:

FOR	30
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	12

The motion was declared **CARRIED.**

7.28pm – **RESOLVED:** That this Council notes the Parliamentary Private Members Bill sponsored by Nick Hurd MP on sustainable communities, and is supportive of the aims contained within the Bill.

51. MOTION THAT AN ITEM OF BUSINESS TAKE PRECEDENCE

7.30pm – Councillor Stainton moved, seconded by Councillor Adam, that item 6.6 - Amendment to the council’s Constitution: Terms of Reference of Licensing Committee & Sub-Committee - take precedence. The motion was put to the vote by the Mayor without debate and was agreed unanimously.

Amendment to the Council Constitution: Terms of Reference of Licensing Committee & Sub-Committee

The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Nicholas Botterill, seconded by Councillor Karmel.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Karmel (for the Administration) and Cartwright (for the Opposition), before being put to the vote:

FOR	31
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	11

Under Council Procedure Rule 16 (d), Councillors Karmel and Stainton requested that their names be recorded in the minutes as voting in favour.

52. ITEMS FOR DECISION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.41pm – Revenue Budget & Council Tax Levels 2007/2008

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

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 to the Budget report.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote. On a motion from the floor that names be recorded, a roll-call vote was taken

FOR 31

(Adam, Alford, Bentley, Bethell, Binmore, Botterill, Bristow, Brocklebank-Fowler, Burley, Chalk, Donovan (B), Donovan (G), Ffiske, Ford, Greenhalgh, Gugen, Hamilton, Iggulden, Ivimy, Johnson (A), Johnson (D), Karmel, Law, Lillis, Loveday, Phibbs, Robson, Smith, Stainton, Tobias & White)

AGAINST 0

ABSTENTIONS 13

(Aherne, Campbell, Cartwright, Cowan, Dickenson, Harcourt, Homan, McLaughlin, Nandy, Owen, Umeh, Vaughan, The Mayor)

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

8.45pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the Council Tax decrease, for the Hammersmith & Fulham element, of 3% for 2007/08, and the planned decrease of 3% for 2008/09 and 2009/10.
2. The Council Tax be set for 2007/08 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 £889.45 per Band D property in 2007/08.
 - (b) The element of Council Tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £303.88 per Band D property in 2007/08.
 - (c) The overall Council Tax to be set will be £1,193.33 per Band D property in 2007/08.

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	592.97	691.79	790.62	889.45	1,087.11	1,284.76	1,482.42	1,778.90
b) GLA	202.59	236.35	270.12	303.88	371.41	438.94	506.47	607.76
c) Total	795.56	928.14	1,060.74	1,193.33	1,458.52	1,723.70	1,988.89	2,386.66

3. The Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2007/08 is set as £180.181m
4. That fees and charges are approved as set out in paragraph 5.1.
5. That the Director of Finance's budget projections to 2009/10 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).
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).
9. That all Chief Officers be authorised to implement their service spending plans for 2007/08 in accordance with the recommendations within this report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and relevant Schemes of Delegation.

8.46pm – **Capital Programme – 2007/2008 – 2011/2012**

The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Nicholas Botterill.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	31
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	12

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

8.47pm - **RESOLVED:**

- 1 To note that the General Fund Capital Programme for 2007 / 2008 is £24.367m. (Appendix 1 to the report).
- 2 To note the level of capital receipts needed to support the capital strategy (detailed in Table 1).
- 3 To agree that the current 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 completion of existing schemes including the expansion of Wendell Park school (Para 3.3 refers)
 - The continuation, at current funding levels, of the rolling programmes for Corporate Planned Maintenance, repairs to Carriageways and Footways and Disabled access Works.(Para 3.5 refers)
 - The continuation, at a reduced funding level of £1.6m per annum, of the rolling programme for private sector housing grants.(Para 3.5 refers)
 - New investment of £1.5m for Parks (Para 3.6 refers)
 - The setting aside of £2m for the potential capitalisation of equal pay awards (Para 3.7 refers)
- 5 To agree that the temporary investment of Civic accommodation balances be made permanent (Para 3.8 refers)
- 6 To agree that the forecast surplus in mainstream resources be set aside for debt redemption.
- 7 To approve the position where the Council does not increase its borrowing by the amount the government assumes in its Formula grant calculation.
- 8 To note the updated HRA resource forecast as detailed in Table 4 and indicative Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.
- 9 To approve the prudential Indicators as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

8.48pm – **Treasury Management Strategy Report**

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

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	31
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	12

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

8.49pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the future borrowing and investment strategies;
2. In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year 2007/08, approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 3 of this report.

8.50pm – **Councillors' Allowances Scheme : Annual Review**

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

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	31
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	12

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

8.51pm - **RESOLVED:**

That the Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2007-08, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

8.52pm – **Adoption of new Contract Standing Orders**

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

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

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

8.53pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Council's Constitution be amended to replace the Contracts Code with new Contracts Standing Orders (set out at Appendix 1 to this report), with effect from 1st April 2007.
2. That the members of the Competition Board be authorised to approve Procurement Guidance Notes to complement the new Contract Standing Orders.

53. URGENT LATE ADDITIONAL REPORT

8.54pm - The Mayor advised the Council that she had decided to permit consideration of an urgent late additional report not on the agenda for the meeting which had previously been circulated to all Councillors and was tabled at the meeting (Copy attached as **Appendix 3** to these minutes)

Reason for urgency

In accordance with S.100(B) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Mayor decided that this matter should be considered at this meeting of the Council as a matter of urgency in order that the work of the relevant Scrutiny Committee was not impaired. The next ordinary Council meeting at which the matter could be considered was not scheduled to be held until 30 May (Annual Council meeting). The next Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee meetings were scheduled to be held on 3 April and 24 May respectively.

Changes to Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Membership

The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by the Mayor and put to the vote:

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

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

8.55pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. That Councillor Alex Karmel be appointed to the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Sarah Gore with immediate effect.

[Councillors Loveday (for the Administration) and Cowan (for the Opposition) also sent sincere best wishes to Councillor Gore on the birth of her son and wished her all the best for the future.]

54. INFORMATION REPORTS TO COUNCIL (IF ANY)

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

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

Meeting ended: 8.56p.m. - Wednesday, 28 February 2007.

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MAYOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

1. On 6th February 2007, I attended a tour of Olympia Conference Centre, Hammersmith Road, W14
2. On 6th February, I attended the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster's Charity Dinner, William Kent House, The Ritz Piccadilly
3. On 12th February, I attended the London Mayor's Association AGM and Reception, Westminster City Hall, SW1
4. On 12th February, I attended the Chinese New Year Reception held at Chelsea Football Club, Stamford Bridge, SW6
5. On 16th February, I was delighted to attend Bridge Academy's Online launch, Lilla Huset, Talgarth Road, W6
6. On 27th February, I was honoured to attend the "Training for Life" project, which aims to provide training for ex-servicemen to help them back to employment. Opened by the Countess of Wessex
7. On 27th February, I attended and presented the winners of H&F Year 3 and 4 Schools' Skittleball competition, Assembly Hall, HTH
8. On 28th February, I attended Charter Mark Award ceremony for Parking Services, Small Hall, HTH
9. Since 7th January, accompanied by my consort, I have attended 2 Citizenship Ceremonies during which, I presented each citizen with their official certificate, Fulham Town Hall, SW6

No. 1

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 28 FEBRUARY 2007

Question by: Ms.Virginia Ironside, 5 Loftus Road W12

to the: Leader of the Council

QUESTION

“Will Hammersmith and Fulham co-operate with Hillingdon and Ealing and Kensington and Chelsea Councils to find ways to oppose the proposed tram along the Uxbridge Road, and will they appoint a specific person to co-ordinate opposition from residents associations along the route and elsewhere?”

REPLY

- We have started working with Ealing, Hillingdon and Kensington and Chelsea on developing the case for opposition to the tram and challenging Transport for London’s designs and figures.
- The three boroughs through which the tram would pass – Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham – have pledged to spend up to £1 million to oppose the tram, particularly at the public enquiry, which is expected to take place next year
- We will work closely with local residents’ and community groups in campaigning against the tram, sharing information and developing alternative proposals.
- However, it is important that the case of the councils and that of the residents’ groups remain formally independent of each other and therefore it is not appropriate for the council to co-ordinate the opposition of residents’ groups

ipc/26/02/07



URGENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

6.7

28 FEBRUARY 2007

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**CHANGE TO EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP**

**WARDS
All**

Reason for Urgency

In accordance with S.100B (4) (b) of the Access to Information Act 1985, this report needs to be considered by the Council as a matter of urgency in order that the work of the relevant Scrutiny Committee is not impaired. The next ordinary Council meeting at which this matter could be considered and an appointment made is not scheduled to be held until 30 May (Annual Council meeting). The next Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee meetings are scheduled to be held on 3 April and 24 May respectively.

Summary

Councillor Sarah Gore has just returned from hospital after giving birth. Her child was born prematurely and needs her to provide intensive care and nursing. As this would conflict with her duties on the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, it has been decided to appoint Councillor Alex Karmel in her place on a temporary basis.

CONTRIBUTORS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

ACE

- 1. That Councillor Alex Karmel be appointed to the Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Sarah Gore with immediate effect.**