

COUNCIL

- AGENDA -

30 JANUARY 2008

<u>ITEM</u>	<u> </u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.	MINUTES – 21 NOVEMBER 2007	228 – 236
1.1	To approve and sign as an accurate record the Minutes of the Extraordinary Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 November 2007.	
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
3.	MAYOR'S / CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)	Circulated separately (Green Sheet)
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	(Green Sneet)
4.1	If a Councillor has any prejudicial or personal interest in a particular report they should declare the existence and nature of the interest at the commencement of the consideration of that item or as soon as it becomes apparent.	
4.2	At meetings where members of the public are allowed to be in attendance and speak, any Councillor with a prejudicial interest may also make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter. The Councillor must then withdraw immediately from the meeting before the matter is discussed and any vote taken unless a dispensation has been obtained from the Standards Committee.	
4.3	Where members of the public are not allowed to be in attendance, then the Councillor with a prejudicial interest should withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is under consideration unless the disability has been removed by the Standards Committee.	
5.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)	
	The Leader / relevant Cabinet Member to reply to questions submitted by members of the public:	
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COUNCIL MINUTES

(EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2007



PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor (Councillor Andrew Johnson)

Councillors:

Colin Aherne
Mrs Adronie Alford
Helen Binmore
Nicholas Botterill
Victoria BrocklebankFowler
Aidan Burley
Jean Campbell
Michael Cartwright
Belinda Donovan
Gavin Donovan

Rachel Ford
Sarah Gore
Stephen Greenhalgh
Lucy Gugen
Steve Hamilton
Lucy Ivimy
Donald Johnson
Alex Karmel
Jane Law
Antony Lillis
Mark Loveday

Ed Owen
Harry Phibbs
Dame Sally Powell
Greg Smith
Frances Stainton
Mercy Umeh
Rory Vaughan
Eugenie White

39. MINUTES – 19 SEPTEMBER 2007

7.00pm - The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 September 2007 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adam, Bentley, Bristow, Cowan, Dickenson, Harcourt, Homan, Iggulden, McLaughlin, Nandy, and Robson.

41. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting of the Council.

43. ITEMS FOR DECISION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.03pm - Report of the Standards Committee - Local Government And Public Involvement In Health Act 2007

The report and recommendations were moved for adoption 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 recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

7.03pm- RESOLVED:

- 1. That the membership of the Standards Committee be increased by one independent member at a date to be fixed by Council at a future meeting.
- 2. That the Assistant Chief Executive be authorised to advertise for an additional member and that the applications be considered by the Standards Committee Appointment Panel.
- 3. That the Council receive a further report and recommendations from the Standards Committee in relation to its function in the new year.

7.04PM - Establishment of a Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Healthcare in London & Appointment of Council Representatives

The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Cabinet Member for Community and Children's Services, Cllr. Anthony Lillis.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR Unanimous

AGAINST 0 ABSTENTIONS 0

The report and recommendations were declared CARRIED.

7.04pm-**RESOLVED**:

- 1. That the Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee be appointed as the representative and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee as deputy representative from the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to the London Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2. That in the event of the Council being entitled to two places on the body, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee be appointed as the second member.
- 3. That the Assistant Chief Executive be authorised to approve the Joint Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Children's Services and the Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

7.05pm - Review of Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy 2007

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

FOR Unanimous

AGAINST 0 ABSTENTIONS 0

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

7.05pm - RESOLVED:

That the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.

44. SPECIAL MOTIONS

<u>Special Motion No. 1 – Changes to Committee Memberships – Re: Maternity Leave Provision</u>

7.06pm - Councillor Francis Stainton moved, seconded by Councillor Donald Johnson, the special motion standing in their names.

"Due to maternity leave, the following temporary changes to Scrutiny and Regulatory Committee memberships will be made, effective from the day after the Extraordinary Council meeting:

Councillor Helen Binmore – to come off Education and Children's Services Committee, Housing Scrutiny Committee and Planning Applications Committee.

Councillor Harry Phibbs – already a member of Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, to be appointed as Chairman in replacement of Councillor Helen Binmore.

Councillor Lucy Ivimy – to be appointed a member of Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Alex Chalk – to be appointed a member of Planning Applications Committee.

Councillor Victoria-Brocklebank Fowlerr – to be appointed a member of Housing Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh – to come off Pensions Fund Investment Panel.

Councillor Nicholas Botterill – already a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel, to be appointed as Chairman to replace Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

Councillor Mike Adam – a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel to be appointed as Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Lucy Gugen – to be appointed a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel.

The motion was put to the vote:

FOR - Unanimous

AGAINST - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**

7.06pm - **RESOLVED**:

The following temporary changes to Scrutiny and Regulatory Committee memberships be made effective from the day after the Extraordinary Council meeting:

Councillor Helen Binmore – to come off Education and Children's Services Committee, Housing Scrutiny Committee and Planning Applications Committee.

Councillor Harry Phibbs – already a member of Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, to be appointed as Chairman in replacement of Councillor Helen Binmore.

Councillor Lucy Ivimy – to be appointed a member of Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Alex Chalk – to be appointed a member of Planning Applications Committee.

Councillor Victoria-Brocklebank Fowlerr – to be appointed a member of Housing Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh – to come off Pensions Fund Investment Panel.

Councillor Nicholas Botterill – already a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel, to be appointed as Chairman to replace Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

Councillor Mike Adam – a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel to be appointed as Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Lucy Gugen – to be appointed a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel.

Special Motion No. 2 – Minor Amendments to the Council Constitution

7.07pm – Councillor Francis Stainton moved, seconded by Councillor Donald Johnson, the special motion standing in their names:

"That the Council notes that its constitution currently: -

- (a) provides for the guillotine provisions to apply to the Planning Applications Committee (Council procedure Rules paragraph 24.1)
- (b) contains inconsistent provisions in relation to the question as to who presides at a meeting of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the absence of the Chairman (Council Procedure Rules paragraph 17.6 and Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules paragraph 8).

In order to correct these anomalies, the Council resolves: -

(a) To amend the Constitution as follows: -

- (i) that the Planning Applications Committee be added to the list of Committees to which the guillotine does not apply in paragraph 24.1 of the Council Procedure Rules:
- (ii) that paragraph 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules takes precedence over paragraph 17.6 of the Council Procedure Rules, and that the following sentence be added to paragraph 17.6 of the Council Procedure Rules:-

"In the case of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the provisions of paragraph 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules shall take precedence over this provision."

(b) That the Monitoring Office be instructed to amend the Constitution accordingly.

The motion was put to the vote:

FOR Unanimous

AGAINST 0 ABSTENTIONS 0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**

7.07pm – **RESOLVED:**

- (a) To amend the Constitution as follows: -
 - (j) that the Planning Applications Committee be added to the list of Committees to which the guillotine does not apply in paragraph 24.1 of the Council Procedure Rules:
 - (ii) that paragraph 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules takes precedence over paragraph 17.6 of the Council Procedure Rules, and that the following sentence be added to paragraph 17.6 of the Council Procedure Rules:-

"In the case of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the provisions of paragraph 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules shall take precedence over this provision."

(b)) That the Monitorin	a Office be	instructed to	amend the (Constitution	accordinal	ı۷.

* * * * * CONCLUSION OF BUSINES	S ****
Meeting ended: 7.07p.m Wednesday, 21 November 200	7.
	MAYOR

APPENDIX 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

- 1. I am delighted to announce the appointment of the Reverend Joe Hawes, All Saints Church Fulham, as The Mayor's Chaplain for the 2007-2008 Mayoralty
- 2. On 20th September 2007, accompanied by Mr Alan Taylor, I attended the NHS Foundation Annual Meeting, at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, SW10
- 3. On 20th September, accompanied by Mr Alan Taylor to attend the London In Bloom Awards Dinner, Emirates Stadium, N5 and delighted to receive a silver medal..
- 4. On 9th October, I was honoured to attend a 'Thanksgiving Mass' to celebrate Nazareth House Foundation 150th Anniversary, Nazareth House, Hammersmith Road, W6
- 5. On 11th October, I attended the Metropolitan Police Commendation Ceremony, Chelsea Football Club, Stamford Bridge, SW6
- 6. On 12th October, accompanied by my consort, I attended the Army Combat Stress Charity evening, Aragon House, Parsons Green, SW6
- 7. On 14th October, accompanied by my consort, I attended the London Mayors' Association Annual Civic Service, Westminster Abbey, SW1
- 8. On 15th October, I attended an exhibition of paintings 'Hidden Burne-Jones', Leighton House, Holland Park Road, W8
- 9. On 16th October, I attended the British Armenian All Party Parliamentary Group reception, House of Lords, SW1
- 10. On 19th October, I was delighted to attend and officially open the H&F 'Time of Your Life' event, Assembly Hall, HTH
- 11. On 22nd October, I was delighted to greet the delegates from our twinned City Berlin-Neukoelln, and give a guided tour around various places in the borough.
- 12. On 22nd October, I attended the 80th Birthday celebration and presented Mrs Vera Haywood with a bouquet of flowers, on behalf of the Council, Fulham SW6
- 13. On 25th October, I attended and officially unveiled the Nature Reserve Interpretative Display Board, Little Wormwood Scrubs, W12
- 14. On 11th November, accompanied by my consort, I was honoured to take the salute at the Remembrance Day Parade and Service, All Saints Church Fulham, SW6

- 15. On 20th November, I attended the reception to mark the Start of 2008 Boat Race Season, Hoxton Apprentice, London N1
- 16. On 21st November, I attended the H&F 'Carers' AGM, Carers Centre, Hammersmith Road, W6
- 17. Since 10th October, I attended 2 Citizenship Ceremonies during which, I presented each citizen with their official certificate, Council Chamber, FTH, SW6

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008

Question by: Miss Meher Oliaji, 5 Chaucer Mansions, Queens Club Gardens W14 9RF

To the: Leader of the Council

QUESTION

"According to a recent newspaper report between 5 and 20 percent of all household recycle-able waste collected using commingled collections (such as Hammersmith and Fulham's Orange Bag scheme) actually ends up as landfill because it is of too poor quality to be recycled.

What assurance can you give that the stuff we put out for recycling is actually being reused, rather than being dumped, either here or in China?"

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008

Question by: Ms Catherine Reifen, 23 Radipole Road, London SW6 5DN

To the: Cabinet Member for Residents Services

QUESTION

"What action is being taken by the Council to increase the provision of public allotment sites in the borough?"

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008

Question by: Mrs B Allam 10 Kemscott Gardens, Askew Road, London W12 9DB

To the: Leader of the Council

QUESTION

"Could you please tell me why residents of Kelmscott Gardens are still waiting for their Kitchens and Bathrooms to be finished off as there are many that are not completed?"

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008

Question by: Miss S Shepherd 32 Kelmscott Gardens Askew Road W12 9DB

To the: Leader of the Council

QUESTION

"Why have you never listened to the residents of Kelmscott gardens, of Blocks 1-35, about replacing 2 trees as when they are fully grown we will have to start putting on our lights through the day. Because of the lack of light and considering we are meant to be conserving energy we do not want these trees replaced at a cost to housing."

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008

Question by: Alan Rowden, 103 Ashcroft Square, London W6 0YL

To the: Leader of the Council

QUESTION

"I have been informed that the Council has been in discussion with key stakeholders about demolishing Kings Mall and that this may also include part or all of Ashcroft Square.

Will the Leader of the Council clarify exactly what is being considered, who has been informed so far and at what stage the plans have reached? Can he also tell me why some organisations have been privy to this information and yet the tenants and their associations have not?"

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JANUARY 2008

Question by: Elizabeth Young-Sandy, 1 Rowberry Close, London SW6 6PQ

To the: Leader of the Council

QUESTION

"There is a dangerous section of wall between lamps 26 and 29 on the Thames Path. Can you tell me what is the legislation that regulates issues like this? Whether the Council has considered if the wall is within the legislation and on top of that whether the Council is satisfied with the safety of this area of the river path wall?

Please also detail what actions have been taken to male this area safer since this issue was first raied by local residents in 2006"



Report to Council

6.1

30 JANUARY 2008

LEADER

Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh

COUNCIL TAX BASE AND COLLECTION RATE 2008/2009

Wards All

This report contains an estimate of the Council Tax collection rate and calculates the Council Tax base for 2008/09.

The Council Tax base will be used in the calculation of the Band D Council Tax undertaken in the Revenue Budget Report for 2008/09.

CONTRIBUTORS

Recommendations:

FD

The Cabinet is requested to make the following recommendations to Council for 2008-2009 financial year for approval:

HAS A PEIA BEEN COMPLETED? YES

- (i) That the estimated numbers of properties for each Valuation Band as set out in this report, be approved.
- (ii) That an estimated Collection rate of 98.0% be approved.
- (iii) That the Council Tax Base of 78,768 Band "D" equivalent properties be approved.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Under Section 33(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculations of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the Council (as billing authority) is required to calculate its Council Tax Base. This comprises both the estimated numbers of properties within each Valuation band plus the Council's estimate of its collection rate for the coming financial year.
- 1.2 For the current financial year the Council approved a Council tax base of 79,123 Band D equivalent dwellings, and an estimated Collection Rate of 97.5%, which resulted in a tax base of 77,145.
- 1.3 Under Section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003 the Council has reduced discounts for Second Homes and Long Term Empty properties.
- 1.4 For 2005/06 and subsequent years until revoked, the Council approved discount reductions on Second Homes from 50% to 10% and on Long Term Empty properties from 50% to 0%.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of the report is for the Cabinet to make recommendations to Council on the estimated Collection Rate and Council Tax Base for 2008/09.

3. DISCOUNTS

3.1 Second Homes

- 3.1.1 There are some 1,865 second homes in the borough. The reduction in discount from 50% to 10%, will add an additional 883 Band "D" equivalents to the taxbase for 2008/09.
- 3.1.2 Based upon 2007/08 Council Tax levels this reduction in the discount will generate income to the Council of £0.79m. Such additional income will directly benefit the Council and is allowed for within our Medium Term Financial Strategy. Our preceptor, the GLA, will also benefit from the reduction in the discount.

3.2 Long Term Empty Properties

3.2.1 There are some 793 long-term empty properties and these have been reflected in the CTB1 return, which the Council provided to the DCLG on 26 October 2007. The net impact of the reduction in the discount on long term empty properties from 50% to nil, is to add an additional 465 Band D equivalents to the taxbase.

3.2.2 Based upon 2007/08 Council Tax levels this will generate additional income of £0.41m. Unlike the income generated from the reduction in the second homes discount the Government consider that such additional council tax income should not directly benefit the Council. Accordingly it is taken account of within the Formula (RSG) Grant process. The Government suggest that any decision regarding the long term empty property discount rate should be made for housing, rather than financial, reasons.

4. VALUATION BAND PROPERTIES

- 4.1 The latest information on the number of properties within each valuation band is contained within a return (CTB1), which the Council provided to the DCLG on 26 October 2007.
- 4.2 This return reflected the actual number of properties shown in the Valuation List as at 17 September 2007 and the Council's records as at 8 October 2007.
- 4.3 A detailed analysis of the properties in each valuation band can be summarised as follows. There are a total of 79,781 dwellings on the list with some 32,256 properties estimated to receive a sole occupier discount. The total Band "D" equivalent is approximately 78,996 properties.

Band	Band Size	Total Dwellings	Total after Discounts, Exemptions and Disabled Relief	Ratio	Band "D" Equivalents
	Band A disabled relief	0	0.00	5/9	0.0
А	Values not exceeding £40,000	2,991	2,373.25	6/9	1,582.2
В	Values exceeding £40,000 but not exceeding £52,000	5,396	4,273.75	7/9	3,324.0
С	Values exceeding £52,000 but not exceeding £68,000	13,555	10,793.75	8/9	9,594.4
D	Values exceeding £68,000 but not exceeding £88,000	22,436	18,822.25	9/9	18,822.3
E	Values exceeding £88,000 but not exceeding £120,000	14,145	12,275.00	11/9	15,002.8
F	Values exceeding £120,000 but not	8,878	7,812.50	13/9	11,284.7

Band	Band Size	Total Dwellings	Total after Discounts, Exemptions and Disabled Relief	Ratio	Band "D" Equivalents
	exceeding £160,000				
G	Values exceeding £160,000 but not exceeding £320,000	10,441	9,491.50	15/9	15,819.2
Н	Values exceeding £320,000	1,939	1,783.25	18/9	3,566.5
		79,781	67,625.25		78,996.1

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE VALUATION LIST

5.1 The above table shows the valuation band position at 17 September 2007 but the Council is also required to take into account likely changes during the financial year 2008-2009. The following potential adjustments need to be considered:

(i) New Properties

There are likely to be a number of new properties, conversions etc. added to the valuation list at some point during the year. There are approximately 598 units currently under construction on various sites in the Borough that will be added to the tax base sometime during 2008/09. It is estimated after allowing for different completion dates that this will equate to an additional 497 Band 'D' equivalents.

(ii) Banding Appeals

There have been over 8,500 appeals lodged with the valuation office in respect of initial Council Tax bandings. There are now, however, only 96 appeals unsettled. In view of this small number, it is not proposed to make any further adjustments for these.

(iii) Second Homes

The effect of reducing the discount for second homes from 50% to 10% from 1 April 2008, would add a further 883 Band "D" equivalents as outlined in section 3.1.

- 5.2 The Council is required to set its Tax Base on the total of the relevant amounts for the year for each of the valuation bands shown or is likely to be shown for any day in the year in the authority's valuation list.
- 5.3 Taking into account the latest information from the CTB1 return to the DCLG and the proposed adjustments, the Cabinet is requested to approve the estimated numbers of properties for each valuation band as set out in the following table:

Band	Band "D" Equivalent	Adjustments for New Properties	Adjustments for second homes discount reduction	Revised Band "D" Equivalents
Α	1,582.2	+64	+23	1669.2
В	3,324.0	+57	+27	3408.0
С	9,594.4	+48	+82	9724.4
D	18,822.3	+66	+220	19108.3
E	15,002.8	+113	+181	15296.8
F	11,284.7	+31	+126	11441.7
G	15,819.2	+71	+165	16055.2
Н	3,566.5	+47	+59	3672.5
	78,996.1	+497	+883	80376.1

6. COLLECTION RATE

- 6.1 The Council is also required to estimate its Collection Rate for 2008/09 at the same time as arriving at the estimated number of properties within the Tax Base. In arriving at a percentage Collection Rate for 2008/09, the Council should take into account the likely sum to be collected, previous collection experience and any other relevant factors.
- 6.2 The actual sum to be collected from local Council tax payers cannot be finally determined until, the preceptors requirements are known and the Council has approved its budget. The Council therefore has to make an estimate of the sums to be collected locally making estimated allowance for sums from Council Tax Benefits and write-offs/non-collection.
- 6.3 The actual collection rate for 2007/08 achieved to mid November 2007 is 69.2% comprising cash collection of £53.8m and Council Tax benefit of £17.0m. It is estimated that a further £20.9m (26.9%) will be collected by 31 March 2008 and £1.5m (1.9%) thereafter.
- 6.4 Collection performance has been calculated in order to comply with Best Value performance indicator calculations. Latest calculations for 2006/07 and 2007/08 indicate that the collection rate can be increased for 2008/09. It is therefore suggested that the collection rate for 2008/09 be increased from 97.5% to 98.0%. The Government take account of the Council Tax income available to individual local authorities when calculating their Formula Grant allocation. The calculation assumes a Collection Rate of 97.5%. Accordingly any sum collected above 97.5% represents a net increase in local authority resources. The increase in the Collection rate will financially benefit the Council by approximately £0.35m.

7. THE TAX BASE

- 7.1 Under Section 33(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Regulations, the Council's tax base is calculated by multiplying the estimated number of Band "D" equivalents by the estimated collection rate.
- 7.2 Based on the number of Band "D" equivalents in the table in paragraph 5.4 above and the estimated collection rate in paragraph 6.4 above, the calculation is as follows:-

(Band D equivalents) x (Collection Rate) = (Tax Base) 80,376 x 98.0% = 78,768

8. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

8.1 The tax base is set by 31 January each year, as outlined in the Local Government Finance Act 1992. It is used within the overall Council Tax and budget setting process, due to be reported to Budget Council on 27 February 2008.

9. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 9.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year and to make a budget. This report forms part of that process. The Council is obliged, when making its budget, to act reasonably and in accordance with its statutory duties, the rules of public law and its general duty to Council Tax payers.
- 9.2 The basic amount of Council Tax must be calculated in accordance with Section 31(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992.
- 9.3 The Council Tax base has been calculated in accordance with the Act and the Regulations. Increasing the estimated collection rate to 98.0% is a reasonable and realistic estimate.
- 9.4 Regulations under the Local Government Act 2003 allow the Council to reduce Council Tax discount for dwellings that are not the sole or main residence of an individual and which are furnished (second homes) to a minimum of 10%. The regulations also allow the Council to reduce Council Tax discount for dwellings that are unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than six months (long term empty properties) to zero.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext. of Holder of File/Copy	Department/ Location
1.	Local Government	A. Lord	2 nd Floor
	Finance Act 1992	Ext. 2531	Town Hall Extension
2.	DCLG Return CTB1 (October 2007)	S. Barrett Ext. 1053	2 nd Floor Town Hall Extension
3.	Taxbase Adjustment Calculations	S. Barrett Ext. 1053	2 nd Floor Town Hall Extension
4.	Collection Rate Statistics	S. Barrett Ext. 1053	2 nd Floor Town Hall Extension



REPORT TO COUNCIL

30 JANUARY 2008

6.2

LEADER

Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh

DEPUTY LEADER

Councillor Nicholas Botterill

CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGY

Councillor Mark Loveday

THE TENTH LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES BILL, LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES (SHOPPING BAGS) BILL, LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TRANSPORT FOR LONDON (NO. 2) BILL

This report recommends the Council's participation in the 10th London Local Authorities Bill, London Local Authorities (Shopping Bags) Bill, London Local Authorities and Transport for London (no. 2) Bill and that the Council passes the second resolution at its meeting on 30th January 2008 to confirm this.

WARDS

ΑII

CONTRIBUTORS

RECOMMENDATION:

HLS

That the Council agrees to pass the formal (second) resolution set out in <u>Appendix 1</u> to the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 9th London Local Authorities Bill received Royal Assent on 19 July 2007 and its provisions came into force on 19 September 2007. It contains a wide variety of powers for London authorities.
- 1.2 London Councils has consulted the London Boroughs with a view to promoting a 10th London Local Authorities Bill when the 9th became law (the process to enact the 9th Bill began in 2004).
- 1.3 On 19th September 2007, the Council resolved to participate in the 10th London Local Authorities Bill. As part of the Bill's drafting process boroughs were requested to submit a list of proposed new powers most of which were contained in long list noted at that meeting.
- 1.4 Since the September 2007 Council meeting, the long list has been divided into three separate bills The 10th London Local Authorities Bill, the London Local authorities (Shopping Bags) Bill, and the London Local Authorities and Transport for London Bill (No. 2). The bills were deposited in Parliament on the 27 November 2007.
- 1.5 Most of the issues in the long list have been incorporated into the London Local Authorities Bill. The London Local Authorities and Transport for London (No. 2) Bill, is being promoted jointly by London Councils and Transport for London to deal with the environmental and transport-related proposals in the long list while the London Local Authorities (Shopping Bags) Bill relates to a ban on throw-out shopping bags. All participating authorities are now required to pass a second confirming resolution.
- 1.6 It is recommended that the Council participate in the Bills by confirming the resolution passed on the 19th September 2007 in order to benefit from the powers that the Bills will finally confer. A summary of the provisions is attached at Appendix 2. It should be noted that the Bills will, if enacted, confer powers rather than duties on the Council.

2. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The Parliamentary standing orders governing private bills require the authorities promoting a bill to pass a resolution favoured by over fifty per cent of the total number of councillors in full council both before and after the bill has been deposited. The procedural requirements for giving notice of the intention to consider promoting the Bill have been complied with.
- 2.2 Full copies of the Bills are available on request from the Head of Legal Services as required by law. Members of the public may purchase copies of the Bills for £1.00 each.
- 2.3 As with the previous Bills, Westminster City Council are to be the lead Borough and Sharpe Pritchard the Parliamentary Agents.

3. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

3.1 These are contained in the body of the report.

4. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

4.1 The estimated cost of participating in the Bills will be £12,000, which will be met from corporate resources.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext. of Holder of File/Copy	Department/ Location
1.	London Councils Leader's Committee Report dated 13 July 2004	Michael Cogher Ext. 2700	PAD, Room 133a Hammersmith Town Hall

CONFIRMING RESOLUTION OF LONDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

R E S O L V E D that the resolution of this Council passed at a meeting of the Council held on 19th September 2007 to promote a Bill or Bills in the last session of Parliament, pursuant to which the Bills intituled "A Bill to confer further powers upon local authorities in London; and for related purposes"; "A Bill to introduce in London a prohibition on the supply of certain bags by retailers, to confer powers upon the local authorities in London to enforce the prohibition; and for related purposes" and "A Bill to confer further powers upon local authorities in London and upon Transport for London; and for related purposes" have been deposited in Parliament, be and the same is hereby confirmed.

No.	Item	Possible provision	Initiating borough	Comments / detail	Consultees
ENVIRO	NMENT				
ENV 1	Environmental penalty charge notices	0 \ 11	Councils	Currently there is little incentive for local authorities to pursue unpaid environmental fixed penalties through the courts. The costs of taking such cases to court is not met by costs and boroughs do not get to keep the fine. These power would be used against individuals and businesses	
ENV 2	Plastic bag levy or outright ban	bag, possibly based on the Irish system.	Lambeth, Sutton and London Councils	May not be possible to introduce on a London basis but promoting a provision may force the Government to move on this policy. A ban has just been proposed in San Francisco and others.	
ENV 4	Smoking related litter	control notice can be issued.	Institute of Wastes management,	This will address smoking related litter by amending section 94 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to allow street litter control notices to be issued in respect of any premises if there is smoking related litter in the vicinity of the premises and this is due to customers or users of the premises Smoking related litter outside buildings is expected to be a major issue when the indoor smoking ban takes effect in 2007. Pubs and restaurants are already covered by existing legislation.	
ENV 7	Charges for public toilets	Create a power to charge for the urinals (currently precluded). Local authorities are currently precluded from charging for the use of men's urinals (although not closets) by virtue of the Public Health Act 1936. The Public Lavatories (Turnstiles) Act 1963 also prohibits the installing of turnstiles in the vicinity of local authority conveniences.		The introduction of charges for male and female closets (possibly by means of a coin slot mechanism), but not for urinals, would raise issues of sex discrimination. Whilst the City has been advised that a claim on sex discrimination grounds may be successfully resisted, it would clearly be more satisfactory to seek a change in the law so as to enable London boroughs to charge for the use of its urinals as well as closets. In practice charging is most likely to be effectively implemented through the use of turnstiles so changes would need to be effected to both pieces of legislation.	
ENV 10	Regulating tables and chairs on the highway	Amending regulations relating to tables and chairs licensing on the highway. Currently authorities, when charging, cannot take into account the amount of highway to be used		Licences granted under S115E of the Highways Act 1980 regulate tables and chairs on the highway. The fee that can be charged for the licence cannot take account of the area of highway that is to be used. A clause is therefore proposed, whether by amendment of the Highways Act 1980 or otherwise, to allow London Boroughs to take account of the area of highway that is used when setting charges for licences for tables and chairs on the highway.	

No.	Item	Possible provision	Initiating borough	Comments / detail	Consultees
HOUSIN	G				
	houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO)	Provides power to a borough where a landlord of a House of Multiple Occupation fails to comply with a management regulation, that the borough can serve notice specifying that the works are done, and if not undertake the works in default.	RBK&C	The Government made the Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England) Regulations 2006 which imposed duties in respect of the repair, maintenance, cleanliness and good repair of facilities and equipment. In HMOs the 2006 regulations also provide for proceedings against a person for an offence under section 234(3). But, there is no provision however to allow the Council to serve notice and to undertake works in default, if those arrangements are not in place. The Housing Act or the regulations should provide that, where the HMO fails to comply with one of the management regulations the authority may serve notice specifying the works which are required to make good the neglect. If this notice (with associated timescales) is not complied with, the authority may then undertake works in default. This would reinstate the power which authorities previously had under the Housing Act 1985.	
		Proposal is to change the Housing Act 2004 regarding serving notice in case of entry into residential properties, and level of officer level authorisation required to do so.	Camden	The Housing Act requires that every time the council wishes to exercise its powers of entry into residential premises, it must give 24 hours notice of its intention to do so to both occupier and owner. This can create an unnecessary administrative burden on the council (in Camden, over 100 notices of entry might be required). The proposal would change the 2004 Act so that serving notice on the owner is not necessary. Camden states that this is often unnecessary and could result in the landlord attending the premises unnecessarily or could create friction between the landlord and tenant. The second part concerns the level of authorisation required. Each time a housing officer wishes to exercise his powers of entry, they first have to obtain the written authorisation of a deputy chief officer of the authority, or if not him, somebody to whom he reports directly. This is a fairly large administrative burden. Both these issues can be amended.	
PUBLIC	PROTECTION				
PPR 1	doors	Provide a requirement for food premises to display food hygiene information and an offence of forging or altering the displayed information	Lambeth	Would underpin voluntary schemes and could act as a trial for a national scheme. Note the FSA has a pilot project covering all LBs.	
PPR 3	Social club control	Control of social clubs	Haringey	There have been concerns that boroughs have insufficient control over the number of 'member only' clubs that are established, especially in premises formally used as retail premises. While not necessarily seeking to restrict their number or interfere with the town planning requirements, it is desirable to ensure that there are proper management controls, self regulation and as a consequence less enforcement	
PPR 4	establishment legislation	To allow boroughs to serve notices and summonses on sex establishments by ordinary post (currently requires recorded delivery post). Also proposed to amend a typographical error in the legislation following a court case.	Westminster	Changing the legislation regarding post would bring it into line with more recent national legislation. A recent court case also showed up an error in the legislation and this should be corrected, by amending the error in the City of Westminster Act 1996 (sex establishment legislation).	
PPR 5	powers relating to	Powers are sought that would allow boroughs to object/restrain if sex establishments (lapdancing clubs) are proposed too close to residential areas.	Tower Hamlets and Westminster now involved	TH has a 'serious issue' with current legislation regarding the licensing of sex establishments, particularly where there are 'lap-dancing clubs' in residential areas which cause part of the community distress. CHECKING TO SEE IF, POST 2003 LICENSING ACT WHETHER THIS IS STILL NECESSARY	

No.	Item	Possible provision	Initiating borough	Comments / detail	Consultees				
STREET	TREET TRADING								
STT 1	Street Markets	Powers to authorise a third party to manage street markets within an agreed local framework. This could allow a borough to hand management over to a BID, for instance.		Currently only councils have the ability to manage and enforce street markets. In many instances this is a low priority. TO BE DRAFTED - REG HART IN HARINGEY					
STT 3	goods and	Disposal of seized goods after a payment of a PCN requiring confirmation of the owner's name and address		Amend the street trading provisions of the London Local Authority Act 1990 and the City of Westminster Act 1999 so as to permit disposal of seized goods and equipment after payment of a fixed penalty or failure to comply with a notice served in conjunction with a fixed penalty requiring confirmation of the owner's name and address in writing within 14 days.					
STT 4		Powers relating to the provision of on-street free food.		Would give boroughs the power to ban the provision of free food in the street (soup runs) by designating problem areas. This would only come into force once the borough had taken this decision, and would not be an automatic blanket ban.					
STT 6	Street trading under Local Authority Act 1990		Chris Warner,	Clarification in the Act on how internet sales should be dealt with under street trading eg. is an offer of a vehicle for sale on the internet covered by street trading where the vehicle is parked on the street but with no For Sale signs displayed?					
TRANSP	PORT								
TRN 17	fares	Changing the provisions in the Greater London Authority Act 1999 so as divide the railways category into component parts.	Councils	The law currently does not allow a different concession to be offered on different services within each category of transport. There is an opportunity in the 10th Bill to seek to change the definition of services so that Underground, Docklands Light railway and London Overground are separate categories, thereby allowing more flexibility in determining the concessions offered. This could used either to enhance or to restrict the concessions on some railway services compared to others					

No.	Item	Possible provision	Initiating borough	Comments / detail	
ENVIRONMENT					
ENV 8	Control of items placed on the highway, inc. advertising 'A' boards.	Control of 'A' shaped advertising boards and other items placed on the highway.	Westminster & RB Kingston	To allow powers to remove and dispose of, as well as the recovery of admin costs, enforcement costs and FPNs for contravention. This would address issues included in current legislation but which ineffective enforcement procedures.	
ENV 9	Tackling street clutter in London	Extending powers enjoyed by the City of London to place street lights and signs on building so removing clutter at street level	English Heritage	This includes signs, lights traffic signs etc that could be fixed to buildings, as in the City.	
TRANSPORT					
TRN 1	Recovery of traffic management and street cleansing costs, and power to close/manage traffic for 'special events'.	Recovery of traffic management and street cleansing costs due to football matches and other large public events. Power to charge venues which attract large numbers of people and result in extra costs for street cleansing and traffic management. Could also cover the power to close/manage roads for 'special events'	Kingston (and Wandsworth or H & F?)	Recovery of costs from some events is likely to be covered by the Licensing Act 2003, the fee for which is meant to cover all aspects of an event. However, this is not the case with the football stadia's safety certificate which only covers activities inside the ground. Nor is it the case with venues/events that do not need a license. On the issue of new powers, the RTA does allow boroughs to do this, but there is a limit on the number of times the powers can be invoked.	
TRN 2	Charging points for electric vehicles	Clarification of powers to provide charging points for electric vehicles in the street, and in particular in relation borough liabilities which are at present unlimited	H&F	The powers could relate to both, installing charging points on behalf of residents, and running a charging system.	
TRN 3	Recover damages to the highway	Power to require an owner or developer to provide a deposit, prior to commencement of development, which could then be offset against any costs arising from making good damage caused by the owner or developer.	Bromley	It has also been suggested that powers are required to deal immediately where mud and other building material are deposited on the highway to the detriment of free/safe passage. The powers should also allow for the recovery of administrative costs, and fixed penalty fines. There is also a suggestion that where there is damage, fixed penalty fines could be used.	
TRN 5	Gated road closures	Powers to fine those who open emergency gates without authorisation under the relevant traffic order	Camden	Fines collected would go towards costs of the surveillance.	
TRN 7	Pedicabs	Powers to control pedicabs	LC, TfL and Westminster	This item has support from both London Councils, and TfL. It addition Westminster Council is very animated about this issue. This needs to be tried again.	
TRN 10	Advanced stopping areas	Allowing decriminalised enforcement of advanced stopping areas at traffic lights	TfL	Proposed by TfL. Our opinion is that this is fine in principle, but the definition will be tricky to avoid it covering red lights generally.	
TRN 11	mobile phones and driving	Allowing decriminalised enforcement of the use of mobile phones while driving	TfL	Proposed by TfL. Our opinion is that this is difficult in practice and principle. This is an endorseable offence and hence driver liability. Previously we have said that endorseable offences should remain criminal.	
TRN 14	Cyclists on the footway	Section 72 of the Highways Act 1835 makes it an offence to cycle on the footway. Section 51 and Schedule 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 provide that such an offence is punishable by a fixed penalty of £30.		It is proposed that London local authorities should have the power to vary the fixed penalty according to the area where the offence takes place and the seriousness of the offence. London authorities should have the discretion to impose a far greater penalty that the current £30 fixed penalty. TEP advises that this would bring in differential penalty levels for parking, which has already proved difficult and time-consuming to get agreement and implementation.	
TRN 15	Builders skips	Regulations relating to skips are often not complied with, and it is difficult for the highway authority to enforce the legislation. A change in the enforcement procedure is proposed.	Westminster	Rules relating to the placing of skips on the highway (section 139(4) of the Highways Act 1980) are often not complied with. It is difficult for the highway authority to enforce the legislation, and a change in the enforcement procedure would help. Currently, it is a criminal offence to breach the requirements of section 139(4) and by virtue of section 8 of the LLA and Transport Act 2003, it is also a fixed penalty offence. Solutions proposed are (a) to decriminalise the offence and make it a penalty charge provision (using the framework in Part 5 of LLA 2007) with the skip provider responsible for the charge; or (b) to require skip suppliers to ensure that skips used in London are of a type that have the necessary lights and covers built in.	

Consultees					

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 1 - CELEBRATION OF LBH&F'S HERITAGE

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Francis Stainton
- (ii) Councillor Lucy Ivimy

"This Council notes the importance of celebrating H&F's heritage and therefore welcomes the news that the Cecil French Bequest will come to the Borough in May and that an Olympic Dinner will celebrate the anniversary of the 1908 White City Olympics."

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 2 – INTRODUCTION OF 'SLIVERS-OF-TIME' TO LBHF

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh
- (ii) Councillor Mark Loveday

"This Council notes that economic dependence is one of the key pathways to poverty. In H&F 18% of the working age population is on some form of benefit and a staggering 3725 lone parents are on income support. The Council welcomes the introduction of Slivers-of-Time to H&F which will allow greater opportunity for flexible working in the local workplace and demonstrates the Council's Commitment to making H&F a borough of opportunity."

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 3 - COUNCIL TAX PROPOSALS

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh
- (ii) Councillor Nicholas Botterill

"This Council notes the dreadful local government financial settlement. Despite this the Council welcomes the plans to cut Council tax bills for the second year running, with an anticipated saving of nearly £350 off the average Council tax bill in just two years, and looks forward to considering these proposals in detail at the Budget meeting on 27th February."

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 4 – CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Frances Stainton
- (ii) Councillor Donald Johnson

"The following changes to the Pension Pensions Fund Investment Panel memberships will be made, effective from the day after the Council meeting:

Cllr. Lucy Gugen - to come off Pensions Fund Investment Panel.

<u>Cllr. Stephen Greenhalgh</u> - be appointed a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel and as the Chairman of the Panel.

<u>Cllr. Nicholas Botterill</u> - already a member of Pensions Fund Investment Panel, to be appointed as Vice-Chairman".

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 5 – CUTS IN DISCRETIONARY GRANTS TO FAMILIES ON LOW INCOMES

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Reg McLaughlin
- (ii) Councillor Lisa Nandy

"This Council notes that part of this year's budget cuts contains the decision by Children's Services to phase out the discretionary grants for music and dance to families on low incomes.

The discretionary grant to parents on low incomes for school uniforms is to be reduced so that a grant will only be made on two occasions, once when the child starts primary school and once when they start secondary school.

This Council agrees that this is an unacceptable attack on families on low incomes and calls on the Cabinet to reject these cuts."

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 6 - RULES OF DEBATE AT COUNCIL

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Colin Aherne
- (ii) Councillor Michael Cartwright

"This Council agrees to the following amendment to the Rules of Debate at Council.

Insert new 15(b)(i)

At meetings of the Budget Council, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition may speak on the budget proposals without a time limit being imposed. Up to three other members of each group on the Council may also speak. Such speeches shall not exceed five minutes."

SPECIAL MOTION NO. 7 - SHEPHERD'S BUSH TUBE STATION CLOSURE

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Lisa Homan
- (ii) Councillor Rory Vaughan

"This Council resolves to support the campaign of Andrew Slaughter MP to make TfL change their plans to close Shepherd's Bush Tube Station and instead come up with a refurbishment programme that would better accommodate residents' travel needs".