



COUNCIL

— MINUTES —

(BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2005



PRESENT:

The Mayor (Councillor Charlie Treloggan)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mercy Umeh)

Councillors:

Colin Aherne
Emile Al-Uzaizi
Chris Allen
Will Bethell
Brendan Bird
Min Birdsey
Stephen Burke
Michael Cartwright
Dominic Church
Siobhan Coughlan
Steve Cowan
Huw Davies

Sian Dawson
Gavin Donovan
Fiona Evans
Ivan Gibbons
Chris Graham
Stephen Greenhalgh
Greg Hands
Wesley Harcourt
Ghassan Karian
Alex Karmel
Jafar Khaled
Antony Lillis

Amanda Lloyd-Harris
Mark Loveday
Reg McLaughlin
Charlie Napier
Jolyon Neubert
Colin Pavelin
Dame Sally Powell
Andrew Slaughter
Melanie Smallman
Frances Stainton
Tim Stanley
David Williams

44. MINUTES – 26 JANUARY 2005

7.01pm - The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 January 2005 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alford, Botterill, Boyle, Donald, Jones, Vaughan and Wicks. (Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Donovan and Dawson).

46. MAYOR & MANAGING DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

The Mayor's Announcements were circulated to all Councillors and in the Chamber. (Copy attached as **APPENDIX 1** to these Minutes).

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Noted declarations of personal interest by all Councillors present at the meeting (see Minute attendance sheet) on items 6.5 & 6.6 – Members' Allowances Scheme – as personal beneficiaries of the scheme. Councillors remained at the meeting and spoke and voted on the item.

48. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (20 MINUTES)

7.03pm - The Mayor called on those members of the public who had submitted questions for this meeting of the Council (as published in the Council Agenda) to ask their questions:

Public Questioners

1. Mr. Harry Braund, 6 King Edwards Mansions, 629 Fulham Road SW6

(The text of the question submitted and the reply given is attached at **APPENDIX 2** to these minutes).

49. MOTION THAT AN ITEM OF BUSINESS TAKE PRECEDENCE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (iii), Councillor Aherne moved, seconded by Councillor Evans, that item 6.7 on the agenda – 9th London Local Authorities Bill – be given precedence. The motion was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously:

7.08pm - 9th London Local Authorities Bill

The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by Councillor Michael Cartwright, Deputy for Environment & Contract Services, seconded by Councillor Dame Sally Powell, Deputy for Regeneration.

A speech on the item was made by Councillor Cartwright (for the Administration), before the report and recommendation was put to the vote:

FOR - Unanimous
AGAINST - 0
ABSTENTIONS - 0

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

7.09pm – **RESOLVED**:

That the Council formally agrees the second participation resolution of the 9th London Local Authorities Bill(s), as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

50. ITEMS FOR DECISION / COMMITTEE REPORTS (IF ANY)

7.10pm - **Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2005/06**

Noted an amendment to Appendix F tabled at the meeting, and as set out below:

AGEWELL OVER 50'S GROUP

Description of Service	Proposed Fee (£)	% Increase	Comment
Borough resident	5.00	1.2	Below inflation increase for residents
Out of Borough resident	11.00	11.7	Since 2002 termly fees have not kept pace with inflation

The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by Councillor Andrew Slaughter, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Chris Graham, Deputy Leader.

Speeches on the budget report were made by Councillors Slaughter, Greenhalgh, Cowan and Smallman.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR - 22
AGAINST - 12
ABSTENTIONS - 0

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

7.53pm – **RESOLVED**:

1. That the Council Tax be set for 2005/06 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 to the report:

(a) The element of Council Tax charged for Hammersmith & Fulham Council will be £903.42 per Band D property in 2005/06.

(b) The element of Council Tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £254.62 per Band D property in 2005/06.

(c) The overall Council Tax to be set will be £1,158.04 per Band D property in 2005/06.

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	602.28	702.66	803.04	903.42	1,104.18	1,304.94	1,505.70	1,806.84
b) GLA	169.75	198.04	226.33	254.62	311.20	367.78	424.37	509.24
c) Total	772.03	900.70	1,029.37	1,158.04	1,415.38	1,672.72	1,930.07	2,316.08

2. The Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2005/06 is set as £244.240m
3. That a 2.5% increase in fees and charges be approved, unless otherwise reported separately for approval in Appendix F.
4. That the Director of Finance's budget projections to 2007/08 be noted.
5. 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 6.2 and 7.1 of the report).
6. 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.
7. That all Chief Officers be required to report to Leadership Scrutiny Panel quarterly on their projected financial position compared to their revenue estimates (as part of the Corporate Monitoring Report).
8. That all Chief Officers be authorised to implement their service spending plans for 2005/06 in accordance with the recommendations within the report, and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and relevant Schemes of Delegation.

7.54pm – **Capital Programme 2005/06 to 2007/08**

Noted Appendices A-D had been omitted from the printed agenda but had been circulated separately to all Councillors and tabled at the meeting. (Copy attached as **APPENDIX 3** to these minutes).

The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by Councillor Andrew Slaughter, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Chris Graham, Deputy Leader.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote :

FOR	- 24
AGAINST	- 0
ABSTENTIONS	- 12

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

7.55pm – **RESOLVED –**

1. To approve, as set out in Appendix A to the report, the General Fund capital programme inclusive of new specific funding allocations of £6.150m standing at £32.490m for 2005/06.
2. To approve that the following schemes be added to the General Fund capital programme:
 - White City Community Centre and Nubian Life;
 - Chelsfield Library Fit Out;
 - Streetscape Improvements Phase 2 – Smarter Borough – £3.7m already approved for start in 2004/05;
 - Fostering Service Expansion of in-house placements – Loft conversions and extensions for foster carers;
 - Private Sector Renewal Grant;
 - Improving Borough Parks, Play Infrastructure and Open Space;
 - Flora Gardens School – Provision of ICT Suite;
 - Wormholt Park School – New Teaching Space and Meeting Rooms;
 - Hurlingham and Chelsea School – Accommodation Improvements
3. To approve the updated HRA resource forecast and indicative capital programme as detailed in Appendix B to the report.

7.56pm – **Treasury Management Strategy and Overall Borrowing Limits 2005/06**

The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by Councillor Andrew Slaughter, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Chris Graham, Deputy Leader.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillor Greg Hands (for the Opposition) and Councillor Andrew Slaughter (for the Administration).

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote. On a request for names to be recorded, a roll-call vote was taken:

FOR - 23

(Councillors Aherne, Allen, Bird, Birdsey, Burke, Cartwright, Church, Coughlan, Cowan, Davies, Evans, Gibbons, Graham, Harcourt, Karian, Khaled, Napier, Slaughter, Smallman, Stanley, Treloggan, Umeh , Williams)

AGAINST - 12

(Councillors Al-Uzaizi, Bethell, Dawson, Donovan, Greenhalgh, Hands, Karmel, Lillis, Lloyd-Harris, Loveday, Neubert, Stainton)

ABSTENTIONS - 0

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

8.06pm – **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the future borrowing and investment strategies;
2. In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year 2005/06, to approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 3 of the report.

8.07.p.m. – **FAIRTRADE Borough Status**

The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by Councillor Michael Cartwright, Deputy for Environment & Contract Services, seconded by Councillor Chris Graham, Deputy Leader.

A speech on the report was made by Councillor Michael Cartwright (for the Administration).

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR - Unanimous
AGAINST - 0
ABSTENTIONS - 0

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

8.09p.m. –**RESOLVED:**

That the Council adopts the following resolution:

"Hammersmith & Fulham Council, as an important consumer and opinion leader, wishes to support a strategy to facilitate the promotion and purchase of foods with the FAIRTRADE Mark as part of its commitment to equal opportunities for all workers and in pursuit of sustainable development.

Hammersmith & Fulham Council resolves to contribute to the campaign to increase sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark by striving to achieve Fairtrade borough status. It therefore undertakes:

- To offer FAIRTRADE Mark food and drink options internally and make them available for internal meetings;
- To authorise the Director of Direct Services to make a variation to the current contract for catering supplies, and to seek to reduce any premium that it is necessary to charge for Fairtrade goods;
- To support a Steering Group of local organisations in campaigns to:
 1. promote the purchase of FAIRTRADE Mark goods;
 2. promote the Fairtrade Borough initiative in campaigns and publicity.
- To nominate Councillor Andrew Jones to represent the Council on the Fairtrade Steering Group.

8.10pm – **Review of Councillors' Allowances: Temporary Scheme for transitional duties arising from Licensing Changes**

[Noted declarations of personal interest by members of the Licensing Committee as beneficiaries of the Councillors' Allowances Scheme. Members remained at the meeting and spoke and voted on the item.]

The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by Councillor Michael Cartwright, Deputy for Environment & Contract Services, seconded by Councillor Andrew Slaughter, Leader of the Council.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Cartwright, Karmel and Aherne.

The report and recommendation was then put to the vote:

FOR – 22
AGAINST – 12
ABSTENTIONS – 0

The report and recommendation was declared **CARRIED**

8.21p.m. – **RESOLVED:**

That time-limited Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's) for Licensing Committee members be introduced for the period 1 March to 30 November 2005, and that Council amends the current scheme of allowances for the month of March 2005 accordingly.

8.22p.m. – **Annual Review of Councillors' Allowances**

[Noted declarations of personal interest by all Councillors present at the meeting (see Minute attendance sheet) as personal beneficiaries of the scheme. Councillors remained at the meeting and spoke and voted on the item.]

The report and recommendation was moved by Councillor Andrew Slaughter, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Chris Graham, Deputy Leader.

The report and recommendation was put to the vote:

FOR – 22
AGAINST – 12
ABSTENTIONS - 0

The report and recommendation was declared **CARRIED**

8.23p.m. – **RESOLVED:**

That the scheme of Councillors' Allowances 2005/06 be approved, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

51. SPECIAL MOTIONS

There were no Special Motions submitted for debate at this meeting of the Council.

52. INFORMATION REPORTS

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

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

Meeting ended: 8.24p.m. - Wednesday, 23 February 2005

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MAYOR