

COUNCIL MINUTES

(BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2011



PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor Adronie Alford
Deputy Mayor Councillor Frances Stainton

Councillors:

Michael Adam	Ali De-Lisle	Donald Johnson
Colin Aherne	Charlie Dewhirst	Andrew Jones
Helen Binmore	Belinda Donovan	Alex Karmel
Nicholas Botterill	Gavin Donovan	Jane Law
Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler	Rachel Ford	Mark Loveday
Daryl Brown	Marcus Ginn	PJ Murphy
Jean Campbell	Peter Graham	Caroline Needham
Joe Carlebach	Stephen Greenhalgh	Harry Phibbs
Michael Cartwright	Steve Hamilton	Greg Smith
Alex Chalk	Wesley Harcourt	Matt Thorley
Elaine Chumnerly	Lisa Homan	Mercy Umeh
Stephen Cowan	Robert Iggulden	Rory Vaughan
Oliver Craig	Lucy Ivimy	
Tom Crofts	Andrew Johnson	

45. MINUTES

The minutes of the Special Council Meeting and the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 January 2011 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Iain Coleman, Georgie Cooney, Sally Powell and Peter Tobias.

47. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

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

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Mayor advised Councillors that, in relation to agenda item 6.5 – Councillors' Allowances Scheme: Revision, 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.

In addition, the following declarations of interest were also made:

- Councillor Caroline Needham declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 6.1 - Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2011/12, as her son is employed as an Outreach Worker at Fulham Central Children's Centre. She left the room during the discussion.
- Councillor Rory Vaughan declared a personal interest in agenda item 6.1 - Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2011/12, as his son uses the Wendell Park Children's Centre.
- Councillor Wesley Harcourt declared a personal interest in agenda item 6.1 - Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2011/12, as some of the Community Organisations funded by the Council were partner organisations of Advice UK where he works. He was also a trustee of the Hammersmith and Fulham Citizens Advice Bureau.

49. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

50. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

50.1 Revenue Budget and Council Tax levels 2011/12

7.02pm - The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

In accordance with Council convention, the Leader of the Administration, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Stephen Cowan, were then given unlimited time to speak on the Budget report. Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Botterill and Binmore (for the Administration) and Councillors Jones and Homan (for the Opposition).

Under Council Procedure Rule 15 (e) (v), Councillor Mark Loveday moved, seconded by Councillor Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler that the Leader's time limit be extended. This was agreed. Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh (for the Administration) made a speech winding up the debate. The report and recommendations were put to the vote.

FOR 28
 AGAINST 12
 ABSTENTIONS 0

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

8.19pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the Council Tax freeze for the Hammersmith & Fulham element for 2011/12. For planning purposes, there will be no change for 2012/13 and 2013/14.
2. That the Council Tax be set for 2011/12 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 & Fulham Council will be £811.78 per Band D property in 2011/12.
 - (b) The element of Council Tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £309.82 per Band D property in 2011/12.
 - (c) The overall Council Tax to be set will be £1,121.60 per Band D property in 2011/12.

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	541.19	631.38	721.58	811.78	992.18	1,172.57	1,352.97	1,623.56
b)GLA	206.55	240.97	275.40	309.82	378.67	447.52	516.37	619.64
c)Total (Draft)	747.74	872.35	996.98	1,121.60	1,370.85	1,620.09	1,869.34	2,243.20

3. That the Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2011/12 be set as £189.289m.
4. That fees and charges be approved as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report.
5. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services' budget projections to 2013/14 be noted.
6. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services' statements under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 regarding adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates be noted (section 13 of the report).

7. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services 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 2011/12 in accordance with the recommendations within the report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and relevant Schemes of Delegation.
10. That Members note S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which requires any Member who is two months or more in arrears on their Council Tax to declare their position and not to vote on any issue that could affect the calculation of the budget or Council Tax.

50.2 Capital Programme 2011/12 to 2015/16

8.20pm - The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote.

FOR	28
AGAINST	12
ABSTENTIONS	0

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

8.20pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. That the General Fund Capital Programme is £31.931m for 2011/12 be approved.
2. That a Debt Reduction target of £53.9m by 2015/16 which will reduce underlying debt (Capital Financing Requirement to £78.8m) be approved.
3. That 25% of receipts generated for the decent neighbourhoods programme continue to be used to support general capital investment be approved.
4. That the following initiatives within the capital programme be approved:
 - The continuation of the rolling programmes for Corporate Planned Maintenance (£2.5m), repairs to carriageways and footways (£2.1m) , private sector housing grants (£0.45m), Parks Improvements (£0.5m) and contributions to the Invest to Save Fund (£0.750m)
 - The setting aside of £0.250m in reserve for the DDA Programme.

5. That, subject to agreement of the overall programme, prudential borrowing of £5.4m regarding the Schools Capital Strategy be approved.
6. That the level of resource forecast (Table 5 of the report) and indicative expenditure for the decent neighbourhoods programme as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and proposed 2011/12 contribution to fund works to the HRA stock of £14.867m from the Decent Neighbourhoods Pot for one year only be noted and approved.
7. That the 2011/12 HRA capital programme as set out in Appendix 3 of the report, and subject to appropriate Member approval for un-committed schemes be approved.
8. That the prudential indicators as set out in Appendix 4 of the report be approved.
9. That the following annual Minimum Revenue Provision: (Appendix 5 of the report) be approved.
 - For debt which is supported through Formula 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 should 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.

50.3 Treasury Management Strategy Report

8.22pm - The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote.

FOR	28
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	11

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

8.23pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. That the future borrowing and investment strategies and authorise the Director of Finance and Corporate Services to arrange the Council's cashflow, borrowing and investments in 2011/12 be approved.
2. That the additions to the list of institutions to the Council's restricted lending list noted at paragraph 10.4 of the report be approved.

3. In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year 2011/12, the Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 3 of the report, be approved.
4. That future amendments to the credit criteria be delegated to Cabinet.

(Councillor Vaughan announced that he worked for the Financial Services Authority. He left the Council Chamber during the discussion and did not vote on the report.)

50.4 Review of the Council's Constitution - Changes to Officer Schemes of Delegation and Minor Amendments

8.24pm - The report and recommendation were moved for adoption by the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Chief Whip, Councillor Mark Loveday.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillor Mark Loveday (for the Administration) and Councillor Andrew Jones (for the Opposition).

The report and recommendation was put to the vote:

FOR	28
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTIONS	0

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

8.25pm **RESOLVED:**

That the changes and amendments proposed to the Council Constitution, as summarised in Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed.

50.5 Councillors Allowances Scheme: Revision

8.28pm - The report and recommendation were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillor PJ Murphy (for the Opposition) and Councillor Mark Loveday (for the Administration).

The report and recommendation was put to the vote:

FOR	28
AGAINST	13
ABSTENTIONS	0

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

8.32pm - **RESOLVED:**

That the Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2011 – 12 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be adopted.

51. SPECIAL MOTIONS

There were no special motions.

52. INFORMATION REPORTS - TO NOTE (IF ANY)

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

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

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 8.33 pm

Mayor

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

1. On 27th January 2011, I attended the Imperial Jobs and Careers Fair, The Wharf Rooms, Imperial Road, SW6
2. On 27th January, I attended 'Nubian Life' Achievement Awards Ceremony, Commonwealth Avenue, White City, W12
3. On 28th January, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the Mayor of Bexley Charity Race Night, Crayford Stadium, Bexleyheath
4. On 2nd February, I attended the 2010 Celebration evening for Looked after Children, Cambridge School, W6
5. On 4th February, I attended the Holy Innocents Church Concert, Paddenswick Road, W6
6. On 5th February, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the Gala Banquet & Ball to celebrate Grenada's Independence, Novotel Hammersmith, W6
7. On 7th February, accompanied by the Deputy Mayor and my Mayoress, I attended the Year of the Rabbit event, Banqueting House, Whitehall London SW1A
8. On 9th February, I attended a Citizenship Ceremony during which, I presented each citizen with their official certificate, Council Chamber, FTH
9. On 10th February, I attended the National Day celebrations for the Republic of Serbia, Belgrave Square, SW1X
10. On 11th February, accompanied by both my Mayoresses, I attended the Lyons concert, St Paul's Cathedral, EC4
11. On 13th February, accompanied by my Consort and Mayoress, I attended the Kosovo's Independence Day Celebrations, Assembly Hall, HTH
12. On 14th February, I attended the Bhavan Republic Day Celebrations, Castletown Road, W14
13. On 15th February, I was delighted to attend H&F Year 3 Primary Schools' 'Skittle Ball' competition and present the winners' with their medals and trophy, Assembly Hall, HTH
14. On 16th February, I was delighted to attend H&F Year 4 Primary Schools' 'Skittle Ball' competition and present the winners' with their medals and trophy, Assembly Hall, HTH

15. On 17th February, accompanied by my Mayoress, I was delighted to attend H&F 'Young Chef of the Year' competition and present the winner with a trophy, H&E WLC, Gliddon Road, W14
16. On 19th February, accompanied by my Consort, I attended the London Mayors' Association 'Annual Dinner', Hyatt Churchill Hotel, Portman Square W1H
17. On 20th February, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the Mayor of Hillingdon Civic Service and reception, St Giles Church, Ickenham UB10
18. On 23rd February, I attended the opening of the Phoenix School Amateur Boxing Club, The Curve, Shepherds Bush, London W12