

COUNCIL MINUTES

BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2018



PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor Michael Cartwright
Deputy Mayor Councillor Mercy Umeh

Councillors:

Colin Aherne
Daryl Brown
Iain Cassidy
Elaine Chumnerly
Ben Coleman
Adam Connell
Stephen Cowan
Larry Culhane
Wesley Harcourt
Sharon Holder
Lisa Homan
Andrew Jones
Vivienne Lukey
Sue Macmillan

David Morton
PJ Murphy
Caroline Needham
Natalia Perez
Max Schmid
Rory Vaughan
Guy Vincent
Michael Adam
Adronie Alford
Nicholas Botterill
Andrew Brown
Joe Carlebach
Charlie Dewhirst
Belinda Donovan

Caroline Ffiske
Marcus Ginn
Steve Hamilton
Lucy Ivimy
Donald Johnson
Alex Karmel
Jane Law
Mark Loveday
Viya Nsumbu
Harry Phibbs
Greg Smith
Frances Stainton

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 January 2018 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan De'Ath, Sue Fennimore, Ali Hashem, and Jacqueline Borland.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Jane Law, Marcus Ginn, Andrew Brown, and Michael Adam.

3. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor invited all Councillors to the Civic Service at All Saints Church on the 15th of April 2018.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Caroline Needham declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6.4 as a recipient of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2018/19

7.05pm - In accordance with Council convention, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Joe Carlebach, were given unlimited time to speak on the Budget report.

Speeches on the report were also made by Councillors Sue Macmillan, Sharon Holder, and Max Schmid (for the Administration) – and Councillors Harry Phibbs, and Lucy Ivimy (for the Opposition).

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, then made a speech winding up the debate. The report and recommendations were put to the vote and a roll-call was undertaken, in accordance with Council convention when voting on the budget:

FOR	AGAINST	NOT VOTING
Aherne	(None)	Adam
Brown (D)		Alford
Cartwright		Botterill
Cassidy		Brown (A)
Chumnerly		Carlebach
Coleman		Dewhirst
Connell		Donovan
Cowan		Ffiske
Culhane		Ginn
Harcourt		Hamilton
Holder		Ivimy
Homan		Johnson
Jones		Karmel
Lukey		Law
Macmillan		Loveday
Morton		Nsumbu
Murphy		Phibbs
Needham		Smith
Perez		Stainton
Schmid		
Umeh		
Vaughan		
Vincent		

FOR	23
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	19

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

8.40pm – RESOLVED

1. To freeze the Hammersmith & Fulham element of the council tax charge, and not apply the 3% increase modelled by the Government for the coming year.
2. To not apply the “social care precept” levy of 3% as modelled by the Government for the coming year.
3. To set council tax for 2018/19 for each category of dwelling, as calculated in accordance with Sections 31A to 49B of the Localism Act 2011, 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 £727.81 per Band D property in 2018/19
 - (b) The element of council tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £294.23 per Band D property in 2018/19
 - (c) The overall Council Tax to be set at £1,022.04 per Band D property in 2018/19.
 - (d) The Social Care Precept set at nil

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	485.21	566.07	646.94	727.81	889.55	1,051.28	1,213.02	1,455.62
b) GLA	196.15	228.85	261.54	294.23	359.61	425.00	490.38	588.46
c) Total	681.36	794.92	908.48	1,022.04	1,249.16	1,476.28	1,703.40	2,044.08

4. To set the Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2018/19 at £138.944m.
5. To approve £6.5m new spend on key council services.
6. To approve fees and charges as set out in paragraph 6.1, including freezes for all parking charges, and all fees and charges in children's services, adult social care, housing, markets and libraries.
7. To approve the planned additional contribution of £0.620m to the Efficiency Projects Reserve and estimated contribution of £2.6m from the benefit receivable from the London 100% business rates retention pilot.

8. To note the budget projections, made by the Strategic Finance Director to 2021/22 in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team
9. To note the statement made by the Strategic Finance Director under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 regarding the adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates (section 14).
10. To authorise the Strategic Finance Director 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.
11. To require all Directors report on their projected financial position compared to their revenue estimates in accordance with the Corporate Revenue Monitoring Report timetable.
12. To authorise Directors to implement their service spending plans for 2018/19 in accordance with the recommendations within this report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and relevant Schemes of Delegation.
13. Members' attention is drawn to 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.

6.2 **Four Year Capital Programme 2018/19**

8.40pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote:

FOR	23
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	19

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

8.42pm – RESOLVED

1. To approve the General Fund Capital Programme budget at £37.3m for 2018/19 (paragraph 5.1, Table 2 and Appendix 1).
2. To approve the continuation of the Council's rolling programmes and the continued use of internal funding for 2018/19 General Fund 'Mainstream' Programme as set out in Table 3 (paragraph 5.2) and specifically as follows:
 - Capital receipts and internal borrowing amounting to £4.98m to fund the Council's rolling programmes as follows:

	£m
Disabled Facilities Grant [RPHS]	0.45
Planned Maintenance/DDA Programme [ENV]	2.50
Footways and Carriageways [ENV]	2.03
Total	4.98

- Contributions from revenue amounting to £0.521m to fund the Council's rolling programmes as follows:

	£m
Controlled Parking Zones [ENV]	0.275
Column Replacement [ENV]	0.246
Total	0.521

- Section 106 funding amounting to £0.5m to fund the Council's rolling programmes as follows:

	£m
Parks Capital Programme [ENV]	0.50
Total	0.50

3. To note existing capital receipts funded schemes previously approved, but now scheduled for 2018/19 (paragraph 5.2, Table 3):

One off schemes:

- Schools' Organisation Strategy - £0.03m
- Carnwath Road - £ 3.07m

Rolling programmes:

- Planned Maintenance/DDA Programme – £6.96m

4. To approve the Housing Programme at £76.1m for 2018/19 as set out in Table 5 (paragraph 7.3 of the report) and Appendix 1 of the report.
5. To delegate the potential application of 2017/18 capital receipts (totalling £7.1m) under the Government's new Flexible Use of Capital Receipts provisions to fund Invest to Save schemes in 2017/18 and 2018/19 (as identified in Appendix 5 of the report). The final decision on whether to make use of any of this flexibility is delegated to the Strategic Finance Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, as part of the closure of the 2017/18 Accounts process.
6. To approve an additional budget envelope of £50m, from 2017/18 onwards, to provide operational flexibility, for taking forward the major projects set out in section 8 of the Report. Use of this budget will be subject to relevant Member approval, agreement of funding sources and sign-off of an appropriate business case.

7. To approve the revised annual Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement for 2018/19 in Appendix 4 of the report.

6.3 Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2018/19

8.43pm – The report and recommendations were moved by the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Max Schmid, before being put to the vote:

FOR	23
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	19

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

8.43pm – RESOLVED

1. That approval was given to the future borrowing and investment strategies as outlined in this report and that the Strategic Finance Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, be authorised to manage the Council's cash flow, borrowing and investments in 2018/19 in line with the report.
2. In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year, to note the comments and the Prudential Indicators as set out in this report and the revised Annual Investment Strategy set out in Appendix E of the report.

6.4 Pay Policy of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham 2018/19

8.43pm – The report and recommendations were moved by the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Max Schmid, before being put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

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

8.44pm – RESOLVED

1. That the Council approved the pay policy statement for 2018/19 as set out in the report.
2. That the Council endorsed the pay schemes attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the Pay Policy Statement.

6.5 Members' Allowances Scheme - Annual Review 2018

8.44pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillor Larry Culhane (for the Administration) and Councillor Alex Karmel (for the Opposition). The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, then made a speech winding up the debate before the report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	23
AGAINST	19
NOT VOTING	0

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

8.59pm – RESOLVED

1. That the Members' Allowances Scheme 2018/19, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be adopted.

6.6 Calendar of Meetings 2017/18

8.59pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, before being put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

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

8.59pm – RESOLVED

1. That the following meeting be cancelled:
 - Planning and Development Control Committee – 17 April 2018.
 - Community Safety, Environment and Residents Services Policy and Accountability Committee - 18 April 2018.
 - Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee – 23 April 2018.
 - Health, Adult Social Care and Social Inclusion Policy and Accountability Committee – 24 April 2018.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 9.00 pm

Mayor