

Cabinet

Minutes



Tuesday 1 April 2025

PRESENT

Members

Councillor Stephen Cowan, Leader of the Council

Councillor Alex Sanderson, Deputy Leader (with responsibility for Children and Education)

Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology

Councillor Andrew Jones, Cabinet Member for The Economy

Councillor Rebecca Harvey, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety

Councillor Rowan Ree, Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform

Councillor Zarar Qayyum, Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Skills

Other Councillors

Councillor Adronie Alford, Opposition Spokesperson for Housing

Officers

Sharon Lea, Chief Executive

Grant Deg, Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

David Abbott, Head of Governance

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bora Kwon, Frances Umeh, and Sharon Holder.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2025

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. CARBON OFFSET COST GUIDANCE NOTE

Councillor Andrew Jones, Cabinet Member for Economy, introduced the report that sought approval from Cabinet to publish a carbon offset cost guidance note. The guidance note was designed to help planners and developers calculate the carbon offsetting costs on major development sites to incentivise

developers to include more on-site carbon reduction measures. Councillor Jones noted that the guidance would come into force from the 1st of July 2025.

Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology, noted this was a key element of the Council's plan to combat climate change. He said the Council wanted new developments to be as green as possible, and he hoped this guidance would lead to developers implementing more energy efficient buildings.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. That Cabinet approval be given for the guidance to be published and used to assist in calculating Carbon offset costs on development sites.

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

5. REVENUE BUDGET REVIEW 2024/25 - MONTH 9 (DECEMBER 2024)

Councillor Rowan Ree, Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform, introduced the report which presented the third provisional outturn position for 2024/25 at Month 9 (December 2024). He noted the forecast General Fund overspend was down to £1.1m and anticipated this would come down further over the period. Despite the challenging fiscal environment, both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets were forecast to be balanced at the end of the year.

Councillor Adroine Alford, Opposition Spokesperson for Housing, addressed the meeting and said she welcomed the news that the Housing Revenue Account was forecast to be balanced by the end of the year, noting that she would continue to scrutinise and monitor it closely.

Councillor Stephen Cowan, Leader of the Council, thanked Councillor Ree and finance officers for their stewardship of the Council's finances. He stressed the importance of careful financial management that allowed Hammersmith & Fulham to deliver services that other Council's couldn't, such as free Home Care and free breakfasts for primary school children, while having the third lowest council tax in the country. He said he was grateful for the hard work that made that possible.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CABINET MEMBERS:

1. To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and

Reform, to take all decisions necessary to facilitate the closing of the final accounts.

2. To note the General Fund financial forecast variance at Month 9 and mitigating actions to reduce the overspend forecast variance position (Table 1 and Appendix 1).
3. To note progress on delivering the 2024/25 agreed budget savings (Appendix 3).
4. To note the HRA forecast (paragraph section 9 to 11 and Appendix 2).
5. To note and approve the budget movements (Appendix 4).

Reason for decision:

As set out in the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As outlined in the report.

Record of any conflict of interest:

None.

Note of dispensation in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

None.

6. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions was noted.

Meeting started: 7.04 pm

Meeting ended: 7.12 pm

Chair