

COUNCIL MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2025



PRESENT

The Mayor – Councillor Sharon Holder
Deputy Mayor – Councillor Daryl Brown

Councillors:

Jose Afonso	Wesley Harcourt	Patricia Quigley
Aliya Afzal-Khan	Rebecca Harvey	Rowan Ree
Paul Alexander	Lisa Homan	Lucy Richardson
Adronie Alford	Laura Janes	Max Schmid
Stala Antoniadis	Andrew Jones	Asif Siddique
Jackie Borland	Adam Peter Lang	Nikos Souslous
Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler	Amanda Lloyd-Harris	Dominic Stanton
Trey Campbell-Simon	Omid Miri	Sally Taylor
Florian Chevoppe-Verdier	Callum Nimmo	Nicole Trehy
Liz Collins	Genevieve Nwaogbe	Frances Umeh
Stephen Cowan	Adrian Pascu-Tulbure	Mercy Umeh
Jacolyn Daly	Ashok Patel	Rory Vaughan
Downer-Sanderson	Zarar Qayyum	Patrick Walsh

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

7.03pm – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Rowbottom, Ann Rosenberg, Bora Kwon, Ross Melton, Natalia Perez, Alex Sanderson, Lydia Paynter, Alex Karmel, and David Morton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

7.04pm – There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

7.04pm – RESOLVED

The minutes of the Annual and Special Full Council meetings held on 21 May 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 King's Birthday Honours

7.04pm – The Mayor extended the Council's congratulations to the following local people who were recognised in the 2025 King's birthday honours:

- Professor Sharma at Imperial College Healthcare Trust was awarded an OBE for services to research in strokes in South Asian people.
- Bob Alexander, Vice Chair at Imperial College Healthcare Trust, was awarded an OBE for services to leadership in the NHS.
- Professor Thomas, President Professor emeritus of clinical neuroscience was awarded an OBE for services to clinical neuroscience.

The Mayor thanked them for their hard work and service to the community.

7/7 Anniversary

The Mayor noted that Monday the 7th of July marked the 20th anniversary of the terror attacks in London that killed 52 people. The Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition made speeches of remembrance. The Council stood for a minute of silence in memory of those who died.

5. YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

7.15pm – The Youth Council addressed the Council and gave a short presentation on their priority areas.

Speeches on the item were made by Councillor Rebecca Harvey (for the Administration) and Aliya Afzal-Khan (for the Opposition). The Mayor thanked the Youth Council for attending and their contributions.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)

7.31pm – Questions 2, 4, and 5 were taken in the meeting. The responses to all questions can be found in Appendix 1.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Results of the Local Government By-Election on 3 July 2025

7.40pm – The report on the results of the Local Government By-Election on 3 July 2025 was moved for noting.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Liam Downer-Sanderson to the Council and extended the Council's thanks to all the staff who supported the election for their hard work and professionalism.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillor Afonso (for the Opposition) and Councillor Schmid (for the Administration).

7.44pm – RESOLVED

1. That the information in Appendix 1 of the report was noted.

7.2 Allocation of Seats and Proportionality on Committees

7.44pm – The report and recommendations were moved for noting by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

7.44pm – RESOLVED

1. That the allocation of seats set out in Appendix 1 of the report was noted.

7.3 Review of the Constitution

7.44pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	0

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

7.44pm – RESOLVED

1. That Full Council agreed that Councillor Liam Downer-Sanderson replace Councillor Amanda Lloyd-Harris on the Climate Change and Ecology Policy and Accountability Committee.

7.4 Finance Peer Challenge Review (April 2025)

7.45pm – The report and recommendations were moved for noting by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform, Councillor Rowan Ree.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Ree, Homan, and Walsh (for the Administration) – and Councillor Afonso (for the Opposition).

8.03pm – RESOLVED

1. To note the overview presentation and final report at Appendices 1 and 2 of the Local Government Association Finance Peer Challenge of H&F.
2. To note monitoring the implementation of actions against the recommendations has been referred to the Policy and Oversight Board.

8. SPECIAL MOTIONS

8.04pm – Councillor Max Schmid, under Standing Order 16(d)3, moved a motion to give precedence on the agenda to Special Motion 4. The motion was agreed.

8.4 **Special Motion 4 - Protecting and Improving Uxbridge Road for all Residents and Businesses**

8.04pm – Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier moved, seconded by Councillor Rebecca Harvey, the special motion in their names:

“This Council recognises the unique character and identity of Uxbridge Road, which is home to a diverse mix of shops and restaurants, a well-attended market, and award-winning cultural venues that serve both residents and visitors from across London.

This Council welcomes the recent petition calling for improvements to the street and resolves to work closely with residents, businesses, cultural venues, and community groups to deliver enhancements that improve safety, cleanliness, and vibrancy while protecting the identity and diversity that make Uxbridge Road a place to be proud of.

This Council notes and resolves to accelerate efforts to improve the road, including decluttering street furniture, deep cleaning pavements, removing graffiti, working with businesses and local artists to improve shopfronts, and encouraging private firms and utilities to act responsibly and remove defunct phone boxes and flyposting. It also welcomes recent business investment on the road.

This Council notes the work of the Law Enforcement Team, who regularly patrol Uxbridge Road to keep it safe, and reaffirms its commitment to an unprecedented investment in producing the UK’s most extensive CCTV network to support the work of the LET and the Metropolitan Police.

This Council notes ongoing planning enforcement actions to address untidy premises and will continue to engage with landlords and businesses to ensure compliance with licensing and planning standards that uplift the street’s appearance, wherever it has the power to do so.

This Council welcomes the feasibility study for a Shepherd’s Bush Business Improvement District, which would be led by local businesses and empower them to further enhance local amenities in a way that complements the unique character of the street’s business offer.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Chevoppe-Verdier, Lang, Jones, Vaughan, and Mercy Umeh (for the Administration) – and Lloyd-Harris (for the Opposition)

Under Standing Order 16(d)5, Councillor Adrian Pascu-Tulbure moved, seconded by Councillor Jose Afonso, an amendment:

“Delete all after “This Council” and replace with:

“... thanks residents of Hammersmith and Fulham for their recent petition demanding action is taken to “Fix Uxbridge Road: No More Neglect, No More Crime”.

This Council notes that it was under the current Labour administration that the area “visibly deteriorated due to neglected shopfronts, derelict flats above businesses, and inconsistent Council oversight”, which has allowed crime and antisocial behaviour to thrive. This Council further notes that signatories to the petition “have raised these concerns relentlessly over 2.5 years through emails, conversations with Council officers, and community reports. Yet visible change remains minimal”.

This Council regrets that the decline of Uxbridge Road is part of a wider pattern of this Administration’s low expectations for high streets. These low expectations have led to increased crime and antisocial behaviour, a greater number of vacant and dilapidated premises, and a commensurate decline in the visitor experience.

This Council calls on the Administration to take robust action to fix the issues on Uxbridge Road, including through a zero-tolerance approach to drug use, begging, and antisocial behaviour; well-enforced and high-quality design guidelines for shopfronts and targeted incentives to businesses making visual improvements to their premises; and a full-hearted promotion of independent stores that add value to the community.”

Speeches on the amendment were made by Councillors Pascu-Tulbure and Afonso (for the Opposition) – and Councillor Cowan (for the Administration).

The amendment was then put to the vote:

FOR:	9
AGAINST:	32
NOT VOTING:	1

The amendment was declared **LOST**.

A speech on the substantive motion was made by Councillor Harvey (for the Administration). Councillor Chevoppe-Verdier then made a speech winding up the debate before the substantive motion was put to the vote:

FOR:	32
AGAINST:	9
NOT VOTING:	1

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

8.54pm – RESOLVED

This Council recognises the unique character and identity of Uxbridge Road, which is home to a diverse mix of shops and restaurants, a well-attended market, and award-winning cultural venues that serve both residents and visitors from across London.

This Council welcomes the recent petition calling for improvements to the street and resolves to work closely with residents, businesses, cultural venues, and community groups to deliver enhancements that improve safety, cleanliness, and vibrancy while protecting the identity and diversity that make Uxbridge Road a place to be proud of.

This Council notes and resolves to accelerate efforts to improve the road, including decluttering street furniture, deep cleaning pavements, removing graffiti, working with businesses and local artists to improve shopfronts, and encouraging private firms and utilities to act responsibly and remove defunct phone boxes and flyposting. It also welcomes recent business investment on the road.

This Council notes the work of the Law Enforcement Team, who regularly patrol Uxbridge Road to keep it safe, and reaffirms its commitment to an unprecedented investment in producing the UK's most extensive CCTV network to support the work of the LET and the Metropolitan Police.

This Council notes ongoing planning enforcement actions to address untidy premises and will continue to engage with landlords and businesses to ensure compliance with licensing and planning standards that uplift the street's appearance, wherever it has the power to do so.

This Council welcomes the feasibility study for a Shepherd's Bush Business Improvement District, which would be led by local businesses and empower them to further enhance local amenities in a way that complements the unique character of the street's business offer.

8.1 **Special Motion 1 - Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Macbeth Centre**

8.55pm – Councillor Zarrar Qayyum moved, seconded by Councillor Andrew Jones, the special motion in their names:

"This Council congratulates the Macbeth Centre on its 150-year anniversary and notes that it has been a cornerstone of adult education and community engagement since its construction.

Over this time, the Centre has empowered countless residents, supporting personal development and lifelong learning. Its recent roof renovation, completed in October, ensures that this historic building will continue to serve the community for many years to come, forming a key part of the administration's commitment to skills-led economic growth."

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Qayyum, Jones, Nimmo, Quigley, and Harvey (for the Administration) – and Councillor Alford (for the Opposition).

Councillor Qayyum made a speech winding up the debate before the motion was put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

9.20pm – RESOLVED

This Council congratulates the Macbeth Centre on its 150-year anniversary and notes that it has been a cornerstone of adult education and community engagement since its construction.

Over this time, the Centre has empowered countless residents, supporting personal development and lifelong learning. Its recent roof renovation, completed in October, ensures that this historic building will continue to serve the community for many years to come, forming a key part of the administration's commitment to skills-led economic growth.

8.2 **Special Motion 2 - Free Breakfasts for Primary School Children**

9.20pm - Councillor Nikos Souslous moved, seconded by Councillor Jacolyn Daly, the special motion in their names:

"The Council commends the new Labour government's plans to provide free school breakfasts for primary school children nationally."

The Council notes that its Labour administration pioneered this policy in Hammersmith and Fulham in 2018. Since then, it has helped to ensure children in the borough are healthy and ready to learn."

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Souslous, Daly, Umeh (Mercy), and Cowan (for the Administration) – and Councillors Pascu-Tulbure and Afzal-Khan (for the Opposition).

Councillor Souslous made a short speech winding up the debate before the motion was put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

9.46pm – RESOLVED

The Council commends the new Labour government's plans to provide free school breakfasts for primary school children nationally.

The Council notes that its Labour administration pioneered this policy in Hammersmith and Fulham in 2018. Since then, it has helped to ensure children in the borough are healthy and ready to learn.

8.3 **Special Motion 3 - H&F Among the Best in the Country on Action to Fight Climate Change**

9.46pm - Councillor Wesley Harcourt moved, seconded by Councillor Nicole Trehy, the special motion in their names:

“This Council notes that Climate Emergency UK’s Action Scorecard for 2025 has ranked the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as second best in the country – just one point behind first place.

The Council also notes that Hammersmith & Fulham improved its score in every assessed category.

The Council thanks the volunteer Climate and Ecological Emergency Commission, our Climate Champions, council officers and all our residents who are doing their bit to improve our local environment and tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency. Their hard work helped deliver important climate measures such as the H&F Green Investment, Clean Air Neighbourhoods and progress on energy efficiency.

The Council recognises that the UK’s net-zero targets are an important means of galvanising climate innovation and action. It understands how businesses and startup entrepreneurs in that sector are attracting vital new investment and that they are one of the fastest-growing sectors in the British economy - creating important new jobs, improving energy security, driving sustainable economic growth and securing a brighter environmental and economic future. It therefore calls on politicians of all parties to remain committed to these targets.

This Council notes that much has been done but there is much, much more to do to protect our planet for future generations.”

Speeches on the motion were made by Councillors Harcourt, Trehay, and Lang (for the Administration).

The guillotine fell at 10pm. Councillor Max Schmid moved to extend the meeting by 10 minutes to allow Councillor Downer-Sanderson to speak. Councillor Liam Downer-Sanderson then made his maiden speech (for the Opposition).

Councillor Harcourt made a short speech winding up the debate before the motion was put to the vote:

FOR:	UNANIMOUS
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The motion was declared **CARRIED**.

10.07pm – RESOLVED

This Council notes that Climate Emergency UK’s Action Scorecard for 2025 has ranked the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as second best in the country – just one point behind first place.

The Council also notes that Hammersmith & Fulham improved its score in every assessed category.

The Council thanks the volunteer Climate and Ecological Emergency Commission, our Climate Champions, council officers and all our residents who are doing their bit to improve our local environment and tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency. Their hard work helped deliver important climate measures such as the H&F Green Investment, Clean Air Neighbourhoods and progress on energy efficiency.

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This Council notes that much has been done but there is much, much more to do to protect our planet for future generations.

8.5 **Special Motion 5 - The Safety of Cyclists**

10.07pm – The motion was withdrawn.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 10.07 pm

Mayor

Appendix 1 – Public questions and responses

Question 1

From: Olga Aguilera-Lopez, Resident

To: The Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform

Question:

“What is the rationale behind the Council’s current petition thresholds? A petition with 100 signatures triggers a response from a single Cabinet Member, while 250 signatures lead to a full Cabinet debate. In contrast, 5,000 signatures are required for a Council debate—representing an increase of 1,900%. This significant leap appears disproportionate and may unintentionally discourage public participation, creating the impression that the system is structured to favour inaction. This is significantly out of line with other boroughs in London.”

Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform:

In June 2010 H&F at Full Council adopted a formal petition scheme. This was in response to a requirement in the 'Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009' that from 15 June 2010 Councils had to adopt a petition scheme and provide an online petition facility. The report states that "The limits have been set at a level to encourage residents and other interested parties to access the democratic process. The threshold limits only relate to the decision-making routes referred to above, all petitions received by the Council which falls below these thresholds will continue to be considered by officers in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member. The scheme would not preclude residents and other interested parties from meeting with their elected representatives and officers to discuss issues of concern. Residents can also bring their concerns to the attention of the Council through the Scrutiny function, deputation process and public questions at Council meetings."

The Local Authorities (Petitions) England Order stipulates that the maximum threshold which can be set is 5% of the local population. Using the 2007 census figure of 172,500, the highest permissible number of signatures required to trigger a Council debate would be 8,625."

As the original report highlights there are number different ways a resident can raise and have their concerns heard, including meeting with elected officials, deputations, Policy and Accountability Committees and Public Questions at Full Council. LBHF also has a low threshold for matters to be fully debated at Cabinet. Cabinet meetings are held more regularly than Full Council and often the agenda is shorter, which will allow for a fuller debate of the issues. Cabinet meetings are also recorded, and the Councils executive is present.

Question 2

From: Richard Cazenove, Resident

To: The Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

“At the March 2024 Full Council meeting, Cllr Holder kindly reported that LBHF officers were working to implement – by the “early summer” – a scheme which would provide automatic exemption for vehicles travelling to/from the Hurlingham Club from the Hurlingham Road CAN camera. 12 months since it was promised (and nearly three years since the CAN trial started) nothing, unfortunately, has happened even though the technology is already being used on Broomhouse Lane. Trying to get a clear answer from LBHF officers on the status of this initiative is near impossible. As such, please can the Cabinet Member confirm if the exemption is ever going to be implemented, and, if so, when.”

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Thank you for your question and for your ongoing engagement on this issue. A trial scheme was put in place; however, the technology did not perform as expected, and unfortunately it was not possible to roll out the exemption as initially planned. We have been working closely with the developers, who are currently finalising a redesigned system and upgraded hardware to overcome these challenges.

The improved solution is scheduled for release later this year, and we anticipate that it will allow for a more reliable exemption system that meets our commitments to residents and stakeholders.

We will ensure that updates are communicated as progress continues, and we appreciate your patience as we work to resolve the issues and deliver the functionality which we all look forward to see.

Question 3

From: Noor Al Naeme, Resident

To: The Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

“What are you doing to improve Uxbridge Road from an ASB and visual perspective over the next 12 months?”

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Thank you for your continued engagement and leadership in bringing attention to the issues affecting Uxbridge Road. We appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and fellow residents during the Community Dialogue session on 2 July to agree to continue to push hard on all the areas that we have already been working on in the past few months, and are grateful for your commitment to continuing to work together and improving the area. As our joint approach demonstrates, we are working to deliver a wide-ranging programme of actions to address both anti-social behaviour and the visual environment of Uxbridge Road over the next 12 months. These include an intensive deep-cleaning jet wash programme, enhanced waste management, and extensive graffiti and fly-post removal. We are improving the public realm by repainting and renewing street furniture and lighting columns, reducing unnecessary signage, and working with operators to remove disused phone boxes. Shop front improvements are also underway following a recent survey, with businesses being engaged on necessary upgrades and enforcement measures where needed.

To strengthen safety, we have significantly increased patrols by the Council's Law Enforcement Team (LET), up from 468 in April to more than 1,300 in May and 1,100 in June. The team works closely with police and street outreach workers, engaging over 200 individuals per month who are vulnerable to rough sleeping or substance misuse, and assisting with upcoming local police operations. A revised outreach model now includes peer mentors with lived experience of addiction and homelessness, working alongside LET patrols to promote positive engagement and support pathways for those most at risk.

We are also focusing on initiatives that enhance the character and appeal of Uxbridge Road, including expanded shutter art projects (although, we note that residents requested us on 2 July to halt this programme), and new public art opportunities in partnership with TfL and Shepherds Bush Market such as on the Underground bridge. The Council has also submitted a funding bid to the Greater London Authority to support a new public realm strategy and concept designs for the area. Separately, a feasibility study is exploring the establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) to drive future investment and revitalisation, and we will of course ensure that business owners are fully involved in this and can also do their part in driving virtuous and inclusive change.

We sincerely thank you and all residents who have shared feedback, particularly through the recent petition and dialogue session. These contributions are invaluable in helping shape our strategy. As we move forward and as residents have suggested that residents' experiences and views are our most valuable resource in this endeavour, we will be expanding the Community Dialogue group to include an even broader representative mix of residents, such as renters and those living in social housing, as well as individuals from diverse ethnic and social background, alongside local businesses, so that no one is left behind and all can participate in shaping tomorrow. This will help ensure an inclusive and balanced approach, rooted in the views of the wider community. We look forward to continuing this important work together and delivering the improvements Uxbridge Road deserves.

Question 4

From: Alex Coleridge, Resident
To: Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

"In the council's recent post on Nextdoor, they mentioned that an architect's report had been commissioned from Jan Kattein to assess and improve the Uxbridge road. This is obviously a welcome move given the visual decline of the area, and also given the successes other boroughs have had with applying visual standards.

When will the council release this report and what plans does the council have for implementing the recommendations?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Thank you Alex for your question and all your effort, alongside fellow residents, in working with us to improve the Uxbridge Road.

As you know, at the first Uxbridge Road Community Dialogue meeting held on 2 July, residents welcomed the Council's offer to invite consultants Jan Kattein to present the Uxbridge Road Report. We will be following up with residents shortly to arrange this meeting.

In the meantime, the Council is actively exploring funding opportunities to support the delivery of the report's recommendations. We will also be inviting representatives from local businesses to join the Community Group, ensuring they play a key role in shaping a strategy that delivers sustainable and inclusive improvements for everyone who lives, works, and spends time on Uxbridge Road.

Question 5

From: Jack Dryden, Resident

To: Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology

Question:

"What plans does the council have to improve the green environment around Uxbridge Road utilising its Green Investment scheme in the next 6-12months? Following recent campaigning by locals, including myself, what projects are planned to introduce more trees, rain gardens or improve cycle infrastructure as has recently been celebrated along King Street and in Fulham?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology:

The H&F Green Investment is funding a wide range of greening projects across the borough including in the Shepherds Bush area. This includes sustainable urban drainage and greening on Westville Road and tree pits on Askew Road, cycle hangars across the borough include around Uxbridge Road and tree planting across the borough. We are applying to the Tree Council for funding to plant trees along Uxbridge Road and following the local petition by residents and businesses we are exploring ways to green the road, however there are constraints along such as the narrow footway widths and utilities, that need to be considered.

Question 6

From: Angela Gomes, Resident

To: The Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

"We have over 10 fried chicken takeaways on the Uxbridge Road from The Green to Askew Road. There are 2 primary schools and one Secondary school within 400 meters of these establishments. Since there is a huge problem with obesity among children and the NHS is over stretched, why has there been no Town Planning been carried out?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Thank you, Angela, for raising this important issue. I fully understand your concern about the concentration of fried chicken takeaways along Uxbridge Road, particularly in relation to nearby schools and the growing health challenges faced by children. In fact, your comments align with the Council's long-standing commitment to drive

healthier eating habits (especially children) as exemplified by the H&F Food Plan - 2025 to 2030.

The Council does have planning and licensing powers to control new applications for hot food takeaways. Under current legislation, changing a premises to a hot food takeaway typically requires planning permission.

However, many of the Uxbridge Road takeaways you referenced have been operating for many years, some even since before 2008. Where an existing takeaway changes business name or food type, planning permission is not typically required. We are aware that several businesses in this area may be operating as restaurants with delivery or takeaway components. In those instances, we assess each case individually to determine whether the primary planning use is dine-in or takeaway, and we apply the appropriate regulatory scrutiny.

As we discussed at our Uxbridge Road Community event on 2 July, we are currently reviewing the Local Plan, and one of our key priorities is to strengthen our ability to limit new takeaway uses near schools and youth-focused spaces. We want to ensure planning decisions reflect public health priorities, including the vital need to address childhood obesity.

In addition to the suggested changes to our Local Plan, which we hope residents will support when it goes to public consultation, we welcome the national direction set out in the Labour Government's Planning and Infrastructure Bill. The proposed reforms will give local authorities greater powers to shape development in line with community health and wellbeing objectives. While it does not undo historical permissions, the Bill sets the foundation for tighter controls and more locally responsive planning frameworks. We intend to align our Local Plan review closely with these emerging reforms to better serve the needs of residents and protect the health of our young people.

Thank you again for your contribution to this important discussion. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the wider community as we strengthen the Council's planning and public health approach on Uxbridge Road and beyond.

Question 7

From: Malcolm Vernon, Resident

To: Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

"5 years ago there was one Cafe on the Uxbridge Road that catered to a male mostly mini-cab driving clientele. Now there are seven. The cafes are open from 7am to almost midnight. The impact on nearby residential streets of the consequent ASB from this wave of commercial vehicles and their drivers is horrendous. We can't sleep in bedrooms in the front of our houses because of the noise. We need these cafes shut by 8pm, and their customers stopped from driving into or parking in our streets. Will the council support measures to cut back on these cafes and restaurants that draw in all this traffic, or give residents the right to object to their hours and the impact on the area?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Thank you for raising these concerns, and for sharing the impact that late-night activity around Uxbridge Road is having on your quality of life. We understand how deeply disruptive persistent noise, traffic, and associated anti-social behaviour can be, particularly for residents living close to busy commercial areas.

The Town and Country Planning Regulations introduced by Boris Johnson's government in 2020 significantly changed how local authorities can regulate the use of commercial premises. Specifically, the reforms created a broad planning use class (Class E), which allows properties to move freely between functions such as retail, cafés, and restaurants without the need for Planning permission. This change has made it difficult for Councils to restrict such changes or impose operating hours through Planning legislation, limiting our ability to directly address concerns around the rapid expansion of hospitality venues.

Unless these businesses serve alcohol or provide hot food and drink between 11pm and 5am, they do not require a premises licence. However, our Licensing team can investigate individual premises if there is reason to believe they are operating outside of permitted hours. Thank you for copying me in your correspondence with your local Councillors regarding your concerns about specific venues, I have seen the response sent to you this week and see that they have rightly raised your concerns with officers, and they will continue to support you throughout.

While our powers remain constrained by current regulations, the Council welcomes the direction set out in the new *Planning and Infrastructure Bill* introduced by the Labour Government. The Bill seeks to strengthen local authority oversight and make planning policy more responsive to the character and needs of communities. The Bill includes measures to rebalance control over commercial development, such as clearer national planning policies, spatial development strategies, and enhanced tools for local decision-making. These reforms, if enacted, will better equip Councils to engage residents and respond to the kinds of issues you've highlighted along Uxbridge Road.

Your feedback is vital and very much appreciated. It will continue to inform our work as we advocate for stronger protections and seek to maintain the unique character of our neighbourhoods.

Question 8

From: Simon Julien, Resident

To: Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

Question:

"How many council homes have been sold off since Labour have been in power?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness:

The Council's has checked the records for the period from 2015 to 2005 regarding any council's homes being sold off. In this period, there has been no sales of council homes that have been initiated by the council other than in circumstances where the

buyer had a right to purchase the home under the government's Right to Buy legislation or through an affordable housing scheme where a tenants has the right to purchase their home outright.

In 2014-15 there 17 council homes sold for reasons other than the tenants right to purchase which were initiated before the current administration began.

The Council records show the practice of selling-off dwellings that the council deemed uneconomical to fix, for example after becoming vacant, or for other reasons, ended under the current administration from 2014 onwards. This practice was supported by the current administrations Defend Council Homes policy. As a council we believe in doing things with people, not to them. We want all residents to have the peace of mind that they will always be fully involved in any decisions affecting the future of their homes.

The Defend Council Homes policy was developed to make sure this happens. The policy was co-produced with council housing residents and independent legal, policy and housing experts. The policy gives council housing residents in Hammersmith & Fulham greater protection over the future of their homes and ensures residents will be fully involved in any proposals to redevelop council homes or the land around them.

Question 9

From: Victoria Eccles, Resident

To: Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Question:

"What is the Council doing to reduce the amount of rubbish and recycling dumped on the Uxbridge Rd? This is an issue contributing to the neglected and dirty appearance of this important street. Rubbish is dumped at all times of the day, contrary to Council policy, although it's not clear what exactly this is. Your website for commercial waste states it should be left out between 6pm and 10pm, the LET Littering Offence Notice says between 9pm and 6am, and the collection spot stickers and posters say by 6am - but not from when.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Public Realm:

Thank you for sharing your concerns and highlighting the importance of maintaining clean and tidy streets. We recognise that the condition of Uxbridge Road affects not only local pride, but also its appeal as a destination where residents and visitors choose to spend their time and money.

In response, the Council (and in particular, my department) is bringing forward proposals for "time-banded collections" on Uxbridge Road, which would restrict the hours during which commercial waste can be left out for collection. As required by law, and as a valuable opportunity for constructive dialogue with residents and businesses, these proposals will include consultation with all affected parties. The aim is to reduce the amount of waste left out during the day, drive better recycling rates, and enhance the overall appearance and cleanliness of the street.

The different timings quoted in your question (such as 6pm–10pm, 9pm–6am, and by 6am) reflect various guidance and requirements across Council services. For example, the 6pm–10pm period applies specifically to customers of the Council’s commercial waste service; however, businesses are not required to use this service, and no borough-wide enforceable restrictions currently exist on when commercial waste can be presented.

This is precisely why we're prioritising Uxbridge Road for time-banded collection measures. These would apply consistently across all commercial premises and improve clarity, accountability, and street cleanliness. We will keep residents and businesses informed as part of our Uxbridge Road Community engagement and as proposals and consultation progress. We hope these changes will pave the way for similar improvements elsewhere across the borough.