

# **COUNCIL MINUTES**

**BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING**

**THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021**



## PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor PJ Murphy  
Deputy Mayor Councillor Daryl Brown

### Councillors:

Colin Aherne	Rebecca Harvey	Rowan Ree
Adronie Alford	Sharon Holder	Lucy Richardson
Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler	Lisa Homan	Ann Rosenberg
Andrew Brown	Donald Johnson	Helen Rowbottom
Jonathan Caleb-Landy	Andrew Jones	Alexandra Sanderson
Iain Cassidy	Alex Karmel	Max Schmid
Ben Coleman	Bora Kwon	Asif Siddique
Adam Connell	Rachel Leighton	Fiona Smith
Christabel Cooper	Amanda Lloyd-Harris	Frances Stainton
Stephen Cowan	Mark Loveday	Dominic Stanton
Larry Culhane	Sue Macmillan	Matt Thorley
Belinda Donovan	David Morton	Matt Uberoi
Sue Fennimore	Natalia Perez	Mercy Umeh
Wesley Harcourt	Zarar Qayyum	Rory Vaughan
	Patricia Quigley	Guy Vincent

*NOTE: This meeting was held remotely*

### 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. **MINUTES**

The Mayor noted an amendment to the minutes – Councillor Frances Stainton should have been listed as being in attendance.

### **6.30pm – RESOLVED**

That the amended minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **4. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor noted that the date of Annual Council would be moving to the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 so it could be held safely before the legislation enabling remote meetings came to an end on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.

With great sadness, the Mayor informed the Council of the death of former Councillor Guy Mortimer. Mr Guy Mortimer was elected as a Conservative Councillor for Crabtree ward from 1990 to 1996. Speeches of remembrance were made by Councillors Adronie Alford and Alex Karmel. The Council observed a minute of silence in his memory.

The Mayor then expressed the Council's congratulations to Councillor Max Schmid and his wife on the birth of their son.

#### **5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)**

The questions and responses to the questions can be found in Appendix 1.

#### **6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **6.1 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2021/22**

6.57pm – The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

In accordance with Council convention, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan, and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Andrew Brown, were given unlimited time to speak on the Budget report.

Speeches on the report were also made by Councillors Rowan Ree, Helen Rowbottom, and Max Schmid (for the Administration) – and Councillor Frances Stainton (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:

<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>NOT VOTING</b>
Cllr Aherne	Cllr Alford	Cllr Murphy (Mayor)
Cllr Brown (Daryl)	Cllr Brocklebank-Fowler	
Cllr Caleb-Landy	Cllr Brown (Andrew)	
Cllr Cassidy	Cllr Donovan	
Cllr Coleman	Cllr Johnson	
Cllr Connell	Cllr Karmel	
Cllr Cooper	Cllr Lloyd-Harris	

Cllr Cowan	Cllr Loveday	
Cllr Culhane	Cllr Stainton	
Cllr Fennimore	Cllr Stanton	
Cllr Harcourt	Cllr Thorley	
Cllr Harvey		
Cllr Holder		
Cllr Homan		
Cllr Jones		
Cllr Kwon		
Cllr Leighton		
Cllr Macmillan		
Cllr Morton		
Cllr Perez		
Cllr Qayyum		
Cllr Quigley		
Cllr Ree		
Cllr Richardson		
Cllr Rosenberg		
Cllr Rowbottom		
Cllr Sanderson		
Cllr Schmid		
Cllr Smith		
Cllr Uberoi		
Cllr Umeh		
Cllr Vaughan		
Cllr Vincent		

**FOR: 33**  
**AGAINST: 11**  
**NOT VOTING: 1**

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

#### **8.42pm – RESOLVED**

That Council, for the reasons set out in the report and appendices, agree:

1. To increase the Hammersmith & Fulham element of council tax by 1.99% for 2021/22, as modelled by the government in their spending power calculations for local government.
2. To apply the “adult social care precept” levy of 3% for 2021/22, as modelled by the government in their spending power calculations for local government.
3. To set the Council’s own total net expenditure budget for 2021/22 at £124.458m.
4. To approve £7.885m of new investment on key services for residents.

5. To approve fees and charges as set out in paragraph 12 below including freezing charges in adult social care, children's services and general fund housing.
6. To note the budget projections to 2024/25 made by the Director of Finance in consultation with the Strategic Leadership Team.
7. To note the statement of the Director of Finance, under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, regarding the adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates (paragraph 48).
8. To approve the reserves strategy and realignment of reserves as set out in Appendix J and Appendix K.
9. To require all Directors to report on their projected financial position compared to their revenue estimates in accordance with the Corporate Revenue Monitoring Report timetable.
10. To authorise Directors to implement their service spending plans for 2021/22 in accordance with the recommendations within this report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, relevant Schemes of Delegation and undertake any further consultation required regarding the Equalities Impact Assessment.
11. Set the Council's element of council tax for 2021/22 for each category of dwelling, as outlined in the table below and in full in Appendix A and calculated in accordance with Sections 31A to 49B of the Localism Act 2011.

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	554.64	647.08	739.52	831.96	1,016.84	1,201.72	1,386.60	1,663.92

12. To note the element of council tax to be charged by the Greater London Authority in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings as shown in the table below.

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 £
b) GLA	242.44	282.85	323.25	363.66	444.47	525.29	606.10	727.32

13. That the overall Council Tax to be set at £1,195.62 per Band D property as follows.

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	554.64	647.08	739.52	831.96	1,016.84	1,201.72	1,386.60	1,663.92
b) GLA	242.44	282.85	323.25	363.66	444.47	525.29	606.10	727.32
<b>c) Total</b>	<b>797.08</b>	<b>929.93</b>	<b>1,062.77</b>	<b>1,195.62</b>	<b>1,461.31</b>	<b>1,727.01</b>	<b>1,992.70</b>	<b>2,391.24</b>

14. To authorise the Director of Finance 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's Scheme of Delegation.

## 6.2 Four Year Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2024/25 and Capital Strategy 2021/22

8.42pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services, Councillor Max Schmid.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Max Schmid and Andrew Jones (for the Administration) – and Councillor Andrew Brown (for the Opposition).

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote.

**FOR: 34**  
**AGAINST: 11**  
**NOT VOTING: 1**

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

## 8.54pm – RESOLVED

- To approve the four-year General Fund Capital Programme budget at £158.1m for the period 2021/22-2024/25 (presented in Table 2 and Appendix 1).
- To approve the continuation of rolling programmes for 2021/22 funded from the Council's mainstream resources. For financial modelling purposes, these programmes are assumed to continue at the same level until 2024/25:

	£m
Planned Maintenance/DDA Programme [ECD]	2.400
Footways and Carriageways [ENV]	2.030
Column Replacement [ENV]	0.346
Controlled Parking Zones [ENV]	0.275
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.051</b>

3. To delegate approval of the detailed programmes for use of the rolling programmes to the relevant SLT Director in consultation with the Director of Finance and relevant Lead Cabinet Member.
4. To note the existing mainstream funded schemes previously approved, but now reprofiled to 2021/22 and future years as detailed in Table 3.
5. To approve the four-year Housing (HRA) Capital Programme at £247.6m for the period 2021/22-2024/25 as set out in Table 5 and Appendix 1.
6. To delegate the potential application of capital receipts (up to £4.4m) under the Government's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts provisions to fund Invest to Save schemes in 2020/21 and 2021/22 (as identified in Appendix 5) and to support potential match-funding opportunities, to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services.
7. To approve an additional budget envelope of £50m, from 2021/22 onwards, to provide operational flexibility, for taking forward the major projects set out in Capital Strategy. Use of this budget will be subject to Cabinet approval, agreement of funding sources and sign-off of an appropriate business case.
8. To approve the Capital Strategy 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 4.
9. To approve the annual Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 6.

### 6.3 Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22

8.54pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services, Councillor Max Schmid.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote.

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>UNANIMOUS</b>
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

### 8.54pm – RESOLVED

1. That approval is given to the future borrowing and investment strategies as outlined in this report.
2. That the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercial Services, be delegated authority to manage the Council's cash flow, borrowing and investments in 2021/22 in line with this report.

3. In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year, to approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in this report and the revised Annual Investment Strategy set out in Appendix E.
4. That this strategy be enacted immediately following the approval given by Full Council at this meeting.

#### 6.4 **Pay Policy Statement 2021/22**

8.54pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved by the Cabinet Member for Public Services Reform, Councillor Adam Connell.

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote.

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>UNANIMOUS</b>
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

#### **8.55pm – RESOLVED**

1. That Council approve the pay policy statement for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1.
2. That Council note the benchmarking of the Council's median pay multiple against the average of other Inner London Boroughs contained in section 2.5.

#### 6.5 **Members Allowances Scheme Annual Review 2021/22**

8.55pm – The report and recommendations were formally moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Cowan.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan, Larry Culhane, and Max Schmid (for the Administration) – and Councillors Alex Karmel and Andrew Brown (for the Opposition).

The report and recommendations were then put to the vote.

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>34</b>
AGAINST:	11
NOT VOTING:	1

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

#### **9.16pm – RESOLVED**

That the Members' Allowances Scheme 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 be adopted.



6.6 **Review of the Constitution**

9.16pm – 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.

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>UNANIMOUS</b>
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

**9.17pm – RESOLVED**

1. That Council agree the updates to the Departmental Register of Authorities in Appendix 1.
2. That Council agree the updates to Contract Standing Orders in Appendix 2.

6.7 **Council Calendar of Meetings 2021/22**

9.17pm – 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.

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>UNANIMOUS</b>
AGAINST:	0
NOT VOTING:	0

The recommendations were declared **CARRIED**.

**9.17pm – RESOLVED**

That the schedule of meetings in the 2021/22 Council calendar of meetings be approved.

Meeting started: 6.30 pm  
Meeting ended: 9.18 pm

Mayor .....