

Cabinet

Minutes



Monday 15 September 2025

PRESENT

Executive Members

Councillor Stephen Cowan, Leader of the Council

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

Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology

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

Councillor Andrew Jones, Cabinet Member for The Economy

Councillor Bora Kwon, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor Zarar Qayyum, Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Skills

Councillor Rowan Ree, Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform

Councillor Frances Umeh, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

Other Councillors

Councillors Natalia Perez, Callum Nimmo, Lisa Homan, Max Schmid, Jose Afonso, and Adronie Alford

Officers

Sharon Lea, Chief Executive

Grant Deg, Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Bram Kainth, Executive Director of Place

David Abbott, Head of Governance

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

Councillor Andrew Jones attended the meeting remotely. During decision items he did not participate in the discussion or vote.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 July 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PETITION 'FIX UXBRIDGE ROAD, NO MORE NEGLECT, NO MORE CRIME'

Councillor Stephen Cowan, Leader of the Council and Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the lead petitioner to address Cabinet.

The lead petitioner addressed the meeting and made the following points:

- The Council had invested heavily in placemaking in other areas of the borough, but not Uxbridge Road.
- The Council had not adequately enforced planning and licensing rules in the area.
- The area suffered from crime and anti-social behaviour, partly as a result of the lack of enforcement.
- There was a proliferation of fast food / friend chicken shops, betting shops, and 2-in-1 shops. A survey carried out by the petitioner showed 79% of residents were dissatisfied with the shops, cafés, and businesses on Uxbridge Road.
- Cluttered street furniture, uneven surfaces, and litter made it difficult to navigate for people, particularly people in wheelchairs and those with vision or mobility issues.
- She asked that the Council invest in the area, enforce planning and licensing guidelines, support a greater diversity of shops, and build a clean and safe area for residents.

The Leader thanked the lead petitioner for her comments. He said Uxbridge Road was an important area for the Council, with a number of Councillors living on or around the road. He understood there were strong views about improvements and the Council was keen to listen and understand. He said the Council would be working with residents' groups across the borough, including in Uxbridge Road, to improve local streets.

The Leader then asked to discuss each of the points the petitioner had raised in more detail.

The Leader discussed the removal of telephone boxes with the lead petitioner. Bram Kainth (Executive Director of Place) noted that the Council had to work with BT to make changes and BT had agreed to remove seven boxes. He said the Council was also in conversation with New World Payphones about removing a further eight boxes. He said the Council was negotiating to remove the boxes but would take legal action if necessary. The Leader asked officers to write to the lead petitioner about the process and timescales.

ACTION: Bram Kainth

The Leader then discussed the issue of betting shops. the lead petitioner felt there should not be any betting shops next to a primary school and two places of worship. She said the Council should revoke their licenses under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

The Leader said he agreed with the lead petitioner in principle, but the Council had sought legal advice and had been told that it did not have the power to close betting shops. Attempts to limit gambling establishments or revoke their licences had led to legal challenges. The Council had worked with other authorities and written to the Government to request additional powers to tackle this issue.

The lead petitioner said Joe Powell MP had successfully opposed two betting shops in Kensington and Bayswater. Officers said they would look into this and share any findings with residents.

ACTION: Bram Kainth

The Leader then discussed the issue of fast-food establishments on Uxbridge Road. The lead petitioner noted there were 13 fried chicken shops on Uxbridge Road, a number of them with low food standards ratings. She wanted the Council to take a more robust approach to enforcement and noted other authorities had found success in this area, including Tower Hamlets and Hackney. Bram Kaith said officers would explore the approaches taken by those Councils.

ACTION: Bram Kainth

A resident asked if the Council could restrict the opening times of fast-food shops. The Leader said the Council had aimed to restrict opening times but action taken in that area had been contested. He said it was difficult to challenge them legally.

The Leader and the lead petitioner then discussed crime and disorder. The lead petitioner said there was anti-social behaviour on the road, including problems with drug addicts, loitering, and men staring at women.

The Leader said the Council wanted robust police enforcement, but the police had endured significant budget cuts since 2010, and police in Hammersmith were often pulled into large police events in Westminster. In response, the Council had created the Law Enforcement Team, comprised of 72 officers, to put a presence on the streets and support the police. He noted that the borough also had the best CCTV coverage in the Country, and had a unique Gangs Unit with specialists to deal with drug dealing gangs. Councillor Rebecca Harvey (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety) added that the Council had also introducing a public spaces protection order (PSPO) prohibiting street harassment across the borough.

A resident commented that street clutter forced people into close contact with men on the street. The lead petitioner commented that a significant contributing factor to the clutter was unlicensed A-boards. Bram Kainth explained that shops were entitled to put A-boards and other items on their own forecourt, but where they encroached on to the pavement, enforcement action would be taken. The Leader asked for a survey of A-boards on Uxbridge Road and whether they were on public or private property.

ACTION: Bram Kainth

The lead petitioner said the issue was broader than the technicalities of what was allowed under the current rules. She said street clutter meant people could not walk down the road comfortably. She said the pavements were narrow and clutter such as trolleys, rubbish, A-boards, and stalls made it difficult to navigate – especially for those with disabilities and mobility issues. She felt the Council should widen the pavements or find another solution where that was not possible.

The Leader said the Council would take enforcement actions where possible but had to follow the law. He said the Council wanted more active travel and wider pavements fit with the Council's 2030 strategy. He said the Council wanted to work with residents and have them lead the public consultation to see if there was consensus. However, there were limits on the Council's budget and it may be necessary to raise money from other sources.

ACTION: Bram Kainth

A resident addressed the meeting and said she faced issues crossing the road with her disabled child in a wheelchair. She noted there was clutter on the pavement and not all shops had level access. She asked for more dropped curbs to enable safe crossings. She also said anti-social behaviour in bus stops and clutter in the road meant busses could not always stop in the right place to put ramps out for wheelchair users. She also raised the issue of illegal parking in the area. The Leader said he would get her details and look into the case. Councillor Rowan Ree (Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform) said this issue had been raised and discussed at a recent public meeting and the Council had agreed to make curb modifications and change parking restrictions. He offered to discuss this in more detail with the resident after the meeting.

Councillor Ree agreed that a declutter of the road would help, alongside general improvements to the public realm. He recognised that anti-social behaviour was an important issue for residents and said while it was primarily a police matter, the Council could support with additional Law Enforcement Team patrols.

The lead petitioner moved on to the issue of shopfronts, which she felt needed significant improvements. She noted other areas had spent money to improve shopfronts and objected to the Council paying for painted murals on illegal shutters. Bram Kainth said the Council had commissioned architects to look at what was possible. Officers had also commissioned a feasibility study for a local Business Improvement District that could raise money for improvements. He said the shutters were not unlawful, but the Council advised against them.

The Leader said he would work with officers to look into the issue of shutter enforcement.

ACTION: Bram Kainth

The lead petitioner questioned why repainting the railway bridge had been taking so long despite a public commitment earlier in the year. Bram Kainth said the bridge was the responsibility of Transport for London so any works had to be done with their agreement.

The lead petitioner discussed issues with the temporary bike lane, including bollards being removed for illegal parking. Councillor Florian Chevoppe-Verdier said the Council's long-term plan was for a permanent separated cycle lane that was safer and would make enforcement clearer, though he was mindful of the impact on businesses so there would also be loading bays and temporary shopper bays nearby. Residents asked about the timescales for the permanent cycle lane. The Leader said the Cabinet Member and Ward Councillors would be happy to work with residents on that.

A resident asked if the Council could share the architect's visions for Uxbridge Road. Bram Kainth highlighted the importance of a clear vision for the road, developed in co-production with residents and businesses. He said officers were working on an options report which could be shared with residents.

ACTION: Bram Kainth

The Leader asked the lead petitioner if she would be willing to join a residents' working group, to which she agreed.

The Leader brought the item to a close and thanked the lead petitioner, the Uxbridge Road residents, and Ward Councillors for attending and for their contributions.

RESOLVED

1. That Cabinet noted the petition included at Appendix A of the report.
2. That Cabinet noted the actions summarised in the report.

5. CCTV AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - NEW INNOVATIONS AND IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE TO HELP COMBAT CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Councillor Rebecca Harvey (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety) introduced the item that sought approval for £3.2 million be invested to enhance the Council's extensive CCTV network with advanced technologies, including live and retrospective facial recognition, AI-assisted cameras, and upgraded physical infrastructure to improve crime detection and prevention, as well as additional cameras in parks.

Councillor Jose Afonso said the Opposition generally supported the approach in the report. He asked if the AI enabled cameras were new or if the technology would be applied to existing cameras. The Leader said the Council was looking at replacing some existing cameras and introducing new cameras.

Councillor Afonso asked how many people would be on duty watching the network at any one time. The Leader explained that utilising AI technology would enhance the current service without requiring additional officers on duty.

RESOLVED

1. That Cabinet approved a £3.2m CCTV Capital Investment from 2025/26 to 2027/28 to deliver the additional CCTV cameras, technological advances and additional capabilities outlined in the report.
2. That Cabinet approved the use of drones as an enforcement aid and for additional surveillance via conducting a trial if approval is obtained from the Civil Aviation Authority.

6. INTRODUCTION OF A NEW PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER TO TACKLE CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Councillor Rebecca Harvey (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety) introduced the report which outlined details of a new PSPO under consultation that sought to prohibit professional and persistent begging, loitering and anti-social behaviour, and wearing face coverings to conceal identity (with exemptions). She noted the report also sought to approve a communications campaign designed to encourage residents to report crime and anti-social behaviour to make the borough safer.

RESOLVED

1. That Cabinet acknowledged the consultation that was taking place on the new PSPO with the following measures to tackle ASB:-
 - Professional beggars, and aggressive and/or persistent begging
 - Congregating or gathering in groups (of two or more) engaged in anti-social behaviour
 - Wearing face coverings to conceal identity (with exemptions)
2. That Cabinet approved a communication campaign to increase residents trust and confidence in reporting crimes and anti-social behaviour.

7. TRANSFORMATION OF PLAYGROUNDS AND OTHER PLAY FACILITIES

Councillors Florian Chevoppe-Verdier (Cabinet Member for Public Realm) and Frances Umeh (Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness) introduced the report which set out a 3-year, £8.3m improvement programme to transform play facilities in the borough.

A resident who had engaged with the Council on this issue addressed the meeting and thanked the Cabinet Members for the investment proposed in the report. She spoke about the positive impact that improved playgrounds would have for families and children, and local businesses near playgrounds. The Leader said this was just the beginning and the Council intended to invest more in the coming years.

Councillor Bora Kwon (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health) noted that improving play was an important public health issue. She said in her previous role as Cabinet Member for Civic Renewal she did a lot of work with officers to bring private

investment into the borough's green spaces and suggested that be highlighted in the public papers for the next tranche of projects.

RESOLVED

1. To invest £8.3 million into a three-year programme of improvement works to deliver an enhanced high-quality playground offer across LBHF, including developing exemplar playgrounds in our major parks of Ravenscourt Park and Bishops Park. Working with the Housing Department to make sure the play offers in both Housing and Parks is coordinated.
2. To establish a Play Forum to advise on the proposed changes and priorities, ensuring the programme is co-produced with local communities and there is a coordinated approach with schools, housing, and other providers of play in LBHF.

8. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2025

Councillor Alex Sanderson (Deputy Leader) introduced the report on the Youth Justice Plan which set out how the Council would work with partnership agencies and local communities to keep children and young people safe and support them to reach their full potential.

RESOLVED

1. That Cabinet endorsed the contents of the report and attached Youth Justice Plan for approval by Full Council.

9. ANNUAL REVIEW OF HOUSING SAFETY COMPLIANCE 2024/25

Councillor Frances Umeh (Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness) introduced the report which provided an update on the safety compliance position of Housing for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. She noted that Housing performance across the six core areas (gas, electric, lifts, fire, water and asbestos) reported 100% compliance for five of the six areas on 31 March 2025. Councillor Umeh said the Housing department was committed to robust assurance, transparency, and continuous improvement with resident engagement at its heart.

Councillor Adronie Alford said she was pleased to see the improvements in performance but noted that electrical safety compliance was at 97% and asked the Council to continue to push for 100%. Councillor Umeh agreed and said the ambition was to achieve 100% compliance.

The Chair thanked Councillor Umeh and Housing officers for the impressive turnaround in compliance performance.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

1. Feedback on the annual review of Housing Safety Compliance for 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
2. Noted the work strands of Housing Safety Compliance that had been delivered and continues to occur across Housing as set out in the report.

10. REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT 2024/25

Councillor Rowan Ree (Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform) introduced the report which set out the revenue outturn position for the Council across the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account for the 2024/25 financial year. He noted that the Council had delivered a surplus of £420k for the General Fund and £477k for the Housing Revenue Account because of its ruthlessly financially efficient approach.

Councillor Adronie Alford said she was glad to see progress on the Housing Revenue Account.

RESOLVED

1. That Cabinet noted the General Fund underspend of £0.420m, and an underspend of £0.476m on the Housing Revenue Account for 2024/25.
2. That Cabinet noted the transfer of the net underspend balances for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account to their respective general balances (as set out in paragraph 3 and 6 below of the report).
3. That Cabinet noted the increase of the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block deficit and the remaining cumulative deficit of £2.529m.

11. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITOR AND BUDGET VARIATIONS, 2024/25 (OUTTURN)

Councillor Rowan Ree (Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform) introduced the report that set out the details of the capital programme outturn for the financial year 2024/25. He noted the total spend of £235m on projects to make the borough better, including significant investments in the public realm, housing, and the UK's most comprehensive CCTV network.

RESOLVED

1. That Cabinet noted the capital outturn for the year of £253.1m.
2. That Cabinet approved the proposed budget variations to the capital programme (2024/25 to 2027/28) as summarised in Tables 1 and 5 and detailed in Appendix 1.

3. That Cabinet approved an additional £5m budget in relation to pre-agreed works within the Housing Revenue Account asset and compliance programme, funded from Housing Revenue Account borrowing.
4. To note the additional budget as approved by Full Council on 7th October 2024 for the Hammersmith Town Hall refurbishment, funded from General Fund borrowing.

12. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2024/25

Councillor Rowan Ree (Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform) introduced the report which set out the Council's Treasury Management Outturn for 2024/25. He noted that the Council operated within the Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators during 2024/25 and met all its prudential indicators. He also highlighted £1.5m raised for local climate projects through H&F Green Investment.

RESOLVED

1. That Cabinet noted the Treasury Management Outturn Report for 2024/25.

13. LBHF COMPANIES UPDATE

Councillor Rowan Ree (Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform) introduced the report which provided and update on the Council's three active limited companies and two joint ventures.

RESOLVED

1. That Cabinet noted that Appendices 1-6 were not for publication on the basis that they contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as set out in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
2. That Cabinet noted the status of the companies.

14. REVENUE BUDGET REVIEW 2025/26 - MONTH 2 (MAY 2025)

Councillor Rowan Ree (Cabinet Member for Finance and Reform) introduced the report which presented the revenue monitoring position for 2025/26 at Month 2 (May 2025).

Councillor Adronie Alford raised concerns about higher numbers of people, particularly children, in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. Councillor Rowan Ree said there was a transformation programme in the Housing Solutions team to address this and the housing company mentioned in the previous report gave the Council more flexibility to build housing capacity. The Leader added that it was a

political problem caused by a lack of affordable and social housing. He said children growing up in unstable housing and having to move frequently was a serious problem which the Renters' Rights legislation should help, but ultimately more housing was needed to solve the root of the problem.

RESOLVED

1. To note the General Fund financial forecast variance at Month 2 (Table 1 and Appendix 1).
2. To note progress on delivering the 2025/26 agreed budget savings (Appendix 3).
3. To note the HRA forecast (paragraph section 11 to 13 and Appendix 2).
4. To note and approve the budget movements (virements) (Appendix 4).

15. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

The Key Decision List was noted.

16. DISCUSSION OF EXEMPT ELEMENTS (IF REQUIRED)

There was no discussion of exempt elements.

Meeting started: 7.08 pm
Meeting ended: 9.57 pm

Chair