

COUNCIL MINUTES

(BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2010



PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor Alex Karmel
Deputy Mayor Councillor Adronie Alford

Councillors:

Colin Aherne	Gavin Donovan	Mark Loveday
Helen Binmore	Rachel Ford	Reg McLaughlin
Nicholas Botterill	Sarah Gore	Lisa Nandy
Paul Bristow	Stephen Greenhalgh	Harry Phibbs
Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler	Lucy Gugen	Sally Powell
Aiden Burley	Steve Hamilton	Minnie Scott Russell
Jean Campbell	Wesley Harcourt	Greg Smith
Michael Cartwright	Lisa Homan	Frances Stainton
Alex Chalk	Robert Iggulden	Peter Tobias
Stephen Cowan	Lucy Ivimy	Mercy Umeh
Oliver Craig	Donald Johnson	Rory Vaughan
Gill Dickenson	Jane Law	Eugenie White
Belinda Donovan	Ali de Lisle	

39. MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting and the Special Council Meeting held on 27 January 2010 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caroline Ffiske, Ed Owen and Andrew Johnson.

41. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

The Mayor's Announcements were circulated and tabled at the meeting. (Copy attached as **Appendix 1** to these minutes).

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Mayor advised Councillors that, in relation to agenda item 6.4 – ‘Councillors’ Allowances Scheme: Annual Review’, the Standards Board had advised that it was necessary for all Councillors to declare their allowances as personal interests under the Code of Conduct. In order to manage this with the minimum of disruption, all Councillors present in the Chamber would be deemed as having declared a personal interest in this item (unless the Councillor objects), and this fact would be duly noted and recorded in the minutes. This was agreed unanimously.

43. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)

There were no public questions.

44. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS (IF ANY)

44.1 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2010/11

7.03pm - The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

In accordance with Council convention, the Leader of the Administration, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh, and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Stephen Cowan, were then given unlimited time to speak on the Budget report. Councillor Reg McLaughlin also made a speech on behalf of the Opposition.

Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh (for the Administration) made a speech winding up the debate. The report and recommendations were put to the vote. On a motion from the floor that names be recorded, a roll-call vote was taken.

FOR 27

(Alford, Binmore, Botterill, Bristow, Brocklebank-Fowler, Burley, Chalk, Craig, Donovan (B), Donovan (G), Ford, Gore, Greenhalgh, Gugen, Hamilton, Iggulden, Ivimy, Johnson (D), Law, de Lisle, Loveday, Phibbs, Scott-Russell, Smith, Stainton, Tobias and White)

AGAINST 0
ABSTENTIONS 13

(Aherne, Campbell, Cartwright, Cowan, Dickenson, Harcourt, Homan, McLaughlin, Nandy, Powell, Umeh, Vaughan, The Mayor)

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

7.54pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the Council Tax decrease, for the Hammersmith & Fulham element, of 3% for 2010/11. For planning purposes, there will be no change for 2011/12 and 2012/13.
2. The Council Tax be set for 2010/11 for each category of dwelling, as calculated in accordance with Sections 30 to 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as outlined below and in full in Appendix A:
 - (a) The element of Council Tax charged for Hammersmith & Fulham Council will be £811.78 per Band D property in 2010/11;
 - (b) The element of Council Tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £309.82 per Band D property in 2010/11;
 - (c) The overall Council Tax to be set will be £1,121.60 per Band D property in 2010/11;

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	541.19	631.38	721.58	811.78	992.18	1,172.57	1,352.97	1,623.56
b)GLA	206.55	240.97	275.40	309.82	378.67	447.52	516.37	619.64
c)Total (Draft)	747.74	872.35	996.98	1,121.60	1,370.85	1,620.09	1,869.34	2,243.20

3. The Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2010/11 is set as £184.345m;
4. That fees and charges are approved as set out in paragraph 5.1;
5. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services' budget projections to 2012/13 be noted;
6. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services' statements under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 regarding adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates be noted (paragraphs 6 and 7);
7. That the Director of Finance and Corporate Services be authorised 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;
8. That all Chief Officers be required to report monthly on their projected financial position compared to their revenue estimates (as part of the Corporate Monitoring Report);

9. That all Chief Officers be authorised to implement their service spending plans for 2010/11 in accordance with the recommendations within this report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and relevant Schemes of Delegation.

44.2 Treasury Management Strategy

7.55pm - The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

The report and recommendation was put to the vote:

FOR	27
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	12

The report and recommendation was declared **CARRIED.**

7.55pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. To adopt the new CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice, with effect from 1st April 2010;
2. To adopt the Treasury Management Policy Statement and clauses as per paragraphs 2 and 3 of the report;
3. To approve the future borrowing and investment strategies;
4. In relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year 2010/11, approve the Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 3 of this report;
5. To approve the methodology for establishing credit criteria;
6. To delegate future amendments to the credit criteria methodology to Cabinet.

44.3 Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2014/15

7.56 pm - The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

The report and recommendation was put to the vote:

FOR	27
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	12

The report and recommendation was declared **CARRIED.**

7.56pm - **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve that the General Fund Capital Programme is £32.768m for 2010/11;
2. To approve that any new receipts which exceed the target of £2.5m per annum be set aside for debt redemption;
3. To approve new borrowing, up to the level of the minimum revenue provision, from 2011/12 onwards;
4. To approve that 25% of future receipts generated for the decent neighbourhoods programme be used to support general capital investment;
5. To approve the following initiatives within the capital programme:
 - The continuation of the rolling programmes for Corporate Planned Maintenance (£2.5m), repairs to carriageways and footways (£2.1m), private sector housing grants (£0.45m) and Disabled Access Works (£0.25m);
 - The establishment of new rolling programmes for Parks Investment (£0.5m), IT infrastructure (£0.8m) and a contribution to the Invest to Save Fund (£0.75m).
6. To note that use of the new rolling programmes will be subject to a formal evaluation process;
7. To approve, subject to agreement of the overall programme, prudential borrowing of £5.6m regarding Building Schools for the Future;
8. To note the level of resource forecast (Table 5) and indicative expenditure for the decent neighbourhoods programme as detailed in Appendix 2.
9. To note the level of resource forecast and indicative expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account as detailed in Appendix 3;
10. To approve that the capital contingency of £2.5m and unused sums regarding the reserve set aside for Imperial Wharf be placed in a capital reserve;
11. To approve the prudential indicators as set out in Appendix 4 to the report;
12. To approve the following annual Minimum Revenue Provision: (Appendix 5);
 - For debt which is supported through Formula Grant this authority will calculate the Minimum Revenue Provision in accordance with current regulations (namely 4% of the Capital Financing requirement net of adjustment A).

- For debt which has arisen through prudential borrowing it should be written down in equal instalments over the estimated asset life. The debt write-off will commence the year after an asset comes into use.

44.4 Councillors' Allowances Scheme: Annual Review

7.57pm - The report and recommendation was moved for adoption by the Leader, Councillor Stephen Greenhalgh.

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0

The report and recommendation was declared **CARRIED.**

7.57pm - **RESOLVED:**

That the Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2010/11, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved with all allowances frozen at the levels agreed in May 2008.

45. SPECIAL MOTIONS

There were no special motions.

46. INFORMATION REPORTS - TO NOTE (IF ANY)

There were no information reports to this meeting of the Council.

* * * * * CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS * * * * *

46.1 Special Urgency Decisions - Monitoring Report

7.58pm - The Mayor noted the information report on special urgency decisions taken between 1 October 2009 to 31 January 2010.

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 8.00 pm

Mayor

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY
THE MAYOR**

1. On 28th January 2010, accompanied by my Mayoress, I was delighted to attend the Gold Standard 'Botanical Art' exhibition preview evening a collaboration between Fulham Palace and the Royal Horticultural Society, Fulham Palace, SW6.
2. On 29th January, I welcomed a group of HammersmithLondon (BID) 'Walker's' to Hammersmith Town Hall and conducted a tour of the building, including a display of the Mayoral Robes, the Maces and the Regalia, HTH.
3. On 30th January, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended Fulham Court TRA Launch event, Fulham Court Community Hall, SW6.
4. On 3rd February, I was delighted to attend H&F Sports Development Team press opportunity to launch London Youth Games 2010, Chelsea Football Club, Stamford Bridge, SW6.
5. On 4th February, I was delighted to welcome the Serbian Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Dejan Popovic to the Borough and speak at the Serbian society book collection launch, Fulham Library, SW6.
6. On 10th February, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended the Balfour Beatty London Youth Games, Borough Grant Awards evening, One Whitehall Place, SW1.
7. On 11th February, accompanied by my Mayoress, I was delighted to attend the official opening by actress, Anna Friel, of Vue Westfield, Europe's largest all-digital Cinema, Westfield London Shopping Centre, W12.
8. On 12th February, accompanied by my Mayoress, I attended The Schola Foundation Charity concert, with performances by The Priests and London Oratory School, The Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, SW1.
9. On 15th February, I attended The Republic of Serbia, 'National and Armed Forces Day' celebrations, Embassy of Serbia, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1.
10. On 15th February, I was delighted to host a presentation evening for Albert and Friends Instant Circus, who were winners at the New Years Day Parade 2010, winning £1000 in aid of my chosen charity, Help For Heroes, Mayor's Parlour, HTH.
11. On 16th February, I attended 'Naz Project' opening of their new office in Hammersmith, Open House, 30 Blacks Road, W6.
12. On 16th February, I attended a reception to celebrate the 'Year of the Tiger' The Banqueting House, Whitehall, SW1A.

13. On 23rd February, I attended H&F Youth Parliament Elections, Mayor's parlour, HTH.
14. On 23rd February, I attended the first of two H&F schools' Skittleball Championships 2010, Assembly Hall, HTH.
15. On 24th February, I attended the second H&F schools' Skittleball Championships 2010, Assembly Hall, HTH.
16. Since 3rd February, I have attended three Citizenship Ceremonies during which, I presented each citizen with their official certificate, Council Chamber, FTH.