

COUNCIL MINUTES

(BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2014



PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor Frances Stainton
Deputy Mayor Councillor Adronie Alford

Councillors:

Michael Adam	Oliver Craig	Alex Karmel
Colin Aherne	Tom Crofts	Mark Loveday
Helen Binmore	Charlie Dewhirst	PJ Murphy
Nicholas Botterill	Belinda Donovan	Caroline Needham
Victoria Brocklebank-Fowler	Rachel Ford	Harry Phibbs
Andrew Brown	Marcus Ginn	Sally Powell
Daryl Brown	Peter Graham	Max Schmid
Joe Carlebach	Steve Hamilton	Greg Smith
Michael Cartwright	Wesley Harcourt	Matt Thorley
Alex Chalk	Lisa Homan	Peter Tobias
Elaine Chumnerly	Robert Iggulden	Mercy Umeh
Iain Coleman	Lucy Ivimy	Rory Vaughan
Georgie Cooney	Andrew Johnson	
Stephen Cowan	Andrew Jones	

34. MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 January 2014 were confirmed and signed as an accurate record.

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gavin Donovan, Ali De Lisle and Jane Law.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Elaine Chumnerly, Robert Iggulden and PJ Murphy.

35. MAYOR'S/CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In response to a request from a member of the public, the Mayor reminded the Gallery to respect where members of the public ask not to be photographed.

The Leader gave a speech thanking the Councillors who would not be standing for re-election in May. He paid tribute to Councillors Helen Binmore, Alex Chalk, Iain Coleman, Georgie Cooney, Oliver Craig, Ali De Lisle, Gavin Donovan, Robert Iggulden, Sally Powell and Peter Tobias. Councillor Cowan, Leader of the Opposition, gave a speech thanking the outgoing Opposition Councillors. Councillor Sally Powell addressed the Chamber, giving a speech outlining her time on the Council.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

37. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (20 MINUTES)

There were no public questions received.

38. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

38.1 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2014/15

7.35pm - The report and recommendations were moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholas Botterill.

In accordance with Council convention, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholas Botterill, and the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Stephen Cowan, were given unlimited time to speak on the Budget report. Speeches on the report were also made by Councillors Helen Binmore, Marcus Ginn and Greg Smith (for the Administration) and Councillors Andrew Jones, Max Schmid and Lisa Homan (for the Opposition).

Councillor Nicholas Botterill (for the Administration) made a speech winding up the debate. The report and recommendations were put to the vote and a roll-call was requested:

FOR

ADAM
ALFORD
BINMORE
BOTTERILL
BROCKLEBANK-FOWLER
BROWN (A)
CARLEBACH
CHALK
COONEY
CRAIG
CROFTS
DEWHIRST
DONOVAN (B)
FORD
GINN

NOT VOTING

AHERNE
BROWN (D)
CARTWRIGHT
CHUMNERY
COWAN
HARCOURT
HOMAN
JONES
MURPHY
NEEDHAM
SCHMID
UMEH
VAUGHAN

GRAHAM
HAMILTON
IGGULDEN
IVIMY
JOHNSON (A)
KARMEL
LOVEDAY
PHIBBS
SMITH
STANTON
THORLEY
TOBIAS

FOR 27
AGAINST 0
NOT VOTING 13

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

9.19pm **RESOLVED**:

- (1) That approval be given to a 3% 2014/15 council tax reduction for the Hammersmith & Fulham element.
- (2) That the council tax be set for 2014/15 for each category of dwelling, as calculated in accordance with Sections 31A to 49B of the Localism Act 2011, as outlined below and in full in Appendix A:
 - (a) The element of council tax charged for Hammersmith & Fulham Council will be £735.16 per Band D property in 2014/15.
 - (b) The element of council tax charged by the Greater London Authority will be £299.00 per Band D property in 2014/15.
 - (c) The overall Council Tax to be set at £1,034.16 per Band D property in 2014/15.

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	490.11	571.79	653.48	735.16	898.53	1,061.90	1,225.27	1,470.32
b) GLA	199.33	232.56	265.78	299.00	365.44	431.89	498.33	598.00
c) Total	689.44	804.35	919.26	1,034.16	1,263.97	1,493.79	1,723.60	2,068.32

- (3) That the Council's own total net expenditure budget for 2014/15 is set at £172.033m.

- (4) That fees and charges are approved as set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report.
- (5) That the budget projections made by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance to 2016/17 be noted.
- (6) That the statement made by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 regarding the adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates be noted (section 14 of the report).
- (7) That the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance 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 Executive Directors 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 Executive Directors be authorised to implement their service spending plans for 2014/15 in accordance with the recommendations within the report and the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and relevant Schemes of Delegation.
- (10) Members' attention is drawn to S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which requires any Member, who is two months or more in arrears on their Council Tax, to declare their position and not to vote on any issue that could affect the calculation of the budget or Council Tax.
- (11) That the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance be authorised to implement the business rates retail relief scheme as proposed by the Government.

38.2 Four Year Capital Programme 2014/15 to 2017/18

9.20pm - The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholas Botterill.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors Stephen Cowan and Caroline Needham (for the Opposition) and Councillor Nicholas Botterill (for the Administration).

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	26
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	13

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

9.28pm **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the General Fund Capital Programme budget at £49.3m for 2014/15 (Table 4 of the report) be approved.
- (2) That the continuation of the reduction in CFR which based on current forecasts will reduce to £66.5m by 31 March 2015 be noted.
- (3) In respect of capital receipts for 2014/15 to:
 - approve the application of £9.5m capital receipts to the reduction of CFR (Table 2 of the report).
 - approve the continuation of the rolling programme schemes funded from capital receipts amounting to £6.23m set out in Table 5 of the report.
 - approve capital receipts funded schemes within Decent Neighbourhoods Programme (Housing and Regeneration) for 2014/15 as follows:
 - Housing Revenue Account projects £25.8m;
 - Decent Neighbourhoods projects £42.7m.This totals £68.5m per Table 6b.
 - note existing capital receipts funded schemes (approved in 2013/14) but now scheduled for 2014/15 are as follows:
 - The Schools Capital Programme £6.6m;
 - Grants to Social Landlords (Hostel Improvement) £60K;
 - Relocation of HAFAD^[1] to Edward Woods Community Centre and Related Refurbishment Requirements £308K.
- (4) That the Decent Neighbourhoods Programme for 2014/15 as set out in Table 6a (section 7), including the indicative capital expenditure budget 2014/15 of £91.6m funded from capital receipts of £68.5m with the remainder of £23.1m funded from other sources (also included within the programme is the budget envelope of £48.4m for 2014/15 for investment in existing Council Homes via the HRA Capital Programme), be approved.
- (5) That the annual Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement for 2014/15 in Appendix 5 of the report be approved.
- (6) That the CIPFA^[2] Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix 6 of the report be approved.

^[1] Hammersmith & Fulham Action for Disability

^[2] Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA)

38.3 Treasury Management Strategy Report 2014/15

9.29pm - The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholas Botterill.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillor Stephen Cowan (for the Opposition) and Councillor Nicholas Botterill (for the Administration), before being put to the vote:

FOR	26
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	13

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

9.33pm **RESOLVED**:

- (1) That approval be given to the future borrowing and investment strategies as outlined in the report and that the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance be authorised to arrange the Council's cashflow, borrowing and investments in 2014/15.
- (2) That in relation to the Council's overall borrowing for the financial year, the comments and the Prudential Indicators as set out in the report be noted.
- (3) That approval be given to pay the HRA investment income on unapplied HRA receipts and other HRA cash balances calculated at the average rate of interest earned on temporary investments with effect from 1 April 2014.

38.4 Members' Allowances Scheme: Annual Review

9.34pm - The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholas Botterill.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors PJ Murphy and Stephen Cowan (for the Opposition) and Councillor Mark Loveday (for the Administration).

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	26
AGAINST	0
NOT VOTING	13

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

9.44pm **RESOLVED**:

That the Members' Allowances Scheme 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be adopted.

38.5 Pay Policy of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham 2014/15

9.45pm - The report and recommendations were formally moved for adoption by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholas Botterill.

Speeches on the report were made by Councillors PJ Murphy and Stephen Cowan (for the Opposition) and Councillor Nicholas Botterill (for the Administration).

The report and recommendations were put to the vote:

FOR	27
AGAINST	13
NOT VOTING	0

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

9.54pm **RESOLVED**:

- (1) That the pay policy for 2014/15 as set out in the report be approved.
- (2) That the pay schemes attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the pay policy, be endorsed.

39. INFORMATION REPORTS - TO NOTE (IF ANY)

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

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

Meeting started: 7.00 pm
Meeting ended: 9.55 pm

Mayor