



HILLINGDON
LONDON



Council

To all Members of the Council

Date: THURSDAY, 22 FEBRUARY
2024

Time: 7.30 PM

Venue: COUNCIL CHAMBER -
CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH
STREET, UXBRIDGE UB8
1UW

**Meeting
Details:** Members of the Public and
Press are welcome to attend
this meeting

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Published: Wednesday, 14 February
2024

Contact: Lloyd White, Head of
Democratic Services

Email: democratic@hillington.gov.uk

Putting our residents first

Lloyd White
Head of Democratic Services
London Borough of Hillingdon,
Phase II, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

Useful information for residents and visitors

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Those attending should be aware that the Council will film and record proceedings for both official record and resident digital engagement in democracy.



It is recommended to give advance notice of filming to ensure any particular requirements can be met. The Council will provide seating areas for residents/public, high speed WiFi access to all attending and an area for the media to report. When present in the room, silent mode should be enabled for all mobile devices.

Travel and parking

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Agenda

Prayers

To be said by Imam Md Sirajul Islam.

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes 1 - 8
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2024 (*attached*)
- 3 Declarations of Interest
To note any declarations of interest in any matter before the Council
- 4 Mayor's Announcements
- 5 Report of the Head of Democratic Services 9 - 18
- 6 General Fund Revenue Budget, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme 2024 / 2025 19 - 26

To consider the recommendations of Cabinet which will be published, once agreed. The report to Cabinet is available in the Group Offices, on request to the Head of Democratic Services or online at:

[London Borough of Hillingdon - Agenda for CABINET on Thursday, 15th February, 2024, 7.00 pm](#)

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 will apply to the recommendations of this item. Any Member who is more than two months in arrears with their Council Tax or has arrears of Council Tax must declare that fact and not vote on this item.

Budget Conflict Resolution Procedures – Council is asked to consider the Cabinet’s proposals. It may adopt the proposals, submit objections to Cabinet or invite the Cabinet to make amendments specified by Council. If Council votes to object to the Cabinet proposals or to invite Cabinet to make amendments, then the Conflict Resolution Procedure will come into operation.

The Council meeting will be adjourned while a special meeting of the Cabinet is held, after which the Council will resume and consider any revised proposals submitted by the Cabinet or the reasons why the Cabinet disagrees with Council’s objections or proposed amendments. The budget would then be open for debate and amendment until a final decision is made.

Members are asked to note that, in accordance with the Local

Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, recorded votes will be taken at the annual budget setting meeting on any motion, amendment to motion or substantive motion regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme.



Minutes

COUNCIL

18 January 2024

Meeting held at Council Chamber - Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW

Councillor Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana (Mayor)
Councillor Colleen Sullivan (Deputy Mayor)

	<p>MEMBERS PRESENT:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Councillors: Kaushik Banerjee</td> <td>Scott Farley</td> <td>Gursharan Mand</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labina Basit</td> <td>Janet Gardner</td> <td>Stuart Mathers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kishan Bhatt</td> <td>Elizabeth Garelick</td> <td>Douglas Mills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jonathan Bianco</td> <td>Narinder Garg</td> <td>Richard Mills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wayne Bridges</td> <td>Tony Gill</td> <td>June Nelson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tony Burles</td> <td>Martin Goddard</td> <td>Barry Nelson-West</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Keith Burrows</td> <td>Ekta Gohil</td> <td>Susan O'Brien</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reeta Chamdal</td> <td>Becky Haggard OBE</td> <td>Jane Palmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roy Chamdal</td> <td>Henry Higgins</td> <td>Sital Punja</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farhad Choubedar</td> <td>Mohammed Islam</td> <td>Raju Sansarpuri</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philip Corthorne</td> <td>Rita Judge</td> <td>Jagjit Singh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Curling</td> <td>Kamal Preet Kaur</td> <td>Peter Smallwood</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Darran Davies</td> <td>Kuldeep Lakhmana</td> <td>Jan Sweeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nick Denys</td> <td>Eddie Lavery</td> <td>Steve Tuckwell MP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jas Dhot</td> <td>Richard Lewis</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Edwards</td> <td>Heena Makwana</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Councillors: Kaushik Banerjee	Scott Farley	Gursharan Mand	Labina Basit	Janet Gardner	Stuart Mathers	Kishan Bhatt	Elizabeth Garelick	Douglas Mills	Jonathan Bianco	Narinder Garg	Richard Mills	Wayne Bridges	Tony Gill	June Nelson	Tony Burles	Martin Goddard	Barry Nelson-West	Keith Burrows	Ekta Gohil	Susan O'Brien	Reeta Chamdal	Becky Haggard OBE	Jane Palmer	Roy Chamdal	Henry Higgins	Sital Punja	Farhad Choubedar	Mohammed Islam	Raju Sansarpuri	Philip Corthorne	Rita Judge	Jagjit Singh	Peter Curling	Kamal Preet Kaur	Peter Smallwood	Darran Davies	Kuldeep Lakhmana	Jan Sweeting	Nick Denys	Eddie Lavery	Steve Tuckwell MP	Jas Dhot	Richard Lewis		Ian Edwards	Heena Makwana	
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	<p>OFFICERS PRESENT: Andy Evans, Dan Kennedy, Sandra Taylor, Salleh Jobbi, Lloyd White, Mark Braddock and Nikki O'Halloran</p>																																																
<p>35.</p>	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Abby, Bennett, Chapman, Money and Riley.</p>																																																
<p>36.</p>	<p>MINUTES (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2023 be agreed as a correct record.</p>																																																
<p>37.</p>	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest in any matters coming before the Council.</p>																																																
<p>38.</p>	<p>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The Mayor advised that he had attended a number of events over the Christmas period including the ConneX pantomime and the Yiewsley and West Drayton Band carols on the green. There had been a Council staff Christmas quiz which had raised more than £400 for the Mayor's charities and organisations and individuals had continued to be welcomed to the Parlour, including schools and the Interfaith Group.</p>																																																

	<p>On Sunday 10 March 2024, the Mayor would be taking part in the 5 mile Whittington Walk with other London mayors and urged those present to sponsor him. He also advised that he was looking for runners to take part in the Hillingdon 20 Mile Race, which would take place on Sunday 24 March 2024, to raise money for his charities.</p>
39.	<p>REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (<i>Agenda Item 5</i>)</p> <p>5.1 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2024/25</p> <p>Councillor Edwards moved, and Councillor Bianco seconded, the motion as set out on the Order of Business, and it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the programme of meetings for 2024/25 as set out in the Annex to these minutes, be approved and the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, be authorised to make any amendments that may be required throughout the course of the year.</p>
40.	<p>COUNCIL TAX BASE AND BUSINESS RATES FORECAST 2024/2025 (<i>Agenda Item 6</i>)</p> <p>Councillor Goddard moved, and Councillor Edwards seconded, the motion as set out on the Order of Business and it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the report of the Corporate Director of Finance for the calculation of the Council Taxbase and the Business Rates Forecast be approved. b) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Taxbase) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by the London Borough of Hillingdon as its Council Taxbase for 2024/25 shall be 104,668. c) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Finance to submit the 2024/25 NNDR1 return to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) and the Greater London Authority (GLA). d) the continuation of the Council’s policy of passporting Government discounts and reliefs applied to Business Rates to the ratepayer be approved.
41.	<p>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p> <p>7.1 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR REETA CHAMDAL TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE – COUNCILLOR PALMER:</p> <p><i>“How has Hillingdon Adult Social Care reacted to hospital discharge during the doctors’ strike?”</i></p> <p>Councillor Palmer advised that the industrial action undertaken by doctors in January 2024 had coincided with a particularly busy period for adult social care, especially at Hillingdon Hospital. There had been strong collaboration between adult social care and various partners involved in supporting hospital discharges and a close alignment had been developed with integrated discharge teams.</p> <p>In preparation for the strike, the adult social care team had actively participated in North West London meetings, collaborating closely with healthcare professionals and</p>

other stakeholders to strategise for potential disruptions in the healthcare sector. To facilitate a coordinated effort, the team had engaged in multi-agency discharge events at Hillington Hospital which had focused on streamlining the discharge process and creating additional bed capacity by ensuring a steady and safe flow of discharges for Hillington residents.

A notable achievement during this period had been the commitment to confirming discharges on the same day for all Hillington residents, regardless of whether they were admitted to the local hospital or out of borough. Individuals were being promptly discharged and returned home with the necessary support that had been tailored to meet their social care needs.

Between December 2023 and January 2024, the Council had supported 168 people to leave hospital and receive care in the community through a regional approach to healthcare challenges. The importance of a united front in addressing issues relating to patient care was emphasised, especially during periods of heightened strain on the healthcare system. The focus had remained on supporting residents, with adult social care demonstrating resilience, adaptability and effective partnership working during the strike.

Councillor Palmer thanked the staff and managers involved, acknowledging their fantastic work in ensuring that the wellbeing and care of residents remained a top priority throughout this challenging period.

There was no supplementary question.

7.2 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BURLES TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS' SERVICES - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:

“Does the Cabinet Member regret not holding a full and proper consultation with residents over the proposed relocation of Uxbridge Library to the civic centre?”

Councillor Lavery noted that advice from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport had confirmed that a formal public consultation had not been legally required for library relocations. However, a public engagement exercise had commenced on 10 November 2023 to allow residents, both online and those visiting Uxbridge library, to review the proposals. A set of frequently asked questions had been compiled and residents had been able to share their views by email. The engagement exercise would end on 19 January 2024.

Approximately 6,000 active users of Uxbridge library (those who had used the library within the last 12 months) had been contacted by email, and information had been posted in other Hillingdon libraries to inform users of the proposal. If the Cabinet approved the proposal, it would require planning permission and the standard statutory planning consultation would also be carried out.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Burles noted that there had not been any information about the proposal in Hillingdon People and asked how minority groups were being engaged.

Councillor Lavery stated that he had already set out details of the engagement activity that was being undertaken and affirmed that all groups were being given the opportunity to participate.

7.3 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE – COUNCILLOR GODDARD:

“Would the Cabinet Member please advise Council of the veracity of recent media reporting - specifically that of GB News - regarding the state of the London Borough of Hillingdon's finances?”

Councillor Goddard stated that a GB News report had inaccurately claimed that Hillingdon had filed for bankruptcy. A local authority was considered bankrupt under the Local Government Act 1988 when a council finance officer issued a Section 114 notice, indicating imminent unlawful expenditure that exceeded income. Councillor Goddard assured Members that no such notice had been issued in Hillingdon, and that the current consultation budget for 2024-25 had been satisfactorily balanced.

There was no supplementary question.

7.4 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MATHERS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR EDWARDS:

“Can the Leader explain the delays in payment to a special needs school which has been outstanding for a considerable amount of time, especially when this administration claims to have sound financial management?”

Councillor Edwards advised that a new payment system had been implemented in September 2021 which had caused delays in reconciling some claims, particularly those from special schools. Funding arrangements for special schools were notably more complex due to varying levels of funding based on individual needs. The Council had been in discussions with one special needs school regarding claims that couldn't be reconciled with the evidence that was held by the Council. In the context of 959 payment claims submitted by 54 special needs providers in the 2022-23 period, sound financial management was crucial to ensure the validity of claims before payment was made and finance officers were required to act diligently to prevent inappropriate payments.

The specific school presumed to be the subject of Councillor Mathers' question had claimed to be owed £250,000 over and above the amounts already paid. This sum was not related to a single claim, but was an aggregation of elements from multiple claims over several payment periods. Officers had met with the school three times since September and had maintained regular contact by email in an effort to resolve the matter. The school had agreed to review its claim, given the information provided by the Council, and the outcome of the school's review was now awaited. If the school was able to provide evidence to substantiate the outstanding sums, the Finance team would expedite the payment.

There was no supplementary question.

7.6 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SMALLWOOD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS' SERVICES - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:

“Can the Cabinet Member update Council on the progress of the proposed Yiewsley housing scheme and its contribution to affordable housing targets?”

Councillor Lavery advised that approval for the development in Falling Lane, Otterfield Road in Yiewsley had been granted by the Planning Committee in December despite

the opposition's attempt to advocate for fewer affordable homes within the development. This development had been highlighted as a high-quality project located in a brownfield area, aiming to provide 100% affordable housing on the site. The 95 units would include a mix of sizes, notably featuring 19 three-bedroom units which would contribute to the demand for larger housing options.

The standard mandate for development plan requirements was 50% affordable homes on public sector land. However, the Yiewsley housing scheme had surpassed this by delivering 100% affordable housing without encroaching on the designated Metropolitan open land, specifically the recreation ground. There continued to be a pressing demand for affordable housing in Hillington and the broader context of London, where property prices and private sector rents were notably higher.

To prevent the placement of homeless families into temporary accommodation, 950 properties were needed each year. However, it had been forecast that 12,200 homeless households would be in temporary accommodation by March 2024 which had prompted the need for around 1,100 additional properties annually.

The Cabinet Member had been surprised that Members of the opposition had been opposing the development, given that it would be creating 95 affordable units, and had been stating that poor air quality would prevent residents from opening their windows. The Council collected data from air quality monitoring locations across the Borough (three of which were in Yiewsley), all of which indicated levels which were below the limits for principal particulates, including particulate 2.5 which was already meeting the 2030 target.

The administration was committed to delivering affordable housing for residents, as indicated by the approved Yiewsley housing scheme.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Smallwood asked whether the new development would have an impact on the Yiewsley Recreation Ground. Councillor Lavery advised that the Yiewsley scheme would have a positive impact with the development of a new family landscape garden, bowling green and playground area, increased tree planting and additional footpaths at the Recreation Ground. These enhancements would be included in the first phase of the development and not deferred to the future.

7.5 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CURLING TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR EDWARDS:

“Is the Leader of the Council as amazed as me to discover that the cost of the 2022 Freedom of the Borough celebratory meal at the Battle of Britain Bunker, Visitor Centre, cost a staggering £15,277.58 of which the catering costs alone was £13,640. This is compared to £7,000 for the catering of a similar event in 2018.

“From Members enquiries and a resident’s Freedom of Information request, it appears that there were no estimates sought for the 2022 event and an assumption was made that the catering cost would be in the region of £7,000 as it was in 2018. Why was this allowed to happen and why was there effectively a blank cheque of public money allocated to this event?”

Councillor Edwards advised that the ceremonies referred to by Councillor Curling were entirely different and reminded him that he had seconded the motion for the Freedom awards to be conferred at a Civic dinner in honour of Sir Ray Puddifoot MBE

and Ms Jean Palmer, former Deputy Chief Executive of the Council. Councillor Edwards emphasised that it would be naive to believe that a civic dinner at the Battle of Britain Bunker Visitor Centre could cost the same in 2022 as an event in a room at the Civic Centre in 2018. The dinner in 2022 had taken place to honour Sir Ray's achievements in managing the budget and reducing Council Tax rates and his efforts in challenging the Government in relation to the third runway at Heathrow and HS2.

Sir Ray's leadership had been fundamental in preserving the Battle of Britain Bunker at RAF Uxbridge and this achievement had been considered a legacy of national and international importance. It had been fitting that the civic dinner had been located at the Bunker.

It was recognised that there had been an error by officers in presuming that the catering contract held by the Council extended to the special event and officers had taken this learning on board.

At this point, the meeting was adjourned for a short time following a disturbance in the Council Chamber.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Curling asked whether Sir Ray would have expected robust scrutiny of the event and whether expenditure of £15k of public money could be considered in the best interests of the residents when they had not been invited.

Councillor Edwards queried why Councillor Curling had not raised this as an issue earlier if he had been so concerned by it and suggested that it was only being raised now as others had brought it to his attention. Councillor Edwards advised that he welcomed scrutiny but felt that he had justified the expenditure in his response.

7.7 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HIGGINS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:

"Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update in respect of the on-going disruption to buses and rail passengers at West Drayton Station caused by the actions or inactions of Network Rail?"

Councillor Bianco advised that the entirety of Station Approach at West Straton station was owned by Network Rail. A package of improvements outside the station had originally been agreed as part of the Crossrail Improvement Programme, funded by the Government through Transport for London (TFL). The approval and agreements for the work had been protracted, and progress had finally been made as a result of the determination of the administration, relentless efforts by the officer team and assistance from the new MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip.

A major part of the improvement work near the new station building and the Grand Union Canal had started before Christmas, and good progress had been reported, with a target for completion by the end of March 2024. Efforts had been made to seek intervention from the Chief Executive of Network Rail and the Secretary of State for Transport in relation to the delays. However, significant problems remained in relation to the roadway element of Station Approach, particularly the partial collapse of a deep-buried sewer which had impacted buses and rail passengers. Network Rail and its specialists were investigating the collapsed sewer, with the Council and local MP urging for action but the resolution was dependent on Network Rail, who had

promised to conclude its investigations and prioritise the necessary work.

Network Rail had acknowledged the impact of the delayed work and indicated a potential completion date in July 2024. The slow pace of action had been frustrating and there was a need for action rather than words. The Council would continue to press for a firm date at the highest level.

There was no supplementary question.

42. **MOTIONS** (*Agenda Item 8*)

8.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR KAUR:

Councillor Kaur moved, and Councillor Mathers seconded, the following motion:

That this Council understands that its assets mentioned on the Local as well as Heritage List are of local architectural and historic importance, and that they significantly contribute to the unique character of the Borough. This Council, therefore, commits that these listed assets, such as Granaries at Knightscope Farm, Harefield, or Gatehouse at Hillingdon, Uxbridge Cemetery or Barra Hall, would not, at any time, be disposed of to finance the Council's DSG Safety Valve or broader transformation programme.

Those speaking in support of the motion sought a commitment from the administration that over 700 locally and nationally listed assets owned by the Council would remain under its ownership for generations to come. The concern had arisen as Hillingdon had been ranked 31 out of the 33 London boroughs in terms of financial reserve levels so the motion aimed to prevent the sale of listed assets to bolster the Council's financial position. Although the Council had often cited its financial efficiency, it had relied on asset sales, including listed assets, to balance the books.

Several listed buildings, including Barra Hall, the Granaries at Knightscope Farm in Harefield and Gatehouse at Hillingdon Uxbridge Cemetery, were mentioned as being at risk. Some of these buildings were already on Historic England's risk register and there were concerns that neglect and lack of maintenance could lead to selling off valuable assets.

Reassurance was sought on behalf of residents that the Council would not sell its heritage assets and would instead respect the Borough's and gifts passed down through generations. Members were urged to vote in line with their conscience to save these buildings for posterity.

Those speaking against the motion noted that the Council, like other public authorities, needed to continuously review its asset holdings to ensure they served their intended purposes. The idea of holding onto assets indefinitely, regardless of their use, was deemed financially burdensome to taxpayers and not a sound financial management practice.

Planning policies and relevant legislation aimed to conserve and enhance the Borough's historic landscape and, whilst these policies strongly supported the retention of heritage assets, the ownership of these assets was not entirely relevant. The emphasis had been placed on the obligation to preserve, conserve or enhance the asset itself, regardless of ownership.

	<p>Under planning policy, a heritage asset could be designated as Grade II or Grade I listed, and there were approximately 430 such buildings in Hillingdon. The protections offered to these nationally listed buildings were greater than those for locally listed buildings, but ownership was not a decisive factor in planning applications. The council's planning policies for locally listed buildings applied irrespective of ownership.</p> <p>The local planning authority would individually assess any proposals to alter or redevelop a building in accordance with the development plan. Examples of successful redevelopment or approved plans for both designated and undesignated heritage assets included the Randall building in Uxbridge and the Nestle factory.</p> <p>The motion was put to a recorded vote:</p> <p>Those voting for: Councillors Basit, Burles, Curling, Dhot, Farley, Gardner, Garelick, Garg, Gill, Islam, Kaur, Lakhmana, Mand, Mathers, Nelson, Nelson-West, Punja, Sansarpuri, Singh and Sweeting.</p> <p>Those voting against: The Mayor (Councillor Ahmad-Wallana), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Sullivan), Councillors Banerjee, Bhatt, Bianco, Bridges, Burrows, Reeta Chamdal, Roy Chamdal, Choubedar, Corthorne, Davies, Denys, Edwards, Goddard, Gohil, Haggar, Higgins, Lavery, Lewis, Makwana, D Mills, R Mills, O'Brien, Palmer, Smallwood and Tuckwell.</p> <p>Those abstaining: None.</p> <p>The motion was lost.</p>
	<p>MINUTE ANNEX A - PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2024/2025</p>
	<p>The meeting, which commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.42 pm.</p>

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Lloyd White, Head of Democratic Services on 01895 556743. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Reporting Officer: Head of Democratic Services

i) URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

RECOMMENDATION: That the Urgency decisions detailed below be noted.

Information

1. The Constitution allows a Cabinet or Cabinet Member decision to be implemented before the expiry of the 5-day scrutiny call-in period, provided the decision is deemed urgent and agreement is given from the Chairman of the relevant Select Committee that the matter is urgent and to waive the scrutiny call-in period. All such decisions are to be reported for information only to the next full Council meeting.
2. Since last reported to Council, the following decisions have been made using urgency procedures:

Date of Decision	Nature of Decision	Reason for Urgency	Decision-Maker
29 January 2024	Deployment of a Data Analytics Platform	The reason for urgency was financial related, in order to avoid the Council incurring supplementary costs in association with this new data project.	Leader of the Council, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Finance,
1 February 2024	Temporary Accommodation Leases – Great Central House, South Ruislip	The reason for the urgency was the potential loss of this opportunity to purchase to a competitor authority when competition for this form of accommodation is so high.	Leader of the Council, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, and on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport

Background Papers: Decision Notices

ii) POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL AND CALCULATION OF POLITICAL BALANCE

Background

1. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides a statutory basis for the rights of political groups to secure representation upon Council Committee and Sub-Committee meetings in proportion to their respective political strengths within the Council.

2. A 'political group' is one which has been constituted in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and consists of at least two Members. It is therefore separate from the concept of a political party, although it may well consist of Members of the same political persuasion.
3. After the local elections in 2022, the Head of Democratic Services was notified of 2 political Groups on the Council:
 - The Conservative Group with 30 Members and Councillor Ian Edwards as Group Leader,
 - The Labour Group with 23 Members and Councillor Peter Curling as Group Leader
4. The overall political balance calculation was based on these submissions, and, in this instance, the Labour Group were entitled to an additional seat which, it was agreed would be on the Pensions Committee. This body, therefore, has a membership of 2 Con' and 3 Lab'.

Information

5. The Head of Democratic Services has recently received the requisite notice of a change in the composition of the Labour Group, whereby Councillor Basit is no longer a member of that group and is consequently sitting as an Independent Member.
6. This change slightly alters the overall political balance of the Council – the main effect being that the membership of the Pensions Committee will revert to 3 Con' & 2 Lab' as shown below. (**NB:** by statute, a political group needs to be comprised of two or more Members and, therefore, an independent Member is not entitled to any seats allocated on the basis of political balance).

		Conservative		Labour		Independent	
		notional	actual	notional	actual	notional	actual
	seats						
Hillingdon Planning Committee	7	3.96	4	2.91	3	0.13	0
Registration & Appeals Committee	5	2.83	3	2.08	2	0.09	0
Pensions Committee	5	2.83	3	2.08	2	0.09	0
Appointments Committee	3	1.70	2	1.25	1	0.06	0
Health & Social Care Select Committee (SC)	7	3.96	4	2.91	3	0.13	0
Children, Families & Education SC	7	3.96	4	2.91	3	0.13	0
Residents' Services SC	7	3.96	4	2.91	3	0.13	0
Property, Highways & Transport SC	7	3.96	4	2.91	3	0.13	0
Finance & Corporate Services SC	7	3.96	4	2.91	3	0.13	0
Total	55	31.13	32	22.83	23	1.04	0

7. Council are asked to note this change in political balance and, also, to note that the Conservative Group have chosen to allocate the additional seat on the Pensions Committee to the Labour Group and, therefore, to leave the membership of the Pensions Committee as it currently stands, until the Council AGM in May.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. These are contained within the report.

Background papers: None

iii) MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2024/25

1. The Council is required to undertake an annual re-adoption of its Allowances Scheme and, in doing so give due regard to the recommendations made by the report of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London.
2. In 2023/24, having given due regard to the latest independent report, the level of Members' Basic allowance was increased in line with the pay award subsequently agreed for staff and, for the third year in a row, no change was made to the level of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA's).
3. Members are now asked to give consideration to the level of Members' Allowances for 2024/25.

RECOMMENDATION: That:

- a) **the current Members' Allowances Scheme be revoked as of 31 March 2024 and the new Scheme for 2024/25 be approved, as shown in the Appendix, for implementation from 1 April 2024.**
- b) **The Head of Democratic Services be authorised to increase the level of Members' allowances in line with any subsequent annual pay award to staff for 2024/25. Such increase to also be applied to the separate allowance paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.**

Information

4. Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires re-adoption of the scheme by 31 March 2024.
5. Before making or amending its allowances scheme, the Council is required, by virtue of Regulation 19, to have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel. The Panel for London published their latest report in January 2024. The key findings of that report have been taken into account when making these recommendations. The full report can be viewed here:

<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/who-we-are/about-us/financial-information/leadership-and-expenses/remuneration-councillors-london>

6. The Independent panel considered the key questions of:
 - a. how best to ensure that people from a wide range of backgrounds and with a wide range of skills are encouraged to serve as local councillors; and
 - b. how to ensure those who participate in and contribute to the democratic process should not suffer unreasonable financial disadvantage.
7. Within these broad considerations there can be no doubt that financial compensation or a system of allowances plays a crucial part in making it financially possible for local people to put themselves forward to take on the onerous responsibilities involved in being a councillor and indeed to continue to serve as one.
8. For this reason, the Panel felt that it is crucial that allowances for councillors across London are pitched at an appropriate level such that they make a major contribution in ensuring diverse and effective local representation. The recent review aimed to take a step back and ensure that the recommended allowances are pitched such that they serve this crucial purpose.
9. After taking into account the amount of time commitment and work involved in being a local Councillor, the Independent Panel are recommending a Basic Allowance of **£15,960**. Currently the LBH Basic Allowance is £12,481.
10. With regard to SRA's, these are grouped in bands based on the allowance paid to the Leader of the Council. The Panel are recommending an annual payment to a Leader of a Council of **£78,052** (made up of the Basic Allowance above and a Leader's Allowance of £62,092).
11. Currently the annual payment to the Leader of the London Borough of Hillingdon is **£71,181.29** (made up of the Basic Allowance of £12,481 and a Leader's Allowance of £58,700.29)

Proposal

12. At this stage no increase is proposed for the level of Basic or Special Responsibility Allowances for 2024/25. However, the Independent Panel for the Remuneration of Councillors in London, in its recent report, reiterated its previous recommendation that Members' allowances should be uplifted annually in line with the pay settlement for employees.
13. It is recommended, therefore, that the level of Members' Allowances for 2024/25 be increased in line with any pay award subsequently agreed for staff and that The Head of Democratic Services be authorised to implement this increase, once agreed.
14. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are paid a similar allowance but separate from the main Scheme of Allowances and it is proposed that the increase detailed above also be applied to the allowance paid to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. Provision has been made in the 2024/25 budget for Members' Allowances, although it is important to note this is based upon current posts being held by Members. Those who occupy more than one post only receive one SRA, normally the higher. It is therefore difficult to accurately estimate the true cost until after the Annual Council meeting in May when Members are confirmed into posts receiving a SRA.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. In accordance with the 2003 Regulations, the current scheme needs to be revoked as of 31 March 2024 and a new scheme made before 31 March 2024. If it is not, any allowances paid to Members would not comply with the law and could, therefore, be challenged.

Background Papers: Report of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London, January 2024

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2024/25**1. Introduction**

In accordance with Local Authorities (Members Allowances) England Regulations 2003 No. 1021 (as amended) the London Borough of Hillingdon makes the following scheme: -

2. Basic Allowance

For 2024/25 an allowance of **£12,481** will be payable to all Councillors and will be paid in equal monthly instalments. The basic allowance includes intra borough travel and subsistence costs.

3. Special Responsibility Allowances

Special responsibility allowances of the following amounts shall be paid in equal monthly instalments to Councillors holding the following responsibilities:

	(£)
1. Leader of the Council	58,700.29
2. Deputy Leader of the Council	49,447.58
3. Chief Whip of Largest Party	23,725.26
4. Cabinet Member	41,351.55
5. Chairman of Select Committee	23,725.26
6. Chairman of Planning Committee	23,725.26
7. Chairman of Licensing Committee	23,725.26
8. Chairman of Standards Committee	3,343.46
9. Standards Committee Independent Person	500 (per meeting)
10. Chairman of Audit Committee*	3,180.83
11. Champion	6101.08
12. Council representative on Adoption and Permanency Panel	13,373.87
13. Cabinet Assistant	9,252.71
14. Leader of 2 nd Party	23,725.26
15. Chief Whip of 2 nd Party	6101.08
16. 2 nd Party Lead on Select Committee	6101.08

* Where a non-Councillor is Chairman or Vice Chairman a co-optees' allowance is payable as set out in the Scheme under section 9.

4. Limit on Payment of Special Responsibility Allowances

Individual Councillors may not claim a special responsibility allowance for more than one position for which they qualify.

5. Renunciation

Councillors may elect to forego any of their entitlement to an allowance under the scheme by giving written notice to the Corporate Director of Finance.

6. Part-Year Entitlements

- (a) This paragraph regulates Councillors' entitlement to allowances where the scheme is amended during the year or where an individual ceases to be a Councillor or accepts or relinquishes a position of special responsibility.
- (b) If an amendment to this scheme is made during the year to which it refers and changes the amount which a Councillor may claim in basic allowances the annual entitlement shall be calculated using the following method: -

Annual entitlement to basic allowance	=	Days at unamended rate divided by 365	X	Annual payment at unamended rate	+	Days at amended rate divided by 365	X	Annual payment at amended rate
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- (c) Where the term of office of a Councillor begins or ends part way through the year the annual entitlement to basic allowance shall be calculated using the following method:

Annual entitlement to basic allowance	=	Days as a Councillor divided by 365	X	Annual rate of allowance
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- (d) Where this scheme is amended during the year to which it refers the annual entitlement to basic allowance of Councillors beginning or ending their term of office part way through the year shall be calculated using the following method:

Annual entitlement to basic allowance	=	Days as a Councillor during unamended scheme divided by 365	X	Annual payment at unamended rate	+	Days as a Councillor during amended scheme divided by 365	X	Annual payment at amended rate
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- (e) Where Councillors hold positions of special responsibility during part of the year their annual entitlement to special responsibility allowance shall be calculated using the following method:

Annual entitlement for special responsibility allowance	=	Days holding position of special responsibility during unamended scheme divided by 365	X	Annual payment at unamended rate	+	Days holding position of special responsibility during amended scheme divided by 365	X	Annual payment at amended rate
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7. Out of Borough Travelling and Subsistence Allowances

Councillors shall be entitled to claim for out of borough travelling allowances incurred in undertaking approved duties as agreed in advance by the Council.

The out of borough car mileage allowance for Councillors shall be paid at the same rate as those paid to officers for the Standard Mileage User Allowance.

The amounts paid for out of borough subsistence shall be in accordance with the maximum levels laid down from time to time by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, but claims may only be made for approved duties.

8. Dependent / Carers Allowance

A dependent / carers allowance shall be payable at the National Minimum Wage for Adults hourly rate based on the following criteria:

- payments should be subject to a maximum weekly payment, equivalent to seven-and-a-half hours of care per week;
- the maximum rate should be set locally to reflect local costs, in accordance with social service departments levels;
- payment should be claimable in respect of children aged 15 or under or in respect of other dependants where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required;
- only one weekly payment should be claimable in respect of the household of each Member, except in special circumstances to be judged by the Council's Standards Committee;
- the allowance should be paid as a reimbursement of incurred expenditure against receipts;
- the allowance should not be payable to a member of the claimant's own household and;
- any dispute as to entitlement and any allegation of abuse should be referred to the Council's Standards Committee for adjudication.

9. Co-optees' Allowances

Where a co-optee and non-Councillor is the Chairman of the Audit Committee, an annual entitlement allowance of £3,180.83 may be paid. This will be paid on a pro-rata basis if the appointment of the co-optee begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year. Where a co-optee is an Independent Person on the Standards Committee an entitlement allowance of £500 per meeting required and attended may be paid. Where a co-optee is one of the three statutory education co-optees on the Executive Scrutiny Committee, an annual entitlement allowance of £445.80 may be paid. This will be paid on a pro-rata basis if the appointment of the co-optee begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year. These allowances will cover expenses, such as travel and subsistence, related to the duties of the postholder.

10. Claims and Payments

- (a) All claims for out of borough travelling and subsistence and carers allowances must be submitted within two months of the date of the approved duty to which they relate, made on the standard form as used by officers and returned to the Head of Democratic Services.
- (b) Payments shall be made in respect of basic and special responsibility allowances subject to sub-paragraph (c) below in Instalments of one twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme on or before the 15th of the month direct to each Member's bank or building society account.
- (c) Where the payment of allowances in one-twelfth instalments would result in a Councillor receiving more than he or she is entitled to because of a part year effect (as defined in paragraph 9 above) the payment shall be restricted to the annual entitlement.

11. Withholding Members' Allowances

Where there has been an adjudication, which suspends or partially suspends a Councillor from office following a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Council may withhold all allowances paid to that Councillor with immediate effect.

12. Records of Allowances and Publicity

In accordance with the 2003 regulations a detailed record will be kept of the name of the recipient and the amount and nature of each payment made. This will be available for public inspection at all reasonable times or copies supplied following the payment of a reasonable fee.

As soon as is reasonably practicable after the end of the municipal year to which the scheme relates the total sum paid to each recipient in respect of basic allowances, special responsibility allowance, dependant carers allowance and out of borough travelling and subsistence allowance will be published on the Council's website and local newspaper.

13. Independent Remuneration Panel

Hillingdon Council has had regard to the recommendations made by the Independent Panel for the Remuneration of Councillors in London in developing its Members' Allowances Scheme.

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GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024 / 2025

Reporting Officer: Head of Democratic Services

Council Tax Resolution 2024/25 – Cabinet Proposals

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to calculate and approve the Council Tax Requirement for 2024/25, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
2. Cabinet on 15 February will be considering proposals to Council on Hillingdon's General Fund Revenue Budget, Housing Revenue Account Budget, Fees & Charges, Capital Programme, Treasury Management Strategy and London Borough of Hillingdon's Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25. Cabinet will recommend a budget to Council in line with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules as set out in the Council's Constitution.
3. The proposals will be published, once agreed. In the meantime, the report to Cabinet is available in the Group Offices, on request to the Head of Democratic Services or online at:

[London Borough of Hillingdon - Agenda for CABINET on Thursday, 15th February, 2024, 7.00 pm](#)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. Financial Implications will be contained within the report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 will apply to the recommendations of this item. Any Member who is more than two months in arrears with their Council Tax must declare that fact and not vote on this item.
6. Members are asked to note that, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, recorded votes will be taken at the annual budget setting meeting on any motion, amendment to motion or substantive motion regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme.

Background Documents: None

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GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25

Reporting Officer: Lloyd White, Head of Democratic Services

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to calculate and approve the Council Tax Requirement for 2024/25, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as subsequently amended. In addition, the Act requires Council to determine whether any Council Tax increase is excessive (that is in excess of 5%) which would require a referendum to be held.
2. This report sets out the Cabinet's proposals to Council on Hillingdon's General Fund revenue budget, Housing Revenue Account budget, Capital Programme, amendments to the approved schedule of Fees & Charges, Capital Investment Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and Pay Policy Statement. In addition, this report also considers reasons for, and implications arising from these proposals. The proposals result in a Band D Council Tax for Hillingdon of £1,392.51, which represents a 4.99% uplift on the Council's element of Council Tax at the 2023/24 level.
3. The report to Cabinet is available on request to the Head of Democratic Services or online at:

[London Borough of Hillingdon - Agenda for CABINET on Thursday, 15th February, 2024, 7.00 pm](#)

4. The Greater London Authority (GLA) budget proposals add £471.40 to the amount payable by Hillingdon's Council Taxpayers, which represents an 8.6% increase in the GLA portion of Council Tax compared to 2022/23.
5. Based on the Cabinet's proposals, and the GLA precept, the total Band D Council Tax for 2024/25 will be £1,863.91.

CABINET RECOMMENDS that:

- 1 **The General Fund revenue budget proposals made by Cabinet be approved, resulting in a Council Tax requirement for 2024/25 of £145,751,237;**
- 2 **Council note that, at its meeting on 18 January 2024, the Council calculated the amount of 104,668 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2024/25. This was calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax Base for the year (*Item T in the formula in Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992*);**
- 3 **The Hillingdon element of Council Tax be set at £1,392.51 for a Band D property. Taking into account the precept levied by the Greater London**

Authority, this results in an overall Band D Council Tax of £1,863.91 for the borough;

4 The following amounts have been calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25, in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):

a) £966,906,538 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) (a) to (f) of the Act. *(Gross Expenditure including the amount required for additions to working balances)*

b) £821,155,301 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act. *(Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet Gross Expenditure)*

c) £145,751,237 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4 (b) above. This is calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. *(Item R under Section 31B of the Act)*

d) £1,392.51 being the amount at 4 (c) above divided by Item T (2 above). This is, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. *(Council Tax at Band D for the Council)*

e)

The London Borough of Hillingdon Council Tax (£)			
Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
928.31	1,083.04	1,237.78	1,392.51
Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
1,701.93	2,011.39	2,320.81	2,784.97

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 4 (d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation B and D. This is calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

- 5 Council note that for the year 2024/25 the Greater London Authority and its functional bodies have stated the following amounts in precepts. These have been issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

The Greater London Authority Precept (£)			
Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
314.27	366.64	419.02	471.40
Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
576.16	680.91	785.67	942.80

- 6 The Council has calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4 (e) and 5 above. The Council in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each category of dwelling below:

Total Council Tax 2024/25 (£)			
Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
1,242.58	1,449.68	1,656.80	1,863.91
Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
2,278.09	2,692.30	3,106.48	3,727.77

- 7 The Council Tax Discount for Older People be retained for 2024/25 with a 1.12% discount on Hillingdon's element of the Council Tax for those who joined the scheme on or after 1 April 2020, 2.56% for those who joined the scheme before or on 31 March 2019 and 5.47% for those who joined before or on 31 March 2018, with the scheme closed to new applicants from 1 April 2021;
- 8 The General Fund Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29 as set out in Appendix A8 of the report to Cabinet be approved;
- 9 The Housing Revenue Account budget proposals, HRA Capital Programme and housing rents set out in Appendix B of the report to cabinet be approved;
- 10 The proposed amendments to Fees and Charges set out in Appendix C of the report to Cabinet be approved;
- 11 Capital Investment Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2024/25 to 2028/29 as set out in Appendix D of the report to Cabinet be approved;
- 12 The London Borough of Hillingdon Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix E of the report to Cabinet be approved;
- 13 Council note the Corporate Director of Finance's comments regarding his responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2003 as set out from paragraph 154 of the Cabinet's Budget Proposals;

- 14 Council note the planned use of the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts to fund transformation activity as outlined in Appendix 6a of the report to Cabinet;**
- 15 Council (as set out in Schedule G of the Constitution - Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules) resolves that Cabinet may utilise the general reserves or balances during 2024/25 in support of functions designated to the Cabinet in line with Part 4 of the Constitution;**
- 16 Council confirm that the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 and therefore a referendum will not be triggered.**

Greater London Authority Precept

6. As one of thirty-three billing authorities across the capital, the London Borough of Hillingdon collects Council Tax on behalf of the Greater London Authority (GLA) which is paid over in full as the annual precept. While the Council has no control over the level of this precept or the resulting GLA share of Council Tax payable by residents of the borough, current regulations require that billing authorities calculate the total amount of Council Tax payable as part of the budget setting resolution. The level at which the GLA sets the precept for the forthcoming year does not impact upon the Council's own budgets or the Hillingdon share of Council Tax.
7. The GLA precept this year is set to increase by £37.26 per annum, of this increase, £13 will be applied for policing, £20 to help maintain transport services across the capital to help meet the requirements of the government's funding agreements for TfL and £4.26 for the London Fire Commissioner. The GLA have therefore increased their precept by £37.26, or 8.6%, to cover rising costs associated with these areas, this takes the GLA precept to £471.40 for a Band D property.

Council Tax Referendums

8. Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011 inserted into the Local Government Finance Act 1992 Chapter 4ZA of Part 1 makes provision for a Council Tax referendum to be held if an authority increases its relevant basic amount of Council Tax in excess of principles determined by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Section 41 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 amended Chapter 4ZA of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 by imposing new obligations on the Council. These include a requirement that as soon as is reasonably practicable after determining that it is required to hold a referendum in relation to its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for the financial year, the Council must notify that fact in writing to any body that has issued a levy or a special levy to it for the financial year.
9. The Secretary of State has determined the principles for the year 2024/25 under section 52ZC (1) of the Local Government Act 1992 that a Council Tax increase will be excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for

2024/25 is 5% or greater than its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24. This 5% threshold for excessive increases includes the 2% additional flexibility available to local authorities with responsibility for providing Adult Social Care.

10. The relevant basic amount of Council Tax as calculated is the same as the Band D Council Tax for Hillingdon and if the proposals within this report are approved there will be a 4.99% increase in the Council Tax level between 2023/24 and 2024/25 and is therefore not excessive.

Financial Implications

11. This is a financial report, and the comments of Corporate Finance are contained throughout.

Legal Implications

12. The Borough Solicitor can confirm that the budgetary proposals and calculations set out in this report fully accord with all necessary statutory requirements.
13. As is mentioned in the body of the report, the Local Government Finance Act 1992 has been amended by both the Localism Act 2011 and section 41 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. For this year local authorities are required to hold a referendum if there is an increase in the relevant basic amount of Council Tax of 5% or greater than its relevant amount of Council Tax for 2024/25.
14. The Cabinet's proposals for the 2024/25 Council Tax requirement, as set out in the attached report, do not require a referendum to be held and therefore the notification requirements as set out in Section 41 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act do not apply.
15. Finally, Members must have regard to Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This provides that a Member who has not paid an amount due in respect of Council Tax for at least two months after it becomes payable, may not vote on matters concerning the level of Council Tax or the administration of it. Therefore, any Council Members who are more than two months in arrears with their Council Tax payments must make a declaration to this effect at the beginning of the Council meeting.

Background Documents: The Council's Budget - Medium Term Financial Forecast 2024/25 - 2028/29 - Cabinet's Budget proposals approved on 15 February 2024

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