

Minutes**COUNCIL****8 May 2025**
HILLINGDON
 LONDON

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

 Councillor Colleen Sullivan (Mayor in the Chair - agenda items 1 to 3)
 Councillor Philip Corthorne (Deputy Mayor - agenda items 1 to 3)

 Councillor Philip Corthorne (Mayor in the Chair - agenda items 4 to 11)
 Councillor Reeta Chamdal (Deputy Mayor - agenda items 4 to 11)

	MEMBERS PRESENT:			
	Councillors:	Kaushik Banerjee Labina Basit Adam Bennett Kishan Bhatt Jonathan Bianco Wayne Bridges Tony Burles Keith Burrows Reeta Chamdal Roy Chamdal Farhad Choubedar Peter Curling Darran Davies Nick Denys Jas Dhot	Ian Edwards Scott Farley Janet Gardner Narinder Garg Tony Gill Martin Goddard Becky Haggard OBE Henry Higgins Mohammed Islam Kamal Preet Kaur Kuldeep Lakhmana Eddie Lavery Richard Lewis Heena Makwana Kelly Martin	Stuart Mathers Douglas Mills Richard Mills Peter Money June Nelson Barry Nelson-West Susan O'Brien Jane Palmer Sital Punja John Riley Raju Sansarpuri Jagjit Singh Peter Smallwood OBE Jan Sweeting Steve Tuckwell
	OFFICERS PRESENT: Tony Zaman, Dan Kennedy, Sandra Taylor, Lloyd White, Daniel Toohey, Mark Braddock, Morgan Einon, Alice Pringault, Naveed Ali and Nikki O'Halloran			
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)			
	Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Abby, Ahmad-Wallana, Garelick, Gohil, Judge and Mand.			
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)			
	Councillor Peter Curling declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 3, as he was a member of Hillingdon Radio, one of the current Mayor's nominated charities, and stayed in the room during the consideration thereof.			
3.	ELECTION OF MAYOR 2025 / 2026 (Agenda Item 3)			
	The Mayor gave a summary of her year in office and noted that the role had been challenging but had celebrated her strengths. She had worked with young people throughout the year and had formed many friendships and partnerships.			
	The Mayor thanked her Mayoress, Mrs Anne Robinson, for the support that she had			

	<p>given her over the last twelve months and paid tribute to the Mayoral team and the Head of Democratic Services who had supported her during her mayoralty. The Mayor was grateful to her Ward Councillor colleagues, Councillors and the Leader for affording her the opportunity to hold the position over the last year.</p> <p>Nominations were invited for a Mayor to hold office for the 2025/26 municipal year. Councillor Corthorne was nominated by Councillor Riley and seconded by Councillor Smallwood. There were no further nominations.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Philip Corthorne be elected as Mayor for the 2025/2026 municipal year.</p> <p><i>The Council adjourned for robing of the new Mayor at 7.49pm and reconvened at 8.04pm.</i></p>
4.	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE NEW MAYOR (Agenda Item 4)</p> <p>The newly elected Mayor signed the declaration of acceptance of office.</p>
5.	<p>APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Agenda Item 5)</p> <p>The Mayor informed the Council that he had appointed Councillor Reeta Chamdal as Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Deputy Mayor for the 2025/2026 municipal year be noted.</p>
6.	<p>NEW MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 6)</p> <p>The new Mayor thanked Members for electing him to the position for the new municipal year and those that had supported him over the last twelve months during his time as Deputy Mayor. He advised that his Mayoresses would be his wife, Mrs Fiona Corthorne, and daughter, Ms Hannah James, and that his nominated charities for the year would be Hillingdon Stroke Support and SEND Family Support.</p>
7.	<p>VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING MAYOR (Agenda Item 7)</p> <p>Councillor Edwards moved a vote of thanks to the retired Mayor, Councillor Colleen Sullivan, and her Mayoress, Mrs Anne Robinson. He congratulated the outgoing Mayor on the vast range of duties that she had undertaken during her mayoralty over the last year.</p> <p>The vote of thanks was seconded by Councillor Curling. Councillors Roy Chamdal, Lakhmana, Martin and Palmer spoke in support of the motion.</p> <p>The Mayor presented a Past Mayor's badge to Councillor Sullivan and a Past Mayoress's badge to Mrs Anne Robinson.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Sullivan, be agreed.</p>
8.	<p>REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (Agenda Item 8)</p> <p>i) APPOINTMENT OF CABINET</p> <p>The appointment by the Leader of the Council of Councillor Bianco as the Deputy</p>

Leader, and the following Members as Cabinet Members, for 2025/2026 was noted:

Position/Portfolio	Councillor
Deputy Leader, Corporate Services & Property	Bianco
Finance & Transformation	Goddard
Community & Environment	Lavery
Children, Families & Education	O'Brien
Health & Social Care	Palmer
Planning, Housing & Growth	Tuckwell

ii) APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY OFFICER

Councillor Edwards moved, and Councillor Bianco seconded, the recommendation contained in the report. Those speaking against the motion noted that this was a further interim appointment to the statutory role of Section 151 and Chief Financial Officer at the London Borough of Hillingdon and a permanent appointment needed to be made to provide the Council with some stability. Those speaking in support of the motion noted that the interim nature of previous appointments had not contributed to the Council's current financial position. Action was now being taken to appoint to the position on a permanent basis.

RESOLVED: That Mr Andy Goodwin be appointed to the statutory role of Section 151 and Chief Financial Officer of the Council on an interim basis until such time as a formal appointment to the position of Corporate Director of Finance is made.

9. COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP 2025 / 2026 (Agenda Item 9)

Councillor R Mills moved, and Councillor Edwards seconded, the motion as set out on the Order of Business and it was:

RESOLVED: That the appointment of Committees, Sub-Committees and their memberships, as set out in Minute Annex A, be approved.

10. SELECT COMMITTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (Agenda Item 10)

The Council received a report detailing the work covered by the Select Committees in 2024/25. It was moved by Councillor Bridges, seconded by Councillor Denys, and:

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

11. STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 11)

The Leader of the Council had reported an unprecedented time of change and challenge for public services in May 2024 and this continued to be the reality in 2025. The retreat from economic globalisation, weakening of long standing alliances and turbulent international relations had all impacted on Government spending priorities and, therefore, local government funding.

The Government had been overspending with borrowing in March being higher than expected at £151.9bn (an increase of £20.7bn on the previous year and £50bn higher than forecast). The Government's spending review would determine the money that would be available and the local government finance review would determine how the funding was distributed to local authorities. London Councils had warned that

councils had overspent by £345m on housing in the previous year and that there would be a funding shortfall of around £15m per council in the current year. The distribution of funding had been biased towards inner-London councils with Hillingdon being in the bottom quartile (the 14 lowest funded councils were in outer London and the 10 highest were in inner London). It was not anticipated that the disparity in the funding formula would be addressed and no account was likely to be taken of population growth. London Councils had requested that the formula take account of the preventative action being taken by councils in relation to children and young people.

Whilst it was recognised that all London boroughs were in the same funding position, Heathrow Airport was based in Hillingdon. The Government was aware of the worsening situation with regard to immigration, with the cost of unaccompanied asylum seekers coming through the airport being borne by Hillingdon residents. In the last year, this had created an unforeseen cost of £14m with the same expenditure expected in the current year.

There were a large number of hotels in Hillingdon but, when the Home Office evicted asylum seekers from these hotels, the Council was expected to cover the cost of supporting them (rather than spreading the support costs across the country through a national dispersal programme). This additional demand on services was to the detriment of existing service users and cost Hillingdon residents around £5m last year. The financial forecast for this year was expected to be the same so the combined cost for these two years would be the equivalent of around half of the Council's reserves.

It was costing around £4.6m per day to house migrants and the Home Office seemed to be ensuring that private companies were getting richer whilst councils and residents were worse off. Hillingdon had the sixth highest level of business rates in the country but was unable to reap any associated benefits. The Leader hoped that all three of the Borough's MPs would join the Council in making a case to Government for an increase in its funding.

The Council was aware of the financial challenges it faced and had put measures in place to mitigate these as much as possible. Action was being taken to improve the delivery of services through the use of things like technology and the third sector. The Council would be smaller in future and surplus assets would be disposed of but the local authority had continued to deliver excellent services and schemes. Hillingdon's adult social care had been rated as one of the best in the country and adult learning had also been rated highly. The development of 95 new homes and a new library had started in Yiewsley and the road and pavement resurfacing programme would be continuing.

The Council continued to put residents first and would be working with London Councils and others to try to get a fair funding agreement. The Leader thanked all staff for their dedication and hard work and the Chief Executive and their Corporate Management Team for leading on the change programme. He also thanked Members for the work that they undertook in their wards.

MINUTE ANNEX A - COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS

The meeting, which commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.52 pm.

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 democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.

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ORDINARY COMMITTEES 2025/26

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE: 7 (4-3)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Makwana (Chair)	Sweeting (Lead)
Gohil (Vice Chair)	Gill
Bhatt	Garg
Smallwood	

Other Co-opted voting Members (for education related items only):

Parent Governor (2-5)	Vacant
Church of England Diocesan Representative	Vacant
Roman Catholic Diocesan representative	Anthony Little

CORPORATE RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE SELECT COMMITTEE: 7 (4-3)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Riley (Chair)	Mathers (Lead)
Bennett (Vice Chair)	Garelick
Banerjee	Garg
Choubedar	

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE: 7 (4-3)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Denys (Chair)	Punja (Lead)
Chamdal (Reeta) (Vice Chair)	Burles
Haggar	Nelson
Martin	

RESIDENTS' SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE: 7 (4-3)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Bridges (Chair)	Farley (Lead)
Smallwood (Vice Chair)	Gardner
Davies	Kaur
Gohil	

SUBSTITUTES FOR SELECT COMMITTEES ARE ALL COUNCILLORS EXCEPT THOSE IN THE CABINET

HILLINGDON PLANNING COMMITTEE: 7 (4-3)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Higgins (Chair)	Mand
Bennett (Vice Chair)	Garelick
Burrows	Singh
Chamdal (Roy)	
Substitutes: All Members that have received appropriate planning training to be substitutes for the Planning Committee, except Cabinet members who are not to be substitutes for the Committee.	

PENSIONS COMMITTEE: 5 (2-3)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Chamdal (Reeta) (Chair)	Mathers
Banerjee (Vice Chair)	Burles
Burrows	
Substitutes	Substitutes
Riley	Islam
Higgins	

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE: 3 (2-1)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Edwards (Chair)	Curling
Bianco (Vice Chair)	
Substitutes	Substitutes
All remaining Cabinet members - to be appointed dependent upon into which Cabinet portfolio the post(s) being interviewed falls	Farley Mathers Punja Sweeting

REGISTRATION & APPEALS COMMITTEE: 5 (3-2)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Burrows (Chair)	Judge
D.Mills (Vice Chair)	Money
Makwana	
Substitutes	Substitutes
All non-Cabinet members	All Labour Members

CABINET MEMBERS MAY BE MEMBERS OF THE TWO SUB-COMMITTEES SHOWN BELOW, BUT NO CABINET MEMBERS SHOULD SIT AS MEMBERS OF THE MAIN REGISTRATION AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (SENIOR OFFICER): 3 (2-1)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Membership to be appointed by Group Leaders as required.	

GRIEVANCE SUB-COMMITTEE (SENIOR OFFICER): 3 (2-1)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Membership to be appointed by Group Leaders as required.	

OTHER COMMITTEES / PANELS (*Outside the overall calculation but allocated on the basis of the overall political balance.*)

STANDARDS COMMITTEE: 5 (3-2)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Bridges (Chair)	Nelson
Denys (Vice Chair)	Gill
Bennett	
Substitutes	Substitutes
Davies	Mathers

Non-voting Independent Person:

Graeme Armour (until July 2026)

AUDIT COMMITTEE: 5 (3-2)

Independent Co-Opted Member (non-voting):

John Cheshire (Chair)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Denys (Vice Chair)	Burles
D.Mills	Nelson
Higgins	
Substitutes	Substitutes
Bhatt	Farley
Lewis	

NB: NO MEMBER OF CABINET MAY SIT ON AUDIT COMMITTEE.

LICENSING COMMITTEE: 10 (6-4)

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Davies (Chair)	Farley
Smallwood (Vice Chair)	Gardner
Ahmad-Wallana	Lakhmana
Chamdal (Reeta)	Nelson-West
Martin	
Sullivan	

N.B. NO SUBSTITUTES ALLOWED FOR LICENSING COMMITTEE

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (2-1)

The sub-committee to comprise three Members of the Licensing Committee (2 Conservative and 1 Labour) selected on a rota basis from the membership of the Licensing Committee. Meetings of the Sub-Committee must be chaired by the Chair of the Licensing Committee, when available.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: *Outside of the overall calculation and subject to the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.*

(as amended at full Council July 2022):

The membership of the Board shall comprise:

- 1) Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (Co-Chair)
- 2) Hillingdon Health and Care Partners Managing Director (Co-Chair)
- 3) Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education (Vice-Chair)
- 4) LBH Chief Executive
- 5) LBH Executive Director Adult Services and Health
- 6) LBH Executive Director Children and Young People's Services
- 7) LBH Director, Public Health
- 8) NWL ICS - Hillingdon Board representative
- 9) NWL ICS - nominated lead
- 10) Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust - nominated lead
- 11) The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executive
- 12) Healthwatch Hillingdon - nominated lead
- 13) Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust - nominated lead
- 14) Hillingdon GP Confederation - nominated lead

Co-Chair

The Board shall be co-chaired by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and the Managing Director of Hillingdon Health and Care Partners. The Vice Chair of the Board shall be the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education. Only one Co-Chair may chair a meeting, and this will be determined at the start of each meeting. Should both Co-Chairs be unavailable to chair, the meeting will be chaired by the Vice Chair.