



HILLINGDON
LONDON



Council

To all Members of the Council

Date: THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY
2022

Time: 7.30 PM

Venue: COUNCIL CHAMBER -
CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH
STREET, UXBRIDGE

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

View the agenda online at
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and scan the code shown below:



Published: Wednesday, 16 February 2022

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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

Watching & recording this meeting

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Residents and the media are also welcome to attend in person, and if they wish, report on the public part of the meeting. Any individual or organisation may record or film proceedings as long as it does not disrupt proceedings.

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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.

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Accessibility

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Agenda

Prayers

To be said by the Reverend Alan Bradford

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes 1 - 12
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022 (*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 13 - 22
- 6 General Fund Revenue Budget, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme 2022 / 2023 23 - 30

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:

<https://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=4176&Ver=4>

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

13 January 2022

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

Councillor Roy Chamdal (Mayor)
Councillor Becky Haggart (Deputy Mayor)

	<p>MEMBERS PRESENT:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Councillors: Lynne Allen</td> <td>Scott Farley</td> <td>John Morgan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teji Barnes</td> <td>Duncan Flynn</td> <td>John Morse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jonathan Bianco</td> <td>Janet Gardner</td> <td>Susan O'Brien</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lindsay Bliss</td> <td>Martin Goddard</td> <td>Jane Palmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wayne Bridges</td> <td>John Hensley</td> <td>Kerri Prince</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nicola Brightman</td> <td>Henry Higgins</td> <td>Devi Radia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alan Chapman</td> <td>Allan Kauffman</td> <td>John Riley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farhad Choubedar</td> <td>Kuldeep Lakhmana</td> <td>Paula Rodrigues</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Judith Cooper</td> <td>Eddie Lavery</td> <td>Raju Sansarpuri</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philip Corthorne</td> <td>Richard Lewis</td> <td>Scott Seaman-Digby</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Curling</td> <td>Heena Makwana</td> <td>David Simmonds CBE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Darran Davies</td> <td>Stuart Mathers</td> <td>Colleen Sullivan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nick Denys</td> <td>Carol Melvin</td> <td>Jan Sweeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jazz Dhillon</td> <td>Ali Milani</td> <td>Steve Tuckwell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Janet Duncan</td> <td>Douglas Mills</td> <td>David Yarrow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Edwards</td> <td>Richard Mills</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tony Eginton</td> <td>Peter Money</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Councillors: Lynne Allen	Scott Farley	John Morgan	Teji Barnes	Duncan Flynn	John Morse	Jonathan Bianco	Janet Gardner	Susan O'Brien	Lindsay Bliss	Martin Goddard	Jane Palmer	Wayne Bridges	John Hensley	Kerri Prince	Nicola Brightman	Henry Higgins	Devi Radia	Alan Chapman	Allan Kauffman	John Riley	Farhad Choubedar	Kuldeep Lakhmana	Paula Rodrigues	Judith Cooper	Eddie Lavery	Raju Sansarpuri	Philip Corthorne	Richard Lewis	Scott Seaman-Digby	Peter Curling	Heena Makwana	David Simmonds CBE	Darran Davies	Stuart Mathers	Colleen Sullivan	Nick Denys	Carol Melvin	Jan Sweeting	Jazz Dhillon	Ali Milani	Steve Tuckwell	Janet Duncan	Douglas Mills	David Yarrow	Ian Edwards	Richard Mills		Tony Eginton	Peter Money	
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41.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ahmad-Wallana, Arnold, Birah, Burrows, Deville, Dhot, Graham, Hurhangee, Markham, Nelson, Oswell, Sir Ray Puddifoot, Singh and Stead.</p>																																																			
42.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>																																																			
43.	<p>MOTIONS (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>Councillor Flynn moved, and Councillor Choubedar seconded, the suspension of Council procedure rules 14.6 with the effect that no amendments to the motion may be moved.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Council Procedure Rule 14.6 be suspended for the duration of the meeting.</p> <p>In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12, Councillor Edwards moved the</p>																																																			

following motion:

“That, under the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the following persons be granted Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Hillingdon, being the highest distinction in the power of the Council to bestow and that those persons so named be admitted to the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the Borough:

- *Sir Raymond John Puddifoot MBE, a resident of the Borough, in recognition of his twenty years of outstanding leadership of the Council of the London Borough of Hillingdon and of his exemplary service to its residents.*
- *Jean Palmer OBE, of Rayner’s Lane, Pinner, in recognition of her longstanding and eminent service to the London Borough of Hillingdon and contribution to the lives of its residents.”*

The motion was seconded by Councillor Curling.

Councillors Bianco, Corthorne, Lewis and Simmonds commended Sir Ray Puddifoot MBE for his exemplary service to Hillingdon residents during his time as Leader of the Council. Ms Jean Palmer OBE was also praised for her unfaltering efforts to put residents at the heart of everything the Council did.

Councillor Edwards informed Members that a civic dinner would be held on 8 April 2022 to formalise the award of the Freedom.

On being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That, under the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the following persons be granted Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Hillingdon, being the highest distinction in the power of the Council to bestow and that those persons so named be admitted to the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the Borough:

- **Sir Raymond John Puddifoot MBE, a resident of the Borough, in recognition of his twenty years of outstanding leadership of the Council of the London Borough of Hillingdon and of his exemplary service to its residents.**
- **Jean Palmer OBE, of Rayner’s Lane, Pinner, in recognition of her longstanding and eminent service to the London Borough of Hillingdon and contribution to the lives of its residents.**

The meeting, which commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 7.53 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 01895 556743. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.

Minutes

COUNCIL

13 January 2022

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



HILLINGDON
LONDON

Councillor Roy Chamdal (Mayor)
Councillor Becky Haggar (Deputy Mayor)

	<p>MEMBERS PRESENT:</p> <p>Councillors: Lynne Allen Scott Farley John Morgan Teji Barnes Duncan Flynn John Morse Jonathan Bianco Janet Gardner Susan O'Brien Lindsay Bliss Martin Goddard Jane Palmer Wayne Bridges John Hensley Kerri Prince Nicola Brightman Henry Higgins Devi Radia Alan Chapman Allan Kauffman John Riley Farhad Choubedar Kuldeep Lakhmana Paula Rodrigues Judith Cooper Eddie Lavery Raju Sansarpuri Philip Corthorne Richard Lewis Scott Seaman-Digby Peter Curling Heena Makwana David Simmonds CBE Darran Davies Stuart Mathers Colleen Sullivan Nick Denys Carol Melvin Jan Sweeting Jazz Dhillon Ali Milani Steve Tuckwell Janet Duncan Douglas Mills David Yarrow Ian Edwards Richard Mills Tony Eginton Peter Money</p>
	<p>OFFICERS PRESENT: Tony Zaman, Lloyd White, Glen Egan, Mark Braddock, Morgan Einon, Sue Albu and Nikki O'Halloran</p>
44.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ahmad-Wallana, Arnold, Birah, Burrows, Deville, Dhot, Graham, Hurhangee, Markham, Nelson, Oswell, Sir Ray Puddifoot, Singh and Stead.</p>
45.	<p>MINUTES (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021 be agreed as a correct record.</p>
46.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>Councillor Mathers declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10.3, subject to the agreement of his appointment to the Major Applications Planning Committee at Agenda Item 5, and stayed in the room and spoke on the item. Councillor Mathers advised that he would not be taking part in the determination of any planning application in relation to the site mentioned in Agenda Item 10.3.</p> <p>Councillor Allen declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10.1, as she was a</p>

	<p>member of the MOPAC Independent Advisory Group, and remained in the room during the consideration thereof.</p>
47.	<p>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The Mayor advised that he had attended the New Year's Day Parade which had been pared down this year due to the pandemic. He thanked those who had sent him Christmas cards and noted that his Christmas card, which had been designed by children in care, had been well received. The Mayor had attended a number of events to switch on Christmas lights and a number of Christmas teas.</p> <p>The Mayor noted that it had been just over 35 years since he first visited the Civic Centre which was when he had married the Mayoress.</p>
48.	<p>REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (<i>Agenda Item 5</i>)</p> <p>(i) CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 2021/22</p> <p>Councillor Curling moved, and Councillor Dhillon seconded, the recommendation as set out on the Order of Business and it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the following change to committee memberships for 2021/2022, as proposed by the Labour Group, be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Applications Planning Committee – Councillor Mathers to replace Councillor Dhot • Borough Planning Committee – Councillor Dhillon to replace Councillor Birah • Registration and Appeals Committee – Councillor Mathers to replace Councillor Dhot (Labour Lead)
49.	<p>COUNCIL TAX BASE AND BUSINESS RATES FORECAST 2022/2023 (<i>Agenda Item 6</i>)</p> <p>Councillor Goddard moved, and Councillor Edwards seconded, the recommendations as set out on the Order of Business and it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That:</p> <ol 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 2022/23 shall be 103,840. c) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Finance to submit the 2022/23 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.
50.	<p>PUBLIC SECTOR AUDIT APPOINTMENTS (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p>

Councillor Goddard moved, and Councillor Edwards seconded, the recommendation as set out on the Order of Business and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council opt into the Public Sector Audit Appointments national scheme for the provision of external audit services.

51. **ADOPTION OF THE HOUSING STRATEGY 2021/22 - 2025/26** (*Agenda Item 8*)

Councillor Lavery moved, and Councillor Bianco seconded, the recommendation as set out on the Order of Business and it was:

RESOLVED: That the Borough's Housing Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26, be adopted as part of the Council's policy framework.

52. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** (*Agenda Item 9*)

9.2 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - COUNCILLOR PALMER:

"Could the Cabinet Member please give an update on the Stronger Families Hub and the benefit of this approach for our families?"

Councillor Palmer advised that she had great pride in, and respect for, all staff in health and social care. The Stronger Families Hub had been launched in the previous year and had provided a 24/7 service which had been well received by residents. Using a partnership approach, families had been provided with a reassuring voice, advice and support to help with a range of issues.

Moving to a Stronger Families Hub put families first by providing them with a single point of contact that had a single telephone number, email address and online referral form. The Hub had responded to an increase in demand by strengthening processes and had become a gateway for residents by making sure that early help and safeguarding priorities were aligned.

Locality teams had been strategically located across the Borough based on demand. It was anticipated that the timely support being offered would help to prevent escalation and, therefore, demands on other services. Work would be continued to develop and strengthen this support further.

Councillor Palmer thanked the Interim Chief Executive and the social care team for their work in remodelling service delivery, which would have been particularly challenging during the pandemic.

There was no supplementary question.

9.1 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PRINCE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE - COUNCILLOR GODDARD:

"Can the Cabinet Member please inform us how the Council has promoted the draft budget consultation to residents?"

Councillor Goddard advised that the process had been transparent. The draft budget had been considered by Cabinet and further information had been included on the relevant agenda as well as publicised through a range of media, including Hillingdon People and press releases. In addition, the Council's Select Committees were currently reviewing the budget and would submit their comments to Cabinet in February. Residents had been invited to participate in the consultation and submit comments by 30 January 2022.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Prince asked whether the poor response to the consultation (there had only been 22 public responses to the consultation when this question had been submitted) had been as a result of poor promotion or a political decision to avoid publicising the Council's true financial position.

Councillor Goddard advised that, despite having a huge public relations machine and huge budget, the Mayor of London had only given around four weeks over the Christmas period for consultation on his budget and had been misleading regarding the precept.

Since the Council agenda had been published, additional public comments had been submitted bringing the current total to 48. It was noted that 75% of respondents had been satisfied with the proposals and it was suggested that the silent majority that had not participated in the consultation had been happy with the financial controls and budget process.

9.4 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FAMILIES, EDUCATION AND WELLBEING - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

"Could the Cabinet Member please update Council on the unprecedented admissions for in-year school places to children in the Borough for this academic year?"

Councillor O'Brien advised that, for September 2021, Hillingdon had processed 7,271 reception and Year 1 school place applications. On top of this, there had also been more than 500 in-year applications processed. By December 2021, there had already been 1,754 in-year applications. It was noted that, although there had been an excessive number of in-year applications, there had also been a large number of children leaving the area which had caused churn.

Meetings had been undertaken in relation to placing vulnerable children and there had been a 36% increase in the number of children been placed through the Fair Access Panel (91). 66 children were currently awaiting confirmation of a school place.

Officers had had to work quickly to help schools and children to identify places to meet the demand. Despite this pressure, applications had been processed quickly and all children had continued to be offered places within a reasonable timeframe.

Councillor O'Brien thanked the officers for their dedication and also thanked the schools for their work.

There was no supplementary question.

9.3 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR EGINTON TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FAMILIES, EDUCATION AND WELLBEING - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

"The London Borough of Hillingdon is negotiating with the Department for Education to enter into a Safety Valve agreement. It is hoped that this agreement will provide Central Government assistance to reduce the cumulative deficit on Hillingdon's Dedicated Schools Grant which is expected to reach at least £46 million in 2024. That is equivalent to £150 for each and every resident in Hillingdon. Can the Cabinet Member please explain the reasons and responsibility for causing the deficit?"

Councillor O'Brien advised that the situation had been compounded by funding pressures as well as an increase in the identification of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and changes to the funding methods. In 2014/15, the high needs population had been 1,503. By April 2021, the number of individuals with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) had risen to 2,855 (an increase of 1,352 in five years).

The increase in EHCPs had started in 2015/16 following an extension to the SEN provision in 2014 and had resulted in a deficit of £3.2m. In 2017/18, the Council had implemented funding transfers of £11.5m from the schools block to the high needs block and changes to the national funding formula had been implemented. Subsequent disapplication requests by the Council had not been approved by the Education and Skills Funds Agency.

In 2020, Hillingdon's high needs funding had been identified as the fourth lowest in London (28th out of 32 boroughs). To mitigate the pressures on schools-based budgets, SEN pre-statutory pathways had been developed.

There had been an increase in the number of children with SEN and therefore an increase in the demand for places in SEN schools. There had also been a number of children being moved from mainstream schools to special schools increasing pressure on existing provision.

As it was more productive to work collaboratively to find solutions, officers had been working with the Department for Education. Work was currently underway to develop additional local specialist places, improve support and inclusion within the mainstream sector, reduce reliance on the independent special school sector, improve the support for parents of children aged 0-5 and increase pre-statutory pathways to meet needs prior to starting an EHCP. Everyone wanted what was best for the children in the Borough.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Eginton asked whether the Department of Education had been informed of the failure of the Council to open the special resource provision for children with special needs at Ruislip High School. This had meant that other schools had been considering closing their special resource provision.

Councillor O'Brien advised that the Council was currently in negotiations with Ruislip High School in relation to this matter as well as with other schools. It was intended that there would be a specialist provision and the Council would continue to work with Ruislip High School as well as other schools in the Borough to ensure that all of Hillingdon's young people had a place in a school.

53. **MOTIONS** (*Agenda Item 10*)

10.4 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LAVERY

Councillor Lavery moved, and Councillor D Mills seconded, the following motion:

That this Council commits to maintaining a weekly, free at point of use waste collection service for general, mixed recycling, food and green waste. We reject the imposition of multiple wheelie bins as they are unsightly, not cost effective and their use puts at risk the valued weekly collection service that enjoys strong support from residents who value our straightforward collection method.

This Council notes the success of the food rollout programme and the ambitious plans to increase the take up of this service.

Councillor Prince proposed the following amendment:

“This Council recognises that residents in flats are not receiving the standard of waste collection that this Council advertises, and urges the Cabinet member to request a report on the specific issues of waste and collection faced by residents who reside in flats.

“This Council also thanks the waste and recycling staff team for their hard work, especially during the pandemic and the challenges that it brought.”

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Curling.

During the debate, those in support of the motion noted that Hillingdon would continue to provide a free weekly collection of waste and recycling to its residents. Although some residents had purchased their own wheelie bins, there were no plans for the Council to introduce wheelie bins across the Borough.

The food waste collection service continued to be expanded across the Borough and work had been undertaken to look at the inclusion of flatted developments in this scheme. Residents had continued to benefit from a textile and small electrical appliance collection service.

Members speaking in favour of the amendment noted that, although the value to residents of the service was not underestimated, there was always room for improvement, particularly in relation to the service received by those living in flats. In addition, it was noted that there were times when weekly street cleaning was undertaken before the bin collection which meant that any resultant waste strewn across the road/pavement would not be cleared up until the following week.

The amendment was put to the vote and lost.

Members noted the need to maintain the simplicity of the scheme and weekly collections and to recognise the risk of changing the service too much.

The original motion was put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: That this Council commits to maintaining a weekly, free at point of use waste collection service for general, mixed recycling, food and green waste. We reject the imposition of multiple wheelie bins as they are unsightly, not cost effective and their use puts at risk the valued weekly collection service that enjoys strong support from residents who value our straightforward collection method. This Council notes the success of the food rollout programme and the ambitious plans to increase the take up of this service.

10.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PRINCE

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

That this Council notes that street lighting is one the many tools that can be used to reduce crime and promote safety on our streets.

This Council also notes the tragic abductions, rapes, murders and assaults that have taken place recently, and recognises the need to take necessary action to

reduce crime and increase public safety.

This Council agrees with the Government that there is evidence on how street lighting can be effective at improving feeling of safety in public places, as well as preventing crimes.

This Council welcomes the initiatives created by the Mayor of London's Office to challenge violent offences and street safety.

This Council calls on Cabinet to:

- Proactively work with MOPAC, ward Councillors, residents, and other relevant partners to identify the areas in the borough that require increased street lighting.
- To develop a strategy for publication for improving safety through street lighting.

Councillors speaking in support of the motion expressed concern regarding the increase in violent crime and, although it was recognised that improved street lighting would not prevent all violence, it was thought that it might prevent some and would therefore help residents to feel safer. In addition, it was mooted that improved street lighting would reduce crime and reduce the number vehicle collisions.

Those speaking against the motion suggested that support of the motion would take resources away from dealing with issues such as anti-social behaviour. Council officers and the relevant Cabinet Members worked closely with the policing team on a range of initiatives to improve public safety. CCTV had been expanded across the Borough with an excellent monitoring centre. Any increase in street lighting would need to be balanced against resultant light pollution.

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

10.2 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MATHERS

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

That this Council notes the increase in food banks use around the country and in Hillingdon over recent years, as households feel the squeeze of rising inflation and a decade of suppressed wages.

This Council also notes the increasingly worrying concern of fuel poverty with a growing number of Hillingdon residents being fuel poor with the situation only due to get worse with energy price hikes later this year.

This Council notes that the levels of child poverty in the borough means a number of children struggle to thrive in education and health outcomes.

This Council notes that the highest single reason for poverty is 'low income', made harder by the Conservative Government's recent cut of £20 per week to Universal Credit.

This Council believes it is time for change and that recognising socio-economic deprivation is an equality issue.

Therefore, this Council declares a Poverty Emergency, noting the progress made of the Climate Emergency declaration, and believes that a commitment

to a people and planet approach will aid recovery and renewal in these difficult times of the pandemic and beyond.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- ensure that the Poverty Action Plan workstream sits alongside the Climate Change action plan workstream.
- develop a poverty action strategy which takes a people and planet approach, including engaging and working with residents through an 'ending poverty' forum made up of residents and relevant partner organisations.
- take a collaborative and evidence-based approach, working more closely with health partners, trade unions, employers, education settings, the voluntary sector and community groups.
- adopt the good practice of other local government bodies and councils that have made significant progress in this area.

Members in support of the motion noted that, with fuel bills going up and the financial pressure on households increasing, some families had been struggling to put food on the table. It was noted that Hammersmith had introduced an initiative to provide free school meals for children over the school holidays to address this situation and it was suggested that Hillingdon introduce something similar.

Those speaking against the motion recognised that some residents were facing increasing difficulties and noted that help for these families was being targeted through schools. As poverty was not a single issue, a wide range of support was available to help these families in Hillingdon, including housing grants and the Council Tax discretionary fund.

Concern was expressed that some families needed the practical help provided by food banks and that Members should not be playing politics with this service. Hillingdon had lower unemployment than other areas and residents recognised that finding work would be one route out of poverty.

The motion was put to a recorded vote:

Those voting for: Councillors Allen, Bliss, Curling, Dhillon, Duncan, Eginton, Farley, Gardner, Lakhmana, Mathers, Milani, Money, Morse, Prince, Sansarpuri and Sweeting.

Those voting against: The Mayor (Councillor Chamdal), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Haggard), Councillors Barnes, Bianco, Bridges, Brightman, Chapman, Choubedar, Cooper, Corthorne, Davies, Denys, Edwards, Flynn, Goddard, Hensley, Higgins, Kauffman, Lavery, Lewis, Makwana, Melvin, D Mills, R Mills, Morgan, O'Brien, Palmer, Radia, Riley, Rodrigues, Seaman-Digby, Simmonds, Sullivan, Tuckwell and Yarrow.

Those abstaining: None.

The motion was lost.

10.3 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CURLING

Members were provided with legal guidance before the start of the debate. The final decision on the restricted covenant had been delegated to the Leader and Deputy Leader but decisions in relation to any planning application would be made by the Major Applications Planning Committee. Any Members of the Major Applications

Planning Committee (or substitutes) considering the application at the Major Applications Planning Committee meeting in February 2022 would need to be mindful to avoid making any comments during the debate that could be deemed to prejudge that decision and avoid any debate that touched on planning issues.

The Council did have the power to override restrictive covenants where it was considered appropriate to do so in the public interest. A resolution to never use this power would not be consistent with the land management in the public interest. Whether or not it was appropriate to override public interest was a decision for Members. When voting on this motion, Members would need to consider whether they had said anything during the debate that would prejudice their participation in determining the planning application.

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

That this Council believes that restrictive covenants on public & communal land plays an important role in ensuring that the value and enjoyment of the land is, and continues to be, preserved. Restrictive covenants enhance and protect our borough for our residents' benefit and that of future generations.

This Council, therefore, believes that it should set the example and do all within its power to uphold restrictive covenants especially on council land.

This Council, therefore, calls on the Cabinet to abolish their current plans to remove the restrictive covenant in Yiewsley in order to develop on the recreation ground and library site.

This Council calls on the Cabinet to enter into dialogue with local residents to devise alternative options for the use of the land in Yiewsley that complies with the restrictive covenants put in place to preserve the enjoyment and benefit for Hillingdon residents.

Furthermore, this Council commits to uphold restrictive covenants across the borough for the benefit of residents.

It was stated by those in support of the motion that this was the public's land which had been put into the Council's custodianship and that the Council needed to honour this promise. Concern was expressed that no proactive consultation had been undertaken other than the statutory street signage about the planning application.

Preserving green spaces helped to support good mental health. Concern was expressed that suburban areas were increasingly becoming urban.

Those speaking against the motion noted that care needed to be taken so as not to fetter or predetermine planning or land appropriation matters during the debate. It was recognised that some residents might have concerns but the motion was misleading as the Council did not intend to build on the open space recreation ground. In January 2020, Council had agreed the Local Plan Part 2 which clearly showed the land in Yiewsley designated as metropolitan open space and did not include the Yiewsley pool site or library site. In 2014, the Planning Committee had approved an application to build on the old Yiewsley swimming pool site which had included residential units with no abstention or dissent from the Labour Members on the Committee.

The new duty to uphold restrictive covenants mentioned in the motion was uncoded

and unfunded and would be impractical to discharge. It would fetter future Council discretion and decision making in relation to its own use of land and the Borough Solicitor had advised against this. Each case needed to be determined on its own merits which a blanket policy would prevent and would open the Council to challenge and hinder proper land management. If agreed, the motion would place the Council in a legal quagmire.

The motion was put to a recorded vote:

Those voting for: Councillors Allen, Bliss, Curling, Dhillon, Duncan, Eginton, Farley, Gardner, Lakhmana, Mathers, Milani, Money, Prince, Sansarpuri and Sweeting.

Those voting against: The Mayor (Councillor Chamdal), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Haggar), Councillors Barnes, Bianco, Bridges, Brightman, Choubedar, Cooper, Davies, Denys, Edwards, Flynn, Goddard, Hensley, Kauffman, Lavery, Lewis, Makwana, D Mills, R Mills, Morgan, O'Brien, Palmer, Radia, Riley, Rodrigues, Seaman-Digby, Simmonds and Sullivan.

Those abstaining: Councillors Chapman, Corthorne, Higgins, Melvin, Morse, Tuckwell and Yarrow.

The motion was lost.

The meeting, which commenced at 8.00 pm, closed at 9.42 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 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) MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2022/23

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. Having given due regard to the latest report, it is proposed to increase the level of the annual Basic Allowance paid to elected Members to that recommended in the Panel's report, of £12,014. No change is proposed to the levels of the Special Responsibility Allowances for 2022/2023.

RECOMMENDATION: That the current Members' Allowances Scheme be revoked as of 31 March 2022 and the new Scheme for 2022/23 be approved, as shown in Appendix A, for implementation from 1 April 2022.

INFORMATION

3. Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires re-adoption of the scheme by 31 March 2022.
4. 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 have just published their latest report dated January 2022. The key findings of that report are summarised below and 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>
5. The Panel acknowledges the fact that councillors oversee million-pound budgets, balancing complex financial pressures at a time of severe cutbacks in local authority spending, making decisions which will affect their areas for decades to come. These challenges continue and have been exacerbated by the impact of the Covid-19.
6. The Panel is aware that the workload and responsibilities of councillors continues to increase and that their role has become more complex.
7. Since the start of the Pandemic, there has been an important and significant role for councillors in local welfare support and greater liaison with the voluntary sector. This all requires the commitment and time of leaders, cabinet members and front-line councillors. The Pandemic has also heightened the significant role of councillors as a point contact for information, advice, and reassurance for communities.
8. While valuable to democracy, the growth in digital connectivity and the availability and use of social media and other forms of messaging applications

adds to the pressure on councillors by increasing demands from their constituents in several different ways. Communication with councillors is not only easier but immediate. The public expects a speedy response, so that it is now more difficult for councillors to deal with concerns as quickly as voters expect. Not only does social media make it easier for their constituents to access councillors, but they also enable an isolated concern to become an organised campaign. The expectations of the public continue to rise.

9. The Panel recognises the balance between setting allowances at a level where they are neither an incentive nor a disincentive to the recruitment of candidates to stand as Councillors.
10. The Panel regrets the removal of the opportunity for Members to join the Local Government Pension scheme, recognising that, senior Members in particular, often have to give up earning opportunities elsewhere in order to properly carry out their role.
11. **Basic Allowance** - the Panel has recommended a Basic Allowance of **£12,014**, pending the outcome of the local government pay award, reluctantly accepting that, in the current financial climate it would be inappropriate to recommend a general increase in Members' Allowances beyond the annual updating in line with staff pay awards. The Panel does, however, recognise that this level is somewhat below the level of basic allowance paid in some other parts of the country.
12. **Travel and Subsistence** - the Panel have reiterated their view that the basic allowance should cover basic out-of-pocket expenses including intra-borough travel etc. The Scheme should allow for costs related to 'special circumstances' and travel out of Borough to be met.
13. **Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA)** - The Panel confirm that the reasons for payment of SRAs should be clearly set out in local allowances schemes and should only be paid to Members in positions where there are significant differences in the time requirements and levels of responsibility from those generally expected of a councillor.
14. **Leader's Allowance** - The Panel recommends a SRA of **£62,092** for Leaders of London Borough Councils (LBH recommendation for 2022/23 = **£58,700.29**).
15. Originally the Panel suggested that the level of allowance to be paid to Leaders of London Borough's should be broadly equivalent to that paid to MP's. However, the increase in the level of payment to MP's has outstripped that of payment to Leaders. An MP currently receives £81,932, as well as being entitled to other benefits such as a pension and a termination payment.
16. Although the Panel still feel that the level should be equivalent to that of MP's they recognise that in the current stringent financial climate, such an increase cannot be justified.

17. **Other SRA's** recommended by the Panel are based on a percentage of the amount paid to Leaders of Councils and fall broadly into three bands as illustrated below:

Panel Recommendation	LBH Equivalent	LBH recommended Amount
<p>Band One - between 20-30% of the remuneration package for the Leader: £2,807 to £10,218:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Mayor Vice Chairman of a Scrutiny / Regulatory Ctte Chairman of a Sub Ctte Opposition Whip Opposition Spokesperson Cabinet Assistant Adoption Panel member Leader of a special project Leader of a second or minor opposition Group Member of a Committee which meets with exceptional frequency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Mayor Vice Chairman of Licensing Committee Chairman of Standards Committee Standards Committee Independent Person Chairman of Audit Committee* Champion Council rep' on Adoption and Permanency Panel Cabinet Assistant Deputy Leader of 2nd Party Chief Whip of 2nd Party 2nd Party Lead on Select Committee 2nd Party Lead on Planning Committee 	<p>£9,252.71</p> <p>£6,686.93</p> <p>£3,343.46</p> <p>£1,674.73</p> <p>£3,180.83</p> <p>£6,101.08</p> <p>£13,373.87</p> <p>£9,252.71</p> <p>£6,101.08</p> <p>£6,101.08</p> <p>£6,101.08</p> <p>£6,101.08</p>
<p>Band Two - - between 40-60% of the remuneration package for the Leader: £17,628 to £32,450:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman of a Scrutiny / Planning / Licensing etc Mayor Chief Whip Opposition Leader A rep' on a key outside body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman of Select Ctte / Planning etc Chairman of Licensing Committee Mayor Chief Whip of Largest Party Leader of 2nd Party 	<p>£23,725.26</p> <p>£10,030.32</p> <p>£23,725.26</p> <p>£23,725.26</p> <p>£23,725.26</p>
<p>Band Three - between 70-80% of the remuneration package for the Leader: £39,860 to £47,271:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Member Deputy Leader Chairman of the main Select Ctte Chair of Health and Wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Member Deputy Leader of the Council 	<p>£41,351.55</p> <p>£49,447.58</p>

- **Increases** - The Panel continue to recommend that allowances should be updated annually in accordance with the headline figure in the annual local government pay settlement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18. Provision has been made in the 2022/23 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 or re-confirmed into posts receiving a Special Responsibility Allowance.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

19. In accordance with the 2003 Regulations, the current scheme needs to be revoked as of 31 March 2022 and a new scheme made before 31 March 2022. 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 2022

ii) PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2022/23

RECOMMENDATION: That the timetable of meetings for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix B, 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.

Members should note that during the year some meeting dates / times may change, or additional meetings may be called for the effective conduct of the Council's business.

Background Papers: None

iii) WAIVER OF 6 MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE.

Introduction

1. Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive period, to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. This requirement can be waived, and the time limit extended if any failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the Authority, in advance of the six-month period expiring.
2. Unfortunately, due to illness, Councillor Ray Graham has not been able to attend any Council or Committee meetings since the meeting of the Corporate, Finance and Property Select Committee on 7 September 2021.
3. A formal request has therefore been made for an extension to the six-month rule to be approved in his respect.

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Graham's non-attendance at meetings of the authority due to ill health, be approved for a period ending on 5 May 2022.

Background

4. The Head of Democratic Services has received a request for the Council to consider approving an extension to the usual six-month attendance rule enabling Councillor Graham to remain in office until he is able to resume normal duties.
5. Council can only consider approval of any reasons for non-attendance before the end of the relevant six-month period, which will be 07 March 2022. This is the final Council meeting at which approval could be sought for an extension of the time limit. If approval to any extension is not therefore agreed at this meeting, Councillor Graham would, under Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 be disqualified from office as a councillor.
6. Once a Member loses office, through failure to attend for the six-month period, the disqualification cannot be overcome by the Member subsequently resuming attendance nor can retrospective approval of the Council be sought for an extension in time.
7. Councillor Graham was elected to the Council in May 2010 and represents Uxbridge North Ward.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that, *"if a Member of a Local Authority fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a Member of the Authority."*

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2022/23**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 2022/23 an allowance of **£12,014** 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. Mayor	23,725.26
2. Deputy Mayor	9,252.71
3. Leader of the Council	58,700.29
4. Deputy Leader of the Council	49,447.58
5. Chief Whip of Largest Party	23,725.26
6. Cabinet Member	41,351.55
7. Chairman of Scrutiny and Policy Overview Committee	23,725.26
8. Chairman of Planning Committee	23,725.26
9. Chairman of Licensing Committee	10,030.32
10. Vice Chairman of Licensing Committee	6,686.93
11. Chairman of Standards Committee	3,343.46
12. Standards Committee Independent Person	1,674.73
13. Chairman of Audit Committee*	3,180.83
14. Champion	6101.08
15. Council representative on Adoption and Permanency Panel	13,373.87
16. Cabinet Assistant	9,252.71
17. Leader of 2 nd Party	23,725.26
18. Deputy Leader of 2 nd Party	6101.08
19. Chief Whip of 2 nd Party	6101.08
20. 2 nd Party Lead on Scrutiny and Policy Overview Committee	6101.08
21. Party Lead on Planning 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 annual entitlement allowance of £1,674.73 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.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2022/23

2022

2023

MEETING (start time)	May	June	July	August	Sep't	October	Nov'	December	January	February	March	April	May
Council (7.30pm)	12 (AGM)		14		22		17		12	23			11 (AGM)
Whips Meeting (6pm)			12		20		15		10	21			9
Cabinet (7pm)	19	16	7		1	13	10	15	5	16	23	20	4
Petition Hearings with the Cabinet Member for Public Safety and Transport (7pm)		1	13	10	7	6	2	7	4	1	8	13	10
Petition Hearings with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing and Regeneration (7pm)					29		16		3		22		
Borough Planning Committee (6pm)	24	21	12	2	7	4	1	8	17	14	9	5	9
Major Applications Planning Committee (6pm)	18	23	26	23	15	11	9	14	18	22	29	25	18
Pensions Committee (5pm)		9	-		28	-		6	-		22		
Audit Committee (5.10pm)			27		29	-	15		31			27	
Health & Wellbeing Board (2.30pm)		14			13		29				7		
Licensing Committee (10am)			6			4			25			4	
Licensing Sub-Committee (10am) (dates tbc)													
Public Safety and Transport Select Committee (SC) (7pm)		8	28		20	18	16		3	9	7	6	
Families, Health and Wellbeing SC (7pm)		28	20		21	25	29		4	2	14	18	
Corporate Parenting Panel (5.30pm)	25		28				2		24				24
Environment, Housing and Regeneration SC (7pm)		15	21		8	19	24		19	15	15	12	
Corporate, Finance and Property SC (7.30pm)		7	13		6	20	23		11	8	1	19	
External Services SC (6.30pm)		22	19		14	12	22		26	21	21	26	
Standards Committee (7pm)		29		31				1		28			
Hillingdon SACRE (5.30pm)		15					3				28		

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23

Council Tax Resolution 2022/23 – Cabinet Proposals

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to calculate and approve the Council Tax Requirement for 2022/23, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
2. Cabinet on 17 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 2022/23. 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:

<https://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=4176&Ver=4>

Background Documents: None

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GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23

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 2022/23, 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 3%) 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 £1,263.28, which represents a 1.9% uplift on the Council's element of Council Tax at the 2021/22 level.
3. The report to Cabinet, including the proposed budget, is available in the Group Offices, on request to the Head of Democratic Services or online at: <https://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=4176>
4. The Greater London Authority (GLA) budget proposals add £395.59 to the amount payable by Hillingdon's Council Tax payers, which represents an 8.8% increase in the GLA portion of Council Tax compared to 2021/22.
5. Based on the Cabinet's proposals, and the GLA precept, the total Band D Council Tax for 2022/23 will be £1,658.87.

CABINET RECOMMENDS that:

- 1 **The General Fund revenue budget proposals made by Cabinet be approved, resulting in a Council Tax requirement for 2022/23 of £131,178,995;**
- 2 **Council note that at its meeting on 13 January 2022 the Council calculated the amount of 103,840 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2022/23. 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 £1,263.28 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 £1,658.87 for the borough;**

4 The following amounts have been calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23, in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):

a) £889,529,273 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) £758,350,278 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) £131,178,995 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) £1,263.28 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
842.17	982.54	1,122.91	1,263.28
Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
1,543.99	1,824.74	2,105.45	2,526.54

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 2022/23 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
263.73	307.68	351.64	395.59
Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
483.50	571.41	659.32	791.18

- 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 2022/23 for each category of dwelling below:

Total Council Tax 2022/23			
Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
1,105.90	1,290.22	1,474.55	1,658.87
Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
2,027.49	2,396.15	2,764.77	3,317.72

- 7 The Council Tax Discount for Older People be retained for 2022/23 with a 1.25% discount on the Hillingdon's element of the Council Tax for those who joined the scheme on or after 1 April 2020, 2.86% for those who joined the scheme before or on 31 March 2019 and 6.14% for those who joined before or on 31 March 2018.
- 8 The General Fund Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 as set out in Appendix A8 of the background 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 background report be approved.
- 10 The proposed amendments to Fees and Charges set out in Appendix C of the background report to Cabinet be approved.
- 11 Capital Investment Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2022/23 to 2026/27 as set out in Appendix D of the background report to Cabinet be approved.
- 12 The London Borough of Hillingdon Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix E of the background report to Cabinet be approved.
- 13 Council note the Corporate Director of Finance's comments regarding his responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2003.
- 14 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 2022/23 in support of functions designated to the Cabinet in line with Part 4 of the Constitution.

- 15 Council confirm that the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 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 £20 per annum to support TfL during the pandemic. Additionally, a further £10 is being added that will go directly to the Metropolitan Police, finally, £1.93 is being added to support the London Fire Brigade. The GLA have therefore increased their precept by 8.8% to cover rising costs associated with these areas alongside cost pressures within the London Fire Brigade, this takes the GLA precept to £395.59 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 2022/23 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 2022/23 is 3% or greater than its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22. This 3% threshold for excessive increases includes the 1% 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 1.9% increase in the Council Tax level between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and is therefore not excessive.

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

The Borough Solicitor can confirm that the calculations set out in this report fully accord with all necessary statutory requirements.

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. Local authorities are now required to hold a referendum if there is an increase in the relevant basic amount of Council Tax of 3% or greater than its relevant amount of Council Tax for 2021/22.

The Cabinet's proposals for the 2022/23 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.

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 2022/23 - 2026/27 - Cabinet's Budget proposals approved on 17 February 2022

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