



HILLINGDON
LONDON



Council

To all Members of the Council

Date: THURSDAY, 30
NOVEMBER 2023

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

View the agenda online at
www.hillingdon.gov.uk

Alternatively, use a smart phone camera
and scan the code shown below:



Published: Wednesday, 22 November
2023

Contact: Lloyd White, Head of
Democratic Services

Tel: 01895 556743

Email: lwhite@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

Watching & recording this meeting

You can watch this meeting on the Council's YouTube channel, live or archived.

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.

Watch a **LIVE** broadcast of this meeting on the Council's YouTube Channel: *Hillingdon London*

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

Bus routes 427, U1, U3, U4 and U7 all stop at the Civic Centre. Uxbridge underground station, with the Piccadilly and Metropolitan lines, is a short walk away. Limited parking is available at the Civic Centre. For details on availability and how to book a parking space, please contact Democratic Services.

Please enter via main reception and visit the security desk to sign-in and collect a visitors pass. You will then be directed to the Chamber.



Accessibility

For accessibility options regarding this agenda please contact Democratic Services. For those hard of hearing an Induction Loop System is available for use.

Emergency procedures

If there is a FIRE, you will hear a continuous alarm. Please follow the signs to the nearest FIRE EXIT and assemble on the Civic Centre forecourt. Lifts must not be used unless instructed by a Fire Marshal or Security Officer. In the event of a SECURITY INCIDENT, follow instructions issued via the tannoy, a Fire Marshal or a Security Officer. Those unable to evacuate using the stairs, should make their way to the signed refuge locations.

Agenda

Prayers

To be said by Imam Md Sirajul Islam

- 1** Apologies for Absence
- 2** Minutes 1 - 10
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 (*attached*)
- 3** Declarations of Interest
To note any declarations of interest in any matter before the Council
- 4** Mayor's Announcements
- 5** Public Question Time 11 - 12
To take questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.
- 6** Report of the Head of Democratic Services 13 - 14
- 7** Members' Questions 15 - 16
To take questions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11
- 8** Motions 17 - 18
To consider Motions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 2

Minutes

COUNCIL

28 September 2023

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



HILLINGDON
LONDON

Councillor Shehryar Ahmad-Wallana (Mayor)

	<p>MEMBERS PRESENT:</p> <p>Councillors: Naser Abby Jas Dhot Gursharan Mand Kaushik Banerjee Ian Edwards Stuart Mathers Labina Basit Scott Farley Douglas Mills Adam Bennett Elizabeth Garelick Richard Mills Kishan Bhatt Narinder Garg June Nelson Jonathan Bianco Tony Gill Barry Nelson-West Wayne Bridges Martin Goddard Susan O'Brien Tony Burles Ekta Gohil Jane Palmer Keith Burrows Becky Haggart Sital Punja Reeta Chamdal Henry Higgins John Riley Roy Chamdal Mohammed Islam Raju Sansarpuri Farhad Choubedar Kamal Preet Kaur Jagjit Singh Philip Corthorne Eddie Lavery Peter Smallwood Darran Davies Richard Lewis Jan Sweeting Nick Denys Heena Makwana Steve Tuckwell</p>
	<p>OFFICERS PRESENT: Tony Zaman, Andy Evans, Dan Kennedy, Perry Scott, Sandra Taylor, Glen Egan, Lloyd White, Mark Braddock, Morgan Einon and Nikki O'Halloran</p>
19.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Sullivan), Councillors Chapman, Curling, Gardner, Judge Lakhmana and Money.</p>
20.	<p>MINUTES (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023 be agreed as a correct record.</p>
21.	<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>
22.	<p>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The Mayor advised that he had been honoured to represent the Borough at a range of events and provided a summary of his civic activities since the last Council meeting. He also congratulated a local 99 year old resident, Ann, on completing her marathon challenge, one lap at a time. This had been a truly magnificent achievement.</p> <p>A charity fundraising lunch had been organised for Sunday 19 November 2023 at the London Heathrow Marriott Hotel to raise funds for the Mayor's charities. Everyone</p>

was welcome and the Mayor urged Members to invite their friends and families to come along.

23. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** (*Agenda Item 5*)

5.1 QUESTION FROM CHRIS WATERS OF FERRERS AVENUE, WEST DRAYTON TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS' SERVICES - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:

"The Council has recently been part of a legal battle against the expansion of the ULEZ zone, with the highlighted factor being the £12.50 charge during the 'cost of living crisis' – all pointing at this being more of a money-making than pollution reduction scheme by the Mayor of London.

"On the other hand, the Hillingdon Council deems it suitable to increase various vehicle related costs for its residents. General parking increasing 166% for residents to 80p per hour whilst the increase to non-residents is 20p or 11%. Blue badge renewals for the disabled residents to go up 376% or £7.90 and residents who live in permit zones, the 1st permit which was previously free will now cost £75.

"Without comparison to other or neighbouring Boroughs, can the Council provide justification as to why their increases should be acceptable however the cost associated with the ULEZ expansion, which will also provide a health benefit, is not acceptable considering that the Council, TfL and City Hall all have cost pressures to consider?"

As the questioner was unable to attend the meeting, the Mayor asked the question on behalf of Mr Waters. Councillor Lavery thanked Mr Waters for his question and advised that he would provide him with a written response.

[NOTE: The following written response was forwarded to Mr Waters after the meeting:

Thank you for your question submitted to the September Council meeting that you were regrettably unable to attend.

I must disagree with your attempt to equate the Mayor of London's ULEZ expansion with the provision of parking by the Council. The cost of ULEZ to a non-compliant vehicle would be £62.50 per week, based on a traditional working week, this was introduced whilst ignoring public consultation and when Sadiq Khan's own documents showed there would be a negligible impact on air quality especially here in Hillingdon.

The Council's fees and charges are part of the annual budget consultation, in which proposals are published in December and reconsidered in February, taking into consideration public comments.

Whilst it may not suit a certain political narrative to compare across neighbouring boroughs this remains one of the only metrics councils have to compare value for money.

Following years of charging some of the lowest levels of fees and charges across all London boroughs, Hillingdon has made some changes to bring the borough more in line with its outer London counterparts. Our updated fees and

charges are still among the lowest of all outer London boroughs and many of our Labour controlled neighbours, whilst we still remain one of the only London boroughs to provide free parking for residents.

Our aim is to recover more of the costs for discretionary services, like parking, from the people accessing them, rather than every council taxpayer subsidising these costs.

The quoting of percentages can of course be misleading and I'm grateful for the opportunity to confirm that the price for the first vehicle residents parking permit is £75 per year, which pales into insignificance when compared to the £62.50 a week levied by the ULEZ expansion.

Residents have benefitted from free resident permits for a number of years; however, Parking Management Schemes are implemented at the request of residents and there are associated costs incurred to operate these schemes. The charge was introduced to cover these costs from those who use them, effectively removing the wider council taxpayer subsidy.

The increase in fees for Blue Badge renewals to £10 is in line with the statutory fee limit for Local Authorities and will also enable some of the costs of administering it to be recovered from those who benefit from it. The £7.90 increase is equivalent to £2.60 per year (22p per month) for a renewal as they remain valid for a period of 3 years and is in my opinion very good value.

Thank you for submitting the question.]

24. **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES** (Agenda Item 6)

6.1 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2023/24

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

RESOLVED: That the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to increase the level of the Basic Allowance paid to elected Members by 3.88% to £12,480 pa, backdated to 1 April 2023 (subject to the final agreement of the annual pay award to staff).

6.2 WAIVER OF 6 MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE.

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

RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Judge's non-attendance at meetings of the authority due to ill health, be approved for a period ending on 31 December 2023.

6.3 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2022/23

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

RESOLVED: That the annual report of the Audit Committee 2022/23, as set out

in Appendix B to the report, be noted.

6.4 HILLINGDON PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Edwards moved, and Councillor Bianco seconded, the motion as set out on the Order of Business, with the following two additions:

1. As a result of the membership nominations, the Labour Group had requested that Councillor Sansarpuri replace Councillor Mand on the Finance and Corporate Services Select Committee; and
2. The Committee terms of reference as contained in the agenda be amended to ensure that: all call-in requests were determined by the Chief Planning Officer; and all valid planning reasons raised by a Councillor when calling in an application were addressed by officers in the official public report for determination, whether by the Planning Officer or if referred to the Committee.

Revised amendments to section 2 of matters to be determined by the Committee: (shown in bold)

Any 'Major' planning application as defined in ~~The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)~~ where a Ward Councillor requests, in writing to the Chief Planning Officer, ~~Head of Development Management and Building Control or Area Planning Service Managers~~ within 21 days of the publication of the relevant weekly list of applications received by the Council, that it be determined by a Committee.

*The Ward Councillor must include a valid planning reason for the request. Determination of what constitutes a valid planning reason will be made by the Chief Planning Officer or their sub-delegates, ~~in consultation with the Planning Committee Chair~~. In exceptional circumstances, as determined by the Chief Planning Officer **or their sub-delegates, Head of Development Management and Building Control or Area Planning Service Managers**, the 21-day rule may be waived.*

Should the desired outcome subsequently be in accordance with the 'Officer's Recommendation' or the call-in request be withdrawn, then the application will not be referred to Committee.

All reasons raised by Ward Councillors in a call-in request will be addressed in the officer report to determine the application, whether the report is referred to Committee or determined by a Planning Officer.

Although it was recognised that there was a need for change, concern was expressed in relation to the proposed changes to the Petition Scheme as it was suggested that changes should not weaken Ward Councillors' ability to represent their wards. The main concern was in relation to reducing residents' right to speak as it was important to ensure that petitioners' voices were heard even if their stance aligned with that of the officers' recommendations.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) **w.e.f 12 October 2023, the Borough Planning Committee and the Major Applications Planning Committee cease to exist, and a single Hillingdon Planning Committee be appointed with membership as shown below and Terms of Reference as set out in the appendix to the**

report and as amended above:

- **Conservative: Councillors Higgins (proposed Chairman), Bennett (proposed Vice-Chairman), Roy Chamdal and Davies.**
- **Labour: Councillors Garelick, Mand and Singh.**

b) **the consequential change in membership on the Finance and Corporate Services Select Committee, with Councillor Sansarpuri replacing Councillor Mand, be approved.**

c) **the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Constitution, including Chapter 7 and the Petition Scheme, as detailed in the appendix to the report, and any other amendments required as they occur elsewhere in the Constitution.**

25. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS** (*Agenda Item 7*)

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

"Could the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the current situation regarding the new Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre in West Drayton, following the collapse of Buckingham's, our appointed contractor?"

Councillor Bianco advised that Buckingham Group Contracting had been appointed to build the leisure centre some time ago and that the company had passed the due diligence and finance tests when appointed. Work had been progressing well on the build and there had been no indication that the company had been experiencing difficulties, so it had been a surprise when the company's problems became apparent.

Council officers had been taking steps to mitigate the impact of this change in the circumstances and had met with the administrators. A Performance Bond had been in place at the start of the contract and discussions were being undertaken with the Bond Agents. The Council had also taken legal advice to ensure that the correct procedures were followed with regard to the contract and the bond and to ensure that due process was followed. Steps had been taken to secure and protect the site and reduce the impact on the building until a new contractor had been appointed. Action was being taken to ensure that the leisure centre build was completed as soon as possible but it was recognised that the construction industry was currently in a difficult position.

There was no supplementary question.

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

"Does the Leader recall that a Motion to Council on 10th September 2020 asked that all from this borough who died in the Great War and who are listed on the memorials and church plaques across the borough and were not included in the only book published by the Council to remember it's war dead from the Great War, entitled, "We Will Remember Them," be included in an addendum to this book?"

"This Motion was passed and in response the Cabinet at its meeting of 10th

December 2020 committed the Council to completing this book by producing an addendum which would include all of the additional memorials which had been identified, including the plaque in St Martin's Church West Drayton.

"This addendum has still not appeared in copies of this booklet in the borough's libraries and elsewhere, so when will this commitment by both Council and Cabinet almost three years ago be accomplished?"

The Leader of the Council apologised for the delay in publishing information on the memorials and advised that the booklet would be updated with what was currently known. A draft would be shared with Councillor Sweeting in the next week and would then be updated in the Borough's libraries. Should any more evidence come to light, the records would be reviewed and updated but any future changes to the records would only be published online.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Sweeting asked if the Leader would act on a previous commitment to former Councillor Janet Duncan that the Council would fund a memorial to those from West Drayton that had not been mentioned on any other memorial.

The Leader of the Council assured Councillor Sweeting that the Council would appropriately record the details of these residents but that it was important that this information was accurate before appropriate steps were taken.

7.7 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MAKWANA TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

"Can the Cabinet Member please update Council on the 2023 Summer Holiday Activities Programme that was available to the school age children and young people of Hillingdon?"

Councillor O'Brien advised that Hillingdon had been able to offer around 19k summer places over five weeks through 34 providers to children from Reception to Year 11 who were on benefits or claiming free school meals. There had been 180 discretionary places for vulnerable children and 150 accessible places. There had been sports and arts-based provision as well as life skills provision which had taken place across 53 venues including children's centres, schools, Brunel University and community buildings.

Activities had included a four-day outdoor residential camp for adolescents, drama and a SEND programme. Comments from participants and parents had been very positive.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Makwana asked for an update on how much of the Hillingdon activities food fund had been allocated to support children with SEND during the summer period.

Councillor O'Brien advised that funding had been provided to Primary Sporting Development, the Eden Academy Trust, Hedgewood School, Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support to provide a specialist SEND programme for children with more complex needs. £180k had been provided towards these programmes as well as £4k for the London Taekwondo Falcons who delivered a mainstream programme and offered weekly sessions for children with SEND. £2,100 had been made available towards

extra staffing for sessions provided by Skips and Get Active.

She noted that all providers had been expected to include SEND in their mainstream provision. Furthermore, children had benefitted from being in a familiar environment which had been accommodated by the varied and inclusive programme that had been put together by Marie Flemming and her team.

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

"Can the Cabinet Member please explain why, when there are multiple potholes in an area of road, only the one photographed and submitted as a Service Request is filled in despite being informed of the others in the further information box?"

Councillor Bianco advised that a strict scheduled safety programme had been put in place to deal with the 435 miles of carriageway and 755 miles of footway in the Borough. However, this did not mean that the Council was required to repair every defect that it was aware of or had been notified about. Intervention levels had been set so that only the most hazardous or serious defects would have to be dealt with and significant savings had been made in relation to claims against the Council which meant that resources could be targeted where they were needed most. All required safety inspections were undertaken as well as ad hoc inspections.

It was noted that the funding from Transport for London (TfL) had continued to decrease each year. The Council had previously received £1m per year to repair TfL roads but this had reduced to £200k last year and £0 this year (and £0 during the first year of the pandemic). This had meant that the Council had had to use its own resources to repair TfL roads at a cost of over £1m.

There had been an increase in the number of repairs completed by officers. This had partly been due to investment in a new maintenance machine which repaired defects quicker, using largely recycled materials. This had been an example of investing to save.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Punja asked if it would be possible for the contractors to go out and fill in the holes that they had previously missed.

Councillor Bianco was unable to answer specifics but agreed to look into the matter further if Councillor Punja provided him with the details.

7.1 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR REETA CHAMDAL TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS' SERVICES - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:

"Can the Cabinet Member please update Council on the rollout of 'PayByPhone' parking across the Borough?"

Councillor Lavery advised that the PayByPhone pilot had started on 5 June 2023 in Eastcote, South Ruislip and Ruislip. As it had been successful, the full roll out had started on 31 July 2023 in all car parks across the Borough except the two in Uxbridge town centre which were currently paid for on exit. The payment facilities in these two car parks were being changed to PayByPhone on 3 October 2023.

There had been 77k PayByPhone uses, 19,938 of which had used a Hillingdon First

card, and 7,358 residents had linked their account to PayByPhone. Councillor Lavery thanked the parking team and contact centre staff for their work on this.

There was no supplementary question.

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

"Can the Leader of the Council shed some light on how the determination is made on whether to use in-house officers or external consultants when conducting transformation and service reviews or consultations?"

Councillor Edwards advised that the administration had been committed to sound financial management which had been delivered through the Hillingdon Improvement Plan and Business Improvement Delivery. It had never been more important to improve the Council's efficiency and to use managers and reviews to ensure the Council achieved best value for money.

The staff structure was much more flexible but, as there was a need for ongoing transformation, a permanent team was being built. The Council had developed a lean management structure and external resources had been used to support this structure when needed. The Leader of the Council noted that the external review provided by consultants brought objective insight and external perspective. Consultants were also used for sensitive issues and had been used to reexamine the savings programme and provide the agenda for change and savings.

Reviews had identified that digital transformation required expertise which had not been available within the Council. Reviews had also been undertaken within areas such as housing, homelessness, tenancy management, repairs and family hubs. Each review had been undertaken on its own merits and had focussed on the benefits to the Council.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Mathers asked whether asset disposal to fund transformation was being used sparingly as this could have an effect on Council housing.

The Leader of the Council noted that asset disposal should be undertaken with caution and that assets should be retained where possible so that they could provide the authority with a return on investment.

7.3 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DENYS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

"Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on RACC (reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) in Hillingdon's community and Foundation schools?"

Councillor O'Brien advised that it hadn't been thought that any of the Council's schools had RACC but investigations had been undertaken as soon as the issue had been raised. It had been confirmed that RACC had not been present in 37 of the Council's schools, two were being rechecked and one had had a small area that had been inaccessible when previously visited so needed to be investigated (but it was unlikely that RACC was present). The Council was not responsible for checking academies, universities, etc, but had offered to undertake their inspections at cost. It

was noted that RACC had not been used in the construction of new schools in Hillingdon.

Three early years centres had been inspected but no RACC had been found. However, RACC had been found in one secondary academy in Hillingdon. The school had been closed for two days, had delivered classes online for one day and was now fully operational.

There was no supplementary question.

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

8.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR KAUR

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

That this Council regrets a consistently low response rate to its public consultations and will review its consultation process to ensure geographical parity, and that the voices of our diverse communities are heard equally.

Those speaking in favour of the motion advised that, although Hillingdon was a diverse, multi-cultural Borough, it received disappointingly low response rates to its consultations which were skewed and disproportionate. There was a need to review the consultations undertaken in the Borough as they never received over 1k responses and resultant changes had a lasting impact on residents. A consultation in relation to a local infant school had received two responses and a consultation on the Council Strategy had received 350 responses, the majority of which had been from white people.

It was recognised that the Council could not consult everyone on everything but it was important to solicit the different views of the community. Digital transformation was ignoring and marginalising residents and did not have empathy or sympathy with them. It was suggested that consideration be given to creative ways of engaging with groups in alternative languages.

Councillor Edwards moved, and Councillor Bianco seconded, an amendment to the motion as follows (deleted words ~~crossed through~~ and additional words in **bold**):

*That this Council regrets a ~~consistently~~ low response rate to its public consultations **and asks the Finance and Corporate Services Select committee to** will review ~~it's~~ **the Council's** consultation process to ensure **the voices of our diverse communities are heard, working towards** geographical parity. ~~and that the voices of our diverse communities are heard equally.~~*

Those speaking in support of the amendment agreed that there had been a consensus with what had been said on the original motion. Officers had done a lot of work trying to engage with different groups in the community but with limited results. Hillingdon was not the only Council with this challenge. Consultation was not a single process; engagement should be an ongoing process and should be undertaken in ward surgeries as well as during consultations on things like the budget and Hayes regeneration. The method for consultation needed to be tailored and used proportionately as there were costs associated with it.

It was suggested that it was also about encouraging the interest of those people that were not currently responding to consultations. Although a 100% response rate was impossible, it should not stop the Council from trying to achieve this.

Although some residents had been responding to consultations, these had been from a narrow group. As such, consideration needed to be given to what could be done differently and how the response rates and diversity could be improved. It was hoped that a review of consultation by the Finance and Corporate Services Select Committee could identify some improvements.

The amendment was put to the vote and unanimously agreed. The substantive motion was then put to the vote and it was:

RESOLVED: That this Council regrets a low response rate to its public consultations and asks the Finance and Corporate Services Select Committee to review the Council's consultation process to ensure the voices of our diverse communities are heard, working towards geographical parity.

The meeting, which commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.49 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.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

5.1 QUESTION FROM MARK MORGAN OF KESWICK GARDENS, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS' SERVICES - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:

Ruislip Woods Trust would like to thank and congratulate the Woodland Officer for Ruislip Woods - an invaluable National Nature Reserve right here in Hillingdon - on their retirement after 20 years of service.

Can the Cabinet member advise of the succession plan in place for this role to ensure the high standard of management of Ruislip Woods is continued in the short and long term?

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Reporting Officer: Head of Democratic Services

6.1 URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

RECOMMENDATION: That the Urgency decisions detailed below be noted.

Information

1.1 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.

1.2 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
25/09/2023	Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund 3b. Works for 4 sites: Civic Centre, Uxbridge; Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Centre; Highgrove Pool; Winston Churchill Hall	To ensure the Council could decarbonise four of its highest energy intensive corporate buildings before the short timescale for spending the Government grant ran out.	Leader of the Council, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport,
28/09/2023	Grant of a new lease to UK Power Network and surrender and regrant of a lease to land adjoining Grangewood School and Coteford Junior School as part of the approved SEN Free School being built on the Grangewood site.	To ensure that the new school is delivered on time and within budget, with the necessary utility provisions.	Leader of the Council, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport
18/10/2023	Meadow High School Expansion (Two Sites) Project – Meadow High School (Royal Lane, Uxbridge) Re-Provision Delegated Award of Design and Build Contract with Capital Release	To meet the tight timescales to deliver this important SEND provision project.	Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport (and, as Deputy Leader, on behalf of the Leader of the Council) in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance

Date of Decision	Nature of Decision	Reason for Urgency	Decision-Maker
27/10/2023	Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre – Emergency costs due to Contractor entering into Administration	To allow works to the Platinum Jubilee Leisure Centre to continue and made weathertight whilst a replacement main contractor is procured and to mitigate losses due to the damage from the weather and other sources if it were left in its current state.	Leader of the Council, and on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport

6.2 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

RECOMMENDATION: That the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to replace all references to ‘Chairman’ in the Council Constitution, with ‘Chair’ or ‘Chairperson’ as appropriate.

Information

1. The Constitution of the London Borough of Hillingdon sets out how the Council is governed and operates, the various roles of the elected Members, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that everything the Council does is efficient, transparent, accountable, done with integrity and engages residents in the way it does business.
2. It is proposed that the use of the word ‘Chairman’ to refer to the person chairing a meeting – whether male or female – is now outdated, and this should be replaced with the use of the word ‘Chairperson’ or ‘Chair’.

Legal & Financial Implications

3. Many of the Council’s constitutional procedures are required by law, whilst others are a matter of local choice. Council regularly reviews the Constitution to ensure it meets local priorities and legislative changes. Changes to the Constitution require approval of full Council.
4. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background papers: None

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

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

Could the Cabinet member please provide an update on the recent press reports that Wealdstone FC and the London Borough of Hillingdon have reached an agreement in respect of land adjacent to the former Master Brewer site for their new stadium?

7.2 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HAGGAR TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

Hillingdon's Youth Justice Service have recently been awarded Quality Lead status with a Child First Commendation by the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers. Could the Cabinet member please explain what that means for the young people of Hillingdon especially for those that come into contact with the Youth Justice Service?

7.3 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BURROWS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS' SERVICES - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:

Can the Cabinet member please give more information on the plans to relocate Uxbridge Library?

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

Would the Leader of the Council please inform us what impact the Israel-Hamas war is having on community cohesion within Hillingdon?

7.5 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DENYS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:

Hillingdon Council has just been awarded Outstanding by Ofsted after their inspection of our Children's Services. Can the Cabinet member please advise Council what is taken into consideration during the inspection and the work that goes into having an outstanding service?

This page is intentionally left blank

MOTIONS

8.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BIANCO

That this Council notes that the Director of TFL Buses met with council officers and Cabinet members in the summer to consider possible, much needed, improvements to the bus network and in particular our request for an express bus route linking Uxbridge with the Elizabeth Line.

This Council notes that TFL are currently undertaking a consultation on proposed changes to a number of routes in the Borough and that:

1. The total amount of bus miles throughout the Borough has already been significantly reduced.
2. No new express link to the Elizabeth Line is being proposed.
3. The E7 route serving over 1,200 journeys to and from Ruislip Underground station will be removed.
4. The removal of the U1 route and a new U3 route running from Ruislip to Heathrow will be a further reduction in bus miles and make that service more prone to delays and cancellations.

Therefore, this Council instructs the Cabinet member for Property, Highways and Transport to ensure that the Council's response to the consultation is robust and highlights the reduction in service rather than the enhancement to outer London being communicated by TFL & the Mayor.

8.2 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BURLES

That this Council stands firmly with residents of Uxbridge who have voiced their opposition to the closure of the iconic and purpose-built library on Uxbridge High Street through three petitions of over 3000 signatures.

This Council acknowledges the deep public upset at the proposal to close Uxbridge Central Library.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Cabinet re-evaluate this proposal and demonstrate its commitment to library services through the retention of the purpose-built Uxbridge Central Library in its current location, looking at opportunities to move services into this space.

8.3 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MATHERS

That this Council recognises that, since 2010 successive Conservative led governments have cut '27% real-terms core spending power' to local authorities in England. In 2021/22 this meant it was 10.2% below 2009/10 levels.*

With higher inflation, high energy costs and rising demands on statutory services such as social and homelessness support, Hillingdon Council like all local authorities across England needs greater funding to face these challenges.

Therefore, this Council calls on the Leader and Cabinet to actively and continuously lobby the Government for increased funding to prevent further cuts to local service and the significant loss of community assets.

*Source Local Government Association

8.4 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CURLING

That this Council recognises that fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark / celebrate different events. While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people, especially those from war torn countries and those with PTSD, as well as our pets and other animals.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- Require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
- Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
- Write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
- Encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public displays.