



	<p>Cheese and Wine event would be held at the Civic Centre on 11 March 2026 and a St George's Day Quiz would take place at the Morello Lounge in Uxbridge on 23 April 2026.</p> <p>As this was his last meeting before the election, the Mayor took the opportunity to thank Members for electing him as Mayor and wished them all the best for the future.</p>
55.	<p><b>REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b> (<i>Agenda Item 5</i>)</p> <p><b>i) Changes to Committee Memberships</b></p> <p>Councillor Edwards moved, and Councillor Bianco seconded, the urgent item as set out on the Order of Business and it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That the following changes to membership of Council Committees be approved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor R.Mills to replace former Councillor Burrows on the Registration and Appeals Committee.</li> <li>• Councillor Dhot to replace former Councillor Burrows on the Hillingdon Planning Committee.</li> </ul> <p><b>ii) Members' Allowances 2026/27</b></p> <p>Councillor Edwards moved, and Councillor Bianco seconded, the motion as set out on the Order of Business and it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That the current Members' Allowances Scheme be revoked as of 31 March 2026 and the new Scheme for 2026/27, as shown in Minute Annex A, be approved for implementation from 1 April 2026.</b></p>
56.	<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION</b> (<i>Agenda Item 6</i>)</p> <p>Councillor Tuckwell moved, and Councillor Edwards seconded, the motion as set out on the Order of Business and it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That the introduction of a boroughwide immediate Article 4 Direction under the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 to remove the permitted development right for the change the use from a building and any land within its curtilage from a use falling within Class C3 (Dwellinghouse) of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Amendment) (England) Order to a use falling within Class C4 (House in Multiple Occupation) of that Order being development comprised within class L(b) of Part 3 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), be confirmed.</b></p>
57.	<p><b>SAFER HILLINGDON PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY</b> (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p> <p>Councillor Bridges moved, and Councillor Edwards seconded, the motion as set out on the Order of Business and it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That the Safer Hillingdon Community Safety Strategy 2026-2029 be adopted as a policy framework document.</b></p>

58.	<p><b>SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE REPORT 2025 / 2026</b> (<i>Agenda Item 8</i>)</p> <p>Councillor Edwards moved, and Councillor Bianco seconded, the motion as set out on the Order of Business and it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That the Performance Report 2025/26 be noted.</b></p>
59.	<p><b>GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026 / 2027</b> (<i>Agenda Item 9</i>)</p> <p>Councillor R Mills moved, and Councillor Gohil seconded, the suspension of Council procedure rule 14.4 to allow unlimited speaking time for the mover and seconder of the motion.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That the mover and seconder of the budget motion be allowed unlimited speaking time on this item.</b></p> <p>Councillor Lavery moved, and Councillor Edwards seconded, the twenty-one budget recommendations as set out on the Order of Business.</p> <p>Councillor Punja moved, and Councillor Mathers seconded, the following objection amendment:</p> <p><i>“In accordance with the Council Constitution, the Labour Group formally moves an amendment to the Cabinet’s budget recommendations in the form of an Objection.</i></p> <p><i>“This objection relates specifically, though not exclusively, to the significant challenge and delivery risk associated with the proposed savings programme, which leaves the 2026/27 budget being set in a context of “continued material risk”. As stated in the Chief Financial Officer’s Statutory Opinion under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the robustness of the estimates must be considered alongside the adequacy of reserves and the authority’s capacity to deliver its financial plans.</i></p> <p><i>“We are concerned that the Cabinet’s budget estimates, and the conclusions regarding the adequacy of reserves, rely on a series of critical assumptions and proposed mitigating actions. However, the current governance, oversight and control environment has not yet been sufficiently embedded or consistently demonstrated to provide confidence that these assumptions are reliable or that the 2026/27 budget can be delivered within a defined and realistic timescale.</i></p> <p><i>“In recent years, deliverability against savings targets has not been achieved as planned. It is therefore not sufficient to rely on high-level modelling without a full and transparent explanation of how the underlying assumptions have been determined. We require clear evidence of the rationale, methodology and sensitivity analysis used to derive the modelling figures, and assurance that these assumptions are credible, evidence-based and resilient to risk.</i></p> <p><i>“Furthermore, we consider that the proposed budget lacks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Robust and detailed contingency planning proportionate to the scale of the financial risk;</i></li> <li><i>• Clear trigger points for corrective action should savings not be delivered to profile;</i></li> </ul>

- *More detailed and frequent review mechanisms to monitor delivery, governance compliance and risk mitigation.*

*“Given the material risks identified, and the absence of sufficient assurance regarding the reliability of assumptions and deliverability of the savings programme, we believe it is not prudent to approve this element of the budget in its current form.*

*“Therefore, in accordance with the Conflict Resolution Procedure set out in the Constitution, we move that Council resolves to object to these elements, as stated above, of the proposed budget and instructs the Cabinet to reconsider and strengthen the relevant plans, assumptions and delivery framework before the budget is finalised.”*

Those speaking in support of the Objection thanked officers for their work on the budget and noted that Section 24 was not a footnote, but a law, and noted that the Opposition had not been required to put forward an alternative budget. The Objection had been raised around concerns that the budget had been based on assumptions that had not been fully evidenced.

Two months after the Administration had agreed last year’s budget, it had fallen apart and controls were not working properly and had still not been embedded. There was no solid evidence to demonstrate that savings would be delivered within the required timescales and no trigger points had been included for corrective action to be taken. There was no transparency, with oversight and Oracle both failing, and Members had not been given any clarity over savings or growth so there were concerns that the growth identified was actually just rebasing.

In 2022, the Council had had £74m in reserves. This was now projected to be -£31m. The Conservative Administration had overseen the erosion of the Council’s financial resilience with year after year of undeliverable savings. Financial experiments had been pursued that had not delivered and there was now a continued reliance on assumptions. Members were being asked to agree a budget that was based on continued financial risk and where assumptions were being made without scrutiny. The Objection was about making sure that the same mistakes were not repeated.

Officers were not being blamed for the Council’s financial system, the Conservative Administration was being blamed as it had acted too slowly and would not confront its own record. It was taking the local authority down a reckless financial path by taking £150m in Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) just to keep the lights on. Only 35 out of 300 councils had received EFS and some were investing in their communities such as Ealing, who would be investing £30m in community services in 2026/27.

It was recognised that EFS came with strings attached including the requirement that the Council would have to increase Council Tax by 4.99% every year for the next three years. The Administration had not acknowledged the challenges that it had faced and this had not been helped by ineffective scrutiny (the last call-in had been more than twenty years ago).

Those speaking against the Objection suggested that it had insulted the professionalism of the Council’s officers when they did not have the opportunity to respond and did not provide residents with possible alternative proposals. The Opposition would rather make those without gardens pay for those who did have gardens.

The 2026/27 budget would be achievable and clearly set out precise timescales with controls in place. The Labour Group had been trying to subvert the professional judgement of the S151 Officer as this did not support their narrative and they were unable to produce a credible alternative vision.

The Opposition had been suggesting that the Council was about to go bankrupt for a long time and they couldn't have been more wrong. EFS had been treated as a slur by Labour Members despite Hillingdon being one of nine London local authorities this year to have been awarded EFS, including Waltham Forest (which had been a Labour run council for many years) and Lambeth (which had already benefitted from additional support beyond that received by many London authorities).

The amendment, in the form of an Objection, was put to a recorded vote:

Those voting for: Councillors Burles, Garelick, Gill, Islam, Kaur, Lakhmana, Mand, Mathers, Nelson-West, Punja, Sansarpuri, Singh and Sweeting.

Those voting against: The Mayor (Councillor Corthorne), Councillors Ahmad-Wallana, Banerjee, Bhatt, Bianco, Bridges, Choubedar, Davies, Denys, Dhot, Edwards, Gohil, Haggar, Higgins, Lavery, Makwana, Martin, D Mills, R Mills, O'Brien, Riley, Smallwood, Sullivan and Tuckwell.

Those abstaining: Councillors Abby, Basit, Curling, Farley and Gardner.

The amendment was lost.

Those speaking in support of the original motion noted that the Administration had developed core policies relating to low fees and charges, low Council Tax and digital enablement. The aim being to try to leave as much money as possible in residents' pockets.

At £1,534.95 for a Band D property, Hillingdon had the second lowest Council Tax rate for an outer London borough, which was 17% less than average. Hillingdon had been underfunded for some time despite the local population growing by 11% since the 2021 census.

Even though inflation had been running at between 8% and 12% in Adult Social Care, the Council's spend per head on Children's and Adults' Services was also below average when compared to its near neighbour comparator group. 38% of the Council's total budget had been spent on Adults' services, 22% on Children's services and £34m had been spent on temporary accommodation in 2025/26. The Council was not being fully funded for these services.

The high needs spending block had been a challenge with an in-year deficit of £9.7m. However, this was expected to reduce to £8.3m in 2026/27 and it had been agreed that the statutory override would be in place until 2028. Thanks to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education and Council officers, Hillingdon had received a letter from the Government praising the authority for how well it had been doing in reducing its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit.

Hillingdon had the third lowest spend for the provision of Children's Services and had fewer Looked After Children than the national picture. 2025/26 had focussed on living and learning in local communities and fourteen new foster carers had been brought

online (with another fourteen being processed). Reoffending in Hillingdon was lower than its statistical neighbours and demand management in SEND had been stabilising.

The Opposition had never explained what it would not do to ensure that funding was available for the things that it would do. Their election material in the Colham and Cowley Ward had stated that they were fighting the green waste collection charges but this had not been borne out in the Chamber. The Administration challenged the Opposition to identify the proposals that it would put forward and how it would do things better, rather than just objecting to the Administration's efforts to improve things for Hillingdon's residents.

Although the Labour Government had made some progress, it was noted that the Fair Funding Review would result in 'fairer' funding but not 'fair' funding and, despite what Danny Beales MP had said, the Council had not received £120m. The funding would need to cover inflation and, despite it being recognised that Hillingdon was currently underfunded, this would not be properly addressed for three years. £28.7m of the anticipated settlement would be expected to come from a 4.99% increase in Hillingdon's Council Tax rate every year for the next three years.

The funding system was fundamentally flawed and no allowance had been made for Hillingdon being a port authority with Heathrow Airport within its boundaries. The Council received 30% of the business rates that were levied in the Borough and, although there had been a proposal to increase Heathrow's business rates by 353%, this was likely to be appealed. Although this Borough collected the fifth highest amount of Business Rates in the country, there were 95 other local authorities that retained more of the Business Rates that they collected than Hillingdon. One favoured council had collected £102m less than Hillingdon in Business Rates in the previous year, yet its settlement included £55m more in Business Rates.

All savings proposals included within the budget had been owned by the Corporate Directors and their departments and covered the year 2026/27. The budget had included increases to fees and charges but Hillingdon would continue to be a low charge borough. During the consultation period, the Council had received 277 responses which compared favourably to the previous year when 144 responses had been received.

The Council had an in-principle agreement to receive £62m in EFS from the Government in 2026/27. This meant that the Council had been able to reset reserves to £40m and include a contingency of £10m. It was noted that EFS allowed councils to treat some revenue expenditure as capital spend and that Hillingdon was one of 35 local authorities that had been granted EFS (London Councils had predicted that this number would rise over the coming years).

Work had already been undertaken on the development of a new leisure centre in West Drayton (which, it was hoped, would open in time for the Easter holidays) and the new library in Uxbridge (the old site had been sold to Buckinghamshire New University) and hundreds of homes would be developed or purchased through a £194.5m programme of investment over the next five years. The Avondale Drive and Hayes Town Centre developments continued as well as those in Haydon Drive and on the Yiewsley Recreation Ground site.

The pressure on housing and homelessness could not be ignored so action was being taken to prevent homelessness before it occurred. The Labour Group had never

acknowledged the financial challenges faced by local authorities and the way that the Administration had delivered year after year. It was easy to oppose and hard to govern but this Administration would not neglect the basics. Town Centre investment would continue so that residents and businesses could continue to thrive in a Borough that they could rely on.

In November, the Labour Group had suggested that Hillingdon give the Government the power to make decisions on behalf of the Council which, it was suggested, was putting residents third. It was noted that the Council had been presented with a responsible and prudent budget which reflected a clearer and more stable position for the year ahead. Despite having access to officer expertise, the Labour Group had not come up with any alternative budget proposals and had also been unable to find enough candidates to stand in the upcoming election.

Whilst it was acknowledged that Ealing would be investing £30m in community services in 2026/27, Hillingdon would be investing £42.6m and another £136m in housing.

It was anticipated that there would be real term cuts forecast for years two and three and the Government was unable to resist the pressure to spend on social care (the criminal justice system and the armed forces were also desperate for funding). It was likely that the future would bring more regulation, unsustainable student debt and higher taxation, resulting in a growing demand for council services.

Councils were being pushed down the same path whereby a large proportion of the budget was being spent on a small percentage of residents. In Hillingdon, around 33% of the budget was spent on about 5% of the population rather than on universal services. Even though residents were going to be paying more for their Council Tax, most people would be getting fewer services. However, the Administration would continue to fight to retain weekly waste collection despite the expectation that an increasing proportion of the cost of services be paid by local government as it became a delivery arm of central Government. The decline in spending power needed to be stopped.

The growth in grant funding had not been sufficient enough to allow for service growth so costs and blame was being shunted around. EFS and Fair Funding were steps in the right direction but structural issues, such as the Business Rates system being in disarray, needed to be addressed.

The Fair Funding Review was supposed to have determined how the total amount of funding available to local government should be shared out. It was recognised that it would take time to reduce the amount of funding that some previously overfunded councils received but those that had been underfunded needed to receive the increased amount immediately to ease the pressure that they faced. Two councils had been in a position to freeze Council Tax for 2026/27, seemingly in a move to win the election in May 2026, but they already had Council Tax that was £1k lower than Hillingdon which was a low tax authority.

The Government's £2.6m Recovery Fund (RF), the Enhanced Recovery Fund and the £5m Pride In Place grants had distorted the outcomes of the new funding formula. One of the London Labour councils would be receiving RF, Recovery Grant Funding, Recovery Grant Uplift Funding and Protection Floor Funding totalling £95.2m over the next three years in addition to their Fair Funding Formula allocation. Meanwhile, Hillingdon would receive £65m less than its Fair Funding Formula allocation during

the same period. In 2028/29, once Hillingdon had received its full allocation, the Labour Council in question would still have a per capita spending power of at least one third higher than Hillingdon.

Although the proposals offered a significant improvement, the Council would continue to push for fairer funding and would ensure that the budget stayed within the financial envelope. Services would not be cut and the Council would continue to invest and innovate.

Those speaking against the original motion argued that the budget was just rebasing and was resetting services rather than improving them. Previous budgets had been unrealistic and residents were now facing the consequences. Members were being told that controls were being tightened but they should not have been weakened in the first place – underfunding had not allowed Hillingdon's systems to weaken, mismanagement had.

The Council had had three Chief Finance Officers in three years with their opinions on the authority's financial position getting increasingly worse over time. Comments had included reference to financial weakness around structural funding pressures, evidence of bias, use of reserves relied upon for recurring gaps and the need for external support. Despite corrective measures, the Chief Finance Officer had said that the budget was worse than the previous year, given the information available.

The forecasts were unreliable and there had been a reported pattern of failure which remained unresolved and was based around a flawed implementation. The Council had never achieved the savings targets that it had set itself. The auditors (Ernst & Young) had not received assurance that the forecasts were accurate and Members queried how a credible budget could be built on figures that could not be trusted. This failing Administration had relied on a Labour Government bailout and had produced a failing budget.

On 9 February 2026, the Labour Government had agreed to cover 90% of the high needs deficit. The Administration had done nothing about this deficit except let it grow and grow when councils such as Ealing had managed to keep theirs down to £5m. Hillingdon had been saved by the Labour Government but would still need to own the remaining 10% and manage the growing deficit.

Although the Administration bragged about being a low cost council, MyLondon had just rated Hillingdon as one of the worst places to live. 30% of Hillingdon's homes would fail the decent homes standard and cremation costs had increased from £681 to over £1,000. The Community Safety Team had been reduced and reports of fly tipping and potholes were increasing. The Administration had made choices which had left residents feeling poorer, less safe and less supported.

The Administration's decisions had included: the closure of Uxbridge Library and moving it to the Civic Centre; a proposal to close three early years centres; hiring consultants for the Beck Theatre, then not providing a long term lease and continuing to pay a subsidy to the contractor; closing the Rural Activities Garden Centre; the Uxbridge Post Office closing with no alternative location identified; and introducing a green waste charge and thereby breaking a manifesto promise. The Conservatives had abandoned their own voters.

It was suggested that the Administration was unaware of the lobbying that had been undertaken by the Labour Group to get the DSG written off or EFS secured. Bringing

all services into the Civic Centre was not always going to be the most appropriate solution.

Concern was expressed that the Council had leased out the Cowley Meeting Hall to a former Conservative Councillor and was now taking legal action relating to this issue. It was queried whether there were any other controversial issues being hidden away.

The original motion was put to a recorded vote:

Those voting for: The Mayor (Councillor Corthorne), Councillors Abby, Ahmad-Wallana, Banerjee, Bhatt, Bianco, Bridges, Choubedar, Davies, Denys, Dhot, Edwards, Gohil, Haggar, Higgins, Lavery, Makwana, Martin, D Mills, R Mills, O'Brien, Riley, Smallwood, Sullivan and Tuckwell.

Those voting against: Councillors Burles, Farley, Gardner, Garelick, Gill, Islam, Kaur, Lakhmana, Mand, Mathers, Nelson-West, Punja, Sansarpuri, Singh and Sweeting.

Those abstaining: Councillors Basit and Curling.

The original motion was carried and it was:

**RESOLVED: That:**

- 1. The General Fund revenue budget proposals made by Cabinet for 2026/27 and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy be approved, having taken the Select Committees' comments, public consultation responses and Equality Impact Assessments conscientiously into account as set out in Appendices C, D and E of the background paper, resulting in a Council Tax requirement for 2026/27 of £164,775,348;**
- 2. Council note that at its meeting on 22 January 2026 the Council calculated the amount of 107,349 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2026/27. 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 £1,534.95 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 £2,045.46 for the borough;**
- 4. The following amounts have been calculated by the Council for the year 2026/27, in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):**
  - a) £786,851,076** 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) (£622,055,728)** 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) £164,775,348 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) £1,534.95 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)*

The London Borough of Hillingdon Council Tax (£'s)		
1,023.30	Band A	4.99% Percentage Change
1,193.85	Band B	4.99% Percentage Change
1,364.40	Band C	4.99% Percentage Change
1,534.95	Band D	4.99% Percentage Change
1,876.05	Band E	4.99% Percentage Change
2,217.15	Band F	4.99% Percentage Change
2,558.25	Band G	4.99% Percentage Change
3,069.90	Band H	4.99% Percentage Change

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 2026/27 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 Council Tax Precept (£'s)		
340.34	Band A	4.10% Percentage Change
397.06	Band B	4.10% Percentage Change
453.79	Band C	4.11% Percentage Change
510.51	Band D	4.10% Percentage Change
623.96	Band E	4.11% Percentage Change
737.40	Band F	4.10% Percentage Change
850.85	Band G	4.10% Percentage Change
1,021.02	Band H	4.10% Percentage Change

6. The Council has calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4 (d) 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 2026/27 for each category of dwelling below:

**Total Council Tax 2026/27 (£'s)**

1,363.64	Band A	4.77%	Percentage Change
1,590.91	Band B	4.77%	Percentage Change
1,818.19	Band C	4.77%	Percentage Change
2,045.46	Band D	4.77%	Percentage Change
2,500.01	Band E	4.77%	Percentage Change
2,954.55	Band F	4.77%	Percentage Change
3,409.10	Band G	4.77%	Percentage Change
4,090.92	Band H	4.77%	Percentage Change

- 7. The Council Tax Discount for Older People be retained for 2026/27 with a 1.37% discount on Hillingdon's element of the Council Tax for those who joined the scheme on or after 1 April 2020, 3.12% for those who joined the scheme before or on 31 March 2019 and 6.66% for those who joined before or on 31 March 2018, with the scheme closed to new applicants from 1 April 2021;**
- 8. The use of up to £62.0m in Exceptional Financial Support to balance the 2026/27 budget;**
- 9. The General Fund Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31 as set out in Appendices A9 to A11 of the background report to Cabinet be approved;**
- 10. The Housing Revenue Account revenue budget proposals for 2026/27, and the HRA Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31 as set out in Appendix B of the background report be approved;**
- 11. A rent increase of 4.8% (being CPI +1%) from 1 April 2026 in line with the maximum increase for social rent set by the national rent policy, whilst noting that the Council continues to set rents for re-lets (both new tenants and transfers) up to formula target rent, be approved;**
- 12. That tenant service charges be varied in line with estimated actual costs for 2026/27, from 1 April 2026 (noting the estimated charges set out in Appendix H2 of the background paper);**
- 13. A budgeted drawdown from DSG Reserves in 2026/27 of £8.2m be approved;**
- 14. The proposed amendments to Fees and Charges, which form part of the overall budget, as set out in Appendix H1 of the background report to Cabinet be approved;**
- 15. The Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2025/26 to 2030/31 as set out in Appendix G of the background report to Cabinet be approved;**
- 16. The Reserves Policy as set out in paragraphs 50 to 60 of the background report to Cabinet be approved;**
- 17. The London Borough of Hillingdon Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27 as**

	<p>set out in Appendix I of the background report to Cabinet be approved;</p> <p><b>18. Council note the Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy to deliver efficiency savings, including utilisation for redundancy costs, as set out in paragraphs 39 to 45 and in Appendix F of the background report to Cabinet, and the use of £2.733m of capital receipts for this purpose;</b></p> <p><b>19. Council note the Corporate Director of Finance’s comments regarding his responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in his Section 25 Statement to accompany the Budget Report recommended by Cabinet, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report;</b></p> <p><b>20. 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 financial years 2026/27 to 2028/29, including any virement between the General Fund budget, Housing Revenue Account budgets or Capital budgets during the MTFS financial years 2026/27 to 2028/29, in respect of those functions which have been reserved to the Cabinet;</b></p> <p><b>21. Council confirm that the Council’s relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2026/27 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 and therefore a referendum will not be triggered.</b></p>
	<p><b>MINUTE ANNEX A</b></p>
	<p>The meeting, which commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.27 pm.</p>

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Lloyd White, Head of Democratic Services on [democratic@hillingsdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@hillingsdon.gov.uk). Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.

## MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2026/27

### 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 2026/27 an allowance of **£12,793** will be payable to all Councillors and will be paid in equal monthly instalments. The basic allowance includes intra borough travel and subsistence costs.

### 3. Special Responsibility Allowances

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

		(£)
1.	Leader of the Council	60,167.80
2.	Deputy Leader of the Council	50,683.77
3.	Chief Whip of Largest Party	24,318.39
4.	Cabinet Member	42,385.34
5.	Chair of Select Committee	24,318.39
6.	Chair of Planning Committee	24,318.39
7.	Chair of Licensing Committee	24,318.39
8.	Chair of Standards Committee	3,427.05
9.	Standards Committee Independent Person	512.50 (per meeting required & attended)
10.	Chair of Audit Committee*	8,000.00
11.	Chair of Pensions Committee*	8,000.00
12.	Champion	6,253.61
13.	Council representative on Adoption and Permanency Panel	13,708.22
14.	Cabinet Assistant	9,484.03
15.	Leader of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Party	24,318.39
16.	Chief Whip of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Party	6,253.61
17.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Party Lead on Select Committee	6,253.61

\* Where a non-Councillor is Chair or Vice Chair 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 Chair of the Audit Committee, an annual entitlement allowance of £8,000.00 may be paid. This will be paid on a pro-rata basis if the appointment of the co-optee begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year. Where a co-optee is an Independent Person on the Standards Committee an entitlement allowance of £500 per meeting required and attended may be paid. Where a co-optee is one of the three statutory education co-optees on the Executive Scrutiny Committee, an annual entitlement allowance of £445.80 may be paid. This will be paid on a pro-rata basis if the appointment of the co-optee begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year. These allowances will cover expenses, such as travel and subsistence, related to the duties of the postholder.

## **10. Claims and Payments**

- (a) All claims for out of borough travelling and subsistence and carers allowances must be submitted within two months of the date of the approved duty to which they relate, made on the standard form as used by officers and returned to the Head of Democratic Services.
- (b) Payments shall be made in respect of basic and special responsibility allowances subject to sub-paragraph (c) below in Instalments of one twelfth of the amount specified in this scheme on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.