



HILLINGDON

LONDON

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 23 FEBRUARY 2023

Order of Business

ORDER	BUSINESS
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – <i>To receive any apologies for absence.</i>
2.	MINUTES – <i>To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 12 January 2023.</i>
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST <i>To note any declarations of interest in any matters before the Council.</i>
4.	MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS <i>To receive the Mayoral Announcements.</i>
5.	REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES <i>To consider the following:</i> i) Urgent Implementation of Decisions To note the urgent decisions taken by Cabinet Members. ii) Members' Allowances 2022/23 RECOMMENDATIONS: That: a) the current Members' Allowances Scheme be revoked as of 31 March 2023 and the new Scheme for 2023/24, as shown in Appendix A to the report, be approved for implementation from 1 April 2023. b) The Head of Democratic Services be authorised to increase the level of Basic allowance in line with any subsequent annual pay award to staff for 2023/24. To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bianco. Other speakers: None

ORDER	BUSINESS
<p>Report of the Head of Democratic Services (continued)</p>	<p>iii) Programme of Meetings 2023/24</p> <p>NB: Members are asked to agree the recommendation with the following amendment - The date of the Cabinet meeting shown on the report as ‘4 January 2024’ should read ‘11 January 2024’</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the timetable of meetings for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix B to the report, and as amended above, be approved and the Head of Democratic Services in consultation with the Chief Whip of the Majority Party be authorised to make any amendments that may be required throughout the course of the year.</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bianco.</p> <p>Other speakers: None</p> <p>iv) Review of Council Constitution</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the updated version of Chapter 7, ‘Planning Decisions’ of the Council's Constitution, as set out in Appendix C to the report, be approved.</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bianco.</p> <p>Other speakers: None</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Prior to the consideration of this item, Councillor R.Mills will move and Councillor Davies will second, the suspension of Council procedure rules 14.4 to allow unlimited speaking time for the mover (Councillor Goddard) and seconder (Councillor Edwards) of the motion and the principal speaker / mover (Councillor Mathers) and seconder (Councillor Curling) of the amendment from the Labour Group, as set out on pages 6 to 11 of this Order of Business.</i> <i>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 must not vote on this item.</i> <i>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.</i>

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2023/24 Budget (continued)	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Cabinet budget recommendations as set out below, be approved.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the General Fund revenue budget proposals made by Cabinet be approved, resulting in a Council Tax requirement for 2023/24 of £137,439,910; 2. Council note that at its meeting on 12 January 2023 the Council calculated the amount of 103,625 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2023/24. 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 (<i>Item T in the formula in Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992</i>); 3. The Hillingdon element of Council Tax be set at £1,326.32 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 £1,760.46 for the borough; 4. The following amounts have been calculated by the Council for the year 2023/24, in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) £896,367,185 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. (<i>Gross Expenditure including the amount required for additions to working balances</i>) b) £758,927,275 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. (<i>Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet Gross Expenditure</i>) c) £137,439,910 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. (<i>Item R under Section 31B of the Act</i>) d) £1,326.32 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. (<i>Council Tax at Band D for the Council</i>) e) <table border="1" data-bbox="635 1854 1501 2042"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">The London Borough of Hillingdon Council Tax (£)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Band A</th> <th>Band B</th> <th>Band C</th> <th>Band D</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>884.19</td> <td>1,031.57</td> <td>1,178.95</td> <td>1,326.32</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Band E</th> <th>Band F</th> <th>Band G</th> <th>Band H</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1,621.04</td> <td>1,915.79</td> <td>2,210.51</td> <td>2,652.61</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	The London Borough of Hillingdon Council Tax (£)				Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	884.19	1,031.57	1,178.95	1,326.32	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	1,621.04	1,915.79	2,210.51	2,652.61
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2023/24 Budget (continued)	<p>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;</p> <p>5. Council note that for the year 2023/24 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:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="359 683 1402 875"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">The Greater London Authority Precept (£)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Band A</th> <th>Band B</th> <th>Band C</th> <th>Band D</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>289.43</td> <td>337.66</td> <td>385.90</td> <td>434.14</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Band E</th> <th>Band F</th> <th>Band G</th> <th>Band H</th> </tr> <tr> <td>530.62</td> <td>627.09</td> <td>723.57</td> <td>868.28</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>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 2023/24 for each category of dwelling below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="359 1095 1402 1288"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Total Council Tax 2023/24 (£)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Band A</th> <th>Band B</th> <th>Band C</th> <th>Band D</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1,173.62</td> <td>1,369.23</td> <td>1,564.85</td> <td>1,760.46</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Band E</th> <th>Band F</th> <th>Band G</th> <th>Band H</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2,151.66</td> <td>2,542.88</td> <td>2,934.08</td> <td>3,520.89</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>7. The Council Tax Discount for Older People be retained for 2023/24 with a 1.18% discount on Hillingdon's element of the Council Tax for those who joined the scheme on or after 1 April 2020, 2.70% for those who joined the scheme before or on 31 March 2019 and 5.79% for those who joined before or on 31 March 2018, with the scheme closed to new applicants from 1 April 2021;</p> <p>8. The General Fund Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28 as set out in Appendix A8 of the report to Cabinet be approved;</p> <p>9. The Housing Revenue Account budget proposals, HRA Capital Programme and housing rents set out in Appendix B of the report to Cabinet be approved;</p> <p>10. The proposed amendments to Fees and Charges set out in Appendix C of the report to Cabinet be approved;</p> <p>11. The Capital Investment Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2023/24 to 2027/28 as set out in Appendix D of the report to Cabinet be approved;</p>	The Greater London Authority Precept (£)				Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	289.43	337.66	385.90	434.14	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	530.62	627.09	723.57	868.28	Total Council Tax 2023/24 (£)				Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	1,173.62	1,369.23	1,564.85	1,760.46	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	2,151.66	2,542.88	2,934.08	3,520.89
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2023/24 Budget (continued)	<p>12. The London Borough of Hillingdon Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix E of the report to Cabinet, be approved.</p> <p>13. Council note the Corporate Director of Finance’s comments regarding his responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2003;</p> <p>14. Council note the planned use of the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts to fund transformation activity as outlined in Appendix 6a of the report to Cabinet;</p> <p>15. Council (as set out in Chapter 4 of the Constitution - Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules) resolves that Cabinet may utilise the general reserves or balances during 2023/24 in support of functions designated to the Cabinet in line with Part 4 of the Constitution;</p> <p>16. Council confirm that the Council’s relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 and therefore a referendum will not be triggered.</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Goddard and seconded by Councillor Edwards.</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Bianco, Corthorne, Curling, Gill, Kaur, Lavery, Mathers, D.Mills, O’Brien, Palmer, Punja, Smallwood, Sweeting and Tuckwell.</p> <p><i>On behalf of the Labour Group, Councillor Mathers will move, and Councillor Curling will second, an amendment to the budget proposals as set out overleaf:</i></p>

END OF COUNCIL MEETING

LABOUR GROUP PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/2024

Summary

Outlined below are the Labour Group's proposed amendments to the Cabinet's proposals to Council on Hillingdon's General Fund Revenue Budget, Housing Revenue Account budget and Capital Programme.

Proposal to be moved:

- a) That the Cabinet be invited to consider the Labour Group's amendments to the Cabinet's budget proposals set out in the Council Tax Resolution and report back to the Council;**
- b) In relation to the General Fund Revenue Budget, the proposals are based on the budget proposals approved by Cabinet on 16 February 2023, subject to the following amendments;**
- c) In relation to the General Fund Capital Budget, the proposals are based on the budget proposals approved by Cabinet on 16 February 2023, subject to the following amendments;**
- d) In relation to the Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget, the proposals are based on the budget proposals approved by Cabinet on 16 February 2023, subject to the following amendments;**
- e) In relation to the Housing Revenue Account Capital Budget, the proposals are based on the budget proposals approved by Cabinet on 16 February 2023, subject to the following amendments;**

Supporting Information for the above proposals:

Council Tax Levels and Medium Term Impact

- 1 The following amendments to Cabinet's budget proposals have been developed in the context of the cost-of-living crisis, with the amendment including reductions in a number of the proposed uplifts to fees and charges and a number of additional service priorities being funded by additional savings proposals, with the most material being the closing of Scheme 1 within the Older People's Discount and transferring claimants to Scheme 2.
- 2 Amendments to the Capital Programme outlined later in this document would result in a reduction in Capital Receipts, but maintains Prudential Borrowing at £81,149k, with amendments predominantly based around the reprioritisation of the Carbon Zero Initiatives capital programme budget.
- 3 These budget amendments include no change in the General Balances and maintains earmarked reserves at their current levels, maintaining these at £26,801k and £15,455k respectively.

Changes to 2022/23 Revenue Budget

- 4 Specific amendments to the 2023/24 budget proposals have been developed and set out in table 1 below. These proposals include:
- 5 **Pilot to invest in greater Mental Health Support for in Community hubs:** Providing a pilot in three locations to employ mental health support staff at a cost of £140k as a form of early intervention to help engage those who do not meet the thresholds of NHS support but need additional support to build resilience and self-confidence to prevent long-term poor health outcomes. This will have the impact of lessening demand of Council and NHS services of a small cohort that need extra support to thrive in the area they live.
- 6 **Provision for maintaining bowls clubs and supporting individuals to engage:** Providing the maintenance of the bowls greens with a £30k saving for efficiencies rather than the administration's proposal to remove the maintenance support at £180k and buy them equipment to do it themselves. As part of their usual duties, officers will be tasked to support clubs to increase use of the bowling green thus sustaining their vital role with communities.
- 7 **Libraries increasing the base line number of hours by removing tier 4 and opening lunchtimes:** Proposes to increase staffing by 4 FTEs at a cost of £150k to add two hours on Saturdays to four libraires and open lunchtimes in nine libraries four days a week.
- 8 **Reduction in First Parking Permit Fees to £25:** In the current economic climate, the budget amendment includes reducing the charge of the first parking permit by two thirds to £25 per permit to support residents during the cost-of-living crisis, with the fee set to allow for the admin fee of issuing the permit to be recovered, this update adds £313k to the Council's Savings Requirement.
- 9 **Reduction in the Proposed Increase in Theatre Charges:** This amendment includes reducing the increase in the theatre charges by 50%, reducing the saving by £53k in order to support the local arts services and protecting this area in order to ensure the continuity of these services.
- 10 **Community Safety in Community Hubs (training officer):** This reverses the majority of the saving of £72k in the budget proposals, to invest £60k in a training officer to support community hubs to focus and understand community safety issues and services to provide a local touch point for residents. This role will decentralise the team and help to prevent anti-social behaviour and resolve local issues as officers are more familiar with their own patch.
- 11 **Review of Rural Activities Centre and other cross departmental community sites:** This review will halt the savings attached to this site for six months, reducing the saving programme by £75k in order to work with stakeholders and cross departmentally as well as with the community site to provide business development support in order to identify opportunities and efficient cross working and income generation to support them to be sustainable. This may lead to future capital investment.

- 12 **Reduce Fees:** Blue Badge to £5 and theatre fees (limit to 15%) to promote local groups using them and promote sustainability.
- 13 **Introduce Regulatory Officer for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs):** Employing an officer to monitor HMOs and reduce the negative impact of HMOs on neighbours and costs on the Council. Including waste management, anti-social behaviour, and energy meter disputes information to tenants. This officer will also investigate the feasibility of a HMO landlord standards registration. The cost of this officer will be charged back through HMO application fees through the full cost recovery model. This post will contribute to future council savings through early prevention.
- 14 **Feasibility Study on the transition to a carbon neutral fleet:** The budget amendment includes a one-off feasibility study investigating the transition of the Council's fleet to a carbon neutral service, with a corresponding investment included in the Capital Programme to be firmed up pending the outcome of the study. This investment will allow the Council to reduce emissions in the borough and reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
- 15 **Transformation – Investment in cross cutting bid writing teams:** It is proposed that the Council invest in a team with the primary focus of securing additional funding from external sources, which could support both the Council's own expenditure and could be developed to support voluntary sector organisations, with a view to later securing savings for the Council through preventative services. The investment of £180k in this team can be funded from capital receipts under Government direction, with a view to the team becoming self-financing and generating a net benefit for the Council from 2024/25 onwards.
- 16 **Provide Hardship Contingency for those on low incomes using the Early Years Provision for 2023/24:** This reverses part of the saving from increased fees in the Early Years Centres by setting up a Hardship Contingency of £16k to support those households facing financial difficulty that use the Early Years Centres and mitigate some of the increased fees in this area.
- 17 **Saving Proposals:** The budget amendment includes a number of savings proposals including the digitisation of Hillingdon People to make a saving against the printing and distribution costs saving £156k, a BID review of the communications team to save £100k, a reduction in the Mayor's office budget of £50k and the closing of Scheme 1 of the Older People's Discount, transferring existing claimants to Scheme 2, saving £735k, with these saving initiatives reducing spend by £1,041k per annum.

Table 1: Changes to 2023/24 General Fund Revenue Budget

	2023/24 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Council Tax Requirement based on Cabinet Proposals		137,440
<u>Pandemic Recovery</u>		290
Investment in more Mental Health Support for in Community hubs	140	
BID: Provision for maintaining and supporting bowls clubs support	150	
<u>Services to Residents</u>		670
Libraries increasing the base line number of hours and opening at lunchtimes	150	
Reduction in First Parking Permit Fees from the proposed £75 to £25	313	
Reduce Fee: the increase in the Theatres charges (by 50%)	53	
Community safety in Community hubs (training officer)	60	
Transformation: Review of Rural Activities Centre	75	
Reduce Fee: Blue Badge from the Proposed £10 to £5	19	
Introduce Regulatory Officer for HMOs	60	
Increase HMO Licence Fee	(60)	
<u>Finance & Corporate items</u>		65
Feasibility Study on the transition to a carbon neutral fleet	65	
Transformation: Investment in cross cutting bid writing teams	180	
Transformation Capitalisation Funding	(180)	
<u>Children, Families & Education</u>		16
Provide Hardship Contingency for those on low incomes using the Early Years Provision for 2023/24	16	
<u>Savings Proposals</u>		(1,041)
Digitalisation of Hillingdon People	(156)	
BID Review of Communications	(100)	
Reduction to Mayors Office Budget	(50)	
End Scheme 1 of the Older People's Discount & Transfer Claimants to Scheme 2	(735)	
Change in Council Tax Requirement		0
Council Tax Requirement based on Labour Group Proposals		137,440

Changes to the General Fund Capital Programme

- 18 The following changes are proposed to the General Fund Capital Programme, which result in a £2,092k reduction in Capital Receipts, but maintain Prudential Borrowing at £81,149k over the life of the programme to 2027/28 based on the following amendments.
- 19 **Review of the Capital Programme:** The budget amendment proposes the removal the capital programmes from Falling Lane and Otterfield Road sites from the capital programme allowing time to work with the community to enhance the area. There is enough housing in the HFL pipeline to bring forward

and the same can be done with a slightly less degree of success with the HRA pipeline.

- 20 this will reduce the Council’s Capital Programme by £2,092k to £366,518k, with the impact of the amendment also reducing Capital Receipts to £112,118k.
- 21 **Reprioritisation of the Carbon Zero Initiatives Budget:** It is proposed that the Carbon Zero Initiatives budget is reprioritised to focus on broader innovations and joint working across the project, redirecting £2,250k of the £25,000k for this purpose to provide funding for innovation in climate technologies, with a further £4,000k being utilised to support the transition to the electrification of the Council’s vehicle fleet, with this amendment complimenting the feasibility study included in the revenue budget updates.
- 22 **Other Changes:** Adds 25% of the Chrysalis capital programme budget to target environmental sustainability and community benefit i.e., solar panels on sports clubs.

Table 2: Capital Programme Changes

	Project Budget	Grants and Contributions	CIL	Capital Receipts	Prudential Borrowing
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
February Cabinet	368,610	144,546	28,705	114,210	81,149
<u>Review of Capital Programme</u>					
Removal of Hillingdon First Limited Yiewsley Library buy back	(2,092)			(2,092)	
<u>Reprioritisation of Carbon Zero Initiatives Budget</u>					
Reallocated Climate zero Capital	(6,250)				(6,250)
Broader Innovation and joint working Capital Programme	2,250				2,250
Electrification of Council's Fleet	4,000				4,000
<u>Other Changes</u>					
Reallocated Chrysalis Capital (from 2024/25)	(1,000)				(1,000)
Redesignation from Chrysalis fund for sustainability and Community benefit	1,000				1,000
Change from December Cabinet	(2,092)	0	0	(2,092)	(2,092)
February Cabinet	366,518	144,546	28,705	112,118	81,149

HRA Revenue Budget Changes

- 23 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget amendments include a BID Review focused on customer service improvements for tenants including the reporting and speed of resolution of repairs that will deliver a £25k saving, with a further BID Review aimed at bringing the repairs function in-house on a net nil basis to have more control over the delivery of this service. This update will be offset through the contribution to financing the capital programme.

Table 3: HRA Revenue Changes

	2023/24 £'000	2023/24 £'000
HRA Planned Use of Balances		(85)
BID review: Customer service improvements for tenants	(25)	
BID Review: Net nil insourcing of the Housing Repairs Function	0	
Contribution to Finance Capital Programme	25	
HRA Planned Use of Balances from Labour Group Proposals		(85)
Change in HRA Planned Use of Balances from Labour Group Proposals		0

HRA Capital Budget Changes

- 24 HRA Capital budget amendments add £900k to the overall programme, giving a capital budget of £565,542k. The cabinet are proposing an extension pilot on council properties to a few dozen houses, the budget amendment would raise their energy rating and renewal energy capabilities at the same time in order to save money the HRA in the long term as part of the net zero carbon housing programme, adding £600k to the capital programme. Furthermore, an investment of £300k is proposed to pilot renewable energy in Supported Living schemes across the Council, starting off with a pilot at one site to assess financial viability. As these residents are also clients of the Adult Social Care service, the reduce service charge should have a positive impact on client contributions in this area and produce a saving for the General Fund.

Table 4: HRA Capital Changes

	2023/24 £'000	2023/24 £'000
HRA Capital Budget		564,642
Carbon Extensions	600	
Pilot Supported Living Renewable Energy Programme	300	
HRA Capital Budget from Labour Group Proposals		565,542