



HILLINGDON

LONDON

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 28 NOVEMBER 2024

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 meeting of the Council held on 26 September 2024.</i>
3.	Declarations of Interest - <i>To note any declarations of interest in any matter before the Council.</i>
4.	Mayor's Announcements - <i>To receive the Mayoral Announcements.</i>
5.	Public Question Time <i>To consider Questions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10. Public question time is limited to 30 minutes.</i> 5.1 QUESTION FROM JONATHAN HAYNES OF THE GREENWAY, UXBRIDGE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO: Given that Blue Horizon have been appointed as consultants to find a new operator to run the Beck Theatre, what assurances can LBH give that they will act fast and with urgency to secure a new operator assuming one is found, and ensure the Beck's long-term future? We are at a critical phase and have warned that if the venue closes in January, it will be very difficult for it to re-open - we need to ensure a deal is agreed in order for a seamless de-coupling with Trafalgar and keep the doors open. 5.2 QUESTION FROM EMILY HOPLA OF RUISLIP COURT, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: What evidence exists to support the Council's claim that there is no demand for the SRP at Coteford School when families like mine requested placements, and I have multiple emails from February — before the consultation closed—stating the SRP was no longer accepting admissions, suggesting this decision was predetermined?

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Public Question Time <i>(continued)</i>	<p data-bbox="325 136 1492 248">5.3 QUESTION FROM BETHANY GATES OF FORBES WAY, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p data-bbox="397 286 1492 506">Regarding the proposal to close the SRP at Coteford Infant School, how can the Council claim that children in the SRP are in a mainstream setting 100% of the time when we have clear evidence, including timetables, that show speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and other essential interventions are provided outside the classroom in a specialised setting within the school?</p> <p data-bbox="325 544 1492 656">5.4 QUESTION FROM HARPAL TAMBER OF GREAT PARK CLOSE, UXBRIDGE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:</p> <p data-bbox="397 694 1492 801">Can the Council categorically confirm or deny that they are in possession of drawings showing a new residential development scheme on the Beck Theatre site?</p> <p data-bbox="325 840 1492 952">5.5 QUESTION FROM GEORGINA SWAKER OF HALE END CLOSE, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p data-bbox="397 990 1492 1209">The recent consultation report on the SRP at Coteford states that children with physical disabilities can have their needs met in any mainstream school. However, parents report being turned away because local schools state they lack the necessary resources. How can the council justify closing the SRP without first ensuring that all mainstream schools are adequately equipped and prepared to meet the needs of physically disabled children?</p> <p data-bbox="325 1247 1492 1323">5.6 QUESTION FROM LINDA GATES OF FORE STREET, EASTCOTE TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR EDWARDS:</p> <p data-bbox="397 1361 1492 1581">The results report on the Consultation to close the SRP at Coteford Infant School state that 96% of the community wants the SRP to stay, showing overwhelming opposition to its closure. Given the fundamental purpose of a consultation is to consider community impact and opinions, does the Leader of the Council genuinely care about the views of constituents, or will this decision disregard the voices of the very people it affects most?</p> <p data-bbox="325 1619 1492 1731">5.7 QUESTION FROM STACY MCGOURAN OF GREEN LANE, NORTHWOOD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p data-bbox="397 1769 1492 1989">The Council states that the SRP closure at Coteford School is "in the name of inclusivity," yet this decision removes vital therapies for children with physical disabilities without clear guarantees, funding, or support to replace them. How can this be considered inclusive when it leaves families struggling and children without the specialist care they need? Is this decision truly about inclusion, or is it a cost-cutting measure?</p>

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Public Question Time <i>(continued)</i>	<p>5.8 QUESTION FROM NIKKY HUDSON OF MOUNT PARK ROAD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p>As a parent, I'm concerned that EHCPs don't cover essential costs like therapy and equipment, leaving already deficit-hit schools to fill the gap. How will the Council ensure my child's needs are fully funded without shifting the burden onto schools?</p> <p>5.9 QUESTION FROM LEANNE FISHER OF DOVEDALE CLOSE, HAREFIELD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p>The Council claims "nothing will change" as SRP therapies move to the NHS, yet this shift risks harmful delays for children with special needs, causing developmental regression and long-term damage. How can the Council deny this harm, and what steps are being taken to address it?</p> <p>5.10 QUESTION FROM EILISH STONE OF HATCH LANE HARMONDSWORTH TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:</p> <p>My relationship with the Beck goes back over 30 years when my sons performed with the Youth Theatre and in Summer Projects. This gave them 'skills for life' transferable to many different careers, including performing arts.</p> <p>Our Council's tardy response to securing the future of the theatre has caused much upset and uncertainty to the employees, service users and community groups. As a member of the community choir, I despair of our elected Council/Cabinet members who claim to put 'residents first'. It seems you only woke from your slumber when our media campaign to Save The Beck took off! Before that it was silence!</p>

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6.	<p>Report of the Head of Democratic Services - <i>To consider the following:</i></p> <p>i) URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS</p> <p>Members are asked to note the urgent decisions taken since the Council meeting in September 2024, as detailed in the report.</p> <p>ii) SELECT COMMITTEES' TERMS OF REFERENCE</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS: That Council note the appointment of Cabinet members and the new portfolios, and the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make relevant changes to the Council Constitution to reflect the new Cabinet structure – including to the Terms of Reference of the Council Select Committees.</p>
Report of Head of Democratic Services (continued)	<p>iii) CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 2024/25</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the following changes to committee memberships for 2024/25 be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration and Appeals Committee – Councillor D.Mills to replace Councillor Tuckwell. • Pensions Committee – Councillor D.Mills to replace Councillor Riley and Councillor Riley to replace Councillor Corthorne as a named substitute. <p>iv) APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY OFFICERS</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS: That:</p> <p>a) Mr Dan Dickinson be appointed to the statutory role of Monitoring Officer of the Council.</p> <p>b) subject to the agreement of the Council to a) above, the Constitution and the Officer Scheme of Delegations be amended, and Mr Dickinson be empowered to undertake all of the statutory functions of a Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services / Borough Solicitor as set out in the Constitution on an interim basis until such time as a formal appointment to the position of Head of Legal Services is made.</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bianco.</p> <p>Other speakers: None.</p>

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7.	<p>Polling District and Polling Places Review</p> <p><i>To consider the results of the review consultation.</i></p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the proposed parliamentary polling arrangements within the Borough for 2025 onwards, as detailed in Appendix B, be approved subject to the Returning Officer being instructed to</p> <p>a) seek the use of alternative venues, where possible to school buildings in the following Wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belmore, • Eastcote, • Hayes Town, • Hillingdon East, • Northwood Hills, • West Drayton, • Wood End and • Yeading <p>b) seek potential additional venues in Charville and Ruislip Wards.</p>
Polling District and Polling Places Review <i>(continued)</i>	<p>To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bianco.</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillor Money</p>
8.	<p>Youth Justice Plan 2024 – 2029</p> <p><i>To consider the recommendation from Cabinet</i></p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the Youth Justice Plan 2024-2029, as set out in the appendix, be adopted.</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Makwana</p> <p>Other speakers: None</p>

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9.	<p data-bbox="336 136 1493 210">Members' Questions - <i>To consider Questions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.</i></p> <p data-bbox="336 248 1038 286"><i>Members' questions time is limited to 45 minutes.</i></p> <p data-bbox="336 324 1493 434">9.2 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BANERJEE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION - COUNCILLOR GODDARD:</p> <p data-bbox="427 472 1493 689">It has been widely publicised that local authorities in England & Wales are experiencing serious financial difficulties. Can the Cabinet Member please comment on the extent to which these difficulties are expected to have an impact on the London Borough of Hillingdon, particularly in the light of the budget monitoring pressures in the current financial year recently reported at Cabinet?</p> <p data-bbox="336 728 1493 837">9.6 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PUNJA TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p data-bbox="427 875 1493 1061">Can the Cabinet Member explain what will happen to those children with physical disabilities, that will be remaining in Coteford Infant School after the proposed closure of the SRP funding, if the percentage of children having education health and care plans falls below the threshold at which the Council provides this non-statutory funding?</p> <p data-bbox="336 1099 1493 1209">9.4 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HIGGINS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING, HOUSING & GROWTH - COUNCILLOR TUCKWELL:</p> <p data-bbox="427 1247 1493 1357">Given the high demand for housing, can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on what is being done to prevent homelessness in Hillingdon?</p>

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Member Questions <i>(continued)</i>	<p>9.3 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SWEETING TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p>The report to the Cabinet meeting on 7 November 2024 - agenda Item 7, page 125, paragraph 14 - states that the Designated Schools Grant cumulative deficit carried forward to 2025/26 is forecast at £68.8 million</p> <p>As the Statutory Override which currently separates this deficit from the Council's General Fund reserves is in place only until March 2026, what plan does the Council have for paying back this deficit which is greater than the Council's reserves if the Statutory Override is not extended beyond March 2026?</p>
	<p>9.5 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DAVIES TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the future of the Beck Theatre, confirm the Council's commitment to retaining the theatre on its current site to continue serving the local community and, in addition, inform us on the progress with the consultants involved in this matter?</p>
	<p>9.1 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BURLES TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE - COUNCILLOR PALMER:</p> <p>With an ever-increasing demand and waits for GP services, can the Cabinet member please provide an update on the expenditure of funds received from the St Andrews development on the RAF Uxbridge site, for primary healthcare in Uxbridge?</p>
	<p>9.7 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BRIDGES TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member please give the Council an update on the disposal of Barra Hall in light of recent disinformation being disseminated by the Labour Group.</p>
	<p>9.8 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MAKWANA TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member please explain what has been the impact of the Council's revised Fostering Offer since its launch?</p>

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<p>10.</p>	<p>Motions - <i>To consider Motions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.</i></p> <p>10.3 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR EDWARDS</p> <p>That this Council is greatly concerned that the government's increase in the Employer's National Insurance Contributions and the reduction in the threshold for payment will add further pressure on Council budgets and on our residents.</p> <p>Whilst the government have said, but not yet confirmed, that Councils will be fully reimbursed for their direct cost arising from this change, financial assistance will not be given to our care service and early year providers and charities upon which this Council relies to support our residents. The additional taxation these providers will now have to pay will most likely cause them to increase their charges and ultimately it is the hard-working families and residents of this borough that will have to pay as that cost is passported on to them.</p> <p>Therefore, to mitigate this new pressure, this Council will reaffirm its commitment to sound financial management and good business practices that has enabled Hillingdon Council to deal with underfunding to date.</p> <p>To be seconded by Councillor Goddard</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Denys, Haggar and D.Mills.</p> <p>10.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MATHERS</p> <p>That this Council deeply regrets the entirely avoidable closure of the Beck Theatre in January 2025 and the significant negative impact this will have on the arts and culture provision within our borough and calls on the Cabinet to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) reopen the theatre with an appropriate operator at the earliest opportunity in 2025, that maintains the quality of programming and community engagement historically delivered at this wonderful venue and b) immediately conduct an independent review to investigate the delays and communications that occurred between the council and existing operator resulting in the forthcoming closure of the theatre. This review will determine what lessons can be learnt and will be conducted independently of the Council and operator. <p>The scope of the review should investigate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • negotiations between the Council and the operator including offers made informally or formally over recent years, their correspondence, negotiations and preparations for agreements. • the Council's and Cabinet's decision making over recent years regarding this tenure. • the use of Council's external and internal communications including social media channels.

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<p>Motions (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any other relevant aspects as determined by the independent investigator. <p>The review to then be presented to the relevant Select committee within the next six months.</p> <p>To be seconded by Councillor Garelick</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Edwards</p> <p>NB: Councillor Edwards to move and Councillor Bianco to second the following amendments (additional words in <i>bold italics</i> and deleted words crossed through):</p> <p>i) That this Council deeply regrets <i>that Trafalgar Theatres have declined the Council's offer to renew the lease of the Beck Theatre and recognises</i> the entirely avoidable closure of the Beck Theatre in January 2025 and the significant negative impact this will may have on the <i>commercial theatre</i> arts and culture provision within our borough. <i>Notwithstanding the promising progress being made by Blue Horizon, the Council's consultants to help identify a new theatre operator for the Beck, this Council</i> and calls on the Cabinet to:</p> <p>a) reopen the theatre <i>agree terms</i> with an appropriate operator at the earliest opportunity, <i>without the requirement for ongoing financial subsidy from the Council, in 2025,</i> that maintains the quality of programming and community engagement historically delivered at this wonderful venue. and</p> <p>ii) delete the remainder of the motion.</p> <p>The amended motion then to read:</p> <p>That this Council regrets that Trafalgar Theatres have declined the Council's offer to renew the lease of the Beck Theatre and recognises the significant negative impact this may have on the commercial theatre within our borough. Notwithstanding the promising progress being made by Blue Horizon, the Council's consultants to help identify a new theatre operator for the Beck, this Council calls on the Cabinet to agree terms with an appropriate operator at the earliest opportunity, without the requirement for ongoing financial subsidy from the Council, that maintains the quality of programming and community engagement historically delivered at this wonderful venue.</p>

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Motions <i>(continued)</i>	<p>10.2 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR KAUR</p> <p>That this Council recognises that Assets of Community Value (ACVs) such as theatres, community centres, libraries, pubs, and other spaces, provide vital services and activities for residents. This Council believes that it has a pivotal role in supporting and encouraging local communities to nominate ACVs, ensuring that valuable assets are protected for future generations. Therefore, this Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publicly identify and list ACVs • actively promote the ACV nomination process and provide necessary support • launch a targeted communication campaign to raise awareness of the ACV process among residents and community groups <p>To be seconded by Councillor Curling</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Bianco and Edwards</p>

END OF COUNCIL MEETING