



HILLINGDON

LONDON

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 16 JANUARY 2025

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 28 November 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>

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5.	<p>Public Question Time</p> <p><i>To consider questions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10. Public question time is limited to 30 minutes.</i></p> <p>5.1 QUESTION FROM ANAND PUNJA OF ELMBRIDGE AVENUE, RUISLIP, ON BEHALF OF THE RUISLIP WOODS TRUST TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p>At the July 2024 Council Meeting the Cabinet member advised, and I quote from the minutes, that <i>"the document was now in the final stages of drafting so would be published shortly"</i>. Ruislip Woods Trust, along with many of our members are now getting impatient with the Council and we further believe that the Council are currently in breach of their statutory duty, due to a lack of a 5-year management plan as the management authority for the Ruislip Woods NNR and SSI.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet member please provide a more specific timeline as to when an updated management plan will be consulted on and published, and to also commit to a follow up meeting within six weeks, with the relevant council officers to provide a more specific update on the overall management of Ruislip Woods as a follow up.</p>
Public Question Time (continued)	<p>5.2 QUESTION FROM STEVE GARELICK OF STOWE CRESCENT, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p>Hillingdon Council has failed in its handling of flood mitigation issues, particularly in relation to the recent flooding events in Ruislip and West Drayton as well as other parts of the borough.</p> <p>Residents have expressed concerns about the Council's slow response to flooding emergencies, inadequate drainage systems, and lack of long-term planning to address the increasing risk of flooding due to climate change.</p> <p>Why has the Council's allocation of resources to flood mitigation projects funding not kept pace with the growing need for flood protection measures. Surely with the claimed sound financial management on countless occasions more could have been done.</p> <p>Given the fact that only now Hillingdon is asking for evidence on how September 2024 flooding has affected residents it seems there has been a past failure to take this matter seriously.</p> <p>What is the Council prepared to do to protect residents and help environmental groups reach their goals especially as more needs to be done to protect communities from the devastating effects of flooding?</p>

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6.	<p data-bbox="331 136 986 174">Report of the Head of Democratic Services</p> <p data-bbox="331 215 703 253"><i>To consider the following:</i></p> <p data-bbox="331 288 1078 327">i) URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS</p> <p data-bbox="400 365 1490 439">Members are asked to note the urgent decisions taken since the Council meeting in September 2024, as detailed in the report.</p> <p data-bbox="331 474 979 512">ii) PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2025/26</p> <p data-bbox="405 548 1490 734">RECOMMENDATION: That the programme of meetings for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix A, 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 data-bbox="331 772 995 810">iii) AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p data-bbox="405 846 1490 920">RECOMMENDATION: That the Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2023/24, as attached, be noted.</p> <p data-bbox="331 958 1366 996">To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bianco</p> <p data-bbox="331 1032 651 1070">Other speakers: None</p>
7.	<p data-bbox="331 1144 954 1182">Statement of Gambling Policy 2025-2028</p> <p data-bbox="331 1220 970 1258"><i>To consider the recommendation of Cabinet:</i></p> <p data-bbox="331 1294 1490 1368">RECOMMENDATION: That the revised Statement of Gambling Policy be adopted as a policy framework document.</p> <p data-bbox="331 1406 1366 1444">To be moved by Councillor Lavery and seconded by Councillor Edwards</p> <p data-bbox="331 1480 651 1518">Other speakers: None</p>

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8.	<p data-bbox="336 136 1257 174">Council Tax Base and Business Rates Forecast 2025 – 2026</p> <p data-bbox="336 215 1485 286"><i>To consider the proposed Council Taxbase and Business Rates Forecast for 2025/26.</i></p> <p data-bbox="336 327 767 365">RECOMMENDATIONS: That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="336 405 1485 477">a) The report of the Corporate Director of Finance for the calculation of the Council Taxbase and the Business Rates Forecast be approved. <li data-bbox="336 517 1485 663">b) In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Taxbase) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by the London Borough of Hillingdon as its Council Taxbase for 2025/26 shall be 105,422. <li data-bbox="336 703 1485 813">c) Authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Finance to submit the 2025/26 NNDR1 return to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Greater London Authority (GLA). <li data-bbox="336 853 1485 963">d) The continuation of the Council’s policy of passporting Government discounts and reliefs applied to Business Rates to the ratepayer be approved. <li data-bbox="336 1003 1485 1189">e) Having due regard to the Review Of Working Age Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2025/26 at Appendix 2 and the Equalities Impact Assessment at Appendix 2a, approve the following amendments to the Council’s local Council Tax Reduction Scheme to reform the scheme with effect from 1 April 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="384 1229 1469 1301">a. Align the vulnerable group percentage reduction with the rest of the scheme over a phased approach lasting 4 years. <li data-bbox="384 1305 1294 1341">b. Remove the war widow pension group from the scheme. <li data-bbox="384 1346 927 1382">c. Remove Transitional Protection. <li data-bbox="384 1386 1070 1422">d. Increase the minimum weekly award to £3. <li data-bbox="384 1426 1453 1498">e. Reduce the absence abroad to 4 weeks in line with Pensioner CTR scheme change. <li data-bbox="384 1503 1469 1574">f. Cap the amount of Council Tax liability to be used in the calculation to Band D (non-vulnerable households only). <li data-bbox="384 1579 1406 1615">g. Increase the non-dependant deduction from £8 to £10 per week. <li data-bbox="384 1619 1118 1655">h. Introduce additional support for care leavers.
Council Tax Base report (continued)	<p data-bbox="336 1677 1390 1715">To be moved by Councillor Goddard and seconded by Councillor Edwards</p> <p data-bbox="336 1756 831 1794">Other speakers: Councillor Mathers</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">9.8 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SMALLWOOD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p data-bbox="427 472 1493 546">Can the Cabinet member provide an update for our residents on the future provision of childcare at the Council's early years centres?</p> <p data-bbox="336 584 1493 694">9.1 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SWEETING TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION - COUNCILLOR GODDARD:</p> <p data-bbox="427 732 1493 994">The previous Director of Finance assessed that general reserves of between £32 to £55 million were needed to ensure the Council has financial resilience to address both foreseen and unforeseen risks. The current projected levels of reserves for 2025/26 and beyond as illustrated by the chart 11 on page 38 of the budget report presented to the Children, Families and Education Select Committee of 7 January 2025, show assumed levels of reserves hovering just above £20 million until 2027/28.</p> <p data-bbox="427 1032 1493 1218">How confident is the Cabinet member that, given the Council's significant underestimates of delivering savings in the past, and over inflation as to the level of reserves, that levels of reserves will not need to be supported by Government Intervention as mentioned in paragraph 22 on page 38 of the aforementioned report?</p> <p data-bbox="336 1256 1493 1366">9.3 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BENNETT TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING, HOUSING & GROWTH - COUNCILLOR TUCKWELL:</p> <p data-bbox="427 1404 1493 1590">Can the Cabinet member please provide an update to the Council on the anticipated impact of the Labour government's planning reforms announced in December, particularly in terms of how these changes might affect housing delivery, local control over development, and the protection of green spaces in Hillingdon?</p> <p data-bbox="336 1628 1493 1738">9.6 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR KAUR TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:</p> <p data-bbox="427 1776 1493 1912">Would the Cabinet member kindly agree to make public the list of any potential assets that are likely to be disposed of or put up for sale to balance the books, so as not to leave Hillingdon residents feeling angry and deeply concerned about the potential lack of transparency and its</p>

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<p>Member Questions (continued)</p>	<p>impact on their community?</p> <p>9.5 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DAVIES TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT- COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member please update Council on the positive progress being made to secure an exciting new future for the much-valued Beck Theatre?</p> <p>9.7 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PUNJA TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member for Children and Families offer her congratulations to the Save our Nurseries campaign which successfully overturned the closures resulting in keeping all three Early Years Centres open under new management?</p> <p>9.2 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DENYS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - COUNCILLOR PALMER:</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member please give an update on the outcome of the recent Care Quality Commission's inspection of Hillingdon Council's Adult Social Care Services?</p> <p>9.4 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MARTIN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - COUNCILLOR PALMER:</p> <p>It has been reported that the savings anticipated by the Labour government accruing from the cancellation of the pensioners' winter fuel payment have failed to be delivered, largely due to the surge in successful applications for Pension Credit.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member please advise what action has been taken in Hillingdon to mitigate the loss of the winter fuel payment to our pensioner residents?</p> <p>9.9 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR R.MILLS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:</p> <p>In light of much previous negative publicity concerning the future of the Uxbridge library site, can the Cabinet Member please update the Council on the current position?</p>

END OF COUNCIL MEETING