



MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 10 JULY 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 meetings of the Council held on 27 February and 08 May 2025.</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.	<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 BRIAN LAWRENCE OF MEADOW VIEW ROAD, HAYES, TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p>As there has been no notification as to why Hillingdon in Bloom & Autumn Show was cancelled, can you please provide an answer?</p> <p>5.2 QUESTION FROM JASH PATEL OF LEAHOLME WAY, RUISLIP, TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p>Please consider charging an entrance fee for visitors (to the Ruislip Lido) from outside the Borough of Hillingdon. The attached article (<i>extract provided</i>) means that the Ruislip Lido will be visited by thousands of visitors, free of charge to enjoy the beach etc.</p> <p>The sufferers of this will be Hillingdon residents paying Council tax. The visitors park all across the surrounding area causing problems for the residents. I have been a resident of Leaholme Way for 48 years and am an ex-Hillingdon Council pensioner. I have made this request 2-3 times before. No joy.</p>

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Public Question Time (continued)	<p data-bbox="331 136 1495 248">5.3 QUESTION FROM ANDREA SCRIVENS OF BROADWOOD AVENUE, RUISLIP AND THE FRIENDS OF THE RAGC, TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - COUNCILLOR PALMER:</p> <p data-bbox="419 286 1495 506">At the Cabinet meeting on 26 June (<i>in relation to the item concerning the RAGC</i>) it was stated that all those who required an assessment of their social care needs would have one. At a time when I understand social services to be already stretched, have they got the capacity to carry out those assessments, what is the timescale for their completion and what are the estimated costs?</p> <p data-bbox="331 544 1495 656">5.4 QUESTION FROM ISABEL STEVENSON OF PARKFIELD ROAD, ICKENHAM, TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - COUNCILLOR PALMER:</p> <p data-bbox="419 694 1495 954">I am frightened for the safety of my son, who has been attending the Rural Activities Garden Centre as a gardeneer for many years. It is a safe and calming environment where our family can get respite for a few hours knowing he is safe with friends doing what he enjoys the most. Please can the Cabinet Member explain to me how the open aspect of the Civic Centre gardens allocated as the alternative provision to RAGC can be made safe for my son.</p> <p data-bbox="331 992 1495 1104">5.5 QUESTION FROM SARAH GREEN OF IVER LANE, UXBRIDGE, TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p data-bbox="419 1142 1495 1469">The Council has a statutory responsibility to remediate the New Years Green landfill site and stop the landfill leachate polluting Ickenham Public Water Source on Breakspear Road South. After the 5-year period of Natural Monitored Attenuation (2013 to 2019), a report should have been written to inform decision makers of the pollution rates and what the recommended next steps are. Sufficient quantity of clean tap water is becoming critical in London. Can the Cabinet member tell the public the results of the Monitored Natural Attenuation at New Years Green landfill site and the next steps being taken?</p> <p data-bbox="331 1507 1495 1653">5.6 QUESTION FROM JOHN SCRIVENS OF BROADWOOD AVENUE, RUISLIP AND THE FRIENDS OF THE RAGC, TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES & PROPERTY - COUNCILLOR BIANCO:</p> <p data-bbox="419 1691 1495 1951">In order to scrutinise the Cabinet's decision to close the Rural Activities Garden Centre, is the Council able to provide evidence that it has examined the option of Community Asset Transfer to transfer management of RAGC to Friends of RAGC, or other community organisation, as this is an obvious alternative to closure which would open additional funding opportunities for RAGC and be supported by the on-site RAGC operating team.</p>

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Public Question Time <i>(continued)</i>	<p>5.7 QUESTION FROM MARK PEARMAN SCRIVENS OF MELLOW LANE EAST, HAYES, TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR EDWARDS:</p> <p>We have seen it before where the Council promises what their plans are with no details and asks the residents to trust them. In the past we have seen Colham Green Day Centre close and used for a housing estate. This Centre was moved to a smaller centre (Parkview Day Centre) along the Uxbridge Road. After a few years that Centre was closed, and the service was moved to a warehouse in Uxbridge. Shortly after this closed too.</p> <p>Can the Leader of the Council explain why this time it will be any different and why the Council has been purposely managing the decline of the RAGC site?</p>

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6.	<p data-bbox="331 141 986 174">Report of the Head of Democratic Services</p> <p data-bbox="331 215 702 248"><i>To consider the following:</i></p> <p data-bbox="331 288 1078 322">i) URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS</p> <p data-bbox="403 362 1490 434">Members are asked to note the urgent decisions taken since the Council meeting in February 2024, as detailed in the report.</p> <p data-bbox="331 474 1437 546">ii) POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL, THE CALCULATION OF POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS</p> <p data-bbox="403 586 1490 734">RECOMMENDATION: That the alteration of the overall political balance of the Council, following the formation of the Hayes Independent Party Group, be noted and the following changes to membership of Council Committees etc. be approved:</p> <ul data-bbox="403 775 1465 1458" style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing Committee – Councillor Gardner to remain a member of the Committee but representing the Hayes Independent Party Group. • Pensions Committee – Councillor Basit to replace Councillor Burles and Councillor Sullivan to replace Councillor Burrows. Councillor Burles to be a nominated substitute. • Registration and Appeals Committee – Councillor Curling to replace Councillor Makwana and Councillor Basit to replace Councillor Judge. • Appointments Committee – Councillor Mathers to replace Councillor Curling. • Residents Services Select Committee - Councillor Garelick to replace Councillor Gardner. • Corporate Resources and Infrastructure Select Committee - Councillor Mand to replace Councillor Mathers and Councillor Islam to replace Councillor Garelick. • Hillingdon Planning Committee – Councillor Sansarpuri to replace Councillor Mand.

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<p>Report of the Head of Democratic Services (continued)</p>	<p>iii) APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY OFFICER</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the new Corporate Director of Finance, Mr Steven Muldoon be appointed to the statutory role of Section 151 and Chief Financial Officer of the Council once his appointment to the post of Corporate Director of Finance has been confirmed and he has commenced employment at the Council.</p> <p>The Appointments Committee of 1 July appointed Mr Steven Muldoon to the role of Corporate Director of Finance.</p> <p>The Committee satisfied themselves that Mr Muldoon possesses the necessary qualifications for the role of S151 Officer and has held multiple senior interim roles with Deputy S151 responsibility across complex, high-profile authorities. His experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTFS leadership • Complex budget setting and savings delivery • Advising Members at all levels • Transformational Leadership and Improvement delivery • Political acumen and stakeholder delivery • A collaborative and visible leadership style. <p>In addition, Mr Muldoon's ability has been endorsed by some the most senior figures working for local and national government.</p> <p>iv) NORTHWEST LONDON JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That Council agrees the changes to the NWL JHOSC Terms of Reference as set out in the appendix to the report.</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 data-bbox="339 141 1495 210">Members' Questions - <i>To consider Questions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.</i></p> <p data-bbox="339 253 1023 286"><i>Members' question time is limited to 45 minutes.</i></p> <p data-bbox="339 329 1495 434">7.3 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HAGGAR TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - COUNCILLOR PALMER:</p> <p data-bbox="429 477 1495 582">What effect is the Cabinet decision to close the retail operation of the Rural Activities Garden Centre likely to have on the Social Care provision of horticultural therapy?</p>

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Member Questions (continued)	<p>7.2 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SWEETING TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p>Why was Hillingdon's important Annual Education Standard's Report 2023/24 not considered by Cabinet this year as has been the case with similar reports in previous years?</p>
	<p>7.1 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DENYS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION - COUNCILLOR GODDARD:</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the Financial Improvement Programme which was initiated following the Budget setting at February Council?</p>
	<p>7.6 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BURLES TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT- COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p>The Rural Activities Garden Centre is described as a 'hidden Gem' and for over 40 years has provided vital life changing services for our adults with learning difficulties. Can the Cabinet member explain why he did not seek alternative providers like the Council did for the Beck Theatre and Early Years Nursery Centres so that it can remain open?</p>
	<p>7.4 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SMALLWOOD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT- COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member confirm that Hillingdon Council is not levying parking charges on those visiting Breakspear Crematorium to pay their respects to deceased relatives?</p>
	<p>7.9 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PUNJA TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING, HOUSING & GROWTH- COUNCILLOR TUCKWELL: NB: In the absence of Councillor Tuckwell, the question will be answered by Councillor Lavery.</p> <p>It is a year since Council resolved that a report be sent to Cabinet considering the sufficiency of evidence required under Part 2 Housing Act 2004 to extend licensing obligations to all properties with 3 bedrooms housing multiple unrelated occupants and to commence consultation on the implementation of this additional licensing obligation where it is justified.</p> <p>I note that the report is shown on the Forward Plan as due to be submitted to Cabinet in July. Please can the Cabinet member explain why it has taken a year to produce this report and what actions are going to be taken as the increasing rise in HMOs are changing our streets and impacting on our Council services?</p>

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<p>Member Questions <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>7.7 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BANERJEE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT- COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member please update Council on the rollout of the garden waste subscription scheme?</p> <p>7.10 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MAND TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION - COUNCILLOR GODDARD:</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member please explain the absence and delays of budget monitoring reports and financial reports to Cabinet and Select Committee meetings?</p> <p>7.5 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BURROWS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT- COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p>Does the Cabinet member consider the decision to relocate Uxbridge Library to have been successful?</p> <p>7.8 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BENNETT TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - COUNCILLOR PALMER:</p> <p>Following the CQC inspection, which rated Adult Social Care as 'good', can the Cabinet Member please provide any further updates on the service?</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Motions - <i>To consider Motions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.</i></p> <p>8.4 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR EDWARDS</p> <p>That this Council notes that Hillingdon has the highest number of asylum seekers housed in hotels or dispersed accommodation of any local authority in London (more than 4.5 times the London average) and possibly the highest nationally. It is unfair and unsustainable to require Hillingdon's residents to carry the grossly disproportionate burden of supporting former asylum seekers evicted from hotels as required by law. Council also notes with concern the commitment of Government to evict into this borough more than 2,300 asylum seekers presently housed in our hotels by the end of the present Parliament.</p> <p>To protect the interests of Hillingdon's residents, this Council requires Government to cease the practice of evicting former asylum seekers from hotels and dispersed accommodation within our borough without the necessary future support and accommodation having been secured and funded by the Home Office and to refund the cost shouldered by Hillingdon's residents to date.</p>

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<p>Motions <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>Furthermore, this Council calls on our three Members of Parliament to work with Government to secure the immediate funding for Hillingdon's asylum cost to date, to ensure that the responsibility for supporting and accommodating those evicted from hotels in the borough will from this point on be equitably shared nationally, and that the funding of port authorities is commensurate with the additional responsibilities that they discharge on behalf of the nation.</p> <p>To be seconded by Councillor Bianco</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Ahmad-Wallana, Davies, Gardner, Mathers, R.Mills and Punja</p> <p>8.2 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MATHERS</p> <p>That this Council is seriously concerned at the Cabinet's broken promises to its residents with reversal of the affirmation agreed in July 2023 by Full Council that:</p> <p><i>“this Council affirms our commitment to free weekly bin collections, including recycling and green waste collections and thanks our Council staff for their dedication to their work.”</i></p> <p>And that this:</p> <p><i>“Council reaffirms that it rejects the idea of charging residents for the collection of garden waste”.</i></p> <p>The Cabinet reasons for supporting policies that have introduced an initial £70 subscription charge for this service in the borough was to save £34 million to balance the budget and avoid bankruptcy.</p> <p>Therefore, this Council calls on the Cabinet to refer the implementation and introduction of charges for waste to the relevant select committee in order to scrutinise the effectiveness of this measure in achieving the desired savings at regular intervals over the coming financial year to assure residents that this and other aspects of the savings programme will raise the required funds in year to remain within budget.</p> <p>To be seconded by Councillor Judge</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Edwards, Islam, Kaur and Sweeting.</p> <p>8.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CURLING</p> <p>That this Council notes the devastating impact that a third runway, at Heathrow airport, would have on our borough and its residents. Council further notes the well documented detrimental impact on the environment, as well as the adverse impact on the health and well-being of a significant number of residents within our borough, should a third runway be built and brought into operation.</p>

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Motions <i>(continued)</i>	<p>This Council therefore reaffirms its strong, cross party, opposition to a third runway at Heathrow Airport.</p> <p>To be seconded by Councillor Gardner.</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Denys, Edwards, Lavery, Mathers, Punja and Smallwood.</p> <p>8.3 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PUNJA</p> <p>That this Council agrees to call on Councillor Lavery, Cabinet Member for Community and Environment to reconsider the Cabinet decision to close the retail operations of the Rural Activities Garden Centre made on June 26, 2025, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) failure to accurately analyse or calculate financial income year on year income under Financial Implications b) failure to have sought and costed alternative providers for the site to remain open. c) failure to have scoped, costed, assessed and consulted on new provision for gardeners with social care package to ensure a safe environment d) misleading information on £1.2m needed for investment to meet Health and Safety standards as this cost was based on an improvement plan proposal. e) failure to provide reasonable adjustments for adults with learning disabilities as per guidance in the Equalities Act at the initial engagement meeting of 30th May 2025 <p>This Council values robust reporting to make high quality decisions and asks the Cabinet member for Community and Environment to instruct officers to provide an updated report addressing, but not limited to, the concerns listed above and submit to the relevant Select Committees for scrutiny before going to Cabinet for a decision.</p> <p>To be seconded by Councillor Mathers.</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Denys, Edwards, Farley, Garelick, Lavery, Nelson-West, Sansarpuri and Sweeting.</p>

END OF COUNCIL MEETING