

MOTIONS

9.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CURLING

That this Council notes that research clearly demonstrates adult gaming centres and betting shops are disproportionately located in some of the most deprived areas, and that places such as Hayes Town already has more than its fair share, with yet another gaming centre due to open in the old Barclays Bank building.

Council also notes that, with changing shopping habits, all our high streets are subject to dramatic change and susceptible to increased gaming centres and betting shops, which could come to dominate our local high streets, if their proliferation is not more robustly controlled.

Council further notes that local councils have very little powers to stop new gaming centres opening, and that a coalition of over 40 councils, of all political persuasions, is calling for 'urgent gambling reform' to prevent betting shops and gaming centres from 'taking over' high streets.

Council therefore calls for the Cabinet to consider joining the coalition of councils seeking the appropriate changes to gambling regulations.

9.2 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PUNJA

That this Council notes:

- The Council's finances are in a "critical" state, according to independent auditors Ernst & Young (EY) who have served notice under the Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.
- The Council's reserves are the lowest of any London borough with insufficient reserves for this financial year.
- This Council has had 4 Section 151 officers in the past 18 months.
- Persistent delay notices relating to the Financial Report for year ending 2024-25
- Auditors Ernst Young report "fundamental governance weaknesses", including poor-quality data and unreliable forecasting.
- The Internal Audit report offered "no assurance" on internal controls, risk management, or governance.
- The Council Forecasts for 2025-26 show a further £16.4m overspend, more than double the reserves left.
- The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit has hit £65.71 million, nearly ten times the Council's reserves, threatening the future of education funding.
- Failure to achieve savings targets year on year leaving £34million in year savings target for 2025/26.
- The Council is now seeking an unplanned, midyear "Exceptional Financial Support" from the Labour Government, to cover up their inability to deliver a balanced budget, proving that the Conservative administration has lost complete control of the accounts.

Therefore, this Council expresses its complete lack of confidence in:

- Cllr Ian Edwards, Leader of Hillingdon Council – for failing to provide leadership or accountability during this financial collapse; and
- Cllr Martin Goddard, Cabinet Member for Finance – for presiding over catastrophic budget management, failed reforms, and a total loss of public trust.

This Council calls upon the two Members to resign with immediate effect and further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Government calling for an urgent formal investigation into the financial position of this local authority.

9.3 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GARELICK

That this Council recognises that the presentation and cleanliness of our residential streets across the whole borough have been in sharp decline this year, clearly indicating that the Council's financial troubles are having a significant impact on our frontline services such as refuse collection, street cleansing, and weed removal.

Therefore, this Council calls on the administration to take action to improve these frontline services, in order to keep our streets clean and restore a sense of pride in our communities.

9.4 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR RILEY

That this Council has a proud record and tradition of promoting Civic Pride in many forms and celebrating its heritage encouraging the coming together of our diverse communities.

This Council, therefore, reaffirms and supports whole heartedly the Leader's words in his recent statement about the flying of the flags of the United Kingdom and England across the borough. Those flags represent the history, freedoms and values of this country and its people and they are a beacon to others. We eschew the disgraceful negative attitude of those who are willing to surrender our national flags to extremists by claiming them to be symbols of racism. Flying our country's national flags serves any numbers of good purposes, providing a sense of identity and belonging and it is supported by our residents.

This Council also recognises that increasing protest against the failure of the government to stop illegal entry into this country and stop the housing of asylum seekers in our hotels, may be unnerving to more recently settled residents of this country. It therefore welcomes the recent public statement by Hillingdon Inter Faith Network and commits to working with the Network to ensure community cohesion.