



HILLINGDON

LONDON

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 27 NOVEMBER 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 11 September 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>

ORDER	BUSINESS
5.	<p data-bbox="336 136 1497 248">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></p> <p data-bbox="336 286 1497 398">5.1 QUESTION FROM TONY ELLIS OF KEWFERRY ROAD, NORTHWOOD TO THE LEADER OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR EDWARDS:</p> <p data-bbox="405 436 1497 584">The council's Audit Committee papers confirm that leaders were formally warned of "key governance weaknesses" by CIPFA and auditors in February and March 2025. This was at the exact same time the administration was approving the 2025/26 budget.</p> <p data-bbox="405 622 1497 801">Given the administration was formally warned of "key governance weaknesses" before the budget was set, I do not understand how it could have been legitimately claimed to have been robust. What accountability has there been for the leadership's failure to act on these warnings, which preceded the £36m financial collapse?</p> <p data-bbox="336 840 1497 952">5.2 QUESTION FROM PATRICIA WARDLE OF WYE CLOSE ROAD, RUISLIP TO THE LEADER OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR EDWARDS:</p> <p data-bbox="405 990 1497 1243">At the HARA meeting on 17 November, the Leader stated the EFS bailout application was for "the region of 40 million". This figure seems too low to be sufficient to cover both this year's overspend and to replenish the reserves, especially as each month in the last three the overspend has increased. Can the Leader provide a more accurate estimate of the kind of figure that the Council has been requesting from the government, given that the £40M figure doesn't seem anywhere near sufficient?</p>

ORDER	BUSINESS
Public Question Time <i>(continued)</i>	<p data-bbox="333 136 1498 248">5.3 QUESTION FROM SUE MIDGLEY OF HOWLETTS LANE, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p data-bbox="405 286 1498 398">The Council predicts it will have a £78M cumulative deficit in the Dedicated Schools Grant by the end of the year. The statutory override government protection for this deficit expires in March 2028.</p> <p data-bbox="405 436 1498 504">What is the Council's plan to handle the £78.4M schools deficit when the government override ends, other than hoping for a second bailout?</p> <p data-bbox="333 542 1498 698">5.4 QUESTION FROM SALLY WEBB OF LAKESIDE CLOSE, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR BRIDGES (to be answered by former portfolio holder, Councillor Lavery):</p> <p data-bbox="405 736 1498 878">In April 2025, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Edwards, personally assured the Ruislip Residents' Association that a new, robust risk assessment for Ruislip Lido was a priority and would be 'picked up very quickly' to address the 'obvious risks' of overcrowding.</p> <p data-bbox="405 916 1498 1057">On June 29th, those risks were realised when emergency services struggled to access the site. Yet, as of November, this vital risk assessment has still not been commissioned, and Council officers have confirmed they are still awaiting responses from external specialists.</p> <p data-bbox="405 1095 1498 1319">Given the Council's failure to deliver this urgent safety review, how does it justify prioritising new, non-essential spending at the Lido, such as the £19,200 approved in October to refurbish the pirate ship and the £76,949 approved in September for 'infrastructure improvements', which includes 'new picnic tables' - all of which will only attract more visitors to a site the Council has not yet made safe?</p> <p data-bbox="333 1357 1498 1469">5.5 QUESTION FROM DANIEL O'NEILL OF ASHBURTON ROAD, RUISLIP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION – COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p data-bbox="405 1507 1498 1731">The Month 6 Budget Monitoring Report identifies a £4 million "adverse impact" on the budget caused by a review of the asset sales programme. Can the Cabinet Member confirm if this £4 million deficit exists because the Administration had already spent or committed the money before the assets were actually sold and why was such a large sum spent "at risk" before the funds were actually secured in the Council's bank account?</p> <p data-bbox="333 1769 1498 1910">5.6 QUESTION FROM DAVID EDINGTON OF HOYLAKE CRESCENT, ICKENHAM TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR BRIDGES (to be answered by former portfolio holder, Councillor Lavery):</p> <p data-bbox="405 1948 1498 2054">The Chrysalis Fund criteria, presented to the Residents' Services Select Committee in March 2025, explicitly state the fund cannot fund events, activities or furniture and equipment.</p>

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Public Question Time <i>(continued)</i>	<p>Can the Cabinet Member explain why he subsequently approved £19,200 for 'Playground equipment refurbishment' and £76,949 for a project that includes 'new picnic tables' - in direct contradiction of the programme's published rules - and further explain when and by whom the decision was taken to increase his portfolio's Chrysalis budget from the £1 million stated in his June Capital Release report to the £3 million stated in his September report, given the Council's current severe financial constraints?</p>

ORDER	BUSINESS
6.	<p data-bbox="336 136 1390 174">Report of the Head of Democratic Services - <i>To consider the following:</i></p> <p data-bbox="336 215 1082 253">i) URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS</p> <p data-bbox="405 293 1497 360">Members are asked to note the urgent decisions taken since the Council meeting in September 2025, as detailed in the report.</p> <p data-bbox="336 405 1445 472">ii) POLITICAL GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL, THE CALCULATION OF POLITICAL BALANCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS</p> <p data-bbox="405 517 1497 584">To note changes in the political balance of the Council and to approve subsequent changes to Committee memberships.</p> <p data-bbox="405 629 1497 775">RECOMMENDATION: That the alteration of the overall political balance of the Council, following the changes in Group membership detailed in the report, be noted and the following changes to membership of Council Committees etc. be approved:</p> <ul data-bbox="405 775 1497 1223" style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Gohil to replace Councillor Singh on the Hillingdon Planning Committee, • Councillor Basit to replace Councillor Nelson on the Health & Social Care Select Committee, • Councillor Farley to replace Councillor Garg on the Corporate Resources and Infrastructure Select Committee • Councillor Singh to replace Councillor Farley on the Residents' Services Select Committee. • Councillor Smallwood to replace Councillor Sullivan on the Pensions Committee. • Councillor Punja to replace Councillor Farley as a Labour Group named substitute on the Audit Committee. <p data-bbox="405 1267 1497 1335">NB#1: following the publication of the agenda for the Council meeting, the Conservative Group have notified the following additional change:</p> <ul data-bbox="405 1335 1497 1413" style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Dhot to replace Councillor Bridges as a member of the Residents' Services Select Committee. <p data-bbox="405 1458 1497 1559">NB#2 – following the appointment of Councillor Bridges to the Cabinet, the Residents' Services Select Committee will be asked to appoint a new Chair at the end of the Council meeting.</p>

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<p>Report of Head of Democratic Services (continued)</p>	<p>iii) APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY OFFICER</p> <p>To consider the appointment of a Monitoring Officer for the Council.</p> <p><i>NB: Since the issue of the agenda, the recruitment process for the Director of Legal and Governance has concluded and Mr Daniel Toohey has been appointed to the role (subject to the Cabinet objection period). Mr Toohey has been with the authority as the interim Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer, since February 2025 and is a highly qualified and experienced local government solicitor and Monitoring Officer, with extensive knowledge of the current governance and legal issues affecting local authorities. Mr Toohey is also experienced in dealing with elected Member issues and in liaising with external partner organisations and governmental departments at all levels.</i></p> <p>RECOMMENDATION: That the new Director of Legal and Governance, when confirmed in post, be appointed to the statutory role of Monitoring Officer of the Council.</p> <p>iv) APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON</p> <p>To consider the appointment of a second Independent Person for the authority.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATIONS: That:</p> <p>a) Mr Roger Cook be appointed as the Council’s second Independent Person until July 2030 and b) Mr Graeme Armour’s appointment as Independent Person be extended to July 2030.</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bianco.</p> <p>Other speakers: None</p> <p>v) CABINET (additional item for information only)</p> <p>Members are asked to note the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The power to establish and amend Cabinet portfolios and to appoint Councillors to be Cabinet members rests with the Leader of the Council as set out in the Council’s Constitution. 2. The Leader of the Council has notified the Head of Democratic Services that, w.e.f 19 November 2025, Councillor Lavery will be responsible for the Finance and Transformation portfolio and, w.e.f 21 November 2025, Councillor Bridges will become the Cabinet member for Community and Environment. 3. The Head of Democratic Services has an existing delegation to make any necessary textual changes to the Constitution and appointments to Outside Bodies etc. to reflect these changes.

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7.	<p data-bbox="336 136 983 174">Polling District and Polling Places Review</p> <p data-bbox="336 212 1497 286">RECOMMENDATION: That the changes to polling places, as set out in the report, be approved.</p> <p data-bbox="336 324 1382 362">To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bianco.</p> <p data-bbox="336 400 657 439">Other speakers: None</p>
8.	<p data-bbox="336 472 932 510">Annual Performance Report 2024-2025</p> <p data-bbox="336 548 1497 622">RECOMMENDATION: That the Annual Performance Report 2024/25, attached at Appendix A, be noted.</p> <p data-bbox="336 660 1382 698">To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bianco.</p> <p data-bbox="336 736 1168 775">Other speakers: Councillors Bridges, Lavery and Tuckwell</p>

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9.	<p data-bbox="336 141 772 174">Proposed Article 4 Direction</p> <p data-bbox="336 215 772 248">RECOMMENDATIONS: That:</p> <ol data-bbox="336 291 1501 1227" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="336 291 1501 701">1. the making of an immediate direction under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) to remove the permitted development right for the change of use of building and any land within its curtilage from a use falling within Class C3 (Dwellinghouse) of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (Amended) Order to a use falling within Class C4 (House in Multiple Occupation) of that Order being development comprised within class L(b) of Part 3 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) (“GPDO”) within the area identified in Appendix 1, be approved. <li data-bbox="336 743 1501 848">2. the cancellation of the existing Article 4 Direction for Houses in Multiple Occupation, Brunel and Uxbridge South wards once the new Article 4 direction is confirmed, be approved. <li data-bbox="336 891 1501 1077">3. it be noted notice given for the Article 4 Direction will be made as soon as practical following approval, and that Full Council will receive a further report at the end of the representation period to consider whether, in light of any representations received, the new direction should be confirmed. <li data-bbox="336 1120 1501 1227">4. authority be delegated to the Chief Planning Officer and the Head of Legal Services to authorise the relevant notices to enact the proposed Immediate Article 4 Direction. <p data-bbox="336 1270 1406 1303">To be moved by Councillor Tuckwell and seconded by Councillor Edwards.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1346 1278 1379">Other speakers: Councillors Ahmad-Wallana, Bridges and Davies</p>

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10.	<p data-bbox="344 136 1497 248">Members' Questions - <i>To consider Questions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11. Members' question time is limited to 45 minutes.</i></p> <p data-bbox="344 286 1497 398">10.5 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HIGGINS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING, HOUSING & GROWTH - COUNCILLOR TUCKWELL:</p> <p data-bbox="432 436 1497 548">Can the Cabinet member please provide an update on the Chagossians' arrival into Hillingdon and outline how the Council is managing the support required?</p> <p data-bbox="344 586 1497 698">10.10 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MAND TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION - COUNCILLOR LAVERY:</p> <p data-bbox="432 736 1497 960">At September's Full Council, the Cabinet Member dismissed Exceptional Financial Support as merely an "accounting adjustment" and claimed residents would not shoulder the burden. Yet the last so-called accounting adjustments — totalling £14.1 million since 2014 — led directly to cuts in services, the sale of community assets, and still this administration cannot balance its books.</p> <p data-bbox="432 999 1497 1178">Does the Cabinet Member agree that this latest "accounting adjustment", in the form of Exceptional Financial Support, will also be paid by the residents of Hillingdon — especially as every past adjustment has resulted in higher costs, fewer services, and deeper financial crisis for this borough? Yes or No.</p> <p data-bbox="344 1216 1497 1361">10.1 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR GARDNER TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR BRIDGES (to be answered by former portfolio holder, Councillor Lavery):</p> <p data-bbox="432 1400 1497 1579">Over the past few months young people have been seen and heard in the streets and parks igniting large fireworks that are clearly meant for organised display events only. Can the Cabinet member please outline the process for licensing the sale of fireworks and, in particular, if there is a requirement for recording who purchases them?</p> <p data-bbox="344 1617 1497 1729">10.7 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR AHMAD-WALLANA TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE - COUNCILLOR PALMER:</p> <p data-bbox="432 1767 1497 1845">Could the Cabinet member explain the benefits to the Council and residents of the recent purchase of The Burroughs Care Home?</p> <p data-bbox="344 1883 1497 1962">10.9 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PUNJA TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR EDWARDS:</p> <p data-bbox="432 2000 1497 2058">The 2025/26 budget relies on delivering £38.8M of in-year savings to remain balanced, yet by Month 6 up to £20.2m is either at risk,</p>

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<p>Member Questions <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>undeliverable, or still at an early stage. The Strategic Risk Register presented to the November Audit Committee states plainly that “a key driver in this forecast overspend is that the savings programme is not on track... and mitigations will not be sufficient to offset this.”</p> <p>Does the Leader of the Council still maintain that Hillingdon has a balanced and lawful budget when the savings essential to its in-year legality are already failing under this administration?</p> <p>10.3 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BENNETT TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING, HOUSING & GROWTH - COUNCILLOR TUCKWELL:</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member please provide an update on the condition of Ministry of Defence estates in Hillingdon, and the opportunities available for bringing empty military homes back into productive use?</p> <p>10.11 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR KAUR TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR BRIDGES (to be answered by former portfolio holder, Councillor Lavery):</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member explain why the out-of-hours nuisance service has been effectively closed? Given that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No resident consultation was carried out prior to this decision; • the data used to justify the withdrawal is acknowledged in the report as incomplete - specifically stating that “it is not possible to obtain complete and accurate reports of the data held on the GOSS system relating to the team’s activities”; and • the report also confirms that “noise complaints cannot be investigated remotely using noise recording equipment, noise apps or diary sheets alone. <p>10.2 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR D.MILLS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION - COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN:</p> <p>As all Councillors have now received the letter from the Department for Education’s Deputy Director regarding the Safety Valve Agreement, is it fair to conclude that the pressures facing this administration are the result of national funding arrangements and wider systemic issues within the SEND framework — challenges that ultimately require national, rather than solely local, solutions?</p> <p>10.12 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MATHERS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR EDWARDS:</p> <p>Can the Leader explain how a £13.9M adverse movement in just two months can possibly be presented as evidence that he and his Cabinet Member for Finance have any control over the Council’s financial position?</p>

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<p>Member Questions (continued)</p>	<p>10.4 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BURROWS TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND PROPERTY – COUNCILLOR BIANCO:</p> <p>Can the Cabinet member please give an update on the progress of the development of the new Jubilee Platinum Leisure Centre and confirm when it is expected to be completed?</p> <p>10.8 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SWEETING TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR EDWARDS:</p> <p>The November budget report confirms the Council cannot remain a going concern without Exceptional Financial Support. When did the Leader first know that the Council was effectively insolvent and why was this not immediately disclosed to Members or residents?</p> <p>10.6 QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BURLES TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR BRIDGES (to be answered by former portfolio holder, Councillor Lavery):</p> <p>Does the Cabinet member believe that the new policy of not locking the gates of parks at night has been of any benefit to residents living in the local area if so, what are they?</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Motions - <i>To consider Motions submitted by Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.</i></p> <p>11.4 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR EDWARDS</p> <p>That this Council expresses its deep disappointment at the closure of the Mount Vernon Urgent Care Unit, a service relied upon by thousands of residents. More than 27,000 people signed a petition opposing the decision, yet their views were dismissed, and many believe no meaningful public consultation was undertaken. A recent survey again showed strong public support to retain the Mount Vernon Urgent Care Unit.</p> <p>The closure has taken place before adequate alternative provision has been secured placing a further burden on the Accident & Emergency Unit at Hillingdon Hospital. The rebuilding of the Hospital has been delayed by the Government and the promised health hubs remain years away with no funding having yet been allocated for their construction in Hillingdon.</p> <p>This Council therefore calls on the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health seeking urgent clarity on when funding will be made available to Hillingdon to develop the promised health hubs to provide urgent and diagnostic health services to Hillingdon residents and, if necessary, to reopen the Mount Vernon Urgent Care Unit until long-term solutions are in place.</p> <p>To be seconded by Councillor Higgins</p>

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<p>Motions (continued)</p>	<p>Other speakers: Councillors Curling, Denys, Gohil, Punja, Riley and Smallwood</p> <p>NB: Councillor Punja to move and Councillor Sansarpuri to second the following amendment (additional words in <i>bold italics</i> and deleted words crossed through):</p> <p>That this Council expresses its deep disappointment at the closure of the Mount Vernon Urgent Care Unit, a service relied upon by thousands of residents. More than 27,000 people signed a petition opposing the decision, yet their views were dismissed, and many believe no meaningful public consultation was undertaken. A recent survey again showed strong public support to retain the Mount Vernon Urgent Care Unit. <i>notes residents' concerns about</i> expresses its deep disappointment at the closure of the Mount Vernon Urgent Care Unit, a service relied upon by thousands of residents. More than 27,000 people signed a petition opposing the decision, yet their views were dismissed, and many believe no meaningful public consultation was undertaken. A recent survey again showed strong public support to retain the Mount Vernon Urgent Care Unit. <i>but also recognises the significant investment now being made in local NHS services. This includes the Labour Government's £1.39 billion funding for the rebuilding of Hillingdon Hospital, already in its first phase, and the inclusion of Hillingdon in the first wave of 43 areas to receive three new health hubs.</i></p> <p>The closure has taken place before adequate alternative provision has been secured placing a further burden on the Accident & Emergency Unit at Hillingdon Hospital. The rebuilding of the Hospital has been delayed by the Government and the promised health hubs remain years away with no funding having yet been allocated for their construction in Hillingdon.</p> <p><i>This Council thanks the Government for prioritising the healthcare of Hillingdon residents—investment that the previous Conservative Government, including under former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, promised but failed to deliver.</i></p> <p>This Council therefore calls on the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Health seeking urgent clarity on when funding will be made available to Hillingdon to develop the promised health hubs to provide urgent and diagnostic health services to Hillingdon residents and, if necessary, to reopen the Mount Vernon Urgent Care Unit until long-term solutions are in place.</p> <p><i>This Council calls on the NHS Northwest London Integrated Care Board to ensure residents continue to have accessible and appropriate urgent and diagnostic care during this period of transition.</i></p> <p>The amended motion then to read:</p> <p><i>That this Council notes residents' concerns about the closure of the Mount Vernon Urgent Care Unit but also recognises the significant investment now being made in local NHS services. This includes the Labour Government's £1.39 billion funding for the rebuilding of Hillingdon Hospital, already in its first phase, and the inclusion of Hillingdon in the first wave of 43 areas to receive three new health hubs.</i></p>

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<p>Motions (continued)</p>	<p><i>This Council thanks the Government for prioritising the healthcare of Hillingdon residents - investment that the previous Conservative Government, including under former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, promised but failed to deliver.</i></p> <p><i>This Council calls on the NHS Northwest London Integrated Care Board to ensure residents continue to have accessible and appropriate urgent and diagnostic care during this period of transition.</i></p> <p>11.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GARELICK (held over from Council meeting on 11 September 2025)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To be seconded by Councillor Mathers</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Bridges, Curling, Gohil, Lavery, Punja and Sweeting.</p> <p>11.2 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CURLING</p> <p>That this Council expresses its concern and disappointment that the Labour Government have u-turned on the issue of mandating developers to install 'Swift bricks' in all new developments. This Council also notes the campaigns by organisations such as the RSPB and other rare bird organisations for the inclusion of swift bricks in all new developments.</p> <p>As a responsible council and one that believes that we should do all that we can to protect wildlife, rare birds, and generally enhance our biodiversity, this Council calls on the Cabinet to consider ways in which we could either introduce our own local policy on swift bricks or at least encourage developers to include them on future new builds.</p> <p>To be seconded by Councillor Gardner</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Tuckwell.</p>

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<p>Motions (continued)</p>	<p>11.3 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR PUNJA</p> <p>That this Council notes the findings of the October/November 2025 Budget Monitoring Report, which confirm the comprehensive financial failure of this Conservative administration, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillingdon is now dependent on Exceptional Financial Support from the Labour Government simply to remain a going concern. • The Administration has failed to deliver its £34m in-year savings, resulting in a £36m overspend at Month 6 and rising. • Reserves have collapsed from +£70m to –£34.5m, a total deterioration of £104.5m under this administration. • The Council’s financial position is now unsafe and unsustainable, with no general fund unearmarked reserves left, depleted general reserves, mismanaged operational overspend, future asset sales with the only option being anticipated Labour government support. • Repeated failures - from the FMP and GRIP programme to green waste subscription - have further destabilised the Council’s finances, placing the burden of Conservative mismanagement squarely on Hillingdon residents. <p>That this Council also acknowledges that any lawful budget must be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that the budget should be balanced or sustainable in-year 2. that the budget should be supported by adequate reserves to manage financial risk <p>This Administration’s budget meets neither test nor can any longer credibly be defended as lawful.</p> <p>Therefore, this Council believes the situation is critical and requests the relevant Statutory Officers to urgently consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issuing a Section 114 Report, under the Local Government Finance Act 1988, recognising that the Council has an unlawful, unbalanced budget that fails the 2 binary tests and cannot meet its expenditure commitments 2. At the same time, issuing a Section 5 Report under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, confirming the full legal implications and consequences and advising on direct, indirect and consequential implications for the Council and Councillors on the failures of governance that have led to this position. 3. Requesting a Report in the Public Interest (RIPI), commissioned under the Local Audit and Accountability Act. To be undertaken by the Council’s external auditor (EY) with independent oversight from CIPFA, ensuring full objectivity and compliance with the statutory Best Value duty (Section 3, Local Government Act 1999). The RIPI – to be reported publicly to Full Council in January 2026 - must provide an unqualified, independent account of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collapse of reserves from +£70m to –£34.5m, a deterioration of £104.5m under this administration. • The Month 6 overspend, failure to deliver savings, and decisions leading to the Council’s effective insolvency. • An examination of the past 15 years of “delivered” savings against

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<p>Motions (<i>continued</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • budgeted savings, including whether the administration’s repeated claims of balanced budgets were in fact undelivered savings and overspends covered up by the year-on-year depletion of reserves. • The governance, oversight and leadership failures that enabled this financial collapse. <p>4. Establishing an Emergency Financial Recovery Team, working directly under the control of central government, external inspectors and statutory officers to halt further financial deterioration and stabilise the authority.</p> <p>5. Producing a Wednesbury Compliance Report. The Monitoring Officer to provide written legal advice to Full Council setting out the personal legal risks to the Administration and all Members who voted for the February 2025 Budget, should their decisions be found to violate the Wednesbury principles of reasonableness, given the escalating negative reserves - including the additional £13.9m deterioration in the last two months alone under this Administration.</p> <p>To be seconded by Councillor Mathers</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Curling, Denys, Edwards, Kaur, Lavery and Mand.</p>

END OF COUNCIL MEETING

At the conclusion of the Council meeting, members of the Residents’ Services Select Committee are asked to remain behind to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

(The membership is comprised of Councillors:

Davies,
Dhot,
Garelick,
Gohil,
Kaur,
Smallwood and
Singh.

The proposed Chair is Councillor Smallwood, and the proposed Vice-Chair is Councillor Gohil.)