



# HILLINGDON

LONDON

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 26 FEBRUARY 2026

### Order of Business

ORDER	BUSINESS
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> – <i>To receive any apologies for absence.</i>
2.	<b>MINUTES</b> – <i>To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 22 January 2026.</i>
3.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> - <i>To note any declarations of interest in any matters before the Council.</i>
4.	<b>MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> - <i>To receive the Mayoral Announcements.</i>
5.	<b>REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>  <i>To consider the following:</i>  <i>NB: The Mayor has agreed to the addition of the following urgent item</i>  <b>i) Changes to Committee Memberships</b>  <b>Background</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Members will be aware that former Councillor Burrows resigned as a Member of the Council w.e.f 26 February 2026.</li><li>Members are asked to note that the resulting slight alteration to the political balance of the Council does not necessitate an alteration to committee memberships based on Group allocations.</li><li>However, Members are asked to agree the changes to Committee memberships set out in the recommendation below, as nominated by the Conservative Group:</li></ol> <b>RECOMMENDATION: That the following changes to membership of Council Committees etc. be approved:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Councillor R.Mills to replace former Councillor Burrows on the Registration and Appeals Committee</b></li><li><b>Councillor Dhot to replace former Councillor Burrows on the Hillingdon</b></li></ul>

ORDER	BUSINESS
Report of Head of Democratic Services <i>(continued)</i>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Planning Committee.</b></p> <p><b>ii) Members' Allowances 2026/27</b></p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION: That the current Members' Allowances Scheme be revoked as of 31 March 2026 and the new Scheme for 2026/27, as shown in the Appendix to the report, be approved for implementation from 1 April 2026.</b></p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Bianco.</p> <p>Other speakers: None</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION</b></p> <p><i>To consider the approval of an Article 4 Direction.</i></p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION: That: the introduction of a boroughwide immediate Article 4 Direction under the Town and Country (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 to remove the permitted development right for the change the use from a building and any land within its curtilage from a use falling within Class C3 (Dwellinghouse) of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Amendment) (England) 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), be confirmed.</b></p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Tuckwell and seconded by Councillor Edwards.</p> <p>Other speakers: None</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>SAFER HILLINGDON PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY</b></p> <p><i>To consider the adoption of a Community Safety Strategy.</i></p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION: That the Safer Hillingdon Community Safety Strategy 2026-2029 be adopted as a policy framework document.</b></p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Bridges and seconded by Councillor Edwards.</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors None</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE REPORT</b></p> <p><i>To note the latest performance report for the Council.</i></p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION: That the Performance Report 2025/26 be noted.</b></p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Lavery.</p>

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	Other speakers: None
9.	<p><b>GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026 / 2027</b></p> <p><b>NOTES:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Prior to the consideration of this item, Councillor R.Mills will move and Councillor Gohil will second, the suspension of Council procedure rule 14.4, insofar as to allow unlimited speaking time for the mover (Councillor Lavery) and seconder (Councillor Edwards) of the motion.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 will apply to the recommendations of this item. Any Member who is more than two months in arrears with their Council Tax or has arrears of Council Tax must declare that fact and must not vote on this item.</i></li> <li>3. <i>In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, recorded votes will be taken at the annual budget setting meeting on any motion, amendment to motion or substantive motion regarding the General Fund Revenue Budget, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>NB: BEFORE CONSIDERING THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET, MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>On Monday 23 February 2026, Government confirmed that the London Borough of Hillingdon has been provided with, in-principle, capitalisation support via the Exceptional Financial Support process of up to £88m in respect of 2025/26, and up to £62m in respect of 2026/27. This confirmation has been published on the Government’s website.</i></li> <li>2 <i>The consequence of this decision is that the Council will be able to access the resources required (including sums to be borrowed) to cover all the expenditure incurred or to be incurred within the financial year 2025/26, thereby addressing the concern and avoiding the need for a S114 Notice. The Council will be able to capitalise the General Fund overspend incurred in 2025/26 and replenish reserves as at the year-end 31 March 2026.</i></li> <li>3 <i>Furthermore, it enables the Council to set a legally balanced budget for 2026/27 by providing access to the necessary resources to offset the budget deficit in 2026/27 and ensures that the Council has adequate reserves for the coming year to support the S151 Officer’s Section 25 statement to full Council.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS: That:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <b>The General Fund revenue budget proposals made by Cabinet for 2026/27 and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy be approved, having taken the Select Committees’ comments, public consultation responses and Equality Impact Assessments conscientiously into account as set out in Appendices</b></li> </ol>

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	C, D and E of the background paper, resulting in a Council Tax requirement for 2026/27 of £164,775,348;
2026/27 Budget (continued)	<p><b>2</b> Council note that at its meeting on 22 January 2026 the Council calculated the amount of 107,349 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2026/27. This was calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, as its Council Tax Base for the year (<i>Item T in the formula in Section 31B (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992</i>);</p> <p><b>3</b> The Hillingdon element of Council Tax be set at £1,534.95 for a Band D property. Taking into account the precept levied by the Greater London Authority, this results in an overall Band D Council Tax of £2,045.46 for the borough;</p> <p><b>4</b> The following amounts have been calculated by the Council for the year 2026/27, in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):</p> <p>a) £786,851,076 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) (a) to (f) of the Act. (<i>Gross Expenditure including the amount required for additions to working balances</i>)</p> <p>b) (£622,055,728) being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act. (<i>Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet Gross Expenditure</i>)</p> <p>c) £164,775,348 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4 (b) above. This is calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (<i>Item R under Section 31B of the Act</i>)</p> <p>d) £1,534.95 being the amount at 4 (c) above divided by Item T (2 above). This is, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. (<i>Council Tax at Band D for the Council</i>)</p>

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	<table border="1" data-bbox="336 143 1051 517"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">The London Borough of Hillingdon Council Tax (£'s)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1,023.30</td> <td>Band A</td> <td>4.99% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,193.85</td> <td>Band B</td> <td>4.99% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,364.40</td> <td>Band C</td> <td>4.99% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,534.95</td> <td>Band D</td> <td>4.99% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,876.05</td> <td>Band E</td> <td>4.99% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2,217.15</td> <td>Band F</td> <td>4.99% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2,558.25</td> <td>Band G</td> <td>4.99% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3,069.90</td> <td>Band H</td> <td>4.99% Percentage Change</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="635 562 1514 936"><b>being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 4 (d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation B and D. This is calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;</b></p> <p data-bbox="252 976 1514 1122"><b>5 Council note that for the year 2026/27 the Greater London Authority and its functional bodies have stated the following amounts in precepts. These have been issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 1167 1035 1541"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">The Greater London Authority Council Tax Precept (£'s)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>340.34</td> <td>Band A</td> <td>4.10% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>397.06</td> <td>Band B</td> <td>4.10% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>453.79</td> <td>Band C</td> <td>4.11% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>510.51</td> <td>Band D</td> <td>4.10% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>623.96</td> <td>Band E</td> <td>4.11% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>737.40</td> <td>Band F</td> <td>4.10% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>850.85</td> <td>Band G</td> <td>4.10% Percentage Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,021.02</td> <td>Band H</td> <td>4.10% Percentage Change</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="252 1588 1514 1733"><b>6 The Council has calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4 (d) and 5 above. The Council in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the Council Tax for the year 2026/27 for each category of dwelling below:</b></p>	The London Borough of Hillingdon Council Tax (£'s)			1,023.30	Band A	4.99% Percentage Change	1,193.85	Band B	4.99% Percentage Change	1,364.40	Band C	4.99% Percentage Change	1,534.95	Band D	4.99% Percentage Change	1,876.05	Band E	4.99% Percentage Change	2,217.15	Band F	4.99% Percentage Change	2,558.25	Band G	4.99% Percentage Change	3,069.90	Band H	4.99% Percentage Change	The Greater London Authority Council Tax Precept (£'s)			340.34	Band A	4.10% Percentage Change	397.06	Band B	4.10% Percentage Change	453.79	Band C	4.11% Percentage Change	510.51	Band D	4.10% Percentage Change	623.96	Band E	4.11% Percentage Change	737.40	Band F	4.10% Percentage Change	850.85	Band G	4.10% Percentage Change	1,021.02	Band H	4.10% Percentage Change
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2026/27 Budget (continued)	<p data-bbox="252 904 1506 978">9 The General Fund Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31 as set out in Appendices A9 to A11 of the background report to Cabinet be approved;</p> <p data-bbox="252 1016 1506 1128">10 The Housing Revenue Account revenue budget proposals for 2026/27, and the HRA Capital Programme for 2026/27 to 2030/31 as set out in Appendix B of the background report be approved;</p> <p data-bbox="252 1167 1506 1323">11 A rent increase of 4.8% (being CPI +1%) from 1 April 2026 in line with the maximum increase for social rent set by the national rent policy, whilst noting that the Council continues to set rents for re-lets (both new tenants and transfers) up to formula target rent, be approved;</p> <p data-bbox="252 1361 1506 1473">12 That tenant service charges be varied in line with estimated actual costs for 2026/27, from 1 April 2026 (noting the estimated charges set out in Appendix H2 of the background paper);</p> <p data-bbox="252 1512 1506 1585">13 A budgeted drawdown from DSG Reserves in 2026/27 of £8.2m be approved;</p> <p data-bbox="252 1624 1506 1736">14 The proposed amendments to Fees and Charges, which form part of the overall budget, as set out in Appendix H1 of the background report to Cabinet be approved;</p> <p data-bbox="252 1774 1506 1886">15 The Capital Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2025/26 to 2030/31 as set out in Appendix G of the background report to Cabinet be approved;</p> <p data-bbox="252 1924 1506 1989">16 The Reserves Policy as set out in paragraphs 50 to 60 of the background report to Cabinet be approved;</p>																											

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	<p><b>17 The London Borough of Hillingdon Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix I of the background report to Cabinet be approved;</b></p> <p><b>18 Council note the Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy to deliver efficiency savings, including utilisation for redundancy costs, as set out in paragraphs 39 to 45 and in Appendix F of the background report to Cabinet, and the use of £2.733m of capital receipts for this purpose.</b></p> <p><b>19 Council note the Corporate Director of Finance’s comments regarding his responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2003 as set out in his Section 25 Statement to accompany the Budget Report recommended by Cabinet, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report;</b></p> <p><b>20 Council (as set out in Schedule G of the Constitution - Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules) resolves that Cabinet may utilise the general reserves or balances during financial years 2026/27 to 2028/29, including any virement between the General Fund budget, Housing Revenue Account budgets or Capital budgets during the MTFS financial years 2026/27 to 2028/29, in respect of those functions which have been reserved to the Cabinet;</b></p>
<p>2026/27 Budget (continued)</p>	<p><b>21 Council confirm that the Council’s relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2026/27 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 and therefore a referendum will not be triggered.</b></p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Lavery and seconded by Councillor Edwards.</p> <p>Other speakers: Councillors Bianco, Bridges, Denys, Kaur, Mand, Martin, Mathers O’Brien, Punja, Sweeting and Tuckwell.</p> <p><b><i>NB: On behalf of the Labour Group, Councillor Punja will move, and Councillor Mathers will second, the following objection to the budget proposals as follows:</i></b></p> <p>In accordance with the Council Constitution, the Labour Group formally moves an amendment to the Cabinet’s budget recommendations in the form of an Objection.</p> <p>This objection relates specifically, though not exclusively, to the significant challenge and delivery risk associated with the proposed savings programme, which leaves the 2026/27 budget being set in a context of “continued material risk”. As stated in the Chief Financial Officer’s Statutory Opinion under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the robustness of the estimates must be considered alongside the adequacy of reserves and the authority’s capacity to deliver its financial plans.</p> <p>We are concerned that the Cabinet’s budget estimates, and the conclusions regarding the adequacy of reserves, rely on a series of critical assumptions and proposed mitigating actions. However, the current governance, oversight and control environment has not yet been sufficiently embedded or consistently demonstrated to</p>

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	<p>provide confidence that these assumptions are reliable or that the 2026/27 budget can be delivered within a defined and realistic timescale.</p> <p>In recent years, deliverability against savings targets has not been achieved as planned. It is therefore not sufficient to rely on high-level modelling without a full and transparent explanation of how the underlying assumptions have been determined. We require clear evidence of the rationale, methodology and sensitivity analysis used to derive the modelling figures, and assurance that these assumptions are credible, evidence-based and resilient to risk.</p> <p>Furthermore, we consider that the proposed budget lacks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robust and detailed contingency planning proportionate to the scale of the financial risk;</li> <li>• Clear trigger points for corrective action should savings not be delivered to profile;</li> <li>• More detailed and frequent review mechanisms to monitor delivery, governance compliance and risk mitigation.</li> </ul> <p>Given the material risks identified, and the absence of sufficient assurance regarding the reliability of assumptions and deliverability of the savings programme, we believe it is not prudent to approve this element of the budget in its current form.</p> <p>Therefore, in accordance with the Conflict Resolution Procedure set out in the Constitution, we move that Council resolves to object to these elements, as stated above, of the proposed budget and instructs the Cabinet to reconsider and strengthen</p>
2026/27 Budget (continued)	the relevant plans, assumptions and delivery framework before the budget is finalised.

## END OF COUNCIL MEETING

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### **Explanatory note from the Head of Democratic Services regarding the proposed Objection:**

Standing Order 17 of the Council Procedure Rules states that, in the event that there is a conflict between the Council and the Cabinet in relation to the Budget and Policy Framework, the relevant Conflict Resolution Procedure as set out in the Constitution, Part 2, Chapter 4 will apply.

The following extract from the procedure sets out the steps to be taken to resolve a conflict between the Council and the Cabinet on a proposed plan, strategy or (as in this case) the budget that is reserved to the Full Council for determination:

1. *The Cabinet shall submit draft plans, strategies and budget to the Council for adoption required under the arrangements for the approval of the budget and policy framework.*
2. *After consideration of the draft plan, strategy or budget the Council may take one of the following courses of action:*
  - a) *Adopt the plan or strategy or*
  - b) *Submit objections to the Cabinet, or*
  - c) *Invite the Cabinet to make amendments specified by the Council.*

3. *If the Council decides to take course b) or c) it must inform the Leader of the Council of its objections or proposed amendments together with its reasons and instruct the Cabinet to reconsider the plan or strategy.*

**NB#1** – Should the proposed Labour Group Objection be approved, there would then be an adjournment of the Council meeting to allow the Head of Democratic Services to convene a special meeting of the Cabinet to consider the objection and respond to Full Council.

**NB#2** - Members should note that this is a special procedure to cater specifically for policy framework documents and budget proposals. It should not be mistaken, therefore, as a 'negating amendment', and can properly proceed to be debated by Members.