

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2012**

Councillors Adamou (Mayor), Adje, Alexander, Allison, Amin, Basu, Beacham, Bevan, Bloch, Brabazon, Browne, Canver, Christophides, Cooke, Davies, Demirci, Diakides, Dogus, Egan, Ejiofor, Engert, Erskine, Gibson, Goldberg, Gorrie, Griffith, Hare, Jenks, Khan, Kober, McNamara, Meehan, Newton, Peacock, Reece, Reid, Rice, Schmitz, Scott, Solomon, Stanton, Stennett, Stewart, Strang, Strickland, Vanier, Waters, Watson, Weber, Whyte, Williams, Wilson and Winskill

Apologies Councillor Bull, Butcher, Mallett and Reith

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CNCL50.	<p>TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bull, Butcher, Mallett, and Reith, and for lateness from Councillors Adje and Diakides.</p>	
CNCL51.	<p>TO ASK THE MAYOR TO CONSIDER THE ADMISSION OF ANY LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 100B OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972</p> <p>NIL ITEMS</p>	
CNCL52.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>The Chief Executive advised of the following advance notice of declarations of interests:</p> <p>Councillor Adje had declared a personal interest in item 11, as he was an employee of the London Fire Brigade, part of the GLA for which a portion of the precept was paid to.</p> <p>Councillor Winskill had declared a personal interest in Item 11 as a Haringey Leaseholder.</p> <p>Councillors Jenks and Rice had declared personal interests in Item 11 as a Members of the Local Government Pension scheme.</p> <p>Councillors Adamou, Egan, Khan, Meehan, Peacock and Rice had declared personal interests in Item 11 as they were Freedom Pass Holders.</p> <p>Councillor Egan had declared a personal interest in Item 11 as a Union Member of the NUT.</p> <p>Members then made the following declarations at the meeting:</p>	

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	<p>Councillors Basu, Brabazon , Brown,, Engert, Griffith, Jenks, Reid, Schmitz, Scott, Solomon, Vanier and Waters declared an interest in Item 12 as they were Freedom Pass Holders</p> <p>Councillors Amin, Basu, Browne, Demirci, Engert, Goldberg, Khan, Newton, Reid, Scott, Strickland, Whyte, and Winskill declared personal interests in Item 11 as Members of the Local Government Pension scheme.</p> <p>Councillors Adje, Amin, Basu, Canver, Christophides, Davies, Demirci, Ejiofor, Gibson, Goldberg, Griffith, McNamara, Reid, Stewart, Strickland, Vanier, and Watson declared a personal interest in Item 11 as Members of a Trade Union.</p>	
<p>CNCL53.</p>	<p>TO ASK MEMBERS WHETHER THEY NEED TO MAKE A DECLARATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 IN RELATION TO UNPAID COMMUNITY CHARGE OR COUNCIL TAX LIABILITY WHICH IS TWO MONTHS OR MORE OUTSTANDING.</p> <p>The Chief Executive reminded Members of the need to consider whether they needed to make a declaration in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in relation to unpaid community charge or council tax liability which was two months or more outstanding.</p> <p>No such declarations were made.</p> <p>NOTED</p>	
<p>CNCL54.</p>	<p>TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2011</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 November 2011 be signed as a true record.</p>	
<p>CNCL55.</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE MAYOR MAY LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL</p> <p>1. The Royal Visit</p> <p>The Mayor reported that she had been very pleased to welcome their royal highnesses the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall to Tottenham for their second visit since the riots last summer. Prince Charles and Camilla had visited the new Post Office and met with residents and traders who were affected by the riots. They had been genuinely interested to hear about all of the progress that had been made in Tottenham over the past six months and their ongoing support for the recovery work was very much appreciated.</p>	

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	<p>2. The Death of ex Councillor Herbie Brown</p> <p>The Mayor, with sadness reported the death of a former Labour Councillor Herbie Brown, who died peacefully on Tuesday 29 November 2011. The Mayor commented that Herbie, as a former Labour Councillor for Bruce Grove Ward from 1998 to 2006, was always very active in local politics, and was Mayor of Haringey between 2000 and 2001.</p> <p>On behalf of the Council the Mayor passed on the Council's condolences to the family of Herbie Brown.</p> <p>The meeting observed a one minute's silence as a mark of respect.</p> <p>Councillor Meehan and Peacock spoke in memory of Herbie Brown.</p> <p>NOTED</p>	
<p>CNCL56.</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE</p> <p><i>The Chief Executive advised that he was firstly reporting the appointment of Bernie Ryan as the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer with effect from 2 December 2011.</i></p> <p><i>The Chief Executive advised that he was secondly recommending to Full Council the appointment of Kevin Bartle to the role of Interim Section 151 Officer/Chief Financial officer for the period of 10th March 2012 to 16th September 2012 while Julie Parker is away from the work place.</i></p> <p>The Chief Whip moved and it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the appointment of Bernie Ryan as the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer with effect from 2 December 2011, be noted; and 2. that the appointment of Kevin Bartle to the role of Interim Section 151 Officer/Chief Financial officer for the period of 10th March 2012 to 16th September 2012 while Julie Parker is away from the work place be confirmed. 	
<p>CNCL57.</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES</p> <p>There were no matters to consider.</p>	
<p>CNCL58.</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER REQUESTS TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS AND/OR PETITIONS AND, IF APPROVED, TO RECEIVE THEM</p> <p>Nil</p>	

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CNCL59.	TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES A. Corporate Committee – Report Nos. 03/2011 -12 Councillor Meehan moved the recommendations contained in Corporate Committee – Report Nos. 03/2011 -12. RESOLVED That the Corporate Committee – Report Nos. 03 /2011 -12 be received and adopted, and that the recommendation concerning the Treasury Management Statement for 2012/13 be approved.(Cabinet concur with this recommendation) The version at appendix 6 of the Medium Term Financial Planning report incorporates the updated version.	
CNCL60.	TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES IN RESPECT OF MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR 2012/13 - 2014/15 AND TO AGREE THE COUNCIL TAX FOR 2012/13 Councillor Goldberg moved the budget report – Medium Term Financial Planning 2011/12 to 2013/14, and moved the recommendations contained therein, noting the earlier debate on the ‘state of the borough’. Councillor Kober seconded. Councillor Strang MOVED 5 budget amendments as follows, each individually seconded by Councillors Wilson, Engert, Winskill, Scott, and Reece: BUDGET AMENDMENT 1 Putting our young people first Given the events of 2011 it is clear that youth services in Haringey must be a high priority. Labour’s disproportionate 75% cut last year and subsequent vote against a budget amendment to reinvest £900,000 in our young people sent the wrong message to future generations that the Council was not on their side. The Council can no longer afford to ignore the need to help our young people, many of whom face problems including unemployment, gang violence and low school achievement. Liberal Democrats want the Council to refocus on the borough’s young people with a £1million fund aimed to raise educational attainment, combat youth unemployment and reduce anti-social and criminal behaviour. Our Youth Fund will increase every year to £2million in 2014/15. The voluntary sector and charities would be asked to bid to run services	

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We therefore propose that each local ward would be allocated £50,000 revenue funding, to be administered through the Area Committees, to spend on their priorities whether it is more overtime for local Safer Neighbourhood Teams to tackle crime hotspots, extra maintenance in a local park, or to help the area meet their Area Plan goals.

Local Neighbourhood Fund cost	£950,000
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Recognising the work of low-paid council staff, who often work on the front-line delivering vital services, is important. Low-paid workers in councils have not experienced wage increases similar to those given in central government. Liberal Democrats believe that we need to recognise the great ongoing effort staff make in challenging times. We would therefore propose a one-off bonus of £250 for the lowest-paid staff.

One-off low paid staff bonus	£250,000
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We think that the 'One Borough, One Future Fund' which we consider as Labour's slush fund should be used to fund investment in local residents' priorities.

Labour slush fund saving	£1,200,000
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BUDGET AMENDMENT 3

Protecting our residents

Last year saw unprecedented anger from local residents in response to Labour's plans to close front-line older people's day centres, drop-in centres and luncheon clubs.

Liberal Democrats believe that these services still have a place when caring for our older people. We would provide funding of £240,000 for voluntary, community and charitable organisations to run similar day centres, drop-in centres and luncheon clubs and other valuable services for vulnerable older people at risk of isolation.

Older People Fund revenue cost	£240,000
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Crime and the fear of crime continue to be at the top of local residents concerns. Liberal Democrats believe that cutting crime should be a priority for the Council and we propose an additional £100,000 for local

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community crime fighting initiatives that have been cut by Labour.

Community crime fighting revenue fund	£100,000
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Despite 75% cuts to the Youth Service, closure of Older People's services, Children's Centres and 50% reductions in parks maintenance Labour still spends £13.5million a year on running its IT.

Liberal Democrats believe that protecting our residents is a greater priority. We propose to reduce the IT budget by another 5% in addition to those planned. However, we understand the Council's contractual arrangements and would not ask that the full saving is realised in 2012/13. Instead we would ask that the IT budget is reduced by £340,000 in the first year, followed by £590,000 ongoing in the second and third year. This gives the Council time to fundamentally change how its IT works and embrace new technology and ways of working.

Year One IT revenue saving	£340,000
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Year Two IT revenue saving	£590,000
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BUDGET AMENDMENT 4

Investing in our parks and reducing Labour's stealth taxes

The scale of opposition to Labour's unprecedented 50% cut to the parks service was shown in a petition signed by more than 2,000 local residents. Liberal Democrats believe that our open spaces should be protected and should not be used as a political pawn. We propose £288,000 of investment in our parks, every year to ensure our parks continue to be places we treasure. We would also reverse Labour's cuts to the Green plaque heritage scheme, allowing this community-led initiative to resume.

Parks and heritage revenue investment	£288,000
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Whilst we welcome Labour's u-turn on Council Tax, the Council has chosen to increase the financial burden on local residents by increasing fees and charges on many services. We are proposing to freeze charges that we believe either unfairly target certain groups or would be detrimental to improving the local economy like business, visitor and trade permits. We would freeze:

- Parking charges for all but the most polluting cars, Visitor permits, Business charges, Meals on wheels charges, Library charges and Allotment charges

Reducing Labour's stealth taxes revenue cost	£104,000
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Labour's have failed to deliver on their promise to cut middle-management, so that each manager supervises at least 5 staff. Their failure means that the Council is more bureaucratic and costly to run than necessary. We propose to reduce the numbers of middle managers who are not meeting the Council's own span of control standard by 5% - a reduction of 12 posts. Investment in parks, heritage and reducing Labour's stealth taxes would be funded by reducing 7 posts.

Middle Management Saving	£392,000
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BUDGET AMENDMENT 5

Investment in Children's Centres

Liberal Democrats believe that support in the early years of a child's life should be a top priority. Last year Labour cut £6.519million from the Children's Centre and Early Years budget and funding was withdrawn from Tower Gardens, North Bank, Highgate and Rokesley Children's centres. Whilst reform was needed to make the services more efficient and reduce costs, Labour's cuts went too far.

A campaign by headteachers, staff and local families helped save some services but more money is needed to secure universal access for families to local children's centre services. We propose an £210,000 investment in helping children's centres , whose funding was reduced, to provide support and the time required to reopen and find new sources of funding that will lead to a sustainable future for a universal Children's Centres' service in the borough.

Children's Centre revenue cost	£210,000
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Liberal Democrats are committed to long-term change to our Haringey's Fostering Service. The Council still relies too heavily on expensive out-of-borough foster placements. Not only are in-borough foster placements cheaper, more importantly, they provide better outcomes for our children. The initial financial investment needed to recruit more in-borough foster carers is soon offset by the savings made as the balance between expensive out-of-borough care shifts to new Haringey-based foster carers.

Whilst we understand that this will be a challenge for the Children's Service given the savings targets that are already in the budget, the outcomes, both for local children and the Council's finances means it is a challenge worth setting.

Foster care revenue cost	£700,000
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Foster care revenue saving	£600,000
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Trade unions provide an important role in public service but Liberal Democrats believe that front-line services should be prioritised over hidden union subsidies. Haringey Council, until Liberal Democrats proposed reductions in funding, spent millions of pounds on union representatives. The Council however continues to provide trade unions with free offices, rather than charge a commercial rate as they would to other organisations in the borough. Haringey Council staff pay over half a million pounds in union dues a year – so the unions can afford to pay for their own office space.

Trade Union rent recovery £30,000

The balance of the investment in Children’s Centres would be funded by reductions of 5 middle manager posts that do not meet the Council’s own span of control standard

Middle Management Saving £280,000

Liberal Democrat budget proposals 2012/13 – Medium term financial plan

Our spending priorities

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
• Protecting vulnerable older people	£240,000	£240,000	£240,000
• Reprioritise young people	£1,000,000	£1,200,000	£2,000,000
• Protecting our parks and heritage	£288,000	£288,000	£288,000
• Helping community action on crime	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
• Improving foster care	£700,000	£835,000	£960,000
• Reversing Labour’s stealth taxes	£104,000	£104,000	£104,000
• Local Neighbourhood Fund	£950,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000
• One-off low paid staff bonus	£250,000	£0	£0
• Protecting the future of Children’s Centres	£210,000	£210,000	£210,000
General Fund Spending			£3,842,000
	£3,977,000	£4,902,000	

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Where we would save money and reduce Labour's waste

• Cap communications budget at £1million		
£395,000	£395,000	£395,000
• Long-term action to improve foster care		
£600,000	£1,685,000	£2,610,000
• Reduction in IT spending		
£340,000	£590,000	£590,000
• Reduce unfilled posts		
£355,000	£355,000	£355,000
• Cut middle management costs		
£672,000	£672,000	£672,000
• Car allowance and senior management costs		
£250,000	£250,000	£250,000
• Reversing Labour's slush fund		
£1,200,000	£0	£0
• Charging rent to trade unions		
£30,000	£30,000	£30,000
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General Fund saving		
£3,842,000	£3,977,000	£4,902,000

Councillor Goldberg, Cabinet Member for Finance and Sustainability responded to the 5 amendments.

A debate ensued and Members contributed to the discussion.

Councillor Strang, and then Councillor Goldberg, responded to the proposals.

The amendments to the Motions were then voted on individually.

Budget amendment 1, on being put to the vote there were 20 in favour of the amendment and 29 against. The amendment was declared LOST.

Budget amendment 2, on being put to the vote there were 20 in favour of the amendment and 29 against. The amendment was declared LOST.

Budget amendment 3, on being put to the vote there were 20 in favour of the amendment and 29 against. The amendment was declared LOST.

Budget amendment 4, on being put to the vote there were 21 in favour of the amendment and 29 against. The amendment was declared LOST.

Budget amendment 5, on being put to the vote there were 21 in favour of the amendment and 29 against. The amendment was declared LOST.

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In respect of the substantive recommendations as MOVED by Councillor Goldberg - On a vote there being 30 for, 1 against, and 20 abstentions it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed budget package agreed by Cabinet on 7 February 2012 be noted;
2. That approval be given to the Medium Term Financial Plan to March 2015 as attached in Appendix 1 and cash limits 2012-13 as set out in appendix 2 of the report;
3. That approval be given to the General Fund Budget requirement for 2012-13 of £278.450m, net of Dedicated Schools Grant, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
4. That approval be given to the Capital Programme to March 2015, comprising spending and funding of £204.880m as set out in Appendix 7 to the Cabinet report of 7 February 2012 (attached as Appendix 7 to the report);
5. That approval be given to the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2012-13 and Medium Term Financial Plan to March 2015, comprising spending and funding of £204.880m as set out in Appendix 6 to the Cabinet report of 7 February 2012 (attached as Appendix 7 to the report);
6. That approval be given to the housing rent increases (average increase of £6.55 (7.5%) per week) as set out in paragraph 4 of Appendix 6 to the Cabinet report of 7 February 2012 (attached as Appendix 7 to the report);
7. That approval be given to the tenants' service charges as set out in paragraph 5 of Appendix 6 to the Cabinet report of 7 February 2012 (attached as Appendix 7 to the report)
8. That the Greater London Authority precept as detailed in para 6.14 of the report be noted;
9. That the reserves policy attached at appendix 4a of the report be agreed;
10. That the level of un-earmarked general fund reserves of £10.5 million and specific and other reserves as set out in Appendix 4b be approved;
11. That the budget scrutiny recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the responses of the Cabinet as set out in Appendix 8 to the Cabinet report of 7 February 2012 be noted;
12. That the report of the Chief Financial Officer under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 at paragraphs 7 and 8

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	<p>on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of proposed reserves be noted;</p> <p>13. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2012-13 attached at appendix 5 of the report be agreed; and</p> <p>14. That the budget resolution in the specified format as set out in the attached appendix 6 of the report and the consequent freeze in the Council's element of council tax for 2012-13 be agreed;</p>	
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The meeting ended at 21.35hrs

COUNCILLOR GINA ADAMOU

Mayor