

Full Council

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To: The Mayor and Councillors of Haringey Council.

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Haringey will be held at the Civic Centre, High Road, Wood Green, N22 8LE on MONDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 2006 at 19:00 HRS, to transact the following business:

AGENDA

- 1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. 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 (PAGES 1 - 2)**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest

becomes apparent.

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest.

4. DECLARATION OF COUNCIL TAX LIABILITY

To ask Members to consider 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. Members to whom this applies must make a declaration if they are present at any part of the meeting and must not vote on any matter relating to the budget. It is not sufficient for such members to refrain from voting or to absent themselves from the chamber for particular parts of the meeting.

- 5. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2006 (PAGES 3 - 12)**
- 6. TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE MAYOR MAY LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL**
- 7. TO RECEIVE A STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**
- 8. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE IN RESPECT OF FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR 2006/7 - 2008/9 AND TO AGREE THE COUNCIL TAX FOR 2006/7 (PAGES 13 - 32)**
- 9. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (PAGES 33 - 36)**
- 10. TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES**
- 11. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS AND/OR PETITIONS AND, IF APPROVED, TO RECEIVE THEM**
- 12. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, IF ANY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NOS. 9 & 10 (PAGES 37 - 50)**
- 13. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE NO. 13 (PAGES 51 - 52)**

MOTION O (2005/06):

Councillor Williams has given notice that he will move in the following terms:

“This Council:

Recognises that the illegal use of knives among the young is unacceptably high, that stiffer sentences for carrying a gun have been successful and stiffer sentencing for carrying a knife would be similarly successful in reducing knife crime;

Calls on the Government to treat knife crime more seriously by amending the Violent Crime Bill currently progressing through Parliament to increase the sentence for carrying a knife in public from two to seven years.”

MAX CALLER
Interim Chief Executive
Civic Centre
High Road
Wood Green
London N22 8LE

10 February 2006

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Item 2**COUNCIL MEETING – 20 FEBRUARY 2006****LATE ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**The Chief Executive

Mr Mayor, I am asking you to agree the admission of the following late items of business, which could not be available earlier, and which need to be dealt with at this meeting. The reasons for lateness and urgency are given in the report laid round.

Item 5 – Minutes of the meeting of Council – 6 February 2006

Because of the short timescale between the last meeting and this, it was not possible to circulate the minutes with the summons. The minutes should be confirmed at the next available meeting of the Council.

Item 8 – The report of the Director of Finance in respect of financial planning for 2006/07 – 2008/09 and to agree the Council Tax for 2006/07

The report could not be circulated earlier as vital information was awaited from the preceptors. The report needs to be admitted in order that the Council Tax may be set for 2006/07.

Item 12 – To receive Questions

Notice of questions is not requested until 5 clear days before the meeting, following which the matters raised have to be researched and replies prepared to be given at the meeting.

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**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
6 FEBRUARY 2006**

Councillors: *The Mayor (Councillor Griffith), *The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Adamou);
Councillors *Adje, Aitken, *Basu, *Bax, *Beacham, *Bevan, *Blanchard, *Bloch, *Herbie
Brown, *Jean Brown, *Bull, *Canver, *Davidson, *Davies, *Dawson, *Diakides, Dillon,
*Dobbie, *Dodds, Edge, *Engert, Featherstone, *Floyd, Gilbert, *Haley, *Hare, Harris,
*Hillman, *Hoban, *GMMH Rahman Khan, Knight, *Krokou, *Lister, Makanji, *Manheim,
*Meehan, Millar, *Milner, *Newton, *Oatway, *Patel, *Peacock, *Erline Prescott, *Quincy
Prescott, *Reith, Reynolds, *Rice, *Robertson, *Santry, Simpson, *Stanton, *Sulaiman,
*Williams, Winskill and *Wynne.

* Members present

88. APOLOGIES: Apologies for lateness was received from Councillor Bull, and for absence from Councillors Aitken, Dillon, Edge, Featherstone, Gilbert, Harris, Knight, Makanji & Winskill.

89. LATE/URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS: See items 94, 98, 100 & 101.

90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Members were asked by the Mayor to declare any personal interest in respect of items on the agenda. In accordance with Part 2 of the Members Code of Conduct set out in the Council Constitution, any Member disclosing a personal interest which was also prejudicial would be asked to withdraw from the Chamber during consideration of the item and neither were they to seek to improperly influence a decision on the said item.

Councillor Meehan declared a personal interest that he was in receipt of a Freedom Pass, in relation to the report on financial planning.

91. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST CONCERNING OUTSTANDING COUNCIL TAX OR COMMUNITY CHARGE LIABILITY:

Members were also reminded 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.

No such declarations were made.

92. MINUTES:

Copies of the Minutes having been circulated, they were taken as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 January 2006 be signed as a true record.

93. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

1. The Mayor, with great sadness reported that Sheila Berkery-Smith OBE died on 24th January. Sheila was a former Leader and Mayor who served on the first Council following Haringey's inception in 1964. Prior to that she was a Councillor

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for the Borough of Tottenham. She served as a Labour Councillor for South Tottenham from 1964-74 and in 1974-1978 for the Town Hall Ward. She was Leader on two occasions in 1967-68 and again from 1971-73, and served as the Leader of the opposition from 1968-1971. Sheila was elected as the Mayor of Haringey from 1973-74. Sheila also had the distinction and honour of receiving the Order of the British Empire and the Dame of St Gregory on behalf of the Pope in 2003. Sheila continued to work and was very active in the community.

The Mayor commented of his personal acquaintance as a member of SACRE and that amongst her many voluntary roles she was on the School Organisation Committee, the Schools Admissions Forum, a member representative of the Westminster Diocese Board for Schools and a Governor of St Thomas More RC Secondary School.

Following words from Councillors Meehan, Peacock, Bax and Jean Brown, the meeting stood for one minutes silence in her memory.

2. The Mayor informed the meeting of his delight that six charities would benefit from the recycling incentives scheme. He advised that all Members would have seen that the Council had set up a charity fund that gets bigger the more that residents recycled. Along with the Mayor's Special Fund for this year, which supports the fight against prostate cancer, the other five charities that are supported were: -

Friends of the Earth, Shelter, Mind, The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers; and The Worldwide Fund for Nature.

The Mayor advised that the aim was to have a fund worth £20,000 by March 2006, and that he would encourage all members of the Council and the public to do their very best to put as much as they can in their green recycling boxes, and in the local bring banks, and to recycle every week.'

3. The Mayor reminded the meeting that tickets were available for the Fundraising Ball on March 18th. This was in aid of the Special Fund which was raising funds for the Prostate Cancer Unit at the North Middlesex hospital. The Mayor asked for support with this worthy cause.

94. STATE OF THE BOROUGH (Agenda item 7):

The Mayor agreed to admit this report as urgent business. The report was not available at the time of the despatch as it was still being compiled in order to ensure that the most up to date information was available

The Leader reported that the Council had a successful year in 2005. For the second year running Haringey had improved its rating in the annual Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). In the service block assessment in December 2005 Haringey achieved a 'good', three star rating, even though the test had been made harder this year. (The Council was rated as 'fair' in 2004, improving from 'weak' in 2003).

The following were some of the highlights of last year:

Nearly 75% of performance indicators have been maintained or improved.

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As part of the CPA all the higher weighted services scored 3 out of 4; these were Adult Social Services, Children's Services and the Use of Resources.

In the annual Direction of Travel statement, the Audit Commission have rated the council as 'improving well' which is the third highest of the four categories. The Audit Commission states: 'this year has seen positive outcomes in services for children and young people and for vulnerable adults.

In 2005 the council was awarded beacon council status, an award for excellence and innovation in the 'getting closer to communities' category. The council's achievements highlighted in the beacon award included; the seven area assemblies and their popular 'making the difference budgets' for local people, Local Partnership Boards and youth forums and the Neighbourhood Resource Centre at Northumberland Park.

The new Children's Service has been successfully established to provide social care and educational services for children and young people.

The percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs grade A*-C improved from 43% in 2004 to 48% in 2005. The greatest improvement had been seen in the schools in the east of the borough. Good progress had also been made by black and minority ethnic pupils.

The results at Key Stages 1 and 2 in Haringey have been improving and at Key Stage 3 the progress was well ahead of the national figures.

Attendance at primary schools continues to improve (absences 6.5% in 2005) and low numbers of secondary school children were excluded from school.

The assessment of Adult Social Services by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) in 2005, awarded the service two stars, improving from one star last year. The judgement stated that most people were 'well served' and the service had promising prospects for improvement.

The Performance Review Report highlighted improvements in Adult Social Services including; improved services for carers, better partnership working, more people helped to live at home and improved take up of direct payments.

Continued investment through the Better Haringey campaign with an additional £6.5 million spent in the last year to clean up the borough.

In Environment Services achievements included:

- 95% of residents had access to recycling services
- 80% of Haringey schools now recycle
- 18% of rubbish recycled in 2005, compared with 9% in 2004
- no children were killed on Haringey roads during 2004/05
- cleaner streets and less litter
- 50,000 square metres of graffiti removed
- top quartile performance in planning with 78% of major applications dealt with in 13 weeks.

The council was continuing to make improvements in the time taken to carry out urgent repairs to council properties, with 99% completed within the specified timescales.

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Regeneration programmes were transforming the east of the borough. Working with partners the council had secured £5.5m of Local Development Agency (LDA) resources to support regeneration activity in the Upper Lee Valley and the sub region. The key sites programme continued to progress, having secured £1.8 million for the regeneration of Tottenham High Road.

Funding in excess of £1.3 million had been allocated to the safer communities' agenda and the council was working with partners to make Haringey safer. We are providing extra funding for anti social behaviour and more CCTV around the borough.

Car crime had reduced by 13% and crime committed by young people was down by 4.1%

Library opening hours have been extended. More people visited the libraries during 2005. Internet facilities in the libraries have increased with 185 PCs providing free Internet access. All our Libraries now have Wi-Fi internet access which allows people to use the internet from their lap tops free of charge.

The Leaders report contained greater detail of the achievements outlined above. This highlighted not only the wide-ranging and important services provided to our community but also the continuous improvements being made to them by our three star Council.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke in response.

RESOLVED:

That the Leader of the Council's State of the Borough report be received and agreed.

95. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS – EXECUTIVE REPORT 15:

The meeting agreed to vary the order of business to permit Executive report number 15 and the appendix on financial planning to be taken at this point.

The Mayor agreed to the admission of report number 15 of the Executive as urgent business. The Executive report was late because the Executive only met on 31 January 2006 after the despatch of the Council Summons on 27 January 2006.

The report was urgent as it contained recommendations to the Council.

RESOLVED:

That report 15 /2005-6 of the Executive be received and adopted and that the following recommendations contained in the appendix to report number 15 be agreed:

1. To agree the changes and variations set out at paragraph 9 and appendix B.
2. To note the outcome of the consultation processes set out at paragraph 11.
3. To agree the new savings and investment proposals set out in paragraphs 12 and 13 and appendices D and E.

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4. To agree the changes to existing savings in respect of Red Gables, IT and Social Service commissioning set out in paragraph 12.1.
5. To agree the proposals for the children's services (DSG) budget set out in appendix F and to note the request to the school's forum to approve an additional increase to the central expenditure limit.
6. To agree a rent increase for 2006/07 at an average of 4.99% in line with the public consultation process.
7. To agree the proposals for the HRA budget set out in appendix G.
8. To agree the proposals for the capital programme set out in appendices H and J.
9. To agree the treasury management strategy and policy and prudential limits set out in appendix K.
10. To agree the proposed general fund budget requirement of £366.102m, subject to the final settlement and the decisions of precepting and levying authorities, and the consequences for council tax levels.
11. To note that the final decision on budget and council tax for 2006/7 will be made at the Council meeting on 20 February.

96. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda item 8): There were no matters to report.

97. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (Agenda item 9): There were no matters to report.

98. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES (Agenda item 10):

The Mayor agreed to admit this report as urgent business. The report was not available at the time of despatch as the proposed appointments to outside bodies had only recently been considered at Party Group meetings. It was urgent in order to permit changes to be made to outside body appointments.

RESOLVED:

That appointments to outside bodies as detailed in the attached appendix be agreed.

99. DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS (Agenda item 11):

There were no requests for deputations or petitions.

100. QUESTIONS (Agenda item 12):

The Mayor agreed to the admission of this report as urgent business. Under Standing Orders, notice of questions was not requested until five clear days before the meeting, following which matters raised had to be researched and replies prepared, in order to be given at the meeting.

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There were 10 oral questions and 20 for written answer. Oral Questions 3-10 were not reached in the allotted time and written answers were supplied to these questions.

101. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The meeting agreed to vary the order of business to permit the General Purposes Committee report to be taken first and for Motion N to be taken following the Executive reports 13 &14.

The Mayor agreed to the admission of report number 4 of General Purposes Committee as urgent business. The General Purposes report was late because General Purposes met on 30 January 2006 after the despatch of the Council Summons on 27 January 2006. The report was urgent as it contained recommendations to the Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That report 4/ 2005-6 of the General Purposes Committee be received;
2. That the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee of 30 January 2006 in respect of amendments to Council Standing Orders (Procedure Rules) amending the notice for public and member questions to eight clear days set out in Appendix 1 of the report be adopted, subject to implementation of the change for the 20 March 2006 Council meeting and that Part E.8 of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly;
3. That the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee of 30 January 2006 in respect of amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be adopted and that Part F.7 of the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.
4. That reports 13 & 14 /2005-6 of the Executive be received and adopted.

102. MOTION M (2005/06):

It was moved by Councillor Reith and seconded by Councillor Wynne that:

"This Council notes the importance of voluntary sector organizations in delivering local services, building community cohesion and encouraging civic pride throughout our area. Their work within the community, fostering engagement, driving forward local initiatives and campaigning for local projects is invaluable to our vision of an effective and working society.

This Council believes that in order to ensure both the Council and the third sector are able to compliment each other to the best of their abilities there must be a clear partnership framework.

As such, this Council welcomes the news that a period of consultation on a formal compact with voluntary sector organizations closes shortly and that the final compact will be brought to the next Council. This compact will clearly lay out what voluntary organizations can expect from Haringey.

This council is committed to maintaining a high level of financial support to

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voluntary organizations, in sharp contrast with the situation in London boroughs controlled by Liberal Democrat and Conservative administrations”.

The Motion was then put to the meeting and declared CARRIED.

103. MOTION N (2005/06):

It was moved by Councillor Williams and seconded by Councillor Hoban that:

“Acknowledges the findings of the Audit Commission’s report into the project management of Tech Refresh and endorses the findings and criticism of the council’s management of this project contained therein;

Apologises to the people of Haringey for the £10 million plus budget overrun of the projects and deeply regrets the loss of funding this entails for vital council services;

Believes that members of the Council Executive must be held to account for their negligent lack of involvement and senior sponsorship of such a large project and the Executive must learn the lessons of this negligence.”

An amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Sulaiman and seconded by Councillor Milner proposing :

Delete all after "This Council acknowledges the findings of the" and replace with text below to read

This council acknowledges the findings of the “District Auditor’s report into the Tech Refresh project.

Tech Refresh is a project designed to support the delivery of better housing, cleaner streets and safer communities for the people of the borough through the use of better more resilient and efficient technology.

The council notes that in June 2003 the Tech Refresh project was being delivered and programme managed by external partners. Once the overspend was reported to councillors in May 2005, programme management was undertaken in-house. Tech Refresh is now 95 per cent complete and is already helping to deliver more efficient use of council resources.

This council notes the following findings from the district auditor’s report:-

- Whilst the project implementation was problematic the new IT systems will help the council deliver better services.
- The original budget was very tight meaning that additional expenditure was always likely.
- Haringey is an improving three star council with a track record of strong financial management.
- The funds to pay for this overspend were found from earmarked reserves last year meaning that this is not funded through a council tax rise.

This council also notes the Executive asked the district auditor to examine the project last year and that a report from the Interim Chief Executive has already been requested to address the lessons that need to be learnt.

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Finally this council is a good and improving borough and is well equipped to make further progress - a fact that has been recognised by the recent Audit Commission rating.

The Amendment was then put to the meeting and declared CARRIED.

The substantive Motion was then put to the meeting and declared CARRIED

Councillor Griffith
Mayor

Appointments to Outside Bodies

Council – Monday 06 February

The Management Committee
Hornsey Parochial Charities 6 Category: Community
Term of Office: 4 year (s)

14/hpc 6 Lab.

Granted Aid: No

Retiring Representative (s) / Expiry

Cllr E Griffith	31/05/06
Ms A MacFarlane	31/05/08
Cllr V Manheim	06/02/06 App'tment had Expired
Ms L Marshall	06/02/06 App'tment had Expired
Ms M Neuner	31/05/09
Mrs B Simon	31/05/07

Haringey Strategic Partnership
Haringey Wellbeing Partnership Board 4 Category: Partnership
Term of Office: 1 year (s)

14/hhc 4 Lab.

Granted Aid: No

Retiring Representative (s) / Expiry

Cllr I Diakides	31/05/06
Cllr G F Meehan	31/05/06
vacant	06/02/06 Cllr Hillman to be appointed
Cllr K Wynne	31/05/06

The Management Committee
Wood Green Urban District Charity 5 Category: Community
Term of Office: 4 year (s)

14/wgu/a 5 Lab.

Granted Aid: No

Retiring Representative (s) / Expiry

Ms J Acott	31/07/06
Ms M Dewar	31/05/07
Cllr A Dobbie	31/05/08
Ms C McAskill	06/02/06 App'tment had Expired
Mr N Watson	31/01/10

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Council*On 20 February 2006*

Report title:	Financial planning 2005/6 to 2007/8
Report of:	Director of Finance
Wards affected:	All
1. Purpose	
1.1	To agree the final budget and council tax for 2006/07
2. Introduction by Executive Member	
2.1	This report considers the final grant settlement and the implications for the budget.
2.2	Adjustments subsequent to the budget report to full council shows a favourable change of £73k, to be added to balances at this stage and considered in the subsequent financial planning process.
2.3	The report notes additional changes to levies and adequacy of reserves, with the financial reserve position noted at 8.13.
2.4	I would draw members attention to the managed and sustainable approach to council tax levels, which continues this administration's approach of predictive stability to council tax - because we recognise that it is not just councils that need to plan, but our residents do too.
3. Recommendations	
3.1	To note the final settlement and the decisions of the school's forum and the levying authorities.
3.2	To agree the consequent changes to budgets.
3.3	To agree the business unit cash limits set out in appendix C.
3.4	To note the Greater London Authority precept.
3.5	To pass the budget resolution in the specified format as set out in appendix D.
3.6	To agree the reserves policy attached at appendix E.

**Report authorised
by:**

**Andrew Travers
Director of Finance**

Contact officer: Gerald Almeroth

Telephone: 020 8489 3743

3.1 Executive summary

3.1.1 This report finalises the 2006/07 budget and council tax.

3.2 Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

3.2.1 The budget is designed to deliver the Council's existing policy framework.

4. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

The final local government settlement is accessible at:

www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/0607/grant.htm

For access to the background papers or any further information please contact Gerald Almeroth on 020 8489 3743.

5 Background

5.1 Council on 6 February 2006 agreed the general fund budget and a total budget requirement of £366.102m. This was subject to the final settlement, the decision of the school's forum and the decisions of levying and precepting authorities.

5.2 This report considers:

- the final settlement;
- the decision of the school's forum;
- decisions of levying and precepting authorities;
- the robustness of the Council's budget process; and
- the adequacy of the Council's reserves.

5.3 The report concludes by presenting the budget resolution to set the council tax for 2005/6.

5.4 The report is supported by five appendices:

- appendix A sets out the gross budget trail;
- appendix B tracks the resource shortfall over the budget process;
- appendix C sets out the service cash limits;
- appendix D is the formal budget resolution;
- appendix E sets out the reserves policy.

6 Key developments

6.1 Final settlement

6.1.1 The final settlement was announced on 31 January. There were no changes to the methodology used to calculate the formula grant from the draft settlement announced on 5 December. There was, however, an amendment to the 2005/06 base position, which has impacted on the Council's grant. This is in relation to a top slicing of resource to fund a transfer between supporting capital expenditure by revenue contributions, SCE (R), to funding it directly by capital grant. The amount of top slice was reduced together with the way that it was allocated to authorities with an impact of reducing grant for Haringey. As this reduced our base position for 2005/06 it means that the floor grant of a 2% increase is calculated on a lower base and therefore reduces our grant. The impact is £57k in 2006/07 and £347k in 2007/08.

6.1.2 The grant settlement uses a projected council tax base. The actual tax base in our financial planning assumptions has now been updated and this shows an improved position. Taken with the loss of grant above the net effect is a marginal improvement of £73k over the planning period. I recommend that these sums are added to balances at this stage, to be further considered in next year's financial planning process.

6.1.3 In addition the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) is introduced from this year. This measures local business growth (by rateable values) and allows local authorities to keep a proportion above certain thresholds. This will be measured each year and therefore is one-off in its nature. The amount for 2006/07 (in relation to growth in 2005) was announced on 8 February and is £708k. It is a general grant and therefore the local authority can use it for any purpose.

6.2 School's Forum

6.2.1 The forum met on 9 February and considered a report requesting a breach of the central expenditure limit. This allows the centrally retained expenditure within the dedicated schools grant to increase at a proportionally higher rate than the individual schools budget. The school's forum approved the breach subject to the minimum funding guarantee being met. This is in line with the financial planning report to Council on 6 February.

6.3 Levying bodies

6.3.1 The Board of the North London Waste Authority met on 8 February 2006. The levy for household waste has reduced by 15% mainly as a result of further one-off use of 2005/06 balances and a critical review of the 2006/07 budget. This is a significant reduction from the previous update received on 26 January 2006. The government has decided to introduce the revised arrangements for apportioning costs based on tonnage (previously tax base), however not all of the statutory instruments had been laid before Parliament before the NLWA budget meeting so final confirmation has not yet been received. The proposed budget changes are being implemented over a three year period so there are transition arrangements in place for the first two years. The impact for Haringey is a marginal increase in costs as previously reported, however, with the late revision of the total budget sum there is a saving of £895k in 2006/07. It is proposed that this is set aside as a contingency for 2006/07, but retained as provision for the levy in future years. The NLWA budget report warns of a significant levy increase in 2007/08.

6.3.2 The other levies have not increased significantly above inflation and therefore can be managed within the proposed budget.

6.4 The Greater London Authority precept

6.4.1 The Greater London Authority (GLA) set its precept on 15 February 2006. The band D rate set by the GLA is £288.61, an increase of 13.3%. This compares with the consultation increase of 16.6% reflected in my previous report. The increase includes £20 per property at band D (continuing for 10 years) to contribute towards the 2012 Olympics, which represents 7.9% of the increase. The remainder of 5.4% is for the rest of the GLA budget.

6.5 Other risk issues

6.5.1 The Haringey Primary Care Trust (PCT) has recently written to the Council giving notice of their proposals to introduce savings in a number of joint service provision areas. Direct funding by the PCT of these community care services could reduce by as much as £1.4m in 2006/07. These savings will have an impact on service users and the Council will need to have regard to the potential implications for the Council's social care duties. There are also a number of other actions proposed that could have an indirect impact on costs by increasing demand for Council services.

6.6 Consequential changes

6.6.1 The overall impact of these factors is that the Council's total budget requirement is amended to £366.511m, £144.595m of this will be funded by the new dedicated schools grant leaving the net budget requirement at £221.916m. The Council's band D council tax is £1,094.98 (an increase of 2.5%) and the overall band D council tax is £1,383.59 (an increase of 4.6%). The final budget trail and resource shortfall tracker are at appendices A and B respectively.

6.6.2 The Council operates a three-year financial planning process and therefore also considers draft budgets and council tax levels for 2007/08 and 2008/09. Those budgets are shown as balanced, but include target savings of £4.1m, which have yet to be identified.

6.6.3 The LABGI grant and the NLWA levy saving give rise to an uncommitted resource of £1.6m in 2006/07. It is recommended that this is retained as a contingency/service development contingency.

7 Robustness of the budget process

7.1 I am required by section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) to report on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of final budget calculations.

7.2 The Council's budget process is defined at the strategic level by the Council's key priorities aligned to the Community Strategy. These priorities are given effect in the Council's plans through a business planning process. The business planning process is underpinned at the detailed level by a pre business plan review (PBPR) for each business unit.

7.3 The PBPRs covered:

- vision and progress on current objectives;
- financial and service performance in the current year, including where services stand on demonstrating value for money;
- progress on the implementation of agreed efficiency savings and impact of previously agreed investments;
- risk management;
- external factors and influences, including new legislation or national policy changes;

- other key management issues, including customer focus, CPA and SMART working;
- new objectives for 2006/07;
- new efficiency saving and investment proposals.

The draft documents were subject to detailed review at officer and Executive Member level.

- 7.4 The PBPRs were considered in the budget scrutiny process and were the basis for wider consultation on budget options. They were then used to derive the Executive's budget proposals for 2006/07.
- 7.5 The PBPR process is complemented by the regular cycle of budget management and performance review. This involves detailed monthly evaluation of budget and performance information at both officer and Executive Member level. The Council's risk management process also underpins, and is reflected in, all the above activities.
- 7.6 The product of these analysis and review activities was summarised in the report to the Council on 6 February, which agreed the Council's budget (subject to the final matters set out in this report). The 6 February report also set out the major financial risk areas, which needed to be taken into consideration. I am satisfied that the above constitutes a robust process for the derivation of the calculations set out in this report.

8 Adequacy of reserves

- 8.1 Section 25 of the 2003 Act also requires me to report on the adequacy of proposed reserves. To ensure that resource decisions are soundly based and consistent, a reserves policy is appended for member approval.
- 8.2 In my consideration of the reserves position, it is first necessary to consider budget management information in respect of the current year. The report of the Chief Executive to the Executive on 31 January 2006 projected net general fund services overspend of £0.2m, a projected capital overspend of £0.6m and a HRA projected overspend of £0.3m. There is adequate contingency provision in respect of general fund services and the likely HRA outturn position was taken into account in setting the HRA budget.
- 8.3 The following paragraphs comment on each of the reserves:
- 8.4 General fund general reserve
- 8.4.1 My judgement on the adequacy of the general fund general reserve needs to reflect the risk management and financial control processes that are in place, and the residual risk of emergencies or unexpected events.
- 8.4.2 In the light of this, I regard £10m as an appropriate target level for the general fund general reserve over the three-year financial planning period. This represents 1.3% of the general fund turnover for 2006/07. The table below reflects the planned use of balances as agreed in the financial strategy.

8.5 HRA reserve

8.5.1 My judgement on the adequacy of the HRA general reserve needs to reflect the risk management and financial control processes that are in place, and the residual risk of emergencies or unexpected events.

8.5.2 In the light of this, I regard £5m as an appropriate target level for the HRA general reserve over the three-year financial planning period. This represents 4.8% of the HRA turnover for 2006/07. The table below reflects the planned use of balances as agreed in the financial strategy.

8.6 Schools reserve

8.6.1 The amount in the schools reserve is a consequence of the funding and spending of individual schools. A proportion of it reflects earmarked funding for future schools projects. The current level of the reserve represents 3.4% of the schools core funding turnover for 2006/07.

8.7 Services reserve

8.7.1 It is Council policy that service under and over spends are retained by the relevant service subject to approval by the Executive in the year end financial outturn report. This reserve earmarks those funds to be carried forward to the following financial year.

8.8 Insurance reserve

8.8.1 The insurance reserve is kept under review by the Head of Audit and Risk Management with the assistance of the Council's insurance adviser. A key variable is the split between this reserve and the insurance provision held elsewhere in the balance sheet. At the time of writing this report, I am satisfied that the reserve constitutes adequate protection in respect of self-insured risk.

8.9 PFI reserve

8.9.1 The PFI reserve needs to be considered in conjunction with the pre-payment elsewhere in the balance sheet. The reserve also reflects the new method of calculating government support implemented from April 2005.

8.10 Infrastructure reserve

8.10.1 The infrastructure reserve is a key financing resource for the programmes of renewal of assets such as IT and property. The table below reflects in particular the current phasing of the accommodation strategy.

8.10.2 The infrastructure reserve will remain in place to spread the cost of future infrastructure renewal programmes.

8.11 General fund risk reserve

8.11.1 The risk reserve has been reviewed in the light of the product of the Council's risk management process.

8.11.2 Key financial risk factors are also set out in the 6 February report. Whilst the total potential downside risk is clearly very substantial, I regard this provision as adequate in the light of the overall arrangements set out in this report.

8.12 Financing reserve

8.12.1 The balance on the financing reserve at 1 April 2006 is currently expected to be £3m.

8.13 My estimates of the opening and closing position of the general, HRA and other earmarked reserves for 2006/7 are as follows:

	At April 2006	Change 06/07	At March 2007
	£m	£m	£m
General fund general reserve	12	0	12
HRA general reserve	4	0	4
Earmarked:			
Schools	10	0	10
Services	0	0	0
Insurance	9	0	9
PFI	20	0	20
Sinking fund	2	-2	0
General fund risk	10	0	10
Financing	2	0	2
Total	69	-2	67

9 **Cash limits and budget resolution**

9.1 The service cash limits for 2006/07 and the formal budget resolution are at appendices C and D respectively.

10 **Summary and conclusions**

10.1 This report finalises the 2006/07 budget and proposes a council tax rise of 2.5%. The level of reserves is also reported and considered to be adequate.

11 **Recommendations**

11.1 To note the final settlement and the decisions of the school's forum and the levying authorities.

- 11.2 To agree the consequent changes to budgets.
- 11.3 To agree the business unit cash limits set out in appendix C.
- 11.4 To note the Greater London Authority precept.
- 11.5 To pass the budget resolution in the specified format as set out in appendix D.
- 11.6 To agree the reserves policy attached at appendix E.

12 Comments of the Head of Legal Services

- 12.1 The Head of Legal Services confirms that this financial planning report is part of the budget strategy and fulfils the Council's statutory requirements in relation to the budget.

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Gross Budget Trail	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Budget brought forward	345,929	366,511	382,819
<u>Changes and variations</u>			
Inflation	7,880	8,000	8,420
Agreed in previous years budget process	665	2,785	
Changes and variations agreed 5 July 2005	1,161	1,208	2,547
Changes and variations agreed 20 December 2005	3,296	(41)	
Changes and variations in this report (see appendix b)	(5,500)	4,800	
Function changes arising from 2006/7 settlement	1,606		
<u>Savings</u>			
2003/04 process	(2,928)		
2004/05 process	(1,806)		
2005/06 process			
- identified savings	(464)	(2,892)	
- target savings to be identified		(2,532)	
2006/07 process (see appendix b)			
- changes to existing savings	1,029	(470)	
- identified savings	(1,853)	(1,738)	(3,123)
- target savings to be identified		(330)	(1,200)
	(6,022)	(7,962)	(4,323)
<u>Investments</u>			
2003/04 process	(150)		
2004/05 process	1,779		
2005/06 process	51	(325)	
2006/07 process (see appendix b)	5,102	(3,912)	(75)
	6,782	(4,237)	(75)
<u>Dedicated schools grant (DSG)</u>			
Passporting of DSG	12,119	11,732	10,787
<u>Balances</u>			
Contribution to / (from) balances 2004/05 process	(1,253)		
Contribution to / (from) balances 2005/06 process	(561)	360	(642)
Contribution to / (from) balances 2006/07 process	409	(337)	
Gross Council budget requirement	366,511	382,819	399,533
Less dedicated schools grant (specific grant)	(144,595)	(156,327)	(167,114)
Net Council budget requirement	221,916	226,492	232,419
Funding			
Council tax (see below)	91,692	93,984	96,333
Government support - formula grant and NNDR	130,224	132,508	136,086
	221,916	226,492	232,419
Resource shortfall/(excess)	0	0	0
Council tax	£	£	£
Council tax (LBH)	1,094.98	1,122.35	1,150.40
Council tax base (after provision for non-recovery)	83,739	83,739	83,739
Precept	91,692,530	93,984,467	96,333,346
Rate of council tax increase (Haringey element)	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
GLA rate of council tax increase	13.3%	n/a	n/a
Combined council tax increase	4.6%	n/a	n/a
£ per week increase (Haringey element)	£0.51	£0.53	£0.54

Resource Shortfall Tracker	2006/07 £'000	2007/08 £'000	2008/09 £'000	Total £'000
Position at end of 2005/06 process	0	0	0	0
<u>Update for 2007/08</u>				
Inflation			7,700	7,700
Education passporting			10,207	10,207
Estimated increase in revenue support grant	(921)	(958)	(13,680)	(15,559)
Assumed inflationary increase in council tax			(2,338)	(2,338)
Assumed use of balances			(642)	(642)
	(921)	(958)	1,247	(632)
<u>Changes and variations reported 5 July 2005</u>				
Increase in pension contributions (1%)			1,050	1,050
Revenue implications of 2005/6 investment fund	240	250		490
Additional waste disposal costs NLWA			500	500
Capital financing costs	921	958	997	2,876
	1,161	1,208	2,547	4,916
Position as at 5 July and 1 November 2005	240	250	3,794	4,284
<u>Changes and variations reported 20 December 2005</u>				
NLWA increase in waste disposal levy	306			306
Energy prices increase above inflation (+46%)	700			700
Asylum contingency adjustment	1,000	(500)		500
Concessionary fares increased contract costs	305	209		514
Housing benefit admin grant		250		250
Safeguarding children grant ceasing in 2006/07	985			985
	3,296	(41)	0	3,255
<u>Impact of move to dedicated schools grant (DSG)</u>				
Adjustment for overpassporting in 2005/6 base	(637)	0	0	(637)
Inflation on non-DSG element	680	700	720	2,100
Assumption on formula grant on non-DSG element	(461)	(472)	(484)	(1,417)
	(418)	228	236	46
Impact of provisional grant settlement (5 Dec 2005)	(1,896)	1,213	368	(315)
Position as at 20 December 2005	1,222	1,650	4,398	7,270
<u>Changes and variations reported 6 February</u>				
Homelessness	(6,000)	5,000		(1,000)
Election costs	200	(200)		0
New administration contingency	300			300
	(5,500)	4,800	0	(700)
<u>Investments</u>				
Proposed new investments	1,690	(500)	(75)	1,115
Proposed resources for one-off investments	3,412	(3,412)		0
	5,102	(3,912)	(75)	1,115
<u>Savings</u>				
Proposed new savings	(1,853)	(1,738)	(3,123)	(6,714)
Changes to existing savings	1,029	(470)		559
Amendment to target for future year savings (to £4.1m)			(330)	(1,530)
	(824)	(2,538)	(4,323)	(7,685)
Position as at 6 February 2006	0	0	0	0
<u>Changes and variations now reported</u>				
Change to council tax base	(466)	(10)	(10)	(486)
NLWA levy saving	(895)	895		0
LABGI grant	(708)	708		0
Create contingency/service development contingency	1,603	(1,603)		0
<u>Final grant settlement changes</u>				
Impact of reduced formula grant	57	347	11	415
<u>Changes to balances</u>				
Changes as a result of the 2006/07 budget process	409	(337)	(1)	71
Position as at 20 February 2006	0	0	0	0

REVENUE CASH LIMITS 2006/07

BUSINESS UNIT	
	£
CHIEF EXECUTIVE MGT & SUPPORT	284,500
ASST CHIEF EXECUTIVE ACCESS	192,200
CUSTOMER FOCUS	124,000
STRATEGY	8,078,100
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	11,230,300
LEGAL SERVICES	-1,064,800
NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT	3,018,800
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	15,615,500
LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUM	4,782,900
CUSTOMER SERVICES	5,398,800
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE	47,660,300
FINANCE MGT & SUPPORT	230,300
BENEFITS & LOCAL TAXATION	802,100
CORPORATE FINANCE	4,018,500
PROCUREMENT	-656,700
PROPERTY	8,547,800
TOTAL FINANCE SERVICES	12,942,000
INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUDGETS	125,737,300
SCHOOL STANDARDS & INCLUSION	17,601,100
CHILDREN & FAMILIES	32,405,500
COMMUNITY & RESOURCES	9,072,900
DELIVERY & PERFORMANCE	1,686,700
BUSINESS SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT	4,740,700
TOTAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES	191,244,200
SOCIAL SERVICES MGT & SUPPORT	2,658,500
OLDER PEOPLE	20,921,300
ADULTS	23,100,700
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES	46,680,500
HOUSING MGT & SUPPORT	285,800
HOUSING STRATEGY & NEEDS	-5,056,900
TOTAL HOUSING SERVICES	-4,771,100
ENVIRONMENT MGT & SUPPORT	952,200
RECREATION	4,847,100
STREET SCENE	18,829,000
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL	2,527,300
ENFORCEMENT	3,997,600
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	31,153,200
NON-SERVICE REVENUE	40,910,900
TOTAL NON SERVICE REVENUE	40,910,900
CONTRIBUTION FROM BALANCES	691,000
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION FROM BALANCES	691,000
TOTAL CASH LIMIT	366,511,000

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COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

1. That it be noted that on 31 January 2006 the Director of Finance in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Finance agreed the amount of 83,739 as the council tax base for the year in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
2. That the following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2006/07 in accordance with the Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
 - (a) £782,694,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) of the Act.
 - (b) £560,778,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) of the Act.
 - (c) £221,916,000 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with the Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
 - (d) £130,223,746 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant, or SSA reduction grant increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its collection fund to its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Act 1998 or reduced by the amount of sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1998 and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection fund to its general fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1998 made on 7 February 1994 or reduced by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1998 made on 7 February 1994.
 - (e) £1,094.98 being the amount at 2 (c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by the amount at 1 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(l) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.

(f) Valuation Bands

	£
A	729.99
B	851.65
C	973.31
D	1,094.98
E	1,338.30
F	1,581.65
G	1,824.96
H	2,189.96

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 2(e) above the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(l) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number in which that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(l) 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.

3. That it be noted that for 2006/07 the amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in respect of the Greater London Authority and its functional bodies, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

	£
A	192.41
B	224.47
C	256.54
D	288.61
E	352.75
F	416.88
G	481.02
H	577.22

4. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(f) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2006/07 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands

	£
A	922.40
B	1,076.12
C	1,229.85
D	1,383.59
E	1,691.05
F	1,998.53
G	2,305.98
H	2,767.18

London Borough of Haringey

Reserves policy

Background

- 1 Sections 32 and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require local authorities to consider the level of reserves when setting a budget requirement. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Director of Finance to report formally on the adequacy of proposed reserves when setting a budget requirement. The accounting treatment for reserves is set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.
- 2 CIPFA has issued LAAP Bulletin No.55, Guidance Note on Local Authority Reserves and Balances. Compliance with the guidance is recommended in CIPFA's Statement on the Role of the Finance Director in Local Government.
- 3 This note sets out the Council's policy for compliance with the statutory regime and relevant non-statutory guidance.

Overview

- 4 The Council's overall approach to reserves will be defined by the system of internal control. The system of internal control is set out, and its effectiveness reviewed, in the annual Statement of Internal Control. Key elements of the internal control environment are objective setting and monitoring, policy and decision-making, compliance with statute and procedure rules, risk management, achieving value for money, financial management, and performance management.
- 5 The Council will maintain:
 - a general fund general reserve;
 - a housing revenue account (HRA) general reserve; and
 - a number of earmarked reserves.

General fund general reserve

- 6 The purpose of the general reserve is to manage the impact of emergencies or unexpected events. Without such a reserve, the financial impact of such events could cause a potential deficit in the general fund which would be severely disruptive to the effective operation of the authority.
- 7 The level of the general reserve is a matter for the Council to determine having had regard to the advice of the Director of Finance. The level of the reserve will be a matter of judgement which will take account of the opportunity cost of holding such a reserve. The level will be expressed

as a target cash sum over the three-year period of the general fund medium-term financial strategy. The level will also be expressed as a percentage of general fund turnover (to provide an indication of financial context).

HRA general reserve

- 8 The purpose of the HRA general reserve is to manage the impact of emergencies or unexpected events. Without such a reserve, the financial impact of such events could cause a potential deficit in the HRA which would be severely disruptive to the effective operation of the authority.
- 9 The level of the HRA general reserve is a matter for the Council to determine having had regard to the advice of the Director of Finance. The level of the reserve will be a matter of judgement which will take account of the opportunity cost of holding such a reserve. The level will be expressed as a target cash sum over the five-year period of the HRA medium-term financial strategy. The level will also be expressed as a percentage of HRA turnover (to provide an indication of financial context).

Earmarked reserves

- 10 The purpose of earmarked reserves is to enable sums to be set aside for specific purposes or in respect of potential or contingent liabilities where the creation of a provision is not required.
- 11 The Council will maintain the following earmarked reserves:
 - schools reserve: the net unspent balance of delegated funds managed by schools;
 - services reserve: the net unspent balance of service budgets where the Executive has agreed that such sums should be carried-forward for use in subsequent years;
 - insurance reserve: funds set aside to meet internally-insured liabilities where the creation of a provision is not required;
 - PFI reserve: funds set aside from specific PFI grant from the government to meet payments to be made to the Council's secondary schools PFI provider;
 - infrastructure reserve: funds set aside for the planned maintenance and renewal of infrastructure assets;
 - risk reserve: funds set aside in respect of key financial risks identified through the risk management process, where the creation of a provision is not required; and

financing reserve: a reserve to enable multiple-year medium-term financial strategies in the context of the annual budgeting and accounting cycle.

Management and control

- 12 The schools reserve, the insurance reserve, and the PFI reserve are clearly defined and require no further authority for the financing of relevant expenditure.
- 13 The use of all other reserves requires budgetary approval in the normal way.

Reporting and review

- 14 The Council will consider a report from the Director of Finance on the adequacy of the reserves in the annual budget-setting process. The report will contain estimates of reserves where necessary. The General Purposes Committee will consider actual reserves when approving the statement of accounts each year.
- 15 The Council will review the reserves policy on an annual basis.

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Agenda item:

COUNCIL**On 20 February 2006**Report Title: **Confirmation of Chief Executive**Report of: **Interim CHIEF EXECUTIVE**Wards(s) affected: **All**Report for: **Non - key****1. Purpose**

1.1 To note the date of commencement of employment of the new Chief Executive and adopt the necessary changes to the Council's constitution

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the commencement of employment of Dr Ita O' Donovan, the new Chief Executive be noted as 6th March 2006.

2.2 That Ita O' Donovan be confirmed to the positions of Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer with effect from 6th March 2006.

2.3 That all references in the Council's constitution to Interim Chief Executive that were agreed at the Council meeting on 18th July 2005 be amended to read Chief Executive with effect from 6th March 2006.

Report Authorised by: Interim **Chief Executive**

Contact Officer: **Stuart Young, Head of Personnel**
Telephone: 020 8489 3174

3. Executive Summary

3.1 This report proposes that the Council constitution be amended so that the constitution recognises a transfer of functions from the Interim Chief Executive to the incoming Chief Executive.

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

N/A

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The following papers have been used in the preparation of this report and can be inspected at River Park House, 225 High Road Wood Green, London, N22 8HQ by contacting Ken Pryor on 020 8489 2915.

Report to Council 14th November 2005 – Appointment of Chief Executive.

6. Background

6.1 The Council meeting on 14th November 2005 ratified the recommendation of the Special Committee called under Part K2 of the Council constitution that Ita O'Donovan be appointed as Chief Executive of the Council.

6.2 Dr Ita O'Donovan will be taking up her post on 6 March 2006. From this date Dr O'Donovan will assume the role of Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer.

Council Meeting – 20 February 2006

Report title: RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR.

Report of: The Chief Executive

1. Purpose

To note the resignation of Councillor Gilbert and to approve changes to Committee memberships.

2. Recommendations

1. That the resignation of Councillor Gilbert with immediate effect, due to personal family reasons, be noted.
2. That the following vacancies on bodies created by the resignation of Councillor Gilbert be noted:
 - Audit Committee
 - Licensing Committee
 - Licensing Sub Committee D
 - Muswell Hill Area Assembly
 - Hornsey Housing Forum

Report authorised by: Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services

Contact Officer: Ken Pryor Tel: 020 8489 2915
Designation: Democratic Services Manager (Council)

Background Papers

1. The following papers have been used in the preparation of this report and can be inspected at the Civic Centre, High Road Wood Green, London, N22 8LE by contacting Ken Pryor on 020 8489 2915.
2. Information supplied by the Party Groups.

REPORT

- 4.1 The following changes have been notified to the Chief Executive by Party Groups since the last Council meeting.

Committee Membership changes:

On 20 February 2006 the Chief Executive was notified that Councillor Gilbert had resigned with immediate effect, due to personal family reasons.

Changes to appointments can be made at any stage during the municipal year with the changes being reported to the Council as appropriate.

Item 12

COUNCIL QUESTIONS – 20 FEBRUARY 2006:**ORAL QUESTIONS****Oral Question 1 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Quincy Prescott**

Could the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration comment on the progress of Haringey's appeal to keep the concrete factory out of the borough?

Oral Question 2 – To the Executive Member for Enterprise and Regeneration from Councillor Winskill

How does the council plan to protect employment at the Pembroke works site, Hornsey?

Oral Question 3 – To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Councillor Dobbie

Could the Executive Member for Community Involvement outline to us what the Council is doing to mark Fairtrade fortnight?

Oral Question 4 – To the Leader of the Council from Councillor Oatway

Do posters fixed to lamp posts require planning permission?

Oral Question 5 – To the Executive Member for the Environment and Conservation from Councillor Santry

Does the Executive Member for the Environment and Conservation agree with me that the £75,000 secured by White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre from the London Marathon Charitable Trust, is a great success, and can he inform the council about other projects which ensure our continuing commitment to sport and leisure in Haringey?

Oral Question 6 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Hoban

Could he please explain why the innovative and futuristic aluminum bus shelters sited on both sides of Wood Green High Road opposite Wood Green Underground station, are poorly maintained and cleaned?

Oral Question 7 – To the Executive Member for the Housing from Councillor Basu

Can the Executive Member for the Housing outline the ongoing improvement works that are currently taking place on the Tiverton Estate to upgrade the children's play areas?

Oral Question 8 – To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Councillor Dillon

Could I ask the Executive Member for the Environment and Conservation to outline new recycling initiatives that have been introduced within the borough since the start of this year?

WRITTEN QUESTIONS**Written Question 1 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Viv Manheim**

Could the Executive Member for the Environment and Conservation detail replacement tree planting across the borough?

ANSWER

There is a planned planting programme to increase stock and replace trees previously removed on the basis of disease or insurance claims and residents are informed prior to planting.

The programme aims to spread available resources throughout the borough which should result in net gain in stock. Planting is also supported by NRF, SRB and Making the Difference (Area Assemblies) funding. In preceding years the Council has targeted those areas with lower levels of planting.

Summary of Highways Planned Street Tree Stock Replacement / New Planting

Postal Code	Tree Stock 2003/04	Trees Removed 04/05 and 05/06	Replacement or New Planting 04/05 and 05/06
N2	301	5	16
N4	824	75	115
N6	839	42	43
N8	1710	119	50
N10	1735	83	47
N11	181	8	2
N15	892	62	109
N17	1524	108	96
N22	1907	109	102
Total	9913	611	580

Written Question 2 - To the Executive Member for Environment and Conservation from Cllr Oatway

What is the total cost to date of advertising in the better Haringey campaign for: billboards; posters (including those on bus shelters, etc) lampposts, buses, radio, and other media (please list cost separately for each)?

ANSWER

Commercial advertising is just part of the overall marketing strategy for Better Haringey, and key to the success of the campaign. Without it, we would not

have such very high levels of support for the programme by residents, businesses and schools. The messages are carefully chosen to change attitudes and behaviour towards the environment.

However, expenditure in marketing terms has been low and still stands at less than £1.50 per resident per year.

In 2003/04, total spend on commercial advertising was £71,493.50, of which £28,450.50 was spent on bus backs, £26,630 on billboards and £16,413 on tube stations.

In 2004/05, total spend was £157,084.75, of which £49,610.75 was on bus backs, £20,820 on billboards, £21,519 on tube stations and £65,135 on radio advertising (LBC, London Greek Radio and London Turkish Radio).

In 2005/06, total spend was £159,234, of which £49,792 was on bus backs, £40,170 on railway stations and £69,272 on radio advertising (Kiss FM, London Greek Radio and London Turkish Radio).

All these costs include design, print production, studio time, advertising space and air time. In addition, Better Haringey has also supported other community events such as the Tottenham Carnival by placing advertisements on promotional materials, totalling no more the £2,000 per annum.

Written Question 3 - To the Executive Member for the Environment from Cllr Beacham

What is the total cost to date of information leaflets for residents in the better Haringey campaign?

ANSWER

Better Haringey is one of the Council's key priorities to facilitate improvements to both the natural and built environment. Clear written information is an integral part of the communications strategy to enable residents help us make improvements and to encourage them to take responsibility for the environment in which they live. Results of the Annual Residents' Survey have shown that residents' preferred method of communication is via literature posted through their front door. The total cost for information leaflets for residents provided by our Communication unit and charged to the Better Haringey, Recycling and Waste Management budgets is £64,951.

Written Question 4 - To the to the Leader of the Council from Cllr Hare

If he will undertake to ensure that there will be no advertising of the better Haringey campaign during the purdah period, and set out what steps he has so far taken to ensure this?

ANSWER

I am ensuring that in the purdah period there will be no fresh advertising or distribution of material focussing on the key achievements of the Better Haringey campaign or associating Members with them. Specific campaigns such as "Clean Sweep" and "Better Haringey Rewards Re-Cyclers" are scheduled to end before 24 March. There will still be previously published service user information in circulation stamped with the "Better Haringey" logo. This logo reminds residents that caring for the Borough's environment is a matter of civic pride for us all. It will not, so I am advised, be a breach of the Code of Practice on Council Publicity.

Written Question 5 - To the Executive Member for the Environment from Cllr Simpson

Why was only part of North Road N6 including in the recent extension of the Highgate Village CPZ, when this was not indicated in the Council's report on the issue (although it was for other streets where only part was to be included) and what does he intend to do regarding this anomaly?

ANSWER

The report presented to the Executive in October 2005 provided location plans showing the extent of the CPZ extension boundaries, which clearly indicated that only North Road, south of Castle Yard would be included. The boundaries were agreed with ward councillors and were in response to feedback received during the review of the existing Highgate High Street CPZ. It is acknowledged, however, that the report did not specify in writing that only part of North Road was to be included and therefore will we consider local residents concerns by investigating the possible extension of the CPZ along North Road, north of Castle Yard.

Written Question 6 - To the Leader of the Council from Cllr Williams

Will he condemn remarks made by Labour councillors regarding the Liberal Democrats and race, sexuality, and alcoholism and outline what steps he is taking to ensure that Labour members, including himself, do not bring the Council into disrepute?

ANSWER

I thank Councillor Williams for his question. I am not aware of remarks made by Labour Councillors of such a nature as to bring the Council into disrepute.

However, I am sure all members on the Labour benches would agree with me that whilst pejorative remarks about people's sexuality and alcoholism are always inappropriate, Liberal Democrat hypocrisy and mendacity on any issue are always worthy of our condemnation.

Written Question 7 - To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Cllr Featherstone

With regard to library services, a, what bylaws govern the exclusion of persons from Haringey's public libraries and in terms of these bylaws what council officer is authorised to exclude persons from Haringey's libraries?

ANSWER

The byelaw that governs the exclusion of persons from Haringey's public libraries was made under Section 19 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 by London Borough of Haringey in 1967. The byelaws are held at each library.

Byelaw no. 25 states 'every person who, within the view of a library officer, contravenes any of the [foregoing] Byelaws may be excluded or removed by such officer'.

A 'library officer' as defined by the act means 'the librarian or any other person employed by the Library Authority for the purpose of its functions under the act'.

Written Question 8 - To the Executive Member for Community Involvement from Cllr Floyd

What is the statutory procedure for excluding persons from public libraries and what evidence is required to exclude such persons, do any appeal procedures exist to appeal against such exclusions and could I please have details of such procedures?

ANSWER

There are no statutory procedures for excluding persons from public libraries, although there is a right to do so. Persons may be excluded for a number of reasons related to any of the Byelaws that have been made. For example:

Byelaw 17 provides that "a person shall not wilfully obstruct any library officer in the execution of his duty."

This test is satisfied if there is evidence that a person deliberately did something which prevented an employee from carrying out his/her duty or made it more difficult for him/her to do so, and if s/he knew and intended that his/her conduct would have that effect. Consequently this would be grounds for removal or exclusion.

Also under common law, not statute, a person is trespassing if they are on private property. The libraries of Haringey Council are Council property and therefore any person who remains on such property without permission is a trespasser. The law states that once a person is asked to leave by an individual in authority such as an employee of Haringey Council, that person becomes a trespasser and can be removed from the property.

Evidence required in order to exclude a person under the byelaws cannot be quantified in a list. However, wilful obstruction need only prevent a librarian from carrying out their duties and need not be hostile by intent.

There are no procedures contained within Byelaws to appeal such a decision.

The Council does have a Policy on Unacceptable Behaviour by Library Users which provides that the council "will not tolerate any abuse, be it verbal or physical, or any other unacceptable behaviour towards any members of staff, or anyone else using Library Services. If such behaviour continues, this could lead to services to individuals being suspended or withdrawn". The policy states that where a person does not accept this decision they should be referred to the Head of Libraries, Archives and Museum Services.

In practice, any 'appeal' would be in the form of a complaint through the council's complaints policy, ultimately leading to an ombudsman enquiry if still dissatisfied.

Written Question 9 - To the Executive Member for Regeneration from Cllr Hoban

With regard to the report titled 'The Bridge NDC New Organisational Structure' presented to the Executive on 1st November 2005, could he please set out full and specific details of the essential changes in the work of the Bridge NDC which required the organisation to be restructured, and also full details of the revised staffing structure?

ANSWER

The Bridge NDC Programme is going through a necessary transition. The first four years of the programme were characterised by intensive and very successful revenue funded work across the Theme areas of education and training, employment and enterprise, health and social care, crime, housing, environment and community engagement. A number of innovative and award winning pilots were trailed and there have been successes in mainstreaming some of this work.

The NDC Partnership appointed a new Director in January 2005. The Director was given a specific brief to carry out an organisational review and to make recommendations to the Board regarding an organisational structure that would best deliver the programme and leave a lasting legacy.

The NDC Partnership recognised that the drive to achieve visible improvements on the ground and in the eyes of the community was successful but also meant that the NDC had not paid sufficient attention to the development of long-term strategic partnerships or on bringing the work of mainstream service partners and the local community together to improve services. Equally, the NDC Partnership had not spent sufficient time developing its succession/exit strategy. The transition that the NDC Partnership is going through including the implementation of the new organisational structure aims to deal with these issues.

New Organisational Structure

Implementation of the new organisational structure was approved by the NDC Board on 8th February 2006. The new structure has been designed to address issues brought to the attention of the Board by the new Director as follows:

1. **Re-orientating the structure into three key strands:**
Strategy – incorporating succession arrangements, evaluation and research, external funding opportunities and community engagement

Programme Delivery – incorporating three new Theme portfolio areas, capital programme team, finance and administration

Communications and marketing
2. **Ensuring the programme operates in a more strategically coherent way** with an emphasis on Neighbourhood Renewal, mainstreaming and sustainability
3. **Enhancing the strategic capacity of the programme** with the recruitment of a Head of Strategy and Head of Programme Delivery
4. **Refocusing the Theme areas to be much more strategic** to provide a greater level of cross Theme working and a strong emphasis on neighbourhood management. Three new Theme portfolios were agreed by the NDC Board to enhance the potential for cross Theme working and to enhance the strategic coherence of the programme:
Neighbourhood Services – Housing, Environment and Crime
Education, Employment and Enterprise
Health, Social Care, Sport and Leisure
5. **Establishing a community engagement framework** that can support the succession/exit strategy and activities and link these more directly to Thematic priorities and outcomes linking in directly to the work of the Haringey Strategic Partnership Board and its Sub Boards. This is especially important in the context of the development of the Local Area Agreement.

As for myself, I took no part in the NDC Board's detailed deliberation of this reorganisation since I declared an interest as an employee of the trade union,

UNISON, that acted on behalf of the staff affected. I therefore feel that I cannot provide you with any details of the revised staff structure. If you continue to want this information I would suggest you contact the NDC Director, Symon Sentain.

I continue to be concerned over why Opposition Members, in particular Cllr Hoban, continue to raise questions about the NDC in this way. You do not represent, and are unlikely ever to do so, those Wards fortunate enough to benefit from the work of the NDC. I say this in this way as all you need to do to get information such as this is to simply contact the NDC Director.

Written Question 10 - To the Executive Member for the Finance from Cllr Davies

How many claims against the Council have been (i) made and (ii) accepted/refused, in respect of residents tripping on pavements in each of the last 12 months?

ANSWER

For the period 1.2.05 to 31.1.2006 we have been notified of 111 new claims in respect of slips and trips on pavements.

98 of these claims are still outstanding, 11 closed with no payment, 1 referred to TFL and 1 referred to Enfield Council.

The breakdown by month of claims received is as follows:

	<i>No. of claims</i>
<i>February 2005</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>March 2005</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>April 2005</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>May 2005</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>June 2005</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>July 2005</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>August 2005</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>September 2005</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>October 2005</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>November 2005</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>December 2005</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>January 2006</i>	<i>9</i>

Written Question 11 - To the Executive Member for the Finance from Cllr Edge

What criteria are used to assess whether a claim for compensation/costs, in respect of residents tripping on pavements, is accepted and have these criteria changed at any stage in the last 12 months?

ANSWER

For a claim to be successful against the Council negligence must be proved by the claimant on the part of the Council. Following receipt of a claim a full investigation is carried out, the area in question is inspected and a report produced. This report includes details of the inspection programme in place for the location in question, dates and details of previous inspections and details of any defects found. Section 58 of the Highways Act is regularly used in the defence of these claims, this states that if an authority can prove they have a regular inspection programme in place and can produce documentation to substantiate this the claim can be defended.

This procedure has not changed in the last 12 months.

Written Question 12 - To the Executive Member for the Finance from Cllr Aitken

Is means testing ever used in assessing claims in respect of residents tripping on pavements, before or after the validity of the claim is decided?

ANSWER

I can confirm that means testing is never used in assessing claims.

Written Question 13 - To the Executive Member for the Environment from Cllr Winskill

What steps are being taken to address the problem of residents in properties (e.g. flats above shops) without a front yard/garden leaving rubbish bags outside on the pavement on days other than their scheduled collection day?

ANSWER

The Integrated Waste Management and Transport Contract with Haringey Accord Limited specifies that for flats above shops refuse is collected at least three times per week. However, since most flats above shops are on main roads the actual number of collections is 13 per week with most main roads benefiting from having two collections per day (except Saturday nights).

In order to address the issue of bags from flats above shops being left for a number of hours on the main roads, the Waste Management Service in partnership with Haringey Accord Limited has introduced timed collections on Green Lanes, Bruce Grove, Turnpike Lane, most of Tottenham High Road, parts of White Hart Lane and Northumberland Park. The timed collection service stipulates morning and evening time windows that both traders and residents can present their waste for collection. Waste left outside of these time windows may result in enforcement action being taken. This has proven to be a successful means of managing the issue of insufficient off-street refuse storage capacity and it is the council's intention to introduce this arrangement on all of the main roads in the borough.

Written Question 14 - To the Executive Member for the Crime and Community Safety from Cllr Gilbert

What pressure the Council is putting on Thames Water to resolve the unsatisfactory situation of raw sewage being leaked into the stream in Coldfall Woods?

ANSWER

The Enforcement Service has a history of working with the Environment Agency and Thames Water to control the discharge of untreated effluent into the various streams used to take the discharge from the surface water drainage system.

Connection of sewerage to a surface water system is illegal. Where Thames Water finds that foul drains connect into the surface water system, this service has threatened owners with the service of a formal notice under the Building Act 1984 section 59 to require proper connection to the foul drainage system. This has so far been successful.

Following a reported incident at the brook in Coldfall Woods , a visual inspection was undertaken in late January and this did not indicate any sewage pollution. At this time the Enforcement Service cannot confirm that there is any sewage entering the brook. We will revisit the site to view the latest position , and take a background sample of the water. The Public Analyst will be asked to determine if there are any bacteria indicating the presence of sewage contamination.

The water level in the brook was very low for this time of year due to the low level of rainfall experienced this winter. Any pollution that may occasionally occur would therefore tend to be more apparent."

Written Question 15 - To the Executive Member the Environment from Cllr Newton

Will the Council take all possible steps to ensure the continued provision of baby clinics at Fortis Green Clinic in light of current restructuring?

ANSWER

This is the PCT's responsibility. However the Children's Service is working with them on the development of Children's Centres which includes looking at the provision of baby clinics. The changes at the PCT, especially to modernise the health visiting service may result in changes to their "well baby clinics". The aim is to reduce health inequalities through the provision of a more defined core service to all families. It is this new core service that the Children's Service is in discussion with PCT in relation to delivery through Children's Centres within each Children's Network.

Written Question 16 - To the Executive Member for Crime & Community Safety from Cllr Engert

Please confirm how many days the police kiosk sited outside Cineworld in Wood Green has been manned during 2005-2006?

ANSWER

The police kiosk in Wood Green was launched as a pilot project for which Haringey Safer Communities Partnership received external funding. The idea was to have a police or 'guardian' presence at the kiosk at certain times. The staff that manned this kiosk were Police Beat officers, Police Support Officers, Crime Prevention Officers, and Council Wardens.

The kiosk was manned until the end of November, with the exception of the period following the London bombings when numerous officers were abstracted from normal duties. Between themselves and the wardens the police provided a presence at the Wood Green kiosk between 7am – 9am and 4pm – 6pm most days until the end of November. However if the police were called away to respond to crime then they had to close the kiosk.

However, policing has moved on and altered significantly over the past year. Police teams have gone out to the community rather than waiting for the community to come to them. We have a Police Business Support Team in Wood Green and they are working very closely with local businesses, shoppers and our residents to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. Also the CCTV facilities in Wood Green High Road have provided us with the monitoring presence regarding crime-solving, as was demonstrated in the swift arrest of the man later found guilty of the murder of Andre Linton. When I visited the kiosk last Summer the Wardens and local Police Officers told me that almost all of the people who came to the kiosk were requiring travel or shopping directions rather than wanting to discuss or report matters that were related to crime or anti-social behaviour. Plus we now have the roll out of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams which is a real commitment to the development of a citizen focus.

While it was initially believed to be a worthwhile project, the Safer Communities Partnership realised that methods of policing have moved on and this project has therefore ceased to be effective. Therefore, the Police Service is now removing the kiosks.

In Haringey, our Safer Communities Partnership is keen to identify new effective means to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. We evaluate all new projects and monitor them closely. When they are found – for whatever reason – to be less effective than we had anticipated, we stop the project. If this had been found to be successful, we would have sought funding to try it in other crime hot spots.

Written Question 17 - To the Executive Member for & Community Safety from Cllr Bloch

Explain why the police kiosk sited outside Cineworld in Wood Green is not manned on a daily basis as promised when it was first installed?

ANSWER

Please see the above answer to written question 16.

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COUNCIL MEETING – 20 FEBRUARY 2006**Amendment to Motion O (2005/6)**

Delete all after "is unacceptably high" and insert

“and notes that over 5800 convictions were secured in 2004 (the last year for which figures are available) for carrying an offensive weapon (a category which may include knives and bladed weapons), an offence carrying a penalty of up to 4 years imprisonment.

This Council notes that the Liberal Democrats have referred to the "scandal of prison overcrowding" and rejects a policy that would lead to people who happened to be carrying a knife filling our prisons for seven years each, while the maximum penalty for actual bodily harm remains at five years.

This Council believes that the Labour Government's decision not to enter into a Dutch auction on prison sentencing policy to garner headlines, but instead to tackle at source the roots of knife and gun crime, through building respect in our communities and promoting safer streets for all, is the correct policy and reflects the Labour Movement's emphasis on tackling the causes of crime not just the symptoms.

This Council deplores the decision of Liberal Democrats on the Greater London Assembly last week, to vote against introducing Safer Neighbourhoods teams for every ward in London this April; deplores the policy of the Liberal Democrats to legalise buying alcohol at the age of 16, regrets the support of the Liberal Democrats for giving convicted murderers the vote, and most of all deplores the repeated efforts by the Opposition to make up simplistic policies for our communities on the back of an envelope.

This Council therefore endorses and supports the government's temperate and proportionate approach and welcomes the introduction of new policing teams for every ward by London's Labour Mayor.

This Council therefore supports neighbourhood policing in every ward as a central part of ensuring our communities are safer and as a key pillar of our strategy for reducing knife and gun crime in our communities.

This Council is committed to working with the Mayor to deliver neighbourhood policing in every ward in Haringey by May of this year”.

Proposed Councillor Takki Sulaiman
Seconded Councillor Alan Dobbie

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