

MINUTES OF MEETING FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 2020, 7.30PM

PRESENT:

Councillors: Sheila Peacock, Dana Carlin, Gina Adamou, Charles Adje, Peray Ahmet, Kaushika Amin, Dawn Barnes, Dhiren Basu, Patrick Berryman, John Bevan, Barbara Blake, Mark Blake, Zena Brabazon, Gideon Bull, Vincent Carroll, Nick da Costa, Luke Cawley-Harrison, Seema Chandwani, Sakina Chenot, James Chiriyankandath, Pippa Connor, Eldridge Culverwell, Julie Davies, Paul Dennison, Isidoros Diakides, Josh Dixon, Erdal Dogan, Joseph Ejiofor, Scott Emery, Ruth Gordon, Makbule Gunes, Mike Hakata, Bob Hare, Kirsten Hearn, Emine Ibrahim, Sarah James, Adam Jogee, Peter Mitchell, Liz Morris, Khaled Moyeed, Lucia das Neves, Julia Ogiehor, Tammy Palmer, Reg Rice, Viv Ross, Alessandra Rossetti, Yvonne Say, Anne Stennett, Elin Weston, Noah Tucker, Sarah Williams and Matt White

14. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Mayor drew attendees' attention to the notice on the summons regarding filming at meetings.

15. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:

Opoku
Hinchcliffe
Demir
Tabois
Stone

16. 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

The Chief Executive advised that there was one item of late business, which could not be available earlier, and which would need to be dealt with at the meeting.

Item 12 - Budget amendments - council standing order 15.8b allowed amendments to recommendation to be put forward by 10am on the day of the meeting.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Clerks Note: Cllr Brabazon arrived at 7.33pm

There were no declarations of interest.

18. 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

There were no declarations made.

19. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15 JULY 2019 & 26 NOVEMBER 2019

RESOLVED

To approve the Full Council minutes of the meetings held on the 15th July 2019 and 26th November 2019.

20. TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE MAYOR MAY LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Mayor provided a brief summary of the events around the borough attended by herself and the deputy Mayor and could provide a fuller written note to interested councillors after the meeting.

At the beginning of the year, on Saturday January 18th both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended the Annual Civic event at Muswell Hill synagogue, which many councillors also attended.

On Sunday January 26th the Mayor was pleased to host the Annual Holocaust event in the council chamber when more than 150 people attended. The Mayor was pleased to report that Haringey 6th form College, sent students to the event and they had recorded it and it would be available to schools and other places of education to base their similar Holocaust events.

On Friday February 7th the Mayor attended a meeting at Liberty church, where she met up with priests and members of churches around the area, who are concerned about the homeless and they provide food and comfort and shelter to many people. The Mayor remarked this to be a very moving event.

On Saturday February 15th, the Mayor was pleased to be invited to attend a Haringey Youth orchestral concert at Alexandra Palace. This concert was arranged quickly as the orchestra were unable because of the virus to go to play in Thailand, they now hoped to go in August.

21. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RESOLVED

To note the Membership of the North London Waste Authority, as set out in item 8 of the agenda pack.

22. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES

The Monitoring Officer had no matters to report.

23. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES

Cabinet

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategic Regeneration moved the Cabinet report which proposed an increase to the Council Tax premium currently charged on long-term empty dwellings. It was proposed that from 1 April 2020 the premium be increased from 100% to 200% on properties empty for more than 5 years, and that from 1 April 2021 there is a further increase from 200% to 300% for properties empty for more than 10 years.

RESOLVED

1. To increase the premium charged on long-term empty dwellings, empty for more than 5 years, from 100% to 200% this would take effect from 1 April 2020.
2. That from 1 April 2021 there is a further increase from 200% to 300% for properties empty for more than 10 years.

Corporate Committee

The Chair of the Corporate Committee moved his Committee's report and the recommendations it contained, which the Mayor confirmed would be considered under the budget item.

24. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS AND/OR PETITIONS AND, IF APPROVED, TO RECEIVE THEM

There were no deputations or petitions received in relation to the budget.

25. 2020-21 BUDGET AND 2020-2025 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Clerks Note: Cllr M Blake arrived at 7.47pm

The Mayor invited the Monitoring Officer to outline the requirement for votes.

It was noted that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, and the Council's Standing Orders required the Council to record in the minutes how each Councillor voted, including any abstentions, when determining the Council's Budget and the level of Council Tax to be levied.

The only requirement was to record in the minutes of the meeting how each member voted, and given that there were 5 amendments and a substantive motion to be voted on, it could be recorded in the minutes of the meeting how each member voted, including any who have abstained, by a show of hands.

The Mayor then called on Councillor Adje to introduce the budget and move the 2020-21 budget and 2020-2025 Medium Term Financial Strategy and the recommendations a - p at page 42 of the agenda pack. Councillor Ejiofor formally seconded the motion.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Dennison to move the Liberal Democrat group's 5 amendments, as set out in the tabled papers. Councillor Morris formally seconded the amendments and spoke in favour of their adoption.

The Monitoring Officer provided some statutory officer guidance in relation to amendment 2, and responded to a query, advising that this was a valid amendment according to council standing orders.

The Mayor then opened the debate, in which Councillors: Moyeed, Emery, Hakata, Dixon, James, da Costa, Diakides, Connor, Williams, Rossetti, Brabazon, Palmer, B Blake, Cawley- Harrison, and Bull contributed to the discussion. Councillor Dennison and then Councillor Adje responded to the debate.

The Mayor then called for a vote on Budget Amendment 1. There being 14 Members in favour (Councillors Barnes, da Costa, Cawley- Harrison, Chenot, Connor, Dennison, Dixon, Emery, Hare, Morris, Ogiehor, Palmer, Ross, Rossetti), and

38 Members opposed (Councillors Adamou, Adje, Ahmet, Amin, Berryman, Bevan, Basu, B Blake, M Blake, Brabazon, Bull, Carlin, Carroll, Chiriyankandath, Culverwell, Davies, Diakides, Dogan, Ejiofor, Gordon, Gunes, Hakata, Hearn, Ibrahim, James, Jogee, Mitchell, Moyeed, das Neves, Peacock, Rice, Say, Stennett, Weston, Tucker, Williams, White, Chandwani)

No abstentions,

Budget Amendment 1 was declared LOST.

The Mayor then called for a vote on Budget Amendment 2. There being 14 Members in favour (Councillors Barnes, da Costa, Cawley- Harrison, Chenot, Connor, Dennison, Dixon, Emery, Hare, Morris, Ogiehor, Palmer, Ross, Rossetti), and

38 Members opposed(Councillors Adamou, Adje, Ahmet, Amin, Berryman, Bevan, Basu, B Blake, M Blake, Brabazon, Bull, Carlin, Carroll, Chiriyankandath, Culverwell, Davies, Diakides, Dogan, Ejiofor, Gordon, Gunes, Hakata, Hearn, Ibrahim, James, Jogee, Mitchell, Moyeed, das Neves, Peacock, Rice, Say, Stennett, Weston, Tucker, Williams, White, Chandwani)

No abstentions,

Budget Amendment 2 was declared LOST.

The Mayor then called for a vote on Budget Amendment 3. There being 14 Members in favour (Councillors Barnes, da Costa, Cawley- Harrison, Chenot, Connor, Dennison, Dixon, Emery, Hare, Morris, Ogiehor, Palmer, Ross, Rossetti), and

38 Members opposed(Councillors Adamou, Adje, Ahmet, Amin, Berryman, Bevan, Basu, B Blake, M Blake, Brabazon, Bull, Carlin, Carroll, Chiriyankandath, Culverwell, Davies, Diakides, Dogan, Ejiofor, Gordon, Gunes, Hakata, Hearn, Ibrahim, James, Jogee, Mitchell, Moyeed, das Neves, Peacock, Rice, Say, Stennett, Weston, Tucker, Williams, White, Chandwani)

No abstentions,

Budget Amendment 3 was declared LOST.

The Mayor then called for a vote on Budget Amendment 4. There being 14 Members in favour (Councillors Barnes, da Costa, Cawley- Harrison, Chenot, Connor, Dennison, Dixon, Emery, Hare, Morris, Ogiehor, Palmer, Ross, Rossetti), and

38 Members opposed(Councillors Adamou, Adje, Ahmet, Amin, Berryman, Bevan, Basu, B Blake, M Blake, Brabazon, Bull, Carlin, Carroll, Chiriyankandath, Culverwell, Davies, Diakides, Dogan, Ejiofor, Gordon, Gunes, Hakata, Hearn, Ibrahim, James, Jogee, Mitchell, Moyeed, das Neves, Peacock, Rice, Say, Stennett, Weston, Tucker, Williams, White, Chandwani)

No abstentions,

Budget Amendment 4 was declared LOST.

The Mayor then called for a vote on Budget Amendment 5. There being 14 Members in favour (Councillors Barnes, da Costa, Cawley- Harrison, Chenot, Connor, Dennison, Dixon, Emery, Hare, Morris, Ogiehor, Palmer, Ross, Rossetti), and

38 Members opposed(Councillors Adamou, Adje, Ahmet, Amin, Berryman, Bevan, Basu, B Blake, M Blake, Brabazon, Bull, Carlin, Carroll, Chiriyankandath, Culverwell,

Davies, Diakides, Dogan, Ejiofor, Gordon, Gunes, Hakata, Hearn, Ibrahim, James, Jogee, Mitchell, Moyeed, das Neves, Peacock, Rice, Say, Stennett, Weston, Tucker, Williams, White, Chandwani)

No abstentions,

Budget Amendment 5 was declared LOST.

The Mayor then called for a vote on recommendations a to p contained at page 42, paragraph 3.1 of the agenda pack.

There being 38 Members in favour(Councillors Adamou, Adje, Ahmet, Amin, Berryman, Bevan, Basu, B Blake, M Blake, Brabazon, Bull, Carlin, Carroll, Chiriyankandath, Culverwell, Davies, Diakides, Dogan, Ejiofor, Gordon, Gunes, Hakata, Hearn, Ibrahim, James, Jogee, Mitchell, Moyeed, das Neves, Peacock, Rice, Say, Stennett, Weston, Tucker, Williams, White, Chandwani)

14 Members opposed(Councillors Barnes, da Costa, Cawley- Harrison, Chenot, Connor, Dennison, Dixon, Emery, Hare, Morris, Ogiehor, Palmer, Ross, Rossetti), and

No abstentions,

The Recommendations were AGREED.

RESOLVED

- (a) To approve the proposed 2020/21 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (2020/25) agreed by Cabinet on 11th February 2020 as set out in Annex 1;
- (b) To approve the increase of 1.99% in Haringey's element of the Council tax and an additional 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept;
- (c) To approve the General Fund budget requirement for 2020/21 of £242.292m, net of Dedicated Schools Budget, as set out in Annex 2 and Appendix 1 of Annex 1 to this report;
- (d) To approve the Cash Limit for 2020/21 of £242.292m as set out in Annex 2;
- (e) To approve the 2020/25 General Fund Capital Programme set out in Appendix 4 of Annex 1 to this report;
- (f) To approve the strategy on the flexible use of capital receipts as set out in and Appendix 6 of Annex 1 to this report;
- (g) To approve the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2020/21 as set out in Table 9.3 of Annex 1 to this report;

- (h) To approve the 2020/25 HRA Capital Programme set out in Appendix 7 of Annex 1 to this report;
- (i) To note the Greater London Authority (GLA) proposed precept (para. 7.4);
- (j) To delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to reflect any final changes to the level of the GLA precept in the Council's Council Tax billing information set out in Annex 5;
- (k) To approve the budgeted level of non-earmarked General Fund balance and the specific and other reserves as set out in Annex 3b;
- (l) To approve the reserves policy including the Chief Finance Officer's (CFO) assessment of risk and the assessment of the adequacy of reserves, as set out in Annex 3 (a – c);
- (m) To note the report of the Chief Finance Officer under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of proposed reserves set out in section 9;
- (n) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21 set out in Annex 4; and
- (o) To pass the budget resolution including the level of Council Tax, in the specified format, and to determine that the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for the year is not excessive as set out in Annex 5.
- (p) To note the results of consultation as set out in Appendix 10 of Annex 1.

Reasons for decision

The Council approved the Borough Plan (2019-2023) in February 2019. This document sets out the Council's priorities and the MTFs outlines the overall financial strategy for delivering those priorities.

The February 2019 MTFs projected a funding gap as a result of reductions to the Council's funding from central government. It was projected that additional, as yet unidentified, recurring savings of £20.1m would be required to mitigate the shortfall in the MTFs and in order to deliver a balanced budget position.

This final MTFs (2020/25) now proposed projects further unidentified savings of £15.5m across the period if all budget reductions included in the MTFs are delivered and no new pressures identified. The Council will therefore need to continue to find major budget reduction measures in future years in order to balance the Budget/MTFs, as set out in section 9.

Following the publication, on 20th December 2019, of the Provisional Local Government Finance settlement, Cabinet reviewed the impact on the 2020/21 budget set out in the MTFs. The Final Settlement was due to be ratified by Parliament on 12th February, but that has been deferred and it has been advised that it is now expected to be ratified after the Parliamentary recess. However, the Ministerial Statement that has been issued states that there will be no changes impacting on Haringey's figures so no adjustments to the Budget or MTFs will be required. The 11th

February report included Cabinet's response to feedback from the Budget consultation, the views of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and also the outcome of the overall equalities assessment.

Taking all relevant factors into account, including the overall equalities assessment, the outcomes from consultation with residents and business rate payers and the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting held on 23rd January 2020, this report sets out Cabinet's 2020/21 Budget and 2020/25 MTFS proposals, including the level of Council tax for 2020/21, for the Council to consider and approve.

The report and recommendations from the Cabinet meeting on 11th February 2020, were agreed in full and are attached as Annex 1.

Alternative options considered

The Council has a statutory requirement to set a balanced budget for 2020/21. Therefore, in accordance with legislation and the Council's constitution, this report recommends that the Council should approve the proposed 2020/21 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (2020/25) agreed by Cabinet on 11th February 2020, including the outcomes from the budget consultation exercise, budget scrutiny and equalities review, which is attached as Annex 1 and approve the Council tax for 2020/21. Accordingly, no other options have been considered.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date