

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2013**

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

Apologies Councillor Bloch and Christophides

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CNCL06.	<p>TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bloch, for lateness from Councillor Reid, and for lateness and possible non-attendance from Councillor Christophides.</p> <p>NOTED</p>	
CNCL07.	<p>TO ASK THE MAYOR TO CONSIDER THE ADMISSION OF ANY LATE ITEMS OF BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 100B OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972</p> <p>Nil Items.</p>	
CNCL08.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interests.</p> <p>NOTED</p>	
CNCL09.	<p>TO ASK MEMBERS WHETHER THEY NEED TO MAKE A DECLARATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 IN RELATION TO UNPAID COMMUNITY CHARGE OR COUNCIL TAX LIABILITY WHICH IS TWO MONTHS OR MORE OUTSTANDING.</p> <p>Members were reminded by the Chief Executive of the need to consider whether they needed to make a declaration in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in relation to unpaid community charge or council tax liability which was two months or more outstanding.</p> <p>No such declarations were made.</p> <p>NOTED</p>	

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CNCL10.	<p>TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2012, AND 17 JANUARY 2013 RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 November 2012, and 17 January 2013 be signed as a true record.</p>	
CNCL11.	<p>TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE MAYOR MAY LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL There were no items to report.</p>	
CNCL12.	<p>TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE There were no matters to consider.</p>	
CNCL13.	<p>TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES There were no matters to consider.</p>	
CNCL14.	<p>TO CONSIDER REQUESTS TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS AND/OR PETITIONS AND, IF APPROVED, TO RECEIVE THEM There were no deputations or petitions.</p>	
CNCL15.	<p>TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING BODIES</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Corporate Committee – Report Nos. 03 /2012 -13 be received in respect of Treasury Management Statement for 2013/14, and that the recommendation concerning the Treasury Management Statement for 2013/14 be approved subject to an amendment detailed at page 24 on the Council summons - second line of the recommendation of Corporate Committee to read ‘Appendix 4’ and not ‘Appendix 5’.</p> <p>(N.B. Cabinet concur with this recommendation. The version at appendix 6 of the Medium Term Financial Planning report (item 11 on the agenda refers) incorporates the updated version.</p>	
CNCL16.	<p>MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR 2013/14 - 2015/16</p> <p>Councillor Goldberg moved the budget report – Medium Term Financial Planning 2013/14 to 2015/16, and moved the recommendations contained therein.</p>	

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Councillor Kober seconded the MOTION.

**Councillor Strang MOVED 5 budget amendments as set out below.
Councillor Wilson seconded the amendments to the MOTION.**

Amendment 1 – General Fund Revenue Account

Protecting the most vulnerable and listening to residents

**13/14
- ve is a
saving)**

Introduce a hardship fund, open to all residents facing financial stress, especially those no longer on full council tax benefit.

£248k

Reverse proposal to increase the number of events in Finsbury Park. The scale of proposed increase in use of the park will disproportionately harm local communities.

£40k

Funded by:

Capping communications budget at £1m per annum (rather than £1.288m).

-£288k

Surplus/deficit

£0

Amendment 2 – General Fund Revenue Account

Protecting the environment, reducing waste and saving costs

Invest to increase recycling rates. At present, waste gathered in street bins is not separated and recycled. If all 900 street bins were replaced with new segregated bins it is estimated that the savings in landfill charges would be £65k per annum – meaning the bins would have paid for themselves within 7-8 years in addition to carbon savings.

£477k

Restoring effectiveness of domestic recycling services by providing the right type of service for the right location. Where fortnightly collections are not working due to the physical characteristics of the area, a more frequent collection would be reintroduced. This allows for up to 15% of households to have more frequent collection reinstated.

£81k

Accelerated low energy replacement of street lights. Current

£650k

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budget assumes 46 years before all lights will be low energy. Investing at an annual rate of £3m would replace all lights with low energy ones within 6 years, providing an annual saving in power costs of £318k (plus maintenance savings, not budgeted for here) as well as enhancing local environment and making substantial carbon savings.

Funded by:

Enacting our existing policy on layers of management, whereby managers should manage at least 6 people directly. There are currently 188 management posts (excluding site specific) that do not meet that standard. This would reduce the number of management post by 25%, i.e. 47 management posts removed through organisational redesign. It is acknowledged that some of the manager roles targeted by this proposal also deliver services, and so a proportion of resource will need to be reinvested into more front line staff. (Assumes 6 months to implement, full savings in 14/15, net of reinvested £600k pa) -£1,433k

Cheaper back office through shared services. This council has failed to capture the opportunities many other authorities have taken in joint provision of back office services. The budget still plans to spend £18.4m on IT, HR and Legal services next year. It must be more imaginative in seeking partner (not necessarily LAs, but other public bodies) to start capturing some savings for Haringey's residents. This proposal targets a modest 3% saving from IT, HR and Legal services, with a year to develop and implement. These savings would be in addition to the savings already assumed in the budgets for these areas. (Savings from 14/15) 0

Surplus/deficit (applied to amendment 4) £225k surplus

Amendment 3– General Fund Revenue Account

Supporting Local Communities

Provide 30 minutes of free parking in our local town centres to help them compete with out of borough retail destinations. This will protect local jobs, and future business rates. It is assumed that enforcement costs remain unchanged. £445k

Retain the mobile library service (costs in 14/15). 0

Funded by:

Reducing dependency on agency staff. Flexibility in staffing is a sensible way to manage peaks and troughs in workloads, -£396k

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but we believe the council is overly dependent on expensive agency staff in roles that should be permanently filled. It should make efforts to get better value from its labour as well as providing a more stable, higher quality service to its residents through more permanent staff. It does not propose not filling any posts, but rather resourcing more cheaply and more certainly. This represents a 3% reduction in current spend rates.

End automatic re-filling of vacancies without peer review. -£90k
Increase threshold for filling new posts - peer group to challenge need for work to be done, and to explore ways of delivering the same service level with existing staff - possibly in other departments. Assumes 5% of vacancies do not get re-filled.

Surplus/deficit **£41k surplus**

Amendment 4– General Fund Revenue Account

Foster Care

Investing in our capability to recruit in-house foster carers at £170k
a cheaper rate (assumes no change in number of children being fostered). It is acknowledged that this will be a challenge to the department to deliver as it would be in addition to the savings already committed to over all the years of the plan. This proposal allows for upfront investment.

Funded by:

Enacting our existing policy on layers of management, whereby managers should manage at least 6 people directly. -£225k
As described in amendment 2, using the surplus saving from that amendment.

Surplus/deficit **£55k surplus**

Amendment 5– Capital Spend – HRA

Housing the most vulnerable

Capital

Build 100 new council houses, funded through new capital borrowing (debt repaid from HRA rental income). This would be a £15m programme, delivered over a number of years subject to a detailed business case and securing cleared land for construction. £1,000k

Revenue

To cap rents at current council maximum, £300k pa in **(14/15)**

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management cost savings will be required from the HRA (1.5%) once built.

A debate ensued and Members contributed to the discussion.

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

The amendments to the Motions were then voted on individually.

Budget amendment 1, on being put to the vote there were 20 in favour of the amendment and 32 against, and 1 abstention. The amendment was declared LOST.

Budget amendment 2, on being put to the vote there were 20 in favour of the amendment and 32 against, and 1 abstention. The amendment was declared LOST.

Budget amendment 3, on being put to the vote there were 21 in favour of the amendment and 31 against, and no abstentions. The amendment was declared LOST.

Budget amendment 4, on being put to the vote there were 20 in favour of the amendment and 33 against, and no abstentions. The amendment was declared LOST.

Budget amendment 5, on being put to a roll call vote;

There were 21 in favour:- Councillors Alexander, Allison, Beacham, Butcher, Davies, Engert, Erskine, Gorrie, Hare, Jenks, Newton, Reece, Reid, Schmitz, Scott, Solomon, Strang, Whyte, Williams, Wilson, and Winskill.

There were 33 against – Councillors Adamou, Adje, Amin, Basu, Bevan Brabazon, Browne, Bull, Canver, Demirci, Diakides, Dogus, Egan, Ejiofor, Gibson, Goldberg, Griffith, Rahman-Khan, Kober, Mallett, McNamara, Meehan, Peacock, Reith, Rice, Stanton, Stennett, Stewart, Strickland, Vanier, Waters, Watson, and Weber.

There were no abstentions.

The amendment was declared LOST.

In respect of the substantive recommendations as MOVED by Councillor Goldberg - on a vote there being 32 for, 1 against, and 20 abstentions it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed budget package agreed by Cabinet on 12 February 2013 as updated and included as Appendix 6 to the report be noted;
2. That approval be given to the Medium Term Financial Plan to March 2016 as attached in Appendix 1 and cash limits 2013-14 as set out in

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appendix 2 of the report;

3. That approval be given to the General Fund Budget requirement for 2013-14 of £288.1m, net of Dedicated Schools Grant, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
4. That approval be given to the Capital Programme to March 2016, comprising spending and funding of £227.3m as set out in Appendix 5 to the Cabinet report of 12 February 2013 (attached as Appendix 6 to the report);
5. That approval be given to the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2013-14 and Medium Term Financial Plan to March 2016, as set out in Appendix 4 to the Cabinet report of 12 February 2013 (attached as Appendix 6 to the report);
6. That approval be given to the housing rent increases (average increase of £4.19 (4.45%) per week) as set out in Appendix 4 to the Cabinet report of 12 February 2013 (attached as Appendix 6 to the report);
7. That approval be given to the tenants' service charges as set out in Appendix 4 to the Cabinet report of 12 February 2013 (attached as Appendix 6 to the report)
8. That the Greater London Authority precept as detailed in para 6.17 of the report be noted;
9. That the reserves policy be agreed, and that the revision to and creation of new reserves be noted as set out in appendix 3 of the report.
10. That the estimated level of un-earmarked general fund reserves as at 31 March 2013 of £15.3 million and specific and other reserves as set out in Appendix 3 of the report be approved;
11. That the budget scrutiny recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the responses of the Cabinet as set out in Appendix 6 to the Cabinet report of 12 February 2013 (attached at appendix 6 to this report) be noted;
12. That the report of the Director of Corporate Resources under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 at sections 7 and 8 on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of proposed reserves be noted;
13. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2013-14 attached at appendix 4 of the report be agreed; and
14. That the budget resolution in the specified format as set out in the attached appendix 5 of the report (and as set out below) and the consequent freeze in the Council's element of council tax for 2013-14 be agreed, determining that Council's relevant basic amount of

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Council Tax for the year was not excessive.

**AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING
THE GLA PRECEPT FOR 2013/14**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
991.56	1,156.81	1,322.06	1,487.32	1,817.72	2,148.37	2,478.87	2,974.65

The meeting ended at 21.35hrs.

COUNCILLOR DAVID BROWNE

Mayor