

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

At the **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** of the **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT** held at Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2004 at 7.00 pm.

### **PRESENT:**

The Worshipful the Mayor  
(Councillor Lemmon)

The Deputy Mayor  
(Councillor Shahzad)

### **COUNCILLORS:-**

Arnold	Joseph
Beswick	Kagan
Bellia	Kansagra
Mrs N Blackman	D Long
R Blackman	J Long
D Brown	Lorber
V Brown	Lyon
Chavda	McGovern
N Colwill	Moloney
R Colwill	Nerva
Coughlin	O'Sullivan
Crane	B M Patel
Cribbin	H B Patel
Davies	H M Patel
Dromey	R S Patel
Duffin	Rands
Farrell	Sattar-Butt
Mrs Fernandes	Sayers
Fiegel	Ms C Shaw
Fox	Sengupta
Freeson	Shah
Gillani	Singh
Gladbaum	Steel
Halder	Taylor
Harrod	Thompson
John	Van Colle
Jones	Wharton

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Moher, Kabir, Thomas and Zakriya. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors R Colwill and Davies

Councillor Hughes attended the meeting for one minute only.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

The following declarations of interest were made by Councillors:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Organisation/Subject</b>
Freeson Halder	Brent Housing Partnership Bistro Bangla Porishod
Harrod	Stonebridge Housing Action Trust Chalkhill Primary School Governor Brent Housing Partnership
D Long	Mitchell Brook Primary School Chair of Governors City Academy Trustee Observer at Tricycle Theatre Board
J Long Moloney O'Sullivan	Brent Housing Partnership Brent Irish Advisory Service Brent Housing Partnership Board Innisfree Housing Association
Rands Shahzad Thompson Wharton	Sudbury Primary School Governor (LEA) Brent Muslim Community Forum Kilburn SRB Board Fryent Primary School Governor

3. **Announcements**

The Council agreed to waive Standing Orders to the extent necessary to allow the Mayor and Councillor Van Colle to address the meeting.

The Mayor reported with regret the recent passing away of Martin Cheeseman's (Director of Housing) mother. He had sent a letter of condolence.

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the launch of the Citizenship Ceremony held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2004, particularly Mark Rimmer, the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and his staff.

The Mayor reported on the launch of the Brent Fair Trade initiative to take place at Willesden Green Library Centre, which he hoped members would support.

Councillor Van Colle addressed the Council on a personal matter, updating members on his action concerning the murder of his son over 3 years ago and thanking members for the messages of support he had received.

#### 4. **Procedural Motion**

Councillor Moloney moved a procedural motion relating to the conduct of business which was put to the vote and CARRIED.

Councillor Lorber moved that each Group Leader be permitted 15 minutes speaking time during which they should move any motions or amendments and that other members should be permitted 3 minutes speaking time at the discretion of the Mayor. This was put to the vote and declared LOST.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that paragraph (d) of Standing Order 47 be suspended;
- (ii) that the following arrangements be agreed for this meeting for the purpose of debating and voting upon the 2004/5 budget and Council Tax:
  - (a) any motions or amendments shall be moved by the member within the time allowed for their speech;
  - (b) the Leader of the Council to speak for a maximum of 40 minutes;
  - (c) the Leader of the Opposition to speak for a maximum of 30 minutes;
  - (d) the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group to speak for a maximum of 20 minutes;
  - (e) a comfort break will be held for ten minutes
  - (f) upon resuming the meeting the Chair of the Overview Committee will have up to ten minutes to present the findings of the Overview Committee;
  - (g) there will then follow a general debate during which the usual rules for debate will apply as set out in Standing Orders 47 and 48 save as set out in this procedural motion;

- (h) at the end of the General debate the Deputy Leader may speak for up to 10 minutes to wind up the debate before moving to the vote;
- (i) voting on each of the Group budget proposals shall be taken *en bloc*;
- (j) all votes on each of the Group budget proposals shall be recorded.

*(At this point in the meeting those Liberal Democrat Councillors present left the meeting).*

## 5. **2004/2005 Budget and Council Tax**

The Council had before them a report from the Director of Finance regarding the 2004/2005 Budget. The minutes of the Performance and Finance Select Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2004 and the Schools Forum held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2004 had been circulated under separate cover to all Members on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2004.

The Leader of the Council addressed the Council and moved her budget motion.

Councillor R Blackman addressed the Council and moved a separate budget motion circulated in his name.

*(At this point in the meeting a number of Liberal Democrat members returned to the meeting).*

Councillor Lorber addressed the Council and moved a separate budget motion circulated in his name.

(At 8.26 pm the Council adjourned for a comfort break and reconvened at 8.45 pm).

Councillor Nerva presented the findings of the Overview Committee from its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2004.

A general debate then followed at the end of which the Deputy Leader addressed the Council and wound up the debate. The motions in the names of Councillors R Blackman and Lorber were put to the vote and declared LOST.

In accordance with the Procedural Motion the voting on Councillor R Blackman's motion was recorded as follows:

**FOR:** Councillors Mrs N Blackman, R Blackman,  
N Colwill, R Colwill, Duffin, Mrs Fernandes,

Fiegel, Gillani, Kansagra, O'Sullivan, B M Patel, H B Patel, H M Patel, Rands, Sayers, Steel, Taylor and Van Colle (18)

**AGAINST:** The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillors Arnold, Bellia, Beswick, Coughlin, Crane, Cribbin, Davies, Dromey, Farrell, Fox, Freeson, Gladbaum, Halder, Harrod, John, Jones, Joseph, Kagan, D Long, J Long, Lyon, McGovern, Moloney, Nerva, R S Patel, Sattar-Butt, Sengupta, Singh and Thompson (31)

**ABSTENTIONS:** None (0)

In accordance with the Procedural Motion the voting on Councillor Lorber's motion was recorded as follows:

**FOR:** None (0)

**AGAINST:** The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillors Arnold, Bellia, Beswick, Mrs N Blackman, R Blackman, N Colwill, R Colwill, Coughlin, Crane, Cribbin, Davies, Dromey, Duffin, Farrell, Mrs Fernandes, Fiegel, Fox, Freeson, Gillani, Gladbaum, Halder, Harrod, John, Jones, Joseph, Kagan, Kansagra, D Long, J Long, Lyon, McGovern, Moloney, Nerva, O'Sullivan, BM Patel, H B Patel, H M Patel, R S Patel, Rands, Sattar-Butt, Sayers, Sengupta, Singh, Steel, Taylor, Thompson and Van Colle (49)

**ABSTENTIONS:** None (0)

The Council then voted on the motion in the name of the Leader of the Council which was declared CARRIED.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that the minutes of the Performance and Finance Select Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2004 and the Schools Forum held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2004 be noted;

**In respect of Section 3 of the report**

- (ii) that the results of the various budget consultation exercises be noted;

#### **In respect of Section 4 of the report**

- (iii) that the final 2002/2003 Outturn be noted;
- (iv) that the latest 2003/2004 Budget be agreed;
- (v) that the latest forecast for the General Fund Outturn (Appendix A of the report) for 2003/2004 be noted;
- (vi) that any overspending above that in the forecast by Service Areas is to be repaid to balances in 2004/2005, subject to consideration by the Executive of the overall outturn position;
- (vii) that the virements set out in paragraph 4.1.5 of the report be agreed;

#### **In respect of Section 5 of the report**

- (viii) that the decision of the Department for Education and Science on the application to allow the non-devolved element of the schools budget to increase by a greater percentage than the devolved element and the impact of this on the budget set out at Appendix B of the report be noted;
- (ix) to note that this budget increases the Individual Schools Budget by £663,000 more than the passporting figure and that the Schools Forum recommends that this additional amount should be applied to the primary sector;
- (x) that in light of the above, the additional £663,000 be directed towards the primary sector and in order to achieve this the pupil weightings used in the school funding formula be amended as follows:

<b>Pupil Age Band</b>	<b>2003/04 Weighting</b>	<b>2004/05 Weighting</b>
Nursery	1.302	1.323
Reception	1.248	1.268
Year 1	1.097	1.115
Year 2	1.097	1.115
Year 3	1.097	1.115
Year 4	1.000	1.016
Year 5	1.054	1.071
Year 6	1.054	1.071
Year 7	1.540	1.540
Year 8	1.540	1.540
Year 9	1.540	1.540
Year 10	1.700	1.700
Year 11	1.700	1.700

Sixth Form	2.000	2.000
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- (xi) that the General Fund revenue budget for 2004/2005, as summarised in Appendix B be agreed;
- (xii) that the Service Area budgets including the growth and savings detailed in Appendices C and D of the report be agreed;
- (xiii) that the budgets for Liquor Licensing and Revisions of Food Safety Regulations set out in paragraph 5.10 of the report be reviewed when fuller information is available;
- (xiv) that Appendix F of the report be noted and the budgets for central items be agreed;
- (xv) that the contingent liabilities and risks set out in Section 5 of the report be noted and where appropriate provision be made for them;
- (xvi) that the approach to balances set out in the report be agreed;
- (xvii) that the comment from the Director of Finance in paragraph 5.27 of the report in respect of his statutory duty under Section 25 of 2003 Local Government Act be received;

**In respect of Section 6 of the report**

- (xviii) that the Housing Revenue Account budget in Section 6 of the report be agreed;

**In respect of Section 7 of the report**

- (xix) that the latest forecast outturn position on the 2003/2004 Capital Programme be noted and the revised budgets be agreed;
- (xx) that the £55,000 allocation in 2003/2004 for improvements to disabled crossing be agreed, and it be noted this will be deducted from the growth agreed for 2004/2005;
- (xxi) that the levels of supported and unsupported borrowing forecast for 2004/2005 and future years and the impact on Council Tax levels and Housing Rents be noted;
- (xxii) that the properties included within the 2004/2005 disposals programme be noted;
- (xxiii) that the latest overall position on the 2004/2005 Capital Programme and the forecast position for future years be noted;

(xxiv) that the 2004/2005 budgets as set out in Appendix H(ii) of the report, including the new capital allocations be agreed and that resources for schemes requiring more information will only be released after a recommendation by the Capital Board approved by the Executive;

(xxv) that the proposed Schools Contributions Scheme set out at Appendix H(iii) of the report which is subject to legal advice be noted;

**In respect of Section 8 of the report**

(xxvi) that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2004/2005 be agreed;

**In respect of Section 9 of the report**

(xxvii) that the requirements of the new Prudential Code be noted;

(xxviii) that the Prudential Indicators set out in paragraph 9.17 of the report be agreed;

**In respect of Section 10 of the report**

(xxix) that the GLA precept be noted;

(xxx) that the advice of officers on the capping limit be noted;

(xxxi) that it be agreed there is no surplus or deficit at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004 for that part of the Collection Fund relating to Community Charge.

(xxxii) that the advice of the Borough Solicitor as set out in Appendix L of the report be noted;

(xxxiii) that the instalment dates for Council Tax and NNDR for 2004/2005 and the recovery policy for Council Tax as set out in Appendix I of the report be agreed and that the Executive consider the Council's policy on special local discounts at a future meeting;

**In respect of Section 11 of the report**

(xxxiv) that the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the provisional Service Area cash limits for 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 set out in Appendix K of the report be agreed;

**In respect of Section 12 of the report**



(xxxv) that the procedures for controlling expenditure set out in Section 12 of the report be agreed and noted;

(xxxvi) that the amendments to Standing Order 17(a) - the Scheme of Transfers and Virements, as set out in paragraph 12.10 and Appendix M of the report, be agreed;

**In addition**

(xxxvii) that the Council's Director of Finance be authorised to:

- (a) make payments on approved capital schemes in 2004/2005,
- (b) borrow in 2004/2005 up to the limits agreed within the Prudential Indicators,
- (c) enter such leasing arrangements as are necessary to finance the programme for 2004/2005 and terminate or renegotiate any existing leases;
- (d) make such minor adjustments to budgets as are necessary;

(xxxviii) that in agreeing the above recommendations and the budget in Appendix B of the report to note that the effect of all these measures is to produce an overall Council expenditure in 2004/2005 of £348.602m;

(xxxix) that the £1,187k that is attributable to the net deficit on the Collection Fund be noted;

(xl) to note that at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2004 the Council calculated the amount of 92,643 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2004/2005 in accordance with the Local Authorities (calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992;

(xli) that in relation to the Council Tax for 2004/2005: the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2004/2005 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £731,460,000 being the aggregate of the amount that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act,
- (b) £384,045,000 being the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act,

(c) £347,415,000 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirements for the year,

(d) £264,052,000 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 and revenue support grant reduced by the amount of the 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 1988,

(e) £899.83 being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount for the taxbase specified above calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year,

(f) Valuation Bands

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
599.89	699.87	799.85	899.83	1,099.79	1,299.75	1,499.72	1,799.66

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

(xlvi) to note that for the year 2004/2005 the Greater London Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, in respect of the Greater London Authority, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

**Precepting Authority: Greater London Authority**

**Valuation Bands**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
160.89	187.70	214.52	241.33	294.96	348.59	402.22	482.66

- (xliii) that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (f) above and the precepting authority referred to in the preceding paragraph 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 2004/2005 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands							
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
760.78	887.57	1,014.37	1,141.16	1,394.75	1,648.34	1,901.94	2,282.32

- (xiv) that the Director of Finance be and is hereby authorised:

- (a) to give due notice of the said Council Tax in the manner provided by Section 38(2) of the 1992 Act,
- (b) when necessary to apply for a summons against any Council Tax payer or non-domestic ratepayer on whom an account for the said tax or rate and any arrears has been duly served and who has failed to pay the amounts due to take all subsequent necessary action to recover them promptly,
- (c) to collect revenues and distribute monies from the Collection Fund and to borrow or to lend money in accordance with the regulations to the maximum benefit of each fund.

## 6. **Appointments to Committees**

RESOLVED:

that Councillor HM Patel be appointed to the Planning Committee in place of Councillor Sayers.

The meeting ended at 10.06 pm

P LEMMON  
Mayor