

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

At an **ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** of the **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT** held at Brent Town Hall Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex on **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 7.15 pm**

### **PRESENT:**

**The Worshipful the Mayor**  
Councillor B Joseph

**The Deputy Mayor**  
Councillor HB Patel

### **COUNCILLORS:**

Ahmed	John
Allie	Jones
Arnold	Kansagra
Mrs Bacchus	Leaman
Baker	D Long
Bessong	J Long
Beswick	Lorber
Blackman	Malik
D Brown	Matthews
V Brown	Mendoza
Butt	Mistry
Castle	J Moher
Chavda	R Moher
Clues	Moloney
Colwill	O'Sullivan
Corcoran	CJ Patel
Coughlin	H M Patel
Crane	Powney
Cummins	Shah
Detre	Ms C Shaw
Dunn	Singh
Dunwell	Sneddon
Eniola	Steel
Farrell	Tancred
Fox	Thomas
Hashmi	Tullett
Hirani	Van Colle
Jackson	Wharton

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Anwar, Mrs Fernandes, Motley and Pagnamenta.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting of full Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2007 be confirmed as a true and accurate record, subject to the following interests being recorded as having been declared:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Ahmed Chavda	Braintcroft Primary School governor
Colwill	Middlesex ITEC Ltd - director
	Daughter a governor at Mount Stewart Infant School
Malik	Kingsbury Green Primary School governor
HM Patel	Lyon Park Junior School governor

3. **Declarations of Interests**

The following non-prejudicial interests were declared by Councillors:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Arnold	South Kilburn NDC Board member
	Hyde Housing Steering Group
Beswick	Fortunegate Housing Board
	Brent Housing Partnership
Crane	Primary Care Trust non-executive director
Cummins	Paddington Churches Housing Association board member
	Tricycle Theatre and Cinema board member
	Brent Arts Council trustee
	Dollis Hill House trustee
Dunwell	Brent Community Transport
	Brent Housing Partnership
Eniola	Brent Housing Partnership
Fox	John Kelly Boys Technical College governor
D Long	Stonebridge HAT
J Long	Fortunegate Community Housing
	Brent Housing Partnership
Malik	Brent Housing Partnership
	South Kilburn Steering Group project
	Chalkhill Joint Development Board
	Stadium Housing Association Ltd Management Committee
Mendoza	Tricycle Theatre board

Moloney	Edward Harvist trustee Wembley Eleemosynary trustee Brent Irish Advisory Service Stonebridge HAT Hyde Housing Hillside Housing Trust
J Moher Singh O'Sullivan	Brent Housing Partnership Board Woodfield School governor Fortunegate Community Association Willow Housing Board Brent Housing Partnership
HB Patel	Brent Indian Association member Preston Manor City Learning Centre management board member Shree Sattavis Gam Patidar Samaj (Europe) member
HM Patel	Shree Sattavis Gam Patidar Samaj (Europe) trustee
Thomas	Willow Housing Association Sutherland Housing Association
Van Colle	Wife clerk to governors at Sinai School

#### 4. **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor reported on Councillor HB Patel's (Deputy Mayor) visit to India where he was honoured with an award for commendable Social Services that represented his time, effort, enthusiasm and commitment in serving society. This award was presented in the presence of nearly 300,000 people and Councillor Patel had made a short speech of gratitude and acceptance and also conveyed good wishes from the London Borough of Brent. The Deputy Mayor added that it had been a unique experience for him and he had been honoured by the reception he had received.

The Mayor announced that she had been delighted to be present at the official opening of the new Willesden Sports Centre on 20th February along with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Right Honourable Tessa Jowell, MP.

The Mayor announced that she had been similarly pleased to attend on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, the opening of the Pavilion at Stonebridge Recreation Ground, a £2.8 million sports and leisure complex.

The Mayor announced that the Council had retained its overall Comprehensive Performance Assessment score of 3 stars for 2006 and was considered by the Audit Commission to be improving well. The score for the Environment block improved to 3, however due to changes in the treatment of the performance indicators and inspection score weighting within the Culture block this reduced from a 3 to a 2. The Mayor stated that the Council's performance was very

encouraging and that good progress had been made across all the service blocks which had led to improvement in the performance of many statutory services. The use of resources judgement was particularly good with an improved score for the 'value for money' being delivered by the Council.

The Mayor stated that she would be holding her Grand Spring Ball on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April in the Paul Daisley Hall. Tickets and further details could be obtained from her office.

The Mayor reported on the visit to Harlesden that day of HRH Prince Charles.

In accordance with the new arrangements agreed for reporting on the progress of those petitions received under standing order 68, the Mayor drew Members' attention to the schedule circulated.

## 5. **Procedural Motion**

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

Councillor Beswick moved a procedural motion calling on the meeting to agree to vote individually, on each amendment made to the budget report, which was put to the vote and LOST.

RESOLVED:-

- i) that paragraph (d) of Standing Order 46 be suspended;
- ii) that once the Leader has presented the report, speaking for up to 30 minutes, the following arrangements be agreed for this meeting for the purpose of debating and voting upon the 2007/8 budget and Council Tax:
  - (a) the Leader of the Opposition to speak for up to 30 minutes;
  - (b) the Deputy Leader of the Council to speak for up to 30 minutes;
  - (c) the Chair of Budget Panel to speak for up to 10 minutes;
  - (d) the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to speak for up to 10 minutes;
  - (e) the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to speak for up to 10 minutes;

- (f) a general debate to follow during which the usual rules for debate will apply as set out in Standing Orders 46 and 47 save as set out in this procedural motion;
- (g) voting on each Group's budget proposals shall be taken *en bloc*.

## 6. **2007/2008 Budget and Council Tax**

The Council had before it a report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources regarding the 2007/2008 budget. The final report of the Budget Panel had been circulated under separate cover to all members on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007. The Leader of the Council addressed the Council and moved the motion circulated in his and Councillor Blackman's names. Councillor John addressed the Council and moved a separate budget motion in her name proposing a number of alternative budget decisions. Councillor Blackman addressed the Council in support of the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Mendoza reported on the deliberations of the Budget Panel, pointing out that this was the first year of the Panel's operation. He stressed the importance of the Overview and Scrutiny role in the budget process and felt the exercise had been a positive one. He explained how the recommendations of the Panel had been framed and specifically referred to the financial effects of the Primary Care Trust cost shunts. He felt that the Panel had positively influenced the budget process and explained that the Panel would be meeting earlier in the year to review its effectiveness and begin looking at the 2008/09 budget. He thanked officers, those Executive Members who attended meetings of the Panel and other panel members for their work and co-operation.

Councillor D Long addressed the meeting by referring to some of the targets included in the Corporate Strategy and how in his view the budget proposals did not support these.

Councillor J Moher addressed the meeting saying that the budget proposals contained few of the commitments made at last year's elections and contained in the pledges given by the Liberal Democrat and Conservative parties when forming a joint administration. He referred to the significant increase granted to the borough for schools and how the Council's response had been to complain about the settlement and the situation with the Primary Care Trust. He felt the Council should enter into more constructive negotiations with the PCT and should recognise that much of the GLA precept went on the Metropolitan Police which led to safer streets for Brent.

A general debate then followed at the end of which the motion in the name of Councillor John was put to the vote and declared LOST.

The Council then voted on the motion in the names of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council which was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) to note that the Administration's budget is prudent and robust and takes full consideration of the medium term where there is a strategy to deliver both service improvements and efficiencies;
- (ii) to note that the budget will produce fundamental change in the Borough to improve the lives of residents, businesses and visitors despite the punitive financial restrictions imposed by the Government. These include:
  - (a) a grant increase of only 2.2%, well below the rate of inflation,
  - (b) not recognising the existence of more than 20,000 residents in the population figures,
  - (c) ignoring undertakings of stability and certainty in the finance system by taking £800k of resources from Brent at the last minute through changes to the Housing Benefit system;
- (iii) to note that the Council's resources have been further raided by the Greater London Authority for Freedom Passes with an increase of £600k to £8.3m; West London Waste Authority £668k (13% rise); and Environment Agency £63k (58% increase). All these increases being significantly above inflation;
- (iv) to deplore that yet again the Mayor of London has set a Council Tax above the capping limit and to expect the Government to respond in the usual way – do nothing;
- (v) in addition to note that the Health Service is attempting to shift massive cost shunts onto local authorities. The Council will continue to fight the massive cuts imposed by the PCT in its attempts to bring its budget into balance. It is noted that Brent's increase in Council Tax is entirely down to the PCT's proposed measures;
- (vi) to note that, despite all of the above, the budget contains £15m of growth aimed at investing in delivering the Corporate Strategy during the life of this Administration. It takes large steps to address residents' concerns about crime, increases investment in roads and pavements, provides a comprehensive new streetcare and waste contract to improve the quality of life for all residents and gives more than £11m to protect and enhance the lives of the most vulnerable children and adults in the Borough;

- (vii) to note that the innovative Invest to Save schemes will directly improve services and deliver better value for money;
- (viii) to note the significant increase in both revenue and capital funding for the borough's schools;
- (ix) that the proposed budget be supported and the following decisions taken:

**In respect of Section 3**

- (1) that the process, including consultation that has led to these budget proposals be noted;

**In respect of Section 4**

- (2) that the final 2005/06 outturn be noted;
- (3) that the latest forecast for the General Fund outturn (Appendix A to the report refers) for 2006/07 be noted;

**In respect of Section 5**

- (4) that the General Fund revenue budget for 2007/08, as summarised in Appendix B to the report, be agreed;
- (5) that the service area budgets including the growth and savings and other adjustments detailed in Appendices C and D to the report be agreed;
- (6) that the Invest to Save schemes shown in paragraph 5.12 of the report and the sources of funding for these schemes be agreed;
- (7) that Appendix F to the report be noted and the budgets for central items and other budgets be agreed;
- (8) that it be noted, and where appropriate, provision be made for the contingent liabilities and risks set out in this section of the report;
- (9) that the approach to balances set out in the report be agreed;
- (10) that the statement from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources set out in paragraph 5.37 of the report in respect of his statutory duty under Section 25 of 2003 Local Government Act be received;

**In respect of Section 6**

- (11) that the Greater London Authority precept approved at the meeting of the Greater London Assembly on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007 be noted;
- (12) that the advice of officers on the capping limit be noted;
- (13) that there is no surplus or deficit at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 for that part of the Collection Fund relating to community charge;
- (14) that the advice of the Borough Solicitor as set out in Appendix O to the report be noted;
- (15) that the instalment dates for Council Tax and NNDR for 2007/08, and the recovery policy for Council Tax be as set out in Appendix H(ii) to the report;

**In respect of Section 7**

- (16) that the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the provisional service area cash limits for 2008/09 to 2010/11 set out in Appendix I to the report be agreed;

**In respect of Section 8**

- (17) that the Dedicated Schools Budget set out in Appendix K(i) to the report be agreed;

**In respect of Section 9**

- (18) that the Housing Revenue Account budget set out in Appendix L to the report be agreed;

**In respect of Section 10**

- (19) that the latest forecast outturn position on the 2006/07 capital programme be noted, and the revised budgets be agreed;
- (20) that the properties included within the disposals programme set out in Appendix M(iii) of the report be noted;
- (21) that the 2007/08 to 2010/11 capital programme as set out in Appendix M(ii) to the report be agreed, including the new capital allocations;
- (22) that the inclusion in the capital programme of all capital schemes, irrespective of the source of funding, be noted and



that all schemes be subject to the approval procedures set out in the Council's constitution,

- (23) that the levels of supported and unsupported borrowing forecast for 2007/08 and future years and the impact on Council Tax levels and housing rents be noted;

**In respect of Section 11**

- (24) that the Treasury Management Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2007/08 be agreed;

**In respect of Section 12**

- (25) that the requirements of the Prudential Code be noted;
- (26) that the Prudential Indicators set out in this section for affordability, capital spending, external debt and treasury management be agreed;
- (27) that the arrangements for monitoring and reporting on Prudential Indicators be noted;

**In respect of Section 13**

- (28) that the measures in place to help deliver and monitor Value for Money be noted;

**In respect of Section 14**

- (29) that the procedures for controlling expenditure set out in this section be agreed;
- (30) that the updated schedule of Provisions and Earmarked Reserves set out in Schedule 1 of Appendix P to the report be agreed;

**In addition**

- (31) that the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources be authorised to:
- (a) make payments on approved capital schemes in 2007/08;
  - (b) borrow in 2007/08 up to the limits agreed within the Prudential Indicators;
  - (c) enter such leasing arrangements as are necessary to finance the programme for 2007/08 and terminate or renegotiate any existing leases;
  - (d) make such minor adjustments to budgets as are necessary;

- (32) that in agreeing the above recommendations and the budget in Appendix B to the report, to note that the effect of all these measures is to produce overall Council expenditure in 2007/08 of £244.041m;
- (33) to note the £1.151m is attributable to the net deficit on the Collection Fund;
- (34) to note that at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007 the General Purposes Committee calculated the amount of 93,900 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2007/08 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992;
- (35) that in relation to the Council Tax for 2007/08, the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2007/08 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
- (a) £898,347,000 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) £655,457,000 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) £242,890,000 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 requirement for the year.
  - (d) £149,405,000 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) £995.58 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>
663.72	774.34	884.96	995.58	1,216.82	1,438.06	1,659.30	1,991.16

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.

- (36) to note that for the year 2007/08 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:

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>
202.59	236.35	270.12	303.88	371.41	438.94	506.47	607.76

- (37) that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (35)(f) and the precepting authority referred to in (36) 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 2007/08 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>
866.31	1,010.69	1,155.08	1,299.46	1,588.23	1,877.00	2,165.77	2,598.92

- (38) (a) That the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources be and is hereby authorised to give due notice of the said Council Tax in the manner provided by Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (b) That the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources be and is hereby authorised 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) That the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources be and is hereby authorised to collect revenues and distribute monies from the Collection Fund and is authorised to borrow or to lend money in accordance with the regulations to the maximum benefit of each fund.

The meeting ended at 10.30pm

B JOSEPH  
Mayor