

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, 3rd March 2008 at 7.15 pm**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor H B Patel

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor Fox

COUNCILLORS:

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Baker, Eniola, Mrs U Fernandes, Malik, Matthews, Motley and Shah

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting of full Council held on 21st January 2008 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

3. **Declarations of Interests**

The following school governor positions were noted and treated as declared as a non prejudicial interest by those members present:

School	Councillors
Barham Primary	Lorber
Braincroft Primary	Ahmed
Chalkhill Primary	Bacchus and O'Sullivan
College of North West London	John
Copland Technology College	Bacchus
Curzon Crescent Children's Centre	Gupta
Fryent Primary	Wharton
St. Gregory's Catholic College	Mrs Fernandes
John Kelly Boys	Fox
Kilburn Park School	Arnold
Kingsbury Green Primary	Malik
Lyon Park Primary	HM Patel
Lyon Park Infants	Bessong and Shah
Michael Sobell Sinai	Mendoza
Mitchell Brook Primary	Van Kalwala
Mora Primary	J Long
Oliver Goldsmith	J Moher
Preston Manor	Blackman
St Andrews/St. Francis	Jones
St. Joseph Primary	Moloney
St. Mary's C of E Primary School	Clues
Stonebridge Primary	John
Sudbury Primary	Wharton
Roe Green Junior	Mistry
Wembley High	J Moher and R Moher
Wembley Primary	Blackman
Woodfield	Singh
Wykeham Primary	Eniola and Farrell

The following Members of the Board of Brent Housing Partnership were noted and treated as declared as a non prejudicial interest by the members indicated:

Councillor Castle
Councillor Long

Councillor Hashmi
Councillor O'Sullivan

The following non-prejudicial interests were declared by Councillors:

Councillor	Interest
Arnold	South Kilburn New Deal for Communities
Chavda	Director of Middlesex ITEC
Dunwell	Governor of Uxendon Manor School
Fox	Director of Hoffman Foundation for Autism
Hirani	Fortunegate Community Housing Board
John	Board member, Tricycle Theatre
Long	Fortunegate Community Housing Board
Mendoza	Board member, Tricycle Theatre
Moloney	Hillside Housing Trust Park Royal Partnership
O'Sullivan	Willow Housing Board member
Thomas	Willow Housing Board member LHC Building Components and Services

4. **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ralph Fox for chairing the last Council meeting in his absence while in India. He stated that he had gone to India to receive an award – "Pride of Gujarat 2008" and had been honoured to receive such an award. He had attended nearly as many functions as the number of days of his stay and had kept Brent's flag flying. People in India had been very happy to hear about the diversity of Brent's residents and its unity.

The Mayor announced that the Council has once again secured a strong three star or 'good' rating in this year's annual assessment by the Audit Commission. The Council was also judged to be 'improving well' by the independent inspectors who commented favourably on the progress being made in priority areas such as educational attainment, street cleanliness, children's services and sport. Inspectors had also commented that the Council was ambitious, had a clear focus on achieving value for money and a strong financial standing. The Mayor reminded Members that the Memorial Service to honour the former Deputy Lieutenant, Brian Caesar-Gordon was taking place on 14th March at 11.30am at St Johns the Evangelist Church and then onto a tree planting and bench unveiling at Barham Park.

The Mayor announced with sadness the sudden death of Mr Mohammed Hoda from the Wembley Mosque who was known to most councillors.

The Mayor was pleased to announce that Brent had won an award at the New Year's Day Parade along with a cheque of £1,000 for the Mayor's Charity Appeal. He expressed his gratitude to the Youth Volunteers from Alperton School who paraded for Brent and gained this award.

The Mayor informed Members that he would be holding his "end of year" charity dinner on Saturday 19th April and asked that everyone support him on this occasion.

Finally, the Mayor thanked the Dawat Bar and Restaurant which had supplied the food after Council meetings during this year in office.

5. **Procedural motion**

Councillor Sneddon moved a procedural motion relating to the conduct of business which, following agreeing an amendment to it, was put to the vote and CARRIED.

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 2008/9 budget and Council Tax:
 - (a) the Deputy 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 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. **2008/2009 Budget and Council Tax**

The Council had before it a report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources regarding the 2008/2009 budget which included the final report of the Budget Panel. The Leader of the Council addressed the Council and moved the motion circulated in his and Councillor Blackman's names. Councillor J Moher addressed the Council and moved a separate budget motion circulated in his 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 and thanked the members of the Panel and officers for their work during the year. He pointed out that the Panel had found the budget to be realistic and robust. There was concern that priority areas of growth had again been deferred and the Panel had called for information to be provided on the progress being made on delivering the Corporate Strategy priorities. Members of the Panel had noted how the population figures used by the Government continued to underestimate the number of people living in Brent and urged that an all-party approach to this be adopted. Members of the Panel were concerned at the risk of overspend in the Adult Social Care area and urged the Executive to look carefully at this. Finally it was noted that a number of the Panel's recommendations from last year had still to be addressed.

Councillor Jones addressed the meeting and explained some of the changes that had been agreed to the way overview and scrutiny operated. These included tracking the recommendations made by overview and scrutiny to ensure they were addressed. She drew attention to some of the provisions contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act and the Police and Justice Act that would require attention by overview and scrutiny. In the meantime members of overview and scrutiny were meeting with representatives of the Post Office and the Metropolitan Police to consider the changes each of these bodies were proposing to make. Other task groups were continuing with their work.

Councillor John addressed the meeting by saying that she felt it was time the Administration took responsibility for the decisions they were taking and that there had been far worse financial settlements for local government in the past. She expressed her support for the call to use more accurate population estimates but pointed out that this was not just a Brent issue. She felt many aspects of the budget represented a continuation of the work started under the previous Administration. Referring to reported proposals for Brent's day centres, Councillor John

felt that these were not in the best interests of the service and should be looked at again.

Councillor Dunwell moved a motion seeking changes to the funding of the neighbourhood working scheme and using the consequent savings to reduce home care charges in 2008/09.

A general debate then followed at the end of which the separate motions in the names of Councillors J Moher and Dunwell were both 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 Executive on 11th February 2008 agreed to forward this report as amended by:
 - (a) the final Greater London Authority precept; and
 - (b) any other significant changes to the budget figures,to Full Council on 3rd March 2008 to agree the recommendations contained in it;

In respect of Section 3

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

In respect of Section 4

- (iii) that the final 2006/07 outturn be noted;
- (iv) that the latest forecast for the General Fund outturn (Appendix A of the report) for 2007/08 be noted;

In respect of Section 5

- (v) that the General Fund revenue budget for 2008/09, as summarised in Appendix B, be agreed;
- (vi) that the Service Area budgets including the growth and savings and other adjustments detailed in Appendices C and D of the report be agreed;
- (vii) that Appendix F of the report be noted and the budgets for central items and other budgets be agreed;

- (viii) to note and, where appropriate, make provision for the contingent liabilities and risks set out in this section of the report;
- (ix) that the approach to balances set out in the report submitted be agreed;
- (x) that the report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources set out in paragraph 5.29 of the report submitted, in respect of his statutory duty under Section 25 of 2003 Local Government Act, be received;

In respect of Section 6

- (xi) to note that the GLA precept was approved at the meeting of the Greater London Assembly on 13th February 2008;
- (xii) that the advice of officers on the capping limit be noted;
- (xiii) that there is no surplus or deficit at 31st March 2008 for that part of the Collection Fund relating to community charge;
- (xiv) that the advice of the Borough Solicitor as set out in Appendix O of the report be received and noted;
- (xv) that the instalment dates for council tax and NNDR for 2008/09, and the recovery policy for council tax as set out in Appendix H(ii) of the report be agreed;

In respect of Section 7

- (xvi) that the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the provisional service area cash limits for 2009/10 to 2011/12 set out in Appendix I of the report be agreed;

In respect of Section 8

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

In respect of Section 9

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

In respect of Section 10

- (xix) that the latest forecast outturn position on the 2007/08 capital programme be noted, and the revised budgets be agreed;
- (xx) that the properties included within the disposals programme set out in Appendix M(vi) of the report be noted;
- (xxi) that the 2008/09 to 2011/12 programme as set out in Appendix M(iii) of the report, including the new capital allocations, be agreed;
- (xxii) that the inclusion in this Capital Programme of all capital schemes, irrespective of the source of funding be noted and that all schemes be subject to the approval procedures as set out in the Constitution;
- (xxiii) that the levels of supported and unsupported borrowing forecast for 2008/09 and future years and the impact on council tax levels and housing rents be noted;

In respect of Section 11

- (xxiv) that the Treasury Management Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2008/09 be agreed;

In respect of Section 12

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

In respect of Section 13

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

In respect of Section 14

- (xxix) that the procedures for controlling expenditure set out in section 14 of the report be noted and agreed;

- (xxx) that the updated schedule of Provisions and Earmarked Reserves set out in Schedule 1 of Appendix P of the report be agreed;

In addition

- (xxxix) that the Council's Director of Finance and Corporate Resources be authorised to:

- (a) make payments on approved capital schemes in 2008/09.
- (b) borrow in 2008/09 up to the limits agreed within the Prudential Indicators.
- (c) enter such leasing arrangements as are necessary to finance the programme for 2008/09 and terminate or renegotiate any existing leases.
- (d) make such minor adjustments to budgets as are necessary;

- (xxxix) to note that in agreeing the above recommendations and the budget in Appendix B of the report, the effect of all these measures is to produce overall council expenditure in 2008/09 of £257.121m;

- (xxxix) that £1.149m be noted as attributable to the net deficit on the Collection Fund;

- (xxxix) that the decision of Full Council taken at its meeting on 21st January 2008 to calculate the amount of 94,585 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2008/09 in accordance with the Local Authorities (calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 be recorded;

- (xxxix) that in relation to the council tax for 2008/09:

the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2008/09 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £958,333,000 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) £702,361,000 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) £255,972,000 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) £158,255,000 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) £1,033.11 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

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
688.74	803.53	918.32	1,033.11	1,262.69	1,492.27	1,721.85	2,066.22

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.

(xxxvi) that for the year 2008/09 it be noted that 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							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
206.55	240.97	275.40	309.82	378.67	447.52	516.37	619.64

(xxxvii) that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (f) 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 2008/09 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
895.29	1,044.50	1,193.72	1,342.93	1,641.36	1,939.79	2,238.22	2,685.86

(xxxviii) that the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources 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, and
- (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.

The meeting ended at 10:05pm

HB PATEL
Mayor