

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, 2nd March 2009 at 7.15pm**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Fox

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor O'Sullivan

COUNCILLORS:

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eniola, Gupta and Steel.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 26th January 2009 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 indicated:

School	Councillors
Barham Primary	Lorber
Braintcroft Primary	Ahmed
Chalkhill Primary	Bacchus and O'Sullivan
College of North West London	John
Copland Technology College	Bacchus (associate member)
Curzon Crescent Children's Centre	Gupta
Fryent Primary	Wharton
Harmony Children's Centre	Thomas *
Hay Lane Primary	Mistry
John Kelly Boys	Fox
Kilburn Park	Arnold
Lyon Park Primary	HM Patel
Lyon Park Infants	Bessong
Michael Sobell Sinai	Mendoza
Mitchell Brook Primary	Van Kalwala
Newfield Primary	Long
Oliver Goldsmith	J Moher
Preston Manor	Blackman
Roe Green Junior	Mistry
Salisbury Primary	Green
St Andrews/St. Francis	Jones
St. Gregory's Catholic College	Colwill
St. Joseph Primary	Moloney
St. Mary's C of E Primary	Clues

*as amended at 13 July 2009 meeting

Stonebridge Primary	John
Sudbury Primary	Wharton
Treetops Children's Centre	Joseph
Uxendon Manor Primary	Dunwell
Wembley High	J Moher and R Moher
Wembley Primary	Blackman
Willesden Children's Centre	Jones
Woodfield	Singh
Wykeham Primary	Eniola and Farrell

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

Councillor Castle	Councillor Hashmi
Councillor Long	Councillor O'Sullivan

The following non-prejudicial interests were declared:

Councillor	Interest
D Brown	Wife is a teacher in the Borough
HB Patel	Shree Sattams Gam Patidar Samaj (Europe) Brent Indian Association Federation of Patidar Associations

4. **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor welcomed Graham Ellis, the new Director of Business Transformation, to his first Council meeting.

The Mayor announced with pleasure the birth of a great-granddaughter for Councillor Lesley Jones.

The Mayor pointed out that in accordance with Standing Orders a list of current petitions showing progress on dealing with them had been circulated around the chamber.

The Mayor announced with great sadness the death of former councillor, Akber Sarguroh. Members paid tribute to Akber Sarguroh.

5. **Stroke and Trauma Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee-Terms of Reference**

At its meeting on 24th November 2008, Council agreed to the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider consultation proposals on stroke and trauma services in London. Councillor Leaman was nominated as the Council's representative on the joint committee and Councillor Crane was nominated as his alternate. In November, terms of reference for the joint committee had

not been agreed. However, the joint committee met formally for the first time on 4th February 2009 and agreed terms of reference.

RESOLVED:-

that the terms of reference for the Stroke and Trauma Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, attached as appendix 1 to the report, be agreed.

6. Procedural motions

Councillor Bessong moved a procedural motion which sought to adjourn the meeting immediately to allow the Extraordinary Council meeting to convene. This was put to the vote and declared LOST.

Councillor Beswick moved a procedural motion regarding what time the Extraordinary Council meeting should be convened and as to the conduct of business on the agenda which, following an amendment to the version circulated around the chamber, 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 2009/10 Budget and Council Tax and convening the Extraordinary meeting of Council:

the Leader of the Opposition to speak for up to 30 minutes;

the Deputy Leader of the Council to speak for up to 30 minutes;

the meeting be then adjourned to allow the Extraordinary Council meeting to convene;

following the conclusion of the Extraordinary Council meeting,

the ordinary meeting of Council be reconvened;

the Chair of Budget Panel to speak for up to 10 minutes;

the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to speak for up to 10 minutes;

the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to speak for up to 10 minutes;

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.

7. The 2009/10 Budget and Council Tax

The Council had before it a report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources seeking approval for the 2009/2010 revenue and capital budgets and to the Council Tax to be levied. The report incorporated key information relating to the council's current financial position and future projections.

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, circulated in her name, proposing a number of alternative budget decisions. Councillor Blackman addressed the Council in support of the recommendations in the report.

Adjournment

At 8:43pm the Mayor, in accordance with the procedural motion agreed earlier, adjourned the meeting to allow the Extraordinary Council meeting to convene.

At 9:58 the meeting was reconvened.

7. The 2009/10 Budget and Council Tax (continued)

Councillor Mendoza reported on the deliberations of the Budget Panel. He urged the Executive to carefully monitor expenditure and that those areas currently projected to overspend their budget needed to take action to ensure this did not happen again during the next year. He emphasised the importance of the efficiency agenda in allowing the Council to stay within its budget strategy. Finally he thanked the members of the Panel and officers for their work during the year.

Councillor Jones congratulated the members of the Budget Panel and other members involved in overview and scrutiny for the work they had undertaken in contributing to the formulation of the budget.

Councillor Butt addressed the meeting by responding to criticism that no alternative budget proposals had been submitted. He stated that it was not for the opposition group to produce a budget but to seek to protect the interests of the residents of Brent. He accused the Administration of failing to keep to its commitment not to increase the Council Tax and referred to other areas where he felt progress had been slow. Councillor Butt submitted that the Government had made it relatively easy for the Council over the years by providing a generous level of resources in many areas.

Councillor Dunwell stated that he did not believe front line services were being protected and moved a motion circulated in his name, which sought to cut what he saw as excessive bureaucracy and use the savings on cancelling proposed increases in charges for care services and meals on wheels, restore the number of streetcare officers and reduce the Council Tax increase.

A general debate then followed at the end of which it was agreed that the separate motion in the name of Councillor John should be put to the vote in two parts with the majority of the motion forming one part which was declared LOST and the other part comprising the call to establish a cross party group of councillors to consider child protection issues and concerning the proposal to charge staff and councillors to park at the Town Hall car park which was CARRIED. The separate motion in the name of Councillor Dunwell 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 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 continuing strategy to deliver both service improvements and efficiencies. Despite the challenges of the recession the budget delivers a fair level of Council Tax with the lowest increase for more than 10 years, noting that Brent's Council Tax is the 17th lowest of the 20 Outer London Boroughs;
- (ii) that the budget again delivers real growth to the front-line services prioritised by the Administration. These include:
 - more than £1m to further strengthen our child protection services;
 - £500k on recycling;
 - £500k on supporting the redevelopment of Brent's secondary schools;
 - £800k on sport and youth activities;
 - £245k on combating climate change and promoting carbon reduction;
 - £830k on adult social care;
 - £500k on temporary accommodation;
 - £100k on extra library books.

funded mainly from efficiency savings. Front-line services have been protected;
- (iii) the Council is very conscious of the impact the recession is having on its residents. The budget has allocated extra

resources to provide additional housing and debt advice and to help ensure that families receive all benefits they are entitled to. It has also brought capital expenditure forward into the next two financial years to stimulate construction and other works in the borough;

- (iv) that the recommendations of the Budget Panel in Appendix E(ii) of the report be welcomed and endorsed;
- (v) that the significant increase in both revenue and capital funding for the borough's schools be noted;
- (vi) in recognition of the concern that the increased budget for child protection may be insufficient to meet the expected additional demand, a cross party group of councillors be established to include the three group leaders, the Lead Member for Children & Families and the Labour and Conservative group spokespersons for Children & Families to regularly receive confidential briefings on child protection issues, including the number of cases, staffing levels and budgets;
- (vii) in rejecting the Liberal Democrats' continuing war on motorists, the latest example being the proposal to charge staff and councillors up to £3 a day (£15 in a five day week) for the use of the Town Hall car park, which will cause problems for local residents as employees and councillors park in neighbouring streets and noting that the income from these charges was to be used to meet the cost of proposals within the staff travel plan officers be requested to report back on other ways of funding the proposals within the plan;

The following resolutions relate to the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources:

In respect of Section 3

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

In respect of Section 4

- (ix) that the final 2007/08 outturn and the treatment of the Capital Financing Charges budget be noted;
- (x) that the latest forecast for the General Fund outturn (as detailed in Appendix A of the report) for 2008/09 be noted;

In respect of Section 5

- (xi) that the General Fund revenue budget for 2009/10, as summarised in Appendix B of the report, be agreed;
- (xii) that the service area budgets including the growth and savings and other adjustments detailed in Appendices C and D of the report be agreed;
- (xiii) that Appendix F of the report be noted and the budgets for central items and other budgets be agreed;
- (xiv) that the contingent liabilities and risks set out in this section of the report be noted and, where appropriate, provision be made for contingent liabilities and risks;
- (xv) that the approach to balances set out in the report be agreed;
- (xvi) that the report (paragraph 5.46 refers) from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources in respect of his statutory duty under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 be received;

In respect of Section 6

- (xvii) that approval of the GLA precept at the meeting of the Greater London Assembly on 11th February 2009 be noted;
- (xviii) that the advice of officers on the capping limit be noted;
- (xix) that there is no surplus or deficit at 31st March 2009 for that part of the Collection Fund relating to community charge;
- (xx) that the advice of the Borough Solicitor as set out in Appendix O of the report be received;
- (xxi) that the instalment dates for Council Tax and NNDR for 2009/10, and the recovery policy for Council Tax be as set out in Appendix H(ii) of the report;

In respect of Section 7

- (xxii) that the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the provisional service area cash limits for 2010/11 to 2012/13 set out in Appendix I of the report be agreed;

In respect of Section 8

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

In respect of Section 9

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

In respect of Section 10

- (xxv) that the latest forecast outturn position on the 2008/09 capital programme be noted, and the revised budgets be agreed;
- (xxvi) that the properties included within the disposals programme set out in Appendix M(vi) of the report be noted;
- (xxvii) that the 2009/10 to 2012/13 capital programme set out in Appendix M(iii) of the report, including the new capital allocations, be agreed;
- (xxviii) 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 as set out in the Constitution;
- (xxix) that the levels of supported and unsupported borrowing forecast for 2009/10 and future years and the impact on Council Tax levels be noted;
- (xxx) that the policy on repayment of principal in 2009/10 as set out in paragraphs 10.22 to 10.30 of the report be adopted;

In respect of Section 11

- (xxxi) that the Treasury Management Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2009/10 be agreed;

In respect of Section 12

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

In respect of Section 13

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

In respect of Section 14

(xxxvi) that the procedures for controlling expenditure set out in this section of the report be noted and agreed;

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

In addition

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

- (a) Make payments on approved capital schemes in 2009/10.
- (b) Borrow in 2009/10 up to the limits agreed within the Prudential Indicators.
- (c) Enter such leasing arrangements as are necessary to finance the programme for 2009/10 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 2009/10 of £262.990m;

(xl) to note that £1.154m is attributable to the net deficit on the Collection Fund;

(xli) to note that at its meeting on 12th January 2009 General Purposes Committee calculated the amount of 95,279 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2009/10 in accordance with the Local Authorities (calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992;

(xlii) that in relation to the Council Tax for 2009/10:

the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2009/10 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £955,419,000 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) £693,583,000 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) £261,836,000 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) £160,941,000 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) £1,058.94 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
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
705.96	823.62	941.28	1,058.94	1,294.26	1,529.58	1,764.90	2,117.88

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;

- (xliv) to note that for the year 2009/10 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

(xiv) that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (f) above and the precepting authority referred to in (xxxx) 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 2009/10 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
912.51	1,064.59	1,216.68	1,368.76	1,672.93	1,977.10	2,281.27	2,737.52

(xiv) 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 and to take all subsequent necessary action to recover them promptly,
- (c) 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.

8. Procedural motion

At 10:25pm Councillor Bessong moved a procedural motion to allow the meeting to continue beyond 10:30pm.

RESOLVED:-

that standing order 48, which stipulates that every ordinary meeting of Full Council should terminate no longer than 10:30pm, be suspended to allow conclusion of the debate and voting on the 2009/10 Budget and Council Tax.

The meeting ended at 11:20pm

R FOX
Mayor