



LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

**Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
held on Monday, 28 February 2011 at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Harbhajan Singh

The Deputy Mayor
Councillor M Aslam Choudry

COUNCILLORS:

Aden	Adeyeye
Al-Ebadi	Allie
Arnold	Ashraf
Mrs Bacchus	Beck
Beckman	Beswick
Brown	Butt
Castle	Cheese
Chohan	S Choudhary
Clues	Colwill
Crane	Cummins
Daly	Denselow
Gladbaum	Green
Harrison	Hashmi
Hector	Hirani
Hossain	Hunter
John	Jones
Kabir	Kansagra
Kataria	Long
Lorber	Mashari
Matthews	McLennan
Mistry	Mitchell Murray
J Moher	R Moher
Moloney	Naheerathan
Ogunro	Oladapo
BM Patel	CJ Patel
HB Patel	HM Patel
RS Patel	Powney
Sheth	Sneddon
Thomas	Van Kalwala

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Councillors Baker and Ms Shaw

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 January 2011 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interests

The following LEA school governor and children centre positions were noted and treated as declared as a non prejudicial interest by those members indicated:

School	Councillors
Anson	McLennan
Barham Primary	Lorber
Braintcroft Primary	Ashraf
Brent Education Tutorial Service	Colwill
Capital City Academy	Gladbaum
Carlton Vale	Oladapo
Chalkhill Primary	Bacchus and Beckman
College Green Nursery	Sheth
Fryent Primary	R Moher
Granville Plus	Ogunro
Grove Park	Kabir
Harmony Children's Centre	Thomas
Hay Lane	Kabir
Kilburn Park	Arnold
Lyon Park Junior	HM Patel
Lyon Park Infants	B Patel
Malorees	Harrison
Mitchell Brook Primary	Van Kalwala
Newfield Primary	Long
Northfield	Denselow
Oakington Manor Primary	BM Patel
Oliver Goldsmith	J Moher

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Infant	Daly
Preston Park Primary	Harrison
Roe Green Infant	RS Patel
Salisbury Primary	Green
St Andrews/St Francis	Jones
St Gregory's Catholic College	Colwill
St Joseph's Catholic Primary	Moloney
St Joseph's Catholic Infant	Sheth
St Joseph's Catholic Junior	Sheth
Stonebridge Primary	John
Treetops Children's Centre	Jones
Vernon	Mitchell-Murray
Welcome Children Centre	CJ Patel
Wembley High	J Moher and R Moher
The Willow Children Centre	Gladbaum
Woodfield	Adeyeye, Sheth and Singh
Wykeham Primary	Katraia

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

Councillor Colwill	Councillor Jones
Councillor Long	Councillor Ogunro

The following non-prejudicial interests were declared:

Councillor	Interest
Clues	Governor of St Mary's CE school
Moloney	Brent Irish Advisory Service
	Hillside Housing Trust
HB Patel	Shree Sattar Gam Patidar Samaj (Europe)
	Brent Indian Association
HM Patel	Shree Sattar Gam Patidar Samaj (Europe)

3. **Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor informed the Council that Martin Cheeseman, Director of Housing and Community Care, was attending his last Council meeting having been with Brent Council for all his working life and served as the Council's senior housing officer since 1999. Members placed on record their gratitude and appreciation for his work and wished him well for the future.

4. **Appointments to committees and outside bodies and appointment of chairs/vice chairs (if any)**

RESOLVED:-

that the following appointments be made:

Committee/body	appointment
One Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Kansagra as second alternate to Councillor Colwill in place of Councillor HB Patel
Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Kansagra as second alternate to Councillor HM Patel in place of Councillor HB Patel
Partnership and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Mistry in place of Councillor Ogunro Councillor Ogunro as first alternate to Councillor Van Kalwala in place of Councillor Mistry Councillor Kansagra as second alternate to Councillor HB Patel in place of Councillor HM Patel
Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Kansagra as second alternate to Councillor Colwill in place of Councillor BM Patel
Planning Committee	Councillor Kansagra as first alternate to Councillor Baker in place of Councillor HM Patel

5. **Procedural motion**

Councillor Moloney moved a procedural motion which was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

Councillor Beck moved a procedural motion seeking to take amendments to the budget on an individual basis which was put to the vote and declared LOST.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that paragraph (d) of standing order 46 be suspended;
- (ii) that the Leader of the Council be permitted to speak for up to 30 minutes in presenting the report on the 2011/12 budget and Council Tax to the meeting setting out the Executive's proposals for the budget, after which the following arrangements be agreed for the purpose of debating and voting upon the 2011/12 Budget and Council Tax:

the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group be permitted to speak for up to 30 minutes;

the Leader of the Conservative Group be permitted to speak for up to 30 minutes

the Deputy Leader of the Council be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes;

the Chair of Budget and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee be permitted 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;

- (iii) that voting on each Group's budget proposals shall be taken *en bloc*.
- (iv) that all motions presented under summons item 8 be moved to the vote without debate.

6. **The 2011/12 Budget and Council Tax**

The Council had before it a report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Services seeking approval for the 2011/12 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. It set out the key decisions members were being asked to make on:

- the 2011/12 General Fund revenue budget;
- the 2011/12 Schools Budget;
- the 2011/12 Housing Revenue Account;
- the Council's capital programme for 2011/12 to 2014/15;
- the Council's treasury management strategy; and
- prudential indicators aimed at ensuring the affordability of capital spending and a secure approach to borrowing and investment.

The Leader of the Council addressed the meeting and put forward an amendment to the recommendations which proposed additional areas of expenditure and additional savings to fund them.

Councillor Lorber spoke to the meeting and moved an amendment which proposed a number of alternative proposals to the proposed budget.

Councillor HB Patel spoke to the meeting and moved an amendment which proposed a change to the proposed budget.

Councillor Butt thanked officers for their work in putting together the budget now before members. He referred to the financial circumstances the Council was in as a result of the significant reduction in resources. He felt that the standard of living for Brent residents would be undermined by the level of cuts being imposed.

Councillor Allie, as chair of the Budget and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was invited by the Mayor to speak but did not wish to.

A general debate followed with members expressing views on the proposals from the Executive. It was submitted that the budget sought to protect the most vulnerable. Reference was made to the wider economic situation and that other public authorities such as the police were having to make significant savings. Views were expressed on the libraries transformation project with some opposing any closures and others recognising the challenges the service faced. Aspects of

the amendments put to the meeting were referred to, including the future of Charteris sports centre, the festivals programme, and additional funding for environmental services. Reference was made to the external support gained for the Welsh Harp Centre and the approach to funding the youth service. A view was submitted that funding levels to the special educational needs service needed to be restored. There was also concern expressed over the wider impact on schools from aspects of the budget. The point was made that the Council faced having to make front loaded, large scale cuts which would inevitably have some painful implications. Nevertheless a lawful budget had been delivered on time and with a nil council tax increase. There was support for the continued funding of advice services. The housing issues were referred to including the provision of decent homes, the housing benefit increases and the impact on homelessness. Members expressed differing views over the level of cuts the Council was required to make and the level of reserves required.

Councillor HB Patel asked that an amendment be made to the amendment from the Liberal Democrat Group on helping Brent's environment by deleting reference to the Liberal Democrats and replacing it with the Liberal Democrats/Conservative joint administration. This amendment was accepted by Councillor Lorber.

The Council voted on the amendment in the name of Councillor HB Patel which was declared LOST.

The Council voted on the amendment in the name of Councillor Lorber, as amended, which was declared LOST.

The Council voted on the amendment in the name of Councillor John which was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

In respect of Section 3

- (i) that the final 2009/10 outturn be noted;
- (ii) that the latest forecast for the General Fund outturn (as detailed in Appendix A(i) of the report) for 2010/11 be noted;
- (iii) that the 2010/11 budget virements (as detailed in Appendix A(ii) of the report) be agreed;

In respect of Section 4

- (iv) that the process, including consultation, that has led to these budget proposals be noted and to note that the council remains in discussion with a number of groups about the council's library strategy, Charteris Sports Centre and other council services which may have an effect on the council budget.
- (v) that the General Fund revenue budget for 2011/12, as summarised in Appendix B of the report, be agreed subject to the following amendments:

1. Additional Areas of Expenditure:

Area	Proposal	Additional Cost £'000
Youth Centres	<i>Wembley – operate at reduced cost/frequency</i>	81
	<i>St Raphael's and Dennis Jackson – merger of two teams and re-alignment of programmes of activity to meet local needs</i>	47
Advice Centres	<i>Reduce Advice agency budgets – 12% for each of BTRG and Law Centre and 7% for CAB</i>	206
Domestic Violence	<i>Victim Support</i>	110
Additional Policing Squad	<i>Additional 2 police officers and 2 PCSOs</i>	110
Welsh Harp	<i>Shared cost with 3rd party</i>	37
Total Costs		591

2. Additional Savings to fund proposals:

Area	Proposal	Additional Cost £'000
Carbon Tax	<i>Charge made to schools central budget (recent change in guidance) to follow 'polluter pays' principle (subject to discussion at Schools Forum)</i>	(205)
Refund of London Councils Grant	<i>£206k of £249k unallocated grant</i>	(206)
Reduction in PCSO's	<i>Reduction from 16 PCSOs</i>	(110)
Grants	<i>Additional Grants for Community Safety</i>	(70)
Total Costs		(591)

- (vi) that the Service Area budgets including the cost pressures, savings, changes to fees and charges 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) that the contingent liabilities and risks set out in this section of the report be noted where appropriate provision be made for them;
- (ix) that the approach to balances set out in the report be agreed;

- (x) that the report from the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in paragraph 4.36 of the report, in respect of his statutory duty under Section 25 of 2003 Local Government Act, be received;

In respect of Section 5

- (xi) that the GLA precept approved at the meeting of the Greater London Assembly on 23rd February 2011 be noted;
- (xii) that the advice of officers regarding council tax levels be noted;
- (xiii) that there is no surplus or deficit at 31 March 2011 for that part of the Collection Fund relating to community charge;
- (xiv) that the advice of the Director of Legal and Procurement as set out in Appendix M of the report be received and noted;
- (xv) that the instalment dates for council tax and NNDR for 2011/12, and the recovery policy for council tax as set out in Appendix G(ii) of the report be agreed;

In respect of Section 6

- (xvi) that the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the provisional service area cash limits for 2012/13 to 2014/15 set out in Appendix H of the report be agreed;

In respect of Section 7

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

In respect of Section 8

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

In respect of Section 9

- (xix) that the latest forecast outturn position on the 2010/11 capital programme be noted, and the revised budgets be agreed;
- (xx) that the properties included within the disposals programme set out in Appendix K(v) of the report be noted;
- (xxi) that the 2011/12 to 2014/15 programme as set out in Appendix K(iii) of the report, including the new capital allocations, be agreed;
- (xxii) 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;

- (xxiii) that the levels of unsupported borrowing forecast for 2011/12 and future years and the impact on council tax levels be noted;
- (xxiv) that the policy on repayment of principal in 2011/12 as set out in paragraphs 9.15 to 9.22 of the report be adopted;

In respect of Section 10

- (xxv) that the Treasury Management Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2011/12 be agreed;

In respect of Section 11

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

In respect of Section 12

- (xxix) that the procedures for controlling expenditure set out in section 12 be noted and agreed;
- (xxx) that the updated schedule of Provisions and Earmarked Reserves set out in Schedule 1 of Appendix N to the report be agreed;

In addition

- (xxxi) that the Council's Director of Finance and Corporate Services be authorised to:
 - (a) make payments on approved capital schemes in 2011/12.
 - (b) borrow in 2011/12 up to the limits agreed within the Prudential Indicators.
 - (c) enter such leasing arrangements as are necessary to finance the programme for 2011/12 and terminate or renegotiate any existing leases.
 - (d) make such minor adjustments to budgets as are necessary.
- (xxxii) that, following the above resolutions and agreeing the budget in Appendix B of the report, it be noted that the effect of all these measures is to produce overall council expenditure in 2011/12 of £268.895m.
- (xxxiii) that it be noted that £1.006m is attributable to the net deficit on the Collection Fund.
- (xxxiv) to note that at its meeting on 25 January 2011, the General Purposes Committee calculated the amount of 97,252 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2011/12 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992;

(xxxv) that in relation to the council tax for 2011/12:

the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2011/12 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £1,042,460,000 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) £774,571,000 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) £267,889,000 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) £164,905,000 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;

(xxxvi) that it be noted that for the year 2011/12 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
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£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
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) above and the precepting authority referred to in (xxxvi) 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 2011/12 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

(xxxviii)that the Director of Finance and Corporate Services 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 is authorised to borrow or to lend money in accordance with the regulations to the maximum benefit of each fund.

(Councillor Brown wished it recorded that he had assented to the amendment moved by Councillor Lorber).

7. Changes to the Council's Financial Regulations

Members had before them the report setting out the proposed new Financial Regulations for the Council and updating the current Scheme of Transfers and Virements. It also explained the introduction of Required Financial Practice Notes. The report also sought agreement for a separate set of Financial Regulations covering schools. Clive Heaphy (Director of Finance and Corporate Services) explained that the changes proposed were largely to bring the Council's Financial Regulations in line with the new council structure.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the:
 - a) new Financial Regulations for the Council set out in Appendix A to the report,
 - b) the updates to the Scheme of Transfers and Virements shown as tracked changes in Appendix B to the report,
 - c) the Schools Financial Regulations set out in Appendix C to the report, and

- d) the Required Financial Practice Notes set out in Appendix D to the report

be adopted with immediate effect;

- (ii) that the Constitution be amended by replacing the Financial Regulations in Part 6 with those set out in Appendix A to the report and that the Scheme of Transfers and Virements be amended as shown in Appendix B of the report.

8. **By election result**

RESOLVED:-

that the result of the Kenton ward by election be noted.

9. **Motions**

Give libraries a chance

Councillor Lorber moved the motion submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group.

The motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

that this council

- (a) thanks the many residents who made an effort to attend this meeting of the Council to listen to the budget debate on libraries, and
- (b) expresses support for their cause.

Controlled Parking Zones

Councillor Lorber moved the motion submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group which sought to oppose the increases in parking permit charges for residents living within Controlled Parking Zones. The motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

Green Zones

Councillor Lorber moved the motion submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group which sought to continue the promotion of the Green Zone scheme. The motion was put to the vote and declared LOST.

Brent Community Law Centre

Councillor Lorber moved the motion submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group.

The motion was put to the vote and declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED:-

that this council:

- (a) thanks the many residents and service users who made an effort to attend the Executive meeting on 15 February 2011 and this Council meeting to listen to the budget debate on the Brent Law Centre,
- (b) thanks the Brent Law Centre for their work in support of Brent's residents over the years, and
- (c) resolves to conduct a fundamental review of the service required from the law centre as promised.

Library service

The motion circulated in the name of Councillor HB Patel was ruled out of order for seeking to undermine decisions already made on the budget.

10. **Urgent business**

There was none.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm

COUNCILLOR HARBHAJAN SINGH
Mayor