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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Council Chamber - Town Hall 28 February 2024 (7.30 – 10.13 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Stephanie Nunn) in the Chair

Councillors Mandy Anderson, Robert Benham, Ray Best, Patricia Brown, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Brian Eagling, Sarah Edwards, Gillian Ford, Jason Frost, Laurance Garrard, James Glass, David Godwin, Martin Goode, Judith Holt, Jane Keane, Paul McGeary, Trevor McKeever, Paul Middleton, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Barry Mugglestone, Gerry O'Sullivan, Sue Ospreay, Dilip Patel, Nisha Patel, Viddy Persaud, Keith Prince, Philip Ruck, Timothy Ryan, Carol Smith, Christine Smith, Natasha Summers, David Taylor, Katharine Tumilty, John Tyler, Christine Vickery, Bryan Vincent, Frankie Walker, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Julie Wilkes, Christopher Wilkins, Graham Williamson, Jacqueline Williams, Darren Wise and John Wood

7 Members' guests and members of the public and a representative of the press were also present.

The Mayor advised Members and the public of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

The Mayor's Official Chaplain – Reverend Amanda Keighley of St Nicholas Church, Elm Park opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

56 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joshua Chapman, Osman Dervish, Oscar Ford, Jacqueline McArdle, Matt Stanton and Damian White.

57 **MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 17 January 2024 were agreed without division.

58 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 4)**

The following disclosures of interest were recorded.

Agenda item 7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Barry Mugglestone, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Brian Eagling, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Bryan Vincent, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Carol Smith, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Christine Smith, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Christine Vickery, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Christopher Wilkins, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Darren Wise, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor David Godwin, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor David Taylor, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Dilip Patel, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Frankie Walker, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Gerry O'Sullivan, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Gillian Ford, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Graham Williamson, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Jacqueline Williams, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor James Glass, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Jane Keane, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Jason Frost, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor John Crowder, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor John Tyler, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor John Wood, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Judith Holt, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Julie Wilkes, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Katharine Tumilty, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Keith Darvill, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Keith Prince, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Laurance Garrard, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Mandy Anderson, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Martin Goode, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Michael White, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Natasha Summers, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Nisha Patel, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Patricia Brown, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Paul McGeary, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Paul Middleton, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Philip Ruck, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Philippa Crowder, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Ray Best, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Ray Morgon, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Reg Whitney, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Robert Benham, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Sarah Edwards, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Stephanie Nunn, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Sue Ospreay, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Timothy Ryan, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Trevor McKeever, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25.

Councillor Viddy Persaud, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

59 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (agenda item 5)

The Mayor passed on her condolences and sympathy following the recent murder in Harold Wood.

The Mayor reminded of her forthcoming event at the Queen's Theatre on 19 March and her Civic Dinner on 22 April and wished Havering luck for its application to be London Borough of Culture, the results of which would be announced on 11 March.

Congratulations were passed on to all involved with the Havering float at the New Year's Day Parade which had celebrated the history of Hornchurch Airfield as well as the borough's recent success in the London Bloom awards.

The Mayor also welcomed back to the Chamber Councillor Michael White and the Strategic Director of Finance – Kathy Freeman following recent health issues.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had confirmed that it was minded to approve the Council's request for a Capitalisation Directive. A further Council meeting on 6 March would not therefore be required. This would allow a balanced budget to be presented for debate at the 28 February meeting.

60 PROCEDURE (agenda item 6)

There were no procedural motions proposed.

61 THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2024/25 (agenda item 7)

Council had before it a series of reports covering the Council's Budget, Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy Statement. Reports also covered the Housing Revenue Account and Bridge Close Regeneration LLP business plans.

Deemed Motion on behalf of the Administration

That the reports be adopted and their recommendations carried into effect.

Amendment of behalf of the Conservative Group and the East Havering Residents' Group

As appended to these minutes.

Following debate, the amendment on behalf of the Conservative and East Havering Residents' Groups jointly was **NOT CARRIED** by 29 votes to 19 with 1 abstention (see division 1).

The reports of Cabinet and the deemed motion on behalf of the Administration were **AGREED** by 27 votes to 20 with 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council agrees and endorses the recommendations in the report to Cabinet of 7 February 2024 titled **Bridge Close Regeneration LLP Business Plan Refresh 2024-25**.
2. That Council approves the **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Major Works Capital Programme**, detailed in Appendix 1a of the HRA Budget for 2024/2025 and HRA Major Works Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2028/29 report to Cabinet of 7 February 2024.
3. That Council approves the **HRA Capital expenditure and financing for the 12 Sites Joint Venture**, detailed in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.26 and Appendix 1b of the of the HRA Budget for 2024/2025 and HRA Major Works Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2028/29 report to Cabinet of 7 February 2024.
4. That Council approves the **Capital Strategy and Programme for 2024/25** as shown in the separate report to Cabinet of 7 February 2024.
5. That Council approves the **Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Indicators, and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2024/25** as shown in the separate report to Cabinet of 7 February 2024.
6. That the following as submitted in the report to Cabinet of 7 February 2024 are approved:
 - The **General Fund budget for 2024/25**
 - The **Council Tax for Band D properties and for other Bands of properties**, all as set out in Appendix E of the Cabinet report.
 - The **Delegated Schools' Budget for 2024/25**, as set out in section 6 of the Cabinet report.
 - The **Capital Programme for 2024/25** as set out in the **Capital Strategy and Programme Report** reported to Cabinet on 7 February 2024.

7. The Council delegates authority to the Chief Financial Officer to adjust the Corporate Risk Budget to account for any further variations that may arise.
8. That, in accepting recommendation 1, Council is mindful of the advice of the Chief Finance Officer as set out in Appendix H of the report to Cabinet.
9. That it be noted that under delegated powers the Chief Finance Officer has calculated the amount of 91000 (called T in the Act and Regulations) as its Council Tax base for the year 2024/25 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended) made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended.
10. That the amount of £158,023,000 be now calculated as the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25, with £23,233,000 of that amount being ringfenced for Adult Social Care.
11. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:

(a)	£724,273,000	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
(b)	(£566,250,000)	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£158 023 000	being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
(d)	£1,736.52	being the amount at (c) above divided by the taxbase, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

12. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands London Borough of Havering			
	Havering	Adult Social Care	Total
	£ p	£ p	£ p
A	987.47	170.21	1,157.68
B	1,152.05	198.58	1,350.63
C	1,316.63	226.94	1,543.57
D	1,481.21	255.31	1,736.52
E	1,810.37	312.04	2,122.41
F	2,139.53	368.78	2,508.31
G	2,468.68	425.52	2,894.20
H	2,962.42	510.62	3,473.04

13. That it be noted for the year 2024/25 the major precepting authority (the GLA) has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below as proposed by the Mayor.

Valuation Bands Greater London Authority	
	£ p
A	314.27
B	366.64
C	419.02
D	471.40
E	576.16
F	680.91
G	785.67
H	942.80

14. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 7 and 8 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands	£ p
A	1,471.95
B	1,717.27
C	1,962.59
D	2,207.92
E	2,698.57
F	3,189.22
G	3,679.87

H	4,415.84
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The effect of adopting this resolution would be to set the Council Tax for a Band D property at £2,207.92

15. That Council having considered the principles approved under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government concludes that the Council's basic relevant amount of Council Tax for 2024/25 is not excessive.
16. That any Council Tax payer who is liable to pay an amount of Council Tax to the Authority in respect to the year ending on 31 March 2024, who is served with a demand notice under Regulation 20(2) of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 as amended and who makes payment to the Authority of the full balance of the estimated amount shown on that demand by 1 April 2024, may deduct a sum equivalent to 1.5% of and from the estimated amount and such reduced amount shall be accepted in full settlement of that estimated amount.
17. That Council approves that the Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25 is adopted for 2024/25 as set out in Section 10 of the Cabinet report of 7 February 2024.

62 VOTING RECORD

The record of voting decisions is attached as appendix 2 to these minutes.

Mayor

PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT FROM THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS GROUP

(Proposer Cllr Keith Prince)

(Seconded Cllr Martin Goode)

The Conservative Party and East Havering Residents Group propose the following budget amendments:

That the planned feasibility work on the Romford masterplan is stopped which would release a reserve of **£0.200m** which could be re-directed

That the following amendments are made to the Capital Programme for 2024/25

1. Deferral of the £2.934m Capital budget for Hornchurch Police Station to 2025/26
2. Deletion of the £1.000m Capital budget for the Romford Ring Road

These two items would reduce the financing costs of the Capital programme in 2024/25 by **£0.098m**

It is recognised that the Romford ring road budget is funded by CIL so it is proposed to redirect the released CIL to fund Highways schemes currently funded by borrowing thereby releasing the financing saving

It is also proposed to increase the target of houses to be purchased within the HRA by 10 in order to help manage the general fund temporary accommodation pressure.

This would reduce the budget pressure set aside for temporary accommodation by **£0.150m** in 2024/25.

This will release **£0.448m** of revenue budget for 2024/25 and it is proposed to use this to reverse the following savings proposals

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Place 13 - Cease Trading on Sunday at Romford Market | (0.125m) |
| 2. Place 13 - Increase Market stall fees by 10% | (0.030m) |
| 3. Reduce pitch fees on Romford Market by 15% | (0.045m) |
| 4. Freeze pitch fees for football pitches | (0.007m) |
| 5. Place 9 - Freeze cost of residents permits | (0.040m) |
| 6. Reverse Home to school transport saving | (0.200m) |

It is recognised that reversing the Home to School transport saving will have an impact rising to £1.3m by 2026/27 and that utilising the feasibility reserve is for one year only.

It is proposed that the ongoing pressure is offset by purchasing further homes and modular units which will be ready from 2025/26 onwards and will therefore reduce the ongoing temporary accommodation pressure built into the budget.

Financial Implications from acting S151 officer

If a decision was taken to purchase Hornchurch police station within 2024/25 a new Capital budget would need to be identified to fund the purchase and be agreed at full Council

With regard to ceasing the feasibility and development of the Romford Masterplan the Council has already invested over £500k in developing the plan to date.

The Romford ring road Capital budget is funded by CIL. Appropriate Highways schemes currently funded by borrowing that fully meet the CIL criteria would need to be identified to redirect the released CIL in order to realise the financing cost revenue saving.

With regard to the Housing proposal. The Council has 50 house purchases planned in the HRA for 2024/25. In addition to this there is also an additional 150 units to be acquired by the Chalkhill scheme. This means that 200 properties are already identified in the budget and officers believe this is very near the maximum number that can realistically be delivered of the correct bed size and standard needed.

The additional 10 properties would need to be funded from the HRA which is already exceeding its financing cap in the early years of the 30 year business plan.

The Council also has a further 50 properties planned and assumed in the budget for 25/26 and 2026/27.

The proposal identifies purchase and development of modular housing to offset the future year impact of reversing the home to school saving. There will be a number of dependencies and risks to this proposal including identification of suitable sites, planning permission, provision of drainage and utilities apart from the procurement process. The purchase would be from the HRA which as stated has already exceeded the finance cap in those years.

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	1	2
The Mayor (Councillor Stephanie Nunn)	X	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Pat Brown]	X	✓
CONSERVATIVE GROUP (19)		
Cllr Robert Benham	✓	X
Cllr Ray Best	✓	X
Cllr Joshua Chapman	A	A
Cllr John Crowder	✓	X
Cllr Philippa Crowder	✓	X
Cllr Osman Dervish	A	A
Cllr Jason Frost	✓	X
Cllr Judith Holt	✓	X
Cllr Dilip Patel	✓	X
Cllr Nisha Patel	✓	X
Cllr Viddy Persaud	✓	X
Cllr Keith Prince	✓	X
Cllr Timothy Ryan	✓	X
Cllr Carol Smith	✓	X
Cllr Christine Smith	✓	X
Cllr David Taylor	✓	X
Cllr Christine Vickery	✓	X
Cllr Damian White	A	A
Cllr Michael White	✓	X
HAVERING RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GROUP (21 + 1)		
Cllr Sarah Edwards	X	✓
Cllr Gillian Ford	X	✓
Cllr Oscar Ford	A	A
Cllr Laurance Garrard	X	✓
Cllr James Glass	X	0
Cllr David Godwin	X	✓
Cllr Jackie McArdle	A	A
Cllr Paul Middleton	X	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	X	✓
Cllr Raymond Morgon	X	✓
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	X	✓
Cllr Sue Ospreay	X	✓
Cllr Gerry O'Sullivan	X	✓
Cllr Natasha Summers	X	✓
Cllr Bryan Vincent	X	✓
Cllr Reg Whitney	X	✓
Cllr Julie Wilkes	X	✓
Cllr Christopher Wilkins	X	✓
Cllr Jacqueline Williams	X	✓
Cllr Graham Williamson	X	✓
Cllr John Wood	X	✓
LABOUR GROUP (8 + 1)		
Cllr Mandy Anderson	X	✓
Cllr Keith Darvill	X	✓
Cllr Jane Keane	X	✓
Cllr Paul McGeary	X	✓
Cllr Trevor McKeever	X	✓
Cllr Matthew Stanton	A	A
Cllr Katharine Tumilty	X	✓
Cllr Frankie Walker	X	✓
EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP (3)		
Cllr Brian Eagling	✓	X
Cllr Martin Goode	✓	X
Cllr Darren Wise	✓	X
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT GROUP (2)		
Councillor Philip Ruck	0	0
Councillor John Tyler	X	X
TOTALS		
✓ = YES	19	27
X = NO	29	20
0 = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	1	2
ID = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	6	6
	0	0
	55	55

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