

# LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

## MINUTES

of the proceedings of the Meeting of the  
Council of the Borough  
held at 7.00 pm on 27 February 2023

Present:

**The Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor Hannah Gray**

**The Deputy Mayor  
Councillor Christine Harris**

### Councillors

Jeremy Adams	Adam Jude Grant	Alexa Michael
Jonathan Andrews	Dr Sunil Gupta FRCP	Angela Page
Jessica Arnold	FRCPATH	Chris Price
Felicity Bainbridge	Alisa Igoe	Chloe-Jane Ross
Kathy Bance MBE	Julie Ireland	Will Rowlands
Yvonne Bear	Mike Jack	Shaun Slator
Nicholas Bennett J.P.	Simon Jeal	Colin Smith
Kim Botting FRSA	David Jefferys	Diane Smith
Mike Botting	Charles Joel	Mark Smith
Mark Brock	Kevin Kennedy-Brooks	Alison Stammers
David Cartwright QFSM	Josh King	Melanie Stevens
Graeme Casey	Jonathan Laidlaw	Harry Stranger
Will Connolly	Andrew Lee	Ryan Thomson
Aisha Cuthbert	Kate Lymer	Michael Tickner
Peter Dean	Keith Onslow	Pauline Tunnicliffe
Sophie Dunbar	Tony Owen	Thomas Turrell
Robert Evans	Christopher Marlow	Sam Webber
Simon Fawthrop	Ruth McGregor	Rebecca Wiffen
Kira Gabbert	Tony McPartlan	

The meeting was opened with prayers

In the Chair

The Mayor, Councillor Hannah Gray

### **62 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Colin Hitchins.

### **63 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**64 To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th December 2022**

A minor correction was made to Appendix A, page 1, where “embers” should have read “members.”

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be confirmed.**

**65 Questions**

Eight questions had been received from a member of the public for oral reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix A to these minutes.

Thirteen questions had been received from members of the public for written reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix B to these minutes.

Fourteen questions had been received from members of the Council for oral reply. The questions, with the replies given, are set out in Appendix C to these minutes.

Four questions had been received from members of the Council for written reply. The questions, with the answers given, are set out in Appendix D to these minutes.

**66 Statement from Councillor Shaun Slator**

With the agreement of the Mayor, Councillor Shaun Slator made a statement giving an unreserved apology for comments he had made on Twitter.

**67 To consider any statements that may be made by the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holders or Chairmen of Committees.**

At the request of Councillors Alisa Igoe and Simon Jeal, the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families, Councillor Kate Lymer, made a statement on the announcement by the Mayor of London that he would fund free school meals for all primary school children in 2023/24. The Portfolio Holder emphasised that the cost of this would be borne by hard working Londoners, rather than the Mayor, through his tax rises. The least well-off in London would in effect be paying for the meals of the children of the middle classes and millionaires. There was no funding to provide schools with the additional facilities some would need, and the funding was strictly limited to one year, timed with the London elections in mind.

In response to questions, the Portfolio Holder stated that there was no intention to reverse a decision by the previous portfolio holder in October 2020 not to provide food support to children in the school holidays,

emphasising the range of support available including support and food for 9,200 children in the holiday period. She argued that if the Mayor wanted to help poorer families he should stop making excessive tax and public transport fare rises and the ULEZ expansion. She agreed that, according to the Mayor's own statement, 30% of children in London already qualified for free school meals, and she was aware of concerns from some educational charities that schools could miss out on vital Pupil Premium funding.

**68            2023/24 Council Tax**  
**Report CSD23033**

Before the start of this item Councillor Nicholas Bennett declared an interest as a member of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.

It was moved by Councillor Nicholas Bennett and seconded by Cllr Colin Smith that Council Procedure Rules be varied at this meeting to allow for one debate on each report covering the original motion, any amendments and where necessary the substantive motion. This was accepted by the Members present.

The Director of Finance reported that there were no changes to the final Mayoral precept accepted by the London Assembly on 23<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Since the last meeting of the Executive, there had been further changes on levies and the final position was shown in recommendation 2.1 (e) below.

Members were requested to note that the 2023/24 budget included the impact of the recommended 2023/24 pay award, the supplementary 2022/23 award to meet inflationary pressures and the proposed increase for merited rewards that was reported to Executive on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and was subject to full Council approval (agenda item 10).

It was important to note that the 2023/24 Central Contingency sum included costs not yet allocated to Portfolio budgets at this stage. Therefore, there would be further changes to the Central Contingency to reflect allocations to individual Portfolio budgets prior to publication of the Financial Control Budget.

The above changes would require the following proposed amendments to be made to the recommendations of the Executive:

**“Amended Recommendation (2.1)**

- (b)** Approves the draft revenue budgets (as in Appendix 2) for 2023/24 to include the following updated changes in (d) and (e):
- (d)** Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £17,560k to reflect the changes in (e);

- (e) **Approves the following provisions for levies for inclusion in the budget for 2023/24:**

	£'000
London Pensions Fund Authority	448
London Boroughs Grant Committee	246
Environment Agency (flood defence etc.)	266
Lee Valley Regional Park	341
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,301</b>

- (f) Notes the final position on the GLA precept, as accepted by the London Assembly on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023;
- (g) Sets a 4.99% increase in Bromley's council tax for 2023/24 compared with 2022/23 (2.99% general increase plus 2% Adult Social Care Precept) and a 9.7% increase in the GLA precept.

### **Amended Recommendation (2.2)**

Council Tax 2023/24 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

Subject to 2.1 (a) to (k) above, if the formal Council Tax Resolution as detailed below is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Increase £	Increase % (note #)
Bromley (general)	1,178.15	1,218.25	40.10	2.99
Bromley (ASC precept)	162.98	189.80	26.82	2.00
Bromley (total)	1,341.13	1,408.05	66.92	4.99
GLA *	395.59	434.14	38.55	9.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,736.72</b>	<b>1,842.19</b>	<b>105.47</b>	<b>6.07</b>

- (#) in line with the 2022/23 Council Tax Referendum Principles, the % increase applied is based on an authority's "relevant basic amount of Council Tax" (£1,341.13 for Bromley) – see paragraph 6 below.

### **Amended Recommendation (2.3):**

- (3) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
- (a) £617,683k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
- (b) £429,053k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (4) Notes that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government

Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.

- (6) That the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2023/24, which reflects a 4.99% increase (including Adult Social Care Precept of 2%), is not excessive. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2023/24 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2023/24. The Council is required to determine whether its relevant basic amount of Council Tax is excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992."

The recommendations as altered above were moved by Councillor Christopher Marlow and seconded by Councillor Colin Smith.

The following amendments were moved by Councillor Simon Jeal and seconded by Councillor Jeremy Adams.

"The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2023/24:

**Additional Recommendation (2.1):**

- (k) Utilise total funding of £5.075m (as set out in Appendix 1) to be invested in services over the years 2023/24 to 2026/27 summarised by year as set out below.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
See Appendix 1	£1.160m	£1.148m	£978k	£1.788m	£5.075m

- (l) To reflect the additional utilisation of the Central Contingency by an amount totalling £300,000, approving a revised Central Contingency sum of £17,236k, noting that over the 4-year period there will be a cumulative saving of £21k. All other amounts will be funded from Earmarked Reserves
- (m) Amend the council tax support scheme for 2023/24 to allow an increase in the maximum support provided by the Council from 70% to 75% for Band A to D properties. The 2022/23 scheme for Band E and above properties would remain unchanged. This will be for 2023/24 only at a net loss of income of £366k to be funded from earmarked reserves.
- (n) Reducing the merited pay award from £400k to £220k. The £180k saved will then be utilised as a payment for the lowest paid staff below the median.

- (o) Agree that ongoing costs beyond 2026/27 relating to the utilisation of Earmarked Reserves will need to be reviewed as part of any final 2027/28 budget proposal for 2027/28. Further details of (k), (l) and (m) are provided in Appendix 1 on the following page.”

The following members voted in favour of the amendment:

Councillors Jeremy Adams, Jessica Arnold, Kathy Bance, Alisa Igoe, Simon Jeal, Kevin Kennedy-Brooks, Josh King, Ruth McGregor, Tony McPartlan, Chris Price, Ryan Thomson and Rebecca Wiffen (12).

The following members voted against the amendment:

Councillors Jonathan Andrews, Felicity Bainbridge, Yvonne Bear, Nicholas Bennett, Kim Botting, Mike Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Sophie Dunbar, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Kira Gabbert, Adam Grant, Sunil Gupta, Christine Harris, Mike Jack, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Jonathan Laidlaw, Andrew Lee, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Alexa Michael, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Will Rowlands, Shaun Slator, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Mark Smith, Alison Stammers, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe and Thomas Turrell (39)

The following members abstained:

Councillors Graeme Casey, Will Connolly, Hannah Gray, Julie Ireland, Chloe-Jane Ross and Sam Webber (6).

The amendment was **LOST**.

The following amendments were moved by Councillor Julie Ireland and seconded by Councillor Chloe-Jane Ross.

“The following changes be made to the recommended budget for 2023/24:

**Additional Recommendation (2.1):**

- (a) On the basis of potential costs of £140k relating to the legal challenge for ULEZ which would need to be funded from the Central Contingency, it is recommended not to proceed with legal challenge and use the potential monies released as follows;
- Funding for Air Quality Nodes (£20k)
  - Funding for School Streets (£50k)
  - Additional Funding for Road Safety Projects (£70k).
- (b) With the expectation of increased revenue as a result of increased interest rates and lower than expected inflation rates, it is recommended to set aside £500k for a Community Resilience Fund.

The full £500k would be met from the inflation provision in the Central Contingency sum.

- (c) Ringfence 3 projects funded where Officers have identified equivalent revenue savings;
- Develop and implement a Digital Inclusion Strategy (£50k)
  - Support for Youth Services (up to £75k)
  - Install parking meters that take card payments at key locations (£50k)”

The following members voted in favour of the amendment:

Councillors Graeme Casey, Will Connolly, Julie Ireland, Chloe-Jane Ross and Sam Webber (5).

The following members voted against the amendment:

Councillors Jonathan Andrews, Felicity Bainbridge, Yvonne Bear, Nicholas Bennett, Kim Botting, Mike Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Sophie Dunbar, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Kira Gabbert, Adam Grant, Sunil Gupta, Christine Harris, Mike Jack, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Jonathan Laidlaw, Andrew Lee, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Alexa Michael, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Will Rowlands, Shaun Slator, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Mark Smith, Alison Stammers, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe and Thomas Turrell (39)

The following members abstained:

Councillors Jeremy Adams, Jessica Arnold, Kathy Bance, Hannah Gray, Alisa Igoe, Simon Jeal, Kevin Kennedy-Brooks, Josh King, Ruth McGregor, Tony McPartlan, Chris Price, Ryan Thomson and Rebecca Wiffen (13).

The amendment was **LOST**.

Accordingly, the following recommendations of the Executive, with the changes proposed by the Director of Finance as moved by Councillor Christopher Marlow and seconded by Councillor Colin Smith were considered.

## **2.1 Council resolves that -**

- (a) **Note the Final Local Government Settlement 2023/24, announced by DLUHC on 6<sup>th</sup> February, which included additional Services Grant funding of £61.5k and that these monies be set aside within the 2023/24 Central Contingency.**
- (b) **Approve the schools budget of £98.674m which matches the estimated level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) after academy recoupment;**

- (c) Approves the draft revenue budgets (as in Appendix 2) for 2023/24 to include the following updated changes in (d) and (e).
- (d) Approves a revised Central Contingency sum of £17,484k to mainly reflect the final changes in (e).
- (e) Approves the following provisions for levies for inclusion in the budget for 2023/24:

	£'000
London Pensions Fund Authority	448
London Boroughs Grant Committee	246
Environment Agency (flood defence etc.)	266
Lee Valley Regional Park	341
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,301</b>

- (f) Notes the final position on the GLA precept, as accepted by the London Assembly on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.
- (g) Sets a 4.99% increase in Bromley's council tax for 2023/24 compared with 2022/23 (2.99% general increase plus 2% Adult Social Care Precept) and a 9.7% increase in the GLA precept.
- (h) Sets a 2% increase in Adult Social Care Precept with a 2.99% increase in Bromley's General Council Tax, compared with 2022/23 (1% Adult Social Care Precept) and notes that, based upon their consultation exercise, the GLA are currently assuming a 9.7% increase in the GLA precept.
- (i) Approve the revised draft 2023/24 revenue budgets to reflect the changes detailed above.
- (j) Approve the approach to reserves outlined by the Director of Finance (see Appendix 4).
- (k) Notes that the Executive agrees that the Director of Finance be authorised to report any further changes directly to Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## 2.2 Council Tax 2023/24 – Statutory Calculations and Resolutions (as amended by the Localism Act 2011).

Subject to 2.1 (a) to (k) above, if the formal Council Tax Resolution as detailed below is approved, the total Band D Council Tax will be as follows:

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Increase £	Increase % (note #)
<b>Bromley (general)</b>	<b>1,178.15</b>	<b>1,218.25</b>	<b>40.10</b>	<b>2.99</b>



<b>Bromley (ASC precept)</b>	<b>162.98</b>	<b>189.80</b>	<b>26.82</b>	<b>2.00</b>
<b>Bromley (total)</b>	<b>1,341.13</b>	<b>1,408.05</b>	<b>66.92</b>	<b>4.99</b>
<b>GLA *</b>	<b>395.59</b>	<b>434.14</b>	<b>38.55</b>	<b>9.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,736.72</b>	<b>1,842.19</b>	<b>105.47</b>	<b>6.07</b>

- (#) in line with the 2022/23 Council Tax Referendum Principles, the % increase applied is based on an authority's "relevant basic amount of Council Tax" (£1,341.13 for Bromley) – see paragraph 6 below.

### 2.3 Council resolves as follows -

1. It be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 is 134,093 'Band D' equivalent properties.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/2024 is £188,810k.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the Act):
  - (a) £617,683k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
  - (b) £429,053k being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates or the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
  - (c) £188,810k being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
  - (d) £1,408.05 being the amount at 3(c) above, divided by (1) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
4. Notes that the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued a precept to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
5. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2023/24 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands	London Borough of Bromley	Greater London Authority	Aggregate of Council Tax Requirements
-----------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------------

	£	£	£
<b>A</b>	<b>938.70</b>	<b>289.43</b>	<b>1,228.13</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>1,095.15</b>	<b>337.66</b>	<b>1,432.81</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>1,251.60</b>	<b>385.90</b>	<b>1,637.50</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1,408.05</b>	<b>434.14</b>	<b>1,842.19</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>1,720.95</b>	<b>530.62</b>	<b>2,251.57</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>2,033.85</b>	<b>627.09</b>	<b>2,660.94</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>2,346.75</b>	<b>723.57</b>	<b>3,070.32</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>2,816.10</b>	<b>868.28</b>	<b>3,684.38</b>

6. That the Council hereby determines that its relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year 2023/24, which reflects a 4.99% increase (including Adult Social Care Precept of 2%), is not excessive. The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2023/24 sets out the principles which the Secretary of State has determined will apply to local authorities in England in 2023/24. The Council is required to determine whether its relevant basic amount of Council Tax is excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The following members voted in favour of the motion:

Councillors Jonathan Andrews, Felicity Bainbridge, Yvonne Bear, Nicholas Bennett, Kim Botting, Mike Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Sophie Dunbar, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Kira Gabbert, Adam Grant, Sunil Gupta, Christine Harris, Mike Jack, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Jonathan Laidlaw, Andrew Lee, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Alexa Michael, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Will Rowlands, Shaun Slator, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Mark Smith, Alison Stammers, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe and Thomas Turrell (39)

The following members voted against the motion:

Councillors Jeremy Adams, Jessica Arnold, Kathy Bance, Graham Casey, Will Connolly, Alisa Igoe, Julie Ireland, Simon Jeal, Kevin Kennedy-Brooks, Josh King, Ruth McGregor, Tony McPartlan, Chris Price, Chloe-Jane Ross, Ryan Thomson, Sam Webber and Rebecca Wiffen (17)

The following member abstained:

Councillor Hannah Gray (1)

The original motion as altered was **CARRIED**.

During consideration of this item the Mayor informed Members under Council Procedure Rule 8 that the meeting had been in progress for three hours. Members agreed to continue the meeting to deal with all the business on the agenda.

**69 Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24**  
Report CSD23032

A motion to approve the Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24, increasing the Discretionary Hardship Fund to £225 per annum and noting that from 2023/24 the Scheme will only be revised to incorporate any changes required by legislation and/or as a result of the annual uprating of benefits – public consultation will only be undertaken in future years when a fundamental change to the scheme is proposed - was moved by Councillor Christopher Marlow, seconded by councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

**70 Capital Strategy 2023/24 to 2026/27 and Q3 Capital Programme Monitoring**  
Report CSD23034

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Jeremy Adams and seconded by Councillor Simon Jeal.

“Additional Recommendation:

- (v) agree a supplementary capital estimate of £15,275k for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27 to be funded by £400k from the Growth Fund earmarked reserve and £14,950k by sourcing a partner to acquire a 49% interest in the Direct Line building.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was **LOST**.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Julie Ireland and seconded by Councillor Chloe-Jane Ross.

“Additional Recommendation:

- (v) to make a provision of up to £1m to help community groups purchase Community House and the Public Halls and reduce the equivalent provision in the capital programme.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was **LOST**.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Mark Smith and seconded by Councillor Alison Stammers.

“Additional Recommendation:

- (v) agree that officers bring forward the development work of Chislehurst Library to be undertaken in 2023/24 (costs of £1m), rather than in 2024/25 as assumed in the latest Capital Programme.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was **LOST**.

A motion to (i) approve the new schemes and other changes to the programme identified in the report, (ii) approve the refinancing of the Council's existing Housing Schemes through long-term borrowing of £49.2m, (iii) approve the use of up to £10m of earmarked revenue reserves to support funding of the Council's capital programme and (iv) agree that all new and existing Housing Schemes should be funded by long term borrowing, was moved by Councillor Christopher Marlow, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

**71 Treasury Management - Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24 and Quarter 3 Performance 2022/23**  
Report CSD23036

A motion to note the Treasury Management performance report for the third quarter of 2022/23 and agree to adopt the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24 including (i) the Prudential Indicators for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26, (ii) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy statement and (iii) revised minimum credit ratings for Housing Associations (BBB+) and Corporate Bonds (BBB+) was moved by Councillor Christopher Marlow, seconded by Councillor Colin Smith and **CARRIED**.

**72 2023/24 Pay Award**  
Report CSD23011

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Rebecca Wiffen and seconded by Councillor Josh King -

“Replace the text of recommendation (1) (iii): An additional £200k towards Merited Rewards, for 2023/24, bringing the total to £400k for rewarding staff for exceptional performance;

With:

(iii) An increase to Merited Rewards, for 2023/24, to a total of £220k, allocating £180k to provide an additional pay increase to the Council's lowest paid staff- including ensuring that salaries of all staff are increased to the London Living Wage or more.”

On being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

A motion to approve (i) a flat 2% pay increase for all staff (excluding teachers who are covered by a separate statutory pay negotiating process) in response to the unexpected spiralling inflation post the 2022/3 pay award agreed by full Council; the increase would be effective from 1st April 2023; (ii) a flat 5.75% pay increase for all staff (excluding teachers who are covered by a separate statutory pay negotiating process) for 2023/24; (iii) an additional £200k towards Merited Rewards, for 2023/24, bringing the total to £400k for rewarding staff for exceptional performance; (iv) that the Trade Unions' pay claim for staff be rejected (see paragraph 3.12 of the report and attached

appendices) and to note that, as in the previous years since coming out of the nationally/regionally negotiated frameworks, Bromley staff will receive the 2023/24 pay increase in time for the April pay, was moved by Councillor Christopher Marlow, seconded by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe and **CARRIED**.

**73 Pay Policy Statement 2023/24**  
Report CSD23012

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Josh King and seconded by Councillor Rebecca Wiffen -

“Add the following words to the end of the recommendation:

‘subject to the following change.

Section 5

5.4 London Living Wage

The Council believes all staff should be paid a real Living Wage, to guarantee that all of our staff, as a minimum, earn enough to reflect the current cost of living and what a household needs to get by, rather than be paid in reference to a percentage of median earnings.

The Council therefore ensures that no member of staff is paid less than the hourly London Living Wage rate- calculated independently by the Living Wage Foundation. For 2023/2024 this hourly rate is £11.95.”

On being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

A motion to approve the 2023/24 Pay Policy Statement as recommended was moved by Councillor Christopher Marlow, seconded by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe and **CARRIED**.

**74 Members Allowances Scheme 2023/24**  
Report CSD23013

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Tony McPartlan and seconded by Councillor Alisa Igoe -

“(1) The Council has considered the proposed Members Allowances Scheme 2023/24 and the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Allowances and recommends that allowances are retained amended from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, subject to the following changes:

1. The basic allowance should be increased by 4.5% to £11,905.69;
2. An increased allowance for the Chairmen of Audit and Risk Management Committee and Pensions Committee (bringing these posts into line with PDS Chairmen.);
3. The allowance for Executive Assistants shall be removed;

4. No other changes to allowances shall be paid;
5. That the saving of £61k against the cost of the Conservative Party's proposals be allocated to the Council's Welfare Fund."

On being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

A motion to approve the Members Allowances Scheme 2023/24 and the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral Allowances for 2023/24 based on the proposals supported by General Purposes and Licensing Committee from the Conservative group for most allowances to be increased by 7.75% (rounded up as necessary) with increased allowances for the Deputy Leader, the Chairmen of Pensions Committee and Audit and Risk Management Committee and various Vice-Chairman roles, but removing the proposal to delete the allowance for the leader of the second largest minority group, was moved by Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, seconded by Councillor Mike Botting and **CARRIED**.

**75 SACRE Annual Report 2021/22**  
Report CSD230014

A motion to receive and note the SACRE Annual Report 2021/22 was moved by Councillor David Jefferys, seconded by Councillor Robert Evans and **CARRIED**.

**76 West Wickham Library and Housing Project Update and Award of Works Contract**  
Report CSD23035

A motion to note the decisions made by the Executive and approve a supplementary capital estimate of £3,959k to cover construction price inflation since November 2021, when the project was originally added to the capital programme, and an increased contingency allowance, was moved by Councillor Yvonne Bear, seconded by Councillor Tony Owen and **CARRIED**.

**77 To consider Motions of which notice has been given.**

**(A) Comments made by Cllr Slator**

The following motion was moved by Councillor Kathy Bance MBE and seconded by Councillor Simon Jeal:

"On 31 December 2022 Councillor Shaun Slator tweeted "more likely that it's a punter that didn't pay" in response to a news article entitled "Woman raped in Plumstead park in early hours".

The Council considers this comment to be misogynistic and perpetuates a negative perception of rape victims.

The Council's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy sets out the support services provided to victims of sexual violence. Such comments by an

elected member of the Council undermine it and risks victims of rape feeling unable to access such services if they feel the Council's representatives are prejudiced against them.

While the Council's Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person have concluded that the Councillors' Code of Conduct is not engaged and therefore under the relevant legal requirements no Standard Committee investigation can take place, this Council unequivocally condemns Cllr Slator's comments and considers they are unacceptable for a member of this Council to have made.

On 31 December 2022 Councillor Shaun Slator tweeted "more likely that it's a punter that didn't pay" in response to a news article entitled "Woman raped in Plumstead park in early hours."

While the Council's Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person have concluded that the Councillors' Code of Conduct is not engaged and therefore under the relevant legal requirements no Standards Committee investigation can take place, this Council unequivocally condemns Cllr Slator's comments and considers that they are unacceptable for a member of this Council to have made.

It also be noted that Cllr Slator was suspended from the Conservative Group on Bromley Council on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for said comments, and will remain thus, until such time as he attends Full Council to make an unreserved apology for his actions including an undertaking not to repeat similar assertions in future and also attend appropriate training or voluntary work, as deemed appropriate by the Administration."

The following amended version of the motion was moved by Councillor Colin Smith and seconded by Councillor Michael Tickner –

"On 31 December 2022 Councillor Shaun Slator tweeted "more likely that it's a punter that didn't pay" in response to a news article entitled "Woman raped in Plumstead park in early hours."

While the Council's Monitoring Officer and the Independent Person have concluded that the Councillors Code of Conduct is not engaged and therefore under the relevant legal requirements no Standards Committee investigation can take place, this Council unequivocally condemns Cllr Slator's comments and considers they are unacceptable for a member of this Council to have made.

It also be noted that Cllr Slator was suspended from the Conservative Group on Bromley Council on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for said comments, and will remain thus, until such time as he attends Full Council to make an unreserved apology for his actions, including an undertaking not to repeat similar assertions in future and also attend appropriate training or voluntary work, as deemed appropriate by the Administration."

The following members voted in favour of the amendment:

Councillors Jonathan Andrews, Felicity Bainbridge, Yvonne Bear, Kim Botting, Mike Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Kira Gabbert, Adam Grant, Sunil Gupta, Christine Harris, Mike Jack, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Jonathan Laidlaw, Andrew Lee, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Alexa Michael, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Will Rowlands, Shaun Slator, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Harry Stranger, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe and Thomas Turrell (34)

The following members voted against the amendment:

Councillors Jeremy Adams, Jessica Arnold, Kathy Bance, Graham Casey, Will Connolly, Sophie Dunbar, Alisa Igoe, Julie Ireland, Simon Jeal, Kevin Kennedy-Brooks, Josh King, Ruth McGregor, Tony McPartlan, Chris Price, Chloe-Jane Ross, Ryan Thomson, and Rebecca Wiffen (17)

The following members abstained:

Councillor Nicholas Bennett, Hannah Gray, Mark Smith, Alison Stammers, Melanie Stevens and Sam Webber (6)

The amendment was **CARRIED**.

The following Members voted for the substantive motion:

Councillors Jonathan Andrews, Felicity Bainbridge, Yvonne Bear, Nicholas Bennett, Kim Botting, Mike Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Kira Gabbert, Adam Grant, Sunil Gupta, Christine Harris, Mike Jack, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Jonathan Laidlaw, Andrew Lee, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Alexa Michael, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Will Rowlands, Shaun Slator, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Mark Smith, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe and Thomas Turrell (37)

The following members voted against the substantive motion:

Councillors Jeremy Adams, Jessica Arnold, Kathy Bance, Graham Casey, Will Connolly, Sophie Dunbar, Alisa Igoe, Julie Ireland, Simon Jeal, Kevin Kennedy-Brooks, Josh King, Ruth McGregor, Tony McPartlan, Chris Price, Chloe-Jane Ross, Ryan Thomson, Sam Webber and Rebecca Wiffen (18)

The following members abstained:

Councillors Hannah Gray and Alison Stammers (2)

The substantive motion was **CARRIED**.

## **(B) ULEZ**

The following motion (as altered) was moved by Cllr Nicholas Bennett and seconded by Cllr Aisha Cuthbert:

“This Council supports the action taken by the Leader and the Executive Member for Transport, Highways and Road Safety in not approving the



erection of cameras and signs on Bromley roads and the commissioning, with other London and county local councils, of counsel's opinion on the legality of Mayor Khan's proposals to extend the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to outer London.

Council notes the thoroughly misleading statements by Mayor Khan in reference to Bromley's air quality, which is amongst the best in London.

Council further notes the recent revelations, following a Freedom of Information request, by City Hall Conservatives, which showed that contrary to Sadiq Kahn's assurances.

- His senior officers and deputy Mayor for Transport were receiving weekly updates on the progress of the consultation and the voting;
- that he employed a social marketing company, at public expense, to target those most likely to be in favour of ULEZ to boost the 'Yes' vote;
- having seen how the vote was progressing then disallowed more than 5000 votes against ULEZ
- despite this more than 59% of respondents were opposed to the imposition of the Zone on outer London.

Council congratulates our local London Assembly Member Peter Fortune AM on his diligent research and forensic examination of Mayor Khan to expose the manipulation of the consultation."

This Council reiterates its opposition to the imposition of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone on Bromley as it will have a serious impact on the self-employed, small businesses which rely on their vehicles to conduct their trade and on elderly residents and others on fixed incomes. The imposition of a daily charge to drive in the borough will be an additional financial burden and, for many, without the means purchase a compliant vehicle, it will mean they can no longer trade or afford to drive. The extension of the ULEZ charge on motorists, including those entering Bromley from neighbouring counties will also be detrimental, especially for those like nurses, police officers, supermarket shelf fillers and others working unsocial hours when public transport is not available.

This Council therefore requests the Leader and the Executive to continue to oppose the Mayor's ULEZ decision, challenge it by way of legal action and agree funding in the region of £140k to be met from the Council's 2022/23 Central Contingency Sum.

The following Members voted for the motion:

Councillors Jonathan Andrews, Felicity Bainbridge, Yvonne Bear, Nicholas Bennett, Kim Botting, Mike Botting, Mark Brock, David Cartwright, Aisha Cuthbert, Peter Dean, Robert Evans, Simon Fawthrop, Kira Gabbert, Adam Grant, Sunil Gupta, Christine Harris, Mike Jack, David Jefferys, Charles Joel, Jonathan Laidlaw, Andrew Lee, Kate Lymer, Christopher Marlow, Alexa

*Council*  
27 February 2023

Michael, Keith Onslow, Tony Owen, Angela Page, Will Rowlands, Shaun Slator, Colin Smith, Diane Smith, Mark Smith, Alison Stammers, Melanie Stevens, Harry Stranger, Michael Tickner, Pauline Tunnicliffe and Thomas Turrell (38)

The following members voted against the motion:

Councillors Jeremy Adams, Jessica Arnold, Kathy Bance, Graham Casey, Will Connolly, Sophie Dunbar, Alisa Igoe, Julie Ireland, Simon Jeal, Kevin Kennedy-Brooks, Josh King, Ruth McGregor, Tony McPartlan, Chris Price, Chloe-Jane Ross, Ryan Thomson, Sam Webber and Rebecca Wiffen (18)

The following member abstained:

Councillor Hannah Gray and (1)

The motion was **CARRIED**.

## **78 The Mayor's announcements and communications.**

The Mayor thanked Members who attended the Holocaust Memorial Day in January, the Whisky Tasting Evening and the Ukraine Remembrance Service.

The Mayor advised Members about her Charity Dinner at the Honourable Artillery Company on 6<sup>th</sup> April and reminded them to buy their Fly a Spitfire Prize Draw tickets – the draw would be on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

## **79 Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**RESOLVED that the Press and public be excluded during consideration of the item of business referred to below as it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the Press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.**

**The following summary  
refers to matters involving exempt information**

## **80 West Wickham Library and Housing Project Update and Award of Works Contract (Part 2)**

A motion to note the Part 2 information relating to the West Wickham Library and Housing Project was recommended by the Executive was moved by Cllr Yvonne Bear, seconded by Cllr Tony Owen and **CARRIED**.

The Meeting ended at 0.20 am

Mayor