

MEETING OF HARLOW COUNCIL
7.30 pm on Thursday 30 January 2020
In the Council Chamber - Civic Centre

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors' declarations of interest (if any) in relation to any items on the agenda.

3. Minutes (Pages 5 - 12)

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2019.

4. Communications from the Chair

5. Petitions from the Public

6. Questions from the Public

7. Questions from Councillors

8. Motions from Councillors

a) All Party Parliamentary Group Definition of Islamophobia

Proposed by Councillor Lanie Shears (seconded by Councillor Nancy Watson):

“Harlow Council is proud of its town’s diversity. A substantial proportion of its residents are Muslim, who are an integral part of its make-up, playing a huge role in all aspects of the Harlow's life.

Harlow has a strong history of welcoming people from all over the world. Harlow Council will always stand united and supported any community that faces abuse. Harlow Council will always fight against racism and discrimination in all its forms.

This Council therefore welcomes, endorses and adopts the working APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) definition of Islamophobia, including all of its examples in full cited as follows:

‘Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.’

Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media,

schools, the workplace, and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, considering the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist/fascist ideology, or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism and claims of a demographic 'threat' posed by Muslims or of a 'Muslim takeover'.
- Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.
- Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.
- Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the 'Ummah' (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying Muslim populations, the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, eg loyalty tests.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia.

Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.”

9. References from Cabinet and Committees

- a) Referral from Cabinet - Corporate Plan 2020/21 (to follow)
- b) Referral from Cabinet - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 - 2022/23 (to follow)
- c) Referral from Cabinet - General Fund Budget 2020/21 (to follow)
- d) Referral from Cabinet - Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2019-2049 (to follow)
- e) Referral from Cabinet - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2020/21 (to follow)
- f) Referral from Cabinet - Capital and Treasury Report 2020 (to follow)
- g) Referral from Cabinet - Capital Programmes 2019/20 - 2021/22 (to follow)
- h) Referral from Cabinet - Local Council Tax Support Scheme Proposals 2020/21 (Pages 13 - 37)

Cabinet recommended to Full Council that the current Local Council Tax Support Scheme remains unchanged for 2020/21.

- i) Referral from Cabinet - Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019/20: Mid-Year Review (Pages 38 - 49)

Cabinet recommended to Full Council that the Mid-Year Review of the Treasury Statement, attached as Appendix A to the report, be considered.

- j) Referral from Independent Remuneration Panel - Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2019/20 (Pages 50 - 56)

The Independent Remuneration Panel recommended to Full Council that:

- i) The Basic Allowance is increased to £4,575 for the 2020/21 financial year, representing a two per cent increase.
- ii) All Special Responsibility Allowances in the Councillor's Allowance Scheme (attached as Appendix A to the report) are increased by two per cent for the 2020/21 financial year.

- iii) The Councillor Maternity/Paternity Policy (attached as Appendix B to the report) be approved.
- iv) The Head of Governance be delegated authority to make changes to the Council's Constitution to implement recommendations i, ii and iii.

10. Reports from Officers

11. Minutes of Cabinet and Committee Meetings

To note the following Cabinet and Committee minutes:

- a) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 13 November 2019 of Development Management Committee (Pages 57 - 59)
- b) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 19 November 2019 of Licensing Committee (Page 60 - 61)
- c) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 27 November 2019 of Audit & Standards Committee (Pages 62 - 64)
- d) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 5 December 2019 of Cabinet (Pages 65 - 73)
- e) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 17 December 2019 of Development Management Committee (Pages 74 - 75)
- f) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 15 January 2020 of Development Management Committee (to follow)

12. Matters of Urgent Business

Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be received as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances to be specified in the minutes.