

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON**

17 December 2015

7.30 - 8.51 pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Tony Hall (Chairman)
Edna Stevens (Vice-Chair)

David Carter	Shona Johnson
Simon Carter	Muriel Jolles
Joel Charles	Dan Long
Jean Clark	Patrick McCabe
Jon Clempner	Russell Perrin
Karen Clempner	Bill Pryor
Jacqui Cross	Danny Purton
Mike Danvers	Clive Souter
Bob Davis	Emma Toal
Tony Durcan	Rod Truan
Waida Forman	Phil Waite
Andrew Johnson	Mark Wilkinson
Eddie Johnson	

OFFICERS

Malcolm Morley, Chief Executive
Brian Keane, Head of Governance
Lisa Purse, Corporate and Governance Support Officer
Janet Jackson, Corporate and Governance Support Team Leader

51. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Beckett, Nick Churchill, Maggie Hulcoop, Sue Livings and John Strachan.

52. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) Councillor Waida Forman declared an Other Pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 a, Motions from Councillors, in respect of her employment at Princess Alexandra Hospital.
- b) Councillor Andrew Johnson declared an Other Pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 a, Motions from Councillors, in respect of his employment at North East London Commissioning Support Unit, which has dealings with Princess Alexandra Hospital.

53. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2015 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:

Councillor Phil Waite was in attendance at 22 October 2015 Council meeting.

54. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

a) Official Events Attended

The Chairman detailed some of the 23 official events that he had attended since the last Council meeting, including hosting official visits to the Town, charity fundraising events and award ceremonies.

b) Traveller Injunction

It was reported that on the 16 December 2015 The High Court granted a district wide injunction banning Travellers from setting up unauthorised encampments in Harlow until June 2017. Tremendous teamwork between all parties involved, including the Council's Legal Team and Community Safety Team has been demonstrated.

c) Tribute

The Chairman reported the death of a long-serving past member of the Council, Martin Lawn. A minute's silence took place in his memory and in respect to his family and friends. Councillor Mike Danvers paid tribute to Martin Lawn and gave details of the funeral arrangements.

55. **PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

56. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The question and the answer is appended to these minutes.

57. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The questions and the answers are appended to these minutes.

58. **MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

a) Princess Alexandra Hospital

Proposed by Councillor Jon Clempner, seconded by Councillor Mark Wilkinson it was moved that:

This Council notes with extreme concern recent press articles on the financial state of Princess Alexandra Hospital, comments from the hospital's Chairman and Chief Executive that the hospital is not sustainable in the medium term and the increasing likelihood of cuts to hospital services for the communities it serves. It also notes that the West Essex health system has been excluded from the NHS Essex Success Regime despite the severe financial challenges it faces. Given the growing need for acute and other health services for the communities of Harlow and the surrounding areas as they continue to grow, this Council resolves to urge the Government to:

1. Urgently address the significant funding and systemic issues at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and in the West Essex health system to ensure adequate and accessible health service provision to the residents of Harlow and the surrounding areas for the short and medium terms.
2. Develop, in consultation with the Councils of West Essex and East Hertfordshire, a longer term plan to secure financially sustainable, appropriate and sufficient access to health services for the communities served by the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the West Essex CCG.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor Andrew Johnson and seconded by Councillor Joel Charles:

This Council notes with extreme concern recent press articles on the financial state of Princess Alexandra Hospital, comments from the hospital's Chairman and Chief Executive that the hospital is not sustainable in the medium term and the increasing likelihood of cuts to hospital services for the communities it serves. It also notes that the West Essex health system has been excluded from the NHS Essex Success Regime despite the severe financial challenges it faces. Given the growing need for acute and other health services for the communities of Harlow and the surrounding areas as they continue to grow, this Council resolves to urge the Government to:

1. Urgently address the significant funding and systemic issues at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and in the West Essex health system to ensure adequate and accessible health service provision to the residents of Harlow and the surrounding areas for the short and medium terms.

2. Develop, in consultation with the Councils of West Essex and East Hertfordshire, a longer term plan to secure financially sustainable, appropriate and sufficient access to health services for the communities served by the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the West Essex CCG.
3. And Further Urges West Essex CCG to reconsider its position on the implementation of RTT fines for this financial year, and further urges the CCG to reconsider reinvestment of fines monies directly into PAH services.

The amendment was agreed and became the substantive motion proposed by Councillor Jon Clempner and seconded by Councillor Mark Wilkinson.

The substantive motion was carried unanimously.

b) Crossrail 2

Proposed by Councillor Andrew Johnson, seconded by Councillor Joel Charles it was moved that:

This Council notes the ongoing consultation regarding Crossrail 2, which ends 8 January 2016.

Also notes that currently the terminus of Crossrail 2 is at nearby Broxbourne, who by 2030 will see up to 12 additional cross London trains an hour in both directions.

Agrees that Harlow stands to benefit economically if it is included in Crossrail 2.

This Council therefore commits to campaigning to include Harlow in Crossrail 2.

And further directs the Chief Executive, in the immediate period to:

1. Coordinate an initial response to the consultation, outlining the details of this debate and the reasons that Harlow should be included in the scheme.
2. Further coordinate the submission of formal responses from local business, residents groups and partner organisations.

At the suggestion of the Leader of the Council, and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.7 (a), Councillor Andrew Johnson altered the motion, by adding the wording shown in bold below:

This Council notes the ongoing consultation regarding Crossrail 2, which ends 8 January 2016.

Also notes that currently the terminus of Crossrail 2 is at nearby Broxbourne, who by 2030 will see up to 12 additional cross London trains an hour in both directions.

Agrees that Harlow stands to benefit economically if it is included in Crossrail 2.

This Council therefore commits to campaigning to include Harlow in Crossrail 2.

And further directs the Chief Executive, in the immediate period to:

1. Coordinate an initial response to the consultation, outlining the details of this debate and the reasons that Harlow should be included in the scheme **and make representations as to the advantages of having the terminus at Harlow.**
2. Further coordinate the submission of formal responses from local business, residents groups and partner organisations.

The alteration was agreed with the consent of the meeting.

The altered motion was carried unanimously.

59. **REFERENCES FROM CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

- a) Referral from Cabinet - Joint Finance & Performance Report, Quarter Two 2015/16

The Council received a report from the Cabinet that recommended that it approves:

- (i) The contributions to reserves set out in the Major Variations Table in Appendix A of the original report to Cabinet.

Proposed by Councillor Jon Clempner and seconded by Councillor Mike Danvers it was:

RESOLVED that the above recommendation is approved.

- b) Referral from Cabinet - Capital Programmes Quarter Two Finance Report, 2015/16

The Council received a report from the Cabinet that recommended that it approves the following:

- (i) Carryovers to 2016/17 from the Housing Capital Programme of £1.9m (reference paragraph 6 of the original report to Cabinet).

(ii) The inclusion of a new business case in the Non-Housing Capital Programme totalling £15,000 (reference paragraph 14 of the original report to Cabinet).

(iii) Carryovers to 2016/17 from the Non-Housing Capital Programme of £784,000 (reference paragraph 15 of the original report to Cabinet).

Proposed by Councillor Jon Clempner and seconded by Councillor Mike Danvers it was:

RESOLVED that the above recommendations are approved.

c) Referral from Cabinet - Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2015/16 Mid-Year Review

The Council received a report from the Cabinet that recommended that it approves:

(i) The Mid-Year Review of the Treasury Management Strategy, attached as Appendix A of the original report to Cabinet.

Proposed by Councillor Jon Clempner and seconded by Councillor Mike Danvers it was:

RESOLVED that the above recommendation is approved.

d) Referral from Cabinet - Adoption of Amendments to London Road South Local Development Order

The Council received a report from the Cabinet which recommended the following:

(i) The amendments to the London Road South Local Development Order (contained in appendices to the original report to Cabinet) are approved and the revised Order adopted.

Proposed by Councillor Jon Clempner and seconded by Councillor Tony Durcan it was:

RESOLVED that the above recommendation is approved.

e) Referral from Cabinet - Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2016/17

Council received a report from the Cabinet that recommended the following:

A 2016/17 Local Council Tax Support Scheme is amended as follows:

- (i) The introduction of a minimum income floor for selfemployed claimants of Local Council Tax Support.
- (ii) The award of backdated Local Council Tax Support is limited to one month.

B The proposal to remove the Family Premium in calculating an award of Local Council Tax Support is deferred for a further 12 months.

Proposed by Councillor Jon Clempner and seconded by Councillor Mike Danvers it was:

RESOLVED that the above recommendation is approved.

60. **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

- a) Appointment of Member Champion for 2015/16

Proposed by Councillor Jon Clempner (seconded by Councillor Tony Durcan) it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Danny Purton is appointed as Member Champion for Highways and Infrastructure for 2015/16.

A vote on the motion was recorded. The details of the recorded vote are appended to these minutes.

61. **MINUTES OF CABINET AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings are noted:

- a) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 9 September 2015 of Audit & Standards Committee
- b) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 15 October 2015 of Cabinet
- c) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 20 October 2015 of Scrutiny Committee
- d) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 17 November 2015 of Licensing Committee
- e) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 25 November 2015 of Audit & Standards Committee

62. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Agenda item 6 refers

1. Ms E Batrick, 37 Tunmeade , Harlow, to Councillor Tony Durcan, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise

What is the Council doing to ensure that The Square will continue to exist in new premises in 2016?

Reply from Councillor Tony Durcan, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise

The Council shares residents' concerns about the town losing such an important community facility and there is no doubt that The Square makes a tremendous contribution to Harlow and live music in the region.

Since February 2014 the Council has been actively working with The Square to consider a number of buildings, both owned by the Council and the private sector, where it might relocate. This included buildings in the Town Centre, the Latton Bush Centre, the Town Park and the Hospital site.

The Council also put forward a proposal for The Square to relocate to the Playhouse and carried out independent studies to see how this could work. The Playhouse and The Square equally make a huge contribution to life in Harlow and help attract visitors to the town and in the same location could have provided an even better live entertainment venue for everyone in one place.

While for many different reasons The Square did not find any of these suitable, I understand that The Square is actively considering a potential venue in the Town Centre with a private landlord.

The Council has advised The Square to produce a business plan covering the costs and timescales for transition to a new venue and its long term sustainability. The Council has also advised that it considers changing its company structure, possibly to a Social Enterprise, so it can attract external funding to help towards establishing a new community venture.

The Council has offered to help produce a business plan for The Square. Once this is in place we will explore if the Council could provide additional support for a new community based venture, consistent with the Council's objectives around youth provision, community engagement, and town centre regeneration. The Council would also encourage such a venture to seek ongoing funding from private, voluntary and public sector sources to support educational, arts and youth provision objectives.

**COUNCIL – 17 DECEMBER 2015
QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Agenda item 7 refers

1. **Councillor Eddie Johnson to Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council**

Since Full Council on Thursday, 24th September, 2015 when the Council passed the motion on Refugee Crisis which said:

Harlow Council commits to playing its part to help and support refugees from conflict zones who arrive in the Town and recognise that they have a right to be safe from persecution and become part of our community;

How many Syrian Refugees has the Council housed?

Reply from Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council

The Council motion on 24 September set out how Harlow Council commits to playing its part to help and support refugees from conflict zones who arrive in the Town and recognise that they have a right to be safe from persecution and become part of our community. It also called on the Government to recognise the humanitarian need and to make available the appropriate funding and resources to provide a safe haven.

The Home Office have now confirmed the funding secured through the recent Spending Review and have advised that that years two to five funding will be allocated on a tariff basis over four years. Notification of this to the Council was received from the Home Office on 27 of November 2015.

Harlow Council, along with other Essex Councils is working with Essex County Council who is establishing a rolling quarterly programme to rehouse Syrian refugees throughout Essex. The proposal is to house four or five families at a time in a Council area. It is likely that one or two Councils will assist each quarter, with the Councils assisting in quarter one of 2016 having already been identified. It is likely that Harlow Council will be asked to assist from quarter two, 2016 onwards.

In readiness for this the Council is working with the voluntary services and church to establish the networks that are already available in the town to enable a cohesive support network to be provided. The Council is also identifying other agencies that should be involved such as the Department of Works and Pensions. The intended approach is to have a named person within each organisation who will be able to either provide support or signpost to others who can provide the necessary support. It is intended that Harlow Council, Rainbow Services and the Church will each have a 'link

Officer' to ensure a 'joined up' approach in Harlow. Harlow Council will be compiling the contact information and will make contact with those organisations that have not already offered to provide support but may be a good position to do so.

In addition to the above, the Council has identified a lead officer who will be assessing the suitability of accommodation for Syrian refugees and ensuring that it is available at the appropriate time.

2. **Councillor Simon Carter to Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council**

At last week's Cabinet, in answer to questions over the governance of the Local Authority Trading Company, agenda item 11, you said there were no specific plans to establish additional LATCs. By implication there are some plans to create further companies. In order to provide further transparency over the governance arrangements, can you provide examples of the functions of those companies?

Reply from Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council

As already stated there are no specific plans to create additional LATC's. The creation of LATC's is now seen increasingly by many councils as an innovative approach to address the significant reductions in Government funding. The creation of a parent group structure now will provide the flexibility in the future should the Council determine to create other LATC's and to not do so now would create a risk of further unnecessary expenditure and time at a later date.

RECORDED VOTES – COUNCIL**DATE:** 17 December 2015**MOTION:** Agenda Item 10 a - Appointment of Member Champion 2015/16
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NAME	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
IAN BECKETT	1			
DAVID CARTER			1	
SIMON CARTER			1	
JOEL CHARLES			1	
NICK CHURCHILL	1			
JEAN CLARK		1		
JON CLEMPNER		1		
KAREN CLEMPNER		1		
JACQUI CROSS		1		
MIKE DANVERS		1		
BOB DAVIS		1		
MANNY DOKU	1			
TONY DURCAN		1		
WAIDA FORMAN		1		
TONY HALL			1	
MAGGIE HULCOOP	1			
ANDREW JOHNSON			1	
EDDIE JOHNSON			1	
SHONA JOHNSON			1	
MURIEL JOLLES			1	
SUE LIVINGS	1			
DAN LONG			1	
PATRICK McCABE		1		
RUSSELL PERRIN			1	
BILL PRYOR			1	
DANNY PURTON		1		
CLIVE SOUTER			1	
JOHN STRACHAN	1			
EDNA STEVENS		1		
EMMA TOAL		1		
ROD TRUAN		1		
PHIL WAITE		1		
MARK WILKINSON		1		
RESULT	6	15	12	