

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

At an extraordinary meeting of the Council for the Borough of Slough held at the Council Chamber - Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, SL1 2EL on Thursday, 6th March, 2025 at 7.00 pm

**Present:-** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Dhillon), in the chair; Councillors Abbasi, E. Ahmed, Ajaib, Akram, Anderson, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mann, Matloob, Mohindra, Muvvala, Nazir, Naveed, O'Kelly, Parmar, Qaseem (from 7.26pm), Rana, W. Sabah, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar and Wright.

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillors I. Ahmed, Carter, Dar, Iftakhar, Mohammad, J. Sabah and Zarait.

### 55. Mayor's Announcement

The Mayor informed the meeting that Tony Haines, former borough councillor and a co-opted member of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee, recently passed away.

Mr Haines was first elected as a Labour councillor for the Central Ward in 1987. He was re-elected on numerous occasions, latterly as an independent councillor in the Wexham Ward. During his time on the council, he sat on various committees and served as the Cabinet Member for Housing between 2004 to 2008 and retired as an elected member of the council in 2012.

More recently, he had joined the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee as an independent Co-opted Member in December 2023.

The council observed a minute silence in memory of Tony Haines.

### 56. Declarations of Interest

None received.

### 57. Duration of Meeting

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.2, the Mayor moved that, should the Council not have dealt with all of its business by 10.30pm, that the meeting continues past 10.30pm to complete the remainder of business. The Council signified its consent.

### 58. Pay Policy Statement

It was moved by Councillor Smith,  
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

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“That the Pay Policy Statement 2025/26, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

**Resolved** - That the Pay Policy Statement 2025/26, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

### **59. Gambling Act 2005 - Review of Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy 2025 - 2028**

It was moved by Councillor Khawar,  
Seconded by Councillor Shah,

“That the draft revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy 2025-2028, as set out in the appendix to the report, is adopted as the Council’s Gambling Licensing Policy.”

The recommendation was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

**Resolved** - That the draft revised Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy 2025-2028, as set out in the appendix to the report, is adopted as the Council’s Gambling Licensing Policy

### **60. Meeting Procedure**

It was moved by Councillor Smith,  
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

“That in accordance with procedure rule 27.1, rule 16.5 on rules of debate be suspended insofar as is necessary to enable the procedure as circulated to be adopted and that the Council consent to

- Members of the Leadership speaking for up to 45 minutes in total on the budget agenda items;
- Members of the Labour Group speaking for up to 20 minutes in total on the same items;
- Members of the Slough Independent Group speaking for up to 15 minutes in total on the same items;
- Members of the Liberal Democrat Group speaking for up to 5 minutes in total on the same items.”

The procedural motion was put and carried unanimously.

**Resolved** – That the proposed procedure for the budget debate be approved and adopted.

Members of each of the respective Groups spoke on the budget in accordance with the adopted meeting procedure.

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### **61. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 Year Business Plan and Medium Term Budgets 2025/26 and Setting of Housing Rents**

It was moved by Councillor Kelly,  
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

- (a) "That the HRA revenue budget for 2025/26, as set out in Appendix C which reflects the annual rents & service charges increases as agreed by Cabinet, be approved.
- (b) That the HRA 5-year Capital Programme as set out in Appendix D be approved.
- (c) That the draft 5-year HRA reserves and balances as set out in Appendix E be noted.
- (d) That the HRA 30-year Business plan as set out in Appendices A & B be approved.

That Council notes that Cabinet approved the following at its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025:

- Social & affordable housing dwelling rent increase of 2.7% (CPI plus 1%) from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in line with current national rent setting formula.
- Tenant service charges increase of 12% from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in line with the agreed phased recovery of additional service costs provided to and recoverable from relevant tenants.
- Garage rents for council & private tenants and leaseholders increase of 2.7% from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in line with the rent increase."

The recommendations were put to the vote and agreed with 21 votes for, 9 against and 5 abstentions.

#### **Resolved -**

- (a) That the HRA revenue budget for 2025/26, as set out in Appendix C which reflects the annual rents & service charges increases as agreed by Cabinet, be approved.
- (b) That the HRA 5-year Capital Programme as set out in Appendix D be approved.
- (c) That the draft 5-year HRA reserves and balances as set out in Appendix E be noted.
- (d) That the HRA 30-year Business plan as set out in Appendices A & B be approved.

Council noted that Cabinet approved the following at its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025:

- Social & affordable housing dwelling rent increase of 2.7% (CPI plus 1%) from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in line with current national rent setting formula.
- Tenant service charges increase of 12% from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in line with the agreed phased recovery of additional service costs provided to and recoverable from relevant tenants.

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- Garage rents for council & private tenants and leaseholders increase of 2.7% from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in line with the rent increase.

**62. Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26**

It was moved by Councillor O’Kelly,  
Seconded by Councillor Chahal,

- a) “That Council notes that the 2025/26 Draft Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) was considered by Audit and Corporate Governance Committee at its meeting on the 22 January 2025. It was resolved that, subject to any amendments arising from the budget and associated financial decisions which may impact on the TMS assumptions, that it be submitted to Full Council for approval on 6 March.
- b) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 1 be approved, including:
  - Annual Borrowing Strategy
  - Annual Investment Strategy
  - Minimum Revenue Provision Statement
  - Prudential Indicators
  - Capital Strategy”

The recommendations were put and carried and, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a record of the vote was taken as follows:-

There voted for the recommendations:-

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O’Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar and Wright ..... 21

There vote against the recommendations:-

Councillors Anderson, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob and Parmar ..... 9

There abstained from voting:-

Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Nazir, Qasem and W.Sabah ..... 5

**Resolved –**

- a) Council notes that the 2025/26 Draft Treasury Management Strategy was considered by Audit and Corporate Governance Committee at its meeting on the 22 January 2025. It was resolved that, subject to any amendments arising from the budget and associated financial decisions which may impact on the TMS assumptions, that it be submitted to Full Council for approval on 6 March.

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- b) That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 1 be approved, including:

- Annual Borrowing Strategy
- Annual Investment Strategy
- Minimum Revenue Provision Statement
- Prudential Indicators
- Capital Strategy

**63. General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29**

It was moved by Councillor Chahal,  
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

- a) "That the s.25 Statement from the Council's s.151 officer at Appendix 1 be noted.
- b) That the 2025/26 revenue budget on the basis of an increase in the general element of the council tax of 2.99% and an increase in the Adult Social Care Precept element of 2% as set out in Appendix 2 be approved;
- c) That the council tax resolution for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 2 be approved on the basis that it is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under s.52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and as permitted by the proposed 'The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2025/26';
- d) That the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as set out in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.20 of the report be approved;
- e) Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Corporate Services (S151 Officer) to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 3 within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision;
- f) That the General Fund capital programme as set out in Section 12 and Appendix 6 be approved;
- g) That the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy as set out in Section 17.4 - 17.5 and Appendix 7 to this report be approved."

The recommendations were put and carried and, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a record of the vote was taken as follows:-

There voted for the recommendations:-

Councillors Abbasi, E.Ahmed, Bedi, Chahal, Dauti, Dhillon, Kelly, Khawar, Manku, Mohindra, Muvvala, Naveed, O'Kelly, Rana, Satti, Shah, Shaik, Smith, Stedmond, Tomar and Wright ..... 21

There vote against the recommendations:-

Councillors Anderson, Escott, Gahir, Gill, Hulme, Instone, Mann, Matloob and Parmar ..... 9

**Council - 06.03.25**

There abstained from voting:-

Councillors Ajaib, Akram, Nazir, Qasem and W.Sabah ..... 5

**Resolved -**

- a) That the s.25 Statement from the Council's s.151 officer at Appendix 1 be noted.
- b) That the 2025/26 revenue budget on the basis of an increase in the general element of the council tax of 2.99% and an increase in the Adult Social Care Precept element of 2% as set out in Appendix 2 be approved;
- c) That the council tax resolution for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 2 be approved on the basis that it is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under s.52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and as permitted by the proposed 'The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles) (England) Report 2025/26';
- d) That the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as set out in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.20 of the report be approved;
- e) Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Corporate Services (S151 Officer) to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 3 within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision;
- f) That the General Fund capital programme as set out in Section 12 and Appendix 6 be approved;
- g) That the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy as set out in Section 17.4 - 17.5 and Appendix 7 to this report be approved.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 7.00 pm and closed at 9.18 pm)