

# MEETING OF HARLOW COUNCIL

8:00pm on Thursday, 8 July 2010

in the Council Chamber

---

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members' declarations of interest (if any) in relation to any matters on the agenda.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 25 May 2010 are at pages 1 – 3.

4. Communications from the Chairman

5. Petitions from the public

6. Questions from the public

7. Appointments to Panel

The Chairman will call for nominations for appointment to the Chief Executive's Appraisal Panel.

8. Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Chairman will call for nominations for appointment to the Advisory Panel for the Harlow Recreation Trust Fund.

9. Motions from Members

(1) Cllr Tony Hall (seconded by Cllr Joel Charles):

This Council wishes to support Essex Police in improving the quality of life experienced by Harlow residents.

(2) Cllr Andrew Johnson (seconded by Cllr Russell Perrin):

That Harlow Council acknowledges Harlow's longstanding role as a centre for science, and welcomes the interest from the Health Protection Agency in a possible relocation of part of its operation to Harlow. Harlow Council also believes that such

a move would have significant benefits for the town, the wider sub-region and the Agency itself, and calls upon Essex County Council, local MPs, the community and the private sector to support the proposed move.

(3) Cllr Jean Clark (seconded by Cllr Tony Durcan)

Harlow Council sympathises with the concerns of the Student Union at Harlow College regarding the safety of pedestrians crossing Velizy Avenue, highlighted in their petition with well over 500 signatures.

A fatal accident occurred there several years ago. The potential danger of crossing Velizy Avenue can only be exacerbated, with the increasing number of pedestrians using the new Leisurezone and proposal for a University alongside the road.

Harlow Council welcomes recent improvements promised by Essex County Council for a Toucan crossing.

Nevertheless, problems still exist:

- there are no advance warning signs indicating large numbers of students and members of the public ahead, similar to schools;
- the speed limit of 40 m.p.h. is too high;
- pedestrian lights do not respond quickly enough to pushing the button;
- the green light for pedestrians lasts only about 5 seconds;
- slip roads on each side have no zebra crossings.

Harlow Council therefore urges Essex County Council to introduce necessary safety measures before the new academic year in September, including:

- providing advance warnings of large numbers of pedestrians ahead;
- reducing the speed limit;
- providing quicker responses to pressing the button;
- extending the time of the static green light for safer access.

Harlow Council believes that, in the longer term, traffic calming measures should be introduced. The safety of pedestrians can only be assured with the complete separation of motor vehicles and pedestrians, with a dedicated pedestrian bridge or underpass.

In order to prevent further accidents, Harlow Council therefore urges Essex County Council to implement these safety measures, alongside the new crossing as promised. We would also ask that all developments be reported to and monitored by Harlow Council.

10. Main debate

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.3 the Chairman will call upon the Leadership to introduce the debate on the work undertaken by the Council in the previous year together with any highlights, pressures and potential issues for the coming year.

11. References from Committee

(1) Executive Committee

10 June 2010

(i) Report on Changing the Council's Governance Arrangements

**Recommended:** that the proposed consultation process to change the Council's Governance Arrangements as set out in the report be approved.

The Report is attached at pages 4 – 13.

24 June 2010

(i) Report on the Review of Earmarked Reserves

**Recommended:** that

- (a) the report and portfolio of reserves held by the Council, which summarised the Appendix 1 of the report and which is now recorded in detail within offices of both Finance and Corporate Governance services, be noted;
- (b) the schedule of appropriations outlined in paragraph 44a), b) and c) of the report be approved subject to the addition of a 44 d) to read: 'Repayment of Church Langley infrastructure reserves of £259K';
- (c) in conjunction with Recommendation (b) above, integration of the landscaping Reserve, Landscape Leaseholders' Reserve and

Commuted Sum Reserve into one reserve (see paragraphs 51 and 52 of the report); and

- (d) whilst no further transfers are proposed in respect of the earmarked reserves at this stage, it be noted that a further review will be conducted in two years time in order to review the requirements and scope for subsequent transfers.

The Report is attached at pages 14 – 34.

Any references arising from Committee meetings held after the publication of this agenda will be circulated separately.

12. Questions from Members

13. Reports from Officers

(i) Members' Allowances Scheme

**Recommended:** that the amended Members' Allowances Scheme proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel be agreed to.

The Report is attached at pages 35 – 43.

(ii) Standards Committee – 16 June 2010

(a) Annual Report 2008/09

**Recommended:** that the report be noted.

The Annual Report is attached at pages 44 – 48.

(b) Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee

**Recommended:** that the expanded Terms of Reference contained in Appendix B of the report be approved.

The Report is attached at pages 49 – 54.

(c) Appointment of Independent Member

**Recommended:** that Mr Brian Spencer be re-appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee.

The Report is attached at pages 55 – 56.

14. Communications from Committees

To note the minutes of the following committees, which have met since the Annual Council meeting on 25 May 2010:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Page Number(s)</u>
Executive Committee	10/06/10	57 - 58
*Audit Committee	24/06/10	59 - 62
*Executive Committee	24/06/10	63 - 65

\* These minutes remain draft until agreed to at the next ordinary meeting of the relevant Committee.

15. Exclusion of Press and Public

The Chairman will move that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda item (Item 15) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified under Paragraph 3 of Part One of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

16. Reference from Committee

(1) Executive Committee -10 June 2010

Insurance Update – MMI (Confidential)

**Recommended:** that the recommendations within the report be agreed.

The Report is attached at pages 66 – 69.

17. Matters of urgent business.