

## **ASSEMBLY**

Wednesday, 5 March 2003  
(7:00 - 8:20 pm)

### **PRESENT**

Councillor J Davis (Chair)  
Councillor D F Best (Deputy Chair)

Councillor J L Alexander	Councillor Ms M G Baker
Councillor W F L Barns	Councillor Mrs J Blake
Councillor G J Bramley	Councillor Mrs J E Bruce
Councillor A C Clark	Councillor H J Collins
Councillor L A Collins	Councillor Mrs J Conyard
Councillor B Cook	Councillor A H G Cooper
Councillor Mrs J E Cooper	Councillor Mrs V W Cridland
Councillor R J Curtis	Councillor W C Dale
Councillor J R Denyer	Councillor C J Fairbrass
Councillor M A R Fani	Councillor D J Felton
Councillor Mrs K J Flint	Councillor C Geddes
Councillor Mrs D Hunt	Councillor I S Jamu
Councillor R J E Jeyes	Councillor F C Jones
Councillor T J Justice	Councillor S Kallar
Councillor M A McCarthy	Councillor D S Miles
Councillor D O'Brien	Councillor B M Osborn
Councillor Mrs C T Osborn	Councillor J W Porter
Councillor Mrs J E Rawlinson	Councillor Mrs V M Rush
Councillor A G Thomas	Councillor Mrs P A Twomey
Councillor T G W Wade	Councillor L R Waker

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Mrs E E Bradley	Councillor A Gibbs
Councillor M W Huggins	Councillor M E McKenzie
Councillor L A Smith	Councillor J P Wainwright
Councillor Mrs M M West	

The Chair welcomed the new Member for Longbridge Ward, Anton Clark, to the Assembly.

#### **73. Minutes (12 February 2003)**

Agreed.

#### **74. Tribute to the late Councillor Laurie Bunn**

Tributes were paid to the late Councillor Bunn and a minute's silence was held in his memory.

## 75. Members Appointments

Agreed the following appointments:

- **Local Housing Company Board** - Councillors Mrs Hunt, Miles, B Osborn and Mrs West
- **Best Value Review Member Panels for Cross Cutting Best Value Reviews:**
  - **Regenerating the Local Economy** - Councillors Mrs Blake, Bramley, Bruce, Dale, Jones, Miles and Thomas
  - **Procurement** - Councillors Cook, Davis, Denyer and Miles
- **Trustees of the Brocklebank Lodge Trust Fund** - Councillors Jones and H Collins

## 76. Petition Requesting Action to Prevent Flooding in Church Elm Lane, Dagenham

Considered a petition organised by the Dagenham Village Residents' Association, which was introduced by the Secretary, Mr. V R Tolchard, requesting that the flooding of Church Elm Lane between Rectory Road and Royal Parade be brought to the attention of the responsible body.

The Assembly was sympathetic to the petition and suggested that Thames Water be invited to meet them to discuss the problems being experienced in the Borough.

Agreed to endorse the actions taken so far by Officers and noted that there will be ongoing liaison with Thames Water Utilities regarding this and other flooding issues.

## 77. Local Issues

### (i) Cleaner, Greener, Safer

Councillor Osborn introduced a video made by Councillor McKenzie and himself showing what the Council is doing to take Cleaner, Greener, Safer issues forward in the Borough, which has been produced to inform tenants about these actions. Service charges are seen as a way forward for funding the new initiatives and a series of consultation exercises will shortly be carried out with residents to explore the possibility of introducing these charges.

### (ii) National Service Framework for Older People's Services

Catherine Mitchell, Director of Older People's Services Primary Care Trust/Social Services, gave a presentation on the National Service Framework for Older People's Services.

At the end of September/beginning of October the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) will carry out an inspection of Older People's Services. It is important that all Members and staff are kept informed of the work that is being undertaken so that they can respond to any questions the SSI may ask. There will be regular articles in Council publications and briefings for staff.

The Assembly thanked Ms Mitchell for her presentation.

## **78. Report of the Executive**

Received the above report, which included recommendations on:

- (i) The Delivery of Housing Services
- (ii) The Formation of a Local Housing Company
- (iii) The Calendar of Council Meetings for 2003/04
- (iv) The JNC Officer Pay Review

### Agreed:

- (i) The proposed constitution for Community Housing Partnerships, the scope of delegated authority and the new article for the Constitution.
- (ii) To nominate four Members to join the Local Housing Company Board (see Minute 73)
- (iii) To approve the Calendar of Meetings for the coming municipal year
- (iv) The recommendations set out in the report to the Executive relating to the JNC Officer Pay Review

## **79. Leader's Question Time**

In relation to the JNC Officers' pay review, Councillor Jeyes asked that 'consideration be given to terminating the use of Hay Consultancy. All employees should be considered with equity. This could be our contribution to stop leapfrogging of salaries throughout England'.

The Leader responded that all employees are considered equally in the Borough and the Council has not leapfrogged salaries. He explained the background to the use of Hay Consultancy, commenting that the Authority had used the services of the Association of Local Government in the past, but this had proved too slow a process and obviously the review could not be undertaken in-house.

## **80. Report of the Scrutiny Management Board**

Noted.

## **81. Report of the Development Control Board**

Noted.

## **82. Report of the Personnel Board**

Noted.

## **83. Report of the Borough Finance Officer**

Received the report of the Borough Finance Officer on the Budget for 2003/04. Councillor Geddes commended the work done by the Head of Corporate Finance.

### Agreed:

- A The Budget 2003/04

1. That the following, as submitted in the Annual Estimates Book, be approved: -
  - (a) the revised revenue estimates for the year 2002/2003 and the revenue estimates for 2003/2004.
  - (b) the capital programme for the year 2003/2004 and, in principle, for 2004/05 to 2007/08.
2. That it be noted that at its meeting on 17 December 2002 the Assembly calculated the amount of 51,921 as its Council Tax Base for the year 2003/2004 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2003/2004 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992: -
  - (a) £414,608,609 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.
  - (b) £209,408,609 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
  - (c) £205,200,000 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 32 (4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
  - (d) £162,430,596 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant reduced by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its General Fund in accordance with Section 97 (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the directions under Section 98 (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1998 made on the 7 February 1994.
  - (e) £823.74 being the amount at 3 (c) above less the amount at 3 (d) above, all divided by the amount at (2) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(f) Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
549.16	640.69	732.21	823.74	1,006.79	1,189.85	1,372.90	1,647.48

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 3 (e) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band 'D' calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2003/2004 the amounts which the Mayor of London has calculated in accordance with Section 47 of the 1992 Act, as amended by Section 92 of the 1999 Act, as the amounts of Council Tax for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2003 for each category of dwelling are as follows: -

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Greater London Authority	149.60	174.53	199.47	224.40	274.27	324.13	374.00	448.80

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3 (f) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2003/2004 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: -

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
698.76	815.22	931.68	1,048.14	1,281.06	1,513.98	1,746.90	2,096.28

B Medium Term Financial Strategy

To adopt the budget strategy for the future years set out in section 12 of the report.

C Statutory Requirements for Borrowing Limits

That, in accordance with the requirements of Section 45 of Part IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989:

1. The overall borrowing limit for 2003/04 be £26.4m to cover the estimated outstanding debt remaining after the premature repayment of external debt during 1992/93 (This is currently financed from internal funds).

2. The amount of money which the Council borrows by way of short term money be limited to £5.3m being 20% of the total borrowing limit (In practice, no such borrowing is likely in 2003/04).
3. The limit on the proportion of borrowing by means of loans at variable rates of interest be £3m (In practice no such loans are likely to be raised during 2003/04).

That at present no cuts in funding or changes in arrangements for school crossing patrols is made, and a full risk assessment is carried out.

#### **84. Private Business**

Agreed to exclude the public and press for the remainder of the meeting, as the business was confidential.

#### **85. Chief Executive's Department - Restructuring**

Received the report of the Chief Executive proposing a restructuring of the Chief Executive's Department.

Agreed the recommendations set out in the report.