



Haverling

LONDON BOROUGH

VALUE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

7.30 pm

Thursday
7 July 2011

Town Hall, Main Road,
Romford

Members 6: Quorum 3

COUNCILLORS:

**Conservative Group
(4)**

Ted Eden
Robby Misir (Chairman)
Billy Taylor
Damian White

**Residents' Group
(2)**

Ray Morgon (Vice-Chair)
Ron Ower

**Ian Buckmaster
Committee Administration & Member Support Manager**

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Taiwo Adeoye 01708 433079
taiwo.adeoye@haverling.gov.uk**

AGENDA ITEMS

1 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

(if any) - receive.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members are invited to declare any interests in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting. Members may still declare an interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

4 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2011 and authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 CUSTOMER SERVICES UPDATE (COMPLAINTS SYSTEM & STATISTICS)

Oral Update

6 PRESENTATION ON NON DOMESTIC RATES (NDR) PARTNERSHIP

Oral Presentation

7 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS RELEVANT TO VALUE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Oral update

8 WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12 (Pages 5 - 8)

Report Attached

9 LONDON COUNCIL TOPIC GROUP UPDATE REPORT (Pages 9 - 12)

Report Attached

10 URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any other item in respect of which the Chairman is of the opinion, by reason of special circumstances which shall be specific in the minutes that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

**Ian Buckmaster
Committee Administration &
Member Support Manager**

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE VALUE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 14 April 2011 (7.00pm – 9.00pm)
Havering Town Hall, Romford

Present: Councillors Robby Misir (Chairman) Ted Eden, Ray Morgon, Ron Ower, Billy Taylor and Damian White.

The following members were present for the call-in item on the agenda: Councillors Keith Darvil, Jeff Tucker, David Durant, Dennis Breeding, Pat Murray, Paul McGeary and Michael Deon Burton.

Councillor Clarence Barrett, a signatory to the call in, sent his apologies.

The Chairman advised those present of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 8 March 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21. THE PROPOSED APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT ONGAR WAY/RAINHAM ROAD, SOUTH HORNCHURCH AND LAND AT GOOSHAYS DRIVE, HAROLD HILL – requisition of Executive Decision

In accordance with the procedure set out in Part 4, section 8, paragraph 16 of the Constitution, a requisition signed by three Members representing more than one Group (Councillors Keith Darvill, Clarence Barrett and Jeff Tucker) had called-in the decision made by Cabinet on 23 March 2011.

Reasons for the requisition:

The following were the reasons for the call in:

- a) To give (more) detailed consideration to the responses made by members of the public opposing the proposed appropriation.
- b) To consider whether the proposed appropriation pursuant to section 122 was appropriate.
- c) To consider whether the land was surplus to the Council's requirement
- d) To consider whether appropriating the land was in the interest of proper planning of the area.

Councillors Keith Darvil, Jeff Tucker, David Durant and Michael Deon Burton made representations to the Committee to consider upholding the call-in decision because both sites were the subject of Village Green applications.

The Acting Assistant Chief Executive and Property Strategy Manager explained in some detail that the correct procedure had been followed and also answered questions from Members.

Some of the questions included: why was there was a delay in the processing of the Village Geen application in Ongar Way, what was the date for a planning application on the site, as well as a request for clarification on when the village green application was submitted. Members also asked if the village green application pre-dated the appropriation process and whether the appropriation would have over-ridden a village green application.

The Committee voted not to uphold the requisition by 4 votes to 2. Councillors Morgon and Ower voting to uphold the requisition, all other Members voting not to.

22. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS RELEVANT TO VALUE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee agreed to defer this matter to its next meeting due to the time already spent on an earlier meeting.

The Chairman requested that the information be distributed in the meantime in order for members to comment.

23. REALLOCATION OF WORK LOAD OF PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Following the recent announcement by the Leader of the Council that Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be abolished at the end of the municipal year, the report invited the Committee to consider adding to their work programmes items that were due to be considered in the future by the Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The following item was outlined for addition to the work programme:

- Havering Strategic Partnership

The Committee **noted** the report but **decided** to defer the decision to the next Committee that would be in place at the next meeting.

24. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee received its draft Annual Report for the Council year 2010-11 which summarised the activities throughout the period.

The Committee had met on seven occasions during the year (including one special meeting).

It was planned for the report to stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable Members and others to compare performance year to year.

The Committee **noted** the report and agreed that it should be presented to full Council.

Chairman
7 July 2011

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Value Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 July 2011

Subject Heading:	Committee's Work Programme
CMT Lead:	Ian Burns, Acting Assistant Chief Executive- Legal and Democratic Services
Report Author and contact details:	Taiwo Adeoye Tel: 01708 433079 taiwo.adeoye@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	To agree the Committee's work programme for the 2011/12 municipal year.
Financial summary:	None – overview and scrutiny work will be covered by existing resources.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Clean, safe and green borough	□
Excellence in education and learning	□
Opportunities for all through economic, social and cultural activity	X
Value and enhance the life of every individual	X
High customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	X

SUMMARY

At this stage of the municipal year the Committee needs, so far as is practicable, to agree its work programme for the forthcoming year. This applies to both the work

plan for the Committee as a whole and to the subject of any topic group run under the Committee's auspices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee agree its work programme for the 2011/12 municipal year.

REPORT DETAIL

Shown in the schedule at the end of the report is a list of Cabinet reports due for review by the Committee and a draft initial work programme for the Committee's four remaining meetings during the municipal year (this does not include the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held in January to consider the Council's budget). This has been drawn up by officers following initial discussions with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the Committee may wish to add updates on some or all of the Cabinet reports to the work plan for the relevant future meeting.

Arrangements are being made with Lead OSC officers from each of the relevant departments to brief the Committee on their role and on any forthcoming issues that they wish to bring to the Committee for scrutiny.

Members will note that a significant proportion of the work plan has been left blank at this stage. This is to reflect the fact that Members may well wish to select further issues for scrutiny in light of the briefings they are given by officers. In addition, previous experience has shown that it is beneficial to leave some excess capacity for scrutiny in order to allow the Committee to respond fully to any consultations or other urgent issues that may arise during the year.

Additionally, the Committee has the power to select an issue for more in depth scrutiny as part of a topic group review. Council has recommended that, in view of limited resources, only one such topic group is run at any one time. The Committee is therefore requested to consider what should be the subject of its next topic group review if any.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

None – it is anticipated that the work of the Committee can be supported from existing resources.

Legal implications and risks:

None.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None.

Equalities implications and risks:

None although one outcome of effective health scrutiny will be to reduce health inequalities for Havering residents.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Draft Work Programme for Value Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting 1 (4 Oct 11)	Meeting 2 (24 Nov 11)	Meeting 3 (14 Feb 12)	Meeting 4 (2 May 12)
Performance information	Performance information	Performance information	Performance information
	Havering Strategic Partnership (Referred from Partnership OSC)		Committee Annual Report

List of Cabinet Reports relating to the Committee

1. Re-design of Communications Centre Services, incorporating Telecare. Date for Review: **12 months after implementation**
2. Appointment of Joint Director of Public Health. Date for Review: **January 2011**
3. Developing the Council's Corporate Business Planning Process 2010-13. Date for Review: **October 2010**
4. Review of Senior Management Structure following New Guidance on Safeguarding. Date for Review: **12 months (from October 2009) in conjunction with officers**
5. Corporate Asset Management Plan. Date for Review: **November 2010**
6. VNMS Extension of Agency Staff Contract. Date for Review: **12 months after contract renewal**



VALUE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 July 2011

Subject Heading:

London Councils Topic Group Report

CMT Lead:

Ian Burns
Acting Assistant Chief Executive
01708 432442

Report Author and contact details:

Taiwo Adeoye
Tel: 01708 433079
taiwo.adeoye@havering.gov.uk

Policy context:

To examine if membership of London Council represents value for money.

Financial summary:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

SUMMARY

At its meeting on 25 November 2010, the Committee requested that a topic group be established to examine the Council's membership of the Local Government Association (LGA), London Councils and any other bodies which the Council currently is a member of. This report details the work undertaken by the topic group and the conclusions that it reached.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee note the report and agree that the review be closed.

REPORT DETAIL

At its meeting on 25 November 2010, the Committee requested a report that examined the Council's membership of the Local Government Association (LGA), London Councils and any other bodies which the Council is currently a member of. The report set out in detail the functions of the LGA and London Councils, and the relative benefits to Havering Council of being a member of such organisations.

Following the meeting a Topic Group was agreed to review the Council's participation in London Councils. The group met on two occasions. All members of the Committee agreed to be on the Group. The Group was supported by Claire Thompson (Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager).

At its first meeting the Group developed and agreed the following objectives and scope of the review.

• Objectives

- To investigate the value for money of remaining a member of London Councils in this difficult financial climate
- To investigate whether the role played by London Councils could be provided by the GLA, removing the need for London Councils as an additional body
- To make a recommendation to Cabinet as to whether the Committee feels LB Havering should remain a Member of London Councils or not going forward

The Topic Group agreed that the scope of the review was only to look at Havering's membership of London Councils and no other bodies at this stage.

In addition the Group, would like to gain an understanding of the following:

- The staffing structure of London Councils
- Why London Councils existed when the GLA could provide this role?

The Group agreed to invite the following to give evidence as part of the review:

- Cllr Michael White – Leader of the Council
- A representative from London Councils
- Mike Stringer (Head of Finance)

- Tony Sweeting (then Head of People and Change)
A representative of the Taxpayers Alliance

FINDINGS

The Group met with the Leader at its second meeting in order to get his views about the Council's participation in London Councils.

The objectives of the Topic Group were outlined and put to the Leader to respond.

Councillor Michael White gave the following views in response:

- That London Councils was a delivery body with statutory powers.
- That it was very important for Havering and the other 32 Councils in London to get together and provide a single view about London
- That funding from London Councils allowed the delivery of services in the Havering locality
- That London Councils should be seen as different to the activities and responsibility of the Mayor of London
- That the Mayor's role was strategic to London

- The Leader added that a single voice (London Councils) had seen dramatic effect in Havering e.g. the decent homes funding that was to be withdrawn whereby through London Councils, Havering and other authorities were able to act as one and make a case for the funding to continue to be distributed.
- The Leader stated that as far as he was aware all 33 Councils in London were still involved in the running of the London Councils organisation.
- The Topic Group was informed that in its 7 years of existence, London Councils has been a success as a delivery vehicle. The Leader also outlined the role Capital Ambition has played to continue to drive performance by organising peer review since the closure of the CPA assessment scheme.
- The Leader also detailed the cost effectiveness of the e-auction that had enabled savings in the purchase of IT equipment including Ipads. Havering had been able to save about £1.2 million on personal laptop purchases via using the e-auction which was facilitated by London Councils.
- The Leader agreed that it was good to keep membership of the body under review but felt it was at present good value for money.
- The Topic Group was informed that London Councils was currently undergoing restructuring and review.
- A new agreement had recently been reached on an equalisation scheme that would enable a new funding formula to be produced and this would benefit Havering bearing in mind the borough's demographics and mortality rate.

- Efficiency and cost saving measures derived from Capital Ambition included the Library Consortium that brought together lending and book purchasing by 19 Councils. The Group was informed that Thurrock Council was also interested in joining the scheme.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the submission from the Leader, the Topic Group members present overwhelmingly agreed that the Council maintain its membership of London Councils.

The Group agreed that an update report be presented to the Committee in order for this topic to be closed.

Staff Contact: Taiwo Adeoye
Committee Officer

Telephone: 01708 433079

Background Papers – None.

The following comments have been submitted by members of staff:

Financial implications and risks:

Narrative Report Only – not applicable.

Human Resources implications and risks:

Narrative Report Only – not applicable.

Legal implications and risks:

Narrative Report Only – not applicable.

Equalities and Social Inclusion Implications and Risks:

Narrative Report Only – not applicable.