

# TOWNS & COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

6.30 pmTuesday<br/>14 August 2012Committee Room 3B -<br/>Town Hall

Members 9: Quorum 3

COUNCILLORS:

Damian White (Chairman) Wendy Brice-Thompson Osman Dervish Garry Pain Linda Trew Linda Hawthorn (Vice-Chair) Ray Morgon Paul McGeary Michael Deon Burton

For information about the meeting please contact: Richard Cursons (01708 432430) E-mail: richard.cursons@havering.gov.uk

# What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements. Each overview and scrutiny committee has its own remit as set out in the terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

They have a number of key roles:

- 1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy and decision makers.
- 2. Driving improvement in public services.
- 3. Holding key local partners to account.
- 4. Enabling the voice and concerns of the public.

The committees consider issues by receiving information from, and questioning, Cabinet Members, officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals, policy and practices. They can then develop recommendations that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations.

Committees will often establish Topic Groups to examine specific areas in much greater detail. These groups consist of a number of Members and the review period can last for anything from a few weeks to a year or more to allow the Members to comprehensively examine an issue through interviewing expert witnesses, conducting research and site visits. Once the topic group has finished its work it will send a report to the Committee that created it and it will often suggest recommendations to the executive.

# **Terms of Reference**

The areas scrutinised by the Committee are:

- Regulatory Services
- Planning and Building Control
- Town Centre Strategy
- Licensing
- Leisure, arts, culture
- Housing Retained Services
- Community Safety
- Social and economic regeneration
- Parks
- Social inclusion

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

(if any) - receive.

### 2 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members are invited to disclose any pecuniary interest in any items on the agenda at this point in the meeting.

Members may still disclose any pecuniary interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

#### 3 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.

## 4 REQUISITION OF EXECUTIVE DECISION - CAR PARKING CHARGES IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES (Pages 1 - 14)

The Committee are asked to consider the requisition of the Executive Decision on the Car Parking Charges in Parks and Open Spaces.

Ian Buckmaster Committee Administration and Member Support Manager