



# Havering

L O N D O N   B O R O U G H

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDA

**7.00 pm**

**Wednesday  
2 September 2015**

**Town Hall, Main Road,  
Romford**

Members 6: Quorum 3

**COUNCILLORS:**

Barbara Matthews (Chairman)  
Carol Smith  
Michael White

Barry Mugglestone  
Alex Donald (Vice-Chair)  
Patricia Rumble

**For information about the meeting please contact:  
Wendy Gough 01708 432441  
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## **Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering**

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

### **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 sub-committee has its own remit as set out in the terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

The sub-committees 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 to the public.

The sub-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. These are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and if approved, submitted for a response to Council, Cabinet and other relevant bodies.

Sub-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 or undertaking site visits. Once the topic group has finished its work it will send a report to the Sub-Committee that created it and will often suggest recommendations for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to pass to the Council's Executive.

## **Terms of Reference**

The areas scrutinised by the Committee are:

- Environment
- Transport
- Environmental Strategy
- Community Safety
- Streetcare
- Parking
- Social Inclusion
- Councillor Call for Action

## **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) – received.

### **3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

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

*Members may still disclose any pecuniary 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 of the Committee held on 18 June 2015 and authorise the Chairman to sign them (attached).

### **5 TREES AND WEEDS PROGRAMME**

The Sub-Committee will receive details of the current policy for pruning and treating of tree roots.

### **6 FLYTIPPING AND ENFORCEMENT**

The Sub-Committee will receive a presentation setting out the causes and type of waste being fly-tipped.

### **7 FUTURE AGENDAS**

Committee Members are invited to indicate to the Chairman, items within this Committee's terms of reference they would like to see discussed at a future meeting. Note: it is not considered appropriate for issues relating to individuals to be discussed under this provision.

## **8 URGENT BUSINESS**

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

**Andrew Beesley  
Committee Administration  
Manager**

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE  
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford  
18 June 2015 (7.30 - 9.40 pm)**

**Present:**

Councillors Barbara Matthews (Chairman), Carol Smith, Barry Mugglestone, Patricia Rumble and Linda Van den Hende (In place of Alex Donald)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michael White and Councillor Alex Donald

**1 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 30 April 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**2 WASTE MINIMISATION CHALLENGES**

The Sub-Committee received two presentations on Waste Minimisation. The first was from the Managing Director of East London Waste Authority (ELWA), setting out the tonnages and financial aspect of the current 25 year PFI contract with Shanks.

Officers provided the Sub-Committee with a financial forecast; this was based on the present figures and did not take account of inflation. The Sub-Committee noted the rise in tonnage and how this could equate in terms of the cost to the local authority. With a rise in housing growth the tonnage would always increase.

The Landfill Tax Element in the forecast was estimated at approximately £13 million, however this could be close to £20 million if the tonnage was to increase.

Members asked how the percentage of recycling was arrived at. Officer explained that this was derived by European law which stated 50% of all waste in the stream should be recyclable.

The Sub-Committee was shown a breakdown of cost and where they were attributed. The largest area was the tonnage, which was 64%. This was over and above any other cost. ELWA had, where possible, made savings on staffing and subsidiary sites, but were unable to make any more meaningful savings.

It was noted that even if recycling was increased this would not reduce the overall waste produced; it would just be diverted to a different stream. This would still be the subject to weight fee regardless of whether waste was residual or recycling.

Members asked if the recycling was done in this country or sent abroad. Officers explained that the larger recycling goes abroad, as there were no manufacturers in this country that could use the materials. The economy was the driver and whoever paid the most got the waste. ELWA have strict audits about where the waste is sent, the process was transparent and compliance schemes were in place.

The Sub-Committee discussed the issue of incinerators and if they could be run by ELWA. Officers explained that a lot had changed since the current contract was agreed in 2002. There were no benchmarks at the time, and a new contract would look very different from what was currently in place.

Officers explained to the Sub-Committee the cost of every tonne of waste that crosses the weighbridge was approximately £44, together with £67.60 landfill tax. For every 1 tonne of waste not collected and not sent to landfill would save £111.66. It was noted that for Havering 80,000 tonnes of waste a year was collected. The Sub-Committee agreed that alternative measureable solutions needed to be put in place. In the current contract each borough within the ELWA contract, would collect any kerbside waste, and the boroughs would pay a percentage of the overall waste. If all other boroughs were to issue containers (bins) then Havering would bear the most percentage if it continued to collect from kerbside with no restrictions.

The second presentation was on Waste Prevention. The Sub-Committee was shown the Waste Hierarchy. This showed the ideal hierarchy for waste to enter relevant streams. The hierarchy was as follows:

- Waste Prevention
- Re-use
- Recycling/ composting
- Energy Recovery
- Disposal

It was noted that 70% of all waste is from households with the other 30% coming from parks, street cleansing and highways. As well as financial impacts, there were also environmental impacts. The Sub-Committee noted that there had been a good take up on the Green Reward incentive scheme with 25,000 households signing up. Lots of information had been sent out to households.

It was noted that residual waste had reduced from 856.7kg a year in 2007/8 to 675.3kg a year in 2014/15. A recent resident survey had shown high satisfaction with waste and recycling services (85% and 83% respectively), and the new waste and recycling collection contract had started in August 2014, and was proving successful.

Over 40% of all waste nationally was food waste. In Havering, food waste was approximately 45-48%. The National Love Food, Hate Waste campaign had been supported in Havering with over 6000 people going through the cooking workshops. These included simple things like freezing

food that had been made and using at a later date. The Sub-Committee noted that large supermarkets now supported the national campaign too.

Other campaigns included Home Composting, repairing of clothes, repairing of electrical items, real nappies scheme and educating households. Advertisements of workshops had taken place in Libraries, Public Noticeboards, Living Magazine, Local Radio advertisements, e-zines and through the Green Reward scheme. Members suggested included details of the schemes in with the Council Tax Bills as these went to every household.

Officers explained that the commonalities in a high performing borough would be:

- The containment of waste; wheeled bins and no excess taken
- Alternate Weekly Collections for highest performing.
- Food Waste Collections
- Garden Waste Subscription
- Comprehensive recycling service.

The Sub-Committee felt that education and monitoring of large amounts of household waste could affect the amount of waste produced in Havering.

### **3 ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME REPORT**

The Sub-Committee received and agreed its work programme for the coming municipal year. It was agreed that a topic group should be established to look at waste minimisation. A date for the first meeting would be agreed once members had indicated if they wished to be part of the topic group.

### **4 FUTURE AGENDAS**

The next meeting of the Sub-Committee would look at:

- Flytipping and Enforcement
- Trees and Weeds (current pruning policy)

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**Chairman**

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