



Havering

L O N D O N B O R O U G H

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDA

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 7.30 pm | Tuesday 29 August 2017 | Committee Room 3A - Town Hall |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|

Members 6: Quorum 3

COUNCILLORS:

Keith Darvill
Nic Dodin
Garry Pain

Patricia Rumble
Darren Wise (Chairman)
Carol Smith (Vice-Chair)

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Richard Cursons 01708 432430
richard.cursons@onesource.co.uk**

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 INTEREST

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

Members may still disclose any interests 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 9 May 2017 and authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 FOOD AND FEED SERVICE AND PLAN 2017/18 (Pages 5 - 18)

6 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES (Pages 19 - 42)

7 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
Head of Democratic Services

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford
9 May 2017 (7.00 - 8.40 pm)**

Present:

Councillors Linda Hawthorn (Chairman), Carol Smith (Vice-Chair) and Nic Dodin

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Keith Darvill, Councillor Garry Pain and Councillor Patricia Rumble

14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The report and presentation before Members provided an overview of the Council's performance against the Corporate Performance Indicators relevant to the Sub-Committee

The presentation highlighted areas of strong performance and potential areas for improvement.

In total two Corporate Performance Indicators had been included in the Quarter 4 2016/17.

Also included in the presentation were demand pressure indicators that illustrated the growing demands on Councils services and the context that the performance levels set out in the report had been achieved within.

Members were advised that there had been changes to the way performance data would be reported.

Performance data would be considered by the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee first, then the Overview & Scrutiny Board before finally being considered by Cabinet. This would allow the Cabinet reports to reflect any actions or comments the overview and scrutiny committees had made to improve performance in highlighted areas as well as shortening the overall performance reporting cycle.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the contents of the report and presentation and made no recommendations.

16 FLY-TIPPING IN HAVERING

The report and presentation before Members detailed current fly tipping activity within the borough the actions being taken to reduce the problem.

The report gave details of recent fly tipping activity and the strategy that officers were using to provide proactive interventions and enforcement action.

In summary the report highlighted that fly tipping in the borough had increased but enforcement action had also increased. Multi agency tactics were being used to catch industrial tippers and discussions were continuing with the Highways department to re-engineer hotspots to prevent future incidents. Officers were also looking at introducing more ANPR/CCTV initiatives to deter tipping and going forward there would be an increased use of joint undercover operations with various outside agencies.

It was agreed that officers would update Members following enforcement exercises so that Members could brief constituents on actions being taken to combat the problem of tipping.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the contents of the report and presentation.

17 STREET LIGHTING IN HAVERING

The report and presentation before Members detailed the current position regarding street lighting within the borough.

The report highlighted that there were approximately 20,000 street lights in the borough of which 99% were maintained to a fully working order at any time.

The aim was to repair any faulty lights within ten working days and a programme to implement LED bulbs was continuing borough wide.

Members were advised that a successful collaborative procurement process between Havering and the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham had taken place in 2016 that had appointed Volkers Street Lighting as the maintenance contractor.

Members noted that the life expectancy of a steel column was thirty years and an average of six hundred and seventy columns a year would require renewal.

Additional maintenance costs arose from cable failures, damage, vehicle knock downs, vandalism and routine maintenance.

Officers advised that faulty lights were notified by CRM and public reporting statistics. Volkers also carried out night time checks.

Going forward, lower energy costs would provide continuing financial savings and LED lighting would provide actual maintenance savings.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the contents of the report and presentation.

18 **AIR QUALITY IN HAVERING**

The report and presentation before Members gave a detailed explanation of the air quality levels in the borough and initiatives that were being used to improve them.

Members were advised that pollution levels were on the decrease and that Havering was one of the cleanest London boroughs.

The report highlighted the work of the Air Quality Working Group and how the Council helped to deliver the Clean Air Action Plan and co-ordinated the implementation LiP (Local Implementation Plan) funded projects for air quality.

The report also detailed initiatives that were in place such as greening projects, air quality education programmes, air quality championing and campaigns and possible future projects.

Members also noted that a business pack was available for businesses which provided information, advice and contacts on such things as smarter travel, electric vehicles, waste & recycling, cycling, low emission vehicles and air quality and air TEXT.

In response to a question relating to the use of diesel vehicles by the Council, officers advised that Fleet Management had trialled various different vehicles that used alternative power provision.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the contents of the report and the presentation.

Chairman

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Havering

LONDON BOROUGH



Peter Scott: Food Safety Division Manager

Public Protection Food and Feed Service and Plan 2017/18

Facts and figures from our interventions are recorded on our database and we then upload to the “LAEMS” statutory return which is finalised in June for previous fiscal year. We have to produce a Plan which specified by a framework agreement.

All information uploaded becomes public and is often used to compare a Boroughs performance.

December 2015 the Food Standards Agency Audited the service ;

They stated that “the service was unable to give sufficient assurances that official controls are being delivered effectively with 66% of premises overdue for intervention”.

They specified that the Council in its plan should;

Clarify interventions due against capacity

Be updated in year if resource added or taken away

Clarify the intervention strategy for food standards

Include clear estimates of resource required to deliver the plan and identify any shortfall if the full program is not to be delivered and the potential effects of this.

Review vacant posts and resource allocation between professional staff and business support.

200 childminders-242 unrated-1200 premises overdue for inspection

In response to the audit (changed practices)

Introduced a hand written report to be left on site at the time of the inspection and gave out FHRS at the same time

Streamlined the aide memoir and use administrative staff to print off history and aide memoir for officers

Changed the requirement for professional officers to input data following an inspection, now completed by administrative staff

Used contractors to help us get through the backlog of inspections and childminders.

Received confirmation from the FSA (August 2017) that they are happy with the changes and current plans and funding of the service.

What did we achieve 2016/17

Proactive work

99% of inspection program achieved, 18 premises that were due for inspection were carried over into this years program.

(15 had registered with us but we couldn't get hold of them.

Seasonal or just not trading. 3 could not be contacted and were not open for business when we visited). Changed system for this year to try to resolve this..

In total we reported 1825 inspections which was 936 hygiene inspections 889 food standards inspections. (Hygiene and standards mostly at same time). To put figure into perspective Just under 1000 premises were inspected. (each inspection takes 4 hours of council time).

2016/17

Reactive work

150 complaints about food purchased in the Borough

44 complaints made about hygiene of premises

40 complaints made about labelling of food

145 food poisonings notified (suspect and confirmed)

1068 service requests for information via telephone and email

Full list of achievements on page 43 of the service plan in table 13 and 14 with 7 year comparison.

Cost of service £502k

Establishment 8.0 FTEs made up of 6 EHOs 1 EHO specialist, me and administration 0.5 FTE.) 0.5 of an FTE taken up doing health and safety at work in food premises and statutory nuisance work in food premises (FSA considers non food work) (EU reporting requirement)

Staff levels

Internal promotion of 1 officer and two leavers this year, new starter due in September will leave us with 3 vacancies, using contractors to backfill until after the service review.

1 vacancy being held to fund outsourced project.

This year 2017/18 Outsourced inspections project

Tendered private sector for 500 lower risk broadly compliant premises inspections

Using funds from vacant posts to fund this work

Free up officer time to concentrate on high risk and non compliant premises, and any revisits required from the outsourced work. Plus reactive work, food sampling and primary authority partnerships

Non complaint premises take up most time. Prosecution very time consuming. If we can encourage sustainable compliance everyone wins. Has to be fair to those compliant at first visit.



This year 2017/18

Inspection of high risk and non compliant
Service review to see if we can improve anything

Primary Authority agreements: two companies and
looking to expand.

Charging for FHRS rerating inspections, FSA pilot LA
introduced Jan 2017.

Preparing fees and marketing material for Business
Consultancy Professional Services (Localism Act)

Havering Catering Services contract: (consultancy
advice)

Export certificates to third countries



Food Hygiene rating scheme (FHRS) (Not an award)
Brand standard governs scheme, appeals and consistency of delivery.

Rating is out of 6, zero lowest 5 highest
Scotland opted for a pass or fail system.

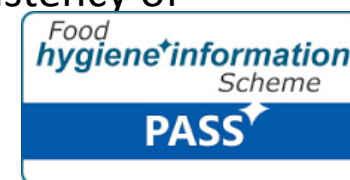
All LAs in UK upload ratings data to FSA national website where it is published (we upload weekly)

Mandatory display of window stickers Wales and Northern Ireland.

Voluntary display in England. FSA looking to introduce mandatory display after Brexit.

<http://ratings.food.gov.uk/>

Going to Tweet about premises with poor hygiene





61%

of consumers won't go to premises that score 2 or below on the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

1858 premises in borough all have to be inspected at some point over a 3 year period. Some every 6 months, 1 year, 18 months 2 years and 3 years.

1685 of the 1858 are in the scheme

Manufacturers and very low risk food premises not in scheme

87% of the 1685 are rated 3 and above (broadly complaint)

23% are not.

New Tasty Chicken-£2k fine £1750 costs. Training food handlers/no written procedures/failure to comply with notice

Bollywood £2K fine £3k costs. Dirty store room, whb no water storing food risk of cross contamination



1637 warning letters (handed out at the time).

16 hygiene improvement notices were served,

2 prosecutions concluded

54 samples of food were taken for analysis.

Of the 54 samples taken 23 had unsatisfactory results and were followed up.





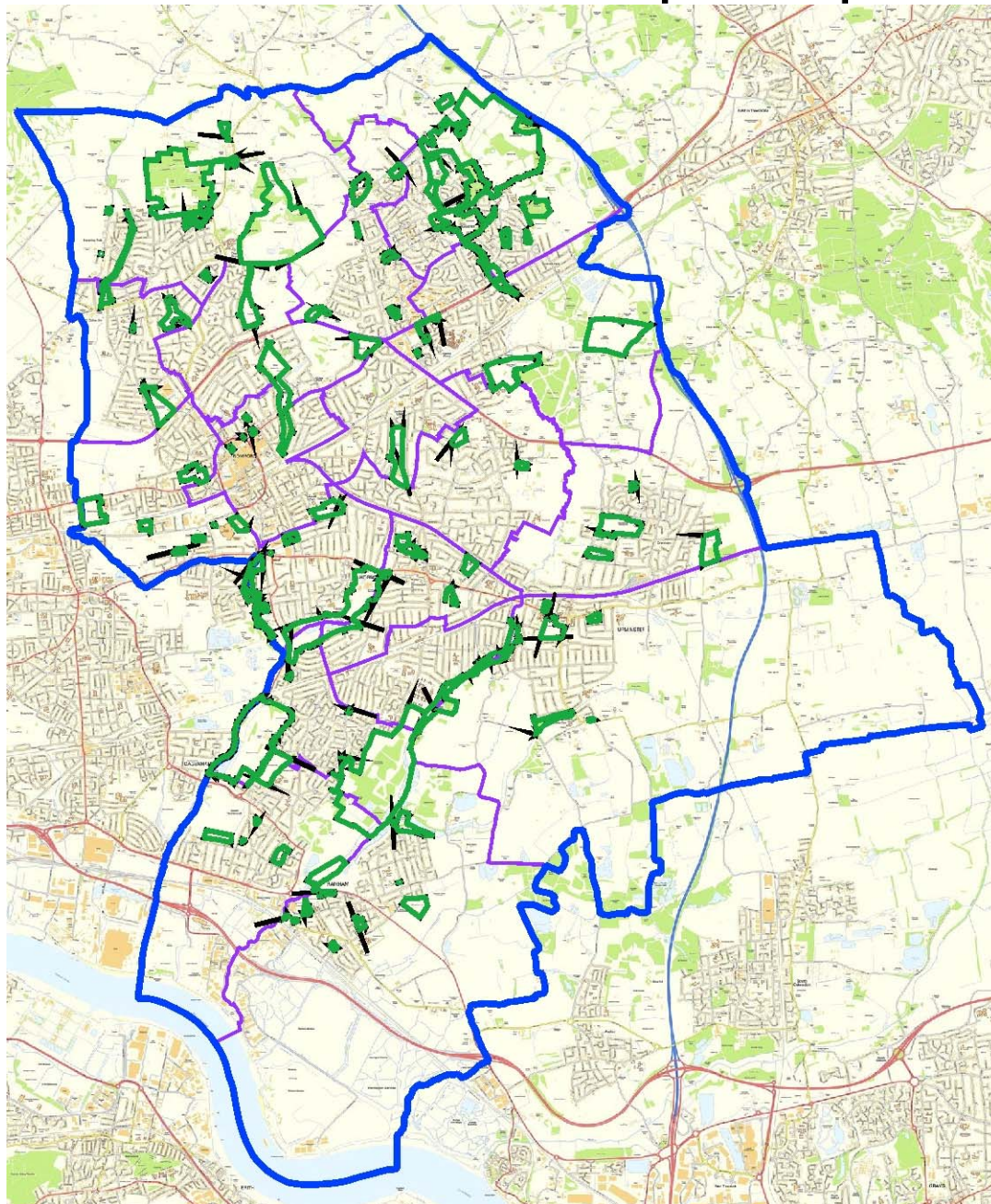
Any questions ?

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Parks and Open Spaces

St Andrews Park

Over 100 Parks and Open Spaces



Hornchurch Country Park







Conservation Management







Cottons Park



Hornchurch Country Park



Harrow Lodge Park

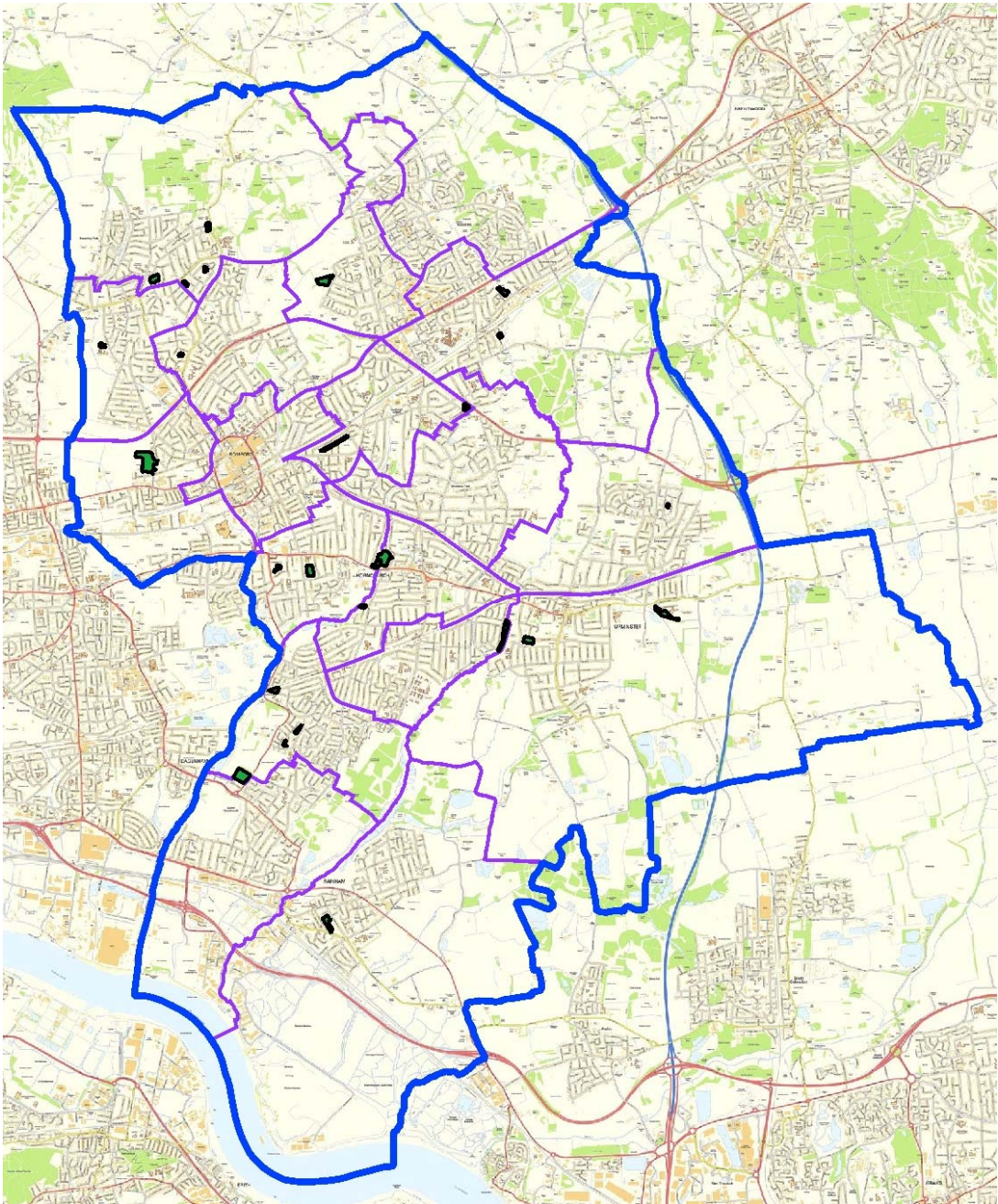


Lodge Farm Park

Areas of Work

- Management of 100 parks and open spaces, including 4 country parks
- Management of Ranger Service and apprentices
- Management of Parks Maintenance (infrastructure and play area repairs)
- Management of Hall Lane Mini Golf Course
- Parks Monitoring and formal inspection system
- Management of 3 tier play area inspection system
- Capital project management
- External funding applications
- Development and implementation of Parks and Open Spaces strategy
- Management of allotments and liaison with allotment societies
- Management of Public Rights of Way and liaison with Ramblers
- Liaison with Friends Groups (18), including volunteering and management of 'Official Status' initiative
- Management of Green Flag applications (13 currently held) and London in Bloom Awards for parks (including 10 gold and 3 category winners in 2016) * 2017 results released 22nd September
- Event and activities management, including fairs, circuses and 'boot camps'
- Management of leases and licences, including bowls, cricket, tennis, fishing, cafes and fishing clubs.
- Management of sports pitch hire, including football and rugby
- Marketing and promotion via social media (Parks Facebook page), website, brochure and press releases

27 Allotment Sites

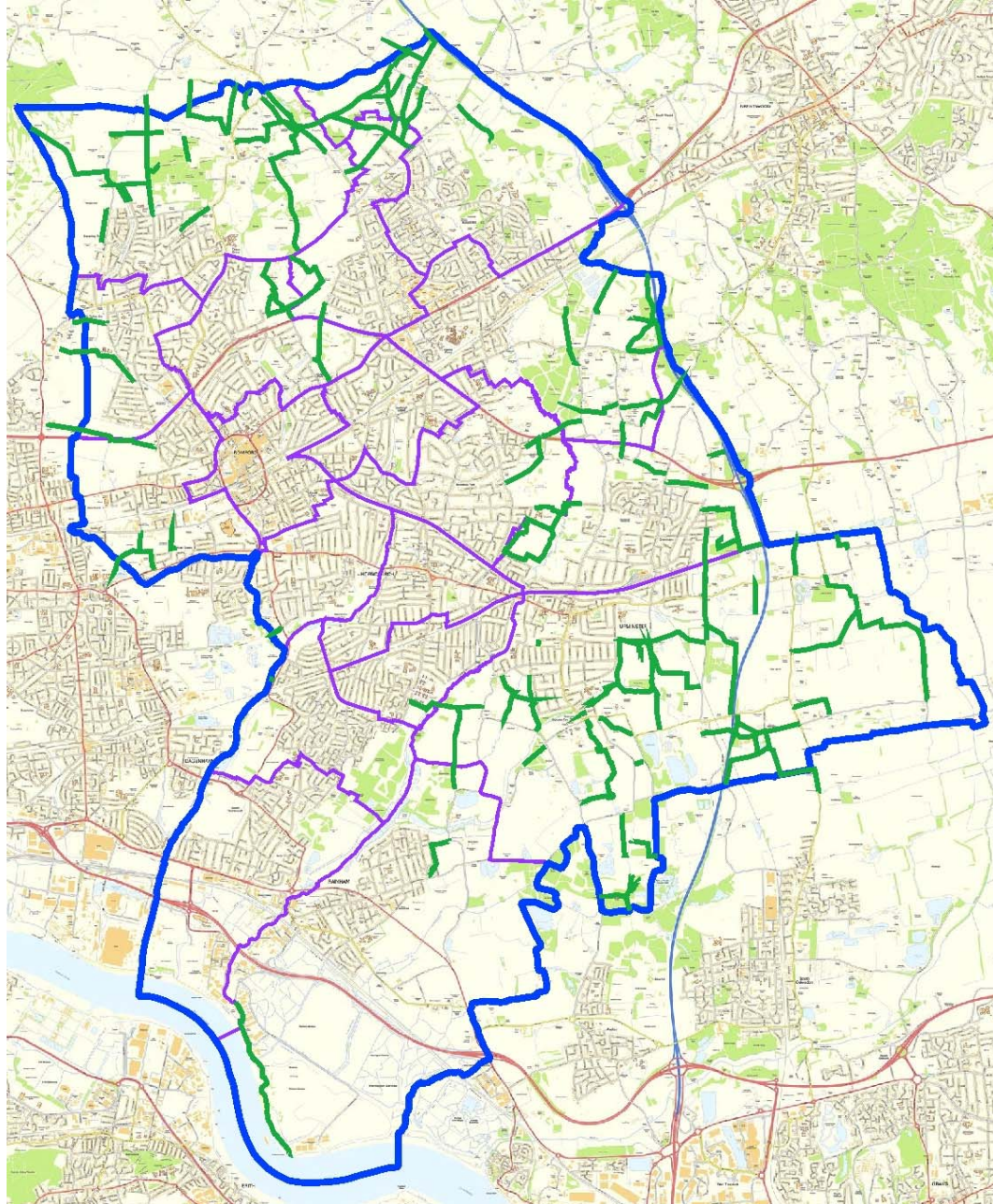




Norfolk Road Allotments



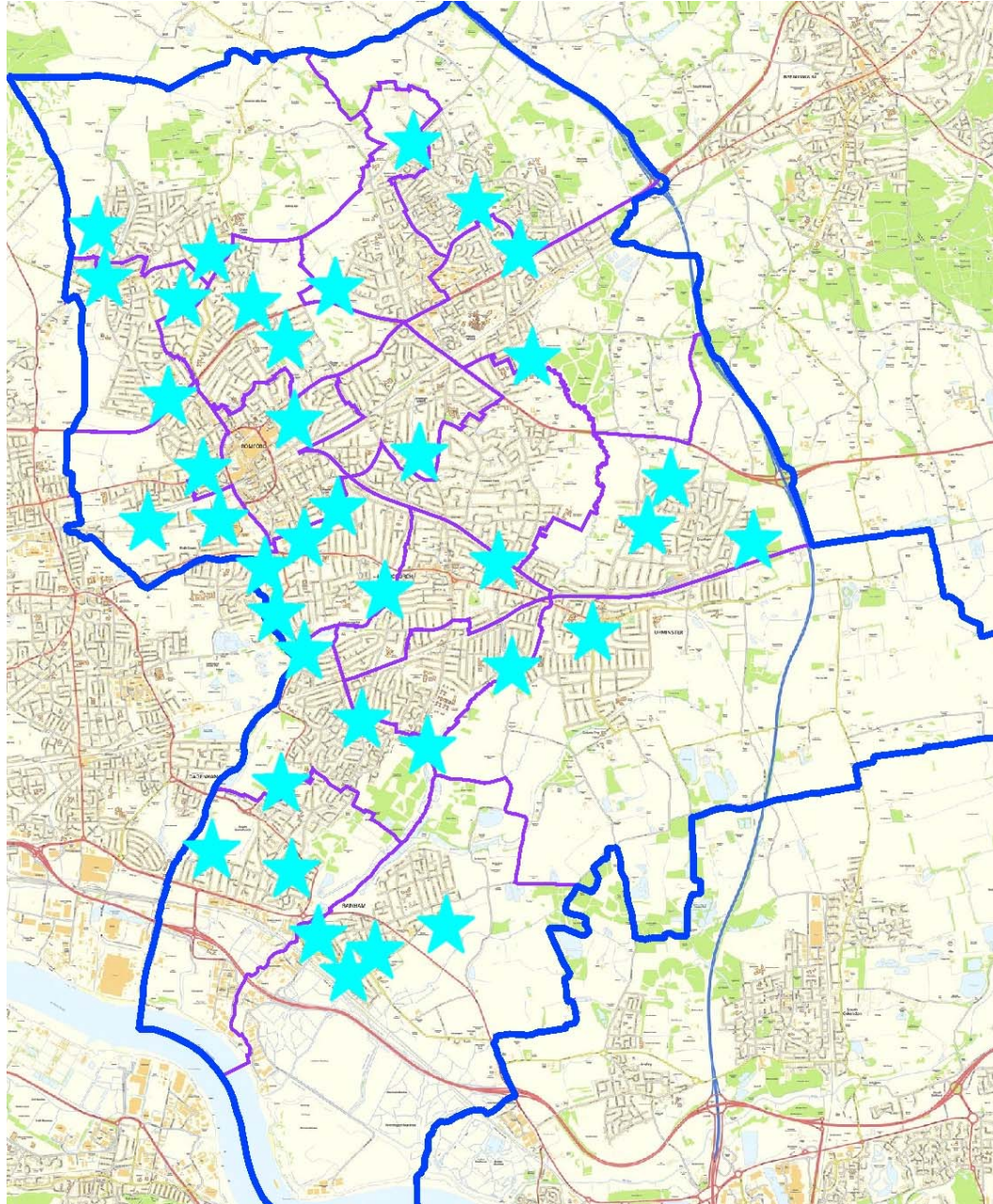
98 Rural Public Rights of Way





Havering Ramblers

41 Play Areas (26 Recreation/Fitness Areas)





Cranham Brickfields



Raphael Park

Parks Maintenance

Page 36

Hall Lane Playing Fields



Hall Lane Mini Golf Course



Friends Groups



Rise Park



Raphael Park



Upminster Park

External Funding



King Georges Playing Field



Harold Wood Park

Page 40

2013

Green Flag Awards



Harrow Lodge Park

Since 2007 following the establishment of a dedicated parks team and regular capital investment the key parks across the borough have achieved the prestigious Green Flag Awards. This has now reached 13 awards:

Harrow Lodge Park– *new in 2017*

Haynes Park– *new in 2017*

Bedfords Park

Upminster Park

Hylands Park

Lodge Farm Park

Harold Wood Park

Cottons Park

St Andrews Park

Lawns Park

Raphael Park

Central Park

Rise Park

Future Projects

- Application for Green Flag Award at Langtons Gardens and retention of existing sites
- Applications for London in Bloom Awards for parks and contribution in Best Borough category
- Working with private companies who want to invest in our parks and help generate income.
- Research through the London Parks Benchmarking Group and Parks for London to collate ideas for additional income generation.
- Improved publicity of our parks and open spaces with new brochure, web-pages and use of the events management website 'Filmapp'.
- Improved parks condition and safety inspections with the use of the 'Commontime' software (as currently used on Housing Estates).
- Improved parks tree management with establishment of regular surveying and recording system.