



MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 8 May 2019
(7.30 - 8.50 pm)

Present:

Councillor Damian White (Leader of the Council), Chairman

	Cabinet Member responsibility:
Councillor Robert Benham	Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Families
Councillor Osman Dervish	Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor Joshua Chapman	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Jason Frost	Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Care Services
Councillor Roger Ramsey	Cabinet Member for Finance & Property
Councillor Viddy Persaud	Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Safety

There were no apologies for the absence of Councillors.

59 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

60 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 17th April, 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the same.

61 DEVELOPING THE LOCAL VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

Councillor Viddy Persaud presented the report to Cabinet detailing the development of the Local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). The Voluntary and Community Sector continue to face many challenges and opportunities. These are best approached by working collaboratively in a strong partnership. The Voluntary and Community Strategic Framework 2019 – 2022 builds on the work of the Council's Voluntary Sector Strategy 2015 – 2018 but seeks to take this work a stage further. The focus of this is

very much on partnership and all sectors working for the common good. The full framework was highlighted within Appendix 1 of the report.

The Framework is divided into three main tranches:

- Building Communities
- Building Partnerships
- Building Resilience

The strategic framework sets an agenda for all sectors to work together to set joint actions and achieve positive outcomes. The draft has been developed jointly with Havering's Compact. The draft strategic framework is cognisant of Havering's new vision, 'Cleaner, Safer, Prouder – Together' and the initial action plan connects with the themes.

- Communities
- Places
- Connections
- Opportunities

The main problem Havering VCS faces is that regarding funding. External funding is simply not enough and it represents figures drastically below the amounts and number of grants generated in Redbridge and Barking & Dagenham. The proposed framework addresses the "Funding Gap"

To unlock the potential of the voluntary sector, it is vital that the Council is able to support the sector to access external funding. Therefore, it was proposed to Cabinet, to use the reward grant, held in reserve to support the development of the Sector. This amounts to £152,586. A number of initiatives have been highlighted.

There was concern that the grant had not been used to date and moving forward, it is important to ascertain why Havering has underperformed in this area. An action plan should be in place to ensure there is a wider consultation to stimulate ideas in order to develop and expand.

Councillor Damian White, the Leader of the Council added that Havering does have a very healthy voluntary sector, particularly in libraries providing an excellent service to residents. When at meetings of London Councils other boroughs express admiration for our voluntary services and are looking to emulate the model in Havering. Focus now must be on continual improvement and confidence to ensure the voluntary sector is vibrant and thriving.

Cabinet:

1. **AGREED** the joint approach of the report in developing the framework into a full strategy with the Voluntary and Community Sector

2. **AGREED** in principle, the use of funding held in reserve for the voluntary and community sector. Each separate spend item to be agreed by the Lead Member for Community Safety and Public Protection through the executive decision process.

62 **PRIVATE HOUSING HEALTH ASSISTANCE POLICY**

Councillor Jason Frost, Cabinet Lead Member for Health and Adult Care Services, presented the report to Cabinet. Cllr Frost stated that he was delighted to bring this matter to Cabinet Members for approval as the policy helps to address a need which has been very specific to the demographics of Havering.

Under the current process the Council awards Discretionary Facilities Grants (DFG's) to people who meet the eligibility criteria which are set nationally. These are mandatory grants the Council must provide if the eligibility criteria are met.

DFG funding has changed recently, the level of funding for the current financial year has increased as expected to £1.812 million which is an uplift of 8%. The funds now come through the Better Care Fund.

The Policy describes what the Council already does to deliver these mandatory DFGs, this will not change. It also confirms how the Council will use powers under the Regulatory reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002, (RRO) in relation to the provision of discretionary housing grants to people in need (i.e. older people, people with disabilities [adults & children], and people [adults and children] with chronic health conditions). The main aims of the policy are to help people in need through the use of housing grants to help them improve their housing conditions in order to:

- reduce the risk of injuries and ill health;
- help people maintain their health and wellbeing;
- enable people to remain independent for as long as possible;
- minimise pressures on local health and social care services.

The new policy will provide the powers to use the DFG funds more flexibly. The new discretionary grants in the policy can provide:

- a DFG "top-up" to facilitate complex home adaptations that cost more than £30,000 (the national limit of DFGs)
- discretionary DFG assistance for people who would suffer financial hardship to fund their home adaptations through the current DFG process
- assistance to help disabled people move to a new home that meets their needs where the Council think this is the best way of meeting their needs
- help to reduce the risk of delayed hospital discharges
- essential home repairs to reduce hazards and health risks
- dementia aids, adaptations and assistive technology
- improved security arrangements to reduce risks associated with domestic violence

The cost of the additional grants will be met within the funding available and the provision of the discretionary grants is subject to the availability of funds from the Batter Care Fund.

There was an amendment to the report at page 68 of the agenda. In the third box down, "Applicant eligibility" the word "exasperated" should be replaced by "exacerbated".

Cabinet:

- **Approved** the Private Housing Health Assistance Policy set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
- **Noted** the expected positive impacts of the policy and the improvements in the health and wellbeing of the residents of Havering as outlined in the Equalities & Health Impact Assessment for the Private Housing Health Assistance Policy.

63 TENANCY POLICY 2018

The report was presented to Cabinet by Councillor Joshua Chapman, Cabinet Lead Member for Housing. The new Tenancy policy replaces the current Tenancy Management Policy. Its purpose is to inform home seekers and council officers about the type of tenancies that will be on offer from the London Borough of Havering. It sets out clearly how the Council lets out its properties.

The length of tenancy and the type of tenancy which we issue to tenants is subject to statute with little scope for discretion which the Council can apply. The proposed policy also sets out how the Council will monitor and review introductory and flexible tenancies. It also provides information on mutual exchanges.

The policy also explains the legal assignment and succession rights afforded to Introductory and Secure tenants. There is guidance on the principles to be applied when officers consider applications to assign or succeed to introductory or secure tenancies. This represents an area of change.

The policy looks to deliver balance and stability for local households with flexibility for the Council to manage existing housing stock.

The draft policy will now be subject to consultation and will return back to Cabinet for full consideration.

There was some concern as to whether a simplified version of the policy would be available to ensure consultation is widely spread and that consultees fully understand the issues involved as it is a very complex area. It will help to ensure officers are available to deal with queries and an All Member Briefing will be required to equip members with information they need to assist residents.

Cabinet:

1. **Approved** the draft Tenancy Policy in principle prior to consultation with residents and other stakeholders.
2. **Agreed** for the Council to consult with residents and other stakeholders on the proposed changes in the draft Tenancy Policy.
3. **Noted** that the results and feedback that emerges from the consultation will assist the Council in the completion of a full Equalities Impact Assessment which will support the final version of the Tenancy Policy.

64 **HAVERING AUTISM STRATEGY (ALL AGE) 2019-2022 - DRAFT**

Councillor Jason Frost presented the report to Cabinet, detailing the draft All Age Autism Strategy. Havering has had an Autism Strategy since 2017, which aligned with the National policy/guidance, with a focus on the needs of the adult community. However, the Government are currently updating the National Autism Strategy and have acknowledged the need to respond to the wider needs of the community, with a focus on prioritising the needs of children and young people as well as adults to produce an All Age Strategy.

Havering has undertaken a number of self-assessment and reviews of current services and needs. A range of positive areas were identified in relation to the provision of services. This also enabled the areas of improvement to be identified, particularly within the context of supporting the wider needs of the community across the age range.

The All Age Strategy has combined the recommendations together with the current known priorities for local people and their families to identify Key themes. It contains a high level action plan and makes recommendations for the next steps. There is some stakeholder engagement but it is recognised that a full consultation with all stakeholders regarding the strategy is needed.

The recommendation is for a 3 month consultation which will begin at the end of May and it acknowledges the vital importance to consult not only with stakeholders but also with the wider community. This is a strategy that looks at what is important to people with autism and their families. The consultation will be carried out as widely as possible using a variety of communication and social media as are appropriate.

It is proposed that the strategy will return to Cabinet in the autumn for final sign off and a possible launch to coincide with the new National All-Age Autism Strategy and the 10 year anniversary of passing the Autism Act.

Cabinet:

- 1) **Authorised** the commencement of a consultation process on the content of the draft All Age Autism Strategy set out at Appendix 1 of the report.
- 2) **Noted** that the results of the consultation will be referred back to Cabinet for determination of the final version of the Strategy in the autumn 2019.

65 **ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO DELIVER OFSTED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**

Councillor Robert Benham, Cabinet Lead Member for Education, Children and Families was very pleased to present the report to Cabinet setting out an ambitious plan to build on the successes of the Children's Services Department.

Children's Services provide essential statutory social work services, to children who are at risk of harm and those children who are in Local Authority care to whom all elected members are Corporate Parents. The aim is to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable children and families across Havering, and achieve an improved OFSTED rating at the next inspection.

Cllr Benham recommended to Cabinet to approve a proposal to invest £750,000 to resource the improvement programme for Children's social care services. The investment will enable the department to respond to the recommendations made in the 2018 OFSTED inspection, when the social care service received an overall rating of 'Good'.

The goal for this administration, as reflected in the Corporate Plan is for Children's social care to have at least one area rated as 'Outstanding' at the next inspection.

Over the past six months, Children's Services have embarked on a journey of improvement, focusing on seven key priorities: quality assurance, workforce development, planning, supervision, data quality and case recording, transitions to adulthood and adolescent safeguarding. The purpose of the investment is to enable the department to consolidate the improvements to practice that have already been made through the Face-to-Face Programme and quicken the pace of improvement in the most critical areas.

The additional resources will enable the strengthening of the quality assurance and case audit function, secure the future of the systemic practice team, provide capacity to further develop the Social Care Academy and fund the project resource necessary to facilitate the improvement programme.

The improvement work will be overseen by the Children's Services Improvement Board, which in turn will provide regular progress reports to Cabinet.

The additional resource will be drawn on a 'one-off' basis from corporate budgets to cover a twelve month period. There after Children's Services will develop a strategy to sustain any ongoing resource requirements from within the Children's Services budget.

Cllr Benham commended the proposals to Cabinet and paid tribute to all the staff involved who work so hard to improve the lives and outcomes for our

young people in the Borough. The Leader of the Council added his own thanks stating that the turnaround in performance has been amazing and indicative of the hard work and dedication of the Director of Children's Services and his staff.

Following discussion,

Cabinet:

- **Approved** the approach outlined within and agree the financial request for additional resources to be allocated to Children's Social Care for 19/20. This will provide an opportunity consolidate improvements delivered over the last two years, and achieve greater consistency across all service areas.

66 REVIEW OF PRIVATE SECTOR LEASED (PSL) ACCOMMODATION

Councillor Joshua Chapman presented the report regarding the Review of Private Sector Leased Accommodation for the consideration of Cabinet. The Private Sector Leasing Scheme (PSL) was introduced in 2014. The review has been set up to look at residents in PSL properties and their needs. It was noted that most tenants depend on benefits to pay rent. In 2010 and 2011 central Government policy eroded the margin between the rental income levels and payments to owners due to the fact that a cap was placed on the amount of housing benefit the Council could claim back for the cost of temporary accommodation.

It was discovered that 22% of tenants live in accommodation that is either too big or too small for their needs. There are also significant support needs for households living in PSL accommodation and so there is a clear need support services and for connections with support networks to be developed and maintained.

There are 881 households living in PSL accommodation and officers contacted all of them to arrange a visit, at a time convenient to them in order to carry out the review.

A summary of the responses are as follows:

- 686 (78%) were assessed,
- 43 (5%) declined the assessment,
- 152 (17%) failed to respond, despite numerous communication to arrange appointments with them so that the review can be carried out in their homes. They were telephoned at least 4 times, voice messages left on their phones and a letter sent asking them to make contact with officers in order for the review visits to be carried out.

The information gleaned has given the Council more clarity regarding the housing and support needs of tenants and this is set out in detail in the report. There is still work to do to engage with those not yet contacted. Some are very vulnerable so it presents as a challenge to provide the support needed. There are plans for an intensive support offer for the future.

The Leader of the Council stated that he was very proud to have such an ambitious plan in the Borough for new truly affordable homes which is all part of an holistic approach to tackle the issues of homelessness as they impact on Havering.

The Review was welcomed by all.

Cabinet:

1. **Noted** the outcome of the review.
2. **Agreed** that officers carry out the recommended actions as set out in the report.

67 **PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT SCHEME 2: TO CONSULT ON PROPOSALS TO EXPAND PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING LANDLORD LICENSING IN THE BOROUGH**

Councillor Viddy Persaud, Cabinet Lead Member for Public Protection and Safety, introduced the report to Cabinet.

The report provides an update of the Additional Licensing Scheme for Housing of Multiple Occupation (HMO), which was agreed in October 2017 and has been in operation since 1 March 2018.

It presents a proposal for extending discretionary licensing in the Borough, the legal evidential test required to be met and a recommendation to proceed with a statutory consultation.

The scheme proposed to be consulted on has been determined from a Housing Stock Condition and Stressors Report which is contained within Appendix 1 and provides information about the number of privately rented properties by ward, stock condition, anti-social behaviour linked to rental properties and other housing stressors. The option recommended to Cabinet meets the evidential criteria set out by legislation.

Agreement was sought to conduct a statutory consultation exercise on extending the discretionary licensing scheme to cover the remaining six wards in the Borough. This consultation will be for a period of ten weeks with the results to be brought back to Cabinet for further consideration in the autumn.

Cabinet:

1. **Noted** the progress report on the Additional Licensing Scheme for HMOs introduced in March 2018.
2. **Authorised** commencement of a consultation on extending the coverage of the Additional Licensing Scheme for HMOs (approved by Cabinet on 11th October 2017) to cover the remaining six wards in the Borough, which are Cranham, Emerson Park, Hacton, Hylands, St Andrews and Upminster.

3. **Authorised** commencement of a consultation on a Selective Licensing Scheme for Romford Town and Brooklands wards.
4. **Noted** that, if it is agreed to proceed with the consultation, the results of the consultation will be presented to Cabinet in autumn 2019.

68 **S92 METROPOLITAN POLICE OFFICERS**

Councillor Viddy Persaud presented the MOPAC Partnership Plus Scheme for s 92 Police Officers, to Cabinet.

The Metropolitan Police launched a new PartnershipPlus Scheme in February 2019 in order to support safer neighbourhoods within London Boroughs. The MOPAC PartnershipPlus Scheme for the London Boroughs must be discussed and considered with the Borough Commander as was previously required, and has already been discussed with the East Borough Command Unit (BCU) Commander who is completely supportive of the proposed scheme for Havering.

However, the proposed new scheme is different than the previous scheme (i.e. buy-one-get-one-free basis) in that it now requires the funding of all Police posts involved.

The new scheme will allow local authorities to purchase police officers at a reduced rate of £57,000 per police constable, £70,500 per sergeant and £86,000 per inspector. It represents a discount of over 21% of the full cost of a police constable. There are approximately 10 Public Order High Demand Days per annum, when these police officers will be required elsewhere. The above costs have made provision for these expected abstractions and are incorporated within the rates.

The minimum term for PartnershipPlus Scheme agreement is three years, albeit either party may terminate the agreement with six months' notice for any reason within the term. The process for securing these posts is similar to the previous arrangements with a receipt of a Letter of Intent from the London Borough, confirmation of availability of the additional officers and Deputy Assistant Commissioner's approval. Discussions with both the Borough Commander and MOPAC lead should Havering wish to precede this will be undertaken. Attached at Appendix 1 to the report is a letter to the Council explaining the proposed scheme.

There is the opportunity to explore additional funding to support the scheme locally engaging with other partners including the Business Improvement Districts within Havering.

This represents an additional resource which will focus on issues of particular importance to Havering residents demonstrating a real commitment to tackle the crime in the Borough.

Following discussion,

Cabinet:

Approved the MOPAC Partnership Plus scheme for additional Police officers within Havering and the funding requirements to support the scheme for three years from 2019/20.

69 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Members of the public and press were excluded from the meeting.

70 **APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY IN RELATION TO THE BUILDING COUNCIL HOMES FOR LONDONERS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the report to enter into the GLA Grant Agreement to Build Council homes for Londoners.

In May 2018 the Mayor of London published the prospectus “Building Council Homes for Londoners” which outlined the bidding and award criteria for a new affordable housing programme. The programme was established in response to the GLA securing additional funding from the Government to help start building at least 10,000 new council homes by March 2022 with a focus on increasing social rented properties by offering enhanced grant rates. Approved providers, including the Council, were invited to submit bids.

Following Cabinet decision of 10th October 2018 the Council’s bid submitted centred on the delivery of additional affordable housing associated with the regeneration of Housing Estates owned and managed by the Councils Housing Services department, as well as other pipeline sites utilising underused housing land and extensions to current sites due for development by the Council’s Joint Ventures.

The Council submitted an ambitious bid for £122m across 24 sites, of which the GLA awarded grants to five sites totalling £24.046m to deliver 282 affordable homes, subject to entering into the Building Council Homes for Londoners contract.

The grant funding will be allocated to the Council through a programme approach which allows the affordable units to be delivered on alternative sites other than those identified in the original bid with the agreement of the GLA. This affords the Council greater flexibility to deliver the 282 truly affordable homes in line with other area-based strategic objectives.

Following discussion,

Cabinet:

1. **Approved** the entering into the Grant Agreement (Local Authority) for which the key terms are set out in exempt appendix 1 in relation to the “Building Council Homes for Londoners Programme” to support the provision of 282 new units of affordable housing as shown in exempt appendix 2 of the report.
2. **Agreed** to delegate to the Leader of the Council, after consultation with the Director of Regeneration and the Director of Legal and Governance authority to agree to enter into any appropriate

contractual extensions or variations in the general management arrangements relating to this Grant Agreement.

Chairman