

## **COUNCIL, 27 January 2016**

### **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE**

#### **A LEISURE CENTRES**

##### **Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group**

As we await the promised new Romford Leisure Centre it is still vital to maintain and enhance the existing borough wide provision of leisure facilities that serve all our residents. Presently the borough wide leisure centre contract is held by "Sports and leisure Management Limited" and operates at a loss requiring a council subsidy. To cut costs there has been a contractual variation to reduce hours and presumably improvements at Chafford, Rainham and no doubt the Central Park, Romford and Hornchurch Leisure Centres face potential cutbacks too!

Following Academy status and a Land Tribunal Adjudication the Chafford Leisure Centre will be owned by the school when the council contract ends in Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and without financial help will close, because their priority is educational rather than leisure spending. The existing facility needs significant investment and if it were to close there is planning permission in place for a new swimming pool at Chafford when funding becomes available. But will the Council allow an existing Leisure Centre, as well as an Ice Rink, to close as we await a second and 'state of the art' leisure centre in Romford that includes a promised £2 million funding from reserves?

Thus this Council calls on the Administration to maintain and enhance the existing borough wide provision of leisure facilities at Rainham, Romford and Hornchurch Leisure Centres in the healthy interests of all Havering residents.

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**Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group**

**Amend motion to read:**

Noting with approval the imminent commencement of the construction of the Romford Leisure Centre in Romford Town Ward, the letting of the contract for the first phase of the £3 million Broxhill Sports Park in Heaton Ward, the recent opening of the Visitors Centre at Hornchurch Country Park in Elm Park Ward, the recent opening of the new library and establishment of a new park in Rainham Ward, the current construction of a new library in Gooshays Ward, the achievement of Green Flags in parks across the borough and noting that the Council's Leisure Management Contract, the negotiation of which is currently in progress, is likely to provide an enhancement of leisure facilities rather than cutbacks, this Council welcomes the Administration's intention to continue to maintain and enhance the existing borough wide provision of leisure facilities in the healthy interests of Havering residents.

**B PARKING CHARGES IN PARKS**

**Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group**

Parking charges in the four parks where charges currently apply are not meeting their income targets. In light of this, together with the optimistic visitor numbers and viable alternatives to parking in parks, this council calls upon the Administration to abandon its plans to add further parks and open spaces to the list where parking charges will apply.

**Amendment by the Conservative Group**

**Amend motion to read:**

Recognising that the proposal to extend car park charging in parks (at rates reduced following full public consultation and feedback) was one of the measures in the financial strategy and budget savings plan agreed by the Council following public consultation in February of last year, and that a further updated cost benefit analysis has been undertaken, this Council supports a review by the Administration of the proposal before a final decision is taken in the near future.

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**C INGREBOURNE HILL LANDFILL APPEAL**

**Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group**

The Inspector has now cancelled the Ingrebourne Hill Public Hearing in favour of a Public Inquiry, date to be arranged, which provides time for the Council to review its approach to this indefinite landfill application to ensure its effectively opposed.

Local councillors, Friends of the Earth, Friends of Ingrebourne Hill & Hornchurch Country Park, residents and planning officers attended the Hearing.

Thus this Council calls on the Executive to effectively oppose the Ingrebourne Hill/Hornchurch Country Park landfill Appeal by ensuring all relevant council departments attend the Public Inquiry to highlight the many reasons why the Appeal should be refused.

**Amendment by the Conservative Group:**

**Amend motion to read:**

This Council notes that its policy as articulated by the Executive is that in each and every planning appeal the decision of the Regulatory Services Committee shall be supported effectively by all relevant council departments.

**D EUROPEAN UNION**

**Motion on behalf of the United Kingdom Independence Party Group**

Due to the negative impact that EU directives such as the agency working time directive and EU procurement rules have on the ability and cost of Havering Council to fulfil its obligations, this council agrees that Britain would be better off outside the European Union.

**Amendment by the Independent Residents Group**

**Amend motion to read:**

To restore the sovereignty of Parliament and strengthen our borders and local democracy and safeguard against joining the Euro-currency and protect the NHS this Council recommends Britain leaves the EU so that Havering Council has the powers and funding to fulfil its obligations on behalf of all Havering residents.

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And in particular, to avoid the costs to Havering Council of EU procurement and competition rules and the EU-USA TTIP trade deal that threatens the future of the NHS on which Havering residents depend.

### **Amendment by the East Havering Residents' Group**

As has been widely communicated, the opportunity to decide on the continued UK membership of the European Union will be subject to a Public Referendum by the end of 2017.

Given the many implications of remaining in the European Union or leaving, it is important that voters are equipped with as much information as possible in order to make an informed choice.

As representatives of the whole borough, this Council therefore notes that it is for individuals to decide for themselves, rather than as a Council, as to whether or not Britain would be better off outside the European Union and to express that choice, should they choose to do so, at the aforementioned Referendum.