



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING  
Council Chamber - Town Hall  
12 July 2017 (7.30 - 10.33 pm)**

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor Linda Van den Hende) in the Chair

**Councillors** Councillors June Alexander, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Ray Best, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Michael Deon Burton, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Meg Davis, Ian de Wulverton, Osman Dervish, Nic Dodin, Alex Donald, David Durant, Brian Eagling, Gillian Ford, Jason Frost, Jody Ganly, John Glanville, Linda Hawthorn, David Johnson, Steven Kelly, Barbara Matthews, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, John Mylod, Stephanie Nunn, Denis O'Flynn, Ron Ower, Garry Pain, Dilip Patel, Viddy Persaud, Roger Ramsey, Keith Roberts, Patricia Rumble, Carol Smith, Frederick Thompson, Linda Trew, Jeffrey Tucker, Melvin Wallace, Lawrence Webb, Roger Westwood, Damian White, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Julie Wilkes, Graham Williamson, Darren Wise and John Wood

12 Members' guests and members of the public and a representative of the press were also present.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Phil Martin and Barry Mugglestone.

The Mayor advised Members and the public of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

The Mayor's Official Chaplain, Reverend Susannah Brasier, Rector, St Laurence Church, Uppminster opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

**22 MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 14 June 2017 were before the Council for approval.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 June 2017 be signed as a correct record.**

23 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 4)**

There were no disclosures of interest.

24 **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (agenda item 5)**

The Mayor read out the text of a letter received from Dr Eva Lohse, Mayor of Ludwigshafen, passing on sympathy from the City of Ludwigshafen regarding the recent terrorist attacks in London and Manchester.

The Mayor also congratulated all those involved with the Havering team who had finished sixth in the London Youth Games.

The text of the announcements made by the Leader of the Council is attached as appendix 1 to these minutes.

25 **PETITIONS (agenda item 6)**

Petitions were presented by Councillor Deon Burton concerning opposition to the use of Passive Close as an access road for cars going into the Havering College site and by Councillor Brice-Thompson relating to opposition to parking restrictions in Carlton Road.

26 **HAVERING COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2017/18 - 2019/20 (agenda item 7)**

A report of Cabinet detailed the new version of the Community Safety Partnership Plan covering priorities for the Council and other responsible authorities. The strategic themes of the Plan covered a number of areas including protecting vulnerable individuals and victims, reducing the risk of reoffending and reducing the level of crime in areas disproportionately affected such as local town centres and burglary hotspots. Enhancing community engagement and public confidence would also be a cross-cutting area throughout the planned work. The strategic priorities for Havering were also broadly aligned to current and emerging regional and national strategies such as prevention of violence against women and girls and ending gang violence and exploitation.

**Deemed motion on behalf of the Administration**

That the report be adopted and its recommendations carried into effect.

**Amendment by the Residents' Group**

This council agrees to refer this report to the Overview and Scrutiny Board before final approval by this council, in order that answers can be provided to the questions below and further challenge can be provided.

1. Lack of detail on how all defined outcomes are measured and performance managed, together with the mechanism to report them within the partnership and members.
2. Lack of detail on how the plan will be achieved, by whom and what individual resources will be allocated to each partners.
3. Lack of details on how the various partners will engage with the local community.
4. Lack of details on who is the lead partner to ensure that the plan is driven going forward and contained within budget.
5. Lack of detail on what steps are taken to ensure the robustness of evidence and data.
6. Lack of detail on the protocol for sharing data and information between partners.
7. Lack of detail in relation to the structure and governance arrangements of the partnership.

Following debate, the amendment by the Residents' Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 30 votes to 16 (see division 1) and the deemed motion by the Administration was **AGREED** without division.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Havering Community Partnership Plan 2017-18 be approved.**

**27 PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION SERVICE (agenda item 8)**

A report of the Pensions Committee set out options for the future of the Pensions Administration Service. This proposed entering into an arrangement under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the discharge by Lancashire County Council of the functions of Havering Council in respect of pensions administration from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 for a rolling annual period.

In response to questions on the report submitted by the Residents' Group, the Cabinet Member stated the following:

The proposed new provider (LPP) had a pool of more than 150 pensions administration staff working for multiple clients across the UK. This allowed the flexibility to address pressure points and still meet targets in Service Level Agreements and Key Performance Indicators.

The proposals would secure the resilience of the service for broadly similar costs. It would not be sustainable to continue with the existing model in the medium term and the proposals would also mitigate against future cost pressures. The Council would work with LPP to identify further potential savings and opportunities to increase the income stream and generate local employment opportunities.

The agreement had a 12 month notice period on either side and shared services had been operated by LPP for more than 20 years. This was a proven model of operation that was used by Bexley and Newham Councils and separate IT contracts were not required.

Recruitment for the contract and project officer post would be in accordance with Havering HR policies. This was not a joint post with Newham Council although knowledge etc would be shared.

The report was **AGREED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

1. That option 4, of the Pensions Committee report including exempt information be agreed (subject to agreement by Lancashire County Council) that Havering Council enter into an arrangement under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the discharge by Lancashire County Council of the functions of Havering Council in respect of pensions administration from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 for a rolling annual period.
2. That authority be delegated to the Managing Director of oneSource, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Financial Management, to agree the final terms of the arrangements with Lancashire County Council and incorporate those into an agreement subject to those terms being in the best interests of Havering Council.
3. That, power be delegated to the Managing Director of oneSource after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Financial Management, to agree the final terms of the arrangements with Lancashire County Council and incorporate those into an agreement subject to those terms being in the best interests of Havering Council.
4. That the recruitment of a Projects and Contract Manager be agreed and it be noted that over a 5 year period, the total cost of the service to the Pension Fund is estimated to decrease by £76,900 and will deliver a robust and resilient and future proofed service. This will include the recruitment of a Projects and Contract Manager for Havering at annual cost of up to £57,791 to be funded by the Pension Fund budget.
5. That it be noted that project implementation costs of the new arrangements will be £78,240 to be financed from the Pension Fund budget.

28 **ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND MEMBER CHAMPIONS (agenda item 9)**

Council considered and received the Annual Reports of the following:

Audit Committee  
Pensions Committee  
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education  
Overview and Scrutiny Board  
Children & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
Crime & Disorder Sub-Committee  
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
Individuals Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
Towns & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
Member Champion for the Armed Forces  
Member Champion for Equality and Diversity  
Member Champion for the Historic Environment  
Member Champion for the Over 50s  
Member Champion for the Voluntary Sector Compact  
Member Champion for Younger Persons

Each Annual Report was **ADOPTED** without debate or division.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Annual Reports as listed be approved.**

29 **DEBATE ON LEADER'S STATEMENT (agenda item 10)**

Deemed Motion

That the statement given by the Leader of the Council to the Meeting of the Council held on 14 June 2017 be received.

Amendment by the Independent Residents' Group

The Administration have made a number of difficult decisions to save and raise money as we are told "there is no alternative", **but Council agrees** it was a mistake for the Council Leader to promote the Mayor of London's as yet undeclared new housing target of 30,000 new properties, as a "Vision for Havering" in the Council booklet "Havering – Making a Greater London"!

Following debate, the amendment by the Independent Residents' Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 33 votes to 12; the deemed motion was **AGREED** as the substantive motion, without division.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the statement given by the Leader of the Council to the Meeting of the Council held on 14 June 2017 be received.**

**30 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 11)**

Eight questions were asked and replies given. The text of all questions submitted, together with their answers, is shown as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

**31 MOTIONS (agenda item 12)**

A procedural motion that Independent Residents' Group motion on housing (agenda item 12A) and the United Kingdom Independence Party Group motion on the Greater London Authority (agenda item 12C) be deferred to the extraordinary meeting of Council on 26 July 2017 was **AGREED** without division.

**32 WASTE AND RECYCLING ISSUES (AGENDA ITEM 12B)**

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

The EU/UK recycling agenda promoted by climate change legislation has made waste disposal very expensive and resulted in waste mountains and an epidemic of fly-tipping and litter. Of particular concern is the threat to wildlife from plastic bags and bottles that pollute our rivers and oceans and many Third World countries where our rubbish is sent to be recycled/dumped!

The solution is the incineration of waste and lower landfill costs

Council therefore agrees:

- 1. That it recommends to Cabinet that it calls on the Local Government Association and Government to promote this green renewable solution as a local and national policy.**
- 2. That it further recommends to Cabinet to call on the Government to consider banning the production of plastic bags and bottles and promoting environmentally friendly alternatives until an effective post Brexit value for money waste disposal policy is in place to safeguard our environment.**

### **Amendment by the Conservative Group**

Whilst noting that ELWA, of which the Council is part, is facing the need to examine changes to its current waste disposal operations and recognising the possible advantages of incineration, this Council is mindful of the difficulty of locating an incineration plant in an area without unacceptable impact on the environment for local residents and, despite the apparent enthusiasm of Rainham and South Hornchurch councillors, would not wish to promote a site in that area, or anywhere else, without the fullest public consultation.

### **Amendment by the Labour Group**

The Council calls on the Administration to review its Waste Management Policy to bring forward proposals to increase recycling and composting and to consider further incineration of waste.

Due to the lateness of the hour, this matter was dealt with on a vote only basis. The amendment by the Conservative Group was **CARRIED** by 31 votes to 13 (see division 3); the amendment by the Labour Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 40 votes to 8 (see division 4); the amendment by the Conservative Group was **AGREED** as the substantive motion, without division.

### **RESOLVED:**

**Whilst noting that ELWA, of which the Council is part, is facing the need to examine changes to its current waste disposal operations and recognising the possible advantages of incineration, this Council is mindful of the difficulty of locating an incineration plant in an area without unacceptable impact on the environment for local residents and, despite the apparent enthusiasm of Rainham and South Hornchurch councillors, would not wish to promote a site in that area, or anywhere else, without the fullest public consultation.**

33 **ARDLEIGH GREEN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT WORKS (agenda item 12D)**

**Motion on behalf of the Conservative and East Havering Residents' Groups**

Following the recent notification from Transport for London that the Ardleigh Green Bridge (A127) replacement works will not now be complete until the Spring of 2019, rather than the previously notified date of December 2017, this Council expresses its deep dissatisfaction with the situation and agrees to write to the Mayor of London, with a copy to the Secretary of State for Transport, conveying this Council's disappointment and to seek further explanation and clarification in respect of the delay, including the following matters:

- a. A full explanation giving the reasons for the 15-month delay and how this was not foreseen at the project planning stage?
- b. What measures are being taken to expedite the completion of the works?
- c. This junction is a vital route through our borough, carrying considerable amounts of traffic. The ongoing delays has created rat-runs in nearby residential roads creating significant inconvenience, pollution and increased traffic flow for residents to contend with. What measures will be put in place to mitigate against this inconvenience until the Spring of 2019?
- d. What compensatory measures will be put in place against the loss of trade and significant inconvenience endured by local businesses affected by the ongoing works?
- e. What are the cost implications for the over-run of the project, originally budgeted at £32m, and how will this be funded?
- f. Given the considerable delay, how will this impact on the proposed improvement works at Gallows Corner (A127/A12)?

Due to the lateness of the hour, this matter was dealt with on a vote only basis. The motion on behalf of the Conservative and East Havering Residents' Groups was **AGREED** by 51 votes to 0 (see division 5).

**RESOLVED:**

**Following the recent notification from Transport for London that the Ardleigh Green Bridge (A127) replacement works will not now be complete until the Spring of 2019, rather than the previously notified date of December 2017, this Council expresses its deep dissatisfaction with the situation and agrees to write to the Mayor of London, with a copy to the Secretary of State for Transport, conveying this Council's disappointment and to seek further explanation and clarification in respect of the delay, including the following matters:**

- a. A full explanation giving the reasons for the 15-month delay and how this was not foreseen at the project planning stage?
- b. What measures are being taken to expedite the completion of the works?
- c. This junction is a vital route through our borough, carrying considerable amounts of traffic. The ongoing delays has created rat-runs in nearby residential roads creating significant inconvenience, pollution and increased traffic flow for residents to contend with. What measures will be put in place to mitigate against this inconvenience until the Spring of 2019?
- d. What compensatory measures will be put in place against the loss of trade and significant inconvenience endured by local businesses affected by the ongoing works?
- e. What are the cost implications for the over-run of the project, originally budgeted at £32m, and how will this be funded?
- f. Given the considerable delay, how will this impact on the proposed improvement works at Gallows Corner (A127/A12)?

34 **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting decisions is attached as Appendix 3 to these minutes.

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**Mayor**

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Leader's Announcements to Council  
Wednesday 12 July 2017

Madam Mayor,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you and members on a number of areas of important council business.

## **Grenfell contribution and update on our buildings**

After the tragic events at Grenfell Tower, Council staff have been working as part of the London-wide team to help those affected. We have also provided advice and reassurance to our own tenants and leaseholders about fire safety.

We have no tower blocks over sixteen stories. Only one of our blocks has cladding, which is different to the type of cladding used at Grenfell Tower. All our blocks of flats have up-to-date fire risk assessments and have regular fire safety inspections. Every two years we have an independent fire safety inspection on all of our high rise blocks. The routine 2017 inspections took place between 20 June and 6 July. We have also asked all Registered Social Landlords in the borough for details of their fire risk assessments on the blocks they own or manage.

All schools have also been contacted. The Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), in conjunction with Local Authorities, are reviewing their School estates. Academy schools and Diocesan schools are being contacted separately, and a response for community schools is being coordinated by the Council. Schools have also been advised to carry out a number of activities as part of their asset management plans in relation to fire safety.

In addition, our staff have been providing support to those directly affected by the tragedy. This has included social workers from both our Children's and Adults services being made available to work in Kensington and Chelsea as part of the Pan-London support team to help residents who have either lost loved ones or their home, as well as families who have been evacuated from buildings nearby. The Council's Emergency Planning team worked with service areas to offer mutual aid via London Resilience. This includes volunteers of social workers, housing officers, Registrars and commissioning volunteers, and oneSource Exchequer. In addition, Neil

Stubbings has been seconded to support the rehousing programme of those affected in that vicinity.

We're very proud that a number of our staff have been able in this way to support and lead some of these key activities at this very difficult and challenging time.

## **Market House**

I would now like to update members on the position with regards to regeneration in the Market Place in Romford. You will have heard by now that officers have recommended that the Market House project should be discontinued.

Underground investigations commissioned by officers highlighted the extent of works needed, which included rerouting major sewage pipes and gas mains. This increased the project's cost by nearly £1 million and therefore it is no longer financially viable.

It was because of this that council officers recommended that the project should not go ahead. Despite this the Council's efforts to strengthen and regenerate the Market will continue. We are committed to ensuring that the Market is rejuvenated, however, financial prudence dictates the decision not to proceed with the original proposals, which in the current climate is most important.

The Market Management Team has already seen more applications from new traders, and we continue to work to improve quality and quantity of the offer of the Market. We are investing in Town Centre Wifi, we are working to improve the look of stalls and pitches, provide better parking, and offer an exciting Christmas events programme. In addition, now that the Market House will not be built, we are reviewing the layout of the Market and the stalls.

## **Local plan timeline and dates**

Members will be aware that the Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough. This will set out a strategy for future growth and sustainable development over the next 15 years. The Local Plan will update our planning policies and, once adopted, give us more control and influence over development at a local level.

It will indicate the broad locations for different types of development, including housing, employment, retail, and community services. It will also deal with infrastructure needs.

The policies in the Local Plan will help to ensure new development in the Borough is met sustainably.

Initial consultation on the key priorities for the Local Plan took place in early 2015, and it is scheduled to come to Cabinet on 19 July and Full Council on 26 July. The Cabinet report and draft Plan were published yesterday.

Consultation on the Local Plan will take place over the summer, subject to approval by Cabinet and Full Council.

### **Progress on school improvement plan**

Now moving to our schools' improvement plan. The Council, schools and the Regional Schools Commissioner have agreed a school-led improvement strategy, and an independently-chaired Improvement Board has been established to oversee this. The key indicator of the success being that all schools will be judged to be good or better by Ofsted by July 2018, subject to each school's place in Ofsted's calendar of inspections.

A high-calibre external improvement lead has been commissioned to work with schools, advising on the quality of teaching, learning and assessment and promoting the effectiveness of leadership at all levels.

Further funding of £1.2m has been sought from the Department for Education Strategic School Improvement fund, and the bids have been focussed to address specific areas aligned to the strategy for improvement such as leadership, peer review, transition from primary to secondary phase and supporting 'more able' pupils along with disadvantaged groups.

We continue to monitor the performance of all schools on a regular basis. This includes forensic evaluation of progress through monthly performance review meetings in those schools identified as being under-performing, and greater use of the powers available to the authority where schools are a cause for concern.

### **KS2 National Curriculum Assessments 2017**

Another piece of good news is that Havering schools Key Stage 2 results have gone up 10 per cent over the year and are now significantly higher than the national average.

The Department for Education (DfE) announced the interim Key Stage 2 (KS2) National Curriculum Assessments 2017 data on the 4 July 2017, and show the continuing improvement in achievement for primary schools in Havering. The average score for reading, writing and maths (combined) across the local authority has increased by 10 per cent from 62 percent in 2016 to 72 per cent. The 2017 national average is 61 per cent.

The results reinforce our commitment to improving education in the borough.

I had the pleasure last week of meeting some of our budding young mathematicians at the Havering Primary School Mathematics Competition held at Hall Mead School (itself one of our top performing secondary schools). This was the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the competition in which schools from all parts of the Borough entered. This year the winning team was from Gidea Park Primary School.

### **School expansion consultation**

The Council continues to deliver Phase 4 of its expansion programme, investing significantly in its school estate. The programme includes expansion of a number of Early Years providers offering 2, 3 and 4-year-old early education and childcare places, whilst also ensuring we have sufficient places to meet the new requirements of an extended offer of 30 hours' free childcare for working parents.

A number of primary schools are also being expanded across the Borough to meet the continuing growing demand for school places, particularly in Harold Hill, Romford and South Hornchurch. We are currently consulting on permanently expanding a number of our secondary schools to meet the demand for extra places from 2018.

Finally, to meet the growing demand for Special Educational Needs places, we are expanding the number of Additionally Resourced Provisions across the borough, whilst also working with the Department for Education on a potential new SEN Free school in Romford as reported to last week's Cabinet meeting.

## **Havering Learning Partnership Teaching Awards**

All secondary schools and the colleges in Havering are members of the Havering Learning Partnership and have been working together on the implementation of the secondary plan to improve outcomes for all our children and young people. There is much good practice across the schools and in recognition of this, the Partnership instigated an Awards process, which culminated in an Awards Ceremony in June. The three categories of award were:

- Progress and attainment
- Individual excellence in supporting student progress, and
- Enrichment activities.

The evening was very well attended, and Havering Council was pleased to support the event. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

## **Broadford Primary School**

I am also very proud to refer to Broadford Primary School in Harold Hillon receiving very well-deserved accolades at the recent Times Educational Supplement (TES) national School Awards ceremony. Broadford was named both Primary School of the Year and Overall School of the Year.

On behalf of the Council, I offer our congratulations to everyone, both adults and children, associated with the school for their continuing dedication and hard work.

## **Armed Forces Day**

Last month, Madam Mayor, you raised the Armed Forces flag outside the Town Hall to show support of the armed forces ahead of National Armed Forces Day. The Mayor's Cadet, our Armed Forces Champion, veterans and Councillors were also in attendance.

The annual Armed Forces Day parade from South Street to Tollgate House in Market Place saw hundreds of Havering residents turn out to show their support. Everyone in attendance was able to enjoy the morning while showing their respect for our armed forces personnel.

## **Havering Show**

Havering's most popular and free annual event will return in August with two music stages and one community performance stage that will showcase local acts. Time 107.5 FM has sponsored the main stage again this year and will introduce the acts and entertain the crowds.

Another long-time supporter of the show, West & Coe Funeral Directors, has sponsored the show again this year, helping us to deliver an even bigger, free event. Last year the show attracted more than 55,000 people over two days. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there on Sunday 27 and Monday 28 August.

## **Street Pastors**

Last month, we celebrated our Street Pastor's 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary. Street Pastors are trained volunteers from local churches who patrol the streets of Romford between 10pm and 4am, offering care and support to residents and visitors. To mark their selfless and sterling work over the years, I attended, as did you Madam Mayor, their birthday celebrations on 10 June.

I would like to offer my grateful thanks to all our Street Pastors and say that we truly appreciate all their hard work, commitment and dedication towards keeping Havering people safe.

## **National clean air – Miles performances**

Also last month, I marked National Clean Air Day at Mawney Primary School with Miles the Mole, our clean air champion. It was a pleasure to see Miles helping children to learn about air pollution. Last month, Miles and a theatre workshop visited 30 schools in Havering to teach children about air quality.

The air quality film, produced in association with TfL and supported by the Mayor's Air Quality Fund, has been distributed to all primary schools in the borough along with air quality lesson plans. The campaign has been a real success and has proved a good way to get the clear air message into schools and educate our children, and has also recently been endorsed by the Mayor of London.

## **Cathedral Court**

I'd also like to provide an update on our work to deliver high-quality housing for residents through Mercury Land Holdings, which has so far been very successful. We have 62 of the 65 properties let at Cathedral Court and have exceeded the initial rental projections. We have also rented the properties faster than initially anticipated by around three months.

### **Socitim score**

Now moving to some further good news about our new website. Socitm – the society of IT practitioners in the public sector, have rated the website at 3 Stars – up from 2 stars last year. 4 is the highest rating, so the Customer Services team will be pushing forward with the ongoing improvements to try and achieve this next year.

Customer Services will be driving this work forward, and we hope to bring you continuing good news about progress made.

### **Ardleigh Green bridge**

Members will be aware of TfL's recent announcement about a further two-year delay on the Ardleigh Green Bridge works. The works, which were due to be complete by the end of this year, have been put back, with all four lanes of traffic due to re-open in spring 2019.

I'm extremely disappointed with the announcement - this is unacceptable and will continue to have a detrimental effect on residents and local businesses. I am contacting the Minister for Transport and the Mayor of London to emphasise our frustration. I will continue to work on this and will keep members, residents and businesses updated.

### **Highways England consultation on new M25 junction**

The Secretary of State for Transport announced his preferred option for a new Lower Thames crossing earlier this year which involves a new junction between junctions 29 and 30 of the M25. Highways England is now developing a detailed design and assessment of the preferred route which will include undertaking a series of surveys and further traffic modelling.

The Council is awaiting an announcement, which is expected over the summer, from the Secretary of State for Transport on his preferred option for delivering capacity improvements to junction 28 of the M25 (Brook Street roundabout).

After this announcement, there will be further public consultation on the preferred route later in the year.

### **Business rate retention & fair funding review update**

Now turning to matters of finance. You will have noted that Her Majesty the Queen's Speech did not include a revived Local Government Finance Bill. However, it is likely that the Fair Funding review will go ahead. It does not require primary legislation – and Ministers' views are being sought on the priority and direction of travel for broader funding reforms, and on business rate retention in particular.

It remains a concern, however, that there has been no signal with regards to the broader reforms to the future funding of local government, including those paving the way to 100 per cent business rates retention. We therefore await government guidance on the intentions around the policy and introduction of these reforms.

### **T&Cs**

I am pleased to say the Council's Terms & Conditions Review is nearing completion with the final proposals to be considered by the Governance Committee on 20 July. As you know our management team have worked closely with trade unions to achieve a fair and measured set of proposals which represent the best possible outcome that could be achieved. We understand the unions are balloting their members on whether to accept these in Collective Agreement. I would like to thank all staff for their patience during this quite lengthy process.

### **Children's Services awarded £835k to develop a new care model**

I'd like to say well done to our Children's Services who will lead on developing a new residential care model for children aged 11-17 in North East London boroughs.

Last week the Department for Education awarded the North East London Commissioning Partnership £835k funding. The funding will allow us to work with young people and care providers to develop a high-quality service in residential settings, and help us to support young people through residential care and back into a home environment.

### **Olive Foxwell – foster carer**

Finally, I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to the family of Olive Foxwell.

Olive was a supportive lodgings carer for Havering from 2000 – 2015 and became a foster carer in 2015. She has supported Havering's vulnerable young people for over 17 years, and sadly, passed away last week after being diagnosed with lung cancer. She was 70 years old.

She was a wonderful and inspirational person, and will be missed dearly.

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FULL COUNCIL, Wednesday 12 July 2017

### MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

#### Housing Surgery Appointments

1) **To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Damian White)**  
**From Councillor June Alexander**

Would the Cabinet Member advise why he arranges for housing surgery appointments to be made and then he fails to turn up to them?

Since my appointment as Cabinet Member for Housing I have introduced housing surgeries for tenants, those who are homeless and those in emergency housing.

This has been a new means of engagement which has helped identify areas of our housing department that require improvement. Through additional Cabinet Member scrutiny our hostels have benefited from what the Chartered Institute for Housing have described as "the most uplifting of services in their experience of 45 years of inspecting housing departments."

Unfortunately, not all of the scheduled monthly surgeries are well attended so I have introduced an all-day surgery where residents can book an appointment, with the most recent surgery being attended by 45 residents or service users.

Unfortunately, due to unexpected events, I have not been able to attend every housing surgery. Recently I was unable to attend a surgery in light of the Grenfell disaster, and spent the day inspecting high rise buildings with the Director of Neighbourhoods. However, if I am unable to attend a housing surgery, I am represented by Council Officers and another Cabinet Member or Deputy Cabinet Member.

In addition to the Housing surgeries I am always contactable by mobile phone, my number is published online and in Council publications, and I'm always happy to take calls and meet with residents.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member stated that he found a suggestion that he did not respect tenants to be highly insulting. The Cabinet Member had worked since his appointment to turn Havering's Housing Service into one of the best in the UK.

## Landlord Licensing Scheme

2) **To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Damian White)**  
**From Councillor David Johnson**

What is the current status regarding the introduction of a Landlord licensing scheme?

### **Response**

The Additional Landlord Licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) is currently out for consultation and closes on 28 July 2017. There are two options being considered;

1. A wider scheme covering 12 Wards
2. A narrower scheme covering 4 Wards

The results of the consultation will inform the licensing option that the Council will introduce. This will be considered by Cabinet in the autumn.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that there would be a cost per application and would provide details of this to Councillor Johnson.

## Legal Privilege

3) **To the Leader of the Council**  
**From Councillor Jeffrey Tucker**

When the Council obtained independent legal opinion about a planning matter, Members were told the details were withheld from them due to it being "legally privileged". But legal privilege applies to the client not the lawyer. That is, the client can make public the details but the lawyer cannot. As the Council was the client, that means all Members are the client and if we want to see the details we can. To withhold the information is very irregular. What is the Council Leader's view?

### **Response**

The Council obtained a legal opinion from Counsel to decide whether the Planning Inspector's decision to allow development at Wennington could be appealed. The outcome of that advice and the broad reasons for it were provided to members and to the public. The legal advice was that there were no grounds for appeal.

It is a well-established legal position that legal advice attracts confidentiality, in other words 'legal privilege'. In the council, in accordance with the law, and the constitution, that detailed advice is provided to those who have a 'need to know'

**Council, 12 July 2017**

that content because they are the decision maker. It is not the case that the advice belongs to or should be shared with all members in the Council. However, in this case the Council did share a summary of the advice beyond those making the decisions about the appeal in order to assist members and the public in understanding the position.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council reiterated that as a decision maker on the issue, he had a 'need to know' and had therefore seen the full Counsel's opinion.

**Fire Risk Assessments in High & Low Rise Blocks**

**4) To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Damian White)  
From Councillor Keith Darvill**

Will the Lead Member make a statement about the regularity of Fire Risk Assessments at the Councils High and Low Rise Blocks of Flats?

**Response**

Havering has 14 high-rise blocks which are independently checked every two years as part of our usual programme of work. The latest programme of independent checks were carried out between 20 June and 6 July.

In addition, key aspects associated with communal fire protection such as fire doors, hose reels, extinguishers and other items are inspected daily by the caretakers, and every six weeks by Estate Inspectors. As a responsible landlord we also have in place regular testing and inspection regimes on items such as gas boilers, smoke detectors, fire alarms, and emergency lighting that are integral to protecting our residents.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that he did see action plans from fire risk assessments. High risk blocks were currently being assessed and a supplier was being procured to undertake assessments for low to medium risk blocks. More robust action would also be taken to prevent the dumping of bulk refuse in communal areas as this considered a fire risk.

**Vehicles Parked over Residential Driveways**

**5) To the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety (Councillor Osman Dervish)  
From Councillor Reg Whitney**

Members have previously been promised that a contractor will be employed to remove vehicles that are parked over residents' driveways. Would the Cabinet Member confirm what has happened to this undertaking?

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### **Response**

The Councillor will be aware that removing vehicles is not something that has generally been undertaken for parking offences in Havering in several years. There is an acknowledgement that residents park over the crossover outside their own houses, and so it is impossible for an attending officer to differentiate. It is therefore not as simple as removing or enforcing all cars that park across driveways.

The Council's already robust enforcement of illegal parking by issuing penalty charge notices is the current approach. Council officers act when a member of the public reports an offence. This has been the agreed approach for some time and although I appreciate it is reactive, it's better than enforcing against those residents who have given permission for vehicles to park across their drives.

Residents who find a car has parked in front of their driveway without their permission can report it to the Council and the appropriate action will be taken.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet member accepted that people had the right to use their crossovers. If illegal parking was reported, the Council would take appropriate action.

## **Use of Polyethylene Cladding in Council Stock**

### **6) To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Damian White) From Councillor Ian de Wulverton**

Of the extensive program of renovation and home improvements of the Council stock has any cladding using polyethylene (PE) been installed?

### **Response**

No Cladding with Polyethylene has been used.

(No supplementary question asked).

## **Installation of Mobile Furniture in Upminster Road North**

### **7) To the Cabinet Member for Planning (Councillor Damian White) From Councillor David Durant**

A local resident responded to Public Notices on some Mobile furniture in Upminster Road North, opposite Lake Avenue and never got a response from the company involved despite a number of attempts. Our own planning department also contacted the company with no response. It is unacceptable that the company which has extensive Mobile furniture in Havering should treat the Council and residents in this way. In the absence of a response, will the Cabinet Member for

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planning seek ways of preventing any further Mobile furniture being installed by Vodafone until they provide a customer services department worthy of the name.

### **Response**

The company's right to erect equipment in this way is given by Parliament in Part 16 of Schedule 2 of the General Permitted Development Order and the Council cannot prevent them utilising this right.

Vodafone have installed the equipment correctly in terms of the GPDO rules. We have no power to take any formal action.

However, as the Cabinet Member I will ensure that Council officers make contact with Vodafone to get a response to the residents' concerns that were raised.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reiterated that he could not oblige Vodafone to respond nor could the company's permitted development rights be refused. He would have ask the Chief Executive to write to Vodafone regarding this matter.

## **Mayoral Car**

### **8) To the Leader of the Council From Councillor Ray Morgon**

Would the Leader of the Council explain how this Council was publicly embarrassed on a national TV programme, by having the mayoral car clamped in relation to a debt which should either have been paid or defended?

### **Response**

The Council was involved in communication regarding the debt. Unfortunately due to an error, the matter was not responded to at the appropriate time and this regrettably resulted in the debt being enforced by the bailiffs.

Senior officers promptly and efficiently responded to the bailiffs; the debt was settled and the situation remedied immediately.

A full review of the internal processes and management of these matters was undertaken following the event. Detailed procedures are in place to allocate, monitor and respond to debt action and it is extremely unusual for any problems to arise. Additional internal steps have been taken to ensure that such an error does not arise in future, and indeed it had not happened previously.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council confirmed that he had discussed this matter in detail with the Council's Deputy Director of Legal and

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Governance and was satisfied that this was a one-off staffing matter. Steps had now been taken to prevent such an incident recurring in the future.

**Fire Safety Tests on Thermal Improvements**

**9) To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Damian White)  
From Councillor Ian de Wulverton**

Can the Cabinet Member confirm Fire safety tests have been carried out on the insulation used on the thermal improvements on the houses in Harold Hill and elsewhere in the Borough?

**Response**

The systems that have been used on the non-traditional houses, which I believe are the properties in question, have been certified as complying with Building Regulations by an approved inspector. The components to the system carry individual certification as class O and the system combined also achieves class O rating.

All of the supporting documentation to verify this is with the Housing Services technical team.

**Village Green Application, New Zealand Way, Rainham**

**10) To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Damian White)  
From Councillor Keith Roberts**

Before putting another planning application before the committee to build on the "Green" off New Zealand Way, Rainham, will the Cabinet Member for Housing ensure both the "appropriation for planning purposes" process and the Village Green application are determined first?

**Response**

Following deferral of the planning application for New Zealand Way from the 1<sup>st</sup> June Regulatory Services Committee, legal advice has been sought.

There is no legal requirement for the application site to have been appropriated prior to the planning application having been submitted or before determination. It may well be the case that appropriation is necessary before any development takes place, but that does not affect either the validity of the planning application or its determination.

The process of consideration of the village green application is entirely separate from the planning process.

## **Enforcement Policy**

### **11) To the Leader of the Council From Councillor John Wood**

In relation to Environment Services, would the Leader confirm when this Council will see a clear policy and strategy (with the appropriate resources) to deal with enforcement issues?

#### **Response**

The Council's Assistant Director for Environment is currently reviewing all enforcement arrangements, both within Environment Services and across the Neighbourhoods Directorate, with the intention of establishing a visible front-line generic enforcement team for Havering.

This team will be responsible for dealing with all street scene and environmental crime impacting on the Borough, and will also address low level anti-social behaviour issues affecting residents, for example noise nuisance. The officers will be locality based and will operate within an agreed enforcement protocol.

## **Multi Faith School Assemblies**

### **12) To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Robert Benham) From Councillor Michael Deon Burton**

Brent Council has become the first local authority in England and Wales to allow state schools to end the provision of a daily service that is "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". Instead, the schools will be able to hold multi-faith assemblies. What is the Borough of Havering's unequivocal position on that which the vast majority of our residents would view as a fundamental and very important matter?

#### **Response**

The Council is not aware of any other councils following Brent's decision, or of any response from Government, DfE or Ofsted. The current statutory requirement remains unchanged. All maintained schools must provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development, along with a requirement that the majority of provision (not the majority of any individual assembly) needs to be broadly Christian.

## **Stroke Support Services**

### **13) To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services & Health (Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson)** **From Councillor Barbara Matthews**

Given that stroke support services will be transferred to a new provider by the end of the summer, would the Cabinet Member confirm what service specifications has been agreed and confirm that the new contractor will provide at least the same level of service as those currently delivered by Tapestry.

#### **Response**

Following an extensive two year review of all adult social care funded services provided by the voluntary sector, the council has run a tender exercise inviting voluntary sector partners to bid to deliver services to vulnerable Havering residents. We invited organisations to submit bids that demonstrate how good outcomes for residents would be achieved through a proposed new menu of services, rather than asking organisations to bid for specific services, such as the stroke service currently provided by Tapestry. Our approach has been deliberate in that we want the successful organisations to have more flexibility in how they deliver their services, as long as they work with residents on support them to meet their outcomes – which could include recovery from stroke and a range of other support that helps them maintain independence and enjoy a good quality of life.

Tapestry did not submit a bid to continue their stroke service. On that basis, it will end on 30 September. Officers have met with Tapestry to minimise impact on users of the service (including sign posting to other available services). People recovering from stroke and their carers/families will be able to access the new range of services, which we anticipate going live on 1 October 2017.

It is important to note that the NHS provides targeted support for stroke survivors, including hospital based support and community services. And there are other council run services that support stroke survivors, such as the council's recently launched integrated rehabilitation and re-ablement service that offers support in the community provided by therapists to help survivors regain their skills and independence.

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## **Bretons Business Plan**

### **14) To the Cabinet Member for Culture & Community Engagement (Councillor Melvin Wallace) From Councillor Barry Mugglestone**

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what progress has been made with the Bretons business plan and when will it be published?

#### **Response**

Officers are still completing the financial due diligence on this Business case. The Outline Business Case has a high level of complexity given the commercial, legal and financial aspects of the proposed model. The investment would be substantial and Officers need to apply appropriate diligence on all these aspects before making any recommendations to the Administration. Whilst the wider community interest in this proposal is appreciated, the financial challenges the Council faces means that all investment proposals must be soundly based and scrutinized before progressing formally for consideration. The current timeline is to be able to review the business case with Members by the end of July.

## **Community Safety in Harrow Lodge Park Area**

### **15) To the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety (Councillor Osman Dervish) From Councillor Jody Ganly**

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what steps the council are taking to deter the worrying trend of youths on mopeds and scooters carrying out crime in Harrow Lodge Park and other parks in the Borough?

#### **Response**

Although the Council shares these concerns, this is predominantly a policing matter, which they have been tackling using Section 35, which allows the seizure and subsequent destruction of these vehicles. Havering's Parks Constabulary is also patrolling vulnerable areas accessed unlawfully by motor cycles and has arrested individuals riding stolen and unlawfully driven motor scooters. Officers also continue to remove abandoned scooters and mopeds, often stolen, as soon as they are identified. However the problem persists.

The Metropolitan Police Service is now leading a multi-agency response, known as "Operation Venice", which launched on 23 June. Partners are currently gathering intelligence such as the number of mopeds stolen, registration plates, their movements, the crimes they are involved in etc. This will inform the enforcement phase, which will include youth diversion work and identifying and targeting the top 10 offenders and any other crimes they have committed. A traffic task force will be established to support this, which can deploy different vehicles and utilise ANPR technology, and the Parks Constabulary will continue to target off-road vehicles as

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part of the operation. If any of the identified top 10 offenders are housing tenants, we will consider other enforcement action against them.

Three days of work are scheduled for July in hot spot areas of the borough including Harrow Lodge Park.

The operation will also include proactive work, such as advising riders about bike security for example.

<u>DIVISION NUMBER:</u>	1	2	3	4	5
<b>The Mayor [Cllr. Linda Van den Hende]</b>	x	x	v	x	v
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Dilip Patel]	x	x	v	x	v
<b><u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u></b>					
Cllr Roger Ramsey	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Robert Benham	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Ray Best	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Joshua Chapman	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr John Crowder	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Philippa Crowder	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Meg Davis	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Osman Dervish	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Jason Frost	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Steven Kelly	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Robby Misir	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Garry Pain	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Viddy Persaud	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Carol Smith	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Frederick Thompson	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Linda Trew	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Melvin Wallace	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Roger Westwood	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Damian White	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Michael White	x	x	v	x	v
<b><u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u></b>					
Cllr Ray Morgon	v	o	o	v	v
Cllr June Alexander	v	v	o	x	v
Cllr Nic Dodin	v	o	o	v	v
Cllr Jody Ganly	v	v	o	x	v
Cllr Barbara Matthews	v	v	x	x	v
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr John Mylod	v	o	x	x	v
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	v	o	x	x	v
Cllr Reg Whitney	v	x	x	x	v
Cllr Julie Wilkes	v	v	o	o	o
Cllr John Wood	v	x	x	x	v
<b><u>EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP</u></b>					
Cllr Clarence Barrett	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Alex Donald	x	x	v	o	v
Cllr Brian Eagling	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Gillian Ford	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Linda Hawthorn	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Ron Ower	x	x	v	x	v
Cllr Darren Wise	x	x	v	o	v
<b><u>UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY GROUP</u></b>					
Cllr Lawrence Webb	v	v	o	v	v
Cllr Ian De Wulverton	o	v	o	o	v
Cllr John Glanville	o	o	o	v	v
Cllr David Johnson	v	x	v	v	v
Cllr Phil Martin	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Patricia Rumble	v	v	x	v	v
<b><u>INDEPENDENT LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP</u></b>					
Cllr Jeffrey Tucker	o	v	x	x	v
Cllr Michael Deon Burton	o	v	x	x	v
Cllr David Durant	o	v	x	x	v
Cllr Keith Roberts	o	v	x	x	v
Cllr Graham Williamson	v	v	x	x	v
<b><u>LABOUR GROUP</u></b>					
Cllr Keith Darvill	v	o	x	v	v
Cllr Denis O'Flynn	v	o	x	v	v
<b>TOTALS</b>					
<b>v = YES</b>	16	12	31	8	51
<b>x = NO</b>	30	33	13	40	0
<b>o = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE</b>	6	7	8	4	1
<b>id = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>A = ABSENT FROM MEETING</b>	2	2	2	2	2
	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>

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