

Full Council – Wednesday 24 January

Madam Mayor

I would like to refer to a number of matters and events since the last Council meeting

The Christmas Events

- We've taken down the Christmas trees, packed away the decorations and Christmas already feels like a long time ago. But this year, once again, residents threw themselves into the festive feast of events put on by the Council.
- It all started with the big Christmas lights switch-on, which proved to be the most successful to date with thousands packing out the Market Square in Romford, to see some great local performers and an impressive firework display. This was followed by the Christmas Cracker event in Hornchurch, and many more switch-ons across the borough. The family fun didn't stop there. Residents also enjoyed a variety of Christmas events in Romford Market, including the Kingdom of Elves, and the Winter Wonderland Experience.
- I would like to thank our staff for their hard work in making this possible.

HMD 2018

- This weekend we will mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2018. Residents will be able to join a special service in Romford on Sunday 28th January at 2pm at the Holocaust War Memorial in Coronation Gardens, in Main Road.
- This is always an extremely poignant event, as the borough pauses to remember the millions of victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution.
- The theme for 2018 is the 'power of words', highlighting how words can make a difference – both for good and evil

SPRING CLEAN

- The Council will be organising a borough spring clean in March. In the past these have been a great success and residents have supported our staff with their help to tidy up their streets and parks.
- We wish this year to focus in particular on regular hotspots for litter such as Romford and Hornchurch Town Centres.
- We'll be announcing more details in the coming weeks, but I hope everyone will be able to do their bit to help spruce up the borough as we head into the lighter evenings of the summer months.
- In all surveys residents tell us how much importance they place on the quality of the environment.

Dagnam Park extension

- I was invited to pay a visit last week to Dagnam Park Nature Reserve in Harold Hill to see the work being undertaken by the Friends of Dagnam Park to unearth the foundations of The Manor or Dagnam House. This was a grand house that I remember visiting as a *very* young child prior to its demolition in the early 1950s.
- A band of volunteers are working on the site several times a week and I was pleased to hear that they are receiving assistance from our parks and local history colleagues to enhance that area of this wonderful park.
- The site was at one time the location of the home of Samuel Pepys
Information as to the history can be found on the Friends of the park website.

Three joint ventures

- Over the last few months alone, we have secured two Joint Venture partnerships that will transform parts of the borough.
- Last week, we agreed on our preferred development partner to regenerate those 12 council housing estates.
- This is one of the most ambitious mixed tenure and social housing programmes in London, and we will look forward to announcing our successful partner for this £1billion investment next month.
- In total, £3 billion of investment in Havering has been secured for these three schemes in under a year.
- These are three major pieces of work and I'd like to thank all those who have been involved.
- The schemes will provide much needed affordable housing for our residents and their children and low cost home ownership for young people wishing to get on the housing ladder and to remain living locally.

London Plan interaction

- The Council has been progressing its Local Plan since 2015 and has been working with an adopted London Plan that sets a minimum housing target of 1,170 homes per annum
- A significant amount of work has gone into the preparation of the Local Plan and while we recognise that the new Mayor of London has published his draft London Plan, it is a draft and is still subject to consultation and an examination in public.
- All councils are under pressure from the government to get Local Plans in place as quickly as possible. We are therefore continuing to progress our Plan and will submit it to the Secretary of State in February. In line with

Counsel's advice we are required to be in general conformity with the current adopted London Plan and that is what we are aiming for. We have had a positive response to our Local Plan consultation from the GLA.

- In due course, we will need to review the Local Plan (as all authorities do) and at that point we will need to take into consideration the policies in any new London Plan.
- We will be objecting strongly to the draft London Plan housing target as it is as totally unacceptable, unachievable and unsustainable and is not based on robust evidence.

Romford Ring Road feasibility study

- We have been allocated TfL funding for 2018/19 to look at improving access into Romford Town Centre. To support development as part of the housing zone in Romford, officers are looking at improving the west side of the Romford Ring Road and a feasibility study will start in the new financial year. In this study the Council will be mindful not only of the needs of pedestrians and cyclists but also those of the vehicular traffic using our local roads.

Health devolution confirmed

- In November the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State for Health as well as health and care leaders across the capital, signed a landmark devolution deal to improve health and social care in London.
- The London deal was informed by 5 pilots across the capital including one in Havering, Barking and Dagenham, and Redbridge designed to better integrate health and social care services.
- The Council and local partner agencies will press on with our plans to improve services for local residents.
- To this end Havering Council and health commissioners from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will, from April 2018, begin to jointly plan and then commission selected services, pooling budgets where this makes sense. The Council and NHS providers, including hospital, community and GP services will work together as an alliance to provide better health and social care services in the most appropriate way for the community.
- The alliance aims to relocate resources from acute hospital services to services in the community.
- Aligning the way we work with our partners in health will allow us to deliver a local targeted service that benefits residents, improves the offer of care they receive and produces improved outcomes across the borough.
- Integrated locality teams across the borough; consisting of health and social care professionals will be central to this new model.

- Each team will support a population of around 80,000 residents, with primary care at its heart.
- The locality teams will tailor services to specific population areas in the borough, identifying people who are likely to develop serious health problems and offering early support and intervention.

Police station action position

- Late last year, we said we would look to seek a Judicial Review against the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, in respect of their decision to close police buildings.
- MOPAC and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service have been asked to reconsider the closures and withdraw the decision to close the public access points across the borough as the consultation was unacceptable.
- We have since received a response and our legal team are reviewing it. A further announcement will be made as soon as possible.

Meeting with minister/budget CT/business rate pooling

- Last week, I met with the new Local Government Minister Rishi Sunak M.P. with local M.P.s Andrew Rosindell and Julia Lopez. Andrew Blake-Herbert also attended, and we discussed the local government settlement and pressed the case again for fairer funding for Havering. The Fair Funding Review is currently under consultation, and a member briefing will be held to explain this.
- Earlier this month, we launched our budget consultation to understand residents' views on our savings proposals.
- We currently have a budget gap of £4.26m in 2018/19. The reduction in government grant funding, along with an increase demand for housing and significant increase in the number of adults and children who require council services are contributing factors to this.
- We are consulting on proposals for savings across the five- year period of 2018/19 to 2022/23, which will create total savings of around £11m and I encourage residents to have their say on Havering Council's website.
- Havering will be part of the London Business Rates Pilot Pool, which will give the Council 100% business rates retention; however, any estimated net

benefits will be shared. Taking part in this pool will allow London Councils to have greater fiscal devolution. The pilot scheme will begin in April 2018.

Sapphire Ice and Leisure

- The Sapphire Ice and Leisure in Romford will be opening on Saturday 3 February, from 9.30am – 10pm, and we welcome residents and Councillors to come along.
- This is the borough's biggest leisure regeneration project and it has been long awaited. We will be joined at the opening by Dancing on Ice champion and former Xfactor contestant, Ray Quinn, and renowned athlete – Colin Jackson, CBE.
- Guests will enjoy a day of free activities, such as ice skating sessions, family fun swims and exercise sessions – including group cycling, boot camps and much more. There will also be a figure skating exhibition as well as face paint and balloon modelling for younger children.
- The open day will also see the Raiders return to the town to play their first Ice Hockey game there since April 2013.
- This has been a lengthy and difficult project involving great fortitude and determination of both officers and members and I pay tribute to all those involved in delivering the first swimming in Romford for 25 years since the then minority Labour Administration closed the last one. There have been strident doubting and critical voices throughout. Those saying it would never happen have been proved wrong yet again.

Thank you Madam Mayor.