

Mr Mayor,

Since we last met, there have been development and progress within a number of areas and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight them to members.

Armed Forces Day

Two Saturdays ago, I joined you in paying tribute to the men and women of our Armed Forces, people that put their lives at risk to safe guard our freedoms and communities. This event was attended by many well wishers from across the Borough, and highlights the special esteem that residents in this Borough have towards our the armed forces.

Whilst we are not a military borough, with no active bases currently in Havering, we do have a strong connection with the RAF and the Army, and I am pleased that our Council is part of the armed forces covenant.

Highways Programme

Our highway programme is now entering the second quarter, with the next set of roads and pavements being announced. This is part of our 40 million investment package to create a network that supports our residents in going about their business through clearing a backlog of repairs.

I would draw all members attention to the latest edition of the living, which contains a list of the roads and pavements which will benefit from this additional investment. Feedback from local residents has been extremely positive.

Cleaner

With a renewed highway network, it is this administration ambition to keep it clean and tidy. The 400,000 extra investment within our street cleaning team is helping to reduce the presence of litter across Havering, and our deep clean, which has finished in Romford and is soon to be rolled out across Upminster, Elm Park, Hornchurch, and Rainham will see the removal of ingrained dirt and grim that has built up over many years.

Safety

On Monday, I was able to sign the Executive Decision to formally accept the option to purchase the Hornchurch Police Station, thereby safeguarding an operational police presence within Hornchurch for the next ten years. This, coupled with the section 92 police officers, means that our authority is committed to supporting our brave men and women within the police force, and doing everything possible to tackle crime and the perception of crime.

Regeneration

Two weeks ago, the Deputy Leader of the Council handed over the keys to a newly built property within the Briar Road Village Square. These new properties are the start of a major programme of Council housing delivery, which will see Havering Council build more new Council homes than anytime since the start of the 1990s.

I am informed that the new resident was overwhelmed by the quality of finish and opportunity that she has been given by moving into one of our new Council properties. I wish her and her family the very best in her new accommodation.

Within the next month, demolition of Napier & New Plymouth Houses will commence, kick starting a wave of regeneration in the South of Havering. This will lead to new council accommodation, new sporting facilities, new opportunities for our residents to benefit from the wider regeneration of Havering. This is one of the most exciting elements of work that our Council is involved within and I will ensure that a regular report on progress is brought to cabinet to ensure that all members are kept informed.

To ensure that no part of our housing stock is neglected, last night Cabinet endorsed a 10 million investment package within our existing estates, to improve the external environmental aspects that were not dealt with by the decent homes programme.

This highlights our commitment to improving the quality of our environment, being the foundation of all what we do.

Thank you for the time Mr Mayor.