



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Havering Town Hall, Romford
28 November 2012 (7.30pm – 11pm)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Lynden Thorpe) in the Chair

Councillors: Councillors June Alexander, Michael Armstrong, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Becky Bennett, Sandra Binion, Jeffrey Brace, Denis Breading, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Dennis Bull, Andrew Curtin, Keith Darvill, Osman Dervish, Nic Dodin, David Durant, Brian Eagling, Ted Eden, Roger Evans, Gillian Ford, Georgina Galpin, Peter Gardner, Linda Hawthorn, Linda Van den Hende, Steven Kelly, Pam Light, Mark Logan, Barbara Matthews, Paul McGeary, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Pat Murray, Eric Monday, Denis O'Flynn, Barry Oddy, Fred Osborne*, Ron Ower, Garry Pain, Roger Ramsey, Paul Rochford, Geoffrey Starns, Billy Taylor, Barry Tebbutt, Frederick Thompson, Linda Trew, Jeffrey Tucker, Melvin Wallace, Keith Wells, Damian White, Michael White and John Wood

* for part of the meeting

9 Members' guests and a representative of the press were also present.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Michael Deon Burton, Lesley Kelly and John Mylod.

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

Prayers were said by Father Roderick Hingley, Mayor's Chaplain

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

50 MINUTES (agenda item 3)

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 September 2012 were before the Council for approval.

The minutes were **AGREED** without division and it was **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held 19
September 2012 be signed as a correct record.**

51 **COUNCILLORS MARK LOGAN AND FRED OSBORNE**

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor welcomed Councillors Mark Logan and Fred Osborne on their returns, following recent spells of illness.

52 **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS (agenda item 4)**

Councillors Rebecca Bennett, Sandra Binion, Paul McGeary, Barry Oddy and Michael White each declared a non-pecuniary interest in the subject matter of agenda item 12C (motion: Hospital A&E Services in North East London).

Councillor White indicated that he would not participate in the debate or vote on the motion.

53 **ANNOUNCEMENTS (agenda item 5)**

The Mayor's Announcements are attached as **Appendix 1** to these minutes.

54 **MOTIONS WITHDRAWN AND PROCEDURAL MOTION**

With the consent of the Council, the Independent Residents' Group Motions at agenda items **12A (Olympic torch relay)** and **12B (Housing Policies)** were both withdrawn.

A procedural motion was proposed, that the order of agenda item 12 (Motions) be changed, so that the remaining motions would be taken in the following order:

- 12D (Number of Councillors)**
- 12C (Hospital A&E services) and**
- 12E (Permitted development rules)**

The procedural motion was agreed without division and it was **RESOLVED accordingly**.

55 **PETITIONS (agenda item 6)**

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 23, petitions were presented as follows, by Councillors:

- Councillor Linda Trew - from residents of Hainault Road, seeking traffic calming measures for vehicles travelling between the A12 Eastern Avenue and Collier Row Lane

Councillor Pat Murray - seeking additional residents' parking facilities in Chippenham Road

It was **NOTED** that each petition would be passed to Committee Administration for attention in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme.

56 **PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF PLEASURE GROUND BYELAW ON CYCLING (agenda item 7)**

The Ingrebourne Way Sustrans Connect2 project aimed to form a continuous, fully accessible walking and cycling route from Noak Hill to the River Thames at Rainham, as far as possible following the River Ingrebourne, using a number of parks and open spaces, as well as highway space, on its way.

The Council's current pleasure ground byelaws provided for qualified prohibition of cycling in many of the Council's parks. In order to permit cycling on signed, designated routes through Parks it was now proposed to make a single minor amendment to the existing byelaws, adopting the Department for Communities & Local Government model byelaw on cycling and amending byelaw 9(ii) to provide that:

No person shall without reasonable excuse ride a cycle in the ground except in any part of the ground where there is a right of way for cycles [or on a designated route for cycling].

The Governance Committee had now recommended that steps be taken to secure that amendment to the byelaw.

The recommendations of the Governance Committee were **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

- 1 **That the new model byelaw on cycling as approved by the Department for Communities & Local Government be adopted.**
- 2 **That, simultaneous with the adoption of the new byelaw the current byelaw 9(ii) of the 1990 Pleasure Ground Byelaws be revoked**
- 3 **That the Assistant Chief Executive be authorised to take all steps necessary to secure the revocation of the existing byelaw and its replacement by the new byelaw as soon as practicable, including publication of all necessary notices and the securing of all necessary consents.**

57 **PROPOSED NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES (agenda item 8)**

In November 2011, the Boundary Commission for England had published proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies for Havering, two of which would be wholly within the borough, with a third partly covering Havering and parts of eastern Barking & Dagenham.

On the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Council had subsequently expressed the view to the Commission that the proposals were unacceptable as they stood, and alternatives were suggested.

The Commission, having considered the representations submitted, had prepared new proposals, broadly retaining the existing constituency boundaries (for Havering). The constituencies now proposed were as follows:

Constituency (Electorate)	Including the following Wards
Dagenham & Rainham (75,880)	Elm Park; Rainham & Wennington; and South Hornchurch (plus 7 wards in Barking & Dagenham, from Chadwell Heath in the north to River in the south)
Hornchurch & Upminster (79,568)	Cranham; Emerson Park; Gooshays; Hacton; Harold Wood; Heaton; St Andrew's; and Upminster
Romford (79,271)	Brooklands; Havering Park; Hylands; Mawneys; Pettits; Romford Town; and Squirrels Heath (plus Eastbrook Ward in Barking & Dagenham)

In general, the new proposals retained the current constituency boundaries, with the Eastbrook ward of Barking & Dagenham – which includes the Dagenham portion of Rush Green – added to the Romford constituency.

The Governance Committee had concluded that, while not entirely ideal, the new proposals were a significant improvement upon the unacceptable initial proposals and therefore recommended that the revised proposals be welcomed.

The recommendations of the Governance Committee were **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the revised proposals for the Borough's Constituencies be welcomed.

58 **REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE HIGHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (agenda item 9)**

The current procedure for the consideration of traffic management proposals by the Highway Advisory Committee often resulted in the service proposal being considered multiple times by the Advisory Committee. It was proposed to streamline the work for the Advisory Committee while maintaining the consideration of representation on highway schemes.

Following review of the working of the Advisory Committee, it had been concluded the level of Member oversight involved appeared excessive compared with almost all other decisions made by the Council which affected the physical environment, and also resulted in staff time being deployed on schemes having little or no likelihood of proceeding.

It had therefore been proposed that the role and functioning of the Advisory Committee should be amended to streamline the current arrangements whilst maintaining the effective consideration of traffic schemes.

Accordingly, the Committee now submitted the following proposals:

- (a) That the general practice of reporting draft schemes to the Advisory Committee prior to them being sent out for public consultation cease, but that the Head of StreetCare may refer a draft scheme to the Advisory Committee if appropriate, with a minor change to the terms of reference to reflect this.
- (b) That the Head of StreetCare be authorised to determine whether initial requests for traffic schemes proceed further or not based on criteria approved by the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment following consultation with the Committee.
- (c) That traffic schemes fully delegated to the Head of StreetCare be extended to include 'At any time' waiting restrictions at bends and junctions.
- (d) That Paragraph (a) of the Committee Procedure Rules for the Committees be amended to "*The Highway Advisory Committee will consider representations on all parking schemes which are not subject to officer delegation.*"
- (e) That Highway related matters outside the terms of the Committee are no longer considered.

The necessary changes to the Council's Constitution are set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes.

The recommendations of the Governance Committee were **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED** that:

The changes to the Highways Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference and Procedure Rules and to the Head of StreetCare's delegated powers be approved, as set out in Appendix 2.

59 **APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON FOR STANDARDS OF MEMBERS' CONDUCT (agenda item 10)**

In consequence of the new statutory regime for regulating Members' standards of conduct introduced by the Localism Act 2011, the Appointments Sub-Committee had interviewed four candidates for the appointment of an Independent Person for Standards of Members' Conduct and now nominated for the appointment **Keith Mitchell**, who was considered to possess the qualities needed to undertake the statutory role of Independent Person.

As there would be occasions when the Independent Person would be unable to act (for example because of illness or holiday, or because of a possible conflict of interest), a deputising arrangement was needed. Redbridge Council had indicated that it was willing to enter into an informal mutual support arrangement whereby the Independent Person appointed by that Council would be available when necessary to deputise for this Council's Independent Person, and *vice versa*.

Redbridge had appointed Kevin Madden as its Independent Person. Mr Madden had formerly been an Independent Member of this Council's Standards Committee. The Sub-Committee now recommended that the arrangement be approved.

The nomination and recommendation of the Appointments Sub-Committee were **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED** that:

1. **Keith Mitchell be appointed as the Council's Independent Person for Standards of Members' conduct, for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011.**
2. **The Independent Person, Kevin Madden, appointed by Redbridge Council be appointed to deputise for the Council's Independent Person when necessary; and that the Council approve this Council's Independent Person deputising for Redbridge.**

Mr Mitchell, who was present at the meeting, was introduced to Members.

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

Eight questions were asked and replies given.

The texts of those questions, and their answers, together with those not asked orally, are set out in **Appendix 3** to these minutes.

61 **NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS (agenda item 12D)**

Motion on behalf the Independent Residents' Group

That this Council explore the possibilities of reducing the number of Elected Councillors to 2 per ward throughout the borough which would make a total of 36 in the borough.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read

This Council will give consideration to the appropriate number of councillors for each ward following full consultation of councillors and the public upon the next review of the composition of London Boroughs.

Following debate, the Administration amendment was **CARRIED** by 45 votes to 0 (see division 1). The Administration amendment was then **CARRIED** as the substantive motion by 45 votes to 0 (see division 2).

RESOLVED that:

This Council will give consideration to the appropriate number of councillors for each ward following full consultation of councillors and the public upon the next review of the composition of London Boroughs.

62 **HOSPITAL A&E SERVICES IN NORTH EAST LONDON (agenda item 12C)**

Motion on behalf the Labour Group

This Council notes with concern the recent report of BHRUT presented to the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and in particular:-

- 1) That the timetable for the proposed improvements to the A&E Department at Queens Hospital will not be met;
- 2) That the required developments in community health to enable improvements to be delivered has been delayed; and
- 3) The consequent adverse financial impact identified in the report and its negative affect on the local health economy.

This Council calls upon NHS North East London and the City to reconsider its decision to close the A&E services at King George Hospital and develop policies to provide full A&E services at both Queens and King George Hospitals to meet the needs of residents in the outer north east London Boroughs of Havering, Redbridge and Baking & Dagenham.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read

This Council notes with concern the recent report of BHRUT presented to the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and agrees with the Secretary of State's decision that the mergers of A&E on the Queen's Hospital site should only be done when it is clinically safe to do so.

Following debate, the Administration amendment was **CARRIED** by 29 votes to 19 (see division 3); and it was then **CARRIED** as the substantive motion without division.

RESOLVED that:

This Council notes with concern the recent report of BHRUT presented to the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and agrees with the Secretary of State's decision that the mergers of A&E on the Queen's Hospital site should only be done when it is clinically safe to do so.

63 **PROPOSED RELAXATION OF PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RULES (agenda item 12E)**

Motion on behalf the Residents' Group

Further to the government's proposals to relax planning rules thus allowing house extensions of up to eight metres (26ft) to be built without planning permission or consideration for neighbouring properties, this council agrees to explore the following options and implement the action that will bring about the most significant impact:

- a) To write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government conveying our serious reservations
- b) To join together with other councils expressing similar concerns (e.g. LB Richmond-upon-Thames and LB Sutton) to express our joint concerns
- c) To call upon the Local Government Association to express a collective concern to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read

This Council notes that its Leader has written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government conveying our serious

reservations with regards to the Government's proposals to relax planning rules thus allowing house extensions of up to eight metres (26ft) to be built without planning permission or consideration for neighbouring properties and recommend the following action;-

- 1) To join together with other councils expressing similar concerns (e.g. LB Richmond-upon-Thames and LB Sutton) to express our joint concerns
- 2) To call upon the Local Government Association to express a collective concern to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

In view of the hour and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1(b), the motion was considered without debate and, on being put to the vote, the Administration amendment was **CARRIED** by 29 votes to 19 (see division 4); and it was then **CARRIED** as the substantive motion without division

RESOLVED that:

This Council notes that its Leader has written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government conveying our serious reservations with regards to the Government's proposals to relax planning rules thus allowing house extensions of up to eight metres (26ft) to be built without planning permission or consideration for neighbouring properties and recommend the following action;-

- 1) **To join together with other councils expressing similar concerns (e.g. LB Richmond-upon-Thames and LB Sutton) to express our joint concerns**
- 2) **To call upon the Local Government Association to express a collective concern to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.**

64 **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting divisions is attached as **Appendix 4**.

Mayor
30 January 2013

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

What a spectacular autumn this has been for Havering.

We were extremely honoured to have Her Majesty The Queen visit Drapers' Academy in Harold Hill last month.

She spent a full morning there, and officially named the main hall as the Diamond Jubilee Hall. She was serenaded by the school choir, watched pupils doing science experiments, and joined them for lunch in the school canteen. It was a wonderful day for all involved and made us very proud that Her Majesty had chosen to visit our lovely borough in what is her glorious Diamond Jubilee year.

Last month I was delighted to see thousands of local residents and visitors thronging the streets of Romford to cheer on the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment – who we also know locally as The Vikings.

They were exercising their right to march through the town centre, as they have the Freedom of the Borough of Havering. They marched proudly up from South Street to the Market Place, where I had the immense honour of helping to inspect the troops. The Royal Anglians are a true credit to this borough and it was a privilege to see them in full uniform, with their band playing, drums beating, and colours flying.

On a more sombre note, I was among the dignitaries who laid a wreath on Remembrance Sunday in Coronation Gardens, Romford. It was an extremely moving service and I was very proud to represent the Council. I was joined by more than 1,200 residents, local groups and veterans, who had also wanted to pay their respects and say a quiet thank you to those brave souls who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom today.

Remembrance ceremonies also took place that morning across Havering, including in Rainham, Hornchurch, Harold Hill, Havering-atte-Bower, Upminster, Collier Row and Elm Park. And in January, we will again pay our respects at Holocaust Memorial Day.

Last week, I was very happy to see this Council Chamber full of residents, who were attending the very first Havering Community Questions event. This event was very important, in terms of local democracy, and the panel were able to meet and engage with many people and talk about a wide range of issues. I look forward to the next meeting!

And did you know that we also helped stage a special Q&A session with students at Havering College? The event gave 150 young people the chance to debate issues which affect and concern them with some prominent people, including the human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell.

It was chaired by the BBC journalist Richard Lindley and was a superb success. I enjoyed watching it very much, and I know the students had a good time taking part. They filmed the event and are editing it right now, to put on the YouTube website.

Some snippets of good news now:

We heard some brilliant news yesterday – Havering has done exceptionally well in the Ofsted primary school league tables. We are joint 25th best of all local authorities nationally, with 79% of our pupils attending schools which are described as ‘good or outstanding’, and we are joint 11th best in London. It just proves that Havering really is ‘top of the class’!

The accolades continue to come in for Havering’s banking protocol scheme, which has been shortlisted in the prestigious Local Government Chronicle Awards 2013.

Banking protocol is a very important scheme. It sees the Council working with local banks and other partners to protect elderly and vulnerable people from having their savings plundered by conmen. For example, if a bank cashier is concerned that an elderly person is withdrawing a large sum of money, they can take swift action to find out why and, if necessary, protect them.

Also in the LGC Awards, our Havering 2014 programme, to make the Council more efficient to meet savings targets while protecting frontline services, has been recognised in the Business Transformation category. The awards will be judged in January.

Over two days this week, I had the great pleasure of handing out 70 awards to our parks and StreetCare staff, who had taken part in the equivalent of NVQ qualifications. We are all so proud of them and their achievements.

I was delighted to meet some of the borough’s most green-fingered gardeners who had won the Havering in Bloom awards. Over the past year, many residents have been busy digging, planting, potting and growing, and it was a pleasure to see the ‘fruits’ of their labours!

And I was honoured to attend our Caring Neighbours Awards ceremony, which is organised by the Over 50s Forum. It was very touching to see how many of our residents, young and old, have been quietly working behind the scenes to help and look after their neighbours. It’s nice that these unsung heroes receive some recognition for their compassion and good deeds. This is the true definition of community spirit!

We are in the midst of our traditional Christmas lights and Christmas Fayres season. I hope you enjoyed the switch-on events we have already had in Romford, Elm Park and Hornchurch.

We still have Christmas Fayres and events to come in Rainham this Saturday; Harold Hill next Thursday; and Collier Row next Friday. It is a wonderful way to welcome in the winter months.

And therefore may I be one of the first to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Finally, I’d like to invite all of our Councillors to join me for a Christmas Reception in the Mayor’s Parlour and Committee Room 1 on Wednesday, December 19 at 6.30pm.

CHANGES TO HIGHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

1. The terms of reference of the Highway Advisory Committee be amended to:
 - To advise the Council's Executive on local highway and traffic management schemes.
 - To consider representation made as a result of public consultation to proposed schemes
 - To make recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment on the implementation of proposed schemes

2. Paragraph (a) of the Committee Procedure Rules specific to the Highways Advisory Committee be amended to:
 - (a) The Highway Advisory Committee will consider any proposal for a parking scheme which is referred to it by a member within 7 days of the proposal being notified to members via Calendar Brief, and all representations made on all parking schemes which are not subject to officer delegation.

3. The delegated powers of the Head of StreetCare be amended as follows:
 - (u) To authorise the creation, amendment and removal of disabled, persons' parking bays, footway parking bays and at any time waiting restrictions at bends and road junctions.
 - (r) To approve local highway management schemes in principle for public consultation.
 - (gg) To approve or reject for further consideration proposals made to the Council for local highway management schemes in accordance with the criteria agreed from time to time by the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment, provided that the proposal has previously been notified to members via Calendar Brief and no member has requested within 7 days of the notification that the proposal be referred to the Highways Advisory Committee for consideration

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Note: Questions 1 to 8 were answered at the meeting. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.6(a), the remainder were treated as if put for written answer

1 PARKING AT LAKESIDE SHOPPING CENTRE

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

In a recent consultation regarding the expansion of Lakeside Shopping Centre, this Council commented that 'Havering considers the proposal is unacceptable because it makes no commitment to the introduction of a parking charging and management regime. Free parking will give Lakeside an unreasonable competitive advantage over other town centres in Essex and outer London including Romford.'

Would the Cabinet Member expand upon why he feels that Lakeside should introduce parking charges?

Answer:

Havering Council considers that the provision of free car parking allows Lakeside to enjoy an unreasonable competitive advantage over other town centres in Essex and Outer London, including Romford. This advantage is derived from promoting and prioritising customer travel by car, over other less environmentally damaging forms of transport, with customers being attracted to Lakeside from an extensive area.

Havering is keen to tackle congestion and rising traffic levels in the borough to ensure that it remains an attractive place for people to live, work and do business. Lakeside's ability to attract significant numbers of car-borne customers through the provision of free parking not only undermines the Council's efforts to reduce traffic levels, but also poses a threat to the vitality of Romford Town Centre and other town centres in the borough. The Council is keen to protect Romford and other shopping centres, to ensure that Havering residents continue to have good local opportunities for employment and leisure activities.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member did not disagree that an offer of free parking in the run to Christmas might be helpful but reminded the questioner that there had been considerable investment in the Romford Town Centre and income from car parking fees played a considerable part in paying for that.

2 BUS STOP, BROADWAY, RAINHAM

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

To remove bus route congestion and enhance the Rainham Village Conservation Area can the Administration assist local residents and councillors in preventing them from using it as a changeover.

Answer:

Following a similar request in the summer, officers contacted Transport for London who responded that it would not be possible to move the bus stop.

For information, however, I can inform the Councillor that there are plans to create a new bus stop at the War Memorial opposite the existing stop outside the Redberry Guest House. The carriageway is of sufficient width to accommodate this and has been approved by TfL.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member agreed to meet the questioner on site in due course to review the situation once the new traffic scheme had been implemented but reminded the Council of the difficulties that had been experienced with TfL elsewhere in getting changes made,

3 USE OF WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES AT FROG ISLAND

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

From last month Bedford Borough Council entered into a six year contract with Shanks to manage the local authority's black bin waste. This will amount to treating some 50,000 tonnes per annum, which had previously been sent to landfill and incineration, saving Bedford approximately £1 million per year. This process will be undertaken using the mechanical and biological treatment (MBT) plant at Frog Island. Given that this borough, along with the East London Waste Authority partners, have paid for this facility what benefit will we derive from this arrangement?

Answer:

Household waste tonnages have reduced across the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) region, resulting in there being excess processing capacity at the Mechanical and Biological Treatment Facilities. ELWAs Integrated Waste Management Contract allows the operator, Shanks, to seek commercial/non contract waste to fill any spare capacity and to pay ELWA a royalty amount in respect of each additional non-ELWA tonne of waste processed.

ELWA officers are currently in negotiations with Shanks to ensure the best financial outcome for ELWA from the Shanks/Bedford arrangement. These negotiations are confidential because they are commercially sensitive.

Any additional income received by ELWA as a result of these negotiations will be reflected in future levy calculations and payments made by the Boroughs.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that Members would be advised in due of the income generated by this use of spare capacity and the effect of that on the borough's payments to ELWA.

4 USE OF ALLOTMENT LAND

To the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns & Communities (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

By Councillor David Durant

Allotments are a popular and genuine green idea that should be promoted by the Council.

Therefore will the Administration promise not to appropriate for planning purposes any allotment land, before a full audit of allotment usage and waiting lists is carried out to ensure all registered allotment land throughout Havering is being fully utilised?

Answer:

The Administration believes that allotment gardening is important to society for three main reasons - other than the obvious one of it being a great source of pleasure and enjoyment for many people.

We believe it is important to the health and wellbeing of Havering residents, providing another way for people to get exercise but also, importantly, being an excellent source of fresh fruit and vegetables, which are so important to good health. As a result allotment gardening contributes strongly to the preventative strands of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, particularly those relating to obesity, physical activity and diet-related illness.

We believe it is important to the green character of, and nature conservation in, the borough, and work with allotment societies has played a part in gaining the impressive nature conservation results in Havering which were reported at the last Council meeting. Specifically, we have worked with the borough's allotment societies to promote the use of sustainable means of pest control, promote species habitats, and with societies and Essex Beekeepers to identify sites for hives, which both help with the pollination of crops and help to conserve bee species.

Finally, we believe that the strength of the allotment societies in the borough is a central part of a strong community infrastructure and voluntary sector, with all the social benefits which flow from this.

For these reasons we have always promoted allotment gardening, in partnership with all the borough's allotment societies and other community groups, and as a result of this allotment gardening is thriving in Havering.

Working together with allotment societies we regularly audit allotment usage and waiting lists through an annual survey of site stewards, the results of which are reported to the Allotment Liaison Group, involving the local authority and all societies, which I chair. Working together, we use the results of the audits to plan increases in allotment provision and capital spend in a strategic way.

As a result of these audits and our shared strategic approach with societies, we have been able to create over 500 extra allotment places throughout Havering since 2008. Among others these include;

- 8 more places at Archibald Road.
- 29 at Ashvale Gardens.
- 44 at Bretons Farm.
- 11 at Chase Cross.
- 17 at Chelmsford Avenue.
- 10 at Dunningford.
- 33 at Grey Towers (North).
- 22 at Grey Towers (South).
- 20 at Havering Grange.
- 12 at Heath Park.
- 35 at Keats Avenue.
- 10 at MacDonald Avenue.
- 6 at Macon Way.
- 14 at Maylands.
- 6 at Melville Road.

- 5 at Mungo Park.
- 18 at Norfolk Road.
- 172 at Pretoria Road.
- 3 at Robin Close.
- 8 at Sowrey Avenue.
- 16 at Stewart Avenue.
- 2 at Uphaving Terrace.

The gap between the number of plots currently vacant in the borough and the number of people on the waiting list is 39 people. We propose to provide for more than half of these places by creating 20 extra plots at Melville Road, even though the waiting list there is only 4 people. We recognise, however, that people from the north or middle of the borough may not find spaces in the south of the borough convenient or accessible, and so we will continue to work with allotment societies to seek ways of providing extra allotment places in all communities across the borough.

Since 2007 an extra £225,000 has been invested in Havering allotments by the Council, a sum often added to by the borough's excellent allotment societies. This has funded the provision of toilets at sites, and other improvements including fencing and paths. The number of active sites in the borough has been increased from 26 to 27.

Allotment gardening, allotment societies, and the relationship between societies and the Council are all thriving in Havering, something which marks Havering out from other boroughs, and I am glad that we are continuing to improve and expand allotment provision.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member emphasised that the Council had adopted a "green" approach to its strategic operations.

5 **WYKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Last month there was an article in the Romford Recorder about changes in facilities at Wykeham Primary School provided by the Cabinet Member. Two weeks later there was a letter from the Head Teacher at the school in the same newspaper contradicting the information. Would the Cabinet Member confirm who is correct?

Answer:

The article in the Romford recorder on 28 Sept 2012, 'Rooms to be Converted...', referred to the Council's plans for meeting the pressing need to provide additional primary places at a large number of schools by bringing former general teaching class rooms back into use, as well as by providing additional accommodation where the need could be clearly demonstrated. In many cases these would be class rooms that had been converted into libraries and ICT bases at the time primary school rolls were falling.

The Head of Wykeham Primary, Mahrukh Katpitia-Mistry, wrote to the Recorder (12 Oct 2012) because she felt the article failed to give an accurate impression of the work Wykeham were doing to improve their facilities. The school were not closing IT centres, art rooms or libraries and the Head wanted to clarify to parents that these facilities were not being taken away – all the facilities needed would still be provided.

Both the article and letter from the Head of Wykeham were correct and as the Head indicated in her letter:

“We have exciting plans for the development of our primary school which includes developing new facilities for our older years and I am looking forward to teaching the borough's children in a school well equipped for the future.”

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member declined to comment on the questioner's lack of direct response from the school but reiterated that the Council and the school were agreed on the way forward.

6 ST HELEN'S COURT, RAINHAM

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)(answered in Councillor Kelly's absence by Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor David Durant

The approach road to St Helen's Court, off Upminster Road South, Rainham is an un-adopted road. As a result the road is used for commuter parking.

Now that St Helen's Court, formerly managed by Homes in Havering, is under direct council control, can this approach road be adopted by the Council and parking restrictions introduced to remove commuter parking to assist Rainham Village Conservation Area and shopping centre?

Answer:

This is one of many requests we have received to carry out works to control parking and improve road facilities for residents. The fact that Homes in Havering have been brought in house makes no difference to the process of deciding whether to adopt a road or not, or to install one type of parking system or another. The issues are ones of process, cost and priority.

In principle, the road can be adopted as public highway, but it would require a check that the Council is the land owner for all areas proposed for adoption, otherwise other landowners would also need to be party the proposal which complicates the process to a certain extent.

The areas proposed for adoption would need to be brought up to a standard which does not create excessive and unreasonable burden on Streetcare's maintenance budget and from a cursory look at the road it is apparent that the carriageway and footway are likely to require repairs, the street lighting would need to be upgraded and we would need to look at the condition and status of surface water drainage and gullies.

We would also need to look at the pedestrian routes in the road. There is pedestrian guardrail placed everywhere very close to the footway edge which potentially gives us a risk in terms of vehicle damage and claims therein as the recognised set back is greater for a highway. Additionally, all footway dropped kerbs would need to be upgraded to be flush and with the requisite tactile paving.

A parking scheme could be proposed during the process and ideally agreed to coincide with adoption, but this would need to be funded, designed, consulted and reported through the Highways Advisory Committee process. In addition, a similar process would be required to impose the local 20mph speed limit on the road.

On the subject of investment in either the road or parking scheme, the Homes and Housing Service have received a number of requests for parking schemes, and are currently identifying all

the areas where parking is a problem, and to develop an overall plan for prioritised investment in parking schemes to address problems of commuter parking, and the mismatch between car ownership and car parking space.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member stated that, although the length of road in question might be short, the amount of work required to bring it up to adoption standard would be likely to cost considerable sums of money and there was no guarantee that the private land owners affected would be willing to co-operate in such an exercise.

7 HORNCHURCH POLICE STATION

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

Would the Chairman of the Crime & Disorder Committee please set out what representations he has made to ensure that Hornchurch Police Station remains open?

Answer:

The Council has made initial enquiries regarding the review of assets being undertaken by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the potential closure of Hornchurch Police Station as a result of this.

We are informed that the Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC) estate contains over 800 buildings many of which, including some police stations, are considered as providing poor working conditions for staff, and as being inefficient for modern day policing and these are being replaced by more modern, efficient and geographically responsive facilities.

The MPS is currently reviewing the whole of its property estate to ensure that best use is being made of it and to identify efficiency savings that can be reinvested into operational policing.

As part of this the MPS are looking at Hornchurch police station and what facilities will be needed in the future to meet operational policing requirements in the borough.

To date, no proposals for this building have been put to the MOPAC, but this could provide an opportunity to improve the estate at the same time as delivering substantial savings that will allow the MPS to protect operational capability.

No decision is likely to be made by the MOPAC until later this year. In accordance with the sale of previous buildings in the borough, it is anticipated that the Metropolitan Police will provide the necessary communication with the community at the appropriate time.

We have requested further information on any firm proposal to close Hornchurch Police Station so that we can then give a considered response.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reiterated that, while the police were looking at improving their operational arrangements and that representations were being made on behalf of the Council as opportunity arose to them about the impact of police station closures.

8 **SALE OF ELECTORAL ROLL INFORMATION**

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Cabinet Member set out how much income the Council has received over each of the last three years by selling personal details from the electoral roll to individuals and organisations?

Answer:

The Electoral Registration Officer has no say in whether the Electoral Register is sold or not as the supply and sale of the Electoral Register is strictly controlled by the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001.

Since 2002 persons have been able to opt out of the 'Edited Register' which is the version of the Register which may be supplied to anyone and may be used for any purpose including commercial and marketing purposes.

The 'Full' version of the Register may only be sold to government departments and other bodies and credit reference agencies and their usage is severely restricted in the Regulations.

The Regulations also specify the price both Registers must be sold for which has not been altered since 2001.

Details of the sales of both Registers for the last three years, by Havering, are given below:-

2009 Register

Full Register Sales – Equifax (£508.00p) ; Experian (£486.50p); Call Credit (£486.50p); Crediva (£486.50p); and Aristotle (£293.00p) bought a copy of the whole Borough; i_CD publishing (£113.00p) bought a copy of the Hornchurch Constituency.

Edited Register Sales - The Hair Exchange (£74.00p) bought a copy of the Hornchurch Constituency; Searchlight (£174.50p); and Bell Pottinger Public Affairs (£174.50p) bought a copy of the whole Borough and the Church of the English Martyrs (£78.50p) bought a copy of several Wards.

2010 Register

Full Register Sales - Experian, Equifax, Callcredit and Crediva: whole register plus monthly updates (£489.50), Aristotle: whole register only (£296).

Edited Register Sales - JBSM Driving School, Romford only (£33)
Individual Hornchurch & Upminster, Dagenham & Rainham, (£113)

2011 Register

Full Register Sales - Experian, Callcredit and Crediva: whole register plus monthly updates (£489.50) Equifax: whole register plus monthly updates and overseas (£505)
Aristotle: whole register only (£299)

Edited Register Sales - Coast Insurance, polling district HT2 (£23)

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member stated that the cost of the details sold varied according to the specific sections requested by the purchaser.

9 USE OF BED & BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how many families are being housed by this council in Bed and Breakfast accommodation, and how many of these have been there for over six weeks?

Answer:

The Housing Service is not currently housing any families or single people in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. The Housing Service only uses B&B accommodation on the extremely rare occasions that the Council's hostels are full. This most recently occurred earlier this year when Abercrombie House was being completely refurbished and four or five rooms were consequently out of action at any one time. Even then, only eight households had to spend some time in a B&B, with the average stay being three nights. The maximum one of these families stayed in a B&B was six nights.

Children's Services have duties towards parents and children who have no recourse to public funds while they await Home Office decisions, such households could not be assisted by the Housing Service. Such households are placed in B&Bs. There are currently two lone mothers, each with a child, accommodated in B&Bs. One of these has been in the B&B for more than six weeks.

10 PROCESSING OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

In respect of planning applications and appeals, over the past three years would the Cabinet Member set out:

- a) How many planning applications have been submitted?
- b) How many appeals have been lodged?
- c) The number of refused applications that went to appeal?
- d) How many appeals the council lost?
- e) The cost of the lost appeals to the council?

Answer:

- a) Planning Applications Submitted

2009/10 – 1715

2010/11 – 1869

2011/12 – 1822

2012/13 (year to date) – 953

b) & c) Appeals are most commonly lodged against refusal, with very few, if any, each year being appeals against non-determination (figure given in brackets)

2009/10 - 79 (0)

2010/11 – 51 (0)

2011/12 – 52 (2)

2012/13 (year to date) – 48 (0)

d) Appeals Allowed or Part-Allowed

2009/10 – 25 (32%)

2010/11 – 12 (24%)

2011/12 – 15 (29%)

2012/13 (year to date) – 12 (25%)

e) No separate data is held on the costs associated with appeals – such costs are absorbed within the overall cost of the Planning Service.

11 **LIBRARY USERS - NUMBERS**

To the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns & Communities (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

Would the Cabinet Member advise the number of registered library users in each of the last three years and how this is monitored?

Answer:

A registered library user is someone who has a library card. When a resident joins Havering Library Service this is recorded by the Libraries Management computer system and the ongoing figures are monitored by the Library Services Manager and Libraries Management Team for action as appropriate.

In the seven months that we have figures for so far in 2012, 158, 375 people are members of Havering Library Service. This is 69% of the local population, making the Library Service easily the most popular service of choice which the local authority offers. This is already two thousand more than the figure for the whole of 2011/12, when 156,533 people were members. In 2010/11 there were 167,712 members.

These figures do not include those who the Library service work with in schools, academies and playgroups, leading the development of literacy and reading among children, young people and families. Nor do they include work with groups for whom reading has particular health and social benefits, such as MIND, the Mental Health Forum, Robert Beard Disability Group and the Queen's Hospital. The Reader Development Team made 1,628 such visits last year.

Figures for library issues are included in the Members' performance Pack, and showed an increase in the last quarter. In addition to this there have been just under 290,000 visits to the Havering virtual online library so far this year.

12 **AIDS FOR THE DISABLED****To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)**

By Councillor June Alexander

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how many requests for aids in the home for disabled people have been received by the Council in each of the past four years and how many of these were agreed, what were the budgets and what was the expenditure?

Answer:

We currently have the following information on the number of Aids and Adaptations agreed for the last two years, (2011/12 and 2010/11).

Items of Aid and Adaptation agreed, budget and expenditure

Year	2011/12	2010/11
Number Agreed	6036	4518
Budget	£1,026,510	£1,137,090
Expenditure	£1,020,253	£1,006,788

However to obtain the information for the years 2009/10 and 2008/09 would require significant officer time. Officers will provide this information and forward to Councillor Alexander at a later date.

13 **SALE OF DUNNINGFORD SCHOOL SITE – CAPITAL RECEIPT****To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)**

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

Would the Cabinet Member set out what capital receipt was received for the sale of the Dunningford School site in Elm Park and what will this sum be used for?

Answer:

£9,699,057 was the sale price for Dunningford. The Council does not ring fence any capital receipts. All proceeds from disposals are accumulated together to finance the Council's capital programme, which is approved by Council as part of the annual budget setting process. However the programme to create two new primary schools proceeded on the basis that the proceeds of Dunningford and other sites vacated would enable the Council to build two new schools. To date the building costs stand at £8.9m in respect of Hylands Primary and £8m re Elm Park Primary. Spend was incurred before the receipts were realised thus it was necessary to utilise other sources of funding in order to manage the cash flow.

14 ENFORCEMENT OF PAVEMENT PARKING CONTROLS WHERE MARKINGS HAVE BEEN OBLITERATED

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Linda Van den Hende

Would the Cabinet Member explain what the rule is, in enforcement terms, where white lines on pavements which permit parking have been partially covered due to footway patching making the designated area incomplete?

Answer:

If the circumstances as described have taken place, then the restriction still applies in that motorists are required to park within a footway parking bay markings. However, the Civil Enforcement Team will make a judgement in each circumstance as to whether the condition or potential obstruction of the restriction or parking bay would lead to a motorist to be unsure of the restriction etc. and therefore be directly the reason why a vehicle has been parked in contravention.

15 RECOVERY OF LOSSES FROM ICELANDIC BANKS

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Ron Ower

Would the Cabinet Member set out how much we have recovered to date from the £12.5 million invested in Icelandic Banks?

Answer:

The recovery process for the money held with Icelandic banks is still ongoing. To date we have received just over £7m.

16 ASH TREES: DIEBACK DISEASE

To the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns and Communities (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

In view of the dieback disease which is now affecting our native Ash trees, what measures have been taken to check our trees are fungus free, as the advice which has been circulated is that any affected trees should be felled and burnt as soon as the disease is detected?

Answer:

The Parks Team, Parks Grounds Maintenance and Highway Tree Team are currently surveying the Ash Trees in the borough. Officers will take advice from the Forestry Commission should the disease be found.

17 **PROCEEDS OF MAYOR'S CHARITABLE APPEALS**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Ron Ower

The Mayors' Charities always provide an excellent focus for raising funds for worthy causes. Would the Cabinet Member set out how much has been raised in each year since 2002?

Answer:

When funds are donated in response to a mayoral appeal payment these may in some cases be made directly to the nominated charity rather than through the Council. Payments made to the Council are processed through the "The Mayor of Havering General Appeal Fund". In accordance with the relevant regulations records are kept for a set period and for each financial year as opposed to each mayoral year. It is therefore not feasible to give a full account of funds raised in each mayoral year or for the period requested. However efforts of our mayors in promoting worthy local causes deserve the support of all members.

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	1	2	3	4			
The Mayor [Cllr. Lynden Thorpe]	O	O	O	O			
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Eric Munday]	O	✓	✓	✓			
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Michael White	✓	✓	ID	✓			
Cllr. Michael Armstrong	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Robert Benham	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Becky Bennett	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Sandra Binion	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Jeff Brace	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Wendy Brice-Thompson	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Dennis Bull	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Andrew Curtin	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Osman Dervish	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Ted Eden	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Roger Evans	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Georgina Galpin	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Peter Gardner	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Lesley Kelly	A	A	A	A			
Cllr. Steven Kelly	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Pam Light	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Robby Misir	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Barry Oddy	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Frederick Osborne	A	A	A	A			
Cllr. Gary Pain	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Roger Ramsey	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Paul Rochford	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Geoffrey Starns	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Billy Taylor	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Barry Tebbutt	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Frederick Thompson	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Linda Trew	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Melvin Wallace	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Keith Wells	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cllr. Damian White	✓	✓	✓	✓			
<u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Clarence Barrett	✓	✓	X	✓			
Cllr. June Alexander	✓	✓	X	✓			
Cllr. Nic Dodin	✓	✓	X	✓			
Cllr. Brian Eagling	✓	✓	X	✓			
Cllr. Gillian Ford	✓	✓	X	✓			
Cllr. Linda Hawthorn	✓	✓	X	✓			
Cllr. Barbara Matthews	✓	O	X	✓			
Cllr. Ray Morgon	✓	✓	X	✓			
Cllr. John Mylod	A	A	A	A			
Cllr. Ron Ower	✓	✓	X	✓			
Cllr. Linda Van den Hende	✓	✓	X	✓			
Cllr. John Wood	✓	✓	X	✓			
<u>LABOUR GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Keith Darvill	✓	✓	X	X			
Cllr. Denis Breading	✓	✓	X	X			
Cllr. Paul McGeary	✓	✓	X	X			
Cllr. Pat Murray	✓	✓	X	X			
Cllr. Denis O'Flynn	✓	✓	X	X			
<u>INDEPENDENT LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Jeffery Tucker	O	O	X	O			
Cllr. Michael Deon Burton	A	A	A	A			
Cllr. David Durant	O	O	X	O			
Cllr. Mark Logan	O	O	X	O			
TOTALS							
✓ = YES	45	45	29	41			
X = NO	0	0	19	5			
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	5	5	1	4			
ID = DECLARATION OF INTEREST/NO VOTE	0	0	1	0			
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	4	4	4	4			
	54	54	54	54			