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MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 13 September 2023
(7.30 - 8.15 pm)

Present:

Councillor Ray Morgon (Leader of the Council), Chairman

Councillor Keith Darvill

Councillor Gillian Ford

Councillor Oscar Ford

Councillor Paul McGeary

Councillor Paul Middleton

Councillor Barry Mugglestone

Councillor Christopher Wilkins

Cabinet Member responsibility:

Lead Member for Climate Change

Lead Member for Adults and Health

Lead Member for Children and
Young People

Lead Member for Housing

Lead Member for Corporate, Culture
and Leisure Services

Lead Member for Environment

Lead Member for Finance and
Transformation

114 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were advised of the Fire Safety procedures in the Council Chamber.

115 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor Graham Williamson.

116 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interests.

117 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on **9th August 2023**, were agreed as a correct record and the Chair signed them.

118 ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP POLICY

Advertising and Sponsorship Policy

The report was introduced by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Morgon

The Council currently does not have an advertising and sponsorship policy and relies on the policies of contractors to determine what is seen on advertising panels and billboards across the borough and for service based judgements for other assets and sponsorship agreements.

The Cabinet:

Agreed and adopted the borough-wide advertising and sponsorship policy attached at Appendix One.

119 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

Report: Home to School Transport Policy Consultation

The report was introduced by **Cllr Oscar Ford**, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

In recent years, Havering has experienced a significant and continued increase in the number of requests for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and the number of EHCPs being issued. The number has increased from 1,328 in 2017/18 to 2,189 in 2021/22, a cumulative increase of 861, or 62% based on 2017/18 levels. This increase is forecast to increase further, and we expect to have over 3,200 by 2025/26.

This increase in EHCPs has also resulted in a significant increase in demand for transport assistance, and spend has exceeded budgets for a number of years, despite various mitigations being introduced. The pandemic impacted on spend as travel was disrupted due to the various periods of lockdown, which meant that spend was suppressed in 2020/21 and 2021/22, but spend in 2022/23 was £5.5m, against a budget of £2.7m – an overspend of £2.8m.

The DfE has recently launched new Home-to-school travel statutory guidance, which requires the Local Authority to review its existing policies.

We currently support around 600 individuals up to 25 years old with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It tends to be parents applying for young people up to 16 then individuals post 16 up to 25 subject to individual's capacity and ability.

The aim of the project is ultimately to deliver a more personalised transport assistance service, whilst delivering savings of £1.4m over four years as a minimum. We aim to introduce new policies to meet the new statutory guidance from the DfE for the relevant age groups.

Cabinet **agreed** to consult on the attached draft Home to School Transport policy

120 REPORT FROM PEOPLE OSSC ADULT PROVISIONS TOPIC GROUP

Title: Report into Adults with Disabilities Provisions Topic Group

The report was presented by **Cllr Gillian Ford**, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health

This report contains the findings and recommendations that have emerged after the Topic Group scrutinised the topic selected by the Committee in December 2022.

Cabinet:

1. **Noted** the report and recommendation of the adults with disabilities provisions Topic Group (attached):
2. Cabinet **agreed** in principle that, subject to sufficient funding being available, Havering to employ a specialist Supported Employment Adviser for adults with disabilities to work alongside day provision and support transition to internships and paid employment. If agreed, authorisation to create this post will be delegated to the Strategic Lead – People. The job role to include:
 - a) Improving employability opportunities and the delivery of such routes ensuring accessibility for all with the Council engaging with adults with disabilities by supporting and signposting these opportunities, and creating relationships with local businesses to employ adults with disabilities.
 - b) Creating an action plan/recommendations aligned to actions in the All Age Autism Strategy
 - c) Developing schemes with local businesses to help provide employment opportunities for adults with disabilities over the age of 25
 - d) Encouraging employers to complete the Oliver McGowan mandatory training in line with national legislation passed July 2022
 - e) Expanding Council operated services for jobs i.e. Avelon Day Centre, explore options around social enterprise schemes
3. **Agreed** that a review be undertaken of Havering's local offer (covering ages 16-25) and amended, following the statutory requirements, to ensure that it is a comprehensive and detailed with signposting to identify current apprenticeships available for young adults with disabilities.
4. **Agreed** that the Council should create "Quality Standards" for providers within Havering, including frequency of monitoring and inspection and then monitor and inspect providers for compliance with them, following benchmarking against other North East London boroughs. These Quality Standards should address the quality of provisions and their individual, tailored offer to service users. Agrees that the Council should provide, if resources permit, a specialised meaningful set of activity programs for 25+ residents with disabilities - with person-specific requirements to help improve the quality of the services provided for this group.

Chairman