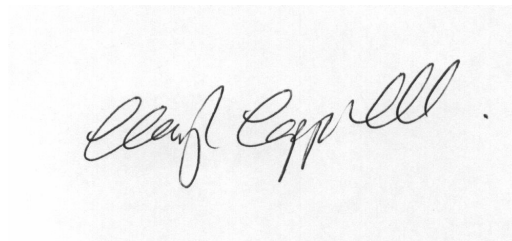


COUNCIL

**7.30pm WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2008
AT HAVERING TOWN HALL
MAIN ROAD, ROMFORD**

Members of the Council of the London Borough of Havering are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council at the time and place indicated for the transaction of the following business

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Ian Buckmaster'.

Chief Executive

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Ian Buckmaster (01708) 432431
*ian.buckmaster@havering.gov.uk***

NOTES ABOUT THE MEETING

1. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Council is committed to protecting the health and safety of everyone who attends its meetings.

At the beginning of the meeting, there will be an announcement about what you should do if there is an emergency during its course. For your own safety and that of others at the meeting, please comply with any instructions given to you about evacuation of the building, or any other safety related matters.

2. MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

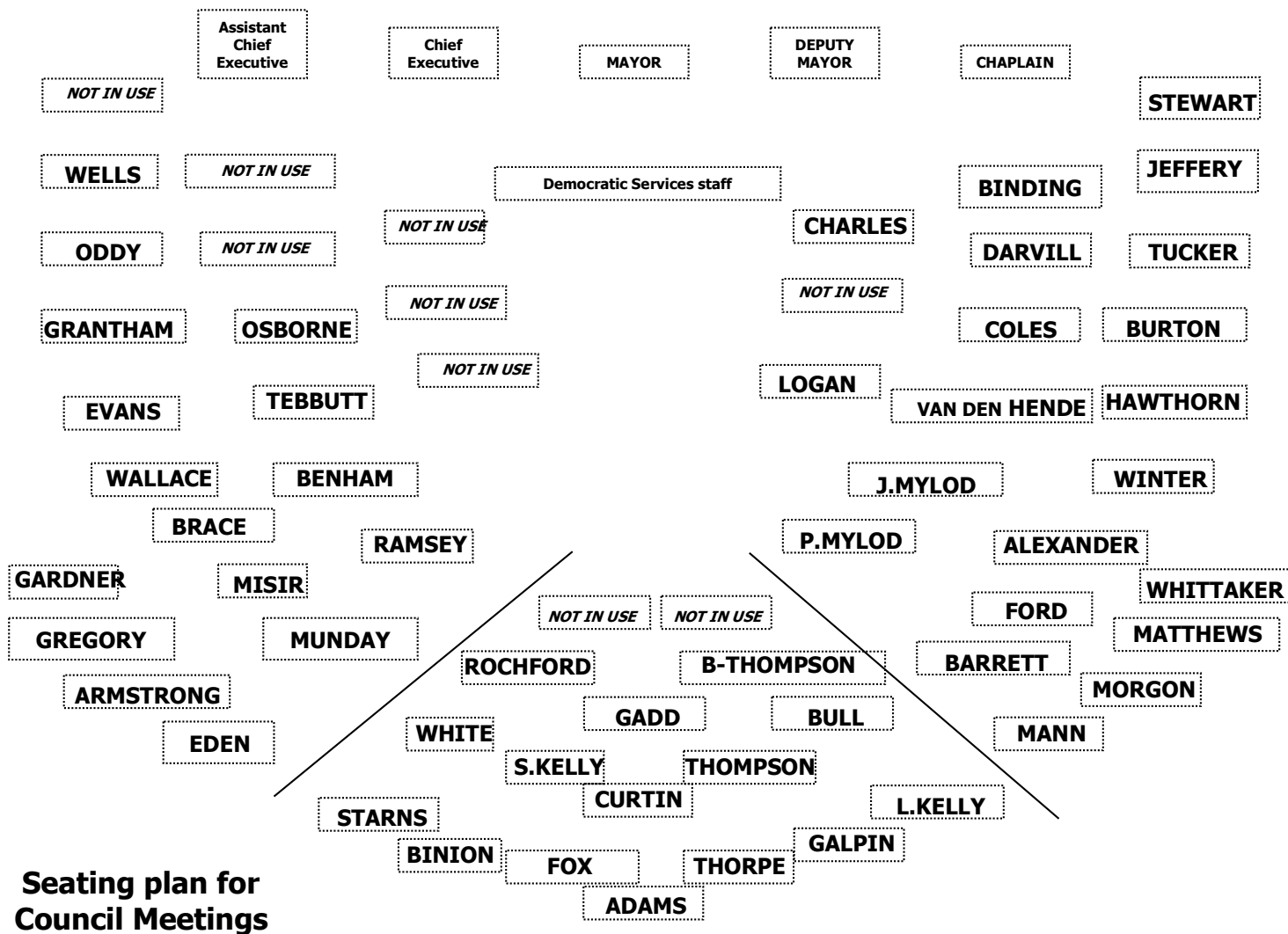
Although mobile phones, pagers and other such devices are an essential part of many people's lives, their use during a meeting of the Council can be disruptive and a nuisance. Everyone attending is asked therefore to ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off completely.

3. CONDUCT AT THE MEETING

Although members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council, they have no right to speak at them. Seating for the public is, however, limited and the Council cannot guarantee that everyone who wants to be present in the public areas of the Council Chamber can be accommodated. When it is known in advance that there is likely to be particular public interest in an item the Council will endeavour to provide an overspill room in which, by use of television links, members of the public will be able to see and hear most of the proceedings.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE MAYOR MAY REQUIRE ANYONE WHO ACTS IN A DISRUPTIVE MANNER TO LEAVE THE MEETING AND THAT THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED IF NECESSARY WHILE THAT IS ARRANGED.

If you need to leave the meeting before its end, please remember that others present have the right to listen to the proceedings without disruption. Please leave quietly and do not engage others in conversation until you have left the Council Chamber.



INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Commencement of Meeting

As an aid to Members, a single ring of the division bell will sound 5 minutes before the meeting is due to begin, followed by a double ring at 2 minutes before, at which time Members are asked please to take their seats for the commencement of the meeting.

Control of microphones

Members are reminded that, at Council meetings, the microphones are controlled centrally under the direction of the Mayor. Consequently, Members do not need to press the **MIC ON** button in order to speak, nor to turn off the microphone when they have finished.

The Mayor would find it helpful, however if Members would press the **MIC ON** button to indicate that they wish:

- to speak in the course of debate on any motion (including movers and seconders)
- to rise to a point of order, of information or in personal explanation

Voting

When the Mayor calls a division, the division bell will sound briefly. In order to ensure that votes are recorded correctly, Members are asked to wait until the division bell has finished ringing before pressing the appropriate voting button.

Members are, of course, free to change their vote as they choose at any time until the Mayor directs that the votes be counted. Once a count has been called, however, no further change is possible. In the event that a Member's vote appears not to have been recorded, the clerks should be informed immediately, before the result is declared, so that account can be taken of the vote.

Council, 10 December 2008

AGENDA

1 PRAYERS

Prayers will be said by the Reverend Bob Love of St John & St Matthew Church, South Hornchurch

2 To receive apologies for absence (if any)

3 MINUTES

To sign as a true record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22 October 2008

4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members are invited to declare any interests in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

Members may still declare an interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (if any)

6 PETITIONS

Councillor Keith Darvill has given notice of an intention to present a petition.

Council, 10 December 2008

**REPORTS FOR
CONSIDERATION**

NOTE: The deadline for amendments is midnight, Monday 8 December 2008

**7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RULES – EXCEPTIONS TO THE CALL-IN
(REQUISITION) PROCEDURE**

To consider the Chief Executive's report

**8 CONTRIBUTION TO THE LONDON BOROUGH'S GRANTS SCHEME – 2009/10
BUDGET**

To consider the Chief Executive's report

**MEMBERS'
QUESTIONS**

9 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

**MOTIONS
FOR DEBATE**

10 GRAFFITI REMOVAL

Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group

This Council calls upon the Administration to be more proactive in dealing with the removal of graffiti from its own property and non-council owned property, by using the legislative powers at its disposal to demonstrate to Havering residents its commitment to improving their quality of life.

Council, 10 December 2008**11 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: SCOPE OF 'OUT OF HOURS' SERVICE****Motion on behalf of the Rainham Residents' Group**

This Council requests the Cabinet to agree that, owing to the ongoing problem of offensive odours often encountered during evenings or weekend, the 'Out of Hours' Environmental Health Service, which currently covers noise issues, be extended to include smell nuisance; and that further contact phone numbers will be made available to the public, who encounter difficulties reporting incidents.

12 GHURKHA EX-SERVICEMEN – EQUAL RIGHTS**Motion on behalf of the Administration**

That this Council supports the LGA campaign for equal citizenship and pension rights for Ghurkha ex-servicemen.

Council, 10 December 2008



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Havering Town Hall, Romford
22 October 2008 (7.30pm – 8:55pm)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor John Clark) in the Chair

Councillors Gary Adams, June Alexander, Michael Armstrong, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Tom Binding, Sandra Binion, Jeff Brace, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Dennis Bull, David Charles, Jonathan Coles, Andrew Curtin, Keith Darvill, Ted Eden, Roger Evans, Gillian Ford, Chris Fox, Mark Gadd, Georgina Galpin, Peter Gardner, Kevin Gregory, Linda Hawthorn, Lesley Kelly, Mark Logan, Andrew Mann, Barbara Matthews, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Eric Munday, John Mylod, Pat Mylod, Barry Oddy, Fred Osborne, Roger Ramsey, Paul Rochford, Mark Stewart, Barry Tebbutt, Frederick Thompson, Lynden Thorpe, Jeffrey Tucker, Linda Van den Hende, Melvin Wallace, Keith Wells, Michael White and Mike Winter

Approximately 10 guests, members of public and press also attended.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Michael Deon Burton, David Grantham, Coral Jeffery, Steven Kelly, Pam Light, Geoff Starns and Steve Whittaker

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

John Race, of Hornchurch Baptist Church, opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

39 MINUTES (Agenda Item 3)

It was **RESOLVED:**

That subject to the correction of “Hockley Crescent” in Minute 21 (Petitions) to read “Brockley Crescent”, the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23 July 2008 be signed as a true record.

40 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 4)**

No Member declared an interest in any matter before the meeting.

41 **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR (Agenda Item 5)**

The Mayor referred with sadness to the recent passing of Mr Albert Mills, who had been a Member of the Council from 1971 to 1978. Councillors Keith Darvill, Andrew Mann and Michael White offered condolences to Mr Mills' family.

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

42 **AWARD FOR EMINENT SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH (Agenda Item 6)**

Council had before it a proposal to confer on Mark Hunter, Olympic Lightweight Men's Double Sculls Champion, being a person who had rendered eminent service to the borough, the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

The Leader of the Council referred to Mr Hunter's residence and school and college attendance in the Borough, and to his sporting achievements, which had culminated in winning the Olympic Gold Medal at the 2008 Games in Beijing. The Leader of the Opposition seconded the proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** by 47 votes to 0 (see voting division 1):

To confer on Mark Hunter, being a person who had rendered eminent service to the borough, the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

43 **PETITIONS (Agenda Item 7)**

Under paragraph 24 of the Council Procedure Rules, a petition was presented to the Mayor by Councillor Roger Evans from residents of Flamingo Walk, Hornchurch calling for highway improvements.

It was noted that the petition would be passed to the appropriate Head of Service for attention or report to members.

44 **PROCEDURAL MOTION**

A procedural motion that the report referred to in the next minute, and the amendment to it proposed by the Labour Group, be dealt with by vote only was **carried** by 31 votes to 16 (see voting division 2).

45 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATEMENTS TO FULL COUNCIL BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda items 8/8A)**

The Council had before it a report of the Governance Committee, which recommended that the proposition set out in the Labour Group motion concerning Leader's Announcements put to Council at its meeting on 23 July 2008, should not be pursued.

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

To refer the report of the Governance Committee relating to the proposition set out in the Labour Group Motion to Council at its meeting on 23rd July 2008 to the next meeting of the Governance Committee for further consideration

In accordance with the agreed procedural motion (minute 44), the report and amendment were considered without debate. The Labour Group amendment was **LOST** by 17 votes to 30 (see voting division 3) and the recommendation of the Governance Committee was **ADOPTED** by 31 votes to 16 (see voting division 4), and it was accordingly –

RESOLVED:

That the proposition set out in the Labour Group motion to Council at its meeting on 23 July 2008 be not pursued.

46 **MEMBER CHAMPION FOR THE ELDERLY – change of title (Agenda Item 9)**

A report of the Governance Committee concerning a suggestion by Councillor Pam Light that her title as Champion for the Elderly be altered more accurately to reflect the role she was carrying out, was submitted.

The report was considered without debate or division and it was –

RESOLVED:

That the title be changed to “Member Champion for the Over Fifties”

47 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RULES – EXCEPTIONS TO THE CALL-IN (REQUISITION) PROCEDURE: Proposed refurbishment of the Betty Strathern Centre (Agenda Item 10)**

The Chief Executive reported on behalf of the Leader of the Council upon the circumstances in which a decision by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commerce had been exempted from the call-in (requisition) procedure.

The report was considered without debate or division and it was –

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

48 **ABANDONED SHOPPING TROLLEYS – ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION (Agenda Item 11)**

A Cabinet report was submitted with the agreement of the Mayor as an urgent matter, pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order to ensure that the proposal could be implemented without delay.

The Cabinet had recommended that the Council adopt powers conferred by section 99 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, to seize, store, dispose of and charge for the recovery and storage of abandoned shopping trolleys.

Consultation had been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Cabinet had taken the outcome into account when deciding to make its recommendation.

The report was considered without debate or division and it was –

RESOLVED:

That, having taken account of the results of the consultation now reported, the Council ADOPT the provisions of Schedule 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended, with a commencement date of 1 February 2009.

49 **IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR HAVERING – DEVELOPING THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE BUSINESS PLANNING PROCESS 2009-12 – SUPPORTING STRATEGIES (Agenda Item 12)**

Council received a report of the Cabinet submitted with the agreement of the Mayor as an urgent matter, pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local

Government Act 1972 in order to ensure that the proposals contained within it could be implemented without delay.

At its meetings in July and October, the Cabinet had considered reports concerning strategies supporting the Council's Corporate Business Planning, which were aimed at ensuring that all of its resources and assets were being used to support the priorities. These strategies were:

- The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
- The Capital Strategy
- The ICT Strategy
- The Workforce Plan
- The Risk Management Strategy and
- The Procurement Strategy

In addition, a number of other plans and strategies were needed to meet local circumstances and government requirements, reflecting the ambitions, priorities and objectives set out in the corporate planning process. Council noted that these strategies had been reviewed and were available for perusal on the Internet.

The report was considered without debate or division and it was –

RESOLVED:

That the strategies referred to in the report be ADOPTED.

50 HAVERING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: ADOPTION OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICIES DPD, ROMFORD AREA ACTION PLAN DPD AND PROPOSALS MAP (Agenda Item 13)

The Mayor had agreed, pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, that Council should consider a report by the Cabinet, submitted as an urgent matter, in order to ensure that the proposals contained within it could be implemented without delay.

The Council had adopted the Core Strategy and Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Documents (DPDs) of the Local Development Framework (LDF) at its last meeting but, on the advice of the Cabinet, had declined to adopt the Development Control Policies pending resolution of an outstanding issue requiring intervention by the Secretary of State. It was now reported that the outstanding issue had been satisfactorily resolved.

Cabinet had accordingly recommended that the Council should now formally adopt Policy DC6, along with the remainder of the Development Control Policies.

In addition, the Council was invited adopt the Romford Area Action Plan, which provides the planning framework for the future development and

regeneration of Romford Town Centre up to 2020, and a revised Proposals Map to reflect the changes recommended by the Inspector in her Final Reports on the Core Strategy, Development Control Policies, Romford Area Action Plan and Submission Proposals Map.

The Council considered the report without debate or division and it was –

RESOLVED that:

1. **The Council ADOPT the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (DPD), incorporating the Inspector's and Secretary of State's changes, in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.**
2. **The Council ADOPT the Romford Area Action Plan, incorporating the Inspector's changes, in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.**
3. **The Council ADOPT the revised Proposals Map incorporating the changes set out in Appendix 5 to the report to Cabinet and as illustrated on the draft map displayed at the meeting as the Proposals Map for the Havering LDF in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and AUTHORISE officers to arrange for the preparation of a final Proposals Map consistent with this, to be available with the adopted LDF documents.**

51 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Agenda Item 14)**

Twenty nine questions were listed to be asked under the Council Procedure Rules. The questions and answers, together with a summary of the supplementary answers given to those answered orally, are set out in **Appendix 2 to these minutes**.

52 **COUNCIL CONTRACTS: BUILDING INSPECTION (Agenda Items 15/15A)**

Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group

This Council agrees to use solely London Borough of Havering Building Control Service and not private Approved Inspectors on all future Council Contracts.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Add at end: "whenever it is in the Council's control"

so that the motion will read:

This Council agrees to use solely London Borough of Havering Building Control Service and not private Approved Inspectors on all future Council Contracts whenever it is in the Council's control.

On behalf of the Residents' Group, the Leader of the Opposition accepted the Administration amendment. The motion, as amended, was considered without debate and **CARRIED** by 46 votes to 0 (see voting division 5) and it was –

RESOLVED that:

This Council agrees to use solely London Borough of Havering Building Control Service and not private Approved Inspectors on all future Council Contracts whenever it is in the Council's control.

53 **DARTFORD CROSSING: TOLL (Agenda Items 16/16A)**

Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group

This Council opposes the increase in the standard Dartford Crossing Toll from £1 to £1.50 (from November 15th) and will lobby for the residents of Havering to be eligible for the same discount scheme as that proposed for the residents of Thurrock and Dartford.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read:

This Council opposes any charges for the use of the Dartford Crossing. It calls upon the government to recognise that the cost has been recovered, and that any future charging is unjust.

With the consent of the Mayor, the Leader of the Council proposed bringing together the amendment and the motion, linking them by "In the meantime" and indicated that his proposition had the support of the Leader of the Opposition.

Council agreed to the proposition and the motion as thus amended was **AGREED** without debate or division, and it was –

RESOLVED that:

This Council opposes any charges for the use of the Dartford Crossing. It calls upon the government to recognise that the cost has been recovered, and that any further charging is unjust. In the meantime, this Council opposes the increase in the standard Dartford Crossing Toll from £1 to £1.50 (from November 15th) and will lobby for the residents of Havering to be eligible for the same discount scheme as that proposed for the residents of Thurrock and Dartford.

54 **CONTROLLING DOGS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON HOUSING ESTATES (Agenda Items 17/17A)**

Motion on behalf of the Independent Local Residents' Group

This Council will fully investigate the wholly avoidable attack by a Rottweiler, on a young defenceless five year old child on Sunday 14 September.

The Council accordingly requests the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate upon what can be done to tackle severe anti-social behaviour such as this including making changes to the Council's conditions of tenancy.

The Council also requests the Chief Executive to arrange for an investigation into whether anything that could or should have been done by staff of the Council or of Homes in Havering, would have prevented the attack.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Refer to the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration

Following debate, the Administration amendment was **CARRIED** by 47 votes to 0 (see voting division 6) and it was –

RESOLVED to:

Refer to the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration

Note: the record of voting divisions is attached as **Appendix 3 to these minutes.**

**Appendix 1
(Minute 41)**

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

May I start by saying that this has been a very exciting time for Havering with a variety of events taking place that have quite literally taken my breath away.

The launch of the Council's new Physical Activity initiative that encourages residents to dance their way to health, is a great incentive to become fit.

I have no doubt that this will follow in the footsteps of the Walking to Health initiative which has been awarded national accreditation from Natural England and the British Heart Foundation.

The accreditation recognises the Council's commitment to encouraging walking for health benefits and for its led walks for beginners.

And being out and about in the borough just gets better. That's the verdict of the judges of the London in Bloom competition who awarded Havering the silver award in the city category.

I would like to thank the Parks and Streetcare teams for performing such a sterling job in the borough. They are a testament to what team-work can achieve.

It is now my great pleasure to present this award to Mark Jones. Well done.

[At this point, the Mayor presented the Award to Mr Jones. Members applauded]

We really do have a lot to celebrate in the borough. The Romford Market Place Festival, which attracted an estimated 15,000 people attend, has set the scene for the success of four years of sport and cultural events leading up to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The festivities are continuing with the Rom4d, a four week celebration of the borough's rich cultural history staged at four venues in the town centre. This is in its third week and is proving extremely popular.

There was even more to celebrate with the Community Cultural Celebration event held at the Queen's Theatre. This too was an outstanding success.

Havering's Business Awards ceremony was also a glittering occasion with local businesses stepping out to take part in this prestigious event which has earned a well deserved place in the business community calendar.

I am pleased to announce that Havering has been shortlisted for the prestigious Beacon award in the After Dark category for its excellent practice in managing Romford's night time economy. I would like to congratulate the Community Safety service on this achievement.

And on a more personal note, I would like to urge you all to have the health checks that are available to detect diabetes, and hearing loss. I recently found out what it feels like not to be able to hear, when I took part in an event to raise awareness of the importance of having your hearing tested. This also applies to eye tests, especially if you are diabetic, as this a check that could potentially save your sight. When it comes to our health none of us should take risks and that's why I will be having a flu injection. Will you?

And finally... May I welcome Alexandru Voicu, a postgraduate student of the University of Amsterdam. Mr Voicu is carrying out research about government in several European countries and has chosen Havering as one of the bodies for his study. Members will recently have received a request for their help with this research and I hope you will all respond.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Lessington Avenue – development control

To the Chairman of the Regulatory Services Committee (Councillor Roger Evans)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

In light of the on-going saga about the mosque in Lessington Avenue, Romford: in an attempt to save Council taxpayers money with regard to officers carrying out surveillance of the bungalow regarding the number of visitor and parking problems, why not just send in the Smart car?

ANSWER

Officers have not been undertaking surveillance of the property. The allegation that the property was being used as a place of worship has not been contested by the owner of the property and only one site visit has been made in relation to the planning breach.

Supplementary question and answer

In response to a supplementary question, the Chairman advised that the Smart car was intended to deal with parking offences and not for surveillance purposes.

2. Housing Revenue Account

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration (Councillor Michael Armstrong)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

How much and what percentage does the Government take each year from the housing revenue account?

ANSWER

In 2007/08 it was 24% (£8.871m); this year it will be unusually high at 34% (£12.544m); and in 2009/10 it is likely to revert to the more usual level of around 24%.

Supplementary question and answer

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member advised that the government was authorised by statute to require local authorities to pay a proportion of the HRA into central funds and the Council was not in position to refuse to do so.

3. **Application for village green status for land in Abbs Cross Gardens**

To the Chairman of the Regulatory Services Committee (Councillor Roger Evans)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Can you provide a summary of the evidence and details submitted so far in support of the village green application for the land at Hornchurch Road and Abbs Cross Gardens?

ANSWER

No. The material has yet to be thoroughly examined and the consultation phase has not been exhausted thus it is not possible to summarise as requested by the questioner at this stage.

The application is currently planned to be advertised in Living Magazine on Monday 27th October. Legal staff are in the process of checking through the application form, declaration, plan and the correspondence to determine whether the application is "duly made". Assuming that it is then they will undertake the following:

- (a) give notice to every person that the authority believe to have an interest in the land or is likely to wish to object to the application;
- (b) publish notice of the application ion a local newspaper;
- (c) fix notices of the application on conspicuous objects on the land; and
- (d) make the application available for inspection by the public on 7th floor reception Mercury House.

There proceeds from the date of publication a six week period during which objections can be lodged. Those making the application are then given an opportunity to respond to any objections submitted. Once all of the representations of support and objection and subsequent responses are with the Council, the Council can either determine the application through the Regulatory Services Committee or full council or constitute a non-statutory public inquiry. If the Council takes the latter route then it would appoint an independent "inspector" usually leading counsel in this area of law and s/he would preside over the public inquiry to determine the status of the land.

Supplementary question and answer

In response to a supplementary question, the Chairman advised that the application was part of a formal legal process that should be allowed to run its course. He was not prepared to comment on the merits of the application as to do so would be prejudicial.

4. **Hot food take away shops – sale of alcohol**

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Standards & Electoral Services (Councillor Peter Gardner)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

How many hot food take away shops also have a licence for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises? And which are they?

ANSWER

There are four hot food takeaways that also have a licence for the sale of alcohol off the premises. They are Flames Kebab and Pizza, Uppminster Road South; Langtons, 7A, Station Parade, Victoria Road, Snax 24, Southend Arterial Road and BHS, 10, The Liberty.

Supplementary question and answer

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member advised that the Licensing Act required a licence to be granted unless there were specific reasons why it should not be. Where an application duly applied for complied with the requirements of the Act, it could not be refused.

5. **Coaches for schools**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

At the last full Council meeting, the Administration stated that the price increase and the re-schedule of our coach service would not affect our schools and children's swimming lessons.

A recent letter from the Headteacher of a primary school sent to parents stated:

"The children will be walking to and from The Chafford Pool, this is because the Borough no longer run a big enough fleet of coaches to accommodate swimming sessions. The cost of hiring alternative coaches has proven to be too expensive and we can not ask parents to contribute."

What steps is this Council now going to take to rectify the problems they were so clearly told about?

ANSWER

Arrangements have been made for school swimming transport to be provided by Redbridge Council at a modest cost increase to the service previously provided by Havering. Havering schools were advised that the service is available and 39 of the 62 previously using the Havering coach fleet are now understood to be using transport provided by Redbridge. Schools have also been supplied with a list of selected private transport operators should they wish to use an alternative provider - the costs for these vary depending upon the company used.

Had Havering decided to continue the school swim transport service, it would have been necessary to replace three of the older vehicles in the fleet of seven, with a consequent increase in charges to schools.

We are aware that a small number of schools have used this as an opportunity to examine the need for transport for swimming lessons and are instead encouraging walking to swimming lessons, providing cost savings, environmental benefits and additional exercise for pupils.

Supplementary question and answer

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member advised that he did not consider the policy on large coaches to be wrong.

6. **Coaches for vulnerable people**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Linda Van Den Hende

In planning the rationalisation of the transport fleet, particularly that affecting disabled clients attending Day Centres, can the Cabinet member please give details of the consultation process that was undertaken with clients and their carers?

ANSWER

There had been discussion for some time regarding the replanning of transport routes to and from the day centre at St. Bernards. Consultation was undertaken with the affected service users and their families and the changes to service were agreed and then implemented.

Unfortunately at that same time changes were made to the transport schedule of the Nason Waters Day Centre without the required consultation. This was done in error, the process for St. Bernards and Nason Waters having become inadvertently interlinked with each other when they should not have been. As soon as the error was discovered the previous service arrangement was reintroduced to all those service users who had been affected.

A letter of apology from the Head of Adult Social Care was sent to each person who had been affected by the mistake. In order to prevent any further occurrences of this type the Transport Service and Adult Social Care have jointly developed a Service Level Agreement which sets out consultation with the service users prior to any substantive changes to transport routes.

Supplementary question and answer

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member advised that information about the budgetary implications of the change in transport arrangements for the particular service user group would be provided to the questioner in due course.

7. **Keeping the highway clear of obstructions**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how many removal/prosecution notices have been issued in the past 12 months under the Highways Act 1980 or other relevant legislation to ensure that the highway, including pavements and roads, are kept

clear of unauthorised signs, goods, building materials and other such items in order to maintain a safe, clear and uncluttered passage for pedestrians and vehicles?

ANSWER

In line with the StreetCare Enforcement Policy our initial approach to dealing with highway obstructions is one of advice and warning before more formal enforcement action is taken.

Where an obstruction has been identified the standard course of action is to encourage those responsible to apply for a permit or to remove the offending skip/materials. This is often the quickest way to deal with these issues.

If this approach fails enforcement action is taken and we have recently removed 18 pallets of bricks left illegally on the highway using our delegated powers the Highways Act 1980.

The issue of goods for sale on the highway is being looked at under a joint initiative with Environmental Health to ensure a coordinated approach. We have however prosecuted one business for repeated failure to comply with requests to remove his goods from the highway.

We are also adopting a more robust approach to dealing with fly posting which can obstruct the highway and is both illegal and unsightly.

Three companies have been investigated for serious offences, two have paid fixed penalties and signed Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and one offender has requested a court hearing, which is due to be heard on 30th October 2008.

“A” Boards which are deemed to be an obstruction are removed if the owners fail to observe requests to remove them, and only returned to their owners once all costs incurred by the Council have been reimbursed.

Supplementary question and answer

Arising from a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reiterated that, save for the cases indicated, no other prosecutions had been pursued.

8. Interest earned on Council funds

To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Commerce (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton (asked in his absence by Councillor Jeffrey Tucker)

According to the Mail on Sunday of 28 September 2008:

“Town Halls have emerged as surprise winners from the credit crunch, thanks to sky-high interest rates on the cash starved money markets”.

The article goes on to suggest that Local Authorities are earning millions of pounds in extra interest by lending funds to banks and building societies.

Has, and is, Havering Council engaged in such activity with council tax monies or any funds in their charge?

ANSWER

Havering Council undertakes its Treasury Management activities in line with the Strategy and Policy agreed each year by full Council. This is supported by Treasury Management practices reviewed each year.

The Council in investing any monies with banks and building societies will accord with the aforementioned governance arrangements.

The budget assumes a reasonable level of interest and will have a balanced approach to achieving this, as demonstrated by not assuming additional interest in its base budget.

Supplementary question and answer

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member advised that investment decisions were taken by officers in accordance with the Council's financial strategy and Framework and following best practice.

9. Press cuttings

To the Cabinet Member for Legal & Democratic Services (Councillor Eric Munday)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Can this Council give reason as to why the member for South Hornchurch, Councillor Michael Deon Burton, has been denied inclusion in the press cutting Council papers specifically during and since his election?

ANSWER

The cuttings summarise stories that have a corporate involvement – in other words, stories that the communications team have either generated, or have responded to on behalf of the council. The cuttings summary does not include politically-generated stories from any of the groups, where there is no council comment. In any event, the cuttings are primarily a way to monitor corporate media issues and have a limited circulation of senior officers and councillors – they have absolutely no impact on the public.

Supplementary question and answer

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member advised that he was not against Councillor Burton.

10. **CCTV services on housing estates**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration
(Councillor Michael Armstrong)**

By Councillor Mark Logan

Why have council tenants and leaseholders been charged for CCTV at £1.20 per week?

ANSWER

Because Council tenants and leaseholders have told us through the MRUK survey that crime, vandalism and graffiti are major concerns for them and so we have introduced an initiative to deal with that concern at an economic cost.

Supplementary question and answer

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member advised that the Council did not make a "profit" from the charges referred to.

As a result of the expiration of the time allowed for Questions, the remaining Questions were dealt with by written answer.

11. **Chippenham Gardens – vacation of bungalows**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration
(Councillor Michael Armstrong)**

By Councillor Mark Logan

Why have tenants at Chippenham Gardens Harold Hill been informed that they must vacate their council owned bungalows over the next twelve months, and be shoehorned into alternative properties?

ANSWER

We have never told the remaining tenants at Chippenham Gardens that they must vacate their bungalows in the next 12 months.

We have said we do not think the bungalows provide suitable accommodation and are seeking to help tenants choose new homes elsewhere in the Borough and will provide relocation assistance to do this.

12. **Choice Based Lettings – cross-borough bidding**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration
(Councillor Michael Armstrong)**

By Councillor Mark Logan

How many tenants have been housed into the London Borough of Havering from other London boroughs, since the inception of cross borough bidding, through the Choice Based Lettings?

ANSWER

None. As Members will recollect we took a decision not to offer cross-borough nomination.

13. **Sale of Council houses**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration (Councillor Michael Armstrong)

By Councillor Mark Logan

How many public sector council homes have been sold-off to private sector housing over the past four and a half years?

ANSWER

A total of six HRA properties have been sold to private developers, through public auction with best price received, since April 2004.

14. **Sale of public sector land**

To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Commerce (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Mark Logan

How many parcels of public sector land in Havering have been sold, since the 2006 local elections?

ANSWER

I can provide information in respect of land that has been owned and sold by this Council since 4 May 2006. During this period there have been 35 property disposal transactions completed of which 26 were in respect of just land or that related to properties that were likely to be subject to comprehensive redevelopment.

15. **Cost of legal action against the Council**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration (Councillor Michael Armstrong)

By Councillor Mark Logan

What has been the full legal costs to the London Borough of Havering, due to legal challenges over housing issues, from tenants on housing waiting lists, and those which are already living in council properties, and hostels, over the past four and a half years

ANSWER

Since 2004 there have been no legal challenges from clients on the waiting list or from hostel tenants. Challenges from tenants living in Council accommodation

would be a matter for Homes in Havering. It is not possible to provide more detail on other costs without a disproportionate amount of work being undertaken.

16. **Decent Homes Standard: numbers**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration
(Councillor Michael Armstrong)**

By Councillor Mark Logan

How many homes have been brought up to the Decent Homes Standard?

ANSWER

Since 1st April 2003 Havering Council have brought 5,178 properties up to the Decent Homes Standard.

17. **Decent Homes Standard: financial contribution**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration
(Councillor Michael Armstrong)**

By Councillor Mark Logan

What is the financial contribution from the London Borough of Havering to help bring the homes up to the Decent Homes Standard?

ANSWER

The contribution will be £53 million from 2009 - 2014 which is 32% of the total estimated bill of £165 million.

18. **Housing of refugees**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration
(Councillor Michael Armstrong)**

By Councillor Mark Logan

How many refugees have been housed in Havering?

ANSWER

None.

19. **Cost of housing refugees**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration
(Councillor Michael Armstrong)**

By Councillor Mark Logan

What has been the financial costs been to the London Borough of Havering under the tenancy agreement for refugees.

ANSWER

It is not lawful for the council to give a tenancy to someone subject to immigration control. We have granted no such tenancies and there has been no financial cost

20. **Choice based lettings: offers withdrawn**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration (Councillor Michael Armstrong)

By Councillor Mark Logan

How many people have been successful on the Choice Based Lettings bidding system, whom were then told after their successful bid? "They cannot have the home for housing had decided to give it to someone else".

ANSWER

None. All potentially successful bids are confirmed to the applicant by the Lettings Team.

21. **Hilldene shopping area – pavement trading**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Mark Logan

Why has a shopkeeper been allowed to trade illegally from the pavement area of his shop at the Hilldene shopping precinct?

ANSWER

When the questioner provides details of the trader I will be able to deal with the question

22. **Bringing dilapidated homes up to the Decent Homes Standard**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration (Councillor Michael Armstrong)

By Councillor Mark Logan

Why have so many dilapidated homes in Havering been refused to be allowed onto the schedule lists for the necessary works, to bring them up to the Decent Homes Standard?

ANSWER

There is a difference between dilapidations and a home not being up to decent homes standards.

The Council can only refurbish homes when it has the money available to do so. It invests £10m per annum in housing repair and improvement programmes and the Government will only give us the £110m we need if our ALMO achieves 2 star.

23. **Mayoral engagements, 2007/08**

To the Cabinet Member for Legal & Democratic Services (Councillor Eric Munday)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

During the municipal year 2007/08, how many engagements did the Mayor and Deputy Mayor attend and:

How many were in Havering?

How many were in other London Boroughs?

How many were outside London?

ANSWER

In the 2007/08 municipal year the Mayor tended 678 engagements, 518 within the borough, 112 at venues within the rest of London, and 58 elsewhere. The Deputy Mayor attended 27, one outside the Borough, the rest inside.

24. **Unused capital**

To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Commerce (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the details of all specific, reserve, earmarked or any other capital sums not used as at 30th September 2008.

ANSWER

The Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 sets out all of the information in respect of this as at 31 March 2008.

The Council uses a number of sources of funding for capital including receipts and S106 payments. It also allocates all funding to programme areas with the exception of:

1. £6m of receipts formally reserved for interest purposes to support the revenue budget.
2. The capital contingency.
3. The capital invest to save budget which is allocated subject to sums being repaid.

The capital strategy sets out the funding of the current approved programme over the main funding sources. The strategy is referred to elsewhere on the agenda and I would urge the Member to review this.

In defining "used", all the sums are committed to the programme however obviously some still remain to be spent as work on the ground continues, contracts are being let and invoices will continue to be paid into the future.

25. **Civic pride budget**

To the Cabinet Member for Legal & Democratic Services (Councillor Eric Munday)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Can the Cabinet member please give details of how the £150,000 civic pride budget for 2008/09 has been spent so far and how it is planned to be spent for the remainder of the year?

ANSWER

The 'Civic Pride' fund supports events and initiatives to encourage local residents to take greater pride in Havering. So far this year, the funding has allowed veterans to parade at the Havering Show, it has provided additional support for the successful Harold Hill consultation and it is helping to fund the gala switch on of the Christmas lights in the marketplace and the older people's Christmas party at Forest Lodge. It also funded last week's civic reception event for Mark Hunter, our gold-medal winning Olympian

26. **New permitted development planning regulations**

To the Lead Member for Social care and Learning (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor John Mylod

What impact will the new permitted development planning regulations, which came into force on 1st October 2008, have on resources?

ANSWER

It is unknown at this stage what long term impact the new regulations will have on resources as the changes are very much still 'bedding in'. In the short term at least, the Planning Service is likely to encounter increased contact, both in writing and over the phone, from customers trying to ascertain whether planning permission is now needed or not. This may include more third party requests made of the enforcement service to check that new developments fall within the revised regulations

27. **CCTV car tickets issued**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Andy Mann

How many tickets were issued during the year 2007/2008 and to date in so far in 2008/2009?

ANSWER

23,134 CCTV car tickets were issued in 2007/2008. 11,176 tickets have been issued to date in 2008/2009

28. **Council I.D passes**

To the Cabinet Member for Legal & Democratic Services (Councillor Eric Munday)

By Councillor Andy Mann

How many new Council passes have we issued with the new Council logo on them?

- a) to Council staff
- b) to Members

ANSWER

The new logo badge has been available from the 2nd June 2008 since when:

- a) 231 badges have been issued to (primarily new) staff - this includes 21 cards issued to Directors and Heads of Service following the restructure
- b) 6 cards have been issued to Members.

29. **Blackberries**

To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Commerce (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Andy Mann

How many Council staff and members have been issued with a Blackberry for Council use ? What is the average yearly cost for operating one and what was the total spend in 2007/2008?

ANSWER

As of today's date there are 27 Blackberrys in use. Of which six have been allocated to members and 21 to staff.

Last year the total operating spend on Blackberrys from April 2007 to March 2008 was £8,651.07. This includes the monthly rental and all usage charges including mobile phone calls and text messages. On top of this there is the new or replacement cost of a Blackberry which is approximately £250.

If you take the operating spend total of £8,651.07 and divide it by the number of Blackberrys we had at March 2008 – which was 24 - then the approximate average yearly operating cost of a Blackberry for this period was £360.46.

Currently the monthly rental of a Blackberry is £20. This is based on the Flat Max tariff which includes 50 megabytes of usage per month for data transfers and is sufficient for our users. Additional usage costs would include any phone calls and text messages when used as a normal mobile phone.

It should also be noted that Blackberrys are used not just for maintaining email contact but also for use as a mobile phone and as such anyone who has a Blackberry is required to return their mobile phone.

VOTING RECORD

<u>DIVISION NUMBER:</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Mayor [Cllr. John Clark]	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Pam Light]	A	A	A	A	A	A
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u>						
Cllr. Michael White	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Gary Adams	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Mike Armstrong	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Robert Benham	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Sandra Binion	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Jeff Brace	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Wendy Brice-Thompson	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Dennis Bull	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Andrew Curtin	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Ted Eden	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Roger Evans	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Christine Fox	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Mark Gadd	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Georgina Galpin	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Peter Gardner	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. David Grantham	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Kevin Gregory	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Lesley Kelly	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Steven Kelly	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Robby Misir	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Eric Munday	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Barry Oddy	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Frederick Osborne	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Roger Ramsey	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Paul Rochford	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Geoffrey Starns	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Barry Tebbutt	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Frederick Thompson	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Lynden Thorpe	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Melvin Wallace	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Keith Wells	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
<u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>						
Cllr. Clarence Barrett	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. June Alexander	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Gillian Ford	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Linda Hawthorn	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Andrew Mann	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Barbara Matthews	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Raymond Morgon	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. John Mylod	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Patricia Mylod	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Linda van den Hende	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Steve Whittaker	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Mike Winter	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
<u>INDEPENDENT LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>						
Cllr. Jeffery Tucker	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Michael Deon Burton	A	A	A	A	A	A
<u>LABOUR GROUP</u>						
Cllr. Keith Darvill	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Tom Binding	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
<u>RAINHAM RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>						
Cllr. Coral Jeffrey	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Mark Stewart	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
<u>Liberal Democrat Member</u>						
Cllr. Jonathan Coles	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
<u>British National Party Member</u>						
Cllr. Mark Logan	✓	✓	✓	✓	O	✓
<u>Independent Member</u>						
Cllr. David Charies	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
TOTALS						
YES	47	31	17	31	46	47
NO	0	16	30	16	0	0
ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	1	0
DECLARATION OF INTEREST/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
ABSENT FROM MEETING	7	7	7	7	7	7
	54	54	54	54	54	54

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INTEREST DECLARED ID



COUNCIL, 10 DECEMBER 2008

7

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RULES – EXCEPTIONS TO THE CALL-IN (REQUISITION) PROCEDURE: creation of an academy on Harold Hill (procedural closure of King's Wood School) – initial consultation stage.

SUMMARY

Under paragraph 17d of these Rules, the Leader of the Council is required to submit quarterly reports to Council on decisions taken by, among others, Cabinet members in the circumstances set out in Rule 17 (exemption to the call-in (requisition) procedure) in the preceding three months. The report should include the number of decisions taken and a summary of the matters in respect of which those decisions were taken.

This report deals with one such decision taken since the last report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

REPORT DETAIL

1 Under Rule 17 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Rules –

- (a) The call-in procedure shall not apply where a decision being taken by Cabinet or an individual Cabinet member, or a key decision made by a member of staff or an area committee is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interests. The record of the decision and notice by which it is made shall state whether in the opinion of the decision making person or body, the decision is an urgent one, and therefore not subject to call-in.

- (b) The decision making person or body can only take an urgent decision and avoid call-in procedures after obtaining agreement from the Chairman or in the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee that the decision be treated as urgent.
2. On behalf of Cabinet Andrew Ireland, Group Director Social Care & Learning, sought the agreement of the Chairman of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee that as the prospective decision of Cabinet on starting a process on the proposed creation of an academy in Harold Hill (procedural closure of King's Wood School) was urgent, it school not be open to call-in.
- 3 The Chairman gave and recorded her agreement based on the following report:

"It is in the best interests of pupils, parents and staff, to limit the period of uncertainty which is an inevitable aspect of considering the creation of an Academy. The timetable for the establishment of an Academy is, therefore, planned to be extremely tight. The Sponsor considers it wise to appoint a Principal from the start of the academic year 2009, for which a key resignation date is 19 April. It is necessary formally to have a decision to close the predecessor school before full funding can be released for the construction of an Academy. Closure follows the normal route, comprising consultation, publication of notices and then final determination and each stage is a Cabinet Decision which needs to be before the resignation date for a newly appointed Principal.

Delay at any stage could prejudice the programme. Without preventing proper consideration of the proposal it is considered necessary to dis-apply call in at the point of approving the initial consultation stage of the proposal. This allows commencement of the process with a prospect of conclusion in time for the next stage of the programme (Outline Business Case) allowing for the recruitment of a Principal from 1 September 2009. When consultation is concluded it will be possible to judge the situation and make a separate decision then about the following stages and whether the timescale may or should be adjusted".

4. As indicated above the chairman agreed that the decision should not be open to call-in because if the decision were to be called-in, implementation would be delayed which could seriously affect the proper conduct of the Council's business.

5. Financial Implications and Risks:

While there were financial implications around the decisions described in this report, there are none directly associated with this report.

6. Legal Implications and Risks:

There are none directly associated with this report.

7. Human Resource Implications and Risks:

There are none directly associated with this report.

8. Equalities and Social Inclusion Implications and Risks:

There are none directly associated with this report.

Staff Contact: Philip Heady
Designation: Democratic Services Manager
Telephone: 01708 432433
E-mail address: philip.heady@haverling.gov.uk

CHERYL COPPELL
Chief Executive

Background Papers List

Decision under Rule 17 of the Overview and Scrutiny Rules signed by Andrew Ireland, Group Director Social Care & Learning and Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson, Chairman of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 October 2008.



COUNCIL, 10 DECEMBER 2008

8

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: CONTRIBUTION TO THE LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS SCHEME – 2009/10 BUDGET

SUMMARY

1. The Council is required to make a contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme.
2. The London Boroughs Leaders' Committee approved a Grants budget requiring a reduction of 0.07% in the overall level of the boroughs contributions.
3. The proposed contribution from Havering has decreased by £1,296 compared with 2008/09, after taking into account population changes affecting the allocation basis.
4. This report recommends that the Council agrees to the proposed budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended: -

1. That the proposed total budget of £30,118,000 for the London Boroughs Grants Committee for 2009/10 be agreed.
2. That the Council's proposed contribution of £795,957 to the London Boroughs Grants Committee for 2009/10 be agreed.

REPORT DETAIL

The Council is required to make a contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Committee. The budget must be agreed by two thirds of constituent councils before 1st February 2009. Under an order made by the Secretary of State for the Environment, if the required number of authorities do not agree the budget, they shall be deemed to have approved the 2009/10 budget at the same level as the 2008/09 budget.

The planned budget for the Grants Committee for 2009/10 is £30,118,000.

Financial Implications and risks

The Council's contributions to the London Boroughs Grants Committee are as follows:

2008/09	Budget	£797,253
2009/10	Proposed Budget	£795,957

It is proposed that the overall level of the boroughs contributions will reduce by 0.07%. The Havering contribution has fallen due to changes in population relative to other London boroughs. It is therefore financially advantageous to the Council to agree the proposed budget.

The overall budget for 2009/10 is £30,118,000. Overall borough contributions total £26,330,000. The shortfall of £3,788,000 is being met from a European Social Fund Grant of £2,000,000 with the balance being met from reserves and additional interest earnings. As a consequence there is a risk that future contribution rates will need to increase by more than the rate of inflation in 2010/11 and future years if spending is maintained at current levels.

Legal Implications and risks

Under an order made by the Secretary of State for the Environment, if the required number of authorities do not agree the budget, they shall be deemed to have approved the 2009/10 budget at the same level as the 2008/09 budget. If two-thirds of the boroughs do agree the new budget it is then compulsory on the other one-third. The Council has the choice of agreeing or rejecting the proposed budget and contribution.

Human Resource Implications and risks

None arising directly

Equalities Implications

The London Borough's Grants committee supports a range of charitable and voluntary groups.

Staff Contact: Mike Board **Title:** Corporate Finance Manager

Telephone: (01708) 432217

CHERYL COPPELL
Chief Executive

Background Papers

London Borough's Grants Committee Reports

London Borough's Committee Reports and Minutes



COUNCIL, 10 DECEMBER 2008

9

QUESTIONS

1 **Crime statistics – accuracy**

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Standards & Electoral Services (Councillor Peter Gardner)

By Councillor John Mylod:

In light of the recent publicity around inaccuracies in police crime figures, specifically for serious crimes, can we be assured that the figures in respect of Havering are accurate and reflect the true position of the Borough?

2 **Parking charges – Hornchurch car parks**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon:

Since the introduction of out-of-town car parking charges and in respect of Hornchurch car parks, would the Cabinet member confirm the following as at 31st October 2008:

- a) Total income received?
- b) Total revenue expenditure?
- c) Total capital expenditure?

3 **Hornchurch car parks – cleaning**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon:

Would the Cabinet member confirm the cleaning regime for each Hornchurch Town car park and how and who monitors this activity?

4 **Knife Crimes – incidents reported**

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Standards & Electoral Services (Councillor Peter Gardner)

By Councillor Andy Mann:

Would the Cabinet member state how many incidents of knife crime (including murder,

Council, 10 December 2008

assault, etc) have been reported to the Police in each of the last 3 years in Havering Park Ward, Mawneys Ward and the Borough as a whole.

5 Advertising income

To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Commerce (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett:

Would the Cabinet member state how much income has been generated to date, and projected to the year end, from advertising on Council assets (as set against the additional £500,000 income target included in the 2008/09 budget)?

6 Local Democracy Week

To the Cabinet Member for Legal & Democratic Services (Councillor Eric Munday)

By Councillor Gillian Ford:

Would the Cabinet member explain why Local Democracy Week passed by with little Council involvement and what is planned for the future?

7 Disposal of recyclable refuse

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett:

In view of the downturn in the market for recycled materials, would the Cabinet member confirm what measures are in place to avoid collected recyclable materials being diverted into landfill?

8 Use of investigatory powers

To the Cabinet Member for Legal & Democratic Services (Councillor Eric Munday)

By Councillor John Mylod:

It has been widely reported in the press that some councils are using authority derived from the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) to undertake surveillance on residents for alleged minor infractions, such as putting out bins on the wrong day and checking applications for school admissions. Would the Cabinet member give an assurance that these powers have not, and will not, be used in Havering for such purposes?

Council, 10 December 2008

9 **“Living” magazine – distribution costs**

To the Cabinet Member for Legal & Democratic Services (Councillor Eric Munday)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett:

Would the Cabinet member state what the distribution costs are for the fortnightly “Living” newspaper in respect of:

- a) 2008/09 projected annual cost?
- b) Cost per fortnightly issue?

10 **Consultation about Ward-specific issues**

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Ray Morgon:

Will this Administration ensure that all decisions relating to ward specific issues are fully discussed with the relevant ward councillors and that they are involved in meaningful consultation with the relevant Cabinet member?

11 **Funds invested in Icelandic Banks**

To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Commerce (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett:

Would the Cabinet member provide an update on the recovery of the £12.5million invested in the Icelandic banks of Heritable and Landsbanki?

12 **CCTV car – issue of penalty charge notices**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Andy Mann:

Would the Cabinet member state how many PCN's the CCTV car has issued this municipal year to date and how much income the CCTV cars produced in the 2007/ 08 municipal year?

13 **CCTV car and new parking charges – reasons for introduction**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Andy Mann:

Would the Cabinet member responsible for Parking supply me with a copy of the letters from Ken Livingstone and the Government forcing Havering Council to introduce new parking charges and the introduction of the CCTV smart Car?

Council, 10 December 2008

14 School uniform grants

To the Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services (Councillor Geoff Starns)

By Councillor Gillian Ford:

Would the Cabinet member state how many applications per school, have been made for school uniform grants since August 2008 and how many grants have been awarded?

15 Homes in Havering - overspend

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration (Councillor Michael Armstrong)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker:

If the investigation into Homes in Havering's 2.2 million pounds overspend reveals foul play, will this Council request a police investigation, yes or no?

16 Funds invested in Icelandic Banks – investment decisions

To the Cabinet Member for Finance & Commerce (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker:

Following Councillor Roger Ramsey's remarks, is it true it was not his decision, nor was he consulted about the millions of pounds being invested, or some say gambled, into the Icelandic Banks – yes or no?

17 Enforcement action – 29 Lessington Avenue

To the Chairman of the Regulatory Services Committee (Councillor Roger Evans)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker:

Can the Chairman of the Regulatory Services Committee advise in full the latest position with regard to the enforcement action relating to 29 Lessington Avenue?

18 Safer Neighbourhood Teams - continuity

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Standards & Electoral Services (Councillor Peter Gardner)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker:

Will the Cabinet Member seek assurance from the Borough Police Commander that Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be posted to our wards for longer periods of time to enable them to get to know our residents more and to restore confidence in the "local bobby on the beat"?

Council, 10 December 2008

19 **Rainham Village – reinstatement of public conveniences**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Customer Services (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Coral Jeffery:

Will this council reinstate public convenience facilities in Rainham Village?

20 **Maylands Car Wash**

To the Chairman of the Regulatory Services Committee (Councillor Roger Evans)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett:

Would the Chairman confirm what enforcement measures are being implemented in respect of the Maylands Car Wash on the A12?

21 **London City Airport: environmental impact of increased flights – consultation with Members**

To the Cabinet Member for Social Care & Learning (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Keith Darvill:

What steps were taken, if any, to inform and/or consult with members of the Council about the planning application to the London Borough of Newham to increase flights from London City Airport by 50% in view of the significant and adverse environmental on many residents of the London Borough of Havering?

22 **London City Airport: environmental impact of increased flights – representations to Newham Council**

To the Cabinet Member for Social Care & Learning (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Keith Darvill:

Why did the Administration fail to make representations to the London Borough of Newham during the planning application process to increase the number of flights to and from London City Airport by 50%?

23 **London City Airport: environmental impact of increased flights – representations to NATS**

To the Cabinet Member for Social Care & Learning (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Keith Darvill:

What representations has the Administration made to N.A.T.S. in respect of the change of two flight paths from and to London City Airport which will have will have adverse

Council, 10 December 2008

environmental impacts on residents in Havering and in Hornchurch particularly and will it join the Member of Parliament for Hornchurch in making such representations.

24 **Charges to tenants for CCTV and other services**

**To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Public protection and Regeneration
(Councillor Michael Armstrong)**

By Councillor Keith Darvill:

Will the Lead Member for Housing, Public Protection & Regeneration make a statement about the representations he has received regarding the imposition of additional charges for tenants for CCTV and other services and what steps he intends to take to review the decision to impose such charges?