London Borough of Havering ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

7.30pm WEDNESDAY, 23 MAY 2007 AT HAVERING TOWN HALL MAIN ROAD, ROMFORD

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

Chief Executive

Elenf Eggs III.

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 in the following instances:

- 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 <u>wait until the division bell has finished ringing</u> 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.

AGENDA

1 **PRAYERS**

Prayers will be said by the Reverend M R Hamill of St Alban's Church, Elm Park

2 To receive apologies for absence (if any)

3 MAYORALTY

(1) To elect the Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

Motion on behalf of the Administration

That Councillor Georgina Galpin be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

(2) To receive notice of the appointment of the Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2007/08.

Note: separate guidance on the Ceremonial Procedure for the Election of the Mayor will be issued to Members before the meeting

4 MINUTES

To approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 March 2007, and to authorise the Mayor to sign them.

5 **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.

6 ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

7 TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Motion on behalf of the Administration

That Councillor Michael White be elected Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2007/08

8 TO ELECT THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Motion on behalf of the Administration

That Councillor Steven Kelly be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2007/08

9 TO ELECT THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet may consist of up to nine members (together with the Leader of the Council, *ex officio*)

[Note: the Deputy Leader of the Council is not automatically a Member of the Cabinet and must therefore be specifically elected to it if that is Members' intention]

Motion on behalf of the Administration

That Councillors

Steven Kelly

Roger Ramsey

Eric Munday

Andrew Curtin

Geoffrey Starns

Barry Tebbutt

Paul Rochford

Michael Armstrong

Peter Gardner

be elected to the Cabinet for the Municipal Year 2007/08

10 CONFERMENT OF HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

To consider whether to confer on the following, being persons who have rendered eminent service to the borough, the Honorary Freedom of the Borough:

Stephen Evans, nominated by the Administration **Councillor Roger Ramsey**, nominated by the Administration **Colin Coe**, nominated by the Residents' Group

In order for the respective honours to be conferred, each nomination must be supported by not fewer than two thirds of the Members present and voting.

11 CONFERMENT OF OFFICE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

To consider whether to confer on the following former Members, each of whom has rendered eminent service to the Council, the office of Honorary Alderman:

Andrew Rosindell MP, nominated by the Administration Angela Watkinson MP, nominated by the Administration Graham Price, nominated by the Residents' Group

[Notes:

- 1 Insofar as necessary to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972, the Mayor has agreed that the meeting shall be deemed convened specifically for the business referred to in this agenda item
- 2 In order for the respective honours to be conferred, each nomination must be supported by not fewer than two thirds of the Members present and voting.

The Mayor has agreed that the following motion be dealt with at this point in the agenda in view of its affinity with the preceding motions

12 RECOGNITION OF PAST SERVICE AS LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Motion on behalf of the Administration

That the Council recognise the contribution past Leaders of the Council have made to the life of Havering through the award of a special badge to mark that achievement and that the Mayor undertake the presentation of such a badge to those able to receive one.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN, AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES

13 REVIEW OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

To consider the report of the Governance Committee

14 TO APPOINT THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, ETC

To consider the report of the Chief Executive

15 TO APPOINT THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Motion on behalf of the Administration

That the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen be appointed –

Committee	Chairman	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Adjudication & Review (2 Vice-Chairmen)	Councillor Kevin Gregory	(2) Pam Light Mark Gadd
Appointments	Dennis Bull	Eric Munday
Audit	David Grantham	Frederick Thompson
Governance	Frederick Thompson	Kevin Gregory
Pensions	Melvin Wallace	Roger Ramsey
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)	Edward Cahill	(3) Georgina Galpin David Charles Melvin Wallace
Regulatory Services	Roger Evans	Barry Tebbutt
Standards	Wendy Brice-Thompson	An Independent Member
Adult Services Overview & Scrutiny	Jeff Brace	

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny	Robby Misir	
Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny	Wendy Brice-Thompson	
Crime and Disorder	Lesley Kelly	
Culture & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny	Robert Benham	David Charles
Environment Overview & Scrutiny	Sandra Binion	Gary Adams
Health Overview & Scrutiny	Ted Eden	
Housing Overview & Scrutiny	Barry Oddy	

15A Amendment on behalf of the Residents' Group

That the following Chairmen be appointed –

Committee	Chairman <i>Councillor</i>
Adult Services Overview & Scrutiny	Patricia Mylod
Corporate Overview & Scrutiny	Ray Morgon
Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny	Gillian Ford
Crime and Disorder	Linda Van Den Hende
Culture & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny	Clarence Barrett
Environment Overview & Scrutiny	Andy Mann
Health Overview & Scrutiny	Linda Hawthorn
Housing Overview & Scrutiny	June Alexander

15B Amendment by the Residents Group

(In the event of Amendment 15A being adopted, amendment 15B would fall as it would not be possible to appoint the same member as both Chairman and Vice Chairman of the same committee)

That the following Vice-Chairmen be appointed –

Committee	Vice - Chairman Councillor
Adult Services Overview & Scrutiny	Patricia Mylod
Corporate Overview & Scrutiny	Ray Morgon
Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny	Gillian Ford
Crime and Disorder	Linda Van Den Hende
Culture & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny	Clarence Barrett
Environment Overview & Scrutiny	Andy Mann
Health Overview & Scrutiny	Linda Hawthorn
Housing Overview & Scrutiny	June Alexander

16 TO APPOINT MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Motion by the Administration

That the following be appointed Champions as indicated:

For Diversity

Councillor Robby Misir

For Elderly Persons Councillor Pam Light

For the Historic Environment Councillor Andrew Curtin

For Younger Persons Councillor Gary Adams

Amendment by the Residents' Group

Delete and replace with

That the following be appointed Champions as indicated:

For Diversity Councillor Clarence Barrett

For Elderly Persons Councillor Patricia Mylod

For the Historic Environment Councillor Linda Hawthorn

For Younger Persons Councillor Gillian Ford

17 TO RECEIVE A STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

18 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME – amendment

The following motion has been signed by the under-mentoned14 Members (25% of the Council's Membership) in accordance with the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 15.1 (motion to rescind a previous decision):

Gillian Ford, Linda Hawthorn, Clarence Barrett, John Mylod, Patricia Mylod, Linda Van den Hende, Keith Darvill, Barbara Matthews, Steve Whittaker, Len Long, Ray Morgon, June Alexander, Jonathan Coles and Andrew Mann

Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group

- That, so far as is necessary to give effect to (2) below, the decision of Council at its last meeting in respect of Special Responsibility Allowances for the Leader of the Principal Opposition and for the Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition be rescinded
- That the Members' Allowances Scheme 2007/08 be amended with effect from 1 April 2007 by the inclusion of the following Special Responsibility Allowances:

Leader of the Principal Opposition £18,000

Deputy Leader of the Principal Opposition £ 3,825

That the Group Director, Finance and Commercial and the Monitoring Officer be authorised to take all action necessary to amend the Members' Allowances Scheme 2007/08 and the Council's Constitution accordingly.



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Havering Town Hall, Romford 21 March 2007 (7.30 pm – 10.45 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson) in the Chair

Councillors Gary Adams, June Alexander, Michael Armstrong, Alan Bailey, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Tom Binding, Jeff Brace, Dennis Bull, Edward Cahill, David Charles, John Clark, Jonathan Coles, Andrew Curtin, Keith Darvill, Ted Eden, Roger Evans, Gillian Ford, Christine Fox, Mark Gadd, Georgina Galpin, Peter Gardner, David Grantham, Kevin Gregory, Linda Hawthorn, Coral Jeffery, Lesley Kelly, Steven Kelly, Pam Light, Len Long, Andrew Mann, Barbara Matthews, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Eric Munday, John Mylod, Pat Mylod, Barry Oddy, Fred Osborne, Roger Ramsey, Paul Rochford, Geoff Starns, Mark Stewart, Barry Tebbutt, Frederick Thompson, Jeffrey Tucker, Linda Van den Hende, Keith Wells, Michael White and Steve Whittaker

Approximately 35 guests, and members of the public and press also attended.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Sandra Binion, Brenda Riddle and Melvin Wallace.

The Reverend Bob Love of the Church of St John & St Matthew, Rainham opened the meeting with prayers

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

86 MINUTES (Agenda Item 3)

It was RESOLVED that minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 February 2007 be signed as a true record.

87 CHERYL COPPELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor welcomed Cheryl Coppell to her first Council meeting as Chief Executive.

88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 4)

All Members present declared a personal interest under paragraph 9 of the Members' Code of Conduct as recipients of Members Allowances (agenda item 7).

89 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR (Agenda Item 5)

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

At the conclusion of her announcements, the Mayor presented to Laura Wilkes and Julian Strong their award for finishing second in the English Unitaries category of the Young Local Authority of the Year 2007 event. Members' applauded their achievement.

90 PETITIONS (Agenda Item 6)

Under paragraph 22 of the Council Procedure Rules three petitions were presented to the Mayor.

Councillor Jeffrey Tucker presented a petition of 2772 signatures calling upon the Council to note the opposition to Sainsbury's expansion plans in Hornchurch, and the opposition to the sale of the Council owned part of Sainsbury's car park.

Councillor Keith Darvill presented a petition of 442 signatures calling upon the Council to retain the Community College Support Centre service.

Councillor Linda Van den Hende presented a petition of 97 signatures calling upon the Council to install traffic calming measures in Park Drive, Upminster

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

91 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME, 2007/08

Council had before them a report of the Chief Executive on the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2007/08, and a report of the Governance Committee (which had met on 20 March 2007) with recommendations as to adjustments to be made to the details of the proposed Scheme.

Amendment on behalf of the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group (agenda item 7A)

1 That the following table be substituted for that in paragraph 3.2 of the Chief Executive's Report

Category of Allowance	Amount Per Member £
Basic Allowance	9,900
Special Responsibility Allowances:	
Leader of the Council	42,900
Deputy Leader of the Administration	27,500
Cabinet members	27,500
Leader of Principal Opposition	17,500
Deputy Leader of Principal Opposition	3,900
Leader of Principal Minority Opposition	5,900
Leader of Minority Opposition	2,450
Mayor	12,590
Deputy Mayor	6,590
Area Committee Chairmen	4,490
Overview and Scrutiny Committees Chairmen	11,850
Licensing and Regulatory Services Committee Chairmen	21,050
Audit, Pension, Governance, Appointments, Adjudication and Review Committee Chairmen	7,900
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Opposition Spokesmen	2,250

2. That the Group Director, Finance and Commercial, be authorised to make all necessary amendments to give effect to the above table.

NOTE: An explanatory note provided by the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group is set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes

Amendment on behalf of Residents' Group (agenda item 7B) (to substitute the following table for that shown in the Governance Committee report)

POSITION	ADMINISTRATION		RA	-	
	£	£	£	£	
Basic Allowance	9,964		9,964		
	x54	538,056	x54	538,056	
Leader		51,191		42,900	
Deputy Leader		35,705		30,000	
Cabinet Members	32,705		25,110		
	x8	261,640	х6	150,660	
Leader Princ. Opp.		18,000		18,000	
Deputy Leader Princ. Opp.		3,825		3,900	
Leader of Minority Opp.		2,227		2,227	
Leader of Principal Min.		6,390		3,500	
Орр.					
Mayor		14,418		12,590	
Deputy Mayor		7,650		6,590	
Area Cttee Chairmen	4,260		4,260		
	x9	38,340	x9	38,340	
OVS Chairmen	14,418		11,070		
	x8	115,344	x6	66,420	
Licensing & Reg Serv, Chair.	20,430		19,500		
	x2	40,860	x2	39,000	
Audit, Pension,					
Governance,					
Appointments,					
Adjudication &	7.050		7.050		
Review Cttee Chairmen	7,650	45.000	7,650	45.000	
0)/0.000.000.000.000	x6	45,900	x6	45,900	
OVS Opp. Spokesmen	2,227	47.040			
	x8	17,816			
		1 107 262		008 002	
		1,197,362		998,083	

After debate, the amendment proposed on behalf of the Rainham and Wennington Independent Residents' Group (agenda item 7A) was **LOST** by 48 votes to 3 (see voting division 1) and that proposed on behalf of the Residents' Group (agenda item 7B) was **LOST** by 36 votes to 15 (see voting division 2).

Council **AGREED** without division:

- 1 That the report from the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London be noted.
- That a "political group" be defined for the purposes of payment of a special Responsibility allowance as a group consisting of a minimum membership of two Councillors (as provided by the

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 – Regulation 8).

The Mayor then invited the Council to reach separate decisions on the several elements of the Scheme as set out in recommendation 3 of the Governance Committee. Accordingly, divisions were held as follows:

See divi-	Recommendation number, Category of Allowance and			Vote (all	Amount agreed
sion No.	amount recommended per Member (in the Governance Committee report)			carried except as	per Member
	Rec. No		£	shown)	£
3	3(a)	Basic Allowance:	9,964	51 to 0	9,964
		Special Responsibility Allowand			
		Leader of the Council	51,191		51,191
4	3(b)	Deputy Leader of the Administration	35,705	36 to15	35,705
		Cabinet members	32,705		32,705
		Leader of Principal Opposition	18,000	LOST	No
5	3(c)	Deputy Leader of Principal Opposition	3,825	3 to 15	allowance agreed
6	3(d)	Leader of Principal Minority Opposition 6,3		LOST 2 to 20	No allowance agreed
7	3(e)	Leader of Minority Opposition	2,227	38 to 12	2,227
8	2(f)	Mayor *	14,418	35 to	14,418
	3(f)	Deputy Mayor *	7,650	12	7,650
		Area Committee Chairmen	4,260	36 to	4,260
9	3(g)	Overview and Scrutiny Committees Chairmen	14,418	14	14,418
		Licensing and Regulatory Services Committee Chairmen	20,430		20,430
10	3(h)	Audit, Pension, Governance, Appointments, Adjudication and Review Committee Chairmen	7,650	36 to 15	7,650
11	3(i)	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Opposition Spokesmen	2,227	LOST 2 to15	No allowance agreed
12	3(j)	Statutory co-optees (per meeting attended)	117	48 to 0	117

^{*} with effect from the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2007

The Council further **AGREED** without division:

- That the changes set out in 3 above be effective from 1 April 2007 (with exception of Mayor/Deputy Mayor SRA which becomes effective from new Mayoral Year) and that the existing scheme be revoked with effect from the same date.
- 5 That, as the total number of SRAs exceeds the recommended 50%, Council endorses the justification set out in the report.
- That any additional cost in 2007/08 be met from the sum set aside in the budget.
- 7 The Group Director Finance and Commercial be authorised to amend Appendix B of the detailed scheme in accordance with the Council decision.

It was accordingly **RESOLVED**

- 1 That the report from the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London be noted.
- That a "political group" be defined for the purposes of payment of a special Responsibility allowance as a group consisting of a minimum membership of two Councillors (as provided by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 Regulation 8).
- That the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances be paid as follows:

	£
Basic Allowance:	9,964
Special Responsibility Allowances:	
Leader of the Council	51,191
Deputy Leader of the Administration	35,705
Cabinet members	32,705
Leader of Minority Opposition	2,227
Mayor	14,418
Deputy Mayor	7,650
Area Committee Chairmen	4,260
Overview and Scrutiny Committees	44.440
Chairmen	14,418
Licensing and Regulatory Services	00.400
Committee Chairmen	20,430
Audit, Pension, Governance,	
Appointments, Adjudication and Review	7,650
Committee Chairmen	,
Statutory co-optees (per meeting attended)	117
,	

- That the changes set out in resolution 3 be effective from 1 April 2007 (with exception of Mayor/Deputy Mayor SRA which becomes effective from new Mayoral Year) and that the existing scheme be revoked with effect from the same date.
- 5 That, as the total number of SRAs exceeds the recommended 50%, Council endorses the justification set out in the report.
- That any additional cost in 2007/08 be met from the sum set aside in the budget.
- 7 The Group Director Finance and Commercial be authorised to amend Appendix B of the detailed scheme in accordance with the Council decision.

92 STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL REPORT

Council had before them the report of the Standing Advisory Council (SACRE), submitted at its request, in compliance with a recommendation of the National Association of SACREs that such documents should be presented to Council in its role as Local Education Authority.

The report advised the Council of the outcome of SACRE's Agreed Syllabus Conference for religious education in schools in the borough, and submitted its Annual Report for 2006.

The recommendation of the Committee was **AGREED** without going to the vote and it was -

RESOLVED

That Council receives and notes the report of SACRE.

93 REPORT OF LOCAL OMBUDSMAN ON A COMPLAINT, FINDING MALADMINISTRATION BY THE COUNCIL

Council had before them the report of the Monitoring Officer on the findings of the Local Government Ombudsman following a number of complaints relating to the licensing of Langtons for the solemnisation of marriages. The Ombudsman had found maladministration by the Council and had recommended that £150 be paid to each of 193 couples married at Langtons during the period when the premises were unlicensed for the distress and uncertainty they experienced.

The recommendation of the Monitoring Officer, that the Ombudsman's finding and recommendation be accepted, was **AGREED** without going to the vote and it was -

RESOLVED

That the Council informs the Local Government Ombudsman that it:

- 1 Accepts the report; and
- Agrees to pay to each of the affected couples the recommended compensation of £150 (a total of £28,950).

94 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council had before them the report of the Chief Executive as to the dates for Council meetings in 2007/08 and provisionally until December 2008.

The recommendations were **AGREED** without going to the vote and it was **RESOLVED**

That Council meetings be held on the following dates:

2007 18 July 17 October 5 December 2008 6 **February** 27 February (Council Tax Setting) 19 21 May (Annual Meeting) 23 July (provisional) 22 October (provisional) **December (provisional)** 10

95 HAVERING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – SAVED UDP POLICIES

Council had before them the report of the Chief Executive, which explained why, pending approval of the new Local Development Framework, the Council needed to request a direction from the Secretary of State to save existing UDP planning policies beyond September 2007, identified which policies it was proposed to save and gave reasons for that.

A Member requested that a vote be taken and the Council agreed to go straight to the vote on the proposition.

The recommendation of the Chief Executive was **AGREED** by 43 votes to 1 (see voting division 13) and it was -

RESOLVED

That Council approves the list of UDP policies to be saved beyond September 2007 in the schedule attached as Appendix 2 to the report submitted and seeks the Secretary of State's agreement to issue a direction to save them

96 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Agenda Item 12)

13 questions were listed to be asked under the Council Procedure Rules. The Mayor allowed a brief extension of the allocated time to enable all to be dealt with. The questions and answers are set out in **Appendix 3 to these minutes**.

97 PROCEDURAL MOTION

A procedural motion considered during the debate referred to in the minute next following, that Council Procedure Rule 9.1(ii) be suspended to enable the motion on Community College Support Centres (agenda item 18) to be debated in full, was **LOST** by 15 votes to 36 (see voting division 14).

98 REVIEW OF SCRUTINY (Agenda item 13)

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council accepts the recommendation of the Audit Commission in its Corporate Assessment Report of 6 February 2007 and resolves as a matter of urgency to review the operation of scrutiny to ensure greater alignment of corporate priorities in particular to take immediate steps to articulate short, medium and long term work programmes to achieve greater involvement in the Overview & Scrutiny process from all 54 members of the Council.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration (Agenda item 13B)

Delete the words of the motion and replace them with:

This Council will consider further the recommendation of the Audit Commission in its Corporate Assessment report of 6 February 2007 in

relation to Overview & Scrutiny following the outcome of the review currently being undertaken by London Councils.

Amendment on behalf of the Residents' Group (Agenda item 13B)

Delete full stop after the last word 'Council', **insert** a comma and **add** "including changing the membership of the Overview & Scrutiny Liaison Committee to include all Vice Chairs as well as Chairs."

After debate, the amendment proposed on behalf of the Administration (agenda item 13A) was **CARRIED** by 32 votes to 19 (see voting division 15) and that proposed on behalf of the Residents' Group (agenda item 13B) was **LOST** by 36 votes to 15 (see voting division 16).

The motion as amended was **AGREED** without division as the substantive motion and it was **RESOLVED** that:

This Council will consider further the recommendation of the Audit Commission in its Corporate Assessment report of 6 February 2007 in relation to Overview & Scrutiny following the outcome of the review currently being undertaken by London Councils.

99 MOTIONS WITHDRAWN

With the consent of the Council, the motion on behalf of the Labour Group on Climate Change (agenda item 14) and the motions on behalf of the Residents' Group on Sustainable Communities (agenda item 15) and on Keeping Streets Clear (agenda item 16) were **WITHDRAWN**.

100 QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT ORDINARY MEETINGS FOLLOWING AN ANNOUNCEMENT PURSUANT TO RULE 2(V) PART 4 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES (Agenda item 17)

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council agrees that the Governance Committee undertake a review of the Council Rules and Standing Orders pertaining to Ordinary Council Meetings insofar as they relate to announcements made at Council Meetings by the Leader of the Council pursuant to Rule 2(v) with the intention of the Mayor permitting for a fixed period of time to the Leader of the Opposition, Leaders of Minority Groups and Back Bench Members to raise oral questions to the Leader of the Council relating solely to the subject of the announcement.

The motion was dealt with under Council Procedure Rule 9.2 by the vote only procedure and was **LOST** by 33 votes to 18 (see voting division 17).

101 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUPPORT CENTRES (Agenda item 18)

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council regrets the decision of Adult Services (Social Services) to withdraw funding from the Community College Support Centres at Broxhill and Bower Park leading to the cessation of Community College Support Services on 3 August 2007 and calls upon the Lead Member for Sustainable Communities to reverse the decision and ensure these valuable and essential services continue.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration (Agenda item 18A)

Delete the words of the motion and replace them with:

This Council notes and supports the Lead Member for Adult Services decision to relocate the Community College Support Centres from their current locations to one of its Learning Difficulties Day Centres.

The motion was dealt with under Council Procedure Rule 9.2 by the vote only procedure. The amendment proposed on behalf of the Administration was **CARRIED** by 32 votes to 19 (see voting division 18), and the motion as amended was carried as the substantive motion by 32 votes to 19 (see voting division 19), and it was **RESOLVED** that:

This Council notes and supports the Lead Member for Adult Services decision to relocate the Community College Support Centres from their current locations to one of its Learning Difficulties Day Centres.

Note: the voting divisions are attached as **Appendix 4** to these minutes.

Appendix 1 (See minute 89)

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we are all aware, March is a very busy time for the Council with the setting of the council tax. Once again, this has been carried out in a professional, efficient and effective way. Thank you to everyone involved in making it such a smooth process.

The Beacon Awards ceremony was held last night and I am pleased to say that Havering was short-listed for the prestigious Beacon Status for school improvement. This is a great achievement as the Beacon Scheme identifies excellence and innovation in local government. It is confirmation of the excellent work of Children's Services.

My congratulations go to students and staff at King's Wood School for their outstanding achievement in being awarded specialist Technology College status.

The Harold Hill School has shown an exceptional spirit of determination to obtain this sought after status and they truly deserve their success.

I recently attended the opening of the new state of the art nursery at Broadford School, Harold Hill. This has literally risen from the ashes of an arson attack some years ago. It will be a great asset to the local community and is truly a triumph.

I would also like to say well done to the members of the Children's Centre Development team for the successful launch of the borough's first children's centre at Collier Row. I was very pleased to perform the opening ceremony at the Sure Start centre which offers services for families provided by the Council, Havering Primary Care Trust, and Job Centre Plus, along with local nurseries and voluntary associations.

I am also delighted to announce the success of our Planning service, which has earned the top spot in the Department of Communities and Local Government rankings. The service secured first place, in the largest and most influential government rankings category, for dealing with an amazing 98.1% of its applications for residential extensions on time.

And it's also good news for the Council's External Funding service, which has been awarded the national standard for customer services. The service received the Customer First accreditation for its achievements in putting our customers first. This is as a result of the high professional standards it maintains, the dedication of its staff and its commitment to providing an exemplary service.

We can also celebrate yet another national achievement thanks to Laura Wilkes and Julian Strong, who finished second in the English Unitaries category of the Young Local Authority of the Year 2007 event.

The Graduate Project officers in the Finance and Commercial Directorate competed against 43 teams in the competition, which showcased presentations from across the country.

Appendix 2 (Minute 91)

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Explanatory note provided by the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group

The table set out in the Amendment, if adopted, would result in an overall saving of £80,722.

The table overleaf compares the Administration's proposals with ours.

	Admin proposals		RWR proposals		sals	
Basic Allowance	9,964	54	538,056	9,900	54	534,600
Leader of the Council	51,191	1	51,191	42,900	1	42,900
Deputy Leader of the Administration	35,705	1	35,705	27,500	1	27,500
Cabinet members	32,705	8	261,640	27,500	8	220,000
Leader of Principal Opposition	18,000	1	18,000	17,500	1	17,500
Deputy Leader of Principal Opposition	3,825	1	3,825	3,900	1	3,900
Leader of Principal Minority Opposition	6,390	1	6,390	5,900	1	5,900
Leader of Minority Opposition	2,227	1	2,227	2,450	1	2,450
Mayor	14,418	1	14,418	12,590	1	12,590
Deputy Mayor	7,650	1	7,650	6,590	1	6,590
Area Committee Chairmen	4,260	9	38,340	4,490	9	40,410
Overview and Scrutiny Committees Chairmen	14,418	8	115,344	11,850	8	94,800
Licensing and Regulatory Services Committee Chairmen	20,430	2	40,860	21,050	2	42,100
Audit, Pension, Governance, Appointments, Adjudication and Review Committee Chairmen	7,650	6	45,900	7,900	6	47,400
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Opposition Spokesmen	2,227	8	17,816	2,250	8	18,000
			1,197,362			1,116,640
					Saving:	£80,722

QUESTIONS AND REPLIES

1 Diversity & Equality Impact Assessments

<u>To the Cabinet Member for Performance & Corporate</u> (Councillor Eric Munday)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

What proposals have the Administration to extend equality impact assessments to cover all areas of diversity and how will they ensure Councillors and relevant stakeholders are involved in formulating such assessments?

Answer

Havering Council uses a Single Impact Assessment template, which assesses the impact of a function, policy, or procedure on equality in terms of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and belief, and age. Most impact assessments were completed in 2006 as part of the preparation of the Disability Equality Scheme, the rest are expected to be completed during 2007.

Services are instructed to reassess their functions, policies or procedures every three years, or sooner, if the area assessed is subject to significant change. New functions, policies and procedures will be impact assessed prior to their implementation.

Members of the Council, and other interested parties, may view existing impact assessments by request to the Corporate Equalities Team. It is intended that the assessments be placed in the public domain in 2007. Comments on existing assessments should be made to Corporate Equalities and the relevant Head of Service, who can then review the assessment in light of those comments. Such comments would be more than welcome as they may help to improve the quality of the assessments, and by extension, the equalities work on which they are based.

With new assessments, the Equalities Lead Officer Group have been asked to consider ways in which Members can be involved in both improving the impact assessment process, and feeding into future assessments. Additionally, Services will soon begin work to improve the methods by which they collect data on customer profiles, and customer satisfaction, so that it can be broken down by the different categories. This will give Services the hard data they need to focus their equalities work on key areas, and involve local stakeholders in service evaluation and improvement exercises which will feed into future Equality Impact Assessments.

2 Community Cohesion

To the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Communities (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

When will the Administration bring forward its proposals to develop its approach to community cohesion particularly in relation to its Homes for Havering pledge and to develop work programmes for the Older People's Board?

Answer

Our recent Corporate Assessment recognised that the Council has made significant improvements in its work on equalities and diversity. Publication of the Race Equality Scheme, Disability Equalities Scheme, establishment of a Black and Minority Ethnic Forum as well as pioneering work in Community Safety challenging hate crime demonstrates progress. Our work within our schools, and with the Youth Service, focussing on the next generation is recognised as effective and challenging.

There is more to be done, as the Corporate Assessment recognised, and I will be working with our partners in the Havering Strategic Partnership to produce an agreed Community Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan in 2007/08. But I think it is important that we do not give a message out that nothing is being done – this is simply not true. We are already working with Faith Groups, the Voluntary Sector, the Police, local businesses and Young People on a range of initiatives aimed at improving community cohesion. I hope Members took the opportunity to attend the Black History Month event at the Queens Theatre in October 2006, which was a multi cultural event celebrating the diversity within the Borough.

The question mentions a 'Homes in Havering' pledge. Let me clarify the policy position of the Council. We have both a statutory and a moral requirement to assess and meet the housing needs of those who live in the Borough – new homes for families starting out, larger homes where families are growing and housing with support where this is needed. By making best use of our resources, using receipts received from the sale of housing land for example, we can maximise the assistance we can give to local people. And remember our local community is already very diverse, a diversity which is growing.

We also recognise that Havering will grow as a Borough over the next 10 -15 years and many people will come to live here from outside the Borough. We are facilitating this growth, not resisting it, and welcome new residents to the Borough. But we will also ensure that local people

get a fair shout at benefiting from these changes and I am sure no-one would disagree with that.

The question mentions the Older Peoples Board. I presume this refers to the body established by the Havering Strategic Partnership, and which is chaired by the Chief Executive of Age Concern. I am aware of their work – indeed I am an active Member – and can confirm that a work programme is being agreed. Key areas of initial work will include (as a partnership) introducing further integrated approaches to reduce crime and fear of crime among older people. (An event is being held at the Queen's Theatre on 21st March to promote this theme). The promotion of intergenerational activity to ensure greater understanding and cohesiveness among age groups is also contained within the terms of reference for this group.

The Older Peoples Board is also setting up a sub group consisting of representatives from Age Concern, Police, Fire Brigade, PCT, HAVCO and the Council to establish a joint older persons information database to ensure less duplications and bottlenecks of information to older people.

Work has also begun to ensure greater involvement and capacity building of older people to mirror processes already in place in Older People Beacon Councils such as Nottinghamshire and Shropshire.

The Older Persons Board is also taking an overview of different strategies (e.g. LAA targets) and a LAA Co-ordinator in relation to older people has just been appointed by Havering Strategic Partnership and commences work in April.

3 Improving accountability & transparency

To the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Communities (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

What proposals have the Administration to address the need for improvement recognised in the Audit Commission's Corporate Assessment Report relating to the development of greater transparency and accountability in the support and funding arrangements given to the community and voluntary sector?

Answer

To put this in context, the Corporate Assessment commented that "The Council generally works well with the community and voluntary sectors"; that "there are some strong and effective links with the voluntary sector, especially in some services which care for older

people"; and that the way the Council involved the sector in the Local Public Service Agreement "has strengthened partnership working, creating both trust and capacity in the third sector."

The Audit Commission nevertheless recommended the Council to improve the transparency and accountability of its support and funding arrangements for the sector. This will be achieved by implementing the participation and funding principles of the Compact agreement; by continuing to provide core funding for HAVCO, Havering CAB, and Havering's volunteer bureau; by working with HAVCO and the Havering Strategic Partnership to promote a strong and effective voluntary and community sector; by the support provided to the sector through the Council's External Funding Service; and by close liaison with voluntary and community groups through, for example, the BME Forum which the Council has facilitated.

There are, inevitably, limits on the potential for the Council to increase the availability of financial assistance and premises for the voluntary and community sector. We will however be carrying out further work during the coming year to ensure that the support we give to the sector is as co-ordinated and effective as we can make it.

4 Dealing with use of car

<u>To the Cabinet Member for Environmental & Technical Services</u> (Councillor Michael Armstrong)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

How do the Administration propose to ensure it tackles the difficult issues involved in dealing with the use of the car to address the Governments Agenda on Transport?

<u>Answer</u>

By implementing the Council's positive transport strategies.

5 Future of Parks in Havering

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

In view of the reported comments of the Leader of the Council in the Romford Recorder of 2nd March 2007 will he make a statement about the future of Parks in Havering?

Answer

I am very pleased to be given the opportunity to make a statement about the importance of our parks and open spaces in Havering, particularly as this administration is so committed to making further improvements to the service in the next few years, building on the success we have already achieved.

Unfortunately the Romford Recorder chose to misinterpret my views on this issue and ignored the commitment that I and this administration have given to improving parks and open spaces in the last few years. The investment we have made in improving our parks and open spaces has seen resident satisfaction with the service increase significantly; by 9% in the last year. This is one of the fastest improving services that the Council has responsibility for. The Council is committed to making further investments in our parks and open spaces, amounting to £1m in each of the next three years. This level of investment is unprecedented and will lever in further funding from outside sources.

I am very pleased to confirm that our much valued principal parks, which make such an important contribution to quality of life in the borough, will receive significant additional funding in the next few years. At the same time we will be reviewing the future of a limited number of low value, low quality open spaces, which are located in areas where there is already sufficient open space and where the continued provision of these sites as open space causes problems to local residents. We have to ask why local residents should continue to suffer from crime and anti-social behaviour in these low value, low quality pockets of open space, in their neighbourhoods, when they are not properly used for recreation and where there are already other important parks and open spaces in their area. If the local community agree with our analysis, we will dispose of these low value open spaces and re-invest the capital receipts into the parks and open spaces that really matter. I can give a commitment that any proposals to dispose of small pockets of underused open space will be subject to consultation with local residents before any decision is taken.

This administration believes that the strategy I have outlined represents a sensible prioritisation of resources which will result in our much valued parks and open spaces being improved. Contrary to the inaccurate story in the Romford Recorder, our strategy will retain and improve the parks and open spaces that really matter to the residents of this borough.

6 Car parks: cleaning

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how often council owned car parks are cleared of litter and other rubbish?

Answer

Inspectors visit each Pay & Display car park 4 times per day, once to collect cash from the machines and three visits to check that they are in full working order. During these visits any litter is picked or if there is a fly tip the necessary action is taken with StreetCare to remove the fly tips.

In all other car parks inspections take place every once a week and the same action is taken as in the P&D car parks. However, where car parks have to be unlocked daily, that is to say Hoppy Hall, Gaynes Road and Dorrington Gardens, an inspection of the car park is made at that time and the required action is taken as above.

Where necessary StreetCare's mechanical sweepers are deployed to remove surface debris.

7 Council vehicles: low emissions

To the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Communities (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

What is the estimated cost to this Council of making its vehicles compliant with the requirements of the Low Emission Zone, as proposed by Transport for London, which is set to become effective across Greater London from 2008?

Answer

The major replacement of the StreetCare and Highway fleets in 2006/07 means that the vast majority of the overall fleet that fails under the Low Emission Zone regulations already meets the new emission targets.

The few Passenger Transport Vehicles that do not meet Low Emission Zone regulations are being replaced as part of the normal replacement cycle, and thus no additional cost applies.

The main exception is the large coach fleet and a business case consideration is being prepared in respect of the 4 coaches that will need replacing by April 2008. Again, however, this will take account of the normal replacement cycle.

8 Tesco trolleys

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare

(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Jeffery Tucker

Will the Council assist me and residents, in putting pressure on Tesco to remove their trolleys from our local rivers.

Or can the Council remove them and bill Tesco for this service?

<u>Answer</u>

Yes.

Enforcement Officers from StreetCare will approach Tesco with a view to establishing what controls are in place to prevent their trolleys being flytipped, either in rivers or abandoned in other areas, and seek their voluntary co-operation in respect of arranging for the collections of these trolleys.

9 Parks and Open Spaces

<u>To the Cabinet Member for Environmental & Technical Services</u> (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Jeffery Tucker

Cllr Michael White has been reported as saying that there are too many parks and open spaces in Havering.

Can the Leader of the Council give an indication of the sites most likely to be sold off?

Answer

The Leader of the Council has made his and this administration's position clear in relation to the value we place on parks and open spaces in Havering and how we intend to improve them. The Leader's position is clarified in the answer to question 5 on this agenda.

I would like to add that, contrary to reports in the Romford Recorder, we are committed to improving our much valued parks and open

spaces in Havering. We have seen a recent significant increase in resident satisfaction with our parks and open spaces: we believe the additional capital investment of a £1m a year in the next three years will result in even higher satisfaction ratings in the future.

I cannot give an indication, at this stage of the limited number of low value / low quality sites that might be considered for disposal, but I can guarantee that none of the principal parks and open spaces that our residents love so much will be sold off.

10 St George's Day

To the Leader of the Council

(Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Jeffery Tucker

When will this year's itinerary of Council plans to mark St George's Day be published?

<u>Answer</u>

The Mayor's itinerary for St George's Day will be published on 21 April. However, I can inform the Chamber now that on 22 April the Mayor will attend a St George's Day Parade and Service with the Hornchurch District Scouts at Emerson Park School, followed by a Parade and Service with the Squirrels Heath District Scout Association. The Deputy Mayor will attend a Parade and Service with the Romford & District Scouts at Main Road Baptist Church.

11 Government Grant - Havering

To the Cabinet Member for Resources

(Councillor Roger Ramsey) By Councillor Jeffery Tucker

In a Recorder article dated 9 March, Councillor Ramsey said one of the reasons for Havering's poor Government grant, is because we have a relatively small ethnic minority population.

Can Councillor Ramsey please elaborate on this and help residents understand how the "ethnic minority" criteria work?

<u>Answer</u>

In the Local Government Financial Settlement, a local authority's needs are assessed by formula consisting of unit allocations and additions for deprivation and other factors. The indicators used to determine need are those which do not benefit Havering when compared to others, for example:

- We have a lower proportion of our population on state benefits than our neighbours;
- ❖ We have a lower percentage of children not in good health;
- ❖ A lower proportion of our residents are from black ethnic groups (i.e. Black Caribbean, Black African and other black, not Asian)
- We have a lower number of older people in rented accommodation or living alone, or receiving Attendance Allowance; and
- Although we have a larger elderly population, the proportion of these aged over 90 is lower than in neighbouring boroughs, and the indicator for those aged over 90 generates more grant.

In addition:

The value of housing in Havering is high and this is used to assess wealth and ability to pay.

The population in Havering has decreased in the past and, whilst it is increasing, it is well below other authorities, probably due to house prices.

12 Cherry Tree / Keswick Avenue Car Parks

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare

(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Jeffery Tucker

Are there any plans to sell off or reduce the capacity of the Cherry Tree and/or Keswick Avenue car parks?

Answer

A Cabinet report (Future Strategy on Council Car Parks) in September 2004 prospective identified these two sites for disposal.

These sites were subsequently reviewed and discussed with Members as part of the usual property review/disposal process - the decisions were:

Cherry Tree Car Park - not to proceed with disposal, and could be looked at again in the future if adjacent land was also included in the review:

Keswick Avenue Car Park - decision on disposal deferred pending an overall review of Langtons and surrounding area as included in the Hornchurch Town Centre Urban Strategy report dated May 2006.

13 **Higher education**

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

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Could the Cabinet Member advise this Council what measures are being taken to improve the 9% Higher Education rate, that is well below the average.

<u>Answer</u>

The Administration agrees that increasing the access of Havering residents to university education is a priority for improving the quality of life in the Borough. As part of our Olympic delivery plan we believe that this could be greatly assisted by working with the University of East London to provide an outlet for the University in Havering.

VOTING RECORD

DIVISION NUMBER:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Georgina Galpin]	^	^	•	•	0	0	•		•	-	0	~	~	×		×	×	~	•
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Cllr. Robert Benham	×	×	~	~	0	×	~	~	~	~	0	~	~	×	~	×	×	~	~
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Cllr. Eddy Cahill	×	×	~	>	0	0	~	~	>	~	0	~	~	×	~	×	×	>	~
Cllr. David Charles	×	×	~	~	0	0	~	~	~	~	0	~	~	×	~	×	×	~	~
Cllr. John Clark	X	×	~	~	0	0	~	~	~	~	0	~	~	×	~	×	X	~	~
Cllr. Andrew Curtin	X	×	~	~	0	0	~	~	~	~	0	~	~	×	~	×	×	~	~
Cllr. Ted Eden	X	×	~	~	0	0	~	~	~	~	0	~	~	X	~	~	×	•	~
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Cllr. Mark Gadd	×	×	~	~	0	0	~	~	~	-	0	-	~	×	-	×	×	>	~
Clir. Peter Gardner	×	×	-	~	0	×	-	~	~	-	0	-	-	×	~	×	×	~	-
Cllr. David Grantham	×	×	~	~	0	0	~	~	~	~	0	-		×	-	×	×	~	-
Cllr. Kevin Gregory	×	×	~	~	0	0	~	~	~	-	0	-	-	×	~	×	×	~	-
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Cllr. Pam Light	×	×	~	~	0	0	~	~	~	~	0	~	~	×	~	×	×	~	~
Cllr. Robby Misir	×	×	~	~	0	0	~	~	~	~	0	~	~	×	~	×	×	~	~
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Cllr. Keith Wells	×	×	~	~	0	0	~	~	~	~	0	~	~	×	~	×	×	~	~
RESIDENTS' GROUP																			
Clir. Barbara Matthews	×	_	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	~	~	~	×	~	~	×	×
Cllr. June Alexander	×	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	-	-	-	×	-	-	×	×
Clir. Clarence Barrett	×	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	~	,		×	-	-	×	×
Cllr. Gillian Ford	×	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	~	_	-	×	~	-	×	×
Cllr. Linda Hawthorn	×	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	~	~	-	×	~	-	×	×
Cllr. Len Long	×	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	0	×	×	~	×	~	×	~	~	×	×
Cllr. Andrew Mann	×	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	~	~	-	×	~	~	×	×
Cllr. Raymond Morgon	×		~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	~	~	~	×	~	~	×	×
Clir. John Mylod	×	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	~	~	×	×	~	~	×	×
Cllr. Patricia Mylod	×	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	~	0	×	×	~	~	×	×
Cllr. Brenda Riddle	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Cllr. Steve Whittaker	×	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	~	~	~	×	~	~	×	×
Cllr. Linda van den Hende	×	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	~	~	×	×	~	~	×	×
RAINHAM & WENNINGTON INDEPENDENT RESI		GROUP																	
Clir. Jeffery Tucker			~	×	×	~	~	0	×	×	×	0	0	~	×	~	~	×	×
Clir. Coral Jeffrey	~	~	~	×	×	~	~	0	×	×	×	0	0	~	X	~	~	X	X
Clir. Mark Stewart	_	~		×	×	0	~	0	×	×	×	0	0	~	×	~	~	×	×
LABOUR GROUP																			
Cllr. Keith Darvill	×	×	~	~	-	0	~	~	~	-	-	~	0	-	×	-	~	×	×
Cllr. Tom Binding	×	×	~	~	-	0	,	~	~	-	~	~	0	~	×	-	-	×	×
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Cllr. Jonathan Coles	×	×	~	~	~	0	~	~	>	~	0	~	0	~	×	~	~	×	×
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DECLARATION OF INTEREST/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

13

9 MAY 2007

REPORT TO COUNCIL

REVIEW OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- 1. At the Annual Meeting in 2006, Council appointed four Independent Members to the Standards Committee, two for a term of two years ending at the meeting of Annual Council in 2008 and two for a term of fours years ending at the meeting of Annual Council in 2010. Council also appointed eight Member to the Standards Committee (5:1:1:1) The two Independent Members appointed for two years were also appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.
- 2. This Committee now considered, at the request of the Administration, a report reviewing the make up of the Standards Committee.
- 3. The Committee was reminded that at least 25% of the Standards Committee must by law be Independent Members and that such Independent Members could only be recruited following advertisement in one or more local newspapers and the completion of an application form (and therefore by implication a full recruitment process), and must be appointed by full Council. The Committee was also reminded that hearings into matters complained of must be determined within 3 months of a report from an Ethical Governance Officer of the Standards Board for England in all but the most exceptional of cases and that Annual Council had, therefore, agreed in May 2006 to allow a margin of error by appointing one more Independent Member than was absolutely necessary, so that the Standards Committee could remain quorate should a vacancy arise among the Independent Members.
- 4. The Committee was further reminded that the relevant legislation provided that:
 - (i) Standards Committees did not have to be politically balanced
 - (ii) Only one member of the Executive could be on the Standards Committee and this could not be the Leader
 - (iii) At least 25% of the whole membership of the Committee must be Independent

- (iv) Standards Committees could form Sub-Committees to deal with hearings since the legislation to specifically allow this was introduced
- (v) A meeting of the Standards Committee and Sub-Committee would not be quorate unless at least one Independent member were present
- (vi) The Committee must contain at least two members of the Council and one Independent Member
- (vii) The Committee could not be chaired by the one member of the Executive
- 5. The concerns that had prompted the Administration's request for a review had arisen partly owing to the fact that the Council had chosen to have a politically balanced Standards Committee, thus requiring a larger committee and a larger number of Independent Members. Enquiries had shown that a majority of London Boroughs had much smaller Standards Committees and the Administration had therefore suggested that the composition of the Standards Committee be reviewed to bring it more into line with other London authorities.
- 6. The Committee was reminded of the political balance rules and of their specific application to the Standards Committee. It was also advised that, should Members wish to recommend to the Council that there be fewer Independent Members, then provided the legislation was complied with and the risk entailed in reducing the number of Independent Members to the minimum appreciated, it was open to them to do so. Although the Council had appointed the present Independent Members for fixed terms of two and four years respectively, it was again open to the Council to rescind those decisions, to remove the four Independent members and to re-appoint some of them for a different term.
- 7. The Committee was advised that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, likely to become law in July 2007, included a requirement that the Chairman of the Standards Committee be one of the Independent Members. The imminent legislation would also require the Standards Committee to undertake a "first sieve" of complaints with onward referral to the Standards Board of only the most serious cases, meaning that the Standards Committee was very likely to be much more busy than previously.
- 8. Having considered the issues involved in reviewing the composition of the Standards Committee, the Committee concluded that the balance of advantage lay in making changes necessary to reduce the size of the Committee, and ACCORDINGLY RECOMMENDS to the Council:
 - 1 That a Standards Committee be appointed with six Members (3:1:1:1) and two Independent Members.
 - 2 That the terms of office of the Independent Members

appointed in May 2006 be reduced by one year, so that the terms of the two then appointed for two years shall expire forthwith and those of the two appointed for four years shall expire at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2009.

- That the Standards Committee be recommended that the appointment of a Hearings Sub-Committee be dispensed with
- 4 That the Chairman of the Standards Committee be a Councillor but that the appointment be not eligible for a Special Responsibility Allowance
- 5 (a) That one of the Independent Members be appointed Vice-Chairman
 - (b) That Council consider the recommendation of the Group Leaders jointly as to which of the Independent Members should be appointed as Vice-Chairman.

Council, 29 March 2006



ANNUAL COUNCIL 24 MAY 2006

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: TO APPOINT THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, ETC

- In accordance with the Constitution Annual Council, among other things, appoints its Committees.
- This report deals with the appointment and sizes of Committees, the co-opted members and observers etc and recommends such appointments consistent with decisions taken at Council last year, except as noted in Appendix 2.
- The Constitution currently provides for the appointment of the Rainham Working Party, which was established several years ago to deal with issues arising from the regeneration activities affecting the Rainham & Wennington Ward. At its meeting in February, the Governance Committee was invited to consider whether there continued to be need of the Working Party, given the enhanced role now accorded to Area Committees. The Committee concluded that there was no further need for the Working Party and **RECOMMENDED** that the Council agree to the deletion of reference to the Working Party from the Constitution. Recommendation 4 below is submitted accordingly.
- This report has been prepared on the basis of the current membership of the Council, 53 (following the recent vacancy arising in St Andrews Ward). It may be necessary to review again the political balance of the Committees when the outcome of the impending by-election is known.
- There are no additional financial implications or risks arising from this report. Any allowances payable to Members resulting from the proposed appointments will be in accordance with the Members' Allowances scheme and will be contained within the relevant budgetary provision.
- There are no legal, human resources or equalities and social inclusion implications or risks attached to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- (1) The Committees listed in the Appendix 1 be appointed for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.
- (2) Those Committees be appointed with:
 - (a) the membership sizes and
 - (b) the political balance

indicated in Appendix 2 and its annexes.

- (3) Two voting co-optees representing the Church of England and the Roman Catholic interests and three parent governor co-optees selected in accordance with the appropriate Regulations, be appointed to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (4) The other non-elected member "appointments" and invitations to attend shown in the Appendix be confirmed.
- (5) That, as recommended by the Governance Committee, reference to the Rainham Working Party be removed from the Council's Constitution.

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Cheryl Coppell
Chief Executive

Background Papers List

None

APPENDIX 1

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Adjudication and Review Committee See annex 1

Appointments Committee

Audit Committee

Governance Committee

Licensing Committee

Pensions Committee See annex 2

Regulatory Services Committee

Adult Services Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Children's Services Overview and See annex 3 Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Crime & Disorder Committee

Culture and Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Elm Park and Hylands Area Committee (Ward members only)

Emerson Park and Harold Wood Area (Ward members only)

Committee

Gidea Park Area Committee (Ward members only)

Harold Hill Area Committee (Ward members only)

Hornchurch Area Committee (Ward members only)

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North Romford Area Committee (Ward members only)

Romford Area Committee (Ward members only)

South Hornchurch and Rainham Area (Ward members only)

Committee

Upminster Area Committee (Ward members only)

Annex 1

Adjudication and Review Committee

1.1 The major part of the work if this Committee is carried out through Hearings Panels. The composition of Hearings Panels varies according to the nature of the issue adjudicated – as indicated in the following table:

Type of hearing	Membership of Panel							
Corporate complaint procedure (including housing tenants' complaints)	Three Members and a non-voting independent person							
Children Act complaints	Three independent persons (one as chairman) with voting rights (to accord with legal requirements, elected Members may no longer serve on this type of Panel)							
Adult Care complaints	Two independent persons (one as chairman) with voting rights and one Member (to accord with legal requirements, no more than one elected Member may serve on this type of Panel)							
Housing tenancy appeals	Three Members							

1.2 The independent persons used for such hearings are taken from a pool of such people appointed on behalf the Adjudication & Review Committee, managed by Democratic Services, who have received training appropriate to that role.

Annex 2

Pensions Committee

2.1 The Pensions Committee is responsible for the management of the Council's Pension Fund investment portfolio.

2.2 Although not strictly Members of the Committee, in accordance with the Constitution, two representatives of the staff are appointed by the unions to attend and contribute to meetings of the Committee. These appointees have no voting rights bit are present during the discussion of any exempt business.

Annex 3

Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- 3.1 The law requires that the Council co-opt to this Overview & Scrutiny Committee one representative of each of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, with voting rights, to attend when issues relating to Education are being discussed. In practice, they are also able to contribute to other discussions.
- 3.2 In addition, the Council's Constitution provides for the co-option of three non-voting members representing governors of schools in the three sectors of education, primary, secondary and special. Again, they may attend when issues relating to Education are being discussed.
- 3.3 Finally, there are three non-voting members representing local teacher unions and professional associations, nominated by those organisations.

POLITICAL BALANCE

- 1.1 **Annex A** sets out in detail the principles of political balance that the law requires the Council to conform to, and discusses the application of those rules to the current political make-up of the Council.
- 1.2 In broad terms, each Group of members is entitled to take seats on Committees in proportion to the total number of Members that belong to it. There is some room for discretion as to the size of Committees and thus the total number of places available for allocation, although for reasons of practicality not least ensuring that sufficient Members are available from each Group to cover its meeting obligations the total number of seats (assuming that the number of Committees does not change) is always likely to be in the range 108-120 with individual Committee sizes varying from 6 to a maximum of about 15.
- 1.3 Within the overall number of seats available, some adjustment is needed to ensure, so far as practicable, that each Group has its due share of seats <u>and</u> that the allocation of seats between the Groups on each Committee reflects their respective proportions of the Council's membership.

2.1 There is no perfect answer.

- 2.2 The first step is to agree the sizes of the individual Committees; the allocation of seats to each Group then follows the formula referred to in Annex A; then finally, adjustments are required to the outcome to ensure that, overall, each Group receives its appropriate share of the total number of seats to be allocated.
- 2.3 The Council is free to agree different arrangements from those prescribed by law, so long as no Member votes against them. Should any such "different arrangements" be voted against, however, then a "default" position would need to be applied: in the absence of agreement otherwise, that would ordinarily mean that the sizes of Committee specified in the Constitution would have to be applied and adjustments made within that to secure the best approximation to the proportion to which each Group is entitled.

Making the necessary adjustments

3.1 In determining where adjustments should be made to achieve the overall balance, it is necessary to consider whether there are any particular Committees on which it is more important for all Groups to be represented than others. Although highly desirable, it is clearly impossible for each Group to be represented on all Committees (all else aside, meeting commitments for individual Members would then

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- be difficult, if not impossible, to fulfil). Compromise is therefore essential.
- 3.2 Under current arrangements, the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents and Labour Groups have their greatest entitlement to seats on the Adjudication & Review, Governance, Licensing, Regulatory Services and Standards Committees, which are the Committees regulating the Council's business or dealing most with the community and which have tended to have larger Memberships than other Committees.
- 3.3 The proposed allocation of seats in **Annex B** has been prepared accordingly. It should be noted that the Annex assumes that Council will agree the proposals in the separate report of the Governance Committee on revising the size of the Standards Committee.
- 3.4 Annex B is considered to represent the default position.

Area Committees

4.1 The Area Committees are not politically balanced because they are constituted under the special rules for Area Committees, with membership confined to Members in each particular Area.

POLITICAL BALANCE PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 Counsel has advised that, in allocating seats on Committees to the Groups, the Council has a duty to make only such decisions as give effect, **so far as reasonably practicable**, to certain principles set out in the relevant legislation. As the current situation at Havering is that one Group (the Conservative Group) has an overall majority but there are several Groups and two Members who are not in any Group, the relevant principles are, in order of priority:
 - 1. Not all of the seats on any Committee may be allocated to only one Group (note the Cabinet is not a Committee).
 - 2. The majority of seats on each Committee must be allocated to the Group having a majority of Members of the Council.
 - 3. The total share of all the seats available for <u>all</u> of the Council main Committees allocated to each political Group must be proportionate to that Group's share of the total Council membership.
 - 4. So far as can be done without conflicting with the other principles, the total number of seats on <u>each</u> Committee allocated to a political Group must be proportionate to that Group's share of total Council membership.
- 1.2 Moreover, in determining entitlements to seats, members who are not in a Group are disregarded as not being entitled to any seat; but the proportions on which entitlements are calculated must relate to the total number of Councillors.
- 1.3 In practice, Committees are balanced against the overall total of Committee places and then, so far as that overall total allows, each Committee is balanced on its own. With the distribution of seats on the Council that results from the election, it is inevitable (a) that the smaller Groups will not be able to be represented on every Committee, (b) that one Group's representation on some Committees will be at the expense of another's and (c) that, with calculations made as accurately as possible, one or more Groups may have actual seat numbers that differ from their entitlements.
- 2.1 The Council may make arrangements different from those prescribed **provided that no Member of the Council votes against** those different arrangements.

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- 2.2 To make such a decision each member of the Council must at least be sent an agenda indicating that the approval of alternative arrangements is to be considered. The agenda for this Annual Council meeting meets this requirement. To accommodate this requirement this report should be treated as giving due notice so that there is no impediment to such a proposal being made.
- 3.1 Once the allocation of seats to Groups in accordance with the statutory procedure is undertaken, the Council is under a duty to make appointments to the Committee so as to give effect to the wishes expressed by that Group about who is to be appointed to their allocated seats.
- 3.2 The "wishes of the Group" may be communicated to the Chief Executive (or the Democratic Services Manager [DSM] on her behalf) by notice in writing and will be implemented forthwith. Changes may be effected at any time by notice to the Chief Executive (or DSM) and will be notified to all Members in the next available edition of the weekly Calendar Brief.
- 3.3 It should be noted that the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees (other than the Area Committees, which make their own appointments) are appointed by Council and any change in membership affecting a Chairman or Vice-Chairman will therefore require consideration by Council, and be dealt with by formal motion.

PRINCIPLES FOR ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

4.1 The principles of seat allocation follow the requirements of the political balance principles, using a formula that takes account of the respective sizes of the Groups and the number of seats on Committees available for distribution among the Groups.

Basic allocation of seats

- 5.1 The Regulations specify that the minimum size of a Group is two Members. As seats are allocated on the basis of Groups, Members who do not belong to a Group do not have a right to be allocated any Committee seat.
- Taking into account the current vacancy at St Andrew's Ward, of 53 current Members of the Council, **34** (64.15% of the total) are Members of the Conservative Group, **12** (22.64%) of the Residents' Group, **3** (5.66%) of the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents Independent Group and **2** (3.77%) of the Labour Group. There are two Members not in a Group (also 3.77% of the total).

- 5.3 The seat entitlements of the Groups are determined by a formula using the above percentages, operating through a sequence of stages as follows:
 - **First**, the percentage of each Group's membership of the Council is calculated to two decimal places.
 - Next, that percentage is applied to the number of seats available on each Committee to determine each Group's potential entitlement to seats on that Committee. Where the resulting figure is not a whole number, it is rounded to the nearest whole number following the mathematical convention that numbers below 0.5 are rounded down, and those 0.5 or more are rounded up.

In some cases, a Group may be entitled to a seat even though, rounded down, its potential entitlement appears nil (i.e. less than 0.5), as there is a specific number of seats available on each Committee and no Group may have more seats on any Committee than its entitlement.

The table below shows the basic allocation on the basis of these principles to Committee sizes ranging from 3 Members to 15:

Table

	CONSE	RVATIVE	RESID	ENTS	WENNI	HAM & NGTON SIDENTS	LAB	OUR	
	3	34	1	2		3	2		
	64.15%		22.6	64%	5.6	6%	3.77%		
Size of body	Entitle- ment	Allocat- ion	Entitle- ment	Allocat- ion	Entitle- ment	Allocat- ion	Entitle- ment	Allocat- ion	
				4	- 1-				
3	1.92	2	0.68	1	0.17	0	0.11	0	
4	2.57	3	0.91	1	0.23	0	0.15	0	
5	3.21	3	1.13	1	0.28	1	0.19	0	
6	3.85	4	1.36	1	0.34	1	0.23	0	
7	4.49	4	1.58	2	0.40	1	0.26	0	
8	5.13	5	1.81	2	0.45	1	0.30	0	
9	5.77	6	2.04	2	0.51	1	0.34	0	
10	6.42	6	2.26	2	0.57	1	0.38	1	
11	7.06	7	2.49	3	0.62	1	0.42	0	
12	7.70	8	2.72	3	0.68	1	0.45	0	
13	8.34	8	2.94	3	0.74	1	0.49	1	
14	8.98	9	3.17	3	0.79	1	0.53	1	
15	9.62	10	3.40	3	0.85	1	0.57	1	

Those figures are then applied to the total number of seats available on each Committee, the seats being allocated in order, highest entitlement first, until all seats have been allocated.

 Finally, fine adjustment is required to ensure that, so far as reasonably practicable, the seats allocated reflect the overall proportion of Council membership held by each Group and the numerical strength of its entitlement to seats on particular Committees. For that purpose, at this stage the seat allocation of particular Committees will be adjusted from the ideallybalanced number reached in earlier stages of the process.

Specific allocations

- 6.1 For the allocation of seats on specific Committees, several permutations are possible. Although the Council's Constitution does specify particular numbers of seats to each Committee, it is expressed as being "or such other number as the Council may agree", so there is discretion as to Committee sizes.
- Once the number of seats available on each Committee has been determined, the allocation of seats to the individual Groups would then need to be adjusted between the Groups to achieve, so far as possible and practicable, an allocation that gives each Group its proportionate share of seats overall while ensuring that each Committee is proportionately balanced. In practice, it will be impossible to achieve both aims without enlarging Committee memberships to an unworkable size, so a degree of compromise is required.

RECOMMENDED SEAT ALLOCATION

1.1 Having regard to the principles of political balance and of seat allocation referred to in Appendix 1, the following allocation of seats is now recommended on the basis that, taking all factors into account, it shows a "reasonably practicable" allocation of seats and is therefore the default position.

COMMITTEE and size	CONSE	RVATIVE	RESI	DENTS	WENNI IND. RE	HAM & NGTON SIDENTS	LABOUR					
			Entitlements									
		%age	Rounded		Rounded		Rounded	%age	Rounded			
Governance	10	6.42	6	2.26	2	0.57	1	0.38	1			
Licensing	10	6.42	6	2.26	2	0.57	1	0.38	1			
Regulatory Services	10	6.42	6	2.26	2	0.57	1	0.38	1			
Adjudication & Review	9	5.77	6	2.04	2	0.51	1	0.34	0			
Audit	8	5.13	5	1.81	2	0.34	1	0.30	0			
Appointments	6	3.85	4	1.44	2	0.34	0	0.23	0			
Pensions	6	3.85	4	1.44	2	0.34	0	0.23	0			
Standards	6	3.85	3	1.36	1	0.34	1	0.23	1			
Adult Services OSC	6	3.85	4	1.36	2	0.34	0	0.23	0			
Children's OSC	6	3.85	4	1.36	2	0.34	0	0.23	0			
Corporate OSC	6	3.85	4	1.36	2	0.34	0	0.23	0			
Culture &c OSC	6	3.85	4	1.36	2	0.34	0	0.23	0			
Environment OSC	6	3.85	4	1.36	2	0.34	0	0.23	0			
Health OSC	6	3.85	4	1.36	2	0.34	0	0.23	0			
Housing OSC	6	3.85	4	1.36	2	0.34	0	0.23	0			
Crime & Disorder	6	3.85	4	1.36	2	0.34	0	0.23	0			
Actual seats allocated	113		72		31		6		4			
Overall proportional entitlement		62.96%	74	24.07%	26	5.56%	7	3.70%	4			
Number of seats differing from entitlement			-2		5		-1		0			

- 1.2 The permutations are not perfect but follow, as nearly as practicable, the considerations and principles discussed earlier:
 - All Groups are represented on the Audit, Governance, Licensing, Regulatory Services and Standards Committees
 - The three largest Groups are represented on the Audit and Adjudication & Review Committees
 - The "seats differing from entitlement" are a consequence of the proportionality calculations discussed in this appendix
 - Committee seats are allocated, and each Committee is balanced, as "reasonably practicably" as possible