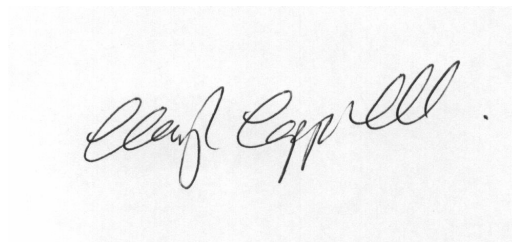


London Borough of Havering ***COUNCIL MEETING***

**7.30pm WEDNESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 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 written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Clive Coppell'.

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

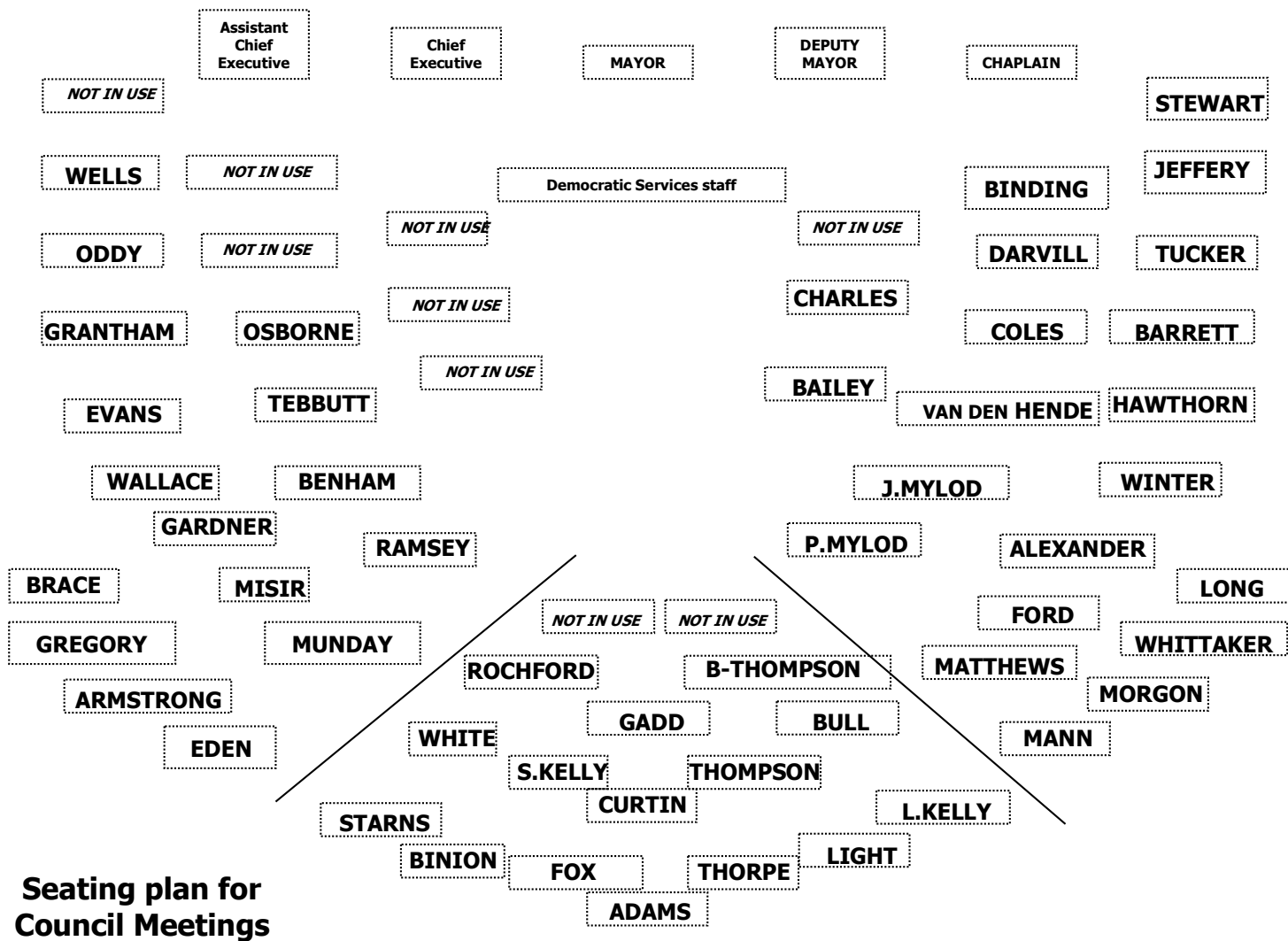
Although mobile phones, pagers and other such devices are an essential part of many people's lives, their use during a meeting of the Council can be disruptive and a nuisance. Everyone attending is asked therefore to ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off completely.

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, 6 February 2008**AGENDA****1 PRAYERS**

Prayers will be led by Mr Narwal of the Havering Asian Social & Welfare Association.

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 5 December 2007.

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**6 PETITIONS**

No notice has been given of an intention to present a petition pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 24.

7 TENTH LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES BILL

To consider recommendations of the Governance Committee (meeting on 23 January 2008)

NOTE: At least 28 Members must vote for the proposal if the Council is to participate in promoting the Bill.

Council, 6 February 2008

8 PENSIONS COMMITTEE: REPRESENTATION OF ADMITTED AND SCHEDULED BODIES

To consider a recommendation of the Governance Committee (meeting on 23 January 2008)

9 STANDARDS COMMITTEE: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER AS CHAIRMAN

To consider a recommendation of the Governance Committee (meeting on 23 January 2008)

10 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

NO MOTIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Havering Town Hall, Romford
5 December 2007 (7.30pm – 10.55pm)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Georgina Galpin) in the Chair

Councillors June Alexander, Michael Armstrong, Alan Bailey, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Tom Binding, Sandra Binion, Jeff Brace, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Dennis Bull, David Charles, John Clark, Jonathan Coles, Andrew Curtin, Keith Darvill, Ted Eden, Roger Evans, Gillian Ford, Chris Fox, Mark Gadd*, 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, John Mylod, Pat Mylod, Barry Oddy, Fred Osborne, Roger Ramsey, Paul Rochford, Geoff Starns, Mark Stewart, Barry Tebbutt, Frederick Thompson, Lynden Thorpe, Jeffrey Tucker, Melvyn Wallace, Keith Wells, Michael White, Steve Whittaker* and Mike Winter

* for part of the meeting

18 guests, members of public and press also attended.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gary Adams, Eric Munday and Linda Van den Hende.

Bishop Kim Theed of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opened the meeting with prayers, and the Mayor led all present in saying The Lord's Prayer.

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

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

53 MINUTES (Agenda Item 3)

It was **RESOLVED** that minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on **17 October 2007** be signed as a true record.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 4) – none

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

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

56 **PETITIONS (Agenda Item 6)**

Under paragraph 24 of the Council Procedure Rules, four petitions were presented to the Mayor.

Councillor Fred Osborne presented a petition of 67 signatures against the change of use of the shop at 203 Rush Green Road.

Councillor Andrew Mann presented a petition of 37 signatures opposing the sale of land at Linley Crescent, backing on to the King George's Playing Fields in Collier Row.

Councillor Keith Darvill presented a petition of approx. 6,000 signatures in support of the Dunningford School Community, against the proposal to close Dunningford Primary School.

With the Mayor's permission, Councillor John Mylod presented a petition of 880 signatures opposed to the proposed sale of land at Abbs Cross Lane, requesting the Council to reconsider the proposal.

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

57 **APPROVAL OF HAVERING'S STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY FOR THE LICENSING ACT 2003 (Agenda Item 7)**

Council had before them a report of the Licensing Committee concerning the statutory triennial review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy. The Committee had agreed a revised Statement and now invited the Council to approve and formally adopt it.

The Committee had also considered further the Council's decision of December 2005 that people living the vicinity of applicant premises should be given extra-statutory notification of such applications. In the light of experience, the Committee now proposed that the radius within which notification would be given be reduced to 50 metres.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1 **That the Council adopt the revised Statement of Licensing Policy, to take effect from 8 January 2008.**
- 2 **That, with effect from that date, the practice authorised by the resolution of December 2005 be varied so that notices be issued to residents and occupiers of property within 50 metres of a site which is the subject of a Licensing application (but with officers having discretion to extend that distance where it is appropriate to do so).**

58 **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (Agenda Item 8)**

Council had before them a report of the Governance Committee concerning a number of proposed amendments to the Constitution, as follows (note – the documents referred to in this minute are set out in full in the report to the Committee):

Alternative Budgets

Budget proposals by the Opposition Groups were considered by Council as part of the budget approval and Council Tax setting process at the Council Tax Setting Meeting. The Constitution currently required amendments to be submitted by the midnight of the Monday preceding that Council Meeting although experience had shown that timescale to leave less time than desirable for officers to do the essential checks needed to ensure that such amendments, if adopted, would result in the required budgetary robustness.

Accordingly, the Committee recommended that the Council Procedure Rules in Section 5 of Part 4 of the Constitution, paragraph 13.9(ii) be amended by the substitution in line 8 of “Thursday” for “Monday” and that additional provision be included in the Budget & Policy Framework in Section 2 of Part 4, paragraph 3.

Code of Conduct and related matters

Following the adoption by the Council of the new Members’ Code of Conduct in July, the Committee agreed that it was prudent now to consider updating ancillary matters and other Codes and Protocols.

Accordingly, the Committee recommended that the Council should incorporate the “General Principles of Public Life” and the Local Government Code of Publicity in the Constitution immediately after the Members’ Code of Conduct and adopt new or revised versions of the following documents:

1. The Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality (a new document).

2. The Protocol on Probity in planning matters (revised).
3. The Protocol on Member/Officer relations (revised).

The Committee also considered speaking rights of members of the public attending meetings and, although agreeing not to pursue general changes, in relation to speaking rights at the Regulatory Services Committee, recommended an amendment to the existing constitutional provision so that, within the maximum permitted time allocation per speaker, actual allocations could be amended by resolution of that Committee, either generally or for a specific application.

Local Improvement Network for Health and Social Care (LINK)

The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act required the Council, as an authority having social services responsibilities, to procure a "host organisation" to set up and run a Local Involvement Network. To enable the Council to make progress with implementing its new responsibilities, including the procurement and placing of the relevant contract, delegation of authority to the appropriate officer was now necessary.

In view of potential conflicts of interest that could arise were directly-affected Services to be involved in these matters, it had been agreed that the lead would be taken by Legal & Democratic Services. The Committee therefore recommended that the Democratic Services Manager be authorised to manage the contract with the Host organisation for the Local Involvement Network for Health and Social Care (LINK).

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

RESOLVED:

- 1 (a) That the Council Procedure Rules in Section 5 of Part 4 of the Constitution, paragraph 13.9(ii) be amended by the substitution in line 8 of "Thursday" for "Monday".

(b) That the following be added to the Budget & Policy Framework in Section 2 of Part 4, paragraph 3:

 "(d) All Councillors and parties are actively encouraged to contribute issues and ideas into the budget process via the Overview and Scrutiny Committees."

2 That the "General Principles of Public Life" and the Local Government Code of Publicity be incorporated in the

Constitution immediately after the Members' Code of Conduct, and that the revised versions of the following documents be adopted:

- 1. The Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality.**
 - 2. The Protocol on Probity in planning matters.**
 - 3. The Protocol on Member/Officer relations.**
- 3 That the Constitution be amended as follows:**

In Part 4, section 3 of the Constitution (Committee Procedure Rules)

In the section "Rules for specific meetings", add to paragraph 4(d) (Regulatory Services Committee: speaking):

"... or such lesser time as the Committee by resolution, either generally or in relation to a specific application, may agree"

[The rule will then read:

"Addresses by both objector and applicant shall not exceed four minutes or such lesser time as the Committee by resolution, either generally or in relation to a specific application, may agree."]

- 4 That the following addition to the scheme of delegation in the Council's Constitution:**

In Part 3, section 3.9.2 (ACE Legal & Democratic Services)

Add new para. 32:

Democratic Services Manager

To manage day to day the contract between the Council and the Host organisation for the Local Involvement Network for Health and Social Care (LINK), including (but not limited to) references between the LINK and the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

59 **REPORT OF LOCAL OMBUDSMAN ON A COMPLAINT, FINDING MAL-ADMINISTRATION BY THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 9)**

Council had before them a report of the Monitoring Officer concerning an investigation by the Local Ombudsman into a complaint concerning the Council's handling of a tenant's application for a transfer to alternative accommodation. The Local Ombudsman had found severe failings in the case, which amounted to maladministration causing injustice.

The Council noted the Local Ombudsman's findings and recommendations as to the actions required to remedy the situation.

The Leader of the Council made the following statement:

Havering Council fully accepts the findings of the Ombudsman. The mishandling of "Mrs Oak's" housing application is deeply regretted and it is a matter of considerable sorrow that she passed away before the family moved into their new home. The Council would like to apologise publicly to the family for this unnecessary delay in facilitating their move. Havering Council has improved greatly over recent years and we are confident that this situation could not occur again. An entirely new lettings policy has been introduced by the Council, ensuring that the housing of people with several medical hardships is given the highest priority and providing for a more proactive and supportive approach to those most vulnerable tenants.

The Leader of the Opposition associated herself and her Group with the Leader's sentiments.

The Monitoring Officer made a number of recommendations, which were **AGREED** without going to the vote and it was -

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the Council inform the Local Government Ombudsman that it:**
 - (a) Accepts the report and the criticism implicit in it;**
 - (b) Agrees to pay to "Ms Ash" the recommended compensation of £10,000;**
 - (c) Has arranged for all applications to be reviewed. In view of the number of applications and the depth of review necessary, that exercise will take a little time before it is completed. Evidence so far suggests that there is no other case where the circumstances approach those of "Mrs Oak's" case. Should any such case emerge, urgent consideration will be given as to both the action needed**

to address the issues and the amount of compensation that ought to be paid; and

- (d) **Endorses the unreserved apology already given and confirms unreservedly that all staff who become involved in dealings with an Ombudsman's inquiry are expected to co-operate fully with the investigator and to ensure that the investigator has full access to all files that he requires to see.**
- 2 **That the Council invite the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider whether there are any further housing policy issues that arise from this case where review is needed; and invites the Adjudication & Review Committee to consider whether there are any issues arising out of the way the complaint was dealt with that require review.**

60 **CONTRIBUTION TO THE LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS SCHEME – 2008/09 BUDGET (Agenda Item 10)**

Council had before them a report of the Chief Executive concerning the Council's contribution for 2008/09 to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme.

The Council was reminded that the budget had to be agreed by two thirds of constituent councils before 1st February 2008, otherwise they would be deemed to have approved the 2008/09 budget at the same level as the 2007/08 budget. The planned budget for the Grants Committee for 2008/09 was £28,120,394, with the overall level of the boroughs contributions being unaltered. Havering's contribution had fallen as a result of changes in population relative to other London boroughs.

The report was **AGREED** without going to the vote and it was -

RESOLVED:

- 1 **That the total budget of £28,120,394 for the London Boroughs Grants Committee for 2008/09 be agreed.**
- 2 **That the Council's contribution of £797,253 to the London Boroughs Grants Committee for 2008/09 be agreed.**

61 **REPORT OF THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES RE-CONFIGURATION PROPOSALS (Agenda Item 11)**

Council had before them a report of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC). In June, that Committee had agreed that a Joint OSC be established with Health OSCs of Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest to examine the proposals of the North East London Mental Health Trust (NELMHT) for (a) re-provisioning mental health support services in North East London and (b) for the seeking by NELMHT of Foundation Trust status.

The Joint OSC, having duly scrutinised both proposals, had now reported formally to NELMHT with a series of findings and recommendations.

The Health OSC had formally endorsed the report of the Joint OSC and now invited the Council to note its findings and recommendations.

The Leader of the Council made a statement congratulating the Committee on its work, with which the Leader of the Opposition associated herself and her Group.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Council note the report of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee established by Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest on the proposals of the North East London Mental Health Trust to re-provision mental health support services in North East London, and to seek Foundation Trust status.

62 **POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW (Agenda Item 12)**

Council had before them a report of the Governance Committee concerning a further review of polling districts and polling places.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 provided, among other things, that each local authority review its polling districts and polling places by the end of 2007. Although there had been a review in 2006, the Act had required the exercise to be undertaken again.

The Committee had noted that consultation had been undertaken with Councillors, Members of Parliament and the public including groups representing the disabled to see if they had any proposals for change in

addition to the changes put in place following the 2006 review. Some polling districts would change automatically as a result of the implementation at the next general election of the new constituency boundaries, but no further changes had been proposed as a result of this particular review and the Committee therefore recommended that no amendment be made.

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

RESOLVED:

That Council note the outcome of the polling district and polling places review and agree that no amendments are required to the present arrangements.

63 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS – questions (and supplementary questions) answered (Agenda Item 13)

Fourteen questions were listed to be asked under the Council Procedure Rules but Council was advised that two (numbered 12 and 13 in the agenda) had been withdrawn before the meeting. The questions and answers are set out in **Appendix 2 to these minutes**.

64 MOTION: OPPOSITION BUDGET PROPOSALS (Agenda Items 14/14A)

Motion on behalf of the Administration

This Council requests that any Opposition Group intending to make alternative budget proposals should submit them to appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Committees prior to the Budget Council meeting allowing a sufficient time for adequate scrutiny.

Amendment on behalf of the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group

Add at the end of the motion:

“and this Council will ensure that Group Leaders are given additional Council support and dedicated officers' time to help them prepare their budget proposals to meet the deadline.”

After debate, the amendment proposed by the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group was **LOST** by 35 votes to 4 (see voting division 1); the motion was then **CARRIED** without division as the substantive motion and it was -

RESOLVED:

This Council requests that any Opposition Group intending to make alternative budget proposals should submit them to appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Committees prior to the Budget Council meeting allowing a sufficient time for adequate scrutiny.

65 MOTION: ALCOHOL CONTROLLED ZONES (Agenda Items 15/15A)

Motion on behalf of the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group

This Council instructs officers to initiate the action needed to declare all of its town centres and conservation areas Alcohol controlled zones.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read:

This Council congratulates the Administration upon its successful and innovative scheme for alcohol control in central Romford with its challenges and will refer to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee any further extension in consultation with our partners.

After debate, the amendment proposed by the Administration was **CARRIED** by 33 votes to 17 (see voting division 2); the motion, as amended, was then **CARRIED** without division as the substantive motion and it was -

RESOLVED:

This Council congratulates the Administration upon its successful and innovative scheme for alcohol control in central Romford with its challenges and will refer to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee any further extension in consultation with our partners

66 **MOTION: LAND AT ABBS CROSS LANE – PROPOSED DISPOSAL
(Agenda Item 16/16A/16B)**

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council agrees the visual and environmental importance to the residents of Hornchurch and the Borough generally of the land at the corner of Hornchurch Road and Abbs Cross Lane and rejects any proposal to alter the characteristics of the site and considers that any development on the land known as Abbs Cross Gardens will have a negative impact on the Hornchurch Urban Strategy.

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read:

This Council agrees that an exemplar environmentally sustainable development of housing on the land at the corner of Hornchurch Road and Abbs Cross Lane known as Abbs Cross Gardens would have a positive impact on the Hornchurch Urban Strategy.

Amendment on behalf of the Residents' Group

Insert after "of the land" in line 2 the words "adjoining Harrow Lodge Park";
Delete all after "Abbs Cross Lane and " in line 3 and insert "following strong objections from local residents will reconsider its proposal to dispose of this land and retain this valuable open space for the benefit of the community"

After debate, the amendment proposed by the Administration was **CARRIED** by 32 votes to 18 (see voting division 3) and the amendment proposed by the Residents' Group was **LOST** by 18 votes to 32 (see voting division 4). The motion, as amended, was then **CARRIED** by 32 votes to 18 (see voting division 5) as the substantive motion and it was -

RESOLVED:

This Council agrees that an exemplar environmentally sustainable development of housing on the land at the corner of Hornchurch Road and Abbs Cross Lane known as Abbs Cross Gardens would have a positive impact on the Hornchurch Urban Strategy.

Note: the voting divisions are attached as Appendix 3 to these minutes.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There have been a number of positive successes in Havering over the past couple of months.

In October, a warm welcome was extended to the Mayor of Hesdin, Jean Marie, his wife and an interpreter. You will appreciate Jean Marie has very limited understanding and speech of English. I am sure that many of you are aware that Hesdin is our French twin town, and has been since 1996.

The visitors spent the weekend in Havering, where a visit to the Queen's Theatre took place and also where we had lunch, a walk about Romford, the shops and the market place, then off to our Green Flag awarded Bedfords Park, where there happened to be an event going on. A visit to the Upminster Windmill, where the Friends of the Windmill opened it as a special treat. I must admit this was the first time I have been to the top of the windmill and learnt about its history.

A civic dinner was held at the Manor in Rainham, where the party stayed for the weekend, and the following morning Councillor Andrew Curtin escorted the visitors around some of the cultural spots in Hornchurch, which was followed by my Civic Service and then a real English pub lunch, which the visitors enjoyed immensely.

The BURA award for 'Best Practice in Regeneration' commended our Romford Revival town centre strategy, which also received The English Partnerships Special Award.

The Council has received the Bura award for 'Best Practice in Regeneration' and the English Partnerships special award, which commended the Romford Revival town centre strategy.

The Visit London Award highlighted the success of the Havering Business Awards, fighting off stiff competition from fellow entrants such as Fords, Marks & Spencer and even the Brit Awards.

Rita Greenwood, and her team Exchequer Services were awarded the coveted 'Quality of Financial Services Award and were finalists in two other categories at the prestigious Local Government Chronicle Finance Awards Ceremony.

It gives me great pleasure to present these awards to Rita Greenwood, Finance and Commercial Group Director and Roger McFarland, Head of Regeneration and Strategic Planning.

Havering has also been named as a finalist in the e-government National Awards 2007, which highlight the UK's best electronic services in the public and voluntary sector. The winners will be announced in January 2008. So let us keep our fingers crossed.

The Council have received a very positive report from Government Inspectors for our Children's Services, and Ofsted's annual performance assessment, rated the service as 'good' overall with a number of 'outstanding' ratings for specific areas.

The Long Service Awards and Achievement evening for Looked After Children was held, recognising the valuable support and commitment of many of our foster carers and most

importantly the good and improving work and achievements of all the looked after children in the borough. I had the pleasure of presenting both the young people and their carers with certificates and gifts.

It was a most rewarding evening.

The Council are one of only two in the country who have exceeded Government targets, here in Havering Looked After Children remain in stable and consistent care; we have a very high number of young people remaining in the same home for very long periods. Many for a number of years.

There have been events run by the Excellence Clusters, where young people have been recognised for their achievements and progress, many of these young people have not only academic issues to deal with but often personal issues, yet they are happy young people getting on with life.

Each year young people in the borough are recognised by being referred and receiving the Young Citizen Awards, referrals from schools, social services, clubs and carers to name a few, and work for the next year has already begun, so if anyone here knows of a young person who they feel may be eligible, please let me know and I will give you details of who to contact.

Our Adult Social Services has also improved in a number of areas, in a national inspection. This is the result of a number of initiatives such as the opening of Paines Brook Court, a sheltered housing scheme and a supported living residential facility at Neave Crescent.

A number of different activities are or will be taking place within the borough. The Rainham Village Christmas Fayre was one of many community spirited events, and it was good to see such participation from all areas of the community. Traders in Avon Road Cranham, shopkeepers on Harold Wood Shopping Parade, Best Dressed Window and traders in Elm Park, not forgetting the lights being turned on.

A recent lantern parade by children in the Market Place, Romford, followed by a carol concert in St Edward's Church. The evening was a great success and it was a pleasure to begin the festivities with a traditional event. It was so good to see people of all ages joining in with the carol service. The church was full to the brim.

It would be good to acknowledge the hard work by Paul and his staff and the Coach House Hotel and the great work and commitment by local police officers. There have been a number of events held, the latest was the Christmas Lights Switch On ceremony attended by local children singing carols, bagpipe players, a local church choir, not forgetting Father Christmas, and many other people, all the money raised over the past year is going to Jack Brown Appeal, which is helping a six year old boy receive treatment for a rare brain tumour.

The recent 60 plus Musician of the Year and 60 plus Creative Writer of the Year competitions were most enjoyable and the standards of entries were high. Both events were most entertaining. The Arts Department should be commended for providing such events for many of our retired members of the community.

The Havering Strategic Partnership working with the Havering Over 50s Forum held an extremely successful Health and Safety Awareness event, where in excess of 300 people attended, this forum provided a great deal of helpful information.

Next Tuesday I will holding a Civic Carol Concert, this is a charity event and I have invited Mayors from a number of London Boroughs, they will be coming to the Town Hall to share the spirit of Christmas and hopefully raise some funds for my chosen Appeal, Age Concern Havering.

The Annual Christmas Pantomime will be held at the Queen's Theatre, where many of our older folk will have a great time at the afternoon matinee of Mother Goose.

The New Year's Day Parade is once again drawing close, and we will be Flying the Flag for Havering. The theme this year is young people and we will be walking the route joined by around 200 young people, and some older folk, promoting Havering through flags showing every area of the borough on them.

This will be the fist time we have ever had animals taking part, when we will be joined by retired greyhounds from Romford Greyhound Stadium.

I would like to mention a big thank you to all the volunteers, staff and others who are working together to help make sure this event is a great success.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- 1 **Parklands Bridge – outstanding work**
To the Champion for the Historic Environment
(Councillor Andrew Curtin)
By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

Can I please have an up-date on the work planned for Parklands Bridge and the schedule of dates that this work is hoped to be achieved by?

Answer

£45,000 has been allocated for the restoration of Parklands Bridge from the 2007 / 2008 Parks Capital programme, and it is proposed that the same amount be allocated from the 2008/ 2009 capital programme. It is also proposed to submit a bid to Heritage Lottery Fund for interpretation work at the park involving schools and local people.

A draft programme has been prepared for the works planned for Parklands Bridge. The aim is to have all drawings and specifications ready by the end of February 2008 when Listed Building Consent will be applied for. Once this has been awarded the works will be tendered around June 2008.

Following evaluation and award of tender we anticipate start on site in December 2008 with all works completed by the end of May 2009.

There is some potential for the works on site to slip as rendering the bridge cannot be done when the weather is too cold as lime mortars are to be used. However it would require a very cold March/April for this to delay the programme.

- 2 **CCTV enforcement cars**
To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare
(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)
By Councillor Andrew Mann

Could you tell me the exact start date the CCTV enforcement cars commenced work and could you also confirm the amount of tickets they have issued to date? (Or up to the Friday before Council)

Answer

Mobile CCTV Parking Enforcement commenced on Tuesday 12th June 2007.

At the close of business on Wednesday 21st November 2007 11,397 CCTV Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) had been issued. This number reflects the parking contraventions captured and converted into PCNs, it does not reflect the actual level of recovery, i.e. the amount of those PCNs settled or the number which are unrecoverable. Additionally, contraventions have been captured by CCTV since the 21st November 2007 but are yet to be assessed prior to actually being issued.

3 **DAMAGE TO COUNCIL-OWNED VEHICLES - COST**
To the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Communities & Health
(Councillor Steve Kelly)
By Councillor Ray Morgon

Could you tell me the approximate cost of damage to all Council vehicles in the 2006/07 financial year, and the 2007/08 year to date (broken down into departments please).

Answer

In 2006, the Directorate breakdown of costs above £1,000 for the year were:

For Public Realm were £91,333
For Sustainable Communities were £36,228
A total, with the ones under £1,000, of £128,160

In 2007/08, the estimated Directorate breakdown of costs above £1,000 for the year were:

For Public Realm were £61,276
For Sustainable Communities were £23,993

A more specific answer to the question asking for details by service area rather than Directorate:

2006 – Public Realm:
Cemeteries & Crematorium were £2,500
Grounds Maintenance were £3,254.62
Highways were £2,919
Parking Enforcement were £5,551.54
Parks were £12,560
And StreetCare were £63,710

Taking that across for the following year for the same areas:
Cemeteries & Crematorium were just over £1,000
Grounds Maintenance were £5,800
Highways were £3,570
Parking Enforcement were £1,785
Parks were £8,432
And StreetCare were £39,750

For Sustainable Communities for 2006:
Passenger Travel Service were £34,130
Romford Market were £1,161

The estimate for 2007:
Passenger Travel Service were £22,800
Romford Market were £500

4 **APPLICATIONS UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

To the Cabinet Member for Resources

(Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

In respect of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and over the years 2005/06 and 2006/07 respectively:

- a) How many requests have been made?
- b) How many requests have been declined?
- c) Of the agreed requests, what percentage was responded to within 20 working days?
- d) How much has been charged by way of fees?

Answer

The number of requests made stands at:

01JAN2005 - 31DEC2005 = 264

01JAN2006 - 31DEC2006 = 341

01JAN2007 – as at 25NOV2007 = 388

The number of requests declined is:

01JAN2005 - 31DEC2005 = 11

01JAN2006 - 31DEC2006 = 15

01JAN2007 – as at 25NOV2007 = 11

The percentage of agreed requests (that is requests that either do not attract a fee, or where the requester has agreed to pay a fee) responded to within 20 days is:

01JAN2005 - 31DEC2005 = 92.1%

01JAN2006 - 31DEC2006 = 90.8%

01JAN2007 – as at 25NOV2007 = 97.8%

and by way of fees charged:

01JAN2005 - 31DEC2005 = Fee notices in total £171.76 – fees paid £82.30

01JAN2006 - 31DEC2006 = Fee notices in total £637.80 – fees paid £24.00

01JAN2007 – as at 25NOV2007 = Fee notices in total £167.08 - fees paid £167.08

The difference between fees charged and fees paid is a result of requesters not pursuing requests upon receipt of the fees notice.

It should be noted that these figures also include requests submitted under FOI, processed under both the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004, where the information falls under both legislations.

5 **ENCOURAGING RETAILERS TO RECYCLE**

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare

(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Gillian Ford

What proactive approach is being used to encourage retailers to recycle and reduce packaging ?

Answer

Our current DEFRA targets relate to the recycling and composting of household waste and our efforts and resources have been focussed on this area.

We have however introduced a cardboard collection and recycling service for our business community and provide contact details for organisations which specialise in offering advice and support for businesses on waste minimisation and recycling.

Officers are currently working with their East London Waste Authority partners to submit an application to the Business Resources Efficiency and Waste Centre (BREW) for funding to support a campaign which would inform the business community on how they can reduce waste and increase recycling.

- 6 **COUNTRY PARKS – MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP**
To the Cabinet Member for Environmental & Technical Services
(Councillor Paul Rochford)
By Councillor Ray Morgon

How much money is allocated to the revenue budget for the maintenance and upkeep of Havering Country Park, (excluding the salary of the one Ranger) ? How much money is allocated to the revenue budget for the maintenance and upkeep of Hornchurch Country Park, (excluding the salary of the two Rangers)?

Answer

In reply to the question the total revenue budget for the maintenance and upkeep of Havering Country Park, (excluding the salary of the one Ranger) is £50,160 for the financial year 2007-08.

The total revenue budget for the maintenance and upkeep of Hornchurch Country Park, (excluding the salary of the two Rangers) is £50,330 for the financial year 2007-08.

- 7 **USE OF STREETCARE “SCRUBBER”**
To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare
(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)
By Councillor Andrew Mann

Using the vehicle tracking information, can you tell me how many times the StreetCare “Scrubber” has been used in cleaning pavements in Collier Row?

Answer

To date, the scrubbing machine has operated once in Collier Row. This is because it is not advisable to use the scrubbing machine on newly laid paving in view of the risk that it will remove the sand joints.

The scrubbing machine is based in Romford Town Centre and, in the future, the machine will be visiting the other town centres including Hornchurch, Upminster, Collier Row, Rainham and Hildene on a quarterly basis.

- 8 **SICKNESS ABSENCE**
To the Cabinet Member for Performance & Corporate
(Councillor Eric Munday)
By Councillor Clarence Barrett

What actions are being taken to reduce sickness absence levels, which have increased from 9.5 days per full time employee (Oct 2005 to Sept 2006) to 11.3 days per full time employee (Oct 2006 to Sept 2007)?

Answer

The information from London Councils shows that Havering's performance on sickness absence and the management of sickness absence is consistent with the average of other London boroughs.

However, a number of actions are being taken, which include the current level of sickness absence at Havering Council being looked at. Indeed, work is already underway for some time to identify the underlying reasons for this problem, starting with a Pilot, and finding the best solution possible at the present time. The work has started and is already producing results, with more cases being progressed through the Sickness Absence Procedure. However, it will take some time for these results to become evident in the performance figure.

- 9 **PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT: MAWNEYS AND HAVERING PARK WARDS – budget allocation**
To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare
(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)
By Councillor Andrew Mann

How much Capital money was allocated to the Mawneys and Havering Park Wards respectively in 2006 / 2007 for replacement pavements ?

Answer

The total StreetCare Capital money allocated to Mawney and Havering Park Wards was £52,500 for replacement pavements. Schemes are selected following an assessment of need and therefore money allocated varies from Ward to Ward.

- 10 **RENT ARREARS**
To the Cabinet Member for Housing & Regeneration
(Councillor Michael Armstrong)
By Councillor Clarence Barrett

What are the contributing factors which have led to a 15.4% increase (from £755,647 in Sept. 2006 to £871,893 in Sept.2007) in council rent arrears?

Answer

The Council rent arrears have increased in cash terms by 15.4% for the following reasons:

1. 5% is due to the increase in average rents the Council had to impose last January in line with the Government's rent re-structuring policy.
2. another 5% is due to above inflation increases in service charges and water charges. Again these level of increases were imposed externally.
3. The balance is due to a protocol introduced by the Department of Justice in November 2006 in the English County Courts. Havering are now waiting an average 8 weeks to have our cases heard and that is worth, in rental terms nearly £500 per case.

Finally, I take this opportunity to correct way to measure rent arrears collection is not by cash outstanding but to measure the cash taken as a percentage to debt. The Council, on this national measure, are achieving 98.3% as at 31st October 2007 which puts us in the top 3 London boroughs for collecting rent arrears.

11 **TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME**
To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare
(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)
By Councillor Gillian Ford

We are experiencing tree removals around the borough due to various causes including their size and disease. Can the Cabinet Member confirm Havering's Tree Planting programme and how he intends to improve the Borough's carbon footprint.

Answer

Trees removed through the capital programme and resident crossover applications are replaced at a ratio according to the amenity value of the removed tree. This value is judged on size, age and impact and equates to between one and four trees replacing the removed tree.

With regard to the Borough's carbon footprint, this year the Council has adopted and published its Climate Change Strategy and Sustainable Energy Strategy. Both these documents set out in detail the Council's vision, and objectives, for reducing the carbon footprint of not only its own services but that of the borough as a whole.

- 12 Question withdrawn before the meeting
- 13 Question withdrawn before the meeting

14 **CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES**
To the Cabinet Member for Children's Services
(Councillor Geoff Starns)
By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

The Government Department of Education has sent all secondary schools a 'Climate Change Resource Pack'. This pack includes the fictional film 'An Inconvenient Truth' which a High Court Judge, Mr Justice Burton, has instructed

should be “bought with a health warning” because it promotes partisan political views about man-made global warming.

Will the Council strengthen this warning by supplying and/or instructing Headteachers to also show the film ‘The Great Global Warming Swindle’ to ensure pupils have a rational balanced education and views?

Answer

In February 2007, Alan Johnson and David Miliband announced that a climate change pack would be sent to all secondary schools in England. It was intended to be part of a Sustainable Schools year of action to support all schools to become models of sustainable best practice.

The pack contains the short film ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ and a DEFRA multimedia CD containing two short climate change films, an animation about the carbon cycle and a film about the work of the climate change champions. Guidance on how the resources can be used in Key Stage 3 teaching is also provided.

Earlier this year, judicial review proceedings were issued in the High Court challenging the distribution of the climate change film pack for teachers, which has been sent to secondary schools. The claim argued that use of the pack and, in particular, showing the film, An Inconvenient Truth, would place LAs and schools in breach of sub sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996 (which, respectively, prohibit the promotion of partisan political views and require that when political issues are brought to the attention of pupils, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views).

On the 10th October, the High Court ruled that it is lawful for schools to use “An Inconvenient Truth” and the other parts of the climate change pack in accordance with amended guidance which is now available online. [It was also a condition of the Court’s ruling that a hard copy of the guidance be sent to schools.]

This revised guidance is a replacement for the original version previously made available. It was recommended that teachers read the revised guidance prior to using the pack and the film ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ with their pupils in order that a balanced presentation of views was given.

There are no plans by the DCSF to release any further DVD or video materials at this stage. Individual secondary schools will make their own decisions as to how these materials and others are incorporated into the wider curriculum for geography, science and citizenship in Key Stage 3. The DCSF materials themselves are designed to stimulate pupils’ thinking and debate. Schools are aware and regularly reminded of the requirement to present a balanced perspective of opposing views.

14A DOG WASTE BINS IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

To the Lead Member for Environmental and Technical Services

(Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Andrew Mann

Can you tell me how many dog waste bins you have in North Romford in park land and open spaces?

Answer

There are 35 dog waste bins in North Havering within parks and open spaces.

There are 11 in Bedfords Park, 7 in Havering Country Park, 6 in King George's Playing Field, 4 in Lawns Park, 5 in Rise Park, 1 in Collier Row Recreation Ground, and 1 on Havering Village Green.

14B DOG WASTE BINS ON THE HIGHWAY

To the Lead Member for StreetCare and Parking

(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Andrew Mann

Can you tell me how many dog waste bins you have in North Romford on the highway (roads and pavements)?

Answer

None.

Responsible dog owners are normally prepared to remove dog faeces with scoops and bags. The size of the borough and the number of roads make it impractical to maintain the required number of dog waste bins. They would also have a detrimental effect on the street scene at a time when we are trying to reduce street clutter and they could even be hazardous to the visually impaired.

Bins are provided in some parks and open spaces or within Homes in Havering Sites.

A report has been prepared seeking to institute the consultation process to enable the introduction of Dog Control Orders. This will be checked by relevant services before being presented for members to consider.

15 PAYMENTS OUTSTANDING

To the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Communities & Health

(Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Pat Mylod

With regard to recent report that included a delay in invoicing clients, could you please state what the actual total outstanding amount is?

Answer

Adult Social Services Income is undergoing a fundamental review, with new ways of working and clearer roles and responsibilities. As part of this, a number of historical cases have come to light which are now actively being dealt with. The reported delay in invoicing is caused by the backlog of cases for financial assessment, that is actually done by the local Job Centre rather than by Social Services staff for the independent financial assessment. We are therefore unable to provide a total amount outstanding until the financial assessment has been completed. There are two main issues:

1. As at 16th November there were 76 residential assessments. Of the 76 residential cases, 55% are awaiting return of financial information from family. This needs to be gathered prior to the financial assessment. It is anticipated that these cases will be invoiced by the New Year.
2. As at 16th November there were 142 home care assessments outstanding. The home care assessments have been prioritised for attention by the PATH which is the Job Centre Visiting Officers and it is anticipated that the majority of these cases will have been financially assessed. However the team always carry a caseload of approximately 50 cases.

16 **ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT: CEREMONIAL**
To the Leader of the Council
(Council Michael White)
By Councillor John Mylod

Would you agree to the Council inviting the Royal Anglian Regiment to a ceremony, for instance a parade or march through Romford, to allow citizens of Havering to show their appreciation for the Regiment's recent tour of duty in Iraq?

Answer

I have been pondering this for the last couple of days because on the face of it I agree that we should invite the Royal Anglian Regiment to parade. However, only this week I have received a request from the President of the Reserve Forces to parade in Romford. Added to this is the fact if a local person makes enquiries to the Army about where they would go, they would either be given the Royal Anglian Regiment or the Rifles. The Rifles used to be known as the Green Jackets, and they have considerable association with London, and of course Havering being a London Borough we would obviously have to consider them. And so there are three organisations already who may wish to march through Havering, or one of our towns.

So this is a subject that an answer cannot be given to straight away, serious thought has to be given.

Other considerations must also be taken into account, for instance many of us would have gone to the funeral of the brave young soldier who died recently, who was in the Irish Guards Regiment. Hence another regiment who may wish to march in Havering. Add to this, most home comings take place in garrison towns up and down the country, the nearest to Havering being Bury St. Edmunds, Norwich and Colchester. So these parades are already taking place. With this particular regiment, the Royal Anglian Regiment, I understand they have been home for five weeks already, and so we may have missed any opportunity at this time to invite them to parade in Havering.

In order to make parades of this nature work in the future for any regiments wishing to parade in the Borough, we must have a common approach. What I would not like to happen, is what happened to one town where a regiment was able to march and only one or two people turned up to watch that particular parade. That would be damaging for them, and damaging for us as a Borough.

Although I would agree in principle, I think we need to put in a lot more work before we can start inviting regiments to march through our town.

VOTING RECORD

<u>DIVISION NUMBER:</u>	1	2	3	4	5
The Mayor [Cllr. Georgina Galpin]	X	✓	✓	X	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. John Clark]	X	✓	✓	X	✓
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u>					
Cllr. Michael White	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Gary Adams	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Mike Armstrong	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Robert Benham	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Sandra Binion	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Jeff Brace	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Wendy Brice-Thompson	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Dennis Bull	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Andrew Curtin	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Ted Eden	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Roger Evans	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Christine Fox	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Mark Gadd	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Peter Gardner	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. David Grantham	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Kevin Gregory	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Lesley Kelly	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Steven Kelly	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Pam Light	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Robby Misir	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Eric Munday	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Barry Oddy	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Frederick Osborne	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Roger Ramsey	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Paul Rochford	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Geoffrey Starns	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Barry Tebbutt	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Frederick Thompson	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Lynden Thorpe	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Melvin Wallace	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Keith Wells	X	✓	✓	X	✓
<u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>					
Cllr. Barbara Matthews	X	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. June Alexander	O	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Clarence Barrett	O	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Gillian Ford	X	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Linda Hawthorn	O	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Len Long	✓	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Andrew Mann	O	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Raymond Morgon	O	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. John Mylod	O	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Patricia Mylod	O	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Steve Whittaker	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Mike Winter	O	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Linda van den Hende	A	A	A	A	A
<u>RAINHAM & WENNINGTON INDEPENDENT RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>					
Cllr. Jeffery Tucker	✓	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Coral Jeffrey	✓	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Mark Stewart	✓	X	X	✓	X
<u>LABOUR GROUP</u>					
Cllr. Keith Darvill	O	X	X	✓	X
Cllr. Tom Binding	O	X	X	✓	X
<u>British National Party Member</u>					
Cllr. Alan Bailey	X	✓	X	✓	X
<u>Liberal Democrat Member</u>					
Cllr. Jonathan Coles	O	X	X	✓	X
<u>Independent Member</u>					
Cllr. David Charles	X	✓	✓	X	✓
TOTALS					
YES	4	33	32	18	32
NO	35	17	18	32	18
ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	11	0	0	0	0
DECLARATION OF INTEREST/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0
ABSENT FROM MEETING	4	4	4	4	4
	54	54	54	54	54

IN FAVOUR ✓ AGAINST X
NOT VOTING O ABSENT A
INTEREST DECLARED ID



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2008

7

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TENTH LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES BILL

Council is reminded that the ALG (through Westminster City Council) is promoting general powers legislation on behalf of London Boroughs following consultation with the Boroughs. At its meeting in October 2007, Council passed an initial resolution to participate in promoting the legislation.

To accord with the procedures associated with local legislation of this nature, it is necessary for various notices to be published and resolutions to be passed by the Council for Havering to be included among the participating Boroughs. A Borough wishing to be included has to pass a first resolution (meeting various procedural requirements) – already done – and then confirm its participation by passing a further resolution by a majority of a whole number of the members of the Council at a meeting of the Council held as soon as may be after the expiration of 14 days after the Bill has been deposited in Parliament.

This means that at least 28 Members must vote for the proposal if the Council are to participate in promoting the Bill.

The Governance Committee accordingly **RECOMMEND** to the Council that the following resolution in connection with the approval of the London Local Authorities Bills promoted by Westminster be passed –

That the resolution of this Council passed at a meeting of the Council held on 17 October 2007 to promote a Bill or Bills in the last session of Parliament, pursuant to which the Bills intituled “A Bill to confer further powers upon local authorities in London; and for related purposes”; “A Bill to introduce in London a prohibition on the supply of certain bags by retailers, to confer powers upon the local authorities in London to enforce the prohibition; and for related purposes” and “A Bill to confer further powers upon local authorities in London and upon Transport for London; and for related purposes” have been deposited in Parliament, be and the same is hereby confirmed.

Council, 6 February 2008



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2008

8

REPORT TO COUNCIL

PENSIONS COMMITTEE: REPRESENTATION OF ADMITTED AND SCHEDULED BODIES

The Committee noted that the legislation and government guidance on best practice for local authority committees responsible for administering the Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) supported the principle that all key stakeholders should be afforded the opportunity to be represented on such committees. It was for the Council to decide the actual membership of its Pensions Committee.

The Pensions Committee had recently considered its membership. The current membership comprised six Members (politically balanced) and two union representatives, who attend on behalf of LGPS members.

In addition to direct employees of the Council, the staff of certain 'admitted' and 'scheduled' bodies were entitled to join the Havering LGPS. These were:

- (a) six 'admitted' bodies: Havering Citizens Advice Bureau; May Gurney Ltd; Morrisons Facilities Services; Catering for Education; Sports & Leisure Management Ltd; and KGB Cleaners. These bodies, by agreement, had been admitted to the fund, generally in consequence of the outsourcing of Council services;
- (b) three 'scheduled' bodies: Havering College of Further & Higher Education; Havering Sixth Form College; and Homes in Havering. These bodies' admission to the fund was a matter of 'scheduled' right.

There was no representation on the Pensions Committee of 'admitted' and 'scheduled' bodies, even though collectively they provided about 12% of the Havering LGPS membership. Accordingly the Pension Committee had recommended to the Governance Committee that it would be appropriate to add to its membership by co-opting one, non-voting representative on behalf of the 9 bodies in question. The mechanism for agreeing that representative would be discussed and agreed with those bodies if the Governance Committee and, subsequently, the Council agreed to the increased membership.

Council, 23 January 2008

The Governance Committee accepted the recommendation of the Pensions Committee and, accordingly, **RECOMMEND** to the Council that the membership of the Pensions Committee be increased by the addition of a non-voting, co-opted representative of the 'admitted' and 'scheduled' bodies of the Havering LGPS.



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

23 JANUARY 2008

9

REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER AS CHAIRMAN

The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the Act") requires that, from a date to be announced, the Chairman of the Standards Committee must be an Independent Member, rather than an elected Member. The anticipated date from which this will be in effect was 1 April but there is a possibility that that will not be achieved and the relevant provision of the Act will be brought into force later than anticipated. Nonetheless, the Committee agreed that it would be prudent to make arrangements for the appointment in order to ensure that the Standards Committee can continue to meet its obligations.

The Committee also noted that other provisions in the Act, subject to the making of requisite Regulations, would substantially increase the workload of the Committee and could require the appointment of one or more additional Independent Persons. The Act transferred to the Standards Committee much of the preliminary work on complaints about Members' conduct from the Standards Board for England which, other than for complaints of a particularly serious nature, would be changing from an investigatory body into one having an advisory and strategic oversight role. In consequence, there would be need for more frequent and detailed meetings of the Standards Committee or its Sub-Committees which, in turn, meant that additional Independent Membership of the Standards Committee would be needed, especially as much of the work would need to be undertaken within demanding timescales. The Committee accordingly authorised commencement of a recruitment exercise for one or more additional Independent Members of the Standards Committee.

The Committee was advised that the current Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee, Ms Tracey Moran, had declined the offer of appointment of Chairman but that the other Independent Member, Mr Jack Knowles, had indicated a willingness to be appointed.

The Governance Committee accordingly **RECOMMEND** to the Council that Jack Knowles, Independent Member, be appointed Chairman of the Standards Committee with effect from the date on which the amendment of section 53(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 by section 187 of the Act is

Council, 21 November 2007

brought into force, requiring that the Chairman of the Standards Committee be an Independent Person.



COUNCIL
6 FEBRUARY 2008

10

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- 1 **Frequency of street cleaning**
To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)
By Councillor Mark Stewart

Can this administration confirm whether the decrease in frequency of street cleaning from the 8 day cycle in 1994, to fortnightly has any bearing on the July, 2007 reports in the national press that Havering's roads were some of the dirtiest in Britain?

Answer

The current Best Value Performance Indicator was not in place in 1994 and direct comparisons are not relevant between 2007 and 1994. The cleanliness performance in 1994 was recorded by client inspectors, but not against such specific criteria as it is today.

The workforce in 1994 was approximately 42 full time staff with up to 8 seasonal agency staff. The current staffing levels are three times that number and include all major shopping areas swept 7 days per week over extended working hours by dedicated staff. Romford Town Centre is swept over almost 24 hours each day and a further 25 hand barrow solo sweepers working on 5 day or 10 day schedules. There are now 19 mechanical sweepers ranging from heavy goods 10 ton sweepers to small precinct sweepers. On average the section clears close to 400 tons of litter and detritus from the streets every month.

Havering has improved its own Best Value cleanliness score by 14% in little over a year and continues to make significant improvements to the streetscene while accurately recording the cleanliness indicator. Satisfaction with residents during the same period rose by 23% reflecting the improved service being delivered.

Council Meeting, 6 February 2008 – Questions and Answers

- 2 **Abandoned shopping trolleys**
To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)
By Councillor Coral Jeffery

Will this Council follow the example of Havant Borough Council and implement the Environmental Protection Act and charge stores £50 per item to cover removal, storage and/or disposal of the many shopping trolleys which litter the streets and rivers of Rainham?

Answer

Streetcare are currently preparing a Cabinet report on this issue. There is a process that the Council needs to go through in terms of complying with the Environmental Protection Act requirements, before it can charge stores for the recovery of shopping trolleys both in Rainham and Borough wide.

The Cabinet report will include details of the fees to be charged which will cover the Council's total costs.

- 3 **IT equipment: recovery from former Members**
To the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Roger Ramsey)
By Councillor Coral Jeffery

Can the Administration confirm that they have recovered I.T. equipment from all former Councillors?

Answer

Records show that 23 former Councillors have returned their IT equipment or that they did not hold any Council IT equipment. Ex-Cllr Bailey resigned from the Council on Monday, and he is in possession of four pieces of IT equipment. Officers have contacted Mr Bailey today to arrange the return of the equipment to the Council.

- 4 **Telephone call costs: payment on behalf of former Members**
To the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Roger Ramsey)
By Councillor Coral Jeffery

Can the Administration confirm that they no longer pay the telephone bills of former councillors?

Answer

Yes.

Council Meeting, 6 February 2008 – Questions and Answers

5 Dealing with rat infestations To the Cabinet Member for Public Safety (Councillor Peter Gardner)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Can this Council advise what provision they have made to deal with the predicted rat infestation London Borough of Havering will encounter this summer, also how many pest controllers are employed by this Council?

Answer

I thank Councillor Tucker for this question so I can explain how we deal with rat or pest problems.

I agree with Councillor Tucker that there is a national increase in rat or rodent infestations, although my officers inform me that we do not predict an unprecedented rise of infestation in Havering.

The reasons for an increase in rat or rodent population are various but specifically include climate change and fast food waste, and eradication programmes by water and sewerage companies.

I would remind Councillor Tucker and all Councillors that, unless there is a clearly identified health hazard, it is the responsibility of land-owners to deal with an infestation. Council staff will give advice and support and, where necessary, will apply enforcement measures.

Environmental Health provides a pest control service via a contractor for rats that are present inside private homes. We have no directly employed staff on pest control.

We are maintaining this service provision as we believe this is effectively dealing with the issues outlined both now and for the foreseeable future.

Council Meeting, 6 February 2008 – Questions and Answers

6 Assessment of the Council's Housing Service To the Cabinet Member for Housing & Regeneration (Councillor Michael Armstrong)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Can the Lead Member for Housing explain how he intends to improve Council Housing in order to acquire the two-star rating this Council desperately needs?

Answer

In 2003 our housing service was rated one out of four under CPA and our prospects of achieving the Decent Homes Standard seemed very remote.

Through leadership by this Administration a new management team was put in place in 2003-2004 and by June 2005 the landlord service was awarded 1 star with Promising Prospects. Later that year, the Government agreed our Stock Option plan to transfer the Mardyke Estate and to establish an ALMO to manage the rest of the stock.

In 2006 the housing service had moved to two out of four on CPA score and the ALMO was established in July 2006. The ALMO was inspected in September 2007 and no-one was more disappointed than I when I learnt that they would only receive 1 star with Promising Prospects.

However, despite being ranked a fair service Homes in Havering have only to meet 5 recommendations at the next inspection and continue their record of improvement and the 2 star will be achieved.

My officers have met civil servants at the DCLG and despite the apparent setback of only getting 1 star the Decent Homes team at DCLG appear relaxed about our ability and that of the ALMO to achieve 2 stars next time round. When I propose the HRA Budget to Cabinet in March 2007 the DCLG have promised that I will have a letter showing our bid for Decent Homes money will have been approved.

So I remind Council that we are now very close to our goal of achieving a major investment in the Council's housing stock and that the Mardyke Estate will start to benefit from major regeneration following stock transfer to Old Ford Housing Association. Our housing service are expecting the Audit Commission to announce that housing has moved up to 3 out of 4 when the CPA results for 2006-2007 are published.

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7 **Car park charging strategy**
To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Does this Administration agree that their decision to introduce parking charges in all Council car parks will encourage our residents to shop at Lakeside where there are no car park charges.

Answer

No.

A modest charge of 20p for 2 hours parking is unlikely, in itself, to prompt a shopper to expend time and money travelling to Lakeside.

It will however deter long-stay commuter parking around local shopping facilities ensuring availability of spaces for residents to shop locally, and generate revenue which will be reinvested to improve the quality and security of our parking facilities.

8 **Issuing of PCNs by CCTV car: numbers issued**
To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Andrew Mann

Can you tell me how many tickets the CCTV car has issued since its start date last year ?

Answer

15,297 CCTV PCNs issued

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9 Issuing of PCNs by CCTV car: top ten locations To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Andrew Mann

Can you list the top 10 locations for tickets issued by the CCTV car, how many in each of the locations and what the percentage is against the total of those issued ?

Answer

The top ten locations for CCTV PCN Issue are:

1. Victoria Road -880 or 8%
2. Atlanta Blvd – 654 or 6%
3. Mungo Park Road – 292 or 2.7%
4. Brentwood Road – 242 or 2.2%
5. Camborne Ave – 190 or 1.7%
6. Upminster Road South – 175 or 1.6%
7. North Street (Romford) – 158 or 1.5%
8. Market Link – 133 or 1.2%
9. Station Road (Gidea Park) – 133 or 1.2%
10. Mercury Gardens – 99 or 0.9%

10 StreetCare budget savings To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Andrew Mann

Could you list in full and give this Council a breakdown the amount of savings that StreetCare offered up as part of the Social Services over spend last year ?

Answer

Streetcare contributed £652k to the savings target last year. I have a table of the savings which I will pass to the Councillor concerned.

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11 **Issuing of PCNs by CCTV car: review of priorities**
To the Chairman of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Sandra Binion)

By Councillor Andrew Mann

In the light of the amount of complaints from residents concerning the issuing of parking tickets by the CCTV car, would you agree to the Environment O&S Committee to carry out a review of the cars' priorities?

Answer

I will be pleased to present this issue to the next meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

12 **Car parking in Romford: Christmas and New Year arrangements**
To the Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration (Cllr Michael Armstrong)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

What measures will be introduced to avoid the traffic/parking chaos that affected Romford over the Christmas and New Year period?

Answer

The most significant congestion this year unfortunately occurred around The Brewery. This was the result of an intermittent fault at the Exchange Street/ Waterloo Road traffic signals, which caused severe localised delays for traffic exiting the Brewery multi-storey car park until this was rectified by Transport for London, who are responsible for maintaining the signals. It is hoped that this problem has now been resolved.

The Council, in conjunction with the Romford Town Centre Partnership, has engaged consultants to carry out a Romford Movement Study. This will address in a very comprehensive way the whole issue of how visitors travel to Romford and move around the centre. It has several aims but key amongst these is to determine ways of reducing congestion on the Romford Ring Road so that schemes can be developed and bids made for funding to Transport for London and others. This work will be linked to on-going work to enhance the environment around the Ring Road to make Romford a more attractive centre to visit.

Many successful towns experience congestion at their busiest periods and it can be seen as a sign of the popularity and success of a town centre, albeit one that needs to be managed. Romford suffers less

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congestion than most centres in London, but the Council remains committed to reducing congestion further where possible.

13 **Footway accidents: insurance claims**
To the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Roger Ramsey)
By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Over the last three years, what is the number of:

- a) Insurance claims for accidents involving footways?
- b) Agreed compensation claims (and their total value) involving footway accidents?

Answer

Streetcare are responsible for some 1106 kilometres of footpaths in the Borough.

Inspection of footpaths and roads are carried out by the Streetcare Area Liaison Officers (ALO'S) in accordance with the relevant code of practise at varying frequencies depending upon the nature of the area.

Havering's robust maintenance and inspection system implemented by the ALO's, including the frequency of inspections, have been tested many times recently in the County Court and found by the courts to be more than adequate.

Out of all the services provided by the Council the roads and pavements are the one service that the vast majority of residents and visitors to the borough use every day and it is inevitable that some will sadly suffer falls on the pavement and some will seek compensation in respect of their accident.

Such claims for compensation are dealt with on a legal liability basis by the Council's claims handlers and over the past 3 years we have records of:

213 claims arising from accidents on the footway.

Eleven of these are agreed compensation claims with payments to date of £50,176. The cases are still being assessed.

This means that of 213 claims for compensation 95% are currently being repudiated on the basis that the Council are not legally liable.

The Council actively promotes risk management and prevention and this is supported by the success in repudiation.

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14 **Former Chief Executive of Hospitals Trust
To the Chairman of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
(Councillor Ted Eden)**

By Councillor Patricia Mylod

Does the Chairman think that it is appropriate for NHS bodies to use consultancy services offered by former senior employees of NHS bodies, who have left their employment in less than auspicious circumstances, to give advice to Doctors and Administrators on how to give a better service to the public?

If not, will he raise the matter when he next meets the local NHS bodies?

Answer

In answer to the question, No I most certainly do not. I have seen the national media coverage on this matter and consider it extremely concerning that that the former Chief Executive of the local Hospitals' Trust has set up a consultancy to advise on health service issues.

Coincidentally, I and the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee in this Town Hall on 29 January had a far ranging and involved informal meeting with the current interim Executive and Chairman of BHRT Hospitals, Dr Neath, and the interim Chief Executive Mr J Goulston confirmed that he was "absolutely not" intending to take up the services offered by the this business.

Furthermore, should the Committee receive reports of any local Health Trusts using the services of this particular firm, we would investigate this using our scrutiny powers. In addition I am a member of the Pan London Overview & Scrutiny Committee of the 32 London Boroughs and if it is the will of this Council, I will in turn pass on the absolutely not message to them at our next meeting.

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15 Lettings of Langtons To the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Roger Ramsey) By Councillor John Mylod

With respect to Langtons room hire:

- a) With the recent transfer of management of Langtons there appears to be an increase in letting charges; if this is so, is there a reason for it?
- b) Also the new management now require hirers of these rooms to pay immediately by debit/credit card, yet many users are small groups who do not have these cards as their voluntary Treasurers use a cheque book. Could this new 'requirement' be reviewed or is the intention to discontinue hiring of the hall by these small voluntary groups?

Answer

A new pricing structure for room hire at Langtons has been recently agreed. There has been no change to the standard hourly rate - this remains £32 for evening bookings during the week.

However a single level of discount for community organisations and charities has been introduced. Qualifying organisations receive a 30% reduction in the hourly rate and so are charged £22.40 per hour. Previous to the introduction of the new pricing structure there were some variations in the amount different organisations were charged for the hall. With the new arrangements there is now consistency across the board. Unfortunately for some organisations the effect of this is that the amount they are now charged may have risen a little.

Debit or credit card payment in advance is the Council's preferred payment method because it is the most efficient means of collecting money and ensuring a booking. However it is recognised that in some instances this is difficult for community and voluntary organisations and in these circumstances payment by cheque is welcome.

The Council's intention is not to discontinue the hiring of the hall or wedding rooms. Its intention is the opposite, and a major refurbishment of Langtons House is planned for November 2008 and recently the Hall chairs have been replaced to improve the quality of the facilities available.