

London Borough of Havering
COUNCIL MEETING

**7.30pm WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2005
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



Chief Executive

For information about the meeting please contact:

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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.

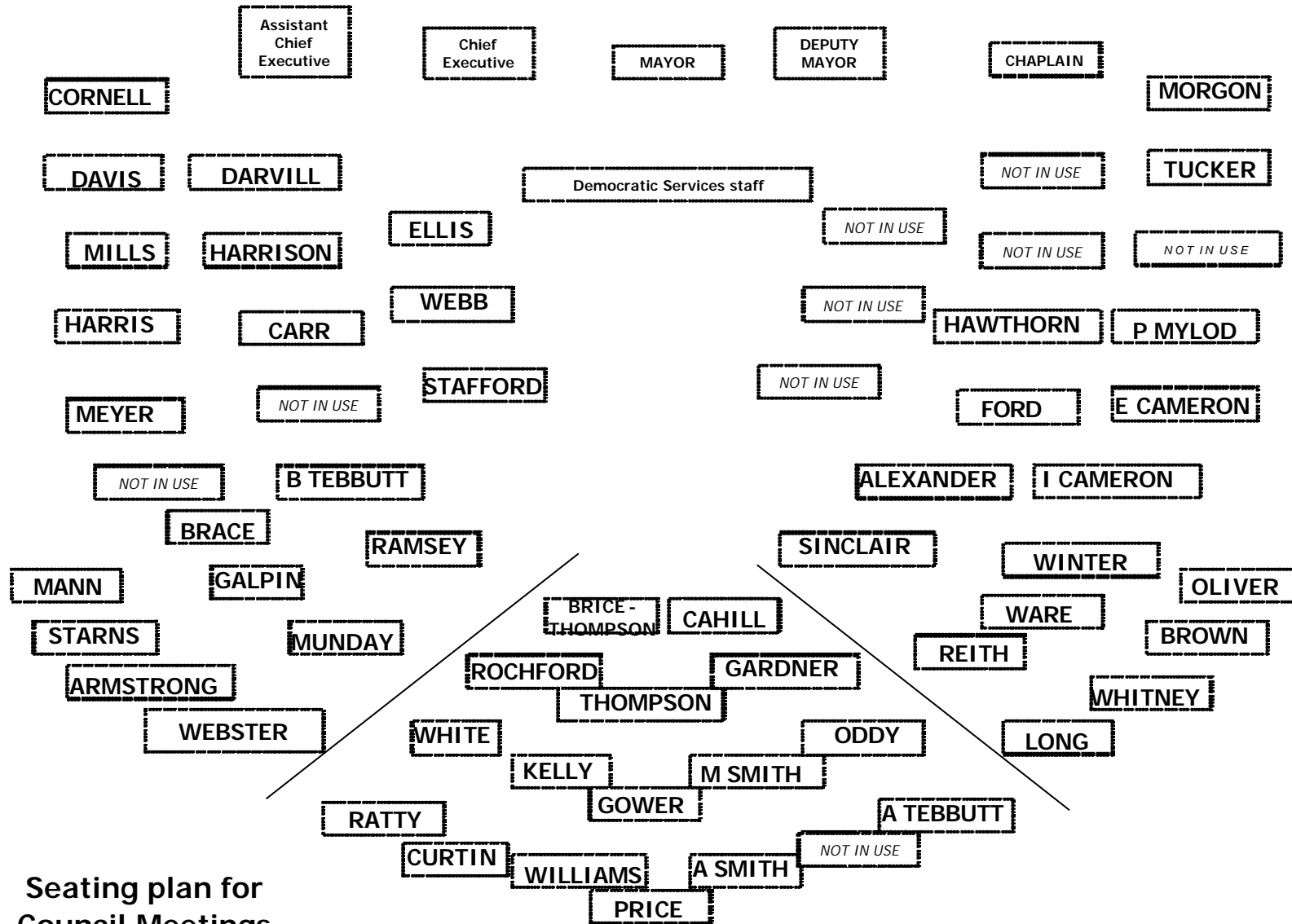
3. CONDUCT AT THE MEETING

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.

Council, 7 December 2005 - Agenda

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.



Seating plan for Council Meetings

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, 7 December 2005 - Agenda

AGENDA

1 **PRAYERS**

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 12 October 2005 (attached)

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**

Councillor Graham Carr has given notice of an intention to present a petition.

7 **REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS**

To consider a recommendation of the Governance Committee relating to a change to the Constitution (report attached)

8 **ADJUSTMENTS TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

To consider a recommendation of the Governance Committee relating to a change to the Constitution (report attached)

Council, 7 December 2005 - Agenda**9 AREA COMMITTEE REVIEW - proposals**

To consider recommendations of the Governance Committee relating to a change to the Constitution (report attached)

9A Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

1. That the recommendations of the Governance Committee be not adopted for the following reasons:
 - (a) the Administration's proposals do not reflect the constructive work done in the cross-Party working party;
 - (b) the working party were not afforded the courtesy of being allowed to consider the Administration's response to the many months of constructive and positive outcomes of the working party before constitutional amendments are recommended for adoption;
 - (c) the Administration's proposals presented to the Governance Committee meet neither the aspirations of the working party nor the stated intentions of the report to Council "to increase the (Area) Committees' closeness and relevance to the communities they represented...." and
 - (d) the failure of the Administration to consult the public as to the adequacy (or otherwise) of their proposals in meeting community aspirations.
2. That this Council considers that the proposed boundaries of 9 Area Committees have been ill-thought out and in some cases are no more relevant to natural community boundaries than the present Area Committees.
3. That the proposal to deny staffing resources, remove any provision for development of Area Action Plans and unsatisfactory budget arrangements will do little or nothing to assist or promote community development in any meaningful way.
4. That the Council regrets that the Administration has taken three and a half years to come forward with half baked proposals which will satisfy no one and agrees that the matter should be referred back to the cross-Party working party to put proposals to the February Council meeting for adoption immediately thereafter.

10 CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALG GRANTS SCHEME – 2006/07 Budget

To consider the report of the Chief Executive (to follow, when available)

Council, 7 December 2005 - Agenda

11 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Council, 7 December 2005 - Agenda**MOTIONS FOR DEBATE****12 NOTIFICATION OF LICENSING APPLICATIONS****Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group**

In furtherance of our determination to keep the citizens of Havering informed of matters that directly impact upon them, the Council will in future give advance written notice to residents and occupiers of property in near proximity to a site which is the subject of a Licensing application. Such notice will be in addition to any other action already initiated in response to motion 11 at the 12 October 2005 Council meeting.

13 CASINOS IN RAINHAM**Motion by Councillors Michael White, Barbara Reith and Ray Harris**

This Council resolves to support the development of a regional casino as part of a multi-faceted entertainment complex in Ferry Lane, Rainham, to act as the catalyst for the regeneration of London Riverside and the Thames Gateway, diversifying and strengthening the economy, upgrading the environment and image of the site and its surroundings, and generating a wide range of community and transport improvements, while minimising the risk of any adverse social effects. Accordingly the Council instructs officers to facilitate the formulation of proposals for a regional casino and entertainment complex in Rainham, together with studies of the likely economic, environmental, and social effects; to ensure there is widespread consultation with the community and interested parties; and to submit a strong expression of interest in a regional casino to the independent Casino Advisory Panel appointed to advise the Government on new casino locations, highlighting the very great regeneration and social advantages of developing a regional casino and entertainment complex in Rainham.

Note:

The deadline for receipt of any amendments to reports first published with (or after) this final Agenda is **midnight, Monday 5 December 2005**



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Havering Town Hall, Romford
12 October 2005 (7.30 p.m. – 10.35 p.m.)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor John Mylod) in the Chair.

Councillors June Alexander, Mike Armstrong, Jeffrey Brace, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Malvin Brown, Edward Cahill, Eileen Cameron, Ivor Cameron, Graham Carr, Yve Cornell, Andrew Curtin, Keith Darvill, Jan Davis, Tony Ellis, Gillian Ford, Georgina Galpin, Peter Gardner, Jean Gower, Ray Harris, Bill Harrison, Linda Hawthorn, Steven Kelly, Len Long, Andrew Mann, Nigel Meyer, Wilf Mills, Raymond Morgon, Eric Munday, Pat Mylod, Barry Oddy, Denis O'Flynn, Chris Oliver, Graham Price, Roger Ramsey, Natasha Ratty, Barbara Reith, Paul Rochford, Louise Sinclair, Alex Smith, Martin Smith, Geoffrey Starns, Jeff Stafford, Barry Tebbutt, Frederick Thompson, Jeffrey Tucker, Owen Ware, Harry Webb, Joseph Webster, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Daryl Williams (for part of meeting) and Mike Winter

There were no apologies for absence.

15 guests, members of public and press also attended.

The Mayor led those present in an opening 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 Mayor expressed condolences to the families of former Council members Valerie Evans who passed away during the summer and Tony Gordon who passed away earlier in the month and members stood in silence for a minute in memory of the former members and to think about those whose lives had been touched by the earthquake in Asia.

Councillors Barbara Reith, Michael White and Jan Davis in respect of Valerie Evans and Councillors Ray Harris, Michael White and Barbara Reith in respect of Tony Gordon paid tribute to their work for the Council and the community.

Council, 12 October 2005

35 STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR TONY ELLIS

The Mayor allowed Councillor Ellis to make a statement. Councillor Ellis made the following statement –

“I understand on 7 February, at the Council, I made some remarks which I now understand may have caused offence to officers. If I caused offence to anyone I apologise and withdraw any such offending remarks.”

36 MINUTES (Agenda Item 3)

It was **RESOLVED** –

That the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 13 July 2005 be signed as a true record.

37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 4)

Councillor Joseph Webster declared a personal interest in item 13 under paragraph 8 of the Members' Code of Conduct and stated that he would leave the Chamber while the item was under consideration and being voted upon.

Councillor Andrew Curtin also declared a personal interest in item 13 under paragraph 8.

38 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 5)

The Mayor offered the Council's congratulations to Councillor Natasha Ratty upon her recent marriage.

The Mayor's announcements are set out at **Appendix 1 to these minutes.**

There were no announcements by the Leader of the Council.

39 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS (Agenda Item 6)

Council considered the report of the Governance Committee which dealt with proposed amendments to the approved procedures for the appointment of LEA School Governors through a Governor Appointment Panel and changes proposed to the Constitution.

Council, 12 October 2005

The recommendation in the report was **AGREED** without going to a vote and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the functions delegated to the Executive Director, Education (Group Director, Children's Services) include:

3.8.1 On the nomination of the Governor Appointment Panel, to appoint on behalf of the Council LEA-nominated school governors (except where the nominee is a Member or employee of the Council).

40 BUDGET FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE RULES – Corporate Office Property Strategy (Agenda Item 7)

Council received a report in respect of action taken under paragraph 5 the Budget Framework Procedure Rules. Under these rules, any urgent decision outside the budget in certain circumstances needed the acceptance of the Chairman of the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The report set out details of the situation which needed action under this paragraph in respect of a Cabinet decision on the corporate office strategy and the decision of the Chairman of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Wilf Mills.

The recommendation in the report was **AGREED** without going to a vote and it was **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

41 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2005/06 (Agenda Item 8)

Council received the report of Cabinet on this plan which recommended that it be approved. The recommendation in the report was **AGREED** without going to the vote and it was **RESOLVED**

That the Youth Justice Plan 2005/06 be approved.

42 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Agenda Item 9)

Eight questions were listed to be asked under the Council procedure rules. The questions and answers are set out in **Appendix 2 to these minutes.**

Council, 12 October 2005**43 AREA COMMITTEE REVIEW (Agenda Item 10)****Motion on behalf of the Labour Group**

This Council notes the response from the Leader of the Council on 13 July regarding community development. It also notes that it is more than 3 years since the administration commenced a review of Area Committees with no outcome to date. Given the importance attached to community development by the Comprehensive Performance Assessment this Council formally reprimands the Administration for its failure to address this issue with the expedition it clearly requires.

Amendment by the Administration (Agenda Item 10A)

Amend to read:

This Council notes that following a lengthy, in-depth and far reaching review of Area Committees by an All Party Working Group proposals have been considered by the Administration and a draft report will, after discussions between Group Leaders, be brought forward for consideration by the Council as a whole.

After debate the amendment was **LOST** by 25 votes to 28 (see Division 1). The original motion was **CARRIED** by 28 votes to 25 (see Division 2) and it was –

RESOLVED

This Council notes the response from the Leader of the Council on 13 July regarding community development. It also notes that it is more than 3 years since the administration commenced a review of Area Committees with no outcome to date. Given the importance attached to community development by the Comprehensive Performance Assessment this Council formally reprimands the Administration for its failure to address this issue with the expedition it clearly requires.

44 LICENSING APPLICATIONS – Notifying the local community (Agenda Item 11)**Motion on behalf of the Residents Group**

This Council will introduce a more efficient way of notifying a local community of any licensing applications in their locality.

Council, 12 October 2005

Amendment by the Administration (Agenda Item 11A)

Amend to read:

This Council requests the Chief Executive to submit a report to the Licensing Committee and to Cabinet as to the notification of local communities of any licensing applications in the localities, such report to include a full explanation of the difficulties caused to local councils by the legislation imposed upon us by the present Government.

Amendment by the Labour Group (Agenda Item 11B)

Add at the end:

“, in particular, given the extensive criticism which the Administration made of the enabling legislation, the need to remedy the failure to harness effectively the additional powers given to local residents to influence the outcome of such applications.”

After debate the Administration Amendment (Agenda Item 11A) was **LOST** by 25 votes to 28 (see Division 3) and the Labour Group amendment (Agenda Item 11B) was **LOST** by 13 votes to 40 (See Division 4). The original motion was **CARRIED** without going to a vote and it was –

RESOLVED

This Council will introduce a more efficient way of notifying a local community of any licensing applications in their locality.

45 GREEN BAG GARDEN REFUSE COLLECTION (Agenda Item 12)

Motion on behalf of the Residents Group

This Council instigates a general review of the green bag scheme, in particular costs, charges and possible grants.

Amendment by the Administration (Agenda Item 12A)

Amend to read:

This Council welcomes the review that the Administration has completed in relation to the collection of green waste and notes that proposals will be put forward shortly detailing the scheme planned to start in early 2006.

Council, 12 October 2005

After debate the amendment was **LOST** by 25 votes to 28 (See Division 5) and the original motion was **CARRIED** by 28 votes to 24 (See Division 6) and it was–

RESOLVED

This Council instigates a general review of the green bag scheme, in particular costs, charges and possible grants.

46 PROCEDURAL MOTION

On a proposal from the floor, with no member voting against, a procedural motion that Agenda Item 13 (Cabinet Membership Change) on the supplementary agenda be subject to the vote only procedure was **AGREED**.

47 CABINET MEMBERSHIP CHANGE (Agenda Item 13)

The following motion was submitted with the agreement of the Mayor in accordance with Rule 11.2 of the Council Procedure Rules as he was satisfied that it qualified as an “emergency motion” because the temporary indisposition of the Leader of the Conservative Group meant that the issue and thus the motion arose after the deadline for the receipt of motions rather than before that deadline.

In accordance with Rule 15.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, as the motion sought to rescind a decision made at a meeting of Council within the past six months, the notice of motion had been signed by at least 25 per cent of the members of the Council namely -

Councillors:

Geoff Starns, Eric Munday, Michael White, Eddie Cahill, Alex Smith, Andrew Mann, Michael Armstrong, Andrew Curtin, Peter Gardner, Barry Oddy, Jean Gower, Frederick Thompson, Paul Rochford and Wendy Brice-Thompson

Motion on behalf of the Administration

That the decision of Council at the meeting of 25 May to appoint Councillor Joe Webster to the Cabinet be rescinded and Councillor Andrew Curtin be appointed to Cabinet.

In accordance with Rule 11.4(iii) of the Council Procedure Rules the Monitoring Officer indicated that it would be acceptable to amend the motion by the addition of the words “with immediate effect” and the insertion of “2005” in the date in order to ensure that there was no doubt as to the motion’s intention to appoint Councillor Curtin in place of Councillor Webster. The Leader of the Council as proposer indicated acceptance of that amendment.

Council, 12 October 2005

The motion was **CARRIED** by 28 votes to nil (See Division 7) and it was –

RESOLVED

That the decision of Council at the meeting of 25 May 2005 to appoint Councillor Joe Webster to the Cabinet be rescinded and Councillor Andrew Curtin be appointed to Cabinet with immediate effect.

(Note - The record of the voting divisions is shown at Appendix 3 to these minutes)

Council, 12 October 2005

**APPENDIX 1
(See minute 38)**

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

On a bright note, I am very pleased to be able to report that Havering has excelled in the London in Bloom Awards. The Liberty Bell Hotel was awarded first prize in the Best London Hotel Award category and two residents have also received 2nd and 3rd place awards for their gardens.

The Council was also commended for its colourful flower displays. I would like to send my thanks and congratulations to everyone who took part, not forgetting the ground maintenance staff. Their hard work is on show throughout the borough including the town hall – and it's first class. We will be holding a presentation ceremony next week.

Another great example of the good work of staff is the new Yew Tree Lodge Resource Centre. Under the direction of Lynne Lytton and Marion Butler the former residential respite care centre has been transformed into a remarkable resource for people with a disability.

It was an honour and a privilege to officially open this incredible facility, which looks set to become one of the best in the country for providing access to a wide range of services under one roof.

It's great to be able to recognise the achievements of staff and reassuring to know that they are not going unnoticed outside of the borough.

I am delighted to announce that Havering's Social Economy Support Unit has become the first outer London borough to be awarded the Customer First Award, which recognises that it is a quality assured business support provider.

Partnership and teamwork have also played a major role in enhancing the profile of the borough.

The Library and e-Government Technology Services have been commended in The Innovation & IT in Service Delivery Awards for their tremendous partnership work with other London boroughs, following the introduction of the Open Galaxy system. The system modernises services and enables library users access to its services via the internet.

When it comes to teamwork – our national management trainees were the highest placed team from a London borough, in the prestigious Local Government Chronicle Challenge. In a testament to their skills the team took on experienced opponents and came seventh out of 52 councils and was short-listed for best partnership performance.

I am pleased that this council along with my fellow members recognises the valuable contribution young people make to the borough.

The support for the exciting events planned for this year's Local Democracy Week, aimed at getting more young people involved in council matters, endorses this.

Some councillors have bravely volunteered to take part in the internet based game, 'I'm a Councillor, Get me out of here', and a political speed dating event during the week, which starts on Saturday.

And finally, last but not least, I would like to say how very proud and grateful the mayoress and I were to the borough's young cadets (with an average age of 13) who rowed us in the Great Trafalgar Race from Richmond to Greenwich. Although we didn't win the race we felt like winners by just having them on board.

Council, 12 October 2005

**APPENDIX 2
(See Minute 42)**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. SPECIFIC AND REVENUE SUPPORT GRANTS, 2005/06

To the Cabinet Member for Resources (Councillor Roger Ramsey)
By Councillor Wilf Mills

Now that we have reached the midway point in the financial year could you advise me

- (1) The total amount of specific grants awarded to Havering for 2005/6;
- (2) The Total amount of revenue support grant and specific grants for Havering in 2005/6;
- (3) How this compares with 2004/5 and 2003/4; and
- (4) What adjustments, if any, have been made to the funding of budgets contained in the 2005/6 Annual Budget statements to reflect any changes in specific grant and with what effect on the current year's budget forecasts?

Response

- 1) The total amount of net specific grants awarded to Havering for 2005/06, as at the 5th October 2005, is £94.931m.
- 2) The total Formula Grant allocation for Havering for 2005/06 is £169.466m comprising £94.626m Revenue Support Grant and £74.84m redistributed National Non Domestic Rates. Therefore the total amount receivable in 2005/06 from Specific Grants and Revenue Support Grant is £189.557m.
- 3) The comparable figures for 2003/04 and 2004/05 are:

2003/04: Net Specific Grants £75.975m and Revenue Support Grant £88.628m; a total of £164.603m

2004/05: Net Specific Grants £81.661m and Revenue Support Grant £98.935m; a total of £180.596m
- 4) When the budget was set in February not all specific grant allocations had been notified to the Council. In most of these cases the Council was aware it would be receiving grant but not always the precise amount involved. Where grant amounts have been announced subsequently adjustments have been made to expenditure and income budgets to reflect the level of actual grant allocations. The vast majority of the changes in grant allocations during the year are to ring fenced grants such as the Standards Fund in Education. Heads of Service are required to include the effect of grant changes in their budget forecasts. Where the grant is ring fenced this is unlikely to significantly effect the net expenditure forecast.

2. ELM PARK LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

To the Cabinet Member for Client Services (Councillor Joe Webster)
By Councillor Graham Carr

In the light of the Cabinet's decision on 21 September 2005 to develop further the proposals for Elm Park Library, can the Cabinet Member give a timetable for when work on building a new library will commence?

Council, 12 October 2005

Response

I am pleased to announce that a programme of customer consultation to inform the proposal will commence in the week beginning Monday 31 October.

This information will be used to produce a requirements and marketing document which will be available in draft form at the end of November.

The combined site will be marketed to developers early in the New Year with a view to receiving proposals within 8 weeks.

The date of commencement of work on site will depend on the success of the marketing exercise and the speed in which any successful developer can secure planning permission. In awarding the contract to develop the site the Council will need to ensure that the proposals are affordable and appropriate. Even so it is envisaged that work should begin in the first half of 2006/2007.

3. LIBRARIES REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME

To the Cabinet Member for Client Services (Councillor Joe Webster)

By Councillor Jan Davis

Given the Cabinet's decision to allocate an additional £1 millions on top of £610,000 already committed for improvements to Romford Library, can the Cabinet Member explain why no money is being allocated to improvements to South Hornchurch and Rainham Libraries?

Response

The additional capital earmarked for Central Library cannot be used to undertake improvements in other libraries. The Council has earmarked £700,000 from its invest to save budget. This will be funded from income generated at Central Library. It would therefore be inappropriate if this money was spent elsewhere.

The Council is also seeking a contribution from the Learning and Skills Council but this is specifically to fund facilities within Central Library. This could therefore not be spent elsewhere either.

Even so capital funding for Rainham Library is being considered as part of this years MTFS process. Proposals have been developed to re-provide Rainham Library as part of the regeneration of the South of the Borough and in particular to establish a library and learning centre in cooperation with other partners. Even so it is unlikely that work will start on this scheme until 2007 or 2008.

Some refurbishment and repair work has already been undertaken at South Hornchurch. In particular a new boiler has been installed. It is hoped and anticipated that money should be available within the library service maintenance budget to externally and internally redecorate South Hornchurch Library in 2006/2007.

Council, 12 October 2005

4. LIBRARIES REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME

To the Cabinet Member for Client Services (Councillor Joe Webster)

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

Given the Cabinet's decision to allocate an additional £1millions on top of £610,00 already committed for improvements to Romford Library, can the Cabinet Member explain why no money is being allocated to improvements to Harold Hill and Harold Wood Libraries?

Response

The additional capital earmarked for Central Library cannot be used to undertake improvements in other libraries. The Council has earmarked £700,000 from its invest to save budget. This will be funded from income generated at Central Library. It would therefore be inappropriate if this money was spent elsewhere.

The Council is also seeking a contribution from the Learning and Skills Council but this is specifically to fund facilities within Central Library. This could therefore not be spent elsewhere either. Even so funds from the Library maintenance budget and from Council health and safety and access improvement budgets have been identified to fund a programme of work at Harold Hill and Harold Wood Libraries.

Harold Hill Library will close after half term, on Saturday 29 October, for a period of two weeks. This is to enable improvements to the heating system, changes to make the entrance more accessible and some external and internal redecoration.

Harold Wood Library will close the two weeks following Harold Hill Library and a similar programme of work will be undertaken.

5. TOWN HALL FRONT GREEN

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Georgina Galpin)

By Councillor Bill Harrison

Can you advise the Council on the reasons for the uprooting of trees on the green outside the Town Hall to create a walkway? Can you also advise how much this is costing? Can you also provide the cost of providing a green verge (which had to be replaced because it died off) and flowerbeds, as well as the planters in front of the Town Hall?

Response (Given, by arrangement, by the Leader of the Council)

Havering Council has improved significantly over the last two years. We are a big business providing vital services to local residents. We are the democratic voice of Havering. The Town Hall is the very centre of civic pride in Havering where residents, honoured guests, national figures, foreign dignitaries, local businesses and voluntary groups visit. In the past the Town Hall, our front window, was frankly a mess and visitors went away with a poor impression of us. That is now being completely changed. The work that has and is being undertaken is a very visible expression of how this Administration is putting pride back at the centre of this great Borough.

Council, 12 October 2005

Specifically, the removal of some conifer trees and the creation of a pedestrian walkway is a response to the need, under Health & Safety, to ensure separation of pedestrians and vehicles. Advantage is being taken to ensure that the walkway replicates, as far as is practicable, the line of the original approach to the Town Hall.

The front area of the Town Hall has seen in recent times, several people have slips, trips, falls and on one occasion a collision with a moving vehicle. People have slipped or tripped-over either, potholes on the car parking surface or, whilst walking around the perimeter footpath on the uneven slabs.

The proposed work has the full support of English Heritage. The walkway will cross the current central green and will be constructed to conform to all relevant legislation. It will include chamfer strips to those parts of the walkway that cross the vehicle access and car parking areas and these will be constructed at a height level to the existing footpaths.

In preparation for this programme of work, some dead or inappropriately-placed or out-of-scale conifers have been removed. The deciduous trees will remain but will receive appropriate pruning. Most of the trees to the front of the Town Hall, including those that flank the Library, have not had proper arboricultural treatment for many years and have either grown too large for their environment or were/are in a poor condition. Further work is envisaged to create more natural light to the library, which currently suffers from shading.

The cost of removing the large tree was £180.00. The cost of providing the green area, in front of the offices, with the flowerbeds and all plants was £1,800 and the bronze planters, as approved by English Heritage to replicate those that were in place when the Town Hall was originally built, were £1,200 each. I must stress that the bronze planters, which I think are very much in keeping with the building and which are much admired, are sitting on plinths designed in the 1930s for this purpose. We are putting back what was originally in place at the front of the Town Hall. All of the expenditure to date has been met from existing budgets.

These improvements to the exterior Town Hall environment reflect very favourably on the Borough as an improving council and further demonstrate the pride Havering takes in its main public building. This is also reflected in the programme of refurbishment to the entrance and common parts of the Town Hall, which also has the full support of English Heritage.

In this special year, the 40th anniversary of Havering, the Council should take pride in what it does and in its growing professionalism. This work helps us achieve this objective and I hope that all members of this Council share in the pride that I have for this Council and what we are trying to achieve.

6. COUNCIL WEBSITE

To the Cabinet Member for CULTURE & ICT (Councillor Ray Morgon)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

When will the Council update its website?

Response

The Council's website is constantly updated to ensure that information there is up to date and relevant. The front page news stories are changed regularly and much of the text on the site has been updated over the last year. A recent SOCITIM survey showed that the website's newsworthiness had increased substantially.

Council, 12 October 2005

However, the website contains some 2,500 pages and is visited by thousands of people. In the first five months of the year 200,000 page visits were made. Clearly it is difficult to keep this immense encyclopaedia fully up to date and there are some pages that may well have been overlooked. In order to make sure that we are able to keep all pages up to date we have procured a new Content Management System, which will make it easier to ensure that all necessary changes are made in a timely way.

I am pleased to report today that the re-design of the website, and the new Content Management System, will go live on 17th October, when residents will be able to pay their Council Tax on-line, access even more on-line forms, watch Havering videos and keep up to date with service developments. However, if any Member or member of the public spots information that is out of date then please use the feedback mechanism on the website to let us know.

7. EMERGENCY PLANNING – USE OF RAYNET

To the Cabinet Member for Crime & Safety (Councillor Georgina Galpin)
By Councillor Jeff Stafford

In the Council's Emergency Planning Strategy, has provision been made for the involvement of RAYNET (Radio Amateur Network), to support the Emergency Services and the Council in the event of a major incident when communication is of paramount importance?

Response

In previous editions of the Council's Major Emergency Plan prior to 1999 reference was made to the involvement of RAYNET (Radio Amateurs Emergency Network). In 1999 the Council's RAYNET contact radio antenna was removed as the structure was deemed dangerous and it has not been replaced. So, contact with RAYNET has not been possible since 1999 except by conventional communications which might not be available in a major emergency.

No mention, therefore, is made in the current Major Emergency Plan to use RAYNET. Currently the Council maintains its own radio network and, in addition, the Council also has access to the Home Office ACCOLC system and has two satellite phones.

8. PAVEMENT CROSSOVERS

To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare (Councillor Andrew Mann)
By Councillor Mike Winter

There are numerous examples across the Borough of people who have had vehicular crossings installed, yet the depth of their front gardens is such that any vehicle parked on it is overhanging the footway. Are there any steps the Council can take to prevent this happening?

Response

The current policy states that there should be a minimum of 4.8 metres depth of front garden. If there is less than this depth the application will be refused.

VOTING RECORD

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The Mayor [Cllr. John Mylod]	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Denis O'Flynn]	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Michael White	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Mike Armstrong	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Jeff Brace	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Wendy Brice-Thompson	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓
Cllr. Eddy Cahill	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Andrew Curtin	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Georgina Galpin	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Peter Gardner	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Jean Gower	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Steven Kelly	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Andrew Mann	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Raymond Morgon	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Eric Munday	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Barry Oddy	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Graham Price	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Roger Ramsey	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Natasha Ratty	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Paul Rochford	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Alex Smith	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Martin Smith	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Geoffrey Starns	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Alby Tebbutt	Absent: under suspension						
Cllr. Barry Tebbutt	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Frederick Thompson	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Cllr. Joe Webster	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	A
Cllr. Daryl Williams	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓
<u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Barbara Reith	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr. June Alexander	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Malvin Brown	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Eileen Cameron	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Ivor Cameron	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Gillian Ford	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Linda Hawthorn	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Len Long	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Nigel Meyer	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
Cllr. Patricia Mylod	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Chris Oliver	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Louise Sinclair	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Owen Ware	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Reg Whitney	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	O
Cllr. Mike Winter	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓
<u>LABOUR GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Ray Harris	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
Cllr. Graham Carr	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
Cllr. Yve Cornell	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
Cllr. Keith Darvill	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
Cllr. Jan Davis	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
Cllr. Tony Ellis	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
Cllr. Bill Harrison	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
Cllr. Wilf Mills	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr. Jeff Stafford	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
Cllr. Harry Webb	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
<u>Independent Member</u>							
Cllr. Jeffrey Tucker	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	O
TOTALS							
YES	25	28	25	13	25	28	28
NO	28	25	28	40	28	24	0
ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0	1	24
DECLARATION OF INTEREST/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ABSENT FROM MEETING	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	53	53	53	53	53	53	53

IN FAVOUR ✓

AGAINST X

NOT VOTING O

ABSENT A

INTEREST DECLARED ID



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

7

15 NOVEMBER 2005

REPORT TO COUNCIL

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

In response to the request by the Committee, the Monitoring Officer prepared for consideration amendments to the Constitution aimed at ensuring that no staff would be engaged, whether temporarily or permanently, unless there was a specific post within the agreed staff establishment for them to occupy, and associated changes.

The Committee has considered a report setting out various issues to be taken into consideration in dealing with the proposal. Whilst accepting the need for operational flexibility, Members were concerned that changes appeared to have been made to service establishments without prior Member approval or even knowledge. Members were also surprised to be advised that it would not be easy to assign a unique number to identify every post within the Council's service and considered that the absence of such numbers made it difficult to keep track of developments within service staff establishments.

The Committee noted that not all of the concepts referred to in the Committee's original request could be achieved through amendment of the Constitution and that further development of Human Resources policies and practice would be necessary in that respect.

Having considered the advice in the report, the Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

- 1 That the following amendments be made to Part 3 Section 3.3.2 of the Constitution:

Amend paragraph 3.3.2 as follows

- (ii) all appointments to permanent posts must be within the approved establishment and be appointments to an identifiable vacant post and all appointments to temporary posts must be within existing budgetary provision.

Take in a new (iii) as follows and renumber original (iii) to (xiv) as (iv) to (xv):

- (iii) the creation of a new post outside of the corporate planning process or the appointment to a permanent vacant post requires the agreement in writing or by e-mail of
 - (a) the Cabinet Member for a post up to PO7
 - (b) the Cabinet Member and the Leader of the Council for a post above PO7such agreement to be given or withheld within seven working days of being sought (the Cabinet Member for Resources may act in the absence of either the Leader of the Council or of the Cabinet Member)

- 2 That all posts within the Council's service shall be assigned an individual and unique identifying establishment number.



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

8

15 NOVEMBER 2005

REPORT TO COUNCIL

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

ADJUSTMENTS TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

The Children Act 2004 required establishment of new arrangements for Children's Services. In consequence, the Committee has endorsed proposals for the establishment of two new overview and scrutiny committees – one dealing with Children's Services (in place of the current Education OSC) and the other with Adult Services and Health (in place of the current Social Care and Health) in order to allow for effective scrutiny of the new structure.

These changes would not prevent further review and development of the overview and scrutiny of both children's and adult services in due course.

The Committee therefore **RECOMMENDS**:

That the following amendments to Article 6, paragraph 6.01 of the Constitution be agreed:

- (a) The reference to "Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee" be replaced with "Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee"
- (b) The areas of responsibility for this Committee be as follows:
 - School Improvement
 - Pupil and Student Services (including the Youth Service)
 - Strategy and Commissioning
 - Children's Social Services
 - Children's Health Services
 - Social Inclusion
- (c) The reference in paragraph 6.01 of the Constitution to "Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee" be replaced with "Adult Services and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee".
- (d) The reference in the areas of responsibility of this Committee to "Social Care" be replaced with "Adult Services".

- (e) The first line of Article 6, paragraph 6.05 of the Constitution (Joint scrutiny of health service development proposals) now read as follows:

“This article applies when either the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Adult Services and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are consulted....”



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

9

15 NOVEMBER 2005

REPORT TO COUNCIL

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

AREA COMMITTEE REVIEW - proposals

Following a detailed review by Members of the Council's Area Committee arrangements, the Committee considered a number of proposed changes of arrangement, intended to facilitate improvements in the operation and scope of the Area Committees. The intention was to increase the Committees' closeness and relevance to the communities they represented, to make their purpose clearer and to ensure that they operated affordably and within the resources available.

To achieve this, it was proposed that the number of Area Committees be increased from six to nine but that their expected frequency of meeting be reduced to quarterly, with a consequent reduction of the number of Wards covered by each from three to two. This required a change to the Council's Constitution.

Other changes proposed, which could be effected without constitutional change, included developing a specific job description for Area Committee Chairmen, alterations to the decision-making process for local highway and environmental improvement schemes, and the introduction of twice-yearly Havering Community Conferences. It was noted that further reports would be submitted to the Committee on the development of these proposals in due course.

The Committee thus **RECOMMENDS** that the Constitution be amended, with effect from the Borough elections in 2006, so as:

- (a) To replace the current six area committees with nine area committees each covering two wards, as set out in the following table:

Name	Wards
North Romford	Havering Park and Mawneys
Harold Hill	Heaton and Gooshays

Romford	Brooklands and Romford Town
Gidea Park	Pettits and Squirrels Heath
Emerson Park and Harold Wood	Harold Wood and Emerson Park
Upminster	Upminster and Cranham
Hornchurch	Hylands and St Andrews
Elm Park and Hacton	Elm Park and Hacton
South Hornchurch and Rainham	Rainham & Wennington and South Hornchurch

- (b) To empower the area committees to undertake the following responsibilities:
- To consider local issues, consult with local people, and make recommendations to the Council or Cabinet;
 - To be responsible for local highway management decisions, subject to certain limitations within the policies and practices set by the Regulatory Services Committee; and
 - To be responsible for any budgets allocated to them
- and that these responsibilities be exercised in accordance with the principles of the Rules and Conventions for Area Committees (set out in the Appendix)
- (c) To delegate to Area Committees decision making powers incorporating:
- local highway management matters
 - local environmental improvement budgets – expenditure on capital projects, for the well being of the local community, of any budget that Council may make available for this purpose
- (d) That the future process for approving highway schemes be that:
1. Where only one Area is concerned, the Area Committee shall receive a report on initial design of scheme and
 - a. approve it in principle for public consultation or, if changes are required to the scheme before it goes to consultation, delegate approval of them to the Head of Strategic Planning and Technical Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Area Committee; and
 - b. delegate approval of the final scheme in the light of the results of the public consultation to the Head of Strategic Planning and Technical Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Area Committee.
 2. Where a scheme is set within more than one Area:

Council, 7 December 2005

- a. the views of the relevant Area Committees shall be sought on the initial design for public consultation;
 - b. the Head of Strategic Planning and Technical Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Regulatory Services Committee and in the light of the views of the Area Committees may approve the scheme for public consultation; and
 - c. the Head of Strategic Planning and Technical Services shall approve the final scheme in the light of results of the consultation and in consultation with the Chairman of the Regulatory Services Committee and the Chairmen of the relevant Area Committees.
- (e) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the detailed changes to the Constitution required to give effect to these decisions.

RULES AND CONVENTIONS FOR AREA COMMITTEES

1. Area Committee meetings be treated as just one element of community engagement and be used as a means by which community engagement can be promoted.
2. Area Committees will be constituted under the Local Government Act 1972 and will have the purpose set out in Article 10 of Part 2 of the Constitution (as revised).
3. There will be nine Area Committees, each covering two electoral wards as set out in Article 10 of Part 2 of the Constitution (as revised).
4. Each Area Committee will decide the fixed venue where it will hold its meetings except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Chairman. Additional meetings would ordinarily be held at the same venue.
5. Ordinary Area Committee meetings will start at 7.30pm.
6. Area Committees will meet four times a year, but will have the facility for holding special meetings. The Chairman may also arrange informal meetings of the Area Committee, alone or jointly with others, where to do so is conducive to dealing with particular items of business.
7. Area Committees should and can –
 - (b) consult the public to inform the decision makers;
 - (c) be used for the Council to inform the public;
 - (d) be used for non-Council agencies to inform or consult;
 - (e) be entitled to specifically invite appropriate people or organisations to meetings.
8. Area Committee Chairmen –
 - (a) operate under the Job Description, as agreed from time to time by the Governance Committee;
 - (b) take the role of steering committee and collective Member activity, and
 - (c) be required to report to each area committee meeting on their activities since the last meeting as well as an annual report to be submitted to the last ordinary meeting of the Committee of the Municipal Year.
9. In respect of Public Question Time -
 - (a) 30 minutes be allocated for questions from the public at each ordinary meeting, with the Chairman having discretion to modify that length of time, as the first part of the Agenda;
 - (b) Area Committee Chairman be responsible for dealing with questions and co-ordinate their replies.
10. Area Committee Members appointed to area-specific bodies on behalf of the Area Committee by the Governance Committee be required to report to the Area Committee at least once a year on their activities.
11. Area Committees shall –
 - (a) make decisions in respect of traffic matters or (the parameters to be defined) from time to time by the Governance Committee to be recommendation-makers to those taking the decisions;
 - (b) be allocated a budget of £5,000 and be delegated authority to spend on minor locally-focused environmental initiatives (on the basis of criteria established by the Governance Committee from time to time).
 - (c) be entitled to bid for an allocation from a £45,000 budget held on behalf of Cabinet, such bid to be accompanied by a business case.



COUNCIL

7 DECEMBER 2005

10

This report is submitted with the agreement of the Mayor as an urgent matter, pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALG GRANTS SCHEME - 2006/07 BUDGET

SUMMARY

1. The Council is required to make a contribution to the ALG Grants Scheme.
2. The ALG Leaders' Committee have concurred with the recommendation of the ALG Grants Committee that the overall level of the boroughs contributions should increase by 0.18%.
3. Because of population changes across London the amount payable by Havering will decrease slightly compared with this year.
4. This report seeks approval to the budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the total budget of £28,204,895 for the ALG Grants Committee for 2006/07 be agreed.
2. That the Council's contribution of £803,192 to the ALG Grants Committee for 2006/07 be agreed.

Council, 7 December 2005

REPORT DETAIL

1. The Council is required to make a contribution to the ALG Grants Committee. The budget must be agreed by two thirds of constituent councils before 1st February 2006. Under an order made by the Secretary of State for the Environment, if the required number of authorities do not agree the budget, they shall be deemed to have approved the 2006/07 budget at the same level as the 2005/06 budget. The planned budget for the Grants Committee for 2006/7 is £28,204,895.
2. Attached to this report are three appendices from the ALG Leader's Committee report on 8 November 2005 showing comparisons between borough's contributions and the anticipated level of benefit, together with details of the organisations providing benefit to the borough.
3. Appendix 1 shows that the Council was assessed as receiving benefits of £313,769 from grants as compared to the approved grants allocation of £741,675. (These figures exclude the Grants Committee's running costs) This is a net contribution of £427,906. Havering is the one of eighteen outer London Boroughs who are net contributors to the scheme.
4. Appendix 2 shows the organisations providing benefit to Havering from ALG open bidding grants and Appendix 3 shows the organisations providing benefit to Havering from second tier grants.

5. Financial Implications and Risks:

- 5.1 The Council's contributions to the ALG Grants Committee are as follows:

2005/06	Budget	£804,867
2006/07	Proposed Budget	£803,192

It is proposed that the overall level of the boroughs contributions will increase by 0.18%. The Havering contribution has fallen due to changes in population relative to other London boroughs.

6. Legal Implications and risks:

- 6.1 Under an order made by the Secretary of State for the Environment, if the required number of authorities do not agree the budget, they shall be deemed to have approved the 2006/07 budget at the same level as the 2005/06 budget. If two-thirds of the boroughs do agree the new budget it is then compulsory on the other one-third.

Council, 7 December 2005

7. Human Resources Implications and risks:

7.1 None arising directly

8. Equalities and Social Inclusion implications and risks:

8.1 The ALG grants committee supports a range of charitable and voluntary groups. A list of those groups supported, including those with Havering are identified in the attached appendices.

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STEPHEN EVANS
Chief Executive

Background Papers List

ALG Grants Committee Reports
ALG Leaders' Committee Reports and Minutes

