

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

**7.30pm WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2007  
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:**

**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

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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.

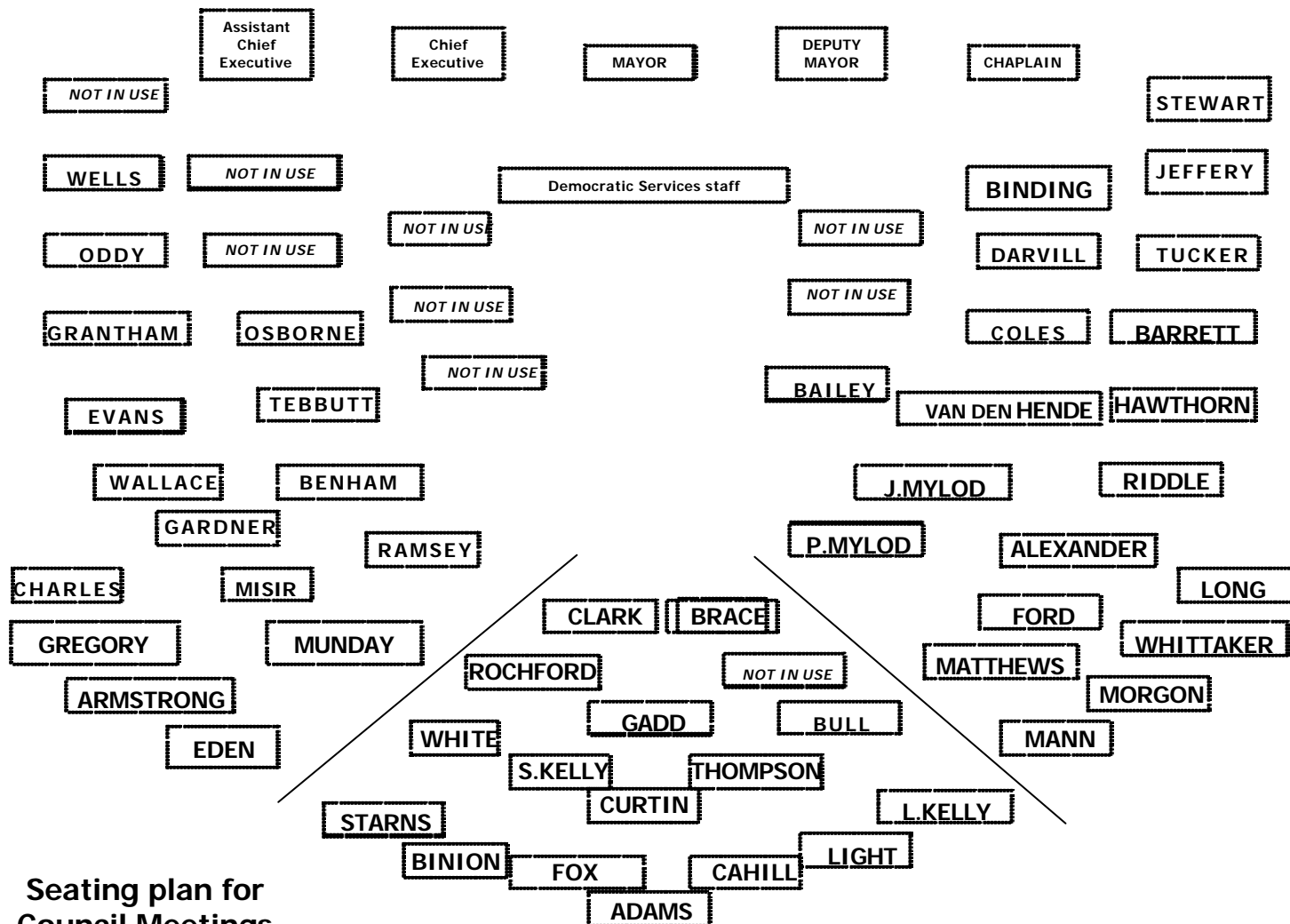
The Mayor would find it helpful, however if Members would press the **MIC ON** button to indicate that they wish:

- 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.



Seating plan for Council Meetings

# 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 6 December 2006 (to follow)

## 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

Councillors Pam Light and Fred Osborne have each given notice of their intentions to present petitions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 24.

## 7 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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**MOTIONS FOR DEBATE**

**8 TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKS - CHARGES FOR USE**

**Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group**

This Council reaffirms its commitment to regeneration throughout the Borough and urges the Cabinet not to impose charges in our car parks within our Town Centres outside of central Romford.

**8A Amendment by the Administration**

**Amend by deleting** all words after (but not including) the words "the Borough".

[**Note:** the motion would then read:

This Council reaffirms its commitment to regeneration throughout the Borough. ]

**9 SMELLS IN RAINHAM – RESPONSIBILITY**

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

This Council welcomes Veolia's (Cleanaway) admission of responsibility for the Rainham smells; this vindicates what Rainham residents have been saying for years, and is in response to a successful monitoring campaign, organised by the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents Group.

Their admission also contradicts Havering Council's repeated and frustrating denials that Cleanaway was responsible.

This Council urges Cleanaway to make appropriate compensation to the Rainham community both as a way of apology, and to show that they are now serious about being a good neighbour.

**Council, 7 February 2007 – Agenda****10 SHOPPING CENTRES – DOMINATION BY MAJOR RETAILERS****Motion on behalf of the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group**

This Council believes that our existing community shopping centres should be enhanced and not destroyed by the domination of one major retail organisation.

**10A Amendment by the Administration****Amend to read:**

This Council reaffirms that our existing community shopping centres will be enhanced and supported by its existing urban policies.

**11 TRANSPORT FOR THE DISABLED****Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group**

In light of the recent comments by the Lead Member for Adult Services and the subsequent press articles, this Council urgently asks him to make a statement of the facts in relation to the transport for the disabled.

**11A Amendment by the Labour Group****Amend to read:**

In view of the apparent uncertainty surrounding the decision to withdraw services to disabled residents the policy in relation thereto be reconsidered and referred to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet.

**11B Amendment by the Administration****Amend to read:**

This Council notes that the Lead Member for Adult Services has considered the responses to consultation about proposals to change arrangements for transport for the disabled to evening social clubs and is in discussion with affected parties to enable an acceptable form of service to be delivered.



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12 **HORNCHURCH TOWN CENTRE CAR PARK**

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

This Council believes that Hornchurch Town Centre Car Park must remain Council owned.

**12A Amendment by the Administration**

**Amend to read:**

This Council believes that the Hornchurch Town Centre car parks must be regarded as an integral part of the Hornchurch Urban Strategy.



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING  
Havering Town Hall, Romford  
6 December 2006 (7.30 pm – 10.35 pm)**

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

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

Approximately 20 guests, and members of the public and press also attended.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Edward Cahill, David Charles, Andrew Curtin, Len Long, John Mylod and Brenda Riddle.

The Reverend Colin Phillips of Elm Park Baptist Church opened the meeting with prayers.

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

**55 MINUTES (Agenda Item 3)**

It was **RESOLVED** that minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 October 2006 be signed as a true record.

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

Councillor Barry Tebbutt declared a prejudicial interest under paragraph 9 of the Members' Code of Conduct in agenda item 10 (Crossrail) and Councillor Frederick Thompson declared a personal interest under paragraph 9 of the Members' Code of Conduct, in view of his employment at the hospital referred to in agenda item 14 (New Hospital in Romford – naming).

**57 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda Item 5)**

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

The Leader of the Council made the following announcement –

Madam Mayor I would like to say a short word about the recommendation that the Appointments Committee made two or three weeks ago. The Appointments Committee have now reached their conclusion and have come to a situation where we have a motion on the agenda tonight to appoint a new Chief Executive. The process for selecting that Chief Executive was probably one of the most exhaustive processes that this Council has ever gone through to make a such an appointment. I would like personally to thank all the Members of the Appointments Committee for their patience during that time. It was an extremely good process and has led to a nominee that we have tonight. Cheryl, I think, is going to become a first class Chief Executive of this Council although obviously Members will need to vote on the matter this evening. All of us on the Appointments Committee supported her and I know that we as a Council will support her when she joins us in and around about February or March next year.

**58 PROCEDURAL MOTION**

On behalf of the Administration a procedural motion 'that agenda item 17 (Appointment of Champion for Elderly Persons) be considered immediately after the final report, agenda item 10' was moved and seconded.

The proposal was **CARRIED** by 30 votes to 13 (see voting division 1) and it was -

**RESOLVED**

**That agenda item 17 (the appointment of the Champion for Elderly Persons) be considered immediately after the final report, agenda item 10**

**59 PETITIONS (Agenda Item 6) – none**

**60 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda Item 7)**

Council had before them the report of the Appointments Committee meeting of 20 November 2006 which had unanimously recommended Council an appointment to the post of Chief Executive. It was noted that no objection to the recommendation had been received in response to notification given to Cabinet members of the proposed appointment under paragraph 9 of the Staff Employment Procedure Rules.

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

**RESOLVED**

**That Cheryl Coppell, currently Chief Executive Slough Borough Council, be appointed as Chief Executive and designated Head of Paid Service and Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer, to take effect as soon as possible.**

**61 APPROVAL OF HAVERING'S DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES FOR THE GAMBLING ACT 2005 (Agenda Item 8)**

Council had before them the report of the Licensing Committee meeting of 21 November which recommended Council to adopt a set of principles under section 329 of the Gambling Act 2005 which had been made available to members of the Council

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

**RESOLVED**

**that Council adopts the Havering Statement of Principles for the Gambling Act 2005, as previously made available to members.**

**62 CONTRIBUTION TO THE LONDON BOROUGHS GRANTS SCHEME  
– 2007/08 Budget (Agenda Item 9)**

*The Mayor indicated that in view of the need to deal with this matter which could not await the next meeting of the Council, in accordance with Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the report be considered by Council as a matter of urgency.*

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on this scheme and noted that

- The Council was required to make a contribution to the London Boroughs' Grants Scheme.
- The London Borough's' Leaders' Committee had approved a Grants budget requiring no increase in the overall level of the boroughs' contributions.
- Because of population changes across London the amount payable by Havering would decrease slightly compared with this year.

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the total budget of £28,279,960 for the London Borough's Grants Committee for 2007/08 be agreed.
- (2) That the Council's contribution of £797,970 to the London Borough's Grants Committee for 2007/08 be agreed.

**63 CROSSRAIL – PETITION TO AMENDMENTS OF PROVISIONS  
(Agenda Item 10)**

*Having declared a pecuniary interest (see minute 56), Councillor Barry Tebbutt left the meeting room during consideration of this item.*

*The Mayor indicated that in view of the need to deal with this matter which could not await the next meeting of the Council, in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the report be considered by Council as a matter of urgency.*

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive which followed up consideration of the original Bill proposals in June 2005, when the

Council resolved to petition to Parliament on several points. The key concern for the Council was the principle of the depot for the whole Crossrail scheme being located in Romford and the detailed implications arising from this but there was an extensive list of local and generic issues in addition to this. The report before Council gave the outcomes from the Council's original petition and the issues arising with Crossrail's recently published Amendments of Provisions and proposed further action.

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

## **RESOLVED**

**That the Council:**

- (1) Re-affirms its strong 'in principle' support for the Crossrail scheme in the light of the potential regeneration and transportation benefits it offers to Havering and East London.**
- (2) Supports the Crossrail Alternative Depot Strategy (July 2006) which locates the Crossrail depot at Old Oak Common in west London.**
- (3) Resolves that given the issues raised in this report, in the judgement of the Council of the London Borough of Havering, it is expedient for the Council to petition Parliament against those Amendments of Provisions to the Crossrail Hybrid Bill deposited in Parliament in the Session 2006/7 which adversely affect the borough.**
- (4) Authorises the Assistant Chief Executive Legal & Democratic Services and the Group Director Sustainable Communities to take all necessary steps to carry the foregoing Resolution into effect and to finalise the issues included in the Council's petition to both Houses of Parliament.**

## **64 APPOINTMENT OF CHAMPION FOR ELDERLY PERSONS (Agenda Item 17)**

*The Mayor indicated that in view of the need to deal with the vacancy referred to in the motion, in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and her powers under Section 11.2 of the Council procedure Rules, the motion be considered by Council as a matter of urgency*

**Motion on behalf of the Administration**

That Councillor Light be appointed as Champion for Elderly Persons

**Amendment by the Residents' Group (Agenda Item 17A)**

Amend to read:

That Councillor Patricia Mylod be appointed as Champion for Elderly Persons

After debate the amendment was **LOST** by 30 votes to 15 (see voting division 2). The original motion was **CARRIED** by 30 votes to 15 (see division 3) and it was -

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Light be appointed as Champion for Elderly Persons**

**65 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Agenda Item 11)**

Ten questions were listed to be asked under the Council Procedure Rules (The Leader of the Residents' Group withdrew questions numbered 6 and 8) and they were dealt with in the allocated time. The questions and answers are set out in **Appendix 2 to these minutes.**

During the delivery of answers Council noted the request of the Leader of the Opposition that Form Ds (Notice of Executive decisions by officers) should be made available as a matter of course to Members or, at least, to Group Leaders.

**66 TAKEAWAY FOOD OUTLETS: LITTER (Agenda Item 12)**

**Motion by the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group**

This Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government seeking a change in planning law to require owners of takeaways (A3 and A5 uses), to keep their frontage and immediate area clear of litter.

**Amendment by the Administration (Agenda Item 12A)**

Amend to read:

This Council resolves to apply its existing powers to make owners of takeaways (A3 and A5 users) keep their frontages and immediate areas clear of litter and to request the Chief Executive to apply to Westminster Council to include in the London Bill the additional power to require shop owners to meet the cost of cleaning up their litter.

The Rainham and Wennington Independent Residents' Group indicated their acceptance of the Administration motion once the Group's motion had been moved. Council **AGREED** to treat the Administration motion as the substantive motion without further debate. The motion was **AGREED** and it was -

### **RESOLVED**

**This Council resolves to apply its existing powers to make owners of takeaways (A3 and A5 users) keep their frontages and immediate areas clear of litter and to request the Chief Executive to apply to Westminster Council to include in the London Bill the additional power to require shop owners to meet the cost of cleaning up their litter.**

## **67 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES: COST (Agenda Item 13)**

### **Motion by of the Residents' Group**

Whilst this Council welcomes the 2012 Olympic Games to London and recognises the opportunities and benefits that will be gained across the nation from hosting the event, the funding arrangements have placed a heavy burden on the council tax payers of Greater London.

Should the staging of the Games result in an overspend against budget, this Council will make suitable representations to the Government and the Mayor of London that the residents of Greater London will not have this deficit added to council tax bills beyond the pre-arranged period.

### **Amendment by the Administration (Agenda Item 13A)**

Amend to read:

Whilst this Council welcomes the 2012 Olympic Games to London and recognises the opportunities and benefits that will be gained for Havering residents, the whole of London and across the nation, from hosting the event and, after 2012, from the long-term transformation of East London associated with it, it recognises that such ambitious projects require stringent financial management.



This Council resolves to pursue every opportunity that the London 2012 Olympics will offer to improve the quality of life of Havering residents energetically, recognising that the priorities of the London Games are children and young people, environmental sustainability and cultural diversity, and that in Havering there are particular aspirations for better quality employment opportunities, better quality education, better quality public health, improved community safety and community cohesion.

Should the staging of the games result in and overspend against budget, this Council will make suitable representations to the Government and the Mayor of London that the residents of Greater London will not have this deficit added to Council tax bills.

After debate the amendment was **CARRIED** by 36 votes to 12 (see voting division 3). The motion was then **CARRIED** by 46 votes to nil (see voting division 4) and it was -

#### **RESOLVED**

**Whilst this Council welcomes the 2012 Olympic Games to London and recognises the opportunities and benefits that will be gained for Havering residents, the whole of London and across the nation, from hosting the event and, after 2012, from the long-term transformation of East London associated with it, it recognises that such ambitious projects require stringent financial management.**

**This Council resolves to pursue every opportunity that the London 2012 Olympics will offer to improve the quality of life of Havering residents energetically, recognising that the priorities of the London Games are children and young people, environmental sustainability and cultural diversity, and that in Havering there are particular aspirations for better quality employment opportunities, better quality education, better quality public health, improved community safety and community cohesion.**

**Should the staging of the games result in and overspend against budget, this Council will make suitable representations to the Government and the Mayor of London that the residents of Greater London will not have this deficit added to Council tax bills.**

**68 NEW HOSPITAL IN ROMFORD: NAMING (Agenda Item 14)**

*Councillor Frederick Thompson had declared a personal interest (see minute 56). The Councillor was absent from the meeting room during consideration of this item.*

**Motion by the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group**

This Council regrets the Health Trust's decision to name our new hospital without consulting local and elected opinion, and resolves to support the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group motion by:

- a) writing to local MPs asking them to continue their support and raise our concerns in Parliament.
- b) Writing to the Health Trust chief executive, Mark Rees, making clear its anger at the Trust's decision to impose a name without public consultation.

**Amendment by the Administration (Agenda Item 14A)**

Amend to read:

This Council notes that the naming of a hospital is the responsibility of Parliament's Constitutional Affairs Committee acting on the recommendation of the Health Trust.

During the course of the contribution to the debate by Councillor Jeffery Tucker a procedural motion under Council procedural rule 12.1 (xv) 'that the member be no longer heard' was moved and seconded. The proposal was **CARRIED** by 30 votes to 6 (see voting division 5) and it was -

**RESOLVED**

**That Councillor Tucker be no longer heard**

After debate the amendment was **CARRIED** by 44 votes to 3 (see voting division 6). The motion was then **AGREED** without a further vote and it was -

**RESOLVED**

**This Council notes that the naming of a hospital is the responsibility of Parliament's Constitutional Affairs Committee acting on the recommendation of the Health Trust.**

**69 CASINO IN HAVERING (Agenda Item 15)**

**Motion by the Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group**

This Council resolves to support Rainham & Wennington Independent Residents' Group motion by seeking a judicial review of the Casino Advisory Panel's failure to include Havering on their shortlist.

**Amendment by the Administration (Agenda Item 15A)**

Amend to read:

This Council has exhausted every legal avenue, including a judicial review, and regrets the Casino Advisory Panel's failure to include Havering on their shortlist.

After debate the amendment was **CARRIED** by 45 votes to 3 (see voting division 7). The motion was then **CARRIED** by 44 votes to 3 (see voting division 8) and it was -

**RESOLVED**

**This Council has exhausted every legal avenue, including a judicial review, and regrets the Casino Advisory Panel's failure to include Havering on their shortlist.**

**70 VOTE ONLY PROCEDURE/MOTION WITHDRAWN**

At 10.29pm Council noted that outstanding business (one further motion and amendment shown at agenda item 16/16A) would be dealt with under the vote only procedure in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1(ii).

On behalf of the Residents' Group, the opposition Group Leader withdrew the motion at Agenda item 16 (Town Centre Car Parks – charges for use)

**Note** – the voting divisions are attached **as Appendix 3 to these minutes**

**Appendix 1  
(see minute 57)**

## **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There are a number of announcements I am both pleased and proud to be making tonight.

First, I would like to say congratulations to everyone involved in organising events during this season of celebration, which have been enjoyed and appreciated throughout the borough.

Black History Month, held to highlight the history of black people through various aspects of black culture, was a huge success. Hundreds of people attended events across the borough.

One of the events, which I particularly enjoyed, was the community celebration at the Queen's Theatre, which was the very first of its kind to be held in Havering.

It was organised by the Council and the police to provide the Black Minority Ethnic Community with an opportunity to showcase their activities, cultural heritage and services – and the organisations, some of which have been established in the borough for more than 20 years, certainly rose to the occasion.

The Christmas lights switch on at Romford Town Centre, Elm Park, and Rainham Village Fayre really brought the spirit of Christmas alive in the borough.

The Snowman received a warm welcome at Romford Town Centre when he gave a dazzling high-flying performance and abseiled onto the stage to switch the lights on.

The event was a great family affair, and one I am sure that will become a treasured Christmas memory for the thousands of children and parents that were there. I know it was a night I won't forget.

I hope the Council's Older Persons' annual event will also be a very happy memory for the borough's elderly and vulnerable people, when they attend the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk at the Queen's Theatre. This will be followed by a Christmas tea on Friday 15 December. I hope Members will join me there and help our guests enjoy this special event.

I was extremely proud and pleased to officially open Paines Brook Court, the borough's state of the art sheltered housing complex in Harold Hill. The residents are so pleased to be there and are truly enjoying the facilities, which are second to none. Congratulations to everyone involved in this project.

It's great to have so much to celebrate. The Council has recently received a Bronze medal at the prestigious Visit London Awards 2006 for putting Romford Market on the map for visitors.

Four of our schools and two of our day care centres have received outstanding reports from the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED).

Pyrgo Primary, Rise Park Junior, Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School, and Scotts Primary were listed in the OFSTED Annual Report as being outstanding education providers. The Abacus Afterschool Club and First Step also made the list. This is a great achievement for the schools and the borough.

Finally, I would like to congratulate everyone who helped to make the relocation of staff, based in remote and outdated offices, to Scimitar House in Central Romford, such a smooth and successful one. It now means colleagues in children's services, including education, social services, and adult social services, can work together in the same building. I am sure both staff and residents will soon reap the benefits.

And now before we go to the business of the day, may I wish everyone here, and our staff, a very happy Christmas and New Year.

**APPENDIX 2  
(See Minute 65)**

**QUESTIONS AND REPLIES**

**1 FUTURE OF YEW TREE LODGE**

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

By Councillor Barbara Reith

As there are a number of rumours regarding the future of Yew Tree Lodge can you provide some clarity regarding the continuance of services and amenities, and give an assurance that if there are to be any changes, there will be full consultation with all interested parties?

**Answer**

I confirm that there will continue to be a presence at Yew Tree Resource Centre which will concentrate on rehabilitation for disabled people .There is a range of services already in place, which will grow over time, planned with our partners in the NHS to ensure disabled people have access to relevant services to meet their wide needs. Any changes to any services will always be subject to appropriate consultation.

**2. CLEANAWAY SITE, RAINHAM: AIRBORNE POLLUTION**

**To the Lead Member for Public Safety  
(Councillor Peter Gardner)**

By Councillor Coral Jeffery

Will this Council demonstrate its commitment to its vision "to create a safe, welcoming, healthier and more prosperous place where people chose to live, work and visit" by dealing with the issue of nuisance of smell caused by the Cleanaway company failing to manage their Composting site in an efficient and effective manner, as airborne particulate matter and foul odours are destroying the quality of life and jeopardising the health of Rainham's residents?

**Answer**

The Council **is** committed to ensure a safe, welcoming, healthier and more prosperous place where people choose to live, work and visit and we will use our powers, where appropriate, and our influence to achieve this.

It is important to recognise that responsibility for securing the proper operation of the Cleanaway site is ultimately a matter for the Environment Agency (EA) and the Health & Safety Executive, not the Council.

Officers from the Environmental Health Service (EHS) work closely with the EA when problems occur and we can confirm there have been recent changes and improvements to the Cleanaway composting operation.

EHS also has powers to serve notice on the operators of the site under the Environmental Protection Act if statutory nuisance occurs. To date no circumstances have been identified which have made such service necessary.

Complaints have been received in EHS about odours from Cleanaway and these have become more frequent of late. These are investigated. However there are potentially other sources of odour in the area and it can be difficult to establish the true source. Additionally there are occasions when the problem does not last for long enough to enable an investigation to be carried out.

There are no simple, recognised scientific methods for odour testing or measurement and apart from olfactory assessments made as part of routine work or in response to complaints no testing is currently carried out within Havering.

As far as EHS are aware there are no health impacts associated with the odours coming from Cleanaway.

In respect of air borne particulate matter and in response to the rise in composting sites nationally, there have been concerns raised by the Health and Safety Executive which were associated with possible bio aerosols (airborne micro-organisms) and their possible effects upon workers and any neighbouring premises.

In June 2003 the HSE published a research report carried out by an independent Health and Safety Laboratory which concluded that workers at composting sites were exposed to concentrations of organic dusts at levels similar to those found in other established industries, such as waste handling and agriculture.

The Environment Agency has set a limit of 250 metres around composting sites within which it is necessary to assess risks to exposed neighbours. Studies also suggest that there is no available evidence to indicate a change to this limit is necessary at present. (The composting area is some 2,300 metres from the nearest residential property in Rainham)

The results of the extensive review and assessment of Havering's air quality that started in 1998 and continues (with the most recent report being in 2006), concurred that the UK air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide and airborne particulate at roadside locations adjacent to some of the heavily trafficked roads in the Borough are being exceeded. The main source of this pollution is vehicle transport and correspondingly EHS monitors roadside locations for particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide with results feeding into the London Air Quality Network. The latest review and assessment did not highlight any airborne particulate problems that could be associated with the Wennington, Rainham or South Hornchurch locations.

It is known that Cleanaway has recently undertaken independent monitoring of airborne particulates around the perimeter of the site. EHS are to ask the company to share the results which will provide an indication of the need for further investigation. Assuming the company agree to share the results, these

can be reported to Members, with recommendations for further action if necessary.

Officers from EHS will continue to work with the other responsible authorities to ensure that any problems associated with this site are kept to a minimum.

### **3. SAINSBURY'S, HORNCHURCH - DEVELOPMENT**

#### **To the Cabinet Member for Resources** **(Councillor Roger Ramsey)**

By Councillor Coral Jeffery

Can this Council confirm that the Hornchurch Sainsbury's redevelopment plans are dependent on the sale of the Council owned part of Sainsbury's car park?

#### **Answer**

The redevelopment of the Sainsbury's store and adjoining land as currently proposed is dependent on the inclusion of the Council-owned car park land. If that land was not sold to Sainsbury's it may be that they could propose a redevelopment of the store itself, but without the benefits of the improvements to the surrounding parts of the town centre.

### **4. BRIEFING ON HOUSING MATTERS**

#### **To the Leader of the Council** **(Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor Barbara Reith

Can the Leader explain why senior Housing officers are sending briefing notes to only Conservative Councillors and Conservative Members of Parliament and not informing all members of this Council on an issue which affects residents throughout the entire Borough?

#### **Answer**

Council officers focussed their main efforts on this issue, which was the increase in fuel costs to around 1100 of our Council tenants, in ensuring that the tenants were consulted and kept informed.

A letter was sent to every affected resident providing them with information on, and an explanation of, the need to increase the fuel charges. This was set in early November 2006 and was in compliance with the requirements of the Housing Act 1985. The reason for the increase was simple: the current level



of charge was considerably less than the true cost and the Housing Revenue Account could no longer bear the cost.

The decision was made within officers' delegated authority and the focus was on briefing staff to answer tenants queries, so that they could deal with customers effectively and efficiently.

I will agree, however, that all Members **should** have been informed and that information on such matters in the future will be disseminated to all Members. The omission on this occasion was in error and officers are clear on future requirements.

## 5. INCREASE IN FUEL CHARGES: TENANTS AND LEASEHOLDERS

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

By Councillor June Alexander

Can the Lead Member explain why this Council has increased fuel charges by over 300%. What consultation has taken place with tenants and lease holders and did he not feel the need to discuss such a serious issue with the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the opposition Councillors?

### **Answer**

The increase in the heating and hot water charges ranged from 150% to 223% and was designed to address the following issues:

- The cost of energy to the Housing Revenue Account has risen dramatically over the past three years;
- The charge to the 1100 tenants had not been adjusted to ensure that tenants were paying the true cost of the service they were receiving;
- The balance was being paid for by other tenants and this level of subsidisation could not be justified or sustained.
- The Housing Revenue Account is under considerable financial pressure in this year, and the next couple of years, due to reduction in subsidy from central government which have meant a shortfall of £1.5 million in the account, and the subsidisation of heating costs could not be sustained within the budgets.

Proper consultation was carried out with tenants in accordance with the requirements of the Housing Act 1985. Similar to our annual consultation on rent and other charges this takes the form of a 4 week notice. This consultation was carried out correctly.

The decision was made within officer delegated powers and again was properly taken. As such there was no requirement to consult the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I am more than happy, however, to discuss the issue with the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the next meeting if the Chairman so requests.

6. Question withdrawn

7. **STREETCARE SPARE CAPACITY**

**To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare  
(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Andrew Mann

Knowing the pressures that StreetCare have to clean this Borough, in particular to clearing fallen leaves, can the Lead member tell me what spare capacity StreetCare staff have at the present time?

**Answer**

StreetCare have in place procedures for street cleansing that deal with seasonal pressures and all our staff are appropriately deployed across the Borough.

8. Question withdrawn

9. **RECYCLING**

**To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare  
(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Andrew Mann

What new initiatives have you launched in relation to promoting recycling in the Borough since you were appointed in May of this year?

**Answer**

With the Shanks facilities at Frog Island now operational and the orange bag recycling service available to all households, our focus has been on communicating the recycling and composting message.

During October, a leaflet promoting the orange bag service and illustrating how the black and orange bags are separated at the Bio Mrf, was delivered to all households.

Officers have visited community groups, staged road shows at the Reuse and Recycling Centre and at supermarkets and attended the Havering show and Planet Havering to promote recycling and composting. These messages have also been communicated through the Better Havering Campaign.

Leaflet and door knocking promotions to over 12,000 properties have also resulted in over 5,200 customers now subscribing to the green wheeled bin collection and composting service. It is my intention to make a decision on this so that it will go Borough wide.

Since May, 29 schools have received recycling awareness presentations by either the Council's Environmental Education Officer or the interactive road show by Time FM. These events and a competition organised as a part of

"The Big Recycle Week" have resulted in 15 additional schools agreeing to have recycling banks on site.

An additional nine public access mini recycling centres have also been agreed.

In addition to the above, our street cleansing waste is now being delivered to the Reuse and Recycling Mrf at Frog Island where it is processed and recyclables removed. Early indications suggest that high levels of recycling are being achieved from this waste system.

## **10. TRANSPORT FOR THE ELDERLY**

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

By Councillor Pat Mylod

Can the Cabinet Member give assurances that there will be a full and transparent consultation with all affected parties in respect of the review of service presently taking place?

### **Answer**

I can confirm that there will be a consultation with people that may be affected by any changes proposed.

**VOTING RECORD**

DIVISION NUMBER:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>The Mayor [Cllr. Wendy Brice-Thompson]</b>	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Georgina Galpin]	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</b>								
Cllr. Michael White	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Gary Adams	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Mike Armstrong	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Robert Benham	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Sandra Binion	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Jeff Brace	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Dennis Bull	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Eddy Cahill	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. David Charles	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. John Clark	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Andrew Curtin	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Ted Eden	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Roger Evans	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Christine Fox	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Mark Gadd	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Peter Gardner	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. David Grantham	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Kevin Gregory	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Lesley Kelly	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Steven Kelly	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Pam Light	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Robby Misir	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Eric Munday	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Barry Oddy	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Frederick Osborne	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Roger Ramsey	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Paul Rochford	A	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Geoffrey Starns	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Barry Tebbutt	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Frederick Thompson	✓	X	✓	✓	ID	ID	✓	✓
Cllr. Melvin Wallace	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Keith Wells	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>RESIDENTS' GROUP</b>								
Cllr. Barbara Reith	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. June Alexander	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Clarence Barrett	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Gillian Ford	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Linda Hawthorn	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Len Long	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Andrew Mann	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Raymond Morgon	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. John Mylod	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Patricia Mylod	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Brenda Riddle	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Steve Whittaker	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Linda van den Hende	X	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
<b>RAINHAM &amp; WENNINGTON INDEPENDENT RESIDENTS' GROUP</b>								
Cllr. Jeffery Tucker	O	O	X	O	X	X	X	X
Cllr. Coral Jeffrey	O	O	X	✓	X	X	X	X
Cllr. Mark Stewart	O	O	✓	O	X	X	X	X
<b>LABOUR GROUP</b>								
Cllr. Keith Darvill	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Tom Binding	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	O
<b>British National Party Member</b>								
Cllr. Alan Bailey	O	✓	✓	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
<b>Liberal Democrat Member</b>								
Cllr. Jonathan Coles	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
<b>TOTALS</b>								
<b>YES</b>	30	15	36	46	30	44	45	44
<b>NO</b>	13	30	12	0	6	3	3	3
<b>ABSTAIN/NO VOTE</b>	4	3	0	2	11	0	0	1
<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST/NO VOTE</b>	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
<b>ABSENT FROM MEETING</b>	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54

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



# COUNCIL

## 7 FEBRUARY 2007

# 7

### QUESTIONS

#### 1 STREET SIGNS

**To the Cabinet Member for StreetCare & Parking  
(Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Coral Jeffery

In view of the amount of information/road signs which have gone missing, throughout this Borough, due to the high scrap value of aluminium, will this Council promote best value by using alternative materials such as galvanised steel which has a very low scrap value?

#### 2 MEETINGS WITH SAINSBURY'S

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

By Councillor Coral Jeffery

Are all meetings (both official and unofficial) between Havering Council and Sainsbury's being fully recorded?

What are the names of the Council Officers, Councillors and Sainsbury's representatives involved, and when will the minutes of these meeting be made public?

## **Council Meeting, 7 February 2007 – Questions**

### **3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION**

#### **To the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Geoff Starns)**

By Councillor Jonathan Coles

The DFES states the following as its commitment towards sustainable development:

*"Sustainable development will not just be a subject in the classroom: it will be in its bricks and mortar and the way the school uses and even generates its own power. Our students won't just be told about sustainable development, they will see and work within it: a living, learning, place in which to explore what a sustainable lifestyle means."*

Can the lead member outline Havering's current and future commitment to sustainable development in school building programmes, and give a breakdown of how many school building projects currently have achieved either a pass, good, very good, or excellent BREEAM rating?

### **4 TRANSPORT FOR THE DISABLED**

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

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

Can you explain the lack of consultation with all interested parties on your recent decision to withdraw transport facilities for the disabled?