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Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

COUNCIL MEETING

**7.30 pm Wednesday, 23 November 2011
AT Council Chamber - Town Hall**

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

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Acting Assistant
Chief Executive**

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Ian Buckmaster Tel: 01708 432431
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Please note that this meeting will be webcast.

**Members of the public who do not wish to appear
in the webcast will be able to sit in the balcony,
which is not in camera range.**

AGENDA

1 PRAYERS

2 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)

3 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 22)

To sign as a true record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21 September 2011

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

5A **PROCEDURAL MOTION** (Pages 23 - 24)

6 PETITIONS

Councillor Denis Breading has given notice of an intention to present a petition.

7 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT (Pages 25 - 32)

To consider a report of the Cabinet

8 THE REFORM OF COUNCIL HOUSING FINANCE (IMPLEMENTATION) (Pages 33 - 42)

To consider a report of the Cabinet

9 BRIAR ESTATE DEVELOPMENT - APPROVAL OF £2M CAPITAL BUDGET ADDITION TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME (Pages 43 - 44)

To consider a report of the Cabinet

10 POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW (Pages 45 - 50)

To consider a report of the Governance Committee

10A **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS** (Pages 51 - 54)

11 PROPOSED NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES (Pages 55 - 60)

To consider a report of the Governance Committee

12 THE FUTURE OF QUEEN'S HOSPITAL (Pages 61 - 64)

To consider a report of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

13 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Pages 65 - 72)

14 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE (Pages 73 - 78)

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Havering Town Hall, Romford
21 September 2011 (7.30pm – 10.40pm)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Melvin Wallace) in the Chair

Councillors: Councillors June Alexander, Michael Armstrong, Clarence Barrett*, Robert Benham, Becky Bennett, Sandra Binion, Jeff Brace, Denis Breading*, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Dennis Bull, Michael Deon Burton, Andrew Curtin, Keith Darvill, Osman Dervish, David Durant, Brian Eagling, Roger Evans, Gillian Ford, Georgina Galpin, Peter Gardner, Linda Hawthorn, Lesley Kelly, Steven Kelly, Pam Light, Mark Logan, Barbara Matthews, Paul McGeary, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, John Mylod*, Pat Murray, Barry Oddy, Denis O'Flynn, Fred Osborne, Garry Pain, Roger Ramsey, Paul Rochford, Geoffrey Starns, Billy Taylor, Barry Tebbutt, Frederick Thompson, Lynden Thorpe, Linda Trew, Jeffery Tucker, Linda Van den Hende, Damian White*, Michael White and John Wood

* for part of the meeting

12 Members' guests and members of the public and a representative of the press were also present.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Nic Dodin, Ted Eden, Eric Munday, Ron Ower, Geoff Starns and Keith Wells

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

Father David Anderson of St Edward's Church, Romford Market Place opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

27 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 July 2011 be signed as a true record.

28 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Steven Kelly, Jeff Brace, Robby Misir and June Alexander each declared a personal interest as a director of Homes in Havering in relation to matters likely to be referred to in the course of debate on the motion at agenda item 12A, Management of Council housing (see minute 37 following).

29 **CHRISTINE DOOLEY, ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ANDREW IRELAND, GROUP DIRECTOR, SOCIAL CARE & LEARNING**

The Mayor referred to the recent retirement of Christine Dooley, Assistant Chief Executive, and to the forthcoming resignation of Andrew Ireland, Group Direct, who would be taking up a post with Kent County Council.

He paid tribute to the work undertaken by both officers during their service with Havering. The Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition and Leaders of the Labour and Independent Residents' Groups added their tributes on behalf of their respective Groups.

30 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

31 **PETITIONS**

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 23, petitions were presented as follows, by Councillors:

Andrew Curtin -	From residents of Clifton Road, seeking inclusion of Clifton Road and Park Lane in the Controlled Parking Zone
Damian White -	From residents of Maygreen Crescent, calling upon the Council not to proceed with the removal of washing lines and plants from balconies.

It was **NOTED** that each petition would be passed to Committee Administration for attention in accordance with the Petitions Scheme.

32 AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS FOR THE CEMETERIES PROVIDED BY THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

Cabinet reported upon the need for changes in the Council's Cemetery Regulations.

No amendment was proposed and the recommendations of the Cabinet were **ADOPTED** without debate or division. It was, accordingly, **RESOLVED:**

That the amendments to the Cemetery Regulations set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes be approved, to be effective from 31 October 2011

33 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Council received a report of the Governance Committee, setting out further changes proposed to the Council's Constitution.

No amendment was proposed and the Committee's recommendations were **ADOPTED** without debate or division.

RESOLVED:

That the amendments to the Constitution set out in Appendix 3 to these minutes be approved, to be effective from 21 September 2011

34 AUTHORISATION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

The Chief Executive reported that, following the retirement of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal & Democratic Services and the imminent resignation of the Group Director Social Care & Learning, authority was required to enable certain staff to exercise statutory powers

No amendment was proposed and the recommendations of the Cabinet were **ADOPTED** without debate or division. It was, accordingly, **RESOLVED:**

1 That the following individuals be authorised to exercise the responsibilities of the statutory officers indicated:

(1) Monitoring Officer: Ian Burns, Acting Assistant Chief Executive, with immediate effect;

(2) **Director of Children's Services: Sue Butterworth, Acting Director, with effect from the date on which Andrew Ireland leaves the Council's service; and**

(3) **Director of Adult Social Services: Lorna Payne as Interim Director, with effect from the date on which Andrew Ireland leaves the Council's service.**

2 That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make such changes as are necessary to enable the Acting/Interim officers to carry out the duties assigned to them.

35 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Council received and considered the Annual Reports of the Member Champions for:

The 14-19 Diploma
Diversity
Historic Environment
The Over 50s
The Voluntary Sector Compact
Youth

Each Annual Report was **ADOPTED** without debate or division. The recommendations of the Member Champion for the Historic Environment and for the Voluntary Sector Compact set out in those respective reports were **ENDORSED**.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Reports of the Member Champions be approved.

36 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

14 questions were asked and replies given.

The texts of those questions and their answers, together with those not asked orally, are set out in **Appendix 4 to these minutes**.

37 PROCEDURAL MOTION

A procedural motion, that the meeting continue until all business is finished, was proposed on behalf of the Labour Group.

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **LOST** by 17 votes to 26 (see division 1)

38 **MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL HOUSING**

Motion on behalf the Independent Residents' Group

This Council supports bringing the management of council housing back in-house and will encourage tenants to support this option.

1 **Amendment on behalf the Administration**

Amend to read:

This Council notes the support that this Administration has given Homes in Havering over a number of years and will encourage all its tenants to take part in the consultation on its future.

2 **Amendment by the Labour Group**

Delete all of the words after "This Council supports" and **insert** the following:-

"the Administration proposal to consult with Council Tenants to seek their views on whether to continue with the current arrangement whereby the stock is managed by Homes in Havering or whether to bring this function back in house and re-integrate it into the Housing service and considers that the consultation period with Tenants should not exceed 3 months in duration"

Following debate, the Administration amendment was **CARRIED** by 28 votes to 9 (see division 2), and the Labour amendment was **LOST** by 10 votes to 28 (see division 3). The Administration amendment was then put to the vote as the substantive motion, and **CARRIED** by 28 votes to 9 (see division 4).

RESOLVED that:

This Council notes the support that this Administration has given Homes in Havering over a number of years and will encourage all its tenants to take part in the consultation on its future.

39 **SOCIAL HALL BOOKINGS**

Motion on behalf the Residents' Group

This Council agrees that any bookings made and deposit paid for the use of Tweed Hall, New Windmill Hall or Dukes Hall are duly honoured and fully incorporated into any new management/leasing arrangements in respect of these facilities.

1 **Amendment on behalf the Administration**

Amend to read:

This Council agrees that any bookings made and deposits paid for the use of Tweed Hall, New Windmill Hall or Dukes Hall are duly refunded, and the Council uses its best endeavours to help those affected

Following debate, the Administration amendment was **CARRIED** by 28 votes to 14 (see division 5) and **CARRIED** as the substantive motion by 28 votes to 14 (see division 6).

40 **MOTIONS WITHDRAWN**

With the consent of the Council, the following motions were withdrawn by the Labour Group:

12C **COUNCIL OWNED GARAGE SITES**

12D **ELDERLY PERSONS SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION**

41 **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting divisions is attached as **Appendix 5** to these minutes.

Mayor
23 November 2011

**APPENDIX 1
(Minute 29)****MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I am delighted to tell you that Havering has excelled in this year's London in Bloom competition with gold, silver and a first place award.

Hornchurch Country Park was named Country Park of the Year and awarded a Gold Award and Lodge Farm a Silver Gilt while Langtons Gardens received a Silver Award for Small Park of the Year. We also came first in The London in Bloom Biodiversity Award and was awarded silver in the borough City Group Awards category. My congratulations go to our Parks, StreetCare and Regeneration services. This recognition is very well deserved.

I would now like to ask Martin Stanton from Parks Services, Bob Flindall from Regeneration and Mark Jones and Maria Smart from StreetCare to come up and receive the awards.

I would also like to congratulate our School Catering Service. The service has been awarded the Silver Food for Life Catering Mark by the Soil Association for the fresh seasonal local and organic food it serves. It is one of the first council run catering services in London to receive the national award and one of a few services throughout the country.

I am also pleased to tell you that Havering is set to receive a substantial share in the proceeds of crime confiscated from the criminal behind a global fake golf club scam. Snaresbrook Crown Court this week issued a confiscation order of just under £1million from Gary Bellchambers, who has also been ordered to pay us £250,000 in legal costs. The confiscation order is a result of Operation Augusta, an unprecedented investigation by the Council, which was the biggest of its kind ever to be investigated by our Trading Standards Team and won national recognition. Earlier this year four other members of the gang were ordered to pay a total of £513,000 in confiscation and £130,000 towards our prosecution costs.

On that high note, may I say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the festivals and events such as Cottons Park, Harold Hill Summer Festival and the Community Festival – Mardyke that took place throughout the summer in the borough. The Havering Show once again proved a hit with our residents as did Hornchurch Live with our younger people.

I would also like to mention some equally impressive and enjoyable events. These include the 90th Birthday Parade of the Hornchurch British Legion and the centenary celebration of Romford based Symons and Gay solicitors. A performance of On a Wing and Prayer about Hornchurch Airfield written by Sue Ospreay of the Lightening Theatre Group was also enjoyed as well as a visit to Rainham Marshes Visitor Centre with our neighbouring Mayors.

And there is more to come with the Havering Business Awards on 7 October, our Community Cultural Celebration event at the Queen's Theatre on 22 October, along with the Christmas Lights Switch On in the Market Place on 17 November.

I am especially pleased to say well done to hundreds of our students who received excellent results in their GCSE' and A' Level examinations.

And finally, a word of thanks to everyone who played a part in ensuring the borough remained safe and calm during the London riots. The extraordinary time required exceptional people and I am proud to say Havering wasn't caught lacking.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CEMETERY REGULATIONS

After 5(g) add new regulation 5(h)

The first burial in a standard grave must be for a full burial and not ashes. This is to avoid the cemetery staff needing to disturb the ashes at a later date to carry out a full burial (which, in any case would require an exhumation licence or permission from the Bishop). This is also to ensure that there are enough full graves for those families where burial rather than cremation is the preferred choice.

At 7 (c) replace the Current Regulation in relation to non resident fees:

“All interment and memorial fees shall be doubled in connection with the interment of any person who was neither a resident of the Borough, nor died within the Borough boundaries, except in the case of the interment of a former resident in an already existing private grave”

With new 7(c) proposed change:

7C All cemetery fees shall be doubled for any person who has no residential address within the Borough of Havering. Non-resident fees will apply to all cemetery fees if the deceased resided outside of the London Borough of Havering for a period longer than 5 years or more, at the time of their death. If the deceased purchased a grave whilst resident of the borough, they may be interred as resident.

In the case of a memorial permit application covering more than one deceased, if at least one of the dedications is to a resident of the borough a resident fee shall apply. If there has been no burial in the grave, a non-resident fee will be applied to any grave purchaser whose address is outside of the London Borough of Havering.”

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 1 **Part 3, Section 4 Functions not to be the responsibility of the Council's Executive: (A) Functions relating to Town and Country Planning and Planning Control**

Insert new paragraph 11A following paragraph 11:

Function	Provisions of Act or Statutory Instrument	Decision Making body
11A Power to issue and serve a discontinuance notice to secure the discontinuance of the use for the display of advertisements of any site which is being so used in contravention of the regulations.	The regulations made pursuant to Sections 220 and 224 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, namely The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory Services Committee • Head of Development & Building Control

- 2 **Section 3.7.6(p) of the Constitution, powers delegated to the Head of Development and Building Control**

Delete 3.7.6 (p) (iv) and add 3.7.6 (bb) (following (aa)) as follows:

“(bb) To take any action as necessary to achieve compliance with any case to issue a Temporary Stop Notice.”

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Note: Questions 1 to 14 were answered at the meeting. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.6(a); the remainder were treated as if put for written answer

1 REVIEW OF VILLAGE GREEN LEGISLATION

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

The legislation around applying for village green status is currently under review and subject to consultation (14th October 2011). Would the Cabinet Member please set out the initial position of the Council and would he also agree that a cross-party response be submitted

Answer:

The primary objectives of the consultation are to:-

- a) strike a better balance between protecting high quality green space, valued by local communities, and enabling legitimate development to occur where it is most appropriate; and
- b) ensure that when land is registered as a green, because of the exceptional protection afforded to new greens, the land concerned really does deserve the level of protection it will get.

The DEFRA Consultation on Village Greens ends on 17th October 2011. An Executive Decision of the appropriate Cabinet member/s will be required to authorise a response to this consultation.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member expressed concern that there was trivialising of the concept of "village greens", using the legislation as a means of frustrating development rather than protecting genuine village greens. Nonetheless, account would be taken of any written suggestions as to what should be in the Council's response to DEFRA when any decision was taken.

2 GUYSFIELD DRIVE HOSTEL

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

Following the decision of Weston Homes to abandon their monstrous plans for Dovers Corner, will the Administration also withdraw their plans for a monster sized Hostel in Guysfield Drive

Answer:

It is unhelpful to liken the large-scale, new build Dovers Corner scheme to the proposal to internally remodel the former Will Perrin Court sheltered scheme in Guysfield Drive to provide temporary hostel accommodation. They are totally different propositions.

The Will Perrin Court proposal does not include any change to the size of the existing building on Guysfield Drive; there are no proposals to extend the building. Instead, the proposal would see internal reconfiguration to provide small, self-contained units of accommodation which would be occupied by households for around three months. The proposal would also include improvements

to the landscaping and security of the building's grounds and car parks, which are likely to also be of benefit to the building's neighbours.

The Administration has no plans to withdraw the proposal for Will Perrin Court. The issues raised by residents and stakeholders, such as the Police, during the planning application consultation period will be taken into account by the Regulatory Services Committee.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that residents had had opportunity to make representations about the development proposal, both through the planning process and by way of a special "Ask the Cabinet" session, held in the locality.

3 FUTURE OF COMMUNITY HALLS

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Denis Breading

Will he make a statement about the future of the Council's Community Halls?

Answer:

The review of community halls, as referred to in the Cabinet papers on the Council's Financial Strategy at their meeting on 13 July 2011, is due to be reported to the Cabinet meeting on 19 October 2011. I am unable to make a statement about the Council's Community Halls until this report on the review has been considered by Cabinet.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member advised that, in view of the potential disposal, staff had stopped taking bookings for dates beyond that proposed for the disposal, should it be authorised in order to avoid causing disappointment to those seeking to make a booking.

4 ROMFORD LEISURE CENTRE PROPOSALS

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Gillian Ford (in the absence of Councillor Clarence Barrett)

In the Summer issue of the Gidea Park, Heath Park and Ardleigh Green Newsletter produced by the 'Conservative Action Team', the lead article states that RA councillors have criticised the new Leisure centre planned for Romford and are politically opposed to it. Would the Leader provide substantive evidence to back up this claim or retract the statement?

Answer:

The article draws attention to the fact that the RA Group and their friends in the Labour Party decided to requisition this decision. That was true – I have the minutes in front of me, and it was a close vote, 5:4 – but I do believe that if the Members had not seen sense and supported this Administration's to move forward with its very ambitious programme for delivering a new leisure centre in Romford, then we could have seen it come off the rails. They could have made hay with that as well but we have said we are sticking to our guns in light of the opposition from the other Groups so that we continue to try to deliver a new leisure centre for the people of Romford.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader expressed bafflement at the continued opposition from other Groups to the new development and the continued attack on Romford.

5 COST OF CARBON TAXES

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor David Durant

What is the estimated cost to Havering Council of carbon taxes and does the Council Leader agree that these taxes undermine the economic recovery?

Answer:

The Council made provision of £450k to fund the cost of these allowances as part of its 2011-12 budget. This is clearly set out in the budget report to Cabinet in February.

At current consumption patterns the value of the credits that the Council would need to purchase would be approximately £380k, 53% of which is the result of energy consumption within schools.

It is unlikely that this will have any direct impact on Havering in the current financial year. As such, there is also therefore unlikely to be any marked impact on the economic recovery at the present time.

6 NEIGHBOURHOOD RESPONSIBILITY

To the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment (Councillor Robert Benham)

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

When will the analysis of the scheme piloted on the Briar Road Estate (and referred to in the Leader's Statement to Council on 25 May 2011) be published and consideration be given to using it as a model of how the Council can involve communities more in the management of their neighbourhoods?

Answer:

The Active and Safer Communities scheme being piloted on the Briar Road Estate has the Briar Residents Action Group at its heart and is working closely in partnership with service providers including the Council's StreetCare, Community Safety and Housing teams, Homes In Havering and the Police. The partnership includes regular meetings with the BRAG Committee, estate inspections, well attended monthly public meetings (open to all residents and local groups) and a Strategic Operational Group to co-ordinate services. The first fruits of this new partnership with the local community are:

- a general improvement in estate cleanliness and appearance through the efforts of both residents and service providers;
- a new 'Clean N Green' Neighbourhood Agreement to be presented to residents at a BRAG public meeting by the Head of StreetCare on 28th September.

The development of the model is still in its early stages and will be presented to Council in due course.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that the present was a pilot scheme. Consideration would be given in due course, when the results were known, to extending it to other areas.

7 PLANNING APPLICATIONS: MISSED DEADLINES

To the Chairman of the Regulatory Services Committee (Councillor Barry Oddy)

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Over the last three years, would the Chairman set out how many planning applications have missed the decision deadline resulting in the applicant appealing directly to the Planning Inspectorate?

Answer:

Since September 2008, there have been five applications where the applicant has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate on the grounds of non-determination. Of these, three were applications for planning permission and two were applications for Certificates of Lawfulness.

8 COSTS OF STANDARDS ENQUIRY

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns) (answered by Councillor Michael White in the absence of Councillor Starns)

By Councillor Mark Logan

At the Full Council meeting in March, I requested details of the full Barrister costs in relation to the Mark Gadd Standards Board investigation. Councillor Starns said he would send me this information, but has not done so. Therefore, I repeat my request for this information.

Answer:

Now that the Council has received the final invoice from the barrister's chambers, I can confirm that the total cost to the Council for the barristers involved was £9,052.

9 GOAL FOR LEARNING

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Pat Murray

When will he be announcing initiatives to achieve the 'aspirational goal for learning' of "wanting our older residents to have access to first class opportunities to continue their education or learn new skills" referred to in the Leaders Statement to Council on 25 May 2011?

Answer:

At the start of the year, as part of the Learning Transformation programme, Havering Adult College commissioned a review of the current provision for Informal Adult and Community Learning within the Borough. The review included provision made by Havering Adult College, Health & Sports, Libraries, Fairkytes and the Europa Centre. The draft report found that there is a broad range of high quality provision currently on offer and whilst there is some duplication of courses across providers, this is limited and appears presently to be largely justified by the demand.

The report includes a number of recommendations including;

- That a group of officers is convened with a senior representative from each of the providers by the Heads of Service of Learning and Achievement and Culture and Leisure to consider how they could best work together to ensure high quality provision is maintained
- As a priority, this group should produce plans and arrangements for responding quickly and effectively to pressures for change which may arise in the next few months due to external factors, such as significant losses of revenue.
- A strategy is developed for the provision of informal adult and community learning and its development in Havering over the next three years with an action plan for the next year.
- An electronically based information exchange system between members of the group is established to enable quick and efficient exchange of significant information in a rapidly changing situation and to support bids for external funding.

These recommendations are currently being discussed amongst senior LA officers before being taken forward.

In terms of the national context, in August 2011, the Government launched a consultation New Challenges, New Chances, which represents the next phase of the Government's plans to implement radical reform of adult learning and skills provision in England. The consultation covers a range of measures, but includes a refocusing of Government support for informal adult and community learning to ensure it supports relevant Government policy objectives, such as building the Big Society and engages and motivates people from disadvantaged groups to learn and progress, including to skills-focused learning and employment.

Following the consultation, the Government will publish details of key implementation milestones in the skills investment statement for 2012/13, this is planned for publication autumn 2011 and will have to be taken into account when developing the strategy recommended above.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that further reports on the issues would follow in due course.

10 ALLEGED BLACKLISTING OF INDIVIDUALS

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

On 16 July 2011, the Daily Mail ran a story stating that thousands of people involved in disagreements with council staff had their personal details stored on secret blacklists. Would the Leader of the Council confirm that no such lists exist in Havering?

Answer:

The article in the Daily Mail seems to be referring to general "watch lists" or "registers of potentially violent people" (both descriptions are taken from the story). We don't have any such lists in Havering.

11 CCTV COVERAGE FOR RAINHAM VILLAGE

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns) (answered by Councillor Michael White in the absence of Councillor Starns)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

If CCTV in our High Streets is beneficial then coverage should be extended to all parts of Havering. Rainham has been excluded due to cost, but this matter can now be remedied because the GLA has allocated special funding to improve Rainham and Hornchurch High Streets. Will some of this funding now be spent on providing CCTV coverage in Rainham Village? If not, why not?

Answer:

The Council has successfully secured £220K from the Outer London Fund Round 1. The funding will be used to support and promote local businesses and community activities in Rainham through an agreed programme of works including:-

- A shop local campaign to promote local shops through publicity and promotional materials and a "Love your High Street" programme in the run up to Christmas which will offer shopkeepers advice and support to create distinctive window displays.
- Support for the RAVE Christmas Fair and new Christmas lighting.
- A programme of events promoting Rainham and its heritage including a proposal to decorate shop shutters with historic Rainham scenes.
- The creation of an arts and heritage trail through Rainham Village, and a small programme of public realm improvements.

These activities will begin in the run up to Christmas through to March 2012.

The funding allocated is specifically for those projects I've just mentioned and is not available for general use on other projects such as CCTV in Rainham. There was no specific provision in Round 1 for CCTV.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member expressed hope that it would be possible on due course to introduce CCTV in Rainham but no timescale could be given and it was dependent on the funding being available.

12 COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns) (answered by Councillor Michael White in the absence of Councillor Starns)

By Councillor Paul McGeary

In the Leaders Statement to Council on 25 May 2011 he stated that your project "will consider how we can do more to put our customers-council taxpayers and their families at the heart of our decision making" what new initiatives/proposals are proposed to achieve these aims?

Answer:

The Council has taken important steps to increase local people's influence over our decision-making within Havering. For instance, we recently carried out the largest household survey we have ever done, the Your Council Your Say survey, in which we received over 11,000 responses. Residents told us what their top five priorities were, and what they most wanted to see improved in their local area. Over 3,000 of these people gave us their contact details and asked to be kept informed about how they could get more involved in their local area.

The Council's new Corporate Strategy has been based on what residents told us was most important to them. It includes, for example, further measures to improve community safety through neighbourhood agreements, keeping the streets clean, increasing personal budgets to give vulnerable people more choice over their daily lives, and making it much more easy to contact the Council.

One of the workstreams within the Council Effectiveness project is to improve how we use customer insight information, which involves gathering all the intelligence that we have about our customers, and using this to target services at those with the greatest needs, and to communicate better with residents according to how they prefer to be contacted by the Council.

We are also looking at how new ways of engagement, such as social media, can be used to involve local people in decision-making.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader stressed that consultation with the community informed decision making but did not direct it. The community needed to be aware of how well the Council was performing, and the aim was to get the community to help set the targets the Council should aim to achieve.

13 POSSIBLE DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL-OWNED SHOPS

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Given the proposed changes to the Housing Revenue Account and the need for the council to raise money and cut its costs, would the Cabinet Member confirm if there are any plans to dispose of council owned shops in the borough?

Answer:

Shops held within the Housing Revenue Account, HRA, are well-managed and typically in good demand, thus they contribute income to the Council's HRA rather than act as a cost. For example, the shops in Farnham Road and Hilldene Avenue in Harold Hill provide a thriving hub for the area with recent improvements to the car parking as part of the Harold Hill Ambitions programme adding to their accessibility.

The parade of shops on the Briar Road estate are, however, less popular. This parade has seven shops, but three are empty, and it is difficult to attract new tenants. Thus, as part of the regeneration of the estate, the Council has identified the shops as a specific redevelopment opportunity within the brief to potential redevelopment partners. These works would see the current shops and associated flats demolished, with a new 'village square' being developed to include shops, housing and potentially other community uses, such as a GP's surgery.

The ownership arrangements for the proposed new shops on the Briar Road estate will be considered in more detail once a redevelopment partner has been selected.

HRA shops are generally within multi-storey buildings with residential, separately-let, accommodation above. Freehold sale of shops would involve selling the freehold of a block in which secure tenancies exist, which for practical purposes is not possible. A long leasehold disposal of shops would cause management issues over maintenance and responsibilities that are best avoided.

The housing self-financing legislation brings about a fundamental change to the way in which the HRA is financed. However, these changes do not necessarily imply the need for cuts. A report is being prepared for Cabinet which will provide further details of the proposals.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member affirmed that, as the Council had shops in its property portfolio, producing useful income, it was bound to manage them properly.

14 IN-HOUSE MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL HOUSING: COSTS AND SAVINGS

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

As an estimate what are the anticipated costs and savings from bringing the management of council housing back in-house?

Answer:

The estimated savings from bringing the management of council housing back in house are between £300,000 and £500,000.

15 **COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT**

To the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns & Communities (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

In the Leader's Statement to Council on 25 May 2011 he stated that the Community Action Project is "aimed squarely at achieving as much as we can through our partnerships with the voluntary and community sector and our efforts to encourage local residents to have a real stake in the future of their Borough" what new initiatives can he announce and is he yet in a position to see just how much an appetite there is in Havering for the Big Society?

Answer:

I have dwelt upon the matter which Councillor Darvill raises in both of the Champions reports which I submitted tonight.

A number of changes are occurring to effect the Government's stated aim of shifting power from the centre to local communities and charitable organisations at the moment, including investigation of new and alternative ways of ensuring ongoing revenue funding for organisations in the third sector. We are very interested in these ideas, and are working with relevant national and local organisations to see whether they may offer a positive way of expanding the number of local charities in the borough, and in that sense make society in Havering "bigger", as well as protecting the charitable infrastructure that we already have. We are also working with relevant local charitable organisations to see whether further income generation opportunities exist for them which would enable them to intensify and extend their work for people in Havering. It is worth noting that Havering Council has not significantly reduced the level of support it is giving to charitable and third sector organisations in Havering despite the current financial stringency. This does seem to mark us out from other boroughs.

At the level of smaller, but equally important, voluntary and charitable endeavour in Havering, which does not require ongoing funding to employ staff for example, we are keen to hear from all in the sector of things which the Council could stop doing or requiring of them, which would help to make volunteering more pleasurable and less onerous for local people.

New initiatives in response to both of these areas of policy will be announced through Cabinet reports or Executive decisions when reasonable ways of making progress on them are developed in partnership with the community and local charitable organisations.

The evidence that we have from consultation with residents suggests that there is already extensive voluntary activity and community action taking place in Havering. For example, in the last Place Survey in 2010, 39% of residents said that they regularly gave unpaid help to local groups, clubs or voluntary organisations - one of the highest rates of voluntary activity in London. I think that there is, as there has always been, a healthy appetite on the part of Havering residents to support local charities and do good in the local community, and the Administration will continue to respond with interest to new ideas as to how this can best be organised, whether they originate from the local community or national government."

16 **MEMBERS' RESIDENCES**

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Leader please confirm that the principal residence of all Conservative members is within the boundary of the borough?

Answer:

The rules are that you either have to reside, own property or work in Havering at the time of the election. To my knowledge all Councillors meet those criteria. If Cllr. Barrett knows differently then I would ask him to put forward that information.

17 FUTURE OF NAPIER HOUSE AND NEW PLYMOUTH HOUSE TOWER BLOCKS

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

What are the Council's plans regarding the tower blocks, New Plymouth House and Napier House, located in Dunedin Road in South Hornchurch Ward?

- 1 Are they to be renovated or demolished?
- 2 Please provide a clear and specific time period for my residents as to when one or the other will occur

Answer:

The Council fully appreciates that New Plymouth and Napier Houses are in very poor condition, far below the standard tenants should expect.

As a result, I as Lead Member for Housing instructed Housing Officers to establish the costs of two options – full refurbishment and renovation, and the decanting of residents with a view to demolishing the blocks.

Renovation of the blocks would have a significant cost to the HRA capital programme, while decanting and demolition may not yield a large enough receipt to cover the costs of relocating the tenants and buying out the leaseholders, thus leaving a residual cost for the Council. Therefore, officers and myself are scrutinising the figures extremely closely in order to determine the best approach.

There is no agreed plan at present, but I anticipate being able to discuss proposals with the residents of New Plymouth and Napier Houses and their representatives before the end of this financial year, thus giving greater certainty to residents from 2012/13 onwards.

18 GOAL OF TOWN & COMMUNITIES

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

In the Leader's Statement to Council on 25 May 2011 he stated "We will encourage local people to play a more active part in shaping the places where they live" and "we will make it easier for individuals and community groups to meet their own needs locally" what initiatives are being considered to achieve these goals?

Answer:

There are a number of initiatives already under way that encourage local residents to play an active part in shaping their neighbourhoods. For instance:

- residents of Orchard Village, formerly the Mardyke Estate, in Rainham continue to be actively engaged in shaping the regeneration of their estate through a Residents Committee, a Neighbourhood Board and a Community Stakeholders Forum. An effective partnership has been formed made up of the residents, Old Ford Housing Association, the Mardyke Youth and Community Association, Newton's School, the local nursery, the Police and the Council. The result is high quality new homes, improvements to local community

facilities, a safer neighbourhood and a positive feeling of hope amongst residents that they can and are influencing their future.

- residents of the Briar Road estate in Harold Hill, including local community groups, have been actively involved in putting together a ten point Briar Improvements Action Plan with the Council and Homes in Havering. This has taken place through public meetings, a residents' survey, round table workshops and individual one to one meetings. The fruits of this work have seen the completion of the improvements to the Betty Strathern Centre, managed by the Briar Community Association, new roofs, windows and kitchens for tenants through the Decent Homes programme, improvements for some owners via the London Rebuilding Society, and a general improvement in estate cleanliness through the work with the Briar Residents Action Group.

The Council is also making great strides in enabling more vulnerable people to use personal budgets to meet their own needs how they see fit - giving them more control and choice over their own lives.

We also work with voluntary sector partners such as HAVCO and Age Concern to encourage more local people to get involved in volunteering and making a difference to their local communities.

19 **SUB-LETTING OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor L Kelly)

By Councillor Linda Van den Hende

What steps are being taken to tackle the sub-letting of council owned properties?

Answer:

The Council takes a robust approach to tackling the sub-letting and fraudulent use of its properties. Homes in Havering have traditionally led on this activity. In August this year, however, the Council established a Tenancy Fraud Investigation Team funded by a grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government. The funding is available for the next two years. This Team of two investigators has strengthened the previous approach, with the Council's team now carrying out the investigative work and Homes in Havering taking the necessary legal action to gain possession.

The Team has two investigators who are working alongside colleagues that investigate Housing Benefit Fraud. They carry out investigations into sub-letting and tenants not using properties as their main or principal home as well as a variety of other housing related offences. They use a variety of methods to identify and deal with the cases such as advertising the issue in tenant newsletters, intelligence gathering, pro-active data matching, tenancy audits, visits and interviews.

Over the last four years, around 5,700 tenancy audits have been carried out. The latest figures show that in 2010/11 possession of eight fraudulently used council properties was gained. The Tenancy Fraud Investigation Team currently has 32 properties under investigation; these include council owned and housing associations properties in the borough.

20 **PLANNING APPLICANTS' FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO POLITICAL PARTIES**

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns) (answered by Councillor Michael White in the absence of Councillor Starns)

By Councillor David Durant

If a planning application is submitted by someone who has made a donation or loan to a political party, should members of that political party on the Regulatory Services Committee declare an interest?

Answer:

The requirement to declare a prejudicial interest is set out in Part 2 of the Members' Code of Conduct which the Councillor has ready access to.

If somebody was offering to make a payment to a political party or withdraw a payment if a particular decision was made or action taken by the Council then the members of that party would have to declare an interest. However, a donation made without conditions does not create declarable interest for members of that party under the terms of the Code.

21 ATTENDANCE AT CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member advise why this Council does not allow a Member to attend a child protection conference when requested to do so by a parent who lives in the Member's ward even in just an observational capacity?

Answer:

There is no blanket policy prohibiting this within the Council. There are a number of potential difficulties involved in it not least any potential conflict of interest and the confidential nature of much of the information shared at such case conferences which are held by agencies other than the Council.

This issue was discussed at the recent training for members on safeguarding and the expert advice from that training session was that this was not an appropriate exercise of the member role. Members are encouraged to assure themselves of the effectiveness of the Safeguarding children arrangements within the Council through the Overview and Scrutiny process.

As a consequence of the complexities involved, and the advice given at the member training event, the service is currently consulting with legal services colleagues on whether a clearer policy position would be helpful.

22 ADVERTISING ON LAMP POSTS

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebutt)

By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

In respect of the advertising banners attached to lamp posts in Upminster, would the Cabinet Member please state how much income has been generated to date, by which advertisers and if the income target is projected to be met this financial year?

Answer:

The income target for advertising is a total sum and not split into individual categories (e.g. roundabouts, hoardings, lamp columns etc.), nor is this broken down geographically.

The Council has a contract with a company that manages the letting process. As such we do not maintain details of the actual advertisers using the facility or where they are specifically placed.

Income actually received for the first 6 months in respect of all lamp column advertising is £418.

A full assessment of the financial position is in the process of being undertaken and will be reflected in the revenue budget monitor reports, which are available through the intranet and the members' area of the website.

23 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Cabinet Member explain why, with nearly half the 2011/12 financial year gone, no budget monitoring report has been considered by Cabinet or published anywhere in the public domain?

Answer:

I have addressed a similar question at previous Council meetings, the approach taken by the Council is to place budget monitoring reports into the Members area of the intranet, and subsequently onto the Council's website.

Cabinet members will be aware that a number of reports to Cabinet meetings include a summary of the position in the current year, and often the monitoring report itself. This information is key in enabling Cabinet to reach informed decisions on the Council's budget.

There is a time lag between the end of each monitoring period and the finalisation of the associated report. This year, 2011-12, there have been the added complications of the launch of the Council's new website, and the implementation of the new Oracle systems.

These have delayed the process of producing the revenue monitoring reports and their subsequent publication. However, I am pleased to advise Council that both the period 3 and 4 reports are now available in the Members area on the Council's website.

Appendix 5

DIVISION NUMBER:	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Mayor [Cllr. Melvin Wallace]	O	O	O	O	O	O
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Lynden Thorpe]	O	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
CONSERVATIVE GROUP						
Cllr. Michael White	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Michael Armstrong	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Robert Benham	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Becky Bennett	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Sandra Binion	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Jeff Brace	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Wendy Brice-Thompson	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Dennis Bull	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Andrew Curtin	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Osman Dervish	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Ted Eden	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Roger Evans	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Georgina Galpin	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Peter Gardner	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Lesley Kelly	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Steven Kelly	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Pam Light	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Robby Misir	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Eric Munday	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Barry Oddy	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Frederick Osborne	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Gary Pain	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Roger Ramsey	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Paul Rochford	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Geoffrey Starns	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Billy Taylor	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Barry Tebbutt	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Frederick Thompson	O	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Linda Trew	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Keith Wells	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Damian White	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
RESIDENTS' GROUP						
Cllr. Clarence Barrett	✓	O	O	O	X	X
Cllr. June Alexander	✓	O	O	O	X	X
Cllr. Nic Dodin	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Brian Eagling	✓	O	O	O	X	X
Cllr. Gillian Ford	✓	O	O	O	X	X
Cllr. Linda Hawthorn	✓	O	O	O	X	X
Cllr. Barbara Matthews	O	O	✓	O	X	X
Cllr. Ray Morgon	✓	O	O	O	X	X
Cllr. John Mylod	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Ron Ower	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Linda Van den Hende	✓	O	O	O	X	X
Cllr. John Wood	✓	O	O	O	X	X
LABOUR GROUP						
Cllr. Keith Darvill	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr. Denis Breading	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr. Paul McGeary	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr. Pat Murray	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr. Denis O'Flynn	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
INDEPENDENT LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP						
Cllr. Jeffery Tucker	✓	X	✓	X	O	O
Cllr. Michael Deon Burton	✓	X	✓	X	O	O
Cllr. David Durant	✓	X	✓	X	O	O
Cllr. Mark Logan	✓	X	✓	X	O	O
TOTALS						
✓ = YES	17	28	10	28	28	28
X = NO	26	9	28	9	14	14
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	4	10	9	10	5	5
ID = DECLARATION OF INTEREST/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	7	7	7	7	7	7
	54	54	54	54	54	54

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

5A PROCEDURAL MOTION

Procedural motion by the Administration

That the debates on agenda items 12 (Report: The future of Queens Hospital) and 14D (Motion: Queens Hospital) be amalgamated and take place immediately after agenda item 6 (Petitions)

[Note - the order of the agenda would then be:

- 12 **THE FUTURE OF QUEEN'S HOSPITAL**
- 7 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT**
- 8 **THE REFORM OF COUNCIL HOUSING FINANCE (IMPLEMENTATION)**
- 9 **BRIAR ESTATE DEVELOPMENT - APPROVAL OF £2M CAPITAL BUDGET ADDITION TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME**
- 10 **POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW**
- 10A **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**
- 11 **PROPOSED NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**
- 13 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**
- 14 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE]**

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REPORT OF THE CABINET

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised November 2009) has been adopted by this Council.

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

1. Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
2. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
3. Receipt by the full council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a **Mid-year Review Report** and an Annual Report (stewardship report) covering activities during the previous year.
4. Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
5. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is the Audit Committee.

The mid year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:

- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
- The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators)
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2011/12
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2011/12

- A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2011/12
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2011/12

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) To approve the changes to the prudential indicators (including the changes set out in paragraph 2.2 and 2.3 of the appendix relating to the HRA reform).
- 2) To approve the changes to the investment criteria as set out at paragraph 1.2 of the appendix

APPENDIX

1 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy update

1.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2011/12 was approved by this Council as part of its annual budget setting process. The underlying TMSS approved previously requires revision in the light of economic and operational movements during the year. The proposed changes and supporting detail for the changes are set out below:

1.2 Subject to statutory powers, the Council will be required to make a one off payment to the CLG to remove the HRA from the current housing subsidy system. This one off payment is compensation, ensuring the HRA will no longer make future annual payments to the CLG. It is expected that the overall impact will be beneficial to the Council. Whilst the legislative framework is not yet in place, by agreeing to these revised prudential indicators the Council is ensuring the necessary local requirements are in place well before the payment is required on the 28th March 2012. Members are therefore requested to approve the following key changes to the 2011/12 prudential indicators:

Prudential 2011/12	Indicator	Original £'000	Impact of HRA Reform £'000	Revised Prudential Indicator £'000
	Authorised Limit	£97,000	£200,000	£297,000
	Operational Boundary	£77,000	£200,000	£277,000
Capital Requirement	Financing	£58,757	£178,000	£236,757

1.3 The Council's Annual Investment Strategy, which is incorporated in the TMSS, outlines the Council's investment priorities as follows:

- Security of capital
- Liquidity

1.4 The Council will also aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep the majority of investments short term, and only invest with highly credit rated financial institutions.

- 1.5 As a result of the Authorities strict lending criteria, the recent downgrade on the 7th October of many of the UK's leading banks, has meant many of the top UK banks, including the Authorities own bankers are now no longer eligible as approved counterparties. Because of the current economic climate and the uncertainties over many of the European countries, Members are therefore requested to approve the amendment of the investment strategy so that the Authority is able to continue to place deposits with the major UK clearing banks. To allow this it is proposed that the initial tranche of Institutions covered by the UK Government liquidity guarantee scheme* (subject to further market intelligence) be included as an eligible counterparty.

*The UK Government liquidity guarantee scheme allows banks to swap high quality securities for UK treasury bills to assist in liquidity

- 1.6 The above amendment to the investment strategy has been developed in consultation with our treasury advisers who already include all the banks covered by the above change on their suggested counterparty list.

2 The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)

2.1 HRA Reform

- 2.1.1 The proposed reform of the HRA subsidy arrangements are expected to take place on 28 March 2012. This will involve the Council paying funds to the CLG which will remove the Council from the HRA subsidy system. This will impact on both the capital structure of the Council (as the HRA Capital Financing Requirement will rise by the size of the CLG payment), and the treasury management service will need to consider the funding implications for the borrowing. The Council's prudential indicators shown below highlight the position in relation to the original position, and the expected impact of the HRA reform payment is incorporated in the recommended prudential indicator changes in section 4. The new HRA Capital Financing Requirement will form a cap on any future HRA capital expenditure.

2.2 Changes to the Prudential Indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) and the Operational Boundary

- 2.2.1 The table shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period. This is termed the Operational Boundary.

	2011/12 Original Estimate £'000	Impact of HRA Reform £'000	2011/12 Revised Estimate £m
Prudential Indicator – Capital Financing Requirement			
CFR – non housing	£41,288	£0	£41,288
CFR – housing	£17,469	£178,000	£195,469
Total CFR	£58,757	£178,000	£236,757
Prudential Indicator – Operational Boundary			
Borrowing	£75,000	£200,000	£275,000
Other long term liabilities*	£2,000	£0	£2,000
Total debt 31 March	£77,000	£44,986	£277,000

2.3 Limits to Borrowing Activity

2.3.1 The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing will only be for a capital purpose. Net external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2011/12 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need which will be adhered to if this proves prudent.

	2011/12 Original Estimate £'000	Current Position £'000	2011/12 Revised Estimate £'000
Gross borrowing	£44,986	£44,986	£222,986
CFR(year end position)	£58,757	£58,757	£236,757

2.3.2 The Director of Finance reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with this prudential indicator.

2.3.3 A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

Authorised limit for external debt	2011/12 Original Indicator	Impact of HRA Reform £'000	2011/12 Revised Indicator
Borrowing	£95,000	£200,000	£295,000
Other long term liabilities*	£2,000	£0	£2,000
Total	£97,000	£200,000	£297,000

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

7 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT

Some typographical errors have been identified in certain tables in this report. The correct versions of tables are set out below.

The following tables replace those indicated:

Page 29: para 2.2.1

	2011/12 Original Estimate £'000	Impact of HRA Reform £'000	2011/12 Revised Estimate £'000
Prudential Indicator – Capital Financing Requirement			
CFR – non housing	£41,288	£0	£41,288
CFR – housing	£17,469	£178,000	£195,469
Total CFR	£58,757	£178,000	£236,757
Prudential Indicator – Operational Boundary			
Borrowing	£75,000	£200,000	£275,000
Other long term liabilities*	£2,000	£0	£2,000
Total debt 31 March	£77,000	£200,000	£277,000

Page 30: para 2.3.3

Authorised limit for external debt	2011/12 Original Indicator £'000	Impact of HRA Reform £'000	2011/12 Revised Indicator £,000
Borrowing	£95,000	£200,000	£295,000
Other long term liabilities*	£2,000	£0	£2,000
Total	£97,000	£200,000	£297,000

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REPORT OF THE CABINET

THE REFORM OF COUNCIL HOUSING FINANCE (IMPLEMENTATION)

The Government is implementing a scheme which will bring the Housing Subsidy system to an end in April 2012. The enabling legislation is included within the Localism Bill, which is due to pass into law in December 2011. What is proposed in effect is that local authorities would get the independence and responsibility for the management of their housing stock that they are seeking, but this would be in return for a “payment” which represents the redistribution of the national housing debt in the form of a one off payment to or from Central Government. For Havering Council, this would be a payment to the Government given that the Council is already in negative subsidy, that is, it pays into the national HRA subsidy each year under the current arrangements. The national balance of these individual payments for and to housing authorities represents some part of the future surpluses that the Government had anticipated it would have received had the system continued in its present form.

Cabinet received a report in October 2011 which presented information about the proposed new Housing Revenue Account System which is due to be implemented in April 2012. Under the new system, it is currently projected to require the London Borough of Havering to take on estimated additional housing debt of £160m, which will mean that the Council’s total housing debt will be £203m. These estimates are subject to changes before the final figures are known in January 2012. It was reported that the Council would have to manage this debt and deliver a decent level of stock investment over a 30 year HRA Business Plan. The initial baseline HRA Business Plan model presented to Cabinet showed that this is achievable as long as the Decent Homes funding allocated in February 2011 remains in place.

Cabinet endorsed the baseline HRA Business Plan Model (as set out in the Appendix to this report) for the management of the Council Housing stock over the next 30 years and the assumptions that were included in it. It also committed to carrying out an annual review of the HRA Business Plan, in order to ensure that the objectives of maintaining the condition of the Council’s housing stock and meeting the Council’s financial obligations were fulfilled.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the baseline HRA Business Plan model

The Baseline HRA Business Plan Model

APPENDIX

The first set of financial models that have been constructed look at what would happen if the current system continued in the present form. This would result in a very difficult position for the Council over the forthcoming years. The stock investment work that is required would never be completed; the level of housing debt would never be paid off, and the HRA would quickly go into deficit and end up at a negative figure of minus £50m by Year 30 if no action was taken to drastically reduce costs. This is illustrated at Appendix 1.

*Under the Self Financing regime, there is a better future in prospect, although of course there are risks associated with this regime that need to be taken into account. A **baseline HRA Business Plan model** has been drawn up. It should be noted that given that the final debt figures are yet to be released by the Government, the work to date should be considered a baseline model, rather than a finalised opening HRA Business Plan. Housing, Homes in Havering and Finance officers have worked together to establish a series of prudent assumptions for baseline HRA Business Plan model, which are as follows:*

- *RPI at 2.5% through the life of the plan*
- *financing costs at 6.0% through the life of the plan*
- *13 properties sold through the Right to Buy each year throughout the life of the HRA Business Plan (which is the current level of disposals)*
- *the stock investment requirement is that identified in the Stock Condition Survey (which is more than is required under Decent Homes, though not beyond a 'mortgageable' level for the properties)*
- *balances in the HRA need to be maintained at a minimum provision of £2m*
- *Right to Buy receipts are not used for housing purposes up to the level of anticipated sales*
- *Decent Homes funding is provided by the Government as allocated in February 2011 (£62.7m over four years)*
- *voids level at 1.4% and bad debt at 0.76%*
- *opening number of properties 9,959, with an average rent of £74.92*
- *opening debt of £203.097m (net additional debt of £160.342m). It should be noted that should the new RPI rate of 4.5% would increase the total debt figure by £6.5m.*

The baseline HRA Business Plan model is illustrated at Appendix 2. Under the model, balances can be maintained at the minimum required level, whilst the work is carried out. The baseline HRA Business Plan model shows that the backlog of work is completed in Year 12, and thereafter the balances begin to rise which enables the Council to pay of its debt by Year 24, if it chooses to do so. It should be noted that completing all the backlog of stock investment within 12 years, may not be readily acceptable to tenants, however, it should be noted that decent homes investment will be completed by year 8 at the latest. The Government

requires that for councils with non-decent stock, the HRA Business Plan must deliver the last 10% of non-decency through its own resources. Also, there is the added pressure of newly arising non-decency. That said, through prioritisation of decency above other investment, decency could be delivered before year 8 if desirable.

A number of alternative assumptions and scenarios have been applied to the baseline HRA Business Plan model so as to test the impact of a range of actions and approaches to planning for the housing stock over a 30 year HRA Business Plan. The scenarios are set out below in Table 1, and the summary of the impact is shown in Table 2.

There are in fact an infinite number of alternative scenarios that could be examined, and it is likely that over time as the HRA Business Plan is reviewed and tested, a mix of factors will pertain. For example, in the examples in the table, it is assumed that either no or all the RTB receipts are applied to Housing, but it is of course possible to apply different proportions in the HRA Business Plan and assess the impact.

SCENARIO		HRA Surplus Point (>£2m) Year	SCS Investment Backlog cleared Year	Debt Free Point Year
	Baseline HRA Business Plan model	24	12	24
<i>Variants to the baseline HRA Business Plan model</i>				
1	<i>RPI = 4% rather than 2.5%</i>	21	11	21
2	<i>Inflation on capital 1% > RPI</i>	28	16	28
3	<i>Inflation on capital 2% > RPI for first 10 years</i>	29	20	29
4	<i>Interest Rate 7% compared with current assumption of 6%</i>	27	17	26
5	<i>RTB sales rise to 50 instead of 13 per annum</i>	27	14	27
6	<i>Right to Buy receipts are applied to the HRA Business Plan</i>	24	11	23
7	<i>No real ½% inflation on rents</i>	30	18	30
8	<i>Reduce level of investment to minimum Decent Homes Level</i>	20	8	20
9	<i>Debt settlement figure £6.25m higher (possible 2012/13 settlement figure)</i>	25	13	25
1	<i>No real ½% inflation on rents</i>	30+	26	30+
0	<i>Interest Rate 7% compared with 6%</i>			
1	<i>No real ½% inflation on rents</i>	30+	23	30+
1	<i>Interest Rate 7% compared with 6%</i>			
	<i>Invest Decent Homes Level</i>			
1	<i>No real ½% inflation on rents</i>	30+	27	30+
2	<i>Inflation on capital 1% > RPI</i>			
1	<i>Interest Rate 7% compared with 6%</i>	30	23	30
3	<i>Inflation on capital 1% > RPI</i>			
1	<i>Interest Rate 7% compared with 6%</i>	29	21	29
4	<i>Inflation on capital 1% > RPI;</i>			
	<i>Invest Decent Homes Level</i>			

each disposal, and a decision will need to be made in relation to that impact at that point in the lifetime of the HRA Business Plan.

Stock Investment level

The Council has an obligation as a landlord to maintain its properties. In addition there is a Government target to eliminate the backlog of investment in social housing, and achieve the Decent Homes standard. This obligation has been funded through the Backlog Funding scheme, and Havering Council is due to receive a total of £62.7m over the four years 2011/12 to 2014/15 to complete 90% of our Decent Homes work.

The Decent Homes Standard however, does not include a number of significant items that would maintain our housing stock at a mortgageable standard. These include, for example, lift repairs and environmental works. The level of investment included in the baseline HRA Business Plan model therefore includes those essential works that would achieve this higher level of stock quality. This level is achievable within the current baseline HRA Business Plan model. An alternative scenario which would see completion of the minimum Decent Homes Standard is included as Scenario 8 in the table under paragraph 4.5 above. This shows that should this lower level of investment be carried out, then the work would be completed by Year 8 and the debt be paid off by Year 20.

The level of investment that has been included in the baseline HRA Business Plan model is therefore Decent Homes as a base plus additional works that would ensure that the property is mortgageable. This means that the property maintains in effect its market value, and can be bought and sold as required. For example, our properties that are system built properties under certain designated non traditional methods used immediately after the war cannot be sold on the open market, as there are no lenders willing to provide mortgage funds to buy them. The work that is included in the stock investment programme will bring them up to a standard that will enable them to be sold on the open market. Should we fail to maintain a programme of maintenance of our stock, we would be obliged to set aside greater sums to provide for depreciation of our assets.

It is recognised that there is difference between the level of borrowing the Council needs to take on to make the payment to the Government under the opening debt settlement, and the cap on the maximum amount the Government would allow the Council to borrow for self-financing purposes. This is commonly referred to as the 'headroom' within the self-financing regime. It should be noted that the Government has set this upper limit for Havering at an estimated £27m above the figure required to pay off the debt. In effect this means that the Council may, if it chooses to do so, borrow additional money, but only for the purposes of implementing Self Financing and investment in its housing.

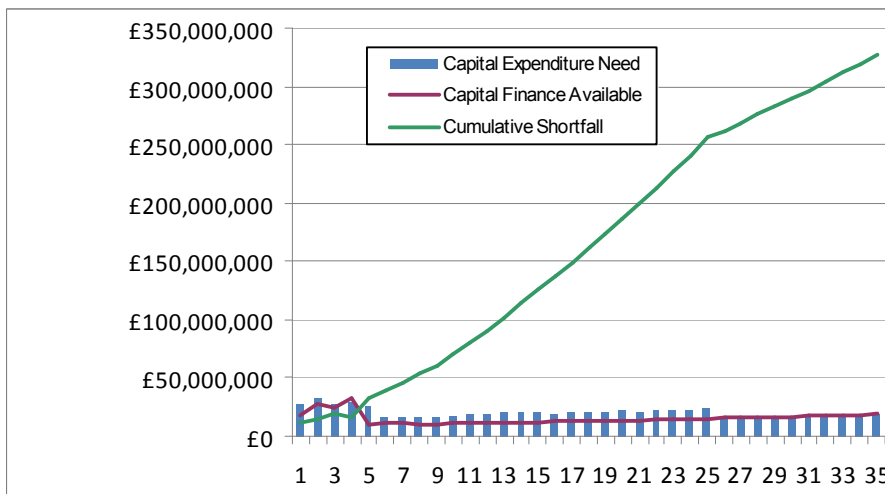
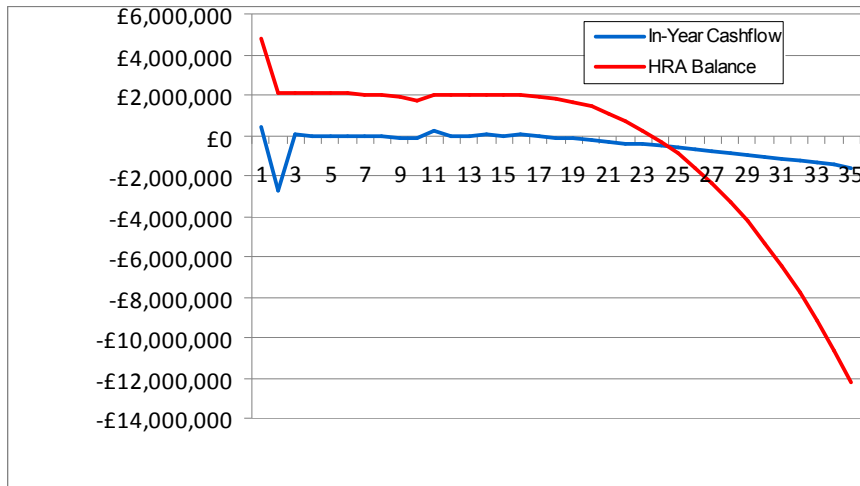
At this stage, it is proposed that no additional borrowing should be undertaken as it is recognised that this headroom is not immediately required to bring the stock up to the Decent Homes and mortgageable standard within a reasonable timescale. It is also recognised, however, that there are considerable additional pressures for further housing stock investment that are likely to arise over the coming 30 years, which may also give rise to additional expenditure.

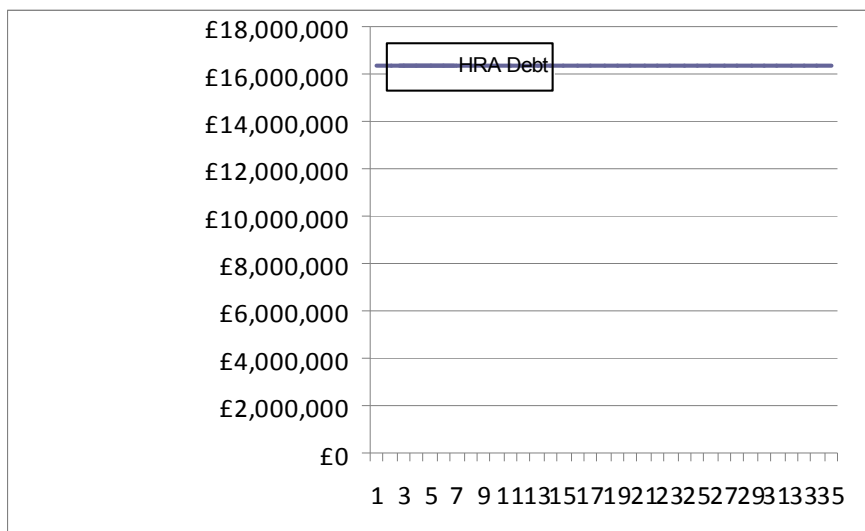
It is prudent to retain the need for additional housing investment funded from headroom borrowing under constant review. Maintaining the sustainability of the Council's stock and estates in coming years could require additional investment. For example, standards relating to fire risk mitigation, legionella, asbestos remediation, and electrical safety are constantly rising and so could lead to additional investment needs. Furthermore, there may be additional option work that tenants and members would wish to bring forward to improve the quality of the housing stock. Some works which are optional and not included in the current baseline HRA Business Plan model that may arise over the next 30 years include:

<i>Housing affected</i>	<i>Item</i>
<i>Sheltered housing</i>	<i>Some sheltered housing does not have lifts, and as existing residents age, they have either to move, or their independence is restricted. It may be helpful to have a programme to install lifts</i>
	<i>As the resident population ages, it is helpful to change the balance between sheltered accommodation and extra care accommodation which enable a frailer group of residents to remain independent. More of these units can be converted to extra care, rather than independent sheltered accommodation</i>
	<i>Telecare equipment can be installed and upgraded within sheltered accommodation in order to maintain the independence of existing residents</i>
<i>Energy efficiency</i>	<i>The properties most difficult to insulate, are solid brick construction dwellings. A programme of external insulation to these properties will assist with the Council's commitment to energy efficiency</i>
	<i>Solar PV panels. Plans are advanced to start a programme to install Solar PV panels. This programme could be accelerated</i>
<i>Car Parking</i>	<i>There has been a programme to remove redundant garages across housing estates, but it has also left a legacy of some additional requirement for remodelling off street parking in order to accommodate increasing car ownership</i>
<i>Estate improvements</i>	<i>There are continuing problems with some communal areas on estates, which need estate improvements, play areas, gating of alleys, and improved paths and fencing</i>
<i>Provision of new accommodation, such as bungalows</i>	<i>There is a programme of assisting elderly tenants who are under occupying their homes, but who are reluctant to move the Council does not have accommodation of the quality that they would be willing to accept. A programme to provide some high quality one and two bed bungalows in locations which are acceptable may be a solution to this.</i>
<i>Other basic improvements</i>	<i>There are problems with the need to improve continuously sound insulation, fire prevention measures, communal areas such as lobbies and lift areas, shops and community centres</i>

Investment requirements in these, or other areas, need to be kept under review and it is prudent to retain the option to using the headroom borrowing to meet needs as they arise.

Appendix 1 – HRA projection under the existing HRA subsidy system





Appendix 2 – Baseline HRA Business Plan model

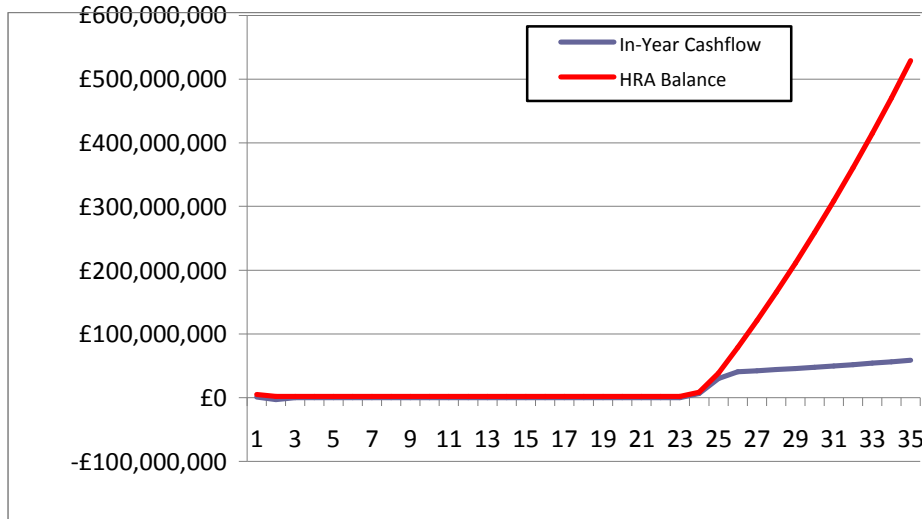
Assumptions

- *RPI at 2.5% through the life of the plan.*
- *Financing costs at 6.0% through the life of the plan.*
- *13 properties sold through the Right to Buy each year throughout the life of the HRA Business Plan (which is the current level of disposals).*
- *The stock investment requirement is that identified in the Stock Condition Survey (which is more than is required under Decent Homes, though not beyond a 'mortgageable' level for the properties).*
- *Balances in the HRA need to be maintained at a minimum provision of £2m.*
- *Right to Buy receipts are not used for housing purposes up to the level of anticipated sales*
- *Decent Homes funding is provided by the Government as allocated in February 2011 (£62.7m over four years)*
- *Void level at 1.4% and bad debt at 0.76%.*
- *Opening number of properties 9,959, with an average rent of £74.92.*
- *Opening debt of £203.097m (net additional debt of £160,342m). It should be noted that should the new RPI rate of 4.5% would increase the total debt figure by £6.5m.*

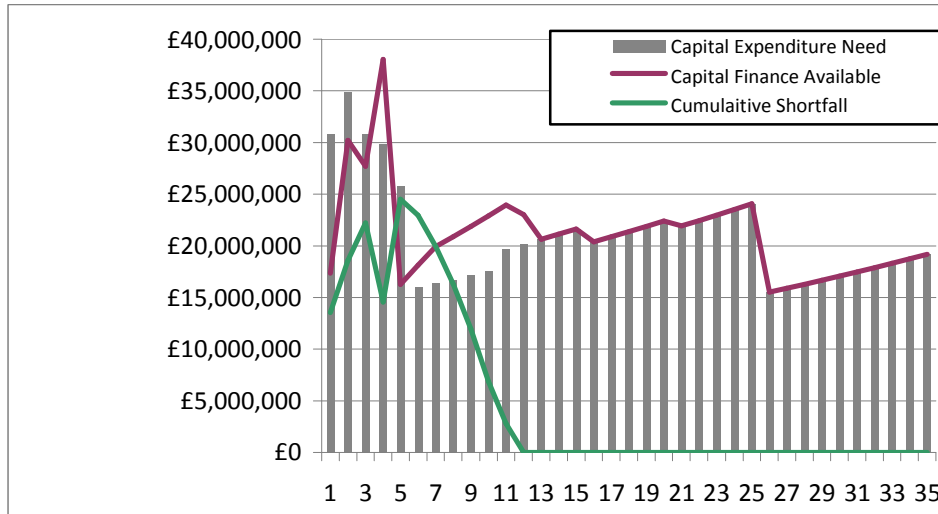
Summary of Outcomes

- *HRA surplus point (>£2m) achieved in year 24 of the 30 year plan.*
- *Stock Condition Survey investment backlog cleared in year 12.*
- *Debt free point achieved in year 24.*

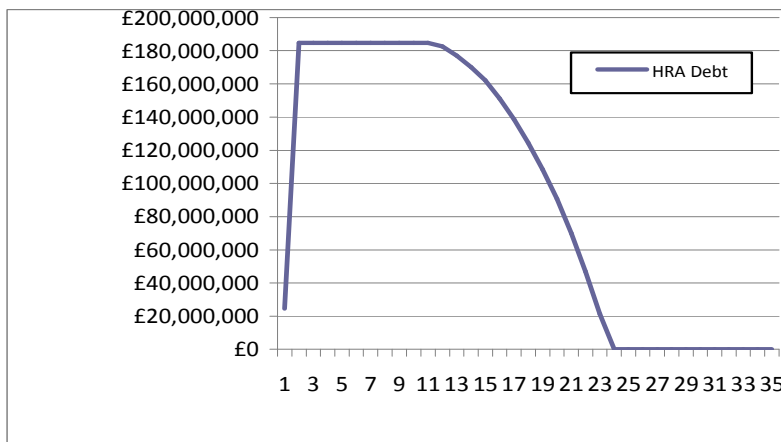
HRA Balances



Investment profile



Debt profile





REPORT OF THE CABINET

BRIAR ESTATE DEVELOPMENT - APPROVAL OF £2M CAPITAL BUDGET ADDITION TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Cabinet received a report in October 2011 which set out the procurement process for the selection of a Development Partner for the Briar Estate to provide new homes on small sites and redevelop the shops area; Cabinet approved Notting Hill Housing Group as the Council's preferred partner.

The report also set out the background to the development of the Briar Improvements Action Plan, including the consultation to date with residents and key partners, and a summary of the environmental improvements essential for the Briar's successful renewal, to be funded primarily through the receipts from the disposal of sites to the development partner.

The report advised that the Homes and Communities Agency, who had awarded Notting Hill HCA grant for 50 Affordable Rented units in this scheme, had indicated their support for environmental improvements. Therefore, a schedule has been prepared of Briar environmental improvements to a value of £2m, the details of which are listed below. For information, the investment was profiled to commence in the next financial year, 2012/13. This would be an addition to the Capital Programme, and therefore required full Council approval.

RECOMMENDATION

To approve the addition of the £2m Capital Budget to the Council's Capital Programme

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REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 requires that a polling district and polling place review be carried out by the Acting Returning Officer in 2007 and every fourth year thereafter. The 2011 review has recently been completed and the outcome will be incorporated into the register to be published on 1 December 2011, and the revised polling station arrangements will be used at the GLA elections on 3 May 2012.

Consultation was undertaken as follows:

- All elected representatives, political parties and relevant stakeholders were given notification of the review.
- Copies of the proposals were available for public inspection in all libraries in Havering, PASC, Havering's website and at the Town Hall, with accompanying posters to inform the public of this.
- Copies of the proposal were given to the Havering Association of People with Disabilities, HAVCO, Age Concern and People First, with publicity given in their relevant newsletters or websites.
- An article publicising the review was published in Living.
- The Council's Access Officer was given a copy of the proposals

No responses to the consultation or complaints from voters were received in respect of the following wards:- Cranham, Emerson Park, Pettits, South Hornchurch and Upminster; accordingly, no changes are proposed for those wards.

Representations were received in respect of the other wards, as a result of which various changes are proposed, as follows:

1. Brooklands Ward (Romford Constituency)

BL1 - Lombard Court: The previous polling station for this polling district, St John's Church Hall, Pretoria Road, has closed and Lombard Court is now used for polling, but there are concerns about safety of electors and the noise and inconvenience to residents. No alternative premises are presently available but once the church is sold the new owners will be contacted to discuss whether they would be willing to allow the hall to be used for polling.

It is recommended that Lombard Court continue to be the polling place for polling district BL1 until the future of St John's Church is known, and to make no changes to the remaining polling districts or polling places BL2, BL3, BL4 and BL5.

2. Elm Park Ward (Dagenham and Rainham Constituency)
EL1 – Scargill Infants School: Since the 2007 review, the polling place has been relocated from Scargill Junior School to Scargill Infants School.

It is recommended this change be confirmed, and to make no changes to the polling places or polling districts for EL2, EL3 and EL4.

3. Gooshays Ward (Hornchurch and Upminster Constituency)
GS2 – Harold Hill Library, Hilldene Avenue: Harold Hill Library is being used as the polling station for polling district GS2 as well as GS1 as the Old People's Club in Chippenham Gardens, which was previously the polling station, was closed due to vandalism. No other suitable premises within the polling district can be found at the present time.

Until a suitable alternative can be found for GS2, it is recommended to make no changes to the current polling places or polling districts GS1, GS2, GS3, GS4, GS5 and GS6.

4. Hacton Ward (Hornchurch & Upminster Constituency)
HN5 – Elm Park Primary School: Elm Park Primary School has been built on the site of Ayloff Primary School, which was previously used as a polling station. Voters were temporarily redirected to Suttons Primary School; however now the new building is open polling should be relocated back to the former site.

It is recommended Elm Park Primary School be the polling place for polling district HN5, and no changes be made to the remaining polling places or polling districts HN1, HN2, HN3 and HN4.

5. Havering Park Ward (Romford Constituency):
HP2 - Clockhouse Primary School/HP5 – North Romford Community Centre: There was a request on behalf of the Clockhouse Primary School that it no longer be used as a polling station as, with some 700 children, closing the school and nursery both disrupted education and inconvenienced parents. The North Romford Community Centre falls within the boundary of HP2, but is currently used for polling district HP5 as no suitable location is available within the HP5 boundary.

It is therefore proposed that:

- a) Clockhouse Primary School be no longer used as a polling station.
- b) North Romford Community Centre in future be used as the polling station for HP2 and HP5

It is recommended that the above proposals be agreed, with no changes to the polling places or polling districts HP1, HP3, HP4 and HP6.

6. Heaton Ward (Hornchurch and Upminster Constituency)
HT1 - The Ingrebourne Children's Centre: Since the 2007 review, polling has been moved to the Ingrebourne Children's Centre as the Ingrebourne

School closed. The Children's Centre had indicated it no longer wishes to be used as a polling station but no suitable alternative premises can be found.

It is therefore recommended to make no changes to the current polling places or polling districts HT1, HT2, HT3, HT4 and HT5.

7. Harold Wood Ward (Hornchurch and Upminster constituency)
HW3 - St Peter's Church Hall: For the 2011 Referendum, polling in this district was relocated from the Ingreborne Centre to St. Peter's Church Hall directly opposite. It is a newer building, and caused less disruption to regular attendees of the Ingreborne Centre. No complaints were received about this change.

It is recommended that this change stands, and to make no changes to the polling places and polling districts HW1, HW2, HW4, and HW5.

8. Hylands Ward (Romford Constituency)
HY4 - The Albany School: The Head Teacher of The Albany School wrote to request the school not be used as a polling station on the grounds that, as a secondary school, exam times often clash with polling day and they have concerns regarding Health and Safety when keeping the school open. No other suitable alternative premises could be located within the area.

It is therefore recommended to make no changes to the current polling places or polling districts HP1, HP2, HP3, HP4 and HP5.

9. Mawneys Ward (Romford Constituency)
MN6 – Crownfield School: Since the 2007 review, this polling station has been relocated from the main building into the Nursery Unit in order to allow the school to remain open.

It is recommended this change stands, and to make no changes to the polling places and polling districts MN1, MN2, MN3 MN4, and MN5.

10. Rainham and Wennington Ward (Dagenham and Rainham Constituency)
RW1/RW5 - Parsonage Farm Primary School: The Head Teacher of this school plans to keep the school open on future polling days. There are also ongoing issues with voters trying to access the site by car as the school no longer has a car park and therefore the main gates are kept closed.

The Head Teacher has proposed moving the polling station to a different part of the school, accessed via Allen Road, which does not have parking restrictions.

RW2 – Brady Primary School: Since the 2007 review, Wennington Village Hall has closed and since 2009 voters have been redirected to Brady Primary School, which is also the polling place for RW3.

The future of the Village Hall is uncertain, however it is not proposed to make any changes to the polling districts at this review until the future of the Village Hall is known.

It is recommended that the above proposals for Rainham and Wennington be agreed, with no changes to the polling places or polling districts RW3 and RW4.

11. Romford Town Ward (Romford Constituency)

RT1 - Romford Baptist Church Hall: This Hall was used as an interim polling place whilst the Central Library was closed for refurbishment. The Church hall has disabled access, and, unlike the library, disabled parking, and it is proposed that it remains in use as the polling station for this polling district.

RT2 – St Alban’s Church Hall: Since the 2007 review Manor Primary School has closed. Polling was relocated to St Alban’s Church Hall in 2010 and no complaints have been received. It is proposed that it remains in use as the polling station for this polling district.

RT5 - Hylands Primary School: Concern about the use of the School led to a suggestion that the Craigdale Centre be used as a polling place, but the owners of the Centre have declined, as there are regular bookings. No other suitable venue can be found at this time.

Having visited the school and following discussions with the Head Teacher, it is proposed to allow pedestrian access by the Benjamin Close gate, with vehicle users using the Granger Way entrance. The address on poll cards would be printed as:

Hylands Primary School
Granger Way (car access)
Benjamin Close (pedestrian access)
Hornchurch
RM11 1DA

It is recommended that the above proposals for Romford Town be agreed, with no changes to the remaining polling places and polling districts RT3 and RT4.

12. Squirrel’s Heath Ward (Romford Constituency)

SQ4 - Ardleigh Green Church Hall: At present the polling station in this polling district is Ardleigh Green Church Hall, which has very limited parking. The All Saints Church across the road volunteered its hall for polling, as it has a car park which voters use on polling day if they cannot park at the Ardleigh Green Church Hall. The All Saints Church has a large car park as well as disabled access and is highly suitable for use as a polling station. It is recommended that this church be used in future elections.

It is recommended that the above proposals for Squirrel’s Heath be accepted, with no changes to the polling places or polling districts SQ1, SQ2, SQ3 and SQ5.

13. St Andrew's Ward (Hornchurch and Upminster Constituency)

ST3 – Birnam Wood Pupil Referral Unit: Since the 2007 review, the polling station has been relocated from the Robert Beard Youth Centre to the building directly behind it, the Birnam Wood PRU.

It is recommended that this change stands, and to make no changes to remaining polling places or polling districts ST1, ST2, ST4 and ST5.

The Governance Committee accepted the various recommendations set out above and accordingly RECOMMENDS that the Council endorse the proposed changes.

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REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Governance Committee has considered a number of suggested amendments to the Constitution, as set out in the appendix to this report.

The Committee **RECOMMENDS to the Council** that, with effect from the Meeting on 23 November 2011 those amendments be incorporated in the Constitution and become effective from that date.

APPENDIX

- A. To amend Part 3 Section 2.5 Para (q) of the Constitution – powers of Cabinet Members - which currently states:-

(q) To approve applications for the submission of bids for grants and other financial assistance which require the provision of additional finance or match funding or are likely to lead to residual costs or implications for the Council

by adding at the end:-

"or where the amount of the grant application exceeds £500,000".

This is to complement the authority already delegated up to £500,000 to a Director in consultation with the relevant cabinet member under Part 3 Section 3.3 of the Constitution

- B. To amend Part 3, Section 2.5 paragraph (t) – powers of Cabinet Members – which currently states:

(t) To approve the 'in principle' decision of the Council disposing of an interest in property or land where the disposal or acquisition receipt is not considered likely to exceed £1,000,000.

by adding after 'Council disposing':

"or acquiring"

While it is unusual now for the Council to acquire land, the situation has arisen and the amendment would simplify the internal authorisation process while retaining Member control of the issue.

- C. To amend Part 3, Section 3.6.5 of the Constitution – powers of the Head of Regeneration, Policy & Planning – adding:

(q) To lead and co-ordinate the Council's corporate equalities and diversity programme, and to advise the Council on statutory and non-statutory equalities and diversity issues.

This is to reflect the extended equalities obligations that the Council has as a result of the Equalities Act 2000.

- D. To amend Part 3, Section 3.8.1 of the Constitution – powers of the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal & Democratic Services – by adding:

(2a) To authorise Council staff to represent the Council in proceedings in the County Court and the Magistrates Court".

Councils have particular powers to be represented in the County Court and Magistrates Court by non-legally qualified staff. This currently happens with staff dealing with Council Tax and other debts. The delegation of this power would simplify the authorisation process for appointing new staff to undertake such activities

E. To amend Part 3 Section 3.7.6 of the Constitution – powers of the Head of Development & Building Control – by adding

(b) (xiv) to decide all proposals under the advertisement regulations and applications for external building alterations including shop-fronts in respect of LBH submitted applications which, were they not Havering properties, would be determined under staff delegated powers.

These applications are routinely brought to Regulatory Services Committee solely because of the Council's interest in the property. They very rarely generate any neighbour responses and / or concerns about impact on their surroundings including amenity. In terms of risk, the inclusion of such applications on the Committee agenda adds unnecessarily to the Committee business and is disproportionate to the extremely low risk of the Council acting, or being perceived to act, improperly in the determination of such proposals.

The delegation procedure would continue to have a Call - in facility through which any Member can exceptionally request that an application falling within the above category be brought to Committee for its decision, thereby providing a safeguard in the process.

F. To amend Part 3 Section 3.7.6 (l) of the Constitution – powers of the Head of Development & Building Control that currently states:

(l) To determine the making of tree preservation orders and applications for the topping, lopping and felling of trees where the trees are covered by a confirmed tree preservation order, to serve Tree Replacement Notices, to waive the requirement to replace trees where appropriate to determine applications under High Hedges legislation (Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 [Part 8]) and undertake any related legal or direct action arising from such application, including issuing of Remedial Notices.

by replacing with:

“ (l) To determine the making of Tree Preservation Orders and applications for the topping, lopping and felling of trees where the trees are covered by a Tree Preservation Order; to confirm or revoke Tree Preservation Orders; to waive the requirement to replace trees where appropriate; to serve Tree Replacement Notices when necessary; to determine applications under High Hedges legislation (Anti Social Behaviour Act

2003 [Part 8]) and undertake any related legal or direct action arising from such applications, including issuing of Remedial Notices.”

Deletion of "confirmed" (from line 2) is to ensure that the service can issue consents before orders are confirmed in cases where action needs to be taken quickly, for example where trees are found to be causing damage or causing a legal nuisance. It will also help the service to issue a consent which could allay a householder's anxieties about the size of a tree which would otherwise cause them to object to an order which leads in turn to a formal objection to a new TPO - which in turn uses up staff time and adds to the Council's operational costs.

The addition of the power to revoke a tree preservation order (line two) is to streamline the Council's administrative procedures. Some TPOs become redundant over time when the trees they protect cease to exist but the orders themselves still exist as legal entities unless revoked. At present the matter can only be dealt with by a non-executive report, which is time consuming and unnecessarily expensive way of dealing with what should be straightforward administrative matter.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

PROPOSED NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

The Boundary Commission for England has published proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies for Havering, two of which would be wholly within the borough, with a third partly covering Havering and parts of eastern Barking & Dagenham.

These proposals arise from the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, which (among other things) reduced the number of Parliamentary Constituencies nationally from 650 (533 in England) to 600 (502), and sought more equally to distribute the number of voters across the new constituencies. The changes will take effect on and from the next Parliamentary General Election, which is due on 7 May 2015, following the enactment of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011.

Overall, the number of constituencies in Greater London is reduced by five. Under the proposals as published, Havering would retain two whole constituencies and part of a third but the boundaries would be different from those of the current constituencies.

The Commission proposes that the new constituencies would be:

Constituency (Electorate)	Comprising the following Wards
Hornchurch and Upminster (80,227)	Cranham, Elm Park; Hacton; Hylands; Rainham & Wennington; St Andrew's; South Hornchurch; and Upminster
Romford (80,166)	Emerson Park; Gooshays; Harold Wood; Havering Park; Heaton; Pettits; Romford Town; and Squirrels Heath
Dagenham North (74,095)	Brooklands and Mawneys (plus a number of Barking & Dagenham Wards)

The current electoral quota per constituency (the total electorate nationally, divided by constituencies) is 76,641. Every constituency – except two covering the Isle of Wight – must have a number of registered electors that is no more than 5% lower or higher than this figure. In practice, this means constituencies must contain between 72,810 and 80,473 electors.

Council, 23 November 2011

Of the current Havering constituencies, one (Hornchurch & Upminster) is within the quota while both Romford (73,123) and Dagenham & Rainham (74,021) have fewer electors than the lower limit of the quota.

In putting forward its proposals, the Commission acknowledged that to keep within the quota it had not been possible to keep constituencies within individual local authority areas, and it will be seen that the proposed Dagenham North constituency includes a number of wards from Barking & Dagenham together with Havering's Brooklands and Mawneys Wards. This contrasts with current constituencies where Dagenham & Rainham crosses the boundary of the two boroughs but includes different Havering Wards (Elm Park, Rainham & Wennington and South Hornchurch), which in the new arrangements would revert to being within a wholly Havering constituency.

The proposals were considered by the Governance Committee. The majority of Members of that Committee considered that it would be unnecessarily disruptive to make such major changes to the Borough's constituency boundaries when equally major changes had been made as recently as May 2010.

Moreover, Members felt it particularly inappropriate for a large part of the central Romford area (within Brooklands Ward), including such major local facilities as The Queens Hospital and Romford Greyhound Stadium, to be within a constituency known only as "Dagenham North".

The Committee agreed that the Council should be invited to agree to propose alternative arrangements to the Commission.

In the Committee's view, the preferable course would be for the existing constituencies to be retained but with the addition to the Romford Constituency of the Chadwell Heath ward of Barking & Dagenham (which is currently within the Dagenham & Rainham constituency). Chadwell Heath is part of the Romford postcode and post town and, indeed, is often thought – erroneously - to be part of Havering.

If the alternative constituencies proposed by the Committee were adopted, they would be:

Constituency (Electorate)	Comprising the following Wards
Hornchurch & Upminster (80,522)	Cranham, Emerson Park; Gooshays; Hacton; Harold Wood; Heaton; Hylands; St Andrew's; and Upminster
Romford (73,123 Havering; (6,717 Chadwell Heath Ward; Total: 79,840)	Brooklands; Mawneys; Havering Park; Pettits; Romford Town; and Squirrels Heath; plus Chadwell Heath Ward from Barking & Dagenham

Dagenham & Rainham (29,436 Havering; 37,868 Barking & Dagenham; Total: 67,304)	Elm Park; Rainham & Wennington; and South Hornchurch (plus a number of Barking & Dagenham Wards other than Chadwell Heath)
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If this proposal were agreed, both the existing Hornchurch & Upminster and the proposed Romford (including Chadwell Heath) constituencies would be within the electoral quota. Dagenham & Rainham (excluding Chadwell Heath) would be significantly below quota – by more than 9,300 electors – and further adjustments in Barking & Dagenham and elsewhere would be necessary; that would of course be a matter for the Commission to resolve.

The Committee accordingly RECOMMENDS to the Council that the Boundary Commission for England be advised that, while the Council recognises the statutory requirement to balance electorates within the electoral quota, in its view the Commission is wrong to disregard both existing, strong local community ties and the fact that there was significant change to constituency boundaries as recently as May 2010; and accordingly the Council urges that:

- (a) The Hornchurch & Upminster constituency should retain its existing boundaries, on the grounds that it has an existing electorate within the electoral quota;**
- (b) The Romford Constituency should retain its existing boundaries within the borough and that the Chadwell Heath ward of the Borough of Barking & Dagenham should be added to it in order to achieve an electorate within the electoral quota, on the grounds that:**
 - i. the Brooklands ward contains a significant proportion of the Romford Town Centre area and it would be wholly inappropriate for such a significant area to be within a constituency known only as “Dagenham North”;**
 - ii. there are several major public facilities particularly associated with Romford in Brooklands Ward, such as The Queens Hospital and Romford Greyhound Stadium and it would be wholly inappropriate for such facilities to be within a “Dagenham North” constituency; and**
 - iii. Chadwell Heath is considered part of Romford for Post Office purposes and, indeed, is often thought erroneously to be part of Havering; and**
- (c) The Dagenham & Rainham Constituency should retain its existing boundaries, other than Chadwell Heath ward, and that further wards from Barking & Dagenham should be added to it (rather than Havering wards) in order to bring its electorate within the electoral quota.**

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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

11 PROPOSED NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

Amendment on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

This Council resolves to write to the Boundary Commission for England in support of their proposals that restore the original Parliamentary constituency of Hornchurch, which includes Upminster and Rainham and whose borders are mostly the same as the historic Hornchurch Urban District Council.

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HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COIMMITTEE

SUBJECT: THE FUTURE OF QUEEN'S HOSPITAL

1. This report is submitted to Council at the request of the Chairman and with the support of the Members of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report aims to briefly update all Members on two recent reports that are likely to have a substantial impact on the future operation of Queen's Hospital and on the Committee's scrutiny of these areas. The first of these is the report of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) into the operation of the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust (BHRUT) which runs both Queen's Hospital and King George Hospital in Ilford. The second is the report of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) in response to the referral to the Secretary of State by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (as well as by those of neighbouring boroughs and by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Outer North East London) of the Health for North East London proposals for changes to hospital and other healthcare arrangements in this region.
2. The CQC investigation concentrated on three areas – maternity, elective vascular surgery and emergency care. While concerns were found in all these areas as well as related areas such as records management and a lack of corporate leadership, the report makes clear that the largest area of concern remains maternity services. The CQC investigators list a series of long-standing problems in maternity at Queen's in particular including poor clinical care, a lack of managerial leadership and, perhaps most seriously, abusive behaviour by some staff to patients. The Committee's scrutiny of maternity services is ongoing and Members would like to inform Council that a recent inspection by the Committee of Queen's maternity showed evidence of a marked improvement in processes and in the "service" offered by the department. Although an announced visit, Members were given the opportunity to have full and frank discussions with both staff and patients in the department, virtually all of whom reported a highly positive and improved overall experience.
3. Other issues reported by the CQC included lengthy waits in A & E particularly during last winter's peak period and poor response to complaints. The Committee shares these concerns but also agrees with the CQC that improvements have been identified in a number of areas since the appointment in February this year of the new Trust Chief Executive. The Chairman and other Committee members have regular communication with the Chief Executive on both a formal and informal basis and have valued her honesty regarding the problems and challenges facing the Trust. Members also recently visited A&E at Queen's and held useful discussions with a consultant and nursing staff on duty. This

included an explanation of the rapid assessment and treatment system for major cases and the Committee is pleased that the CQC report has cited this as an example of improvement in quality. There are two outcomes in the CQC report which are yet to be reported upon – Outcome 6 – Co-operating with other providers and Outcome 7 – Safeguarding people from abuse. There is no timeline on when these aspects will be reported upon. The Committee intends, over the coming years, to continue to scrutinise A&E performance, including undertaking further site visits where appropriate.

- 4 Members of the Committee and of the Joint Health OSC gave detailed evidence to representatives of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) during their investigation of the Health for North East London (H4NEL) proposals. The Panel has concluded that it broadly supports the implementation of the H4NEL proposals and whilst a time frame is not announced, the Panel supports urgent implementation. Most Members will be aware that the Secretary of State has ruled that the H4NEL proposals should not be implemented until the changes required by the CQC have been put in place at Queen's (and King George) Hospital and have been shown to work. Given the priority being given to implementing the CQC recommendations, no timescale for the H4NEL changes, including the closure of A&E and maternity units at King George Hospital, with the associated impact on Queen's, has yet been announced. NHS ONEL will be developing an action plan in consultation with key stakeholders with this work commencing before the end of 2011. It is expected that much of the implementation phase will be led by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).
- 5 The Committee is supportive of the IRP's view that improving patient experience must be at the forefront of the NHS' thinking. The Committee is also pleased that the IRP feels that further attention should be given to the scope of services provided at polyclinics, a point Members have repeatedly made to local NHS commissioners. The IRP also recommends that transport arrangements to hospitals and other medical facilities should be improved, with the NHS developing its own transport solutions where appropriate. This is an issue that has been repeatedly scrutinised at both Havering and Outer North East London levels and Members remain of the view that without significant transport improvements, the H4NEL reforms are unlikely to work. The Health OSC recently discussed this issue with the Council's transport planning officers and the Committee intends to continue to seek the best possible hospital transport arrangements for Havering residents.
- 6 The Committee will be arranging topic group meetings shortly in order to scrutinise with health officers the impact on Queen's Hospital of the CQC report and the latest position as regards the H4NEL proposals. It is planned in January for these issues to be also be discussed by the Joint Health OSC for Outer North East London and the chief executives of both BHRUT and NHS Outer North East London are expected to attend this meeting.

The Committee **RECOMMENDS that Council** note the current position with Queen's Hospital as outlined above and the work the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is planning to scrutinise these issues.

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MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1 HAVERING MUSIC SCHOOL - SAVINGS

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Gillian Ford

In respect of the Havering Music School, would the Cabinet Member please explain:

- a) how will the significant budget cuts proposed from 2012/13 affect the quality and range of classes this service currently delivers?
- b) what is the impact on existing staffing levels?
- c) which services will no longer be provided?
- d) should the consultation be taking place before the viability of an Arts Trust has been determined?

2 OLYMPIC TICKETS FOR STUDENTS

To the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Denis Breeding

What proportion of Havering Schools have signed up to take an allocation of free Olympic and Paralympic tickets for their students/pupils?

3 THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF QUEENS HOSPITAL

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Jeffery Tucker

The Cabinet Member, Councillor Steven Kelly, has said that the Queen's Hospital in Romford will cope with the extra workload if and when King George's Hospital transfers their A & E and Maternity Departments over to Queen's Hospital. The Cabinet Member also states that Queen's Hospital will in fact provide a better service than it is at the present time. Can the Cabinet Member please explain in detail how this will work and why he believes the service will in fact be better when the transfer is completed?

4 CONTRAVENTION OF PARKING REGULATIONS BY CCTV ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Nic Dodin

Would the Cabinet Member please explain under what circumstances the CCTV Parking & Traffic Enforcement vehicles are permitted to contravene parking regulations while undertaking their duties?

5 HOMES IN HAVERING CONTRACT WITH MORRISONS

To the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

When was the current Homes in Havering contract with Morrisons entered into and when is it due for renewal?

6 RETURN OF FUNDS INVESTED IN ICELANDIC BANKS

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

Given the welcome news in regards to the Court victory, which supports the return of funds held by a bank in Iceland to Havering Council, it is asked:

- a. What are this Authority's known costs/liabilities to date borne of the action to recover residents/Local Authority monies from the Icelandic banking system?
- b. What are our minimum costs/liabilities going to be in pursuit of the return of funds held in the Icelandic banking system?

or

Are the London Borough of Havering involved in a course of actions at the date of this Full Council meeting, whereby the Administration cannot provide an accurate amount in answer to parts a. or b. of this enquiry?

7 ELECTORAL REGISTRATION – NON-COMPLIANCE

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how many residents have been fined for the non-return of their electoral roll form over the past 5 years and what checks are carried out to ensure that the responses are accurate?

8 REDUNDANCY OF MORRISONS STAFF SERVING THE HOMES IN HAVERING CONTRACT

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Paul McGeary

Have Homes in Havering and the Council received notification from Morrisons of its proposal to make 21 members of former Havering Council staff redundant?

9 SUCCESS OF THE RIGHT TO BUY LEGISLATION

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor David Durant

At the last Council meeting, Cllr Ramsey praised the Right-to-Buy policy and said, "In the 1980s the Conservative Administration used receipts from Right-to-Buy sales to build council houses"!

Strictly speaking this is true, but the figures tell another story and confirm the negative impact of the legislation.

From 1981 to 1990 only **322** council properties were built in Havering, of which **140** were sheltered housing units. **No** properties were constructed after this time.

Also from 1981 onwards, 75% of Right-to-Buy receipts have been taken by Government or used to pay off housing debt. The Council **only** retains use of 25% of the receipt!

Does Cllr Ramsey still believe the Right-to-Buy policy was a resounding success?

10 EFFECT OF DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT OF COUNCIL TAX IN FULL

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

For each of the years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12, would the Cabinet Member set out how much council tax revenue was forgone by offering a 1.5% discount to residents who pay the full amount at the start of the year?

11 CRB CHECKS FOR MORRISONS SUB-CONTRACTORS' STAFF

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Pat Murray

What obligations do Morrisons have to ensure that all sub contractors and their staff are CRB checked?

12 **CONSULTATION WITH TENANTS**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Mark Logan

At the last Council meeting Cllr Ramsey said that the £50,000 tenants' consultation about the future of Homes in Havering was a statutory consultation, but at the following Cabinet meeting Cllr Lesley Kelly said the consultation was **non**-statutory. Who is correct?

13 **RESTORATION OF PARKLANDS BRIDGE**

To the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns & Communities (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

The saga of the restoration of Parklands Bridge began in 2001 and is no further forward today. Would the Cabinet Member please set out just when, or if, this council owned listed building will ever be restored?

14 **ALLEYWAY/FOOTPATH BETWEEN DAVENTRY ROAD AND HILLDENE AVENUE**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebutt)

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn.

When will lighting be installed in the recently created narrow alley way between Daventry Road and Hilldene Avenue?

15 **OCCUPATION OF WILL PERRIN COURT HOSTEL**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Jeffery Tucker

If the Will Perrin Court Hostel is completed, can the Cabinet Member please inform me of the following:

- what is the maximum amount of residents that will be allowed to stay in each of the rooms at any one time and
- what is the maximum amount of residents, including staff, that will be allowed to stay in the Will Perrin Court Hostel at any one time?

Please be specific.

16 **OVERHANGING TREES: OBSTRUCTION**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member explain why this Council deliberately allows highway trees to overhang and obstruct residents' properties causing damage to either their driveway or vehicle upon it?

17 **"PUPILS UNITE AGAINST RACISM"**

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor David Durant

On October 13th, CEME hosted an event by the Kick it Out campaign which was attended by many children from Bower Park, Redden Court and Chafford schools.

Kick it Out originated as a campaign against 'racism' in football, but their organiser Danny Lynch said, "we're not just about football, we're about getting rid of racism in all sports, all walks of life"!

This is a political objective, but the terms 'racist and racism' have become powerful political swear words with no precise meaning. Indeed there is often a 'racial bias' in the misuse of these words which can be very offensive and a form of 'racial abuse', which undermines good community relations!

In view of this do the Administration consider it appropriate for Havering school children to take part in political events organised by the Kick it Out campaign, which is partly funded by the 'institutionally racist' Equality Commission?

18 **ROMFORD MARKET: IMPROVING APPEAL AND COMPETITIVENESS**

To the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment (Councillor Robert Benham)

By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

Would the Cabinet Member please set out what is being done to stimulate the appeal and competitiveness of Romford Market?

19 **PAYMENT OF INVOICES**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

For the period 2010/11 and to date, would the Cabinet Member confirm the number (% and figures) of invoices paid within 10 days? And, if possible, the proportion attributable to small and medium sized local businesses?

20 **STAFFING STRUCTURE**

To the Cabinet Member for Transformation (Councillor Michael Armstrong)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the number of FTE's at the end of March 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 and if a current 'family tree' of the entire LBH staffing structure is available?

21 **WHOLE PLACE COMMUNITY BUDGETS**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what his view is in relation to the "Whole Place" community budgets?

22 **BUSINESSES IN THE BOROUGH**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm that the council holds a database of all businesses in the borough and that their trade waste agreement is up to date?

23 **COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION: OWNERS OF A SECOND HOME**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Ron Ower

Following the change in regulations which gives Local Authorities the power to ask people requesting council accommodation if they have another home, would the Cabinet Member please confirm what steps are being taken to ensure this process is being undertaken and to confirm that applicants who possess another property will be denied council accommodation?

24 **CONSULTING TENANTS AND LEASEHOLDERS**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Cabinet Member provide an update as to what steps are being taken to ensure that all tenants and leaseholders are fully informed in respect of the Housing Management consultation process?

25 **EMPTY PROPERTY, DURHAM AVENUE**

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Ron Ower

Would the Cabinet Member for Housing set out how much rental has been lost on the property at the Durham Avenue Estate which has remained empty for over two years and when will this property be let to a waiting tenant?

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COUNCIL, 23 NOVEMBER 2011

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A Council-owned garage sites

Motion on behalf the Labour Group

This Council calls upon the Administration forthwith to review its policy of closing for sale and development its garage sites throughout the Borough.

Amendment on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

Add after the word "Borough":

“with the aim of keeping as many garages in use as possible and, where that is not possible, ensuring that local Councillors and residents are consulted about options, that sites are not over-developed and that as much open space as possible is retained.”

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

This Council calls upon the Administration forthwith to review its policy of closing for sale and development its garage sites throughout the Borough with the aim of keeping as many garages in use as possible and, where that is not possible, ensuring that local Councillors and residents are consulted about options, that sites are not over-developed and that as much open space as possible is retained.]

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

This Council supports the Administration policy on garage site disposals because it provides much needed homes for Havering tenants and deals with anti social behaviour on some of our garage sites.

B Elderly persons sheltered accommodation

Motion on behalf the Labour Group

This Council calls upon the Administration to review its policy of closing elderly persons sheltered accommodation.

Amendment on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

Add after the word "accommodation":

“and to re-open Will Perrin Court as an elderly persons sheltered accommodation in Guysfield Drive, Rainham”

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

This Council calls upon the Administration to review its policy of closing elderly persons sheltered accommodation and to re-open Will Perrin Court as an elderly persons sheltered accommodation in Guysfield Drive, Rainham]

Amendment on behalf of the Administration

This Council believes that its Elderly persons sheltered accommodation policy delivers improved places to live for its senior citizen and therefore supports this Administration's drive and commitment to deliver better standards.

C New Parliamentary Constituencies

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

This Council resolves to write to the Boundary Commission for England in support of their proposals that restore the original Parliamentary constituency of Hornchurch, which includes Upminster and Rainham and whose borders are mostly the same as the historic Hornchurch Urban District Council.

D Queens Hospital

Motion on behalf of the Administration

This Council noting with concern the recent report of the investigation by the Care Quality Commission into the A & E and Maternity services at Queens Hospital Romford

- (i) recognises the fears of Havering residents as to the Hospital's capacity to cope with the additional demand arising from the transfer of these services from King George's Hospital Ilford
- (ii) resolves to monitor through Overview and Scrutiny the steps to be taken to address the deficiencies identified and to make further representations to the Secretary of State in response to the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel as to the transfer and
- (iii) resolves wherever appropriate to work with the Hospital Trust as it addresses these matters.

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

Add the following

- (iv) requests the Chief Executive of the Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust that she prepare a monthly report on how the Trust is working towards meeting the targets set out in the CQC Report such report to be published on the Health for NE London website along with waiting list and medical staffing figures
- (v) seeks an assurance that the two month deadline for Caesarian sections to be brought back into the Trust to prevent women having to travel to Hackney is on track to be met
- (vi) requests that A&E temporary closures be published on the Health for NE London website within 48 hours and
- (vii) supports the call for a research study into mortality rates for people taken into Urgent Care Units who are then transferred to A&E compared with those who are admitted direct into an A&E

[Note: The motion would then read:

This Council noting with concern the recent report of the investigation by the Care Quality Commission into the A & E and Maternity services at Queens Hospital Romford

- (i) recognises the fears of Havering residents as to the Hospital's capacity to cope with the additional demand arising from the transfer of these services from King George's Hospital Ilford
- (ii) resolves to monitor through Overview and Scrutiny the steps to be taken to address the deficiencies identified and to make further representations to the Secretary of State in response to the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel as to the transfer
- (iii) resolves wherever appropriate to work with the Hospital Trust as it addresses these matters
- (iv) requests the Chief Executive of the Barking, Havering & Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust that she prepare a monthly report on how the Trust is working towards meeting the targets set out in the CQC Report such report to be published on the Health for NE London website along with waiting list and medical staffing figures
- (v) seeks an assurance that the two month deadline for Caesarian sections to be brought back into the Trust to prevent women having to travel to Hackney is on track to be met
- (vi) requests that A&E temporary closures be published on the Health for NE London website within 48 hours and
- (vii) supports the call for a research study into mortality rates for people taken into Urgent Care Units who are then transferred to A&E compared with those who are admitted direct into an A&E]

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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

14 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

The Independent Residents' Group motion at 14C (New Parliamentary Constituencies) has been withdrawn.

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