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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Council Chamber - Town Hall 19 September 2012 (7.30 - 10.40 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Lynden Thorpe) in the Chair

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

* for part of the meeting

8 Members' guests and a representative of the press were also present.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Sandra Binion, Denis Breading, Dennis Bull, Ted Eden, Mark Logan, Barbara Matthews, Eric Monday, Fred Osborne, Ron Ower and Melvin Wallace.

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

Prayers were said by Father Roderick Hingley, Mayor's Chaplain

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

32 **MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 July 2012 were before the Council for approval.

The minutes were **AGREED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held 18 July 2012 be signed as a correct record.

33 **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS (agenda item 4)**

Councillor Michael White disclosed an interest in the subject matter of agenda item 14F (motion: Hospital A&E Services in North East London).

34 **PROCEDURAL MOTION (agenda item)**

A procedural motion, that the motion at agenda item 14D (Political and Constitutional reform) be taken as the first of the motions to be considered and dealt with by vote only, was **CARRIED** by 39 votes to 3 (see voting division 1) and it was **RESOLVED accordingly**.

35 **ANNOUNCEMENTS (agenda item 5)**

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

In the course of her announcements, the Mayor presented a Mayor's Award to Mark Hunter, Honorary Freeman of the Borough, in recognition of his achievement in winning a Silver Medal in Rowing at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The Leader of the Council announced that Her Majesty the Queen would be visiting the borough on 26 October 2012 formally to open the new Drapers' Academy.

36 **PETITIONS (agenda item 6)**

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

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Linda Hawthorn - | | From 72 residents of Peterborough Avenue, Upminster, seeking resurfacing of that road; |
| Jeffrey Tucker - | 1 | From residents of Davis Close, Rainham, concerning possible over-development of the former Rainham Police Station; and |
| | 2 | Relating to the clamping of vehicles by a private company in the Rainham Village area. |

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

37 **ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEMBER CHAMPIONS (agenda item 7)**

The Council received and considered the Annual Reports of the following:

Member Champion for the Diploma Scheme (Councillor Paul Rochford)

Member Champion for Diversity (Councillor Osman Dervish)

Member Champion for the Historic Environment (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

Member Development Group (presented on behalf of the Group by Councillor Pam Light)

Member Champion for the Over 50s (Councillor Pam Light)

Pensions Committee (moved on behalf of the Committee by Councillor Damian White)

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (presented on behalf of that Council by Councillor Paul Rochford)

Member Champion for Standards (Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson)

Member Champion for the Voluntary Sector Compact (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

Member Champion for Younger Persons (Councillor Garry Pain)

Each Annual Report was **ADOPTED** without debate or division.

The reports of the Member Champion for the Historic Environment and of the Member Champion for the Voluntary Sector Compact both contained recommendations, which the Council adopted without division.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Reports as listed be approved and the recommendations therein be adopted.

38 **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (agenda item 8)**

The Mayor had agreed pursuant to s.100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the report referred to in this minute should be considered as a late item. The Governance Committee meeting at which it was considered had taken place after the publication of the final agenda for this meeting but the Constitutional amendments needed to be in place as soon as practicable.

The Council noted that review of the Council's Constitution, and recent legislation, had led to proposals for further amendment of the Constitution,

which the Governance Committee now recommended for adoption. The proposed amendments are set out in **Appendix 2** to these minutes.

The recommendations of the Governance Committee were **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the amendments to the Constitution set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes be approved.

39 MEMBER CHAMPION FOR THE NEW DIPLOMA - PROPOSED ABOLITION OF APPOINTMENT (agenda item 9)

The Mayor had agreed pursuant to s.100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the report referred to in this minute should be considered as a late item. The Governance Committee meeting at which it was considered had taken place after the publication of the final agenda for this meeting.

The Government's decision to make significant changes to the school examinations system had led to discontinuance of the Diploma Scheme and thus rendered the post of Member Champion for the Diploma Scheme unnecessary. The Governance Committee had therefore recommended that it be abolished.

The recommendation of the Governance Committee was **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the appointment of Member Champion for the Diploma Scheme be abolished.

40 ADJUDICATION & REVIEW - REINSTATEMENT AS FULL COMMITTEE (agenda item 10)

The Mayor had agreed pursuant to s.100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the report referred to in this minute should be considered as a late item. The Governance Committee meeting at which it was considered had taken place after the publication of the final agenda for this meeting but the decision needed to come into effect on 1 October.

Although the Council had decided in May 2011 that Adjudication & Review should become a Sub-Committee of the Governance Committee, it had subsequently been decided that the hearing of allegations of breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct and complaints by Council tenants (following reversion of housing management functions to the Council and winding-up of Homes in Havering) would be assigned to it. Accordingly, it was now appropriate to reinstate it as a full Committee.

Consequential amendments to the Constitution had been considered by the Governance Committee, which had accepted both the proposal and the

amendments, and now recommended to the Council that they be put into effect. Details of the changes are set out in **Appendix 3** to these minutes.

The recommendations of the Governance Committee were **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

- 1 That the Adjudication & Review Sub-Committee be reinstated as a full Committee with effect from 1 October 2012, with the functions set out in Appendix 3 to these minutes.**
- 2 That the Chairman (Councillor Ted Eden) and Vice-Chairmen (Councillors Barbara Matthews and Frederick Thompson) of the current Sub-Committee be appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairmen respectively of the new Committee, with effect from 1 October 2012.**

41 ESTABLISHING A HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD (agenda item 11)

The Mayor had agreed pursuant to s.100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the report referred to in this minute should be considered as a late item. The Governance Committee meeting at which it was considered had taken place after the publication of the final agenda for this meeting but agreement on the shape of the new Board needed to be in place as soon as practicable.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 required the Council by April 2013 to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board ("Board"), which would be a Committee to be treated as if it were appointed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, notwithstanding that the new statute required the Board's membership to include certain Council officers and representatives of health other organisations.

The Governance Committee had endorsed a proposal that the membership of the Board is 12 members, comprising:

- Four councillors (to be appointed by the Leader)
- The director of adult social services
- The director of children's services
Note: the above two posts are separate at present but membership should reflect statutory role rather than people
- The chief executive
- The director of public health
- A representative of the Local HealthWatch organisation
- A representative of Havering Clinical Commissioning Group, preferably the Chair
- The Clinical Director/Lead for the Havering Clinical Commissioning Group
- The Accountable Officer (Designate), Havering Clinical Commissioning Group

The Chief Operating Officer, Havering Clinical Commissioning Group, would be an ex officio member without voting rights and, in accordance with S197 of the 2012 Act, a representative of the National Health Service Commissioning Board would be invited to attend when certain business was being dealt with. It was noted that further subordinate legislation was anticipated, which might require some adjustment to the present proposals.

The Governance Committee had accordingly recommended that the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to be established on and from 1 April 2013, be agreed as now proposed, subject to any revisions necessary in the light of consequential legislation.

The recommendations of the Governance Committee were **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to be established on and from 1 April 2013, be agreed as now proposed, subject to any revisions necessary in the light of consequential legislation.

42 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RULES - EXCEPTIONS TO THE CALL-IN (REQUISITION) PROCEDURE (agenda item 12)**

The Council was reminded that, under paragraph 18e of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Leader of the Council was required to submit quarterly reports to Council on decisions taken by himself, Cabinet or individual Cabinet members, or key decisions made by a member of staff where, in the previous three months, the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed that the decision be excepted from call-in and, as the case may be, also from entry in the Forward Plan.

It was now reported that there had recently been three such decisions, relating to:

- 1) Department for Communities and Local Government Weekly Collection Support Scheme;
- 2) The use of Section 106 commuted sums for the provision of affordable housing; and
- 3) Building works to Hildene Primary School.

The Council **NOTED** the report.

43 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 13)**

Ten 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.

44 **POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM (AGENDA ITEM 14D)
(agenda item 14)**

In accordance with the procedural motion (see minute 34 above), the following motion and amendment were taken as the first of the motions, and dealt with by vote only.

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council:

1. Recognises the stated aim of Government is to decentralise powers and increase local democratic accountability.
2. Recognises there is an appetite for more opportunities for local decision-making and greater freedom from centralised control.
3. Welcomes:
 - a) the joint campaign between the Local Government Association (LGA) and Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee (PCRSC) to stimulate debate about the relationship between central and local government.
 - b) the opportunity, through the Select Committee's inquiry on the Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government, to comment on these issues.
4. Resolves to write to local Members of Parliament supporting the joint LGA and PCRSC campaign and outlining local ambitions for the central-local government relationship.
5. Urges all political parties and central government to engage with the Select Committee and the LGA to consider whether an entrenched statutory codification of the independence of local government should be part of our constitutional settlement.

D1: Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

Delete the following:

"1. Recognises the stated aim of Government is to decentralise powers and increase local democratic accountability"

and insert in its place the following:

"1. Is disappointed at the Government localisation initiatives including its recent planning policy proposals but notwithstanding its disappointment urges Government to decentralise powers and increase local democratic accountability"

On being put to the vote, the Labour amendment **LOST** by 10 votes to 27 (see division 2). The Administration motion was then **CARRIED** by 36 votes to 0 (see division 3).

RESOLVED that:

This Council:

1. **Recognises the stated aim of Government is to decentralise powers and increase local democratic accountability.**
2. **Recognises there is an appetite for more opportunities for local decision-making and greater freedom from centralised control.**
3. **Welcomes:**
 - a) **the joint campaign between the Local Government Association (LGA) and Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee (PCRSC) to stimulate debate about the relationship between central and local government.**
 - b) **the opportunity, through the Select Committee's inquiry on the Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government, to comment on these issues.**
4. **Resolves to write to local Members of Parliament supporting the joint LGA and PCRSC campaign and outlining local ambitions for the central-local government relationship.**
5. **Urges all political parties and central government to engage with the Select Committee and the LGA to consider whether an entrenched statutory codification of the independence of local government should be part of our constitutional settlement.**

45 **PROCEDURAL MOTION (agenda item)**

A procedural motion, that the motion at agenda item 14E (Free car parking in the pre-Christmas period) be dealt with by vote only, was **LOST** by 15 votes to 26 (see division 4).

46 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING (AGENDA ITEM 14A) (agenda item)**

Motion on behalf the Residents' Group

Following the reported £6.7 million under-spend in the revenue budget for 2011/12, this Council agrees to consider the following actions in order to establish a robust, transparent and accountable monitoring regime at member level:

- a) a quarterly statement is reported to Cabinet setting out progress against each saving target
- b) where there are projected variations, the items are automatically referred to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee for further consideration
- c) that a full bi-annual budget statement is provided to each Overview and Scrutiny Committee tailored to the remit of that committee

A1: Amendment on behalf of the Administration

Amend to read

This Council noting that the provisional reported under-spend of £6.7 million in the revenue budget for 2011/2012 will be reduced to nil following the planned transfer to transformation/strategic reserves and that the use of such reserves has been important in achieving very difficult savings targets reaffirms its support for:

- a) the posting quarterly on the Intranet of the revenue monitoring reports
- b) the inclusion of detailed analysis in Cabinet financial reports as part of the Financial Framework
- c) the Constitutional freedom of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to set their own agendas.

Following debate, the Administration amendment was **CARRIED** by 26 votes to 16 (see division 5); and it was then **CARRIED** as the substantive motion by 26 votes to 16 (see division 6).

RESOLVED:

This Council, noting that the provisional reported under-spend of £6.7 million in the revenue budget for 2011/2012 will be reduced to nil following the planned transfer to transformation/strategic reserves and that the use of such reserves has been important in achieving very difficult savings targets reaffirms its support for:

- a) the posting quarterly on the Intranet of the revenue monitoring reports
- b) the inclusion of detailed analysis in Cabinet financial reports as part of the Financial Framework
- c) the Constitutional freedom of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to set their own agendas.

47 **FREE CAR PARKING IN THE PRE-CHRISTMAS PERIOD (AGENDA ITEM 14E) (agenda item)**

Motion on behalf the Residents' Group

Following on from the initiative to open up the Angel Way Multi-Storey Car Park on Sundays to provide free car parking prior to Christmas 2011, and in order to boost business and promote our local economies over the coming Christmas/New Year period, this Council agrees to extend free parking for the first two hours in all council managed car parks across the borough, covering the weekends of 15th/16th December, 22nd/23rd December and from 24th December through to 1st January inclusive.

In view of the hour and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1(b), the motion was considered without debate and, on being put to the vote, was **LOST** by 12 votes to 26 (see division 7).

48 **MOTIONS WITHDRAWN (agenda item)**

With the agreement of the Council, the following motions were withdrawn:

Item 14B – Olympic Torch Relay – by the Independent Residents' Group

Item 14C – Housing policies – by the Independent Residents' Group

Item 14F – Hospital A&E Services in North East London – by the Labour Group

49 **VOTING (agenda item)**

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

Mayor

APPENDIX 1 (Minute 35)

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

What a glorious summer it has been! The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games were truly spectacular. Havering had the privilege of hosting the Olympic Torch, which passed through Romford, Hornchurch and Rainham at the end of July.

A total of 150,000 people packed into our town centres and lined the Torch Route to cheer on the official Torchbearers, and together they made this a day to remember.

I was lucky enough to see the Torch in both Hornchurch and Rainham, and can tell you it was a wonderful precursor to the Games. I am so proud of all our Havering Ambassadors and volunteers who helped out on the day.

There were the astonishing Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Britain's record haul of medals in both Games, and the truly awe-inspiring achievements of all our athletes and competitors. I was cheering on Mo, Jessica, Ellie, Bradley and all the rest.

And who could forget Havering's own Amy Marren? She's only 14 and was making her debut at the Paralympics; she did really well in her swimming races. We're so proud of her and all of TeamGB!

I'm delighted to announce we are giving a ~Mayor's Award this evening to our very own Olympic champion, Mark Hunter, who is from this borough.

Mark amazed us by scooping the silver medal, with his rowing partner Zac Purchase, in the lightweight men's double scull race. We awarded Mark the Freedom of the Borough of Havering four years ago after he won the gold medal in Beijing. And I'm happy to present him with the Mayor's Award tonight.

At this point, Mark Hunter came forward, to a standing ovation, to receive the Mayor's Award.

Back to this summer: even though our Hornchurch Live music festival had to be sadly called-off because of bad storms, the skies did clear the following two days to enable us to hold yet another brilliant Havering Show. We know our residents love this annual show, which was free to attend once again. Thousands of families enjoyed a wide range of activities and splendid entertainment, from jousting knights and amazing stunts to music from the rock legend Suzi Quatro.

And last Saturday, we enjoyed another well-attended - and free - event in the borough. Pedalling into the Past was held in Hornchurch Country Park, and successfully mixed local history with cycling and fun for all the family. We even had a Lancaster Bomber fly over!

Now it's time for a quick look at what's coming up for the borough this autumn.

We will find out the winners of the Havering Business Awards in October, and there's a Havering Asks Q&A panel event in November.

And I'm delighted that The Royal Anglian Regiment will be marching through Romford on November 6 - time to be announced - to celebrate having the Freedom of the Borough. That's something we can all look forward to seeing.

Finally, a hat-trick of good news stories!

Last week, our Banking Protocol scheme won the best Public/Private Partnership award at the Association for Public Service Excellence Awards. Our Banking Protocol sees us working with local banks and partner agencies to keep vulnerable people safe from doorstep conmen. Well done to our staff in Trading Standards, Community Safety, Communications, and our partner agencies, who were all involved in the project.

During a visit to Havering by our twinned town of Ludwigshafen, the Leader was presented with a City of Ludwigshafen gold partnership medal in recognition of his long term commitment to the strong bond between them and us.

The Council has been presented with an award by the Ministry of Defence for the support we give our staff who are volunteer members of the armed forces reserves.

Finally, yesterday, I attended the London in Bloom Awards. I am most proud to say we were awarded 3 Golds, one each for Bedfords Park, Hornchurch Country Park and Bio Diversity across the Borough. In addition we were awarded 3 Silver Gilt. Bearing in mind the budget we have when compared to the likes of the City of London, these achievements are simply magnificent and those whose work led to them are to be highly commended.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

3.7.6 Head of Development & Building Control

1. Proposed new delegated powers 3.7.6 (dd)

Section 127 of the Localism Act has introduced new Sections 225A-K to the Town and Country Planning Act.

These new provisions allow a local authority to serve a "removal notice", where advertisements are being displayed without consent, requiring the person responsible to remove the advertisement within at least 22 days. The local authority then can remove those advertisements subject to a removal notice that have not been removed and recover the costs of doing so.

These powers appear to be more straightforward than current powers under the London Local Authorities Act.

It would be beneficial for these to be delegated to the Head of Development and Building Control so that prompt action against unauthorised adverts can be taken.

Reason for proposed delegation

- (i) Serve Removal Notices under Section 225A of the Act;
- (ii) Remove unauthorised advertisements which have not been removed in accordance with a removal notice;
- (iii) Deal with appeals against removal notices under Section 225B of the Act;
- (iv) Issue removal notices on operational land in accordance with Section 225K of the Act.

3.3 Powers of Members of the Corporate Management Team

1. Proposed changes to text of delegated powers 3.3. Finance (d)

To authorise the making of ex-gratia payments to individuals where the Local Government Ombudsman has recommended that such payment be made in local settlement of a complaint.

Reason for change

The Local Government Ombudsman on occasions recommends to the Council the payment of a relatively modest sum to a complainant as a way of settling a matter locally, i.e. without a full Ombudsman investigation. Currently the relevant delegation limits the amount that can be authorised to a figure set by the Head of Finance and Procurement. This is an unnecessary bureaucratic requirement, so it is proposed to delete this restriction.

It should be noted that in the event of a finding of maladministration by the Ombudsman the finding and the compensation will still have to be reported to members as at present.

3.5.6 Head of Children and Young People's Services

1. Amalgamation of two delegated powers 3.5.6 (m) & (q).

To approve payments for children in need, or of their families, and for children and young people in care and leaving care, in accordance with Part III of the Children Act 1989, and to make grants and/or loans to children and their relatives, up to the limit specified from time to time by the Head of Finance & Procurement; otherwise payment must be made in consultation with the Group Director Finance & Commerce.

Reason for change

Currently the Head of Children & Young People's Services has two delegated powers for the provision of financial assistance, one of which is up to a set limit and the other about that limit. There is no logical reason for such an arrangement, which probably relates to a historical sub-division of responsibilities which is no longer relevant. It is therefore proposed to amalgamate the two powers into one.

**APPENDIX 3
(Minute 40)**

ADJUDICATION & REVIEW

Amendments to the Constitution: Part 3: Responsibility for Functions

In section 1.2 Functions delegated to general council committees, Table of Committees, etc:

1. Before the entry for the Audit Committee, insert:

Council committee	Functions
<p>Adjudication & Review</p>	<p>Appeals and complaints</p> <p>To determine an appeal against any decision made by or on behalf of the authority, including in relation to housing services, except where statute provides for some other route of appeal (see Part 3, section 4: functions not to be the responsibility of an authority's Executive) (group B functions) and Part 3, section 5: local choice functions) – see Hearings Panels below</p> <p>Admission and exclusion of pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make arrangements pursuant to Chapter I of Part III of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (admission appeals), including children to whom section 87 applies (appeals by governing bodies) • To make arrangements pursuant to Chapter 3 of Part 3 of Education Act 2002 (exclusion reviews) <p>These powers are exercisable in relation to maintained schools and, subject to appropriate contract, may be exercised in relation to Academies</p> <p>Governing bodies</p> <p>To hear appeals from teachers about early retirement decisions by governing bodies</p> <p>Members' conduct</p> <p>To consider allegations of breaches by Members of the Code of Conduct and the appropriate sanctions, if any, to be applied in consequence of a finding that the Code had been breached.</p>

2. In the Sub-Committees section, **omit**:

- (a) The entry for the Adjudication & Review Sub-Committee
- (b) The entry for the Sub-Committees of the former Standards Committee

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**APPENDIX 2
(Minute 43)**

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Note: Questions 1 to 10 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 WEED SPRAYING CONTRACT

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm why the weed spraying contract was not agreed until May which meant that that the first spray was months behind schedule making many of the roads in Havering look very poor for most of the summer?

Answer:

The weed control contract was included in the East London Solutions (ELS) programme of intended contracts. Officers from four of the boroughs had been meeting for many months prior to the intended tendering date to agree the specification and benefit from the economies of scale this process would deliver. As Havering had led on the Highways contract, the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham agreed to lead on the weed control contract. The contract specification was drawn up for the participating boroughs but unfortunately, Barking & Dagenham decided to withdraw their assistance and undertook their own tendering exercise.

This information was forwarded to us in late-2011, and we then began the process of tendering our own contract, with an adjusted start date of May 2012.

2 MOTHBALLED SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

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

By Councillor Keith Darvill

How many mothballed classrooms are there in primary and secondary schools in Havering and in which schools are they?

Answer:

The term 'mothballed' classrooms refers to accommodation which was taken out of general education use when pupil admission numbers previously reduced in some primary schools as a result of falling rolls. Whilst the reference to 'mothballing' may suggest that this space was locked up and placed out of use by the school concerned, in most cases the 'surplus' space has been used by individual schools to accommodate various educational uses such as IT suites, school libraries, art/resource rooms, SEN use etc.

With primary school pupil projections now rising once again, our strategic planning to accommodate this expansion has included discussions with Headteachers to explore scope to re-commission this accommodation for general education use. As a first phase of this programme, classrooms at Parsonage, Pinewood and Wykeham schools were successfully re-commissioned over the recent summer holidays and are already back in general education use. Our plans to accommodate increased rolls for September 2013 involve the use of other previously 'mothballed' space in the same manner.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to accommodate the projected increase over the next 4-5 years in this manner as schools need to accommodate an entire form of entry ranging from Reception to Year 6 (Primary - 7 classrooms), or Key Stage 1 (Infants - 3 classrooms)/Key Stage 2 cohort (Juniors - 4 classrooms), so that an expanded Reception class can subsequently progress through the same school. As a result, individual classrooms 'dotted' around the borough would not be practical and consequently net expansion to some schools is inevitable.

I am happy to provide/have provided to Councillor Darvill the list of those primary schools having rooms exceeding 54sq.m. that are not allocated to general education use i.e. those referred to as 'mothballed'.

Our pupil projections do not identify any pressure on secondary spaces for some years to come and the majority of the secondary portfolio has now transferred to Academy status.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member responded that it had not been possible to indicate earlier the schools at which the recommissioning programme would apply as discussions had not been completed with all Headteachers and Governing Bodies. The Cabinet Member agreed to reply in due course to the questioner about an outstanding Freedom of Information enquiry.

3 IMPACT OF WELFARE ALLOWANCES ON PROVISION OF COUNCIL SERVICES

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Along with other Group Leaders and Members, I recently received an e-mail urging me to write to the Prime Minister as refugees and immigrants to this country allegedly received a £250 weekly allowance, a £225 spouse allowance and a £100 additional weekly hardship allowance. The e-mail went on to state that this contrasted with an Old Age Pensioner who received only £106 weekly allowance, £25 spouse allowance and no weekly hardship allowance. If these claims are true, could the Cabinet Member advise what he feels will be the impact on future Council services?

Answer:

I do not believe these claims to be accurate, for example according to the UK Border Agency a weekly cash allowance for a single person aged over 18 is in fact £36.62.

As the Member is aware, this Council has no control over the welfare allowances he lists. This is the responsibility of central government. These allowances are therefore unrelated to the provision of Council Services.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reiterated that he did not believe the assertions within the email were accurate.

4 **LICENSING: EFFECT OF SATURATION POLICY**

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

By Councillor John Mylod

In respect of licensing applications, would the Cabinet Member confirm that the Saturation Policy is fully considered when dealing with applications and are there any examples where this policy is overridden by other factors?

Answer:

Yes, the Sub-Committee fully consider the Saturation Policy when it is raised by anyone in a valid representation. The Saturation Policy does not mean that every application can be refused simply because the policy exists. Applications must be heard on their merits, but a cumulative impact policy in an area will mean that the burden is on the applicant to show that their application/premises will not add to cumulative impact upon any of the licensing objectives. Those objecting to the license are still required to provide evidence however of how the objectives are likely to be affected. Therefore the policy is not absolute, and indeed it cannot be. The term "overridden" is inappropriate. The other thing to consider is that by the Sub Committee granting licence applications but reducing hours and adding tighter conditions, are examples of the policy working (within its legislative/Guidance based constraints), and the fact that some applications in these areas are nonetheless approved does not mean the policy is not being considered, or even that it is ineffective.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reiterated that all licensing applications were dealt with on their respective merits and the Saturation Policy could only be applied where there was proper cause to do so.

5 **LONG GRASS MEADOWS IN PARKS**

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

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

What is the average area left uncut as Long Grass Meadow in our parks?

Answer:

I am very grateful for Councillor O'Flynn's question.

We have had a rolling programme for the development of meadow areas in parks in partnership with Friends of Parks groups and local nature conservation groups since 2007.

Our aim is the protection and enhancement of the flora and fauna of this borough, which have a significance that makes them important to nature conservation in general beyond the borders of our borough as well as within them. I am very glad that the importance of our work in this area was recognised with the Gold award from London in Bloom for Biodiversity in 2011 and unprecedentedly also this year.

We believe that a richer natural environment contributes to a visually interesting and stimulating environment. This is an important part of the particular character of this borough marking us out from others around us. It is important to health and wellbeing and the development of children and young people, and the particular significance of habitats in this borough mean that we have a particular part to play in tackling the decline in species of plant, insect, animal and bird life which has been evidenced and published over a number of years, including in the report published by the charity "Plantlife" last week.

The introduction of meadow areas does not just involve leaving areas of grass uncut. Areas are selected to enhance the particular ecology of each area, and to ensure that all in the borough have access to nature. Resources are then shifted to provide measures that ensure active conservation, such as increasing litter picks, as nature doesn't like rubbish either.

The grass areas are then cut on a two year cycle, with half of the grass on each site being cut and removed annually. This ensures that invertebrate habitat is not completely removed and allows the insects to relocate into the areas of the site that have not been cut, which helps to maintain a sustainable population.

The average area of park that is maintained like this in the borough is 6.53%.

Surveys by nature conservation groups and feedback from residents record an increase in species of butterfly such as Small Heath Butterfly, Small Skipper Butterfly and Six Spot Burnett Moth. In addition song birds have increased particularly Goldfinch and Greenfinch in the borough, along with an increase in the variety of habitat. We now have more Cuckoo Flower, which feeds the Orange Tip Butterfly, Birdsfoot Trefoil which is the food plant for the Common Blue Butterfly and White Clover which is a favourite plant of bees in the borough, which is very welcome.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member undertook to investigate whether pathways might be provided through some long grassed areas in order to provide low-hazard passage through them for people who were less sure of foot.

6 USE OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

Following an article in the media where it is stated a couple who wanted to build their own home were presented with a £44,000 charge for a Section 106 agreement by Rutland Council, are our hard pressed Havering residents in danger of the same insensitive demands of monies being made upon them in these economically challenging times?

Answer:

No they are not. Infrastructure charges relate to developers and the development of new properties not to ordinary residents who might want to build an extension.

From 1 April 2012, a tariff of £6,000, or £4,500 in Havering Riverside, per new additional dwelling has been applied through S106 agreements as part of planning permission. This

represents a discounted charge for infrastructure provision considered necessary in relation to the impacts of new housing in the Borough.

The charge only applies to additional dwellings so someone building a replacement dwelling would not be subject to a charge. The discount was calculated with regard to viability and is considered to be reasonable in relation to the uplift value in land as a result of planning permission being granted. It is certainly a lot less than the example given by Councillor Burton.

The Planning obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was published for consultation purposed on 1 April with Cabinet approving its application for all planning applications received from that date. The SPD is due to be adopted shortly.

The overall infrastructure requirement relating to new housing was calculated to be £20,444 per dwelling. In most cases, residential development within Havering cannot currently support the full cost of the infrastructure requirement it generates and remain viable, so a discounted rate taking account of viability is applied.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member gave assurance that this approach would remain in force for the foreseeable future.

7 REDUCTION IN CABINET POSITIONS

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Brian Eagling

The Leader is to be congratulated for recognising the need to reduce the number of Cabinet positions, as consistently suggested by the Residents' Association in their budget proposals. However would he agree to bring forward the plan to cut three Cabinet Posts as he would be saving the council tax payers of Havering some £150,000 in allowances over the remainder of this Administration?

Answer:

The Cabinet posts earmarked for deletion are required until 2014 due to the current projects and programmes that each of those Cabinet members is responsible for.

This Council has already been making savings approaching £40 million pounds and this has meant that we are one of the best placed authorities in terms of budget management and keeping our costs under control.

The party opposite has consistently come up with token savings - £10,000 here, £20,000 there – what they need to realise is that running the Council in economically difficult times is not about making politically easy decisions and saving a few thousands pounds, but is about making hard choices where savings can total millions of pounds.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council reminded the questioner that flexibility was required in order to respond to circumstances changing as a result of government initiatives and statutory obligations. For the present, the need for a Cabinet of 10 Members remained but that would be reviewed and change in the future.

8 **RELAXATION OF PLANNING REGULATIONS**

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Paul McGeary

Does the Leader of the Council welcome the recent Coalition Governments announcement relaxing the planning regulations to allow larger extensions to be built as permitted development?

Answer:

The Government has announced that full details of the relaxation of planning regulations in relation to house extensions will be published shortly. The Council will respond to the consultation if it considers that there are likely to be serious adverse implications for residents of this Borough who may adjoin large extensions.

Subject to suitable limitations, I support proposals that seek to lift the burden of obtaining planning permission for householders who wish to improve their property, that will generate economic activity especially for small businesses and that will enable Council Planning departments to concentrate on facilitating important and major development proposals.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council invited to the questioner to draw to his attention any individual cases of difficulty so that he could look into them.

9 **EFFECT OF IMMIGRATION ON HAVERING**

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor David Durant

Does the Council Leader agree with Government plans to reduce immigration to 'the 10s of thousands' and what consequences does he foresee for Havering if this Conservative election promise is not fulfilled?

Answer:

Yes I do agree.

However, I think it is very important to note that many people from overseas who have come to Britain have made a substantial contribution to our economy and our society.

The world as we know it is unlikely to end if this election promise is un-fulfilled, however immigration has been falling steadily since the Government took office. This has mainly been made up of falling numbers of overseas students.

The vast majority of people from overseas who move to Britain are hard working, tax paying, skilled individuals, who make a substantial contribution to our economy and way of life.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reminded the questioner that the government had legislated for referenda to be held if the European Union sought

the transfer of further powers from Member States: to date, the need for such a referendum had not arisen.

10 REQUEST FOR AN UPMINSTER CONSERVATION AREA

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

By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

In answer to my question at last Council requesting a Conservation Area around the St Laurence Church area of Upminster, the reply stated that 'while the five listed buildings are all very valuable, the quality of the remaining buildings is variable, and most of the infill buildings are not of architectural or historic interest.....and the designation of a conservation area would not provide any additional planning controls or benefits for the listed buildings'. Would the Cabinet Member explain:

- a) Which infill buildings are being referred to?
- b) The NPPF advises that every new build in Conservation Areas should be of sufficient quality to complement the area – why is this advice seemingly being ignored?

Answer:

- a) In the previous response, it was the buildings in-between the heritage assets (the five listed buildings) that were referred to as 'infill' buildings, include the following:

- New Windmill Hall
- Old Windmill Hall
- Millfield House
- Upminster Junior School
- Lincoln House
- The new buildings on Gridiron Place

When a conservation area is designated, the usual process is to designate a length of streetscape that includes not only heritage assets, but all buildings within the area and the public realm. It's recognised that the listed buildings which Cllr Hawthorn has suggested should be captured within a conservation area make a strong and positive contribution to the streetscene. However the buildings in-between these highly important assets in the streetscape are not considered of historic or architectural interest. Therefore they do not provide a high quality streetscape with either a unique or uniform character so it is considered that they do not warrant the designation of a conservation area.

Whilst these buildings don't warrant inclusion within a conservation area, the designation of a conservation area would not provide any additional protection for the statutorily listed buildings.

- b) In my opinion, in recent years Havering's Regulatory Services Committee has ensured that new build in conservation areas is of excellent quality and does complement the particular and distinct character of our conservation areas by defining spaces, creating fine views and making thoughtful use of materials,

massing, form and volume to enhance links between buildings and spaces in conservation areas. I would highlight the new library and flats in Rainham Village Conservation Area and the proposed development in Angel Way and in Romford Conservation Area as particularly fine examples of this.

There have been occasions where I feel that the National Planning Inspectorate has been less helpful than it could have been in relation to our conservation areas, and I would cite North Street in Romford and Dovers Corner as examples of this, but my experience of the work of our Regulatory Services Committee in recent years is that members do give due consideration to issues of design, setting and conservation when considering applications in conservation areas, and that we have results to be proud of.

The areas between listed buildings in Upminster about which Councillor Hawthorn is quite rightly concerned all clearly form the settings of the listed buildings near them, which are so important to the visual interest of the environment of the town.

In this light, anyone seeking to develop in the area should be employing an architect able to respond to the particular opportunities which these locations offer, paying particular regard to scale, materials and the relationship of buildings and spaces to one another to create visually pleasing ensembles if they are not to fall foul of the standards for conservation and enhancement of the historic environment contained in Havering's Local Development Framework and reinforced by the National Planning Policy Framework.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member commented that the declaration of a Conservation Area did not preclude the inclusion of modern buildings within it.

11 CHILDREN IN HOMELESS PERSONS HOSTELS

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

By Councillor Pat Murray

How many children under the age of 16 years of age are currently resident with their parents in Havering Homeless Persons Hostels?

Answer:

The exact make up of hostel households fluctuates from time to time but as at 12th September 2012 there were 63 households with children in the hostels with a total of 102 children. The average stay for a household is around 12 weeks.

12 NEW RAINHAM LIBRARY: PROGRESS

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

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Can the Council please advise on the latest development regarding the building of Rainham Library next door to the station and the bus interchange station with a timescale of how long it will be before completion.

Answer:

The Rainham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre is a central project within the Rainham Compass regeneration programme. It will provide a valuable community resource, additional residential units and support educational achievement within the Rainham area. Site works and construction to ground floor slab have already been completed but progression to the main construction stage has been interrupted by the dissolution of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation and the transfer of its assets and funding to the GLA.

Contractors for the scheme, Roof, have already been selected via a competitive tender process. They are able to mobilise immediately upon signing of the funding agreement. The construction programme is expected to be of 66 weeks duration, including lead in / mobilisation periods, which would envisage completion early in 2014.

We expect outstanding documents to be exchanged in the next few weeks.

13 REDEVELOPMENT OF ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, HORNCURCH

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member please confirm:

- a) The services that are currently been provided at St George's Hospital in Hornchurch and where these will be provided when the hospital is redeveloped?
- b) Any additional services that will be provided on site after the hospital has been redeveloped?

Answer:

a) The CCG will develop a proposal for the future services to be provided at St Georges, engaging closely with the local authority. All of the services (other than the beds) will continue to operate from St Georges in the short term.

b) The details will be developed as above but will include a primary care service.

14 PARK HOMES - PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL

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

By Councillor Keith Darvill

Will the Council support the change in the law proposed in the Park Homes Bill to be laid in Parliament by Peter Aldous MP and will it write to Havering Members of Parliament to urge them to support the Bill and attend sessions in Parliament to ensure that it becomes law?

Answer:

The Park Homes Bill is not in the public domain and, as such, its exact proposals are unclear. However, the Government published a consultation paper, *A Better Deal for Mobile Home Owners*, in April this year. If the provisions of the Bill are in accordance with the proposals in this paper, the Council will generally support the Bill, but must reserve its position until the precise provisions are known.

15 ON-STREET PARKING IN RAINHAM VILLAGE**To the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment (Councillor Robert Benham)**

By Councillor David Durant

An important attraction of the Rainham one-way system was the increase in parking spaces this would facilitate by the local shops in Rainham Village.

The latest proposals involve 'pay and display' parking bays, but make other parking restrictions more severe, when they could be eased. For example, 8.30am - 6.30pm restrictions are being replaced with 'anytime', rather than one hour restrictions!

Ward councillors have had meetings with Officers about this, but can the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment review the proposals to ensure that more parking spaces are provided by the shops in Rainham Village?

Answer:

The Rainham Traffic Management System will create 14 new short stay parking bays and 4 loading bays directly outside the shops in the Village centre. At present parking is restricted throughout the Village shopping area by single and double yellow lines and there is no legal parking provision when these restrictions apply. This project will therefore support shopping in Rainham Village, which is why it received overwhelming support during the detailed consultation undertaken on the scheme.

Motorists often chose to park illegally outside shops and they contribute to the high levels of congestion in the Village. The Rainham Traffic Management System is seeking to alleviate this by making Upminster Road South a one way road which will allow for parking or loading on one side of the road where none currently exist and create a much safer and attractive environment for shoppers and pedestrians.

Where anytime parking restrictions are proposed these are generally opposite areas of parking where it is essential to keep one side of the road clear permanently to allow traffic including buses and emergency vehicles to flow freely and not block the road.

The Rainham Traffic Management System proposals were widely consulted upon with a specific meeting held with shopowners who approved of the scheme as is being built. In addition a recent consultation on the traffic management orders required to implement the new parking bays outside the shops is also underway.

During this consultation it has become apparent that shop keepers would like further additional parking bays and Officers are considering how this could be achieved without

compromising the safe flow of traffic. The results of this work, together with the responses to the consultation, will be reported to the October HAC for consideration

16 **DOG FOULING: FINES**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how many fines have been issued since the last Cabinet report dealing with dog fouling?

Answer:

Since the last Cabinet report three fixed penalties have been issued.

Because of the nature of the offence it is difficult to catch offenders in the act of not clearing up their dog's mess. Where it has not been possible to identify the dog owner letters have been distributed in the general area of the offence asking dog owners to be more considerate and to clear up after their dog. Signs have also been fixed to lamp posts in the area.

It is anticipated that the new Cleaner Havering campaign including a web based report form and publicity will enable officers to establish a regular time and place where owners fail to clear up after their dogs and will enable officers to target known hotspots where offences regularly take place.

17 **RIVER INGREBOURNE FLOODING – DE-SILTING**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor David Durant

In response to an earlier question about flooding and the River Ingrebourne, I was informed that 'it would be beneficial to de-silt from Squadrons Approach to the new A13 to ensure maximum flow can be optimised which reflects what was noted during the 10th July inspection with the Environment Agency'. And 'as some of this run is within a Site of Scientific Special Interest, a sensitive approach needs to be undertaken to such works'.

What progress has been made regarding this matter?

Answer:

Further to an initial individual inspection by the Environment Agency on 10th July, a further joint inspection is to be undertaken on 19th September as a section of the River Ingrebourne appears severely constricted from the A1306 downstream to the Thames.

As this section of the river will be initially addressed by the Environment Agency, it may be that the works they undertake alleviate the flooding issues experienced from Squadrons Approach through the Site of Scientific Special Interest land. Officers will continue to work closely with the Environment Agency to ensure a remedy to this issue is forthcoming.

18 VISITORS' CENTRE AND PRODUCTION OF MAGAZINE**To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Leader confirm why in times of reducing funds available to the council, money has been spent on a fully staffed Visitors Centre and the full cost of the 72-page glossy magazine?

Answer:

The Visitor Centre offers a vital service to the Borough's businesses and attractions in these difficult times and, as Cllr Morgon knows, the success and survival of local businesses will have a direct impact on Council funding in the future, as the Government moves to a model for funding local authorities that is based on a retention of the business rates. So we need to encourage people to come here and spend money in Havering. I would add that the running costs for the centre are being met using grant monies for two years – meaning there's no revenue costs to Council tax payers at all.

The Centre is highly valued and well-used, both by visitors to the Borough and by local people who want to learn more about what's happening in Havering. Over this incredible summer of celebration, it's been buzzing with activity, managing approximately 450 enquiries a week and 10,350 since it opened almost six months ago. The Centre has helped people from as far afield as China, Australia and Argentina, as well as a large number of visiting servicemen and women from the Hainault camp, who did such a fantastic job during the Olympics.

And the Discover Havering Guide has been a roaring success, given out not just at the centre, but at libraries, at events, at local hotels and at other visitor centres across the South East. We produced 13,000 copies and, after advertising income and external funding is factored in, it cost just over £2,000 – making it great value for money.

19 USE OF REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT**To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)**

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Cabinet Member state if powers available under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) have been used in any surveillance operations on any residents in Havering over the past two years and, if so, how many and under what circumstances?

Answer:

Powers available under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) have been used on the following occasions over the past two years:

- 3 occasions to investigate potential benefit fraud, and
- 2 occasions to investigate allegations of harassment by the same landlord, but involving different private rented properties

20 **RENEWAL OF FOOTWAYS AND CARRIAGEWAYS****To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor John Mylod

Would the Cabinet Member provide a list of roads (by ward) that have had their footway or carriageway completely renewed since 2006?

Answer:

There is limited information available covering this length of time, however I can provide the Member with details of the overall spend for renewals for each year since 2006, totalling in a spend of £14.25m.

21 **OLYMPICS 2012: COUNCIL EXPENDITURE****To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)**

By Councillor Ron Ower

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how much each Directorate spent on events directly or indirectly connected with the 2012 Olympics?

Answer:

Culture and Community spent the following amounts on core Olympic related activities in 2012:

Events	Expenditure (£k)
Cultural Olympiad Programme	£25
Olympic Torch Relay (2012)	£49k
Paralympic Flame Celebration (2012)	£0.5k

The other directorates did not level expenditure on Olympic connected events.

22 **CONTRACTS****To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member provide a list of all contracts with in-house and external providers and the date the current contracts are due to expire?

Answer:

The production of a list of all contracts with in-house and external providers regardless of value would take a disproportionate amount of staff time. However I understand that the member is particularly interested in the contracts recorded on the Council's Contracts register. This can be found along with the contracts of other boroughs at:

www.londoncontractsregister.co.uk/public_crs/organisations/lb-havering/?search=&filter=all&page=3

23 CLOSURE OF WAITROSE STORE, HORNCHURCH**To the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment (Councillor Robert Benham)**

By Councillor John Mylod

Given the decision by Waitrose to close their store in Hornchurch High Street, would the Cabinet Member set out what measures were pursued in order to support the ongoing viability of the business and whether the Council was aware that car parking charges of the adjacent car park increased from 20p to £1 on the day the store opened?

Answer:

The Leader met with Waitrose shortly after the announcement that they were closing their store in Hornchurch. Waitrose were very positive about Hornchurch as a trading location and remain interested in the borough as a place for their business.

Unfortunately the store format that they trialled in Hornchurch has not been successful for Waitrose and they are no longer opening stores of this size across the country. In addition, they did not provide any parking which could be controlled by Waitrose for the benefit of their customers and were reliant on the private car park next door. The Council does not control parking or charges on this privately owned and managed site and while private charges have increased the Council car parks continue to offer 2 hours for 20 pence.

Clearly Waitrose closure is disappointing for Hornchurch, but the Council is determined to support businesses in this important town centre and met with Waitrose to offer support to them when they moved into the town. During Waitrose time in the town centre, we have delivered an ongoing programme of support in Hornchurch including a shop local campaign that has seen competitions, community events and bespoke Hornchurch merchandise to entice shoppers to rediscover Hornchurch and its shopping offer.

We secured a £225k grant from the GLA in the latter half of 2011 and a large amount of this funding was utilised to advertise and promote the town centre, to produce merchandise and a directory for Hornchurch and provide advice and support to local businesses. We have set up a Facebook page and raised the profile of Hornchurch at the recent Havering Town Show. We continue to provide support for the Hornchurch Christmas Cracker event, which last year attracted an additional 2,500 people into the town.

We hold a wide range of events and festivals in Hornchurch that attract people from a wider area to the town, including the highly successful torch relay event, which attracted over 6,000 people to the town.

We are also part way through a £2.5m investment programme in the High Street funded by Transport for London that will bring improvements to the look of Hornchurch, improve accessibility and make it easier to shop and enjoy the town.

24 **COMMUNITY BUDGET**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Leader confirm whether this Council is pressing for this Authority to operate a community budget?

Answer:

In many areas we already operate community budgets, for example the Council's work to support Troubled Families to improve their outcomes. The focus is on families in need of support who reside in Harold Hill and is a multi-agency partnership to align resources and services to get better outcomes for local families.

25 **OUT OF COURT DISPOSALS**

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

By Councillor John Wood

Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether the local Police use what are known as 'Out of Court Disposals'?

Answer:

Yes, the Police use Out of Court Disposals.

The different types of disposal options used are:

- Penalty Notice Disposal (PND)
- Caution
- Conditional Caution
- Cannabis Warning
- Reprimand (Youth)
- Final Warning (Youth)

26 **FUTURE OF NHS MEDICAL FACILITIES**

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Nic Dodin

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what steps, if any, are being taken to retain medical facilities buildings under local control to avoid them being removed in April 2013 and vested in the NHS Property Services Company?

Answer:

The CCG will develop a proposal for the future services to be provided at St Georges, engaging closely with the local authority. All of the services (other than the beds) will continue to operate from St Georges in the short term.

27 PRUNING OF STREET TREES**To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what additional sum would be required in the tree budget to ensure all street trees were pruned every 3 years?

Answer:

Although it would not be particularly good arboricultural practice to prune every highway tree every three years, it is anticipated that the increased pruning would cost an approximate additional £150,000 per annum.

28 COSTS OF SOCIAL CARE ASSESSMENTS**To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)**

By Councillor Linda Van den Hende

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the average cost per social care assessment and review and how this compares with other London boroughs?

Answer:

An analysis of Council PSSEX1 returns for 2010-11 (the most recent data published) identifies that Havering Adult Social Care has the second lowest cost in Outer London of £810 per Assessment or Review. This cost compares to an average cost in Outer London of £1,300 and £1,400 approx in London overall.

29 EXTERNAL PERFORMANCE INSPECTIONS**To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor June Alexander

Would the Leader provide a list of external performance inspections carried out on the council over the past three years and indicate if any are scheduled for the future?

Answer:

The Council is no longer subject to as many mandatory performance inspections since the Conservative Government abolished the regulatory performance regime that used to be in place for councils including the mandatory National Indicator set and Comprehensive Area Assessment, which were abolished in May 2010.

Compulsory inspection is now really only carried out in Children's and Adults Social Care, which I'm sure you'll agree due to the nature of these services, is only right and proper.

We are also subject to various annual audits, including an audit of our Benefit Subsidy Grants claim by our external auditors and of course the annual audit of our accounts.

Over the last three years, we have been subject to the following inspections from Central Government:

2009

Homes in Havering ALMO re-inspection

CAA Organisational Assessment (although this was more of a desk based assessment rather than an inspection)

2010

Children's Social Care - Duty and Assessment (OFSTED)

2011

Children's Social Care - Harold Court Children's Centre (OFSTED)

Children's Social Care - Collier Row Children's Centre (OFSTED)

Children's Social Care - Duty and Assessment (OFSTED)

Children's Social Care - Youth Offending Service (HM Inspectorate of Probation)

Children's Social Care - Fostering (OFSTED)

Children's Social Care - Safeguarding and Looked After Children (OFSTED)

Children's Social Care - Ingrebourne Children's Centre (OFSTED)

2012

Children's Social Care - Adoption (OFSTED)

Children's Social Care - Pyrgo Children's Centre (OFSTED)

Adult Social Care - Reablement and in-house homecare services (CQC)

Following on from the Audit Commission's regime of compulsory corporate inspection being abolished, the government have been keen to give local authorities the opportunity to develop their own approach to challenging performance, and the Local Government Association have responded by developing Peer Reviews,

With this in mind I can announce that Havering Council will undergo its Corporate Peer Review, during the week of 29th October 2012.

Following the abolition of the mandatory CPA and CAA inspections by the audit commission, the local government association has been working with councils to devise a 'critical friend' challenge programme to help councils learn from each other and share best practice. The peer reviews will be entirely voluntary and free to all LGA Member authorities every three years. They will focus on:

- Our understanding of the local context and priority setting
- Financial planning and viability
- Political and managerial leadership
- Governance and decision-making
- Organisational capacity.

And we've also asked them to specifically look at our transformation journey so far, in terms of establishing how well we achieved the savings we needed to and to act as a critical friend in testing how well prepared we are as a council for further difficult decisions that might lie ahead in transforming our services to deliver the best possible service for Havering residents.

As well as corporate peer reviews, the LGA are also offering more in depth service-specific reviews and the Council has invited a peer review of Children's Services to take place in January 2013, to support our focus on continuous improvement and self evaluation in delivering the very best services for our children and young people.

30 CLAIMS AGAINST THE COUNCIL

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor John Wood

Would the Cabinet Member confirm for each of the past 6 years the number and value of claims that have been paid, via local authority or external insurers, for:

- a) Tripping injuries on the footway or carriageway?
- b) Damage to vehicles caused by defective carriageways?
- c) Damages to property from highway trees?

Answer:

a) Tripping claims on footway or carriage- way	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No of claims submitted	73	87	97	126	92	95	39
No of claims paid	13	15	16	12	7	0	0
Cost of paid claims £	260826.57	266557.45	215361.07	216946.70	184967.78	0	0

b) Damage to vehicles caused by defective carriage- ways	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No of claims submitted	43	50	36	80	191	129	27
No of claims paid	5	12	10	10	27	14	0
Cost of paid claims £	1517.66	2592.17	2289.31	2166.08	9149.19	7527.61	0

c) Damages to property from highway trees	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No of claims submitted	61	47	46	34	54	28	18
No of claims paid	28	21	22	14	20	2	0
Cost of paid claims £	351683.40	199246.90	37582.50	48596.04	26206.84	6594	0

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<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The Mayor [Cllr. Lynden Thorpe]	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Eric Munday]	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Michael White	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Michael Armstrong	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Robert Benham	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Becky Bennett	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Sandra Binion	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Jeff Brace	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Wendy Brice-Thompson	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Dennis Bull	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Andrew Curtin	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Osman Dervish	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Ted Eden	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Roger Evans	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Georgina Galpin	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Peter Gardner	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Lesley Kelly	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Steven Kelly	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Pam Light	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Robby Misir	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Barry Oddy	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Frederick Osborne	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Gary Pain	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Roger Ramsey	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Paul Rochford	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Geoffrey Starns	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Billy Taylor	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Barry Tebbutt	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Frederick Thompson	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Linda Trew	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Melvin Wallace	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Keith Wells	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cllr. Damian White	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
<u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Clarence Barrett	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Cllr. June Alexander	✓	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Nic Dodin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Cllr. Brian Eagling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Cllr. Gillian Ford	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Cllr. Linda Hawthorn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Cllr. Barbara Matthews	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Ray Morgon	✓	O	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Cllr. John Mylod	✓	O	O	O	✗	✗	✓
Cllr. Ron Ower	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Linda Van den Hende	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Cllr. John Wood	✓	✗	O	✓	✗	✗	✓
<u>LABOUR GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Keith Darvill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Cllr. Denis Breading	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr. Paul McGeary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Cllr. Pat Murray	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	O
Cllr. Denis O'Flynn	O	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
<u>INDEPENDENT LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>							
Cllr. Jeffery Tucker	✗	O	O	✓	✗	✗	O
Cllr. Michael Deon Burton	✗	O	O	✓	✗	✗	O
Cllr. David Durant	✗	O	O	✓	✗	✗	O
Cllr. Mark Logan	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
TOTALS							
✓ = YES	39	10	37	15	26	26	12
✗ = NO	3	27	0	26	16	16	26
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	2	6	6	2	1	1	5
ID = DECLARATION OF INTEREST/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	10	11	11	11	11	11	11
	54	54	54	54	54	54	54

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