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Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

COUNCIL MEETING

**7.30 pm Wednesday, 17 September 2014
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.

**Helen Edwards
Monitoring Officer**

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Anthony Clements
anthony.clements@oneSource.co.uk
Tel: 01708 433065**



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 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence (if any).

3 MINUTES (Pages 1 - 24)

To sign as a true record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16 July 2014 (attached).

4 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members are invited to disclose any pecuniary interest in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

Members may still disclose any pecuniary 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

The Leader of the Council will make some announcements.

To receive other announcements (if any).

6 AWARD FOR EMINENT SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH

To present an award to Councillor Michael White, past leader of the Council.

7 PETITIONS

To receive any petition presented pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 23.

Councillor Linda Van den Hende has given notice of an intention to present a petition.

8 APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER (Pages 25 - 26)

NOTE: The deadline for amendments is midnight, Monday 15 September 2014

To consider the report of the Chief Executive relating to the appointment of a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (attached).

9 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Pages 27 - 32)

Attached.

10 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE (Pages 33 - 36)

Attached.

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Havering Town Hall, Romford
16 July 2014 (7.30pm – 10.30pm)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Linda Trew) in the Chair.

Councillors June Alexander, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Ray Best, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Michael Deon Burton, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Meg Davis, Osman Dervish, Ian De Wulverton, Nic Dodin, Alex Donald, David Durant, Brian Eagling, Gillian Ford, Jason Frost, Jody Ganly, John Glanville, Linda Hawthorn, Philip Hyde, David Johnson, Steven Kelly, Phil Martin, Barbara Matthews, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Barry Mugglestone, John Mylod, Stephanie Nunn, Ron Ower, Garry Pain, Dilip Patel, Viddy Persaud, Roger Ramsey, Keith Roberts, Patricia Rumble, Carol Smith, Frederick Thompson, Jeffrey Tucker, Linda Van den Hende, Melvin Wallace, Lawrence Webb, Roger Westwood, Damian White, Reg Whitney, Julie Wilkes, Graham Williamson, Darren Wise* and John Wood.

*- Part of meeting

Approximately forty Members' guests and members of the public were present. One representative of the press was also present.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillor Michael White.

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

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend David Hague of The Church of the Good Shepherd, Collier Row opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the national anthem.

17 **AWARDS FOR EMINENT SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH (agenda item 3)**

The Leader of the Independent Residents' Group (Councillor Jeffrey Tucker) proposed that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be bestowed upon Mr Harry Matthews, in recognition of his service to the community.

Councillor Michael Deon Burton seconded the proposal which was supported by Councillors Roger Ramsey, Gillian Ford and Ron Ower, and greeted with general applause.

The proposal was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**, by 52 votes to 0 (see voting division 1) and it was **RESOLVED**:

To confer upon Mr Harry Matthews the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Roger Ramsey) proposed that an award as past Leader of the Council be presented to Councillor Steven Kelly given Councillor Kelly's history of taking on demanding roles at the Council, including that of Leader for the period prior to the Council election. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Damian White.

The Mayor then congratulated Councillor Kelly and, to Members' applause, presented him with the past Leader's badge.

The Leader of the Council announced that the future process for the awards of Honorary Freedom of the Borough and of the position of Honorary Alderman would be subject to a review by the Governance Committee.

18 **MINUTES (agenda item 4)**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 June 2014 were before the Council for approval.

It was **AGREED**, without division, that an addition to the minutes, as shown in the supplementary agenda, should read as follows:

Statement by Councillor Tucker

Councillor Tucker addressed the meeting and expressed his regret for his actions after the meeting of Council on 27 November 2013. In particular, Councillor Tucker apologised for any distress he may have caused to the then Monitoring Officer – Ian Burns after that meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 June 2014, including the addition shown above, be signed as a correct record.

19 **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS (agenda item 5)**

There were no disclosures of interest.

20 **ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (agenda item 6)**

The Mayor announced that she had formed a Committee, independent from the Council, to raise money for charity. The Mayor's chosen charities for the year would be Add+up, MIND and the Alzheimer's Society.

The Leader of the Council updated Members on reviews of overview and scrutiny and of Members' Allowances, the position with the budget process and the proposed new river crossing between Belvedere and South Havering. The full text of the Leader of the Council's remarks can be found in appendix 1.

Councillor Ron Ower spoke in memory of former Councillor Diane Jenkin who had recently died.

21 **PETITIONS (agenda item 7)**

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 23, the following petitions were presented:

From Councillor John Mylod concerning speeding traffic and road safety in Mavis Grove, Hornchurch.

From Councillor Keith Darvill concerning the provision of more parking spaces in Appleby Drive, Harold Hill.

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

22 **RAINHAM AND WENNINGTON & SOUTH HORNCHURCH WORKING PARTY – TERMS OF REFERENCE (agenda item 8)**

A report of the Chief Executive invited Council to approve the Terms of Reference for the Rainham and Wennington & South Hornchurch Working Party. This covered areas such as the Working Party's membership, objectives and accountability & reporting arrangements.

An amendment by the Independent Residents' Group was **AGREED** by 37 votes to 8 (see division 2) and it was **RESOLVED** that:

The Independent Residents' Group welcomes the report of the Chief Executive relating to the Rainham and Wennington & South Hornchurch Working Party that gives residents in the south of the borough a vital voice in development proposals for the area.

The Independent Residents' Group therefore nominates Cllr Michael Deon Burton as Chairman of the Working Party and Council agrees that the position receives a Special Responsibility Allowance equal to that paid to Audit, Pensions, Highways and Governance Committee Chairmen.

The recommendation of the Chief Executive was otherwise **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED** that:

Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Rainham and Wennington & South Hornchurch Working party, as shown in appendix 2 to these minutes, including the amendment shown above.

23 **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (agenda item 9)**

A report of the Governance Committee invited Council to consider an amendment to the Constitution in order to extend the delegated authority of the Head of Regulatory Services. This would allow the restriction on the rights of residents of small-scale residential schemes to access parking permits to be considered by the Head of Regulatory Services.

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

The following paragraph be added to section 3.6.6 in Part 3 of the Constitution relating to the Head of Regulatory Services:

(dd) To enter into agreements under s.16 Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1974 to restrict the occupants of buildings from having access to residents parking permits.

24 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 10)**

Fifteen questions were asked and replies given.

The text of the questions, and their answers, are set out in **Appendix 3** to these minutes.

25 **SHARED SERVICES (agenda item 11A)**

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

This Council regrets: the pre-election decision to merge all Havering's back-office administrative services with Newham [rather than await the outcome of the elections], the failure of the former council leader to announce his intention to resign when giving the shared services presentation [before rather than after the vote], the misrepresentation of the figures [which gave **gross** rather than **net** forecast savings] and the lack of consultation with local residents before the vote was taken [merger plans not included in the Have Your Say consultation]!

Amendment by the Administration:

This Council notes that following its decision passed by an overwhelming majority to proceed with the merger of back office services with Newham the oneSource joint service has been created to provide these services to the two councils and other councils wishing to participate and that the savings arising from this will be an important part of the budget measures needed to meet the severe challenge arising from reduction in central government funding in the next two years and will help preserve more of the front line services which would otherwise be under threat. This Council further appreciates the high level of cooperation shown by its partner council and the considerable interest in participation being shown by other councils.

Following debate, the Administration amendment was **CARRIED** by 41 votes to 5 (see division 3) and **CARRIED** as the substantive motion without division.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes that following its decision passed by an overwhelming majority to proceed with the merger of back office services with Newham the oneSource joint service has been created to provide these services to the two councils and other council wishing to participate and that the savings arising from this will be an important part of the budget measures needed to meet the severe challenge arising from reduction in central government funding in the next two years and will help preserve more of the front line services which would otherwise be under threat. This Council further appreciates the high level of cooperation shown by its partner council and the considerable interest in participation being shown by other councils.

During debate on this item, the Mayor gave the following statement:

The Council has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members. To do so it has adopted a Code of Conduct, and delegated to the Adjudication & Review Committee the duty to determine and report upon any allegations of breach of the Code.

It is perfectly reasonable for complaints to be made if it is thought that there is a potential breach. Such allegations are considered by the Assessment Sub-Committee, which determines whether complaints require investigation.

In respect of the matter being referred to, the Assessment Sub-Committee on 12 December 2013 decided that 5 complaints should be referred for investigation and report to a Sub-Committee Hearing Panel. An investigation was carried out, and the Sub-Committee met on 15 July 2014 to consider the allegations and the investigator's report.

The matter has been concluded and the results will be posted on the Council's website.

It is perfectly proper for the Council to have a system where complaints can be made, and can be considered properly. It is the role of the Assessment Sub-Committee to determine whether a complaint needs to be investigated. If, on the face of it, it is without merit, it would be dismissed at that stage.

Not all cases that are referred for investigation will necessarily result in a finding against the member complained of. That does not entitle the member complained of to receive either an apology or compensation for the fact that he or she has been the subject of a complaint.

This matter has followed the proper process, and is now resolved, and I will not allow any further debate on it this evening.

26 **BUILDING OF SCHOOLS (agenda item 11B)**

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

This Council will make representations to our local MPs, the Local Government Association and the Secretary of State for Education to seek an urgent change in the law to allow councils to build schools where they are needed to enable councils to fulfil their statutory duty of providing sufficient school places to meet local need.

Amendment by the Administration

This Council supports the devolution of powers to local authorities but recognises the need for government capital funding for the provision of additional school places whether by expanding existing schools or building new ones.

The Administration amendment was **CARRIED** by 25 votes to 13 (see division 4) and **CARRIED** as the substantive motion by 26 votes to 6 (see division 5).

RESOLVED:

This Council supports the devolution of powers to local authorities but recognises the need for government capital funding for the provision of additional school places whether by expanding existing schools or building new ones.

27 **20 MINUTES FREE PARKING (agenda item 11C)**

Motion by the United Kingdom Independence Party Group withdrawn and submitted to next Council meeting.

28 **ADDITIONAL STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR**

The Mayor made the following statement:

Before we conclude tonight's meeting, I would like to inform Members that the Adjudication and Review Sub-Committee met last night to consider the events which occurred at the Council meeting on 27 November last year and remarks made by a Member at a Cabinet meeting in October last year.

Details will be available to view on the Council's website.

29 **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting divisions is attached as **Appendix 4**.

Mayor
17 September 2014

Leaders Announcements – Council, 16 July 2014**Overview and Scrutiny**

There have been discussions over the last few months amongst members of all groups about reviewing the council's Overview and Scrutiny function. Overview and Scrutiny is an important function and I have agreed with other group leaders that we should discuss the matter in some depth prior to making recommendations for change as it would be inappropriate to rush this important matter. I therefore propose to bring a report on the Overview and Scrutiny back to the September Council meeting having engaged in full cross party discussions on the matter.

Members Allowances

Given the above, it is problematic to decide upon a revised Special Responsibility Allowance scheme prior to determining a revised Overview and Scrutiny model. I am therefore also proposing that SRAs are reviewed at the same time and a report brought back to the September Council meeting. Until that time, the current allowance scheme will remain in place.

Given the reduction in the size of the cabinet by 3 and the effects of some allowances not being required to be paid due to the normal process of members only receiving the higher of the appropriate allowance if they are undertaking more than one role, £110,000 of the £135,000 budget savings for this area has already been met through the arrangements agreed at Annual Council. The remaining saving requirement will be dealt with as part of the report back in September in order to bring the spending in line with budget by the year end.

Budget Process

As Council will know, there is a requirement to identify ways of reducing the Council's budget requirement by around £60m over the next 4 years. Given the importance of this task I have agreed a process with group leaders that allows all groups to be fully briefed both on the budget gap and possible savings options. This will allow informal discussion and scrutiny of options in addition to the normal formal processes. The Cabinet and senior officers are working on proposals now, and it is my intention to submit proposals to a Special Cabinet meeting on 3 September. This will be followed by the normal Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting on 8 September.

Prior to this, the Chief Executive and Director of Resources have arranged to provide budget briefings, some of which I know have already happened. Following on from those, dates have been arranged for each Group to receive briefings from myself and corporate management team about potential areas of potential savings that are being considered. Given the range of proposals under consideration two briefing sessions have been arranged for each group.

I am also asking senior managers to arrange an additional briefing session for any members not part of a formal group such as Cllr Darvill and any other members who may not have been available when their group was briefed.

I hope this will allow much greater debate and transparency before formal proposals are considered.

Proposed new River Crossing between Belvedere and South Havering

On 7 July, TFL launched a further major public consultation into proposals for new river crossings in east London.

TFL consider London will need a number of new road-based river crossings between now and 2050 to help manage this growing area and bring people, businesses and communities closer together. TFL last consulted on a number of options to improve river crossings in October 2012 and February 2013. These included the Silvertown Tunnel, to relieve congestion and improve reliability at Blackwall Tunnel and beyond, as well as options for a new crossing further to the east.

TFL have now considered the issues raised during that last consultation and ideas for new river crossings. Locations that they have assessed as being suitable for new river crossings are:

- A new ferry service or bridge at Gallions Reach between Beckton and Thamesmead;
- A new ferry at Woolwich; or
- A new bridge at Belvedere.

Exactly where any bridge at Belvedere would land on the northern side is not yet determined, but it would be likely to be around the boundary between Havering and Barking and Dagenham. TFL are seeking views on these revised set of options and the consultation period runs to 12 September 2014.

We have a proposal before us tonight to establish a Working Party for Rainham and Wennington and South Hornchurch and if council agrees the establishment of this Working Party, which I hope it does, I would ask that the new Working Party look into this proposal urgently. In particular, I would urge them to consider the traffic and environmental risks of any such scheme in terms of leakage of traffic into other roads in the south of the borough and consequential congestion. I'm sure they will also wish to balance this with considering whether this proposal can bring any benefits to the south of the borough.

RAINHAM AND WENNINGTON & SOUTH HORNCHURCH WORKING PARTY, PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

Following the agreement at Council on 11 June 2014 that a Rainham and Wennington & South Hornchurch working party be established, the following terms of reference are proposed:

1. Background

- 1.1 The Rainham and Wennington & South Hornchurch Working Party is an important part of Havering Council's vision to improve quality of life for all Havering's residents and create towns and communities of which residents will be proud. Rainham & Wennington and South Hornchurch wards in particular, have major regeneration opportunities and it is important to ensure that those opportunities are developed alongside local people and ensure the development of appropriate infrastructure to meet the needs of the area.
- 1.2 Major sites in the area are owned by other bodies such as the GLA and are adjacent to regeneration proposals in our neighbouring borough of Barking and Dagenham. It is therefore important to have a clear vision of the required regeneration outcomes for the area in order to be able to influence developments on land that is controlled by other bodies.

2. Membership

- 2.1 The Working Party will be a body for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972 and will therefore be subject to the proportionality rules under the Local Government Act 1989. It is proposed that the working party will have a membership of 6:

*2 Conservative
2 RA
1 UKIP
1 IRG*

- 2.2 Given the representation within the two wards it is proposed that the IRG will be given the Chairmanship of the Working Party.

3. Purpose and Objectives

- 3.1 The Working Party is responsible for setting a strategic vision for regeneration in Rainham and Wennington & South Hornchurch and for liaising with key players to ensure the vision is understood by other public and private sector partners. Specifically, the Working Party will:
- *Review the existing regeneration vision for the area and renew and revise it as necessary, agreeing a new overall strategic vision to guide regeneration within the area and work with public and private sector partners*

- *Ensure that the Council's other strategies and strategic frameworks support this vision wherever possible.*
- *Engage with local businesses to support business growth and retention within the area.*
- *Lobby to ensure all necessary infrastructure is in place to support any development within the area.*
- *Work to ensure that local people benefit as much as possible from new business opportunities within the area.*
- *Work to ensure that any new housing development is appropriate to the needs of people in Havering, designed to meet local needs and developed in the best possible way to allow local people access to new homes.*
- *Ensure sufficiently strong partnership arrangements are in place with the GLA and other key bodies to ensure sufficient influence to deliver the agreed programme.*

4. Frequency of Meetings

- 4.1 Meetings will be held at approximately two month intervals, to be reviewed mid 2016.

5. Accountability & Reporting Arrangements

- 5.1 The Working party will be an Advisory Committee and as such may make recommendations to the Executive but any decisions in relation to matters within the remit of the Working Party will be taken through the normal executive decision making processes of the council.
- 5.2 Minutes from the meeting will be recorded and agreed.

COUNCIL, 16 July 2014

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1 Harrow Lodge Park

To The Cabinet Member for Culture & Community Engagement, Cllr Melvin Wallace

By Councillor Cllr John Mylod

Question:

As we were informed prior to the recent election that the Environment Agency would be financing works in Harrow Lodge Park, could the Cabinet Member set out what these works are, their cost and a timetable for when they will be carried out to ensure this park is brought up to the standard of other parks in the borough?

Answer:

It's not the case that the Environment Agency will be paying for works in Harrow Lodge Park.

The Council has set aside £300k to be spent on reducing the amount of silt that is present in the lake but we need to wait until the nesting season is over to begin the work. We have also secured a commitment from Thames Water that the main sewer pipe through the park will be cleaned, which should prevent the chances of flooding in the future.

There is also a programme of improvements works that will see standards in the park improve in the coming years.

We have been in discussion with the Environment Agency and a number of other interested parties about the possible naturalisation of the River Ravensbourne in Harrow Lodge Park. Initial proposals have been discussed and an approximate cost for the works is about (£10-£12m). We will need to look at this further and see what funding from Government or other sources may come available.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reported that the conservation lead for the park was happy that silt removed from the area would be retained to strengthen the surrounds of the lake.

2 Social Housing Stock

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Damian White

By Councillor Philip Hyde

Question:

With an ever greater strain being put on our limited social housing stock. It is imperative that all recipients of this discounted social asset should be in a social wealth bracket that it is intended for. To this end, I would like to request information on the number of council property tenants that earn over £50,000 and £100,000? This can be as a joint or single income.

Answer:

Although the Council collects income data for all applicants for Council housing, it does not ask for any further income updates after the tenant has moved in, unless they apply for Housing benefit. We know that currently 71% of our tenants are in receipt of Housing benefits and we also have a policy in place preventing new applicants from joining the housing register if they earn more than Havering's average income of £25,000. But we're not able to say how many council tenants may have seen their incomes rise to over £50,000 or £100,000 since moving into a council home.

Since April 2012, we have also introduced flexible tenancies which means we can check financial details. If at the end of the five years the person has enough income or savings to buy for themselves we can end the tenancy.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that a review of tenants with high incomes would commence in April 2015 and he would keep Councillor Hyde advised of progress with this.

3 Chaffords School

To The Cabinet Member for Culture & Community Engagement, Cllr Melvin Wallace

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Question:

Chaffords School, Rainham has recently been granted Academy status. What impact will this have on the school's relationship with the Council and future of the swimming pool? Will the swimming pool be retained and open to the public and what action can/will the Council take to assist in keeping it open?

Answer:

Chafford pool is currently operated by our leisure contractors Sports and Leisure Management Ltd. The leisure contract is up for renewal in 2016 and the council is in discussions with the school about whether the pool continues to be managed through the new leisure contract beyond 2016. That is ultimately the school's decision, though we would certainly prefer to see the pool remain open to the public.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that a budget had been set aside for health & safety and unforeseen items at the swimming pool.

4 Care Act – April 2015

To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services & Health, Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson

By Councillor June Alexander

Question:

With much of the Care Act coming into force in April 2015, would the Cabinet Member set out what progress is being made in order to meet the requirement for this Council to carry out 'needs assessments' for all carers?

Answer:

The Care Act (2014) will bring in sweeping changes to how we work with vulnerable adults and their carers, and we welcome the opportunity to improve services for these people, in particular providing more support for those who look after their loved ones.

We know that assessing every carer is a huge undertaking, and that identifying people who wouldn't even consider themselves as carers will be a large part of that. Adult Social Care already works with carers, including undertaking assessments – we assessed just over 2000 carers in 2013/14, providing information and advice, respite, pointing people to other services (such as in the voluntary sector and elsewhere) to support them in their caring role. We already operate a Carers Register

We have brought together people with a range of skills from across the council to work closely together in the run-up to April 2015, to put in place everything needed to ensure we comply with the Act. This group will be working with our existing carers to ensure they are aware of the Act and how it will affect them, arranging the undertaking of assessments, and, most importantly, working to identify those carers who are not already known to us.

In the coming 6 months we will work with carers to redesign their services, based on what carers tell us will best support them in the future. This work will also ensure that the Council continues to meet the requirements of the Care Act. The next stage of that redesign will happen later this summer when we bring the voluntary sector providers of services together to consider how best to meet the needs of Havering's carers.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that she would be delighted to involve the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee in this work.

5 Infrastructure plans for development of the old Somerfield site

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety, Cllr Osman Dervish

By Councillor Phil Martin

Question:

What are the infrastructure plans for the proposed development of the Old Somerfield Site? Please provide particular detail for; Schools, Doctor's Surgeries and NHS support clinics?

Answer:

In accordance with current Council planning policies, as part of the grant of planning permission for residential development of the former Somerfield Depot, the developer will make a financial contribution of £2,236,500. This would be pooled with other developer contributions and used to provide infrastructure in the Borough required as a result of new development. The infrastructure to be provided may include education provision and subject to demonstration of need, could include funding toward health services.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member explained that he could not give an assurance that the Mayor of London would put pressure on the Government to include a new school as part of the development plans as this was a separate issue.

6 **Parking charges for employees**

To The Leader and Cabinet Member for Value, Cllr Roger Ramsey

By Councillor David Durant

Question:

The recently imposed Town Hall parking charges for all employees [irrespective of job description and working hours] are a de facto pay cut that cost the lower paid proportionately more than the higher paid.

The poll tax nature of these parking charges will incite a grievance far beyond the amounts involved and be bad for employee relations at a time when employees are being asked to do more for less.

In view of this why did the Administration refuse to negotiate with staff and unions and seek a compromise over these parking charges before they were imposed?

Answer:

As I believe the member has previously been informed, nearly half of our staff have been paying for using council car parks for a number of years. The move to charge all staff who use Romford council car parks was in part to create a level playing field amongst all staff and reduce the inequity of some paying while others did not. Many councils already charge for staff using council car parks. Redbridge, Waltham Forest, Brent, Bromley, Haringey to name a few from various locations across London. We are therefore by no means alone in introducing these charges. At £1 a day, staff receive a highly subsidised rate for the use of council car parks that would, I believe, be the envy of many working in the private sector.

The changes, at £1 a day include concessions for those working part time and are at such a modest rate that it can hardly be referred to as a poll tax. I am unaware of parking charges anywhere being means tested, presumably because the fee charged is so low as to make complicated administration outweigh the benefits of the charge.

These charges form part of a saving worth £250,000. Our staff do good work and I am sure that we all want to support them as much as is possible, but in the current financial climate a benefit of free access to council car parks is something I believe we can no longer afford. In the face of alternatives like cutting front line services I do believe this is a least worst proposal.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader confirmed that discussions with unions continued on issues such as ensuring security staff were available to operate car park barriers.

7 Brettons Site and Associated Land

To The Cabinet Member for Culture & Community Engagement, Cllr Melvin Wallace

By Councillor Barry Mugglestone

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member confirm why the previous two Conservative Administrations failed to develop a long term strategy for the Bretton's site and associated land?

Answer:

The Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2013-15, agreed by Cabinet in February 2013, includes a plan to agree a way forward for Bretons and to produce a Master plan for the site, before 2015.

We will need to complete a Historic Environment assessment and then we will develop the Master plan. Work on this is due to begin in the autumn.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member agreed to check if the Historic Environment assessment would include the lake area and advise the Councillor accordingly.

8 Risks to flooding in Havering

**To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety –
Cllr Osman Dervish**

By Councillor Lawrence Webb

Question:

Given that the Environment Agency states that the principal risk to flooding in Havering excluding the Thames is along the rivers Rom and Ingrebourne, what plan is in place to deal with flooding in areas affected by these two rivers?

Answer:

All London Authorities are designated lead local flood authorities and are responsible for the management of water, especially rivers and rain.

Havering Council has a number of policies in place which are all available on the Havering website. A flood Risk Management Strategy will be available on the website soon.

A programme of work has already been carried out on both the Rom and the Ingrebourne. We are also working with the Environment Agency to identify and address any further risks.

We also help the community protect their own property and we have put together an Emergency Planning Handbook which gives advice and guidance to the both staff and public to help them. This guide is available free of charge in libraries and on the website.

9 **Audit of merger with Newham**

To The Leader and Cabinet Member for Value, Cllr Roger Ramsey

By Councillor Graham Williamson

Question:

How does the Council intend to audit the progress of the merger of all back-office administrative services with Newham?

Answer:

This Council needs to save £60 million over the next four years and the merger of our back office systems with Newham is one way of reducing our costs without cutting public services.

As with all of our savings, the oneSource partnership will be monitored rigorously, through normal management processes, regular budget monitoring procedures and performance management.

Members will also be able to audit the process through the joint committee and the overview and scrutiny committee for value.

10 **Funding for pot holes**

To The Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Robert Benham

By Councillor Darren Wise

Question:

Given the recent allocation of £404,000 from the Government to repair pot holes across the borough, would the Cabinet Member set out, on a ward basis, how and where this will be spent and how ward members will be involved in the allocation process?

Answer:

We found out about the grant on 20 June, so officers are putting together a list of locations for where the money will be used.

Comments from Councillors will be taken into account; however, as agreed by the Department for Transport, the funding will be used to carry out repairs and preventative maintenance work, particularly on some rural roads and country lanes, which officers have identified.

We are considering surface dressing these roads, which will seal the surfaces and stop water seeping in, which is a massive contributor to potholes.

In accordance with the terms of the grant, we will publish a list of locations where we have used this funding on a monthly basis on our website.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that funding was allocated on a needs basis. A total of 2,031 potholes in Havering had been mended in the last year and a list would be supplied to Councillor Wise.

11 Dog mess fines

To The Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Robert Benham

By Councillor Julie Wilkes

Question:

Given the recent campaign to tackle dog mess, would the Cabinet Member set out how many fines have been issued in the last six months and what measures will be taken to reinforce the Council's commitment to confront this issue?

Answer:

No fixed penalties have been issued since January, however, prior to that, five penalty notices were issued and one prosecution secured for dog foul offences since February 2013.

Over that last few years we've been running a high-profile campaign to raise awareness of the importance of residents cleaning up after their dogs and generally keeping the borough clean. And in the last Your Council Your Say survey, we found that residents feel that their streets and parks are cleaner.

We will of course continue to reinforce our commitment to tackle the issue of dog fouling.

There are a series of new advisory stickers, which are deployed as required at key locations, and we have a web form so that residents can report offenders and enforcement officers can investigate.

However, we're reliant on residents supplying as much information as possible, such as times, places, and descriptions of offenders.

12 Community Infrastructure Levy

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Robert Benham

By Councillor Cllr Linda Hawthorn

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member update Members what progress is being made to introduce a Havering based Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) schedule for planning applications?

Answer:

The Council supports the principle that new developments should contribute towards the cost of new infrastructure necessary to support the borough's development.

In 2013, it adopted planning guidance that includes a tariff-based approach to new development.

The guidance requires the developers of new homes to pay a 'standard' charge to the Council for each new unit of residential accommodation that they provide. In order to

maintain the focus on the growth of the economy in the borough, the strategy does not currently apply to uses other than residential.

The current tariff sets out different rates for new housing at London Riverside (south of the A1306) and in the rest of the borough to reflect the differences in the costs of development between the two areas.

The current charges are discounted to take account of wider economic and viability matters. The rate for London Riverside is currently £4,500 per new unit and for the rest of the borough it is currently £6,000 per new unit.

In line with national planning legislation, the Council has started to prepare a Havering Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to update and replace the planning guidance standard charge tariff approach.

Subject to approval, the initial consultation on the draft CIL scheme for Havering should take place later this year.

13 Excessive basal growth – borough trees

To The Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Robert Benham

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member advise Members what measures are in place to tackle excessive basal growth (feathering) affecting many of the borough's trees?

Answer:

Feathering is an annual problem most common with Lime Trees and Acers and a programme is in place to deal with this issue.

The feathering programme for this year was issued to our Tree Maintenance Contractor in May, who started the programme in the first week of June. The programme takes approximately eight weeks to complete and is prioritised so the roads where the feathering causes safety risks - such as restricting sight lines around schools or near crossings - are dealt with first.

There is an element of flexibility within the programme and officers will try to incorporate changes following complaints or concerns raised by our residents.

14 Weed Spraying Contract

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Robert Benham

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Question:

Given the concerns raised about the effectiveness of the weed spraying contract over the last couple of years, would the Cabinet Member please set out the Council's plan to ensure that our roads and pavements will be as free as possible from weeds this year - including what checks will be in place to ensure that the terms of the contract are adhered to by the contractor?

Answer:

A contract is in place to control weed growth on roads and pavements.

This year's weed spraying programme started in March, and the second of the four borough-wide scheduled treatments has almost been completed.

Legislation sets out which chemicals can be used to treat weeds on hard surfaces. While it is effective on annual grasses - as these will die off within three weeks of spraying - it takes longer to kill weeds such as knotgrass and broad leaved weeds. We're aware that these type of weeds are a problem in some areas of the borough.

We've raised this with the contractor and they have said they will ensure their operators are applying the chemical at the maximum permissible rate and record areas where weeds such as knotgrass are present. They will then arrange for these locations to be retreated or, in high profile areas, for the weeds to be hand pulled, if they are not killed off by the scheduled treatment.

The contractor self-monitors a percentage of the roads, which have been treated, and the Council's Environmental Maintenance Supervisors also undertake inspections.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that he could supply a record of roads checked for weeds.

15 Gallows Corner Flyover

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety, Cllr Osman Dervish

By Councillor Reg Whitney

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member set out what he plans to do to bring about a long awaited solution to the severe congestion and hazardous driving conditions frequently encountered at Gallows Corner Flyover?

Answer:

This is a very important question and considering the recent reports in the local paper it is an important decision for us to discuss

The Gallows Corner junction forms part of the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN) and is the responsibility of Transport for London rather than the Council.

The Gallows Corner junction is a significant 'gateway' into the borough and the Administration would certainly agree that it is not the most appealing feature for road users to encounter as they come into Havering. We have all had experience of that.

We have previously raised issues about the Gallows Corner junction directly with Sir Peter Hendy (Transport for London Commissioner). The Council worked closely with Transport for London in 2009 when parapet repairs were needed to the flyover to ensure that the works were completed efficiently and effectively. The Council will continue to work closely with Transport for London to secure improvements at Gallows Corner.

Through the Mayor's Road Task Force, the Council lobbied for the junction to be reviewed and improvements brought forward. I am aware that TfL is undertaking a safety review of the junction and we are awaiting the outcome.

Yes, we share these concerns, but recognise the substantial challenges including costs which would have to be overcome in order to make changes.

I am pleased to inform the councillor that I am going to take this vigorously forward and I have a meeting with the Leader of the council and Peter Hendy later in the year and will be raising this and happy to take comments on what people would like to see.

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	1	2	3	4	5
The Mayor [Cllr. Linda Trew]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Barbara Matthews]	✓	0	✓	0	0
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u>					
Cllr. Roger Ramsey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Robert Benham	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Ray Best	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Wendy Brice-Thompson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Joshua Chapman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr John Crowder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Philla Crowder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Meg Davis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Osman Dervish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Jason Frost	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Steven Kelly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Garry Pain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Dilip Patel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Viddy Persaud	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Carol Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Frederick Thompson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Melvin Wallace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Roger Westwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Damian White	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Michael White	A	A	A	A	A
<u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>					
Cllr. Clarence Barrett	✓	0	✓	0	0
Cllr. June Alexander	✓	0	✓	0	0
Cllr. Nic Dodin	✓	0	✓	0	0
Cllr Alex Donald	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Brian Eagling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Gillian Ford	✓	0	✓	0	0
Cllr Jody Ganly	✓	0	✓	0	0
Cllr. Linda Hawthorn	✓	0	✓	0	0
Cllr. Ray Morgon	✓	0	✓	0	0
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	✓	X	✓	0	0
Cllr. John Mylod	✓	X	✓	0	0
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	✓	X	✓	0	0
Cllr. Ron Ower	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Linda Van den Hende	✓	X	✓	0	0
Cllr Reg Whitney	✓	X	✓	0	0
Cllr Julie Wilkes	✓	X	✓	0	X
Cllr Darren Wise	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. John Wood	✓	X	✓	0	0
<u>UK Independence Party</u>					
Cllr Lawrence Webb	✓	✓	0	X	0
Cllr Ian De Wulverton	✓	✓	0	X	0
Cllr John Glanville	✓	✓	0	X	0
Cllr Phillip Hyde	✓	✓	0	X	0
Cllr David Johnson	✓	✓	0	X	0
Cllr Phil Martin	✓	✓	0	X	0
Cllr Patricia Rumble	✓	✓	0	X	0
<u>INDEPENDENT LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>					
Cllr. Jeffery Tucker	✓	✓	X	X	X
Cllr. Michael Deon Burton	✓	✓	X	X	X
Cllr. David Durant	✓	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Keith Roberts	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Cllr Graham Williamson	✓	✓	X	X	X
<u>Labour</u>					
Cllr Keith Darvill	✓	X	✓	X	X
TOTALS					
✓ = YES	52	37	41	25	26
X = NO	0	8	5	13	6
0 = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	0	8	7	15	21
ID = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	2	1	1	1	1
	54	54	54	54	54

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COUNCIL, 17th SEPTEMBER 2014

Report of the Chief Executive

Appointment of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer

The Council is required by law to appoint an Officer to the position of 'Electoral Registration Officer'. This position is responsible for maintaining the Electoral Register.

If there were a legal challenge to any act of including, or refusing to include, somebody within the register of electors, it is the Electoral Registration Officer that would convene and conduct the hearing required by statute.

Council can appoint a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer who could carry out the duties of the Electoral Registration Officer in his/her absence.

The appointment of the Deputy Electoral Registration Officer will mitigate risks in the event that the Electoral Registration Officer is unavailable as his deputy will be able to make legal judgments regarding the Electoral Register on their behalf. The Deputy Electoral Registration Officer would not receive any additional payment.

Recommendation:

That the Electoral Services Manager be appointed as the Deputy Electoral Registration Officer, with the full powers of the Electoral Registration Officer in their absence.

Staff Contact:	Melanie Adams
Designation	Acting Election Services Manager
Telephone No:	01708 432445
Email:	melanie.adams@havering.gov.uk

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COUNCIL - 17th September 2014

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1 Refund of Penalty Charge (PCN)

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Benham

By Councillor Morgon

Question:

In the Romford Recorder (edition 22 August 2014) there was a letter from Mr. S. Delieu in relation to a disputed parking ticket issued over a year ago. Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether a refund of the Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) was due in this case and if so when was it paid?

2 Pensions Contributions

To the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Value, Cllr Ramsey

By Councillor Webb

Question:

Given that that the numbers of Havering staff have reduced over the last couple of years why have the number of people contributing to the pension increased?

3 Newham merger

To the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Value, Cllr Ramsey

By Councillor Tucker

Question:

Following the merger with Newham how often have senior Havering council officers spent time in Newham covering for absent senior Newham staff?

4 To the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Value, Cllr Ramsey

By Councillor Darvill

Question:

Will the Lead Member make a statement about the progress of the new leisure and recreation complex in Romford and the associated retail development on the former ice rink site at Rom Valley Way?

5 Housing - Landlords Tenancy Management

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety, Cllr Dervish

By Councillor Nunn

Question:

In order to ensure that landlords take responsibility for the condition of their properties and tenancy management, would the Cabinet Member consider introducing a borough wide landlord licensing scheme?

6 Residential Care Homes

To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services & Health, Cllr Brice-Thompson

By Councillor Webb

Question:

What provision does Havering Council have to prevent newcomers moving into residential care homes within borough and becoming a financial liability to the council? Given that there are currently 700 people in retirement/residential care homes who cost the borough 17m.

7 Oasis Academy Free School

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning, Cllr Davis

By Councillor Durant

Question:

What relationship does the Council have with the Oasis Academy Free School and are their present difficulties an advertisement or indictment of the Government's policy of removing all schools from local authority control.

8 Planning Applications

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety, Cllr Devish

By Councillor Ganly

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the current procedure for notifying neighbours of planning applications?

9 Flower beds – planting programme

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Benham

By Councillor Wilkes

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member explain why the flower beds in Hornchurch, Upminster and Romford are beautifully planted and all we have had in Elm Park since 2013 are weeds?

10 Free School Meals

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning, Cllr Davis

By Councillor Ford

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member confirm that arrangements are in place to provide free school meals to reception, year one and year two pupils as from this month and what is the additional cost, if any, to this Authority?

11 Illegal Traveller encampments

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety, Cllr Dervish

By Councillor Mugglestone

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member set out the cost to this Council of dealing with illegal traveller encampments over each of the last three years?

12 Right to Buy

To the Deputy Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr White

By Councillor Alexander

Question:

Can the Lead Member for Housing confirm how many properties have been sold under the Right to Buy privilege in the last four years and then rented back to the Council?

13 Community Engagement & Communications with Stakeholders

To the Cabinet Member for The Leader of the Council, Cllr Roger Ramsey

By Councillor Mylod

Question:

Given the Council is committed to community engagement and communications with stakeholders, would the Leader:

- a) Set out what measures will be put in place to encourage community participation in how the Council is run and the decision making processes since the demise of Area Committees and Ask the Cabinet?

- b) Ensure that ward councillors are kept informed of issues and events pertinent to their wards?

14 Air Pollution

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety, Cllr Dervish

By Councillor Whitney

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member clarify what measures are in place to tackle excessive levels of air pollution across the borough which, left unchecked, run the risk of this Council facing substantial EU fines.

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COUNCIL, 17 SEPTEMBER 2014

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A 20 MINUTES FREE PARKING

Motion on behalf of the United Kingdom Independence Party Group

Havering council should introduce 20 minutes free parking across the borough where it is practical to do so.

A1: Amendment by the Administration

This Council notes that the proposed budget savings for the next two years include an option for an initial period of free parking in outlying car parks and on street and that the outcome of public consultation will be considered carefully before final decisions are taken.

B GALLOWS CORNER JUNCTION

Motion on behalf of the Administration

This Council calls upon Transport for London to undertake an early review of measures to improve the Gallows Corner junction which is widely regarded as one of the most congested and dangerous road hazards in North East London.

(No amendments received).

C COUNCIL TAX – EMPTY HOUSE PREMIUM

Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group

In order to alleviate the pressure on the Council Tax Support scheme, this council agrees to apply the empty house premium on households which have been empty for at least two years at a rate of 50% above the standard council tax rate.

By applying the premium, it will:

- a) bring Havering into line with the other 25 London Boroughs who apply the premium
- b) avoid empty properties from being run down and becoming an eyesore in the community
- c) with nearly 400 empty properties in the borough this will help ease the pressure on the local housing market
- d) provide a significant additional income stream and help ease budgetary pressures

C1: Amendment by the Administration

This Council agrees to the preparation for consideration of a report as to the application of an empty house premium on empty households above the standard council tax rate; such report to include an analysis of appropriate periods during which the household must be empty and of the implications for cases involving probate and major repairs and other exceptional situations.

D INGREBOURNE HILL EXTENSION

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

Plans for an extension of Ingrebourne Hill into the Hornchurch Country Park will result in many years of severe highway disruption for the local residents of Elm Park, South Hornchurch, Rainham and beyond. The Rainham Road entrance to the site is on a TfL bus route and any closure will also involve closing part of the

Council, 17 September 2014

recently opened [Harold Hill to Rainham section] of the Sustrans around London cycling/walking route promoted by the Mayor of London that passes through the Hornchurch Country Park/Ingrebourne Hill and exits at the Rainham Road entrance.

Thus to ensure all interested parties are consulted this Council calls on the Administration to ensure the Greater London Authority are **formally** contacted for their views about plans for the extension and closure of Ingrebourne Hill.

D1: Amendment by the Administration

This Council notes that a planning application to extend Ingrebourne Hill has been received and that there will be a full consultation in accordance with the requisite procedure, including the GLA. The planning application will be considered by Regulatory Services Committee on the basis of a comprehensive report on a quasi-judicial basis without bias or pressure from the remainder of the Council.

E ACADEMY PROGRAMME AND CHAFFORD SWIMMING POOL

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

The Government want all schools to leave local authority control and be managed by the Headteacher and Secretary of State for Education. This means the ownership and management of all school assets are transferred from the council to the school and means all school facilities, including sporting and swimming facilities, become school assets rather than council/community assets. And this means school sporting and swimming facilities face closure because 1) schools will prioritise funding for educational purposes 2) Councils will prioritise funding to assets they own and control. This is illustrated by events at Chafford [Academy], Rainham, where the swimming pool faces closure due to this change of ownership and control.

Thus Council regrets this aspect of the Governments Academy programme and calls on the Administration to negotiate with the Headteacher and Governing Body to seek an agreement that keeps the Chafford swimming pool open in the public health interest.

Council, 17 September 2014

E1: Amendment by the Administration

This Council regrets that following a contested independent adjudication the sports facilities on the Chafford School site in Rainham, including the swimming pool, are to transfer to the School in October 2016 and notes that officers are in discussion with the School as to the continued public use of the facility.