



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Council Chamber - Town Hall 14 September 2016 (7.30 - 10.15 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Philippa Crowder) in the Chair

Councillors Councillors June Alexander, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Ray Best, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Michael Deon Burton, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Keith Darvill, Meg Davis, Ian de Wulverton, Osman Dervish, Nic Dodin, Alex Donald, Brian Eagling, Jason Frost, Jody Ganly, John Glanville, Linda Hawthorn, David Johnson, Steven Kelly, Phil Martin, Barbara Matthews, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, John Mylod, Denis O'Flynn, Garry Pain, Dilip Patel, Viddy Persaud, Roger Ramsey, Keith Roberts, Patricia Rumble, Carol Smith, Frederick Thompson, Linda Trew, Jeffrey Tucker, Linda Van den Hende, Melvin Wallace, Lawrence Webb, Roger Westwood, Damian White, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Graham Williamson and Darren Wise

Approximately 20 Members' guests and members of the public and a representative of the press were also present.

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

Father Roderick Hingley, of the Church of St Alban, Protomartyr, Romford opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

39 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Durant, Gillian Ford, Barry Mugglestone, Stephanie Nunn, Ron Ower, Julie Wilkes and John Wood.

40 **MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 July 2016 were before the Council for approval.

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 July 2013 be signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 July 2016 be signed as a correct record.

41 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 4)

There were no disclosures of interest.

42 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (agenda item 5)

The Mayor congratulated the organisers of the Collier Row Community Carnival and staff who had worked on the Havering Show. Both events had been well attended with 21 London and Essex Mayors in attendance at the Havering Show. The recent Mayor's garden party had raised in excess of £2,000.

The Mayor announced that her other charities for the year would be Havering Association for People with Disabilities and Havering Mind.

The text of the announcements made by the Leader of the Council is attached as appendix 1 to these minutes.

43 PETITIONS (agenda item 6)

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

From Councillor Patel concerning the size and volume of vehicles using Lawns Way following the introduction of a nearby width restriction.

From Councillor Johnson concerning a request to introduce a ban on street drinking in the area immediately around the shops in Farnham Road.

44 EXCLUSIONS OF PRIOR APPROVALS FROM COUNCILLOR CALL-IN PROCESS (agenda item 7)

A report of the Governance Committee requested Council to agree that prior approval planning applications could not be called-in to the Regulatory Services Committee unless an Extension of Time agreement had been sought and agreed by the applicant. Such prior approvals would henceforth be included in the weekly publicity list in order to better communicate to ward Members the nature and extent of such applications. The matter would be reviewed again after three months and a report taken to Governance Committee.

The report as **AGREED** without division and it was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the proposals set out within the report that prior approval submissions cannot be called-in for determination by the Regulatory Services Committee unless an Extension of Time Agreement has been sought and agreed by the applicant be ratified.
2. That it be noted that prior approval applications will now be included on the weekly publicity list of applications and that after a three month period to enable assessment of whether a call-in arrangement is justified a report will be provided to the Governance Committee and any changes to the proposals would return to Council before being applied.
3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make such amendments to the Constitution as are appropriate to confirm the arrangements in 1 above.

45 **PHASE ONE CONSULTATION (IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF OUR SCHOOLS ACROSS THE BOROUGH) (agenda item 8)**

A report of the Cabinet gave details of the results of a consultation on the proposed introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) outside several Havering primary schools. Whilst no final decisions had been taken at this stage, the Council was asked to note the position and provide views on the issue.

In response to some questions raised re the report, the Deputy Cabinet Member assisting the Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Community Safety confirmed that the final decisions on implementation of any PSPOs were a matter for the Executive rather than full Council to determine. If approved, the PSPOs for the schools in question would be implemented after the autumn term had completed in order to allow for the distribution of warning notices etc. The Deputy Cabinet Member confirmed that access for vehicles not picking up or dropping off children at school would not be hindered and residents would still be able to move their cars freely within PSPO zones.

The Deputy Cabinet Member added that residents would not need to register their own vehicles if they lived within a PSPO zone. A second phase of consultation on introducing PSPOs outside further schools had ended in July 2016 and the results of this would be reported to Cabinet in due course.

The report was **AGREED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

1. That Council notes that phase one will be a pilot of the PSPO prohibition: 'no school drop off or pick ups'. This means access

into the area will be permitted to minimise the impact on residents and their visitors.

2. That the Council supports the proposed introduction of a PSPO operating from 08.00 to 09.30 and 14.30 to 16.00 Monday to Friday during each term of the school academic year.
3. That Council notes that a PSPO, if agreed, will be implemented at the following school locations:
 - i) Wykeham Primary School
 - ii) Parsonage Farm Primary School
 - iii) The James Oglethorpe Primary School
 - iv) Engayne Primary School
4. That Council notes that a PSPO Zone will not be introduced around St Peter's Catholic and Broadford Primary Schools.
5. That Council notes that the final decision to implement the four schools (listed above) will be taken by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Community Safety as delegated.

46 **FOUR YEAR FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT (agenda item 9)**

A report of the Chief Executive sought the agreement of Council to the Government's offer of a four year financial settlement covering the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.

In response to some questions raised re the report, the Leader of the Council stated that the decision had not been easy to take and it had been necessary to research what position similar Councils had been taking. Not accepting the settlement risked the Council losing financial support such as transitional relief. The Leader felt that the baseline assessment for business rates that was set by the Government would be crucial.

There had not been any change to the settlement offer as a result of the appointment of a new Prime Minister and Chancellor. The Government had not defined what 'exceptional circumstances' would be and the Leader indicated that he would support a legal challenge if necessary should the settlement be altered, perhaps in conjunction with other affected Councils.

The report, including clarifying wording proposed by the Leader, was **AGREED** by 43 votes to 4 (see division 1) and it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To accept the Government's offer of a four year financial settlement covering the period from 2016/17 to 2019/20.

2. To continue to lobby the Government for a fairer funding settlement which better reflects the needs of its residents.
3. To take this opportunity to continue to stress to Government the iniquity of the grant formula.
4. To delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the approval of a four year efficiency plan for the purpose of accepting the offer.

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

Fifteen questions were asked and replies given.

The text of the questions, together with their answers, is shown as appendix 2 to these minutes.

48 **'ROGUE' LANDLORDS (agenda item 11A)**

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council reaffirms its decision to introduce an Article 4 Direction and an effective Licensing Scheme of Private Landlords as soon as it can and further agrees as a matter of priority to ensure that it takes action under the Housing Act 2004 when it has concerns about the quality of accommodation provided in residential property within the Borough and also to use both housing and planning powers simultaneously to take action against rogue Landlords.

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council brought Article 4 Directions into force on 13th July 2016 and reaffirms its decision to bring an effective Licensing Scheme of Private Landlords as soon as it can and further agrees as a matter of priority to ensure that it takes action under the Housing Act 2004 when it has concerns about the quality of accommodation provided in residential property within the Borough and to work with the Council's partners to use all available powers (including anti-social behaviour, housing and planning) to take action against rogue Landlords.

Following debate, the amendment by the Conservative Group Was **CARRIED** by 46 votes to 0 (see division 2) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion, without division.

RESOLVED:

This Council brought Article 4 Directions into force on 13th July 2016 and reaffirms its decision to bring an effective Licensing Scheme of Private Landlords as soon as it can and further agrees as a matter of priority to ensure that it takes action under the Housing Act 2004 when it has concerns about the quality of accommodation provided in residential property within the Borough and to work with the Council's partners to use all available powers (including anti-social behaviour, housing and planning) to take action against rogue Landlords.

49 **ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW AND COUNCIL POLICIES (agenda item 11B)**

Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group

Many residents complain about the lack of enforcement in Havering, so this council calls upon the Administration to set out a strategy backed up with clear procedures and the necessary resources to ensure that there is effective enforcement of the law and council policies in Havering.

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

In recognising residents' complaints about lack of enforcement THIS COUNCIL NOTES that a review with stakeholders has been undertaken with a main purpose of identifying a common approach to enforcement across the Borough optimising the use of resources and balancing the focus of key priorities. Following a restructure there is now in place a management platform to carry forward further reorganisation designed to concentrate on tackling effectively those matters that cause most harm within our community within available resources.

This motion was withdrawn by the Residents' Group and resubmitted to the next meeting of Council.

50 DECISION ON VALIDITY OF COUNCIL MOTIONS (agenda item 11C)**Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group**

This motion calls upon the Council to amend Council Procedure Rule 11.4 (b) so that the final say over the validity of motions rests with the Mayor rather than the Monitoring Officer.

The motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 37 votes to 8 (see division 3).

51 PARKING PROVISION IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS (agenda item 11D)**Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group**

To meet housing targets the Mayor of London has relaxed planning rules to reduce parking provision in new developments and this is spun/based on a fallacy they're not needed if the development is situated near a station, bus stop and/or bike stand!

Promoting public transport and alternatives to cars is a good idea, but people still want to own a car to get around, go on trips and visit greener areas in their leisure time. In other words people may use their cars less, but they still want to own a car for quality of life reasons.

Thus this Council agrees reducing parking provision in new developments throughout Havering as "people no longer need cars" is poor planning and a big mistake, because it creates parking misery for many new residents and negative implications for existing ones.

Amendment by the Conservative Group**Amend motion to read:**

To meet housing targets the Mayor of London has relaxed planning rules to reduce parking provision in new developments.

Promoting public transport and alternatives to cars is a good idea, but people still want to own a car to get around, go on trips and visit greener areas in their leisure time. In other words people may use their cars less, but they still want to own a car for quality of life reasons.

This Council agrees reducing parking provision in new developments throughout Havering on the basis that "people no longer need cars" is short-sighted because it would create parking misery for many new residents and negative implications for existing ones.

This Council notes that the latest standards in the Mayor's London Plan provide scope for outer London boroughs to develop their own parking standards to reflect their specific circumstances and this may include higher

levels of provision. This Council will therefore use the opportunity in preparing its new local plan to consider the preparation and adoption of parking standards that are better suited to the circumstances in Havering.

The amendment by the Conservative Group was **CARRIED** by 45 votes to 0 (see division 4) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion, without division.

RESOLVED:

To meet housing targets the Mayor of London has relaxed planning rules to reduce parking provision in new developments.

Promoting public transport and alternatives to cars is a good idea, but people still want to own a car to get around, go on trips and visit greener areas in their leisure time. In other words people may use their cars less, but they still want to own a car for quality of life reasons.

This Council agrees reducing parking provision in new developments throughout Havering on the basis that “people no longer need cars” is short-sighted because it would create parking misery for many new residents and negative implications for existing ones.

This Council notes that the latest standards in the Mayor’s London Plan provide scope for outer London boroughs to develop their own parking standards to reflect their specific circumstances and this may include higher levels of provision. This Council will therefore use the opportunity in preparing its new local plan to consider the preparation and adoption of parking standards that are better suited to the circumstances in Havering.

52 **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting decisions is attached as appendix 3.

Mayor

Full Council, 14 September 2016, Announcements by the Leader of the Council

MADAM MAYOR

By your leave I would like to update members on some current issues and recent developments.

Good evening, councillors,

RICKY HAYDEN

Firstly, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the tragic death of one of our staff last night. Ricky Hayden, a member of our Highways Maintenance team, died following an attack outside his home in Chadwell Heath.

It goes without saying that everyone at the Council is devastated by the news of this horrendous and senseless crime.

Ricky was a well-liked team member and we are offering support to his friends and colleagues who will be feeling this loss very deeply.

I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to Ricky's family and friends, our prayers are also with his father who remains in hospital.

HAVERING SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

I would also like to address an item very recently in our local paper, the Romford Recorder, with a very surprising headline about the performance of our schools, stating they have the "worst Ofsted ratings in city." I know that this has caused dismay amongst those involved in education locally.

The figures used by the paper were based on Ofsted judgements, many of which are now several years old. Many schools are waiting to be inspected and we anticipate that performances will improve significantly in the next round of inspections. Furthermore this type of generalisation does a disservice to those schools which have excelled and been rated as outstanding.

It is also important to note that Ofsted judgements are not the only indicators of school performance. Another is pupil attainment, and our schools perform well above the national average as recent results demonstrate. In Havering, the percentage of pupils that reached the 'Expected Standard' in Reading, Writing and Maths combined was 62%, compared with the national average of 53%. When rank ordered, Havering is 8 out of the 152 local authorities. In addition, Havering's GCSE performance in 2016 rose by between 4-5% compared to a well-documented decline nationally.

Given these high levels of attainment and strong progress, it is only a matter of time before this is reflected in Ofsted judgements, when a small number of improving schools can make a big difference to the statistics.

In addition, Havering's students proved once again that they are, in fact, among the best in London, with another year of outstanding results in A levels. The overall pass rate in Havering went up to a remarkable 99.9% this year, which is above the national pass rate.

With many schools, especially secondary becoming academies it is increasingly the Regional Schools Commissioner and not the Council who has responsibility for school performance. The influence, if any, of Councils will be diminished even further as this process progresses. Going forward I have it in mind to seek regular review meetings with the Commissioner in order to ensure that we are able to fulfil a role of champion of local education and to take all these matters on board.

PUPIL REFERRAL SCHEME

On the separate matter of the pupil referral scheme, a 125 lease has been signed with Olive Academies for alternative provision for Havering pupils. The Academy will be situated on the same site as the Robert Beard Centre at Birnham Wood in Hornchurch. This is an exciting opportunity to change the lives of some of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

The Robert Beard Centre is remaining open for use by young people and community groups in the evenings and at weekends. It will continue to be available in the daytime for the time being.

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

This brings me on to the upcoming financial strategy for the Council.

In February, the Council agreed a balanced budget for 2016/17 as part of its financial strategy for the three years ending 31 March 2019. In doing so, the Council recognised that further efficiencies would be needed in order to set a balanced budget beyond the current financial year.

In October, Cabinet will receive the first report of the year setting out the progress made to date and the further steps required to establish a draft budget for 2017/18, and to take the financial strategy forward to March 2020.

Greater certainty in the council's funding will be provided through acceptance of the Government's offer of a four-year financial settlement whilst using the opportunity to continue to press for fairer funding. However, we should not underestimate the challenges we face in managing with a reducing grant settlement.

Further steps will be developed during the budget cycle and progress will be reported in subsequent Cabinet reports culminating in the financial strategy report in February 2017.

HAVERING SHOW

I'd now like to turn to this year's Havering Show. The event was a huge success with some 50,000 people taking advantage of the good bank holiday weather to enjoy the wide range of entertainment on offer in Harrow Lodge Park.

I was one of them and I am particularly grateful to the hard work of all of the staff involved and the show's sponsors – West & Co, the Romford Recorder, Chigwell Window Centre, the Liberty Centre Romford, Time FM and Serco – without whom the Council would not be able to sustain a free two-day show.

At this year's Havering Show over 100 residents went aboard a vintage red Routemaster bus and had their say on what they loved about Havering and what they would like the Council to improve or change. Here is a short clip on what some of those who came onboard had to say.

The bus has proved itself to be a very useful tool for consultation and engagement and we will be considering how we can do more of this in the future.

HAVERING BUSINESS AWARDS

We are now also preparing for another major event, the 2016 Havering Business Awards, which will be held on Friday 7 October at CEME in Rainham. The finalists in 11 of the 13 award categories were announced on 29 July. The other two categories will be announced on the awards night. Tickets for that evening can be ordered at: haveringbusienssawards.co.uk.

ROMFORD CONSULTATION

Moving on, members will all be aware of the fact that central Romford is changing, with significant investment in housing, Romford Market and key transport hubs. With such important change on the horizon, it is vital that residents and businesses are able to have their say on the future of the town.

We will be engaging in a consultation exercise over the coming months involving all these aspects and giving residents a chance to tell us what they want for Romford.

A BOARDS

In another matter, the council is reviewing how it deals with A boards. Following an earlier consultation with businesses in 2013, the responses overwhelmingly stated that businesses did not want to see the licensing of A Boards via a Street Trading Policy but would prefer a Code of Practice. As such, the Council is developing a code of practice which will outline how offences will be enforced. This will be subject to a Lead Member decision.

LANGTONS REFURBISHMENT

The large scale restoration works are progressing well and due to be complete by Christmas. These include a new café/restaurant, a fully refurbished stable yard, garden bothy, gazebo and bath house. Navigation and access to the park will be enhanced by the creation of two new entrances, one from Cromer Road and one from Boscombe Avenue. The gardens will feature a brand new 12-metre long greenhouse, two new orchards, a vegetable garden and petal-bed garden. The lake will benefit from a safer terrace area for children and the implementation of a headwall at the far end of the lake which will serve as a new photo opportunity for newlyweds. Residents will start to see the changes in the next edition of Living in Havering. I would also

like to record my thanks to the Friends of Langtons for their role in the project.

STAFF SURVEY

Now turning to the subject of staff survey. Members will be interested to know that the Council's communications department recently carried out a staff survey. The results were encouraging and showed the percentage of staff who are satisfied working for Havering Council / oneSource is now around nine points above the average for London boroughs.

Over 700 staff responded to the survey which showed an increase in staff satisfaction levels by two per cent since 2013 despite the huge change that has occurred across the Council since.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

I have been asked to remind Members of the importance of the forthcoming development events that have been arranged. These have been set up by the Member Development Group – an all-party group, to increase Members' knowledge about Council services and changes to these, and I would urge all Members to attend if you are available. A very useful meeting was arranged yesterday concerning the Romford Market proposals. Appointments and further details of the events will be supplied by officers but Members may wish to note the following activities that have been scheduled:

Thursday 29 September, 7.30 pm, Council Chamber – An Overview of Streetcare Services

Wednesday 5 October, 7.30 pm, Council Chamber - A briefing from officers on Road Safety Initiatives

Thursday 10 November, 7.30 pm, Council Chamber – A session on the Roles and Responsibilities of Bailiffs

Members may also wish to note two further dates which have been scheduled for Member development activity – the evenings of Thursday 26 January and Wednesday 5 April and Members are most welcome to contact Councillor Thompson or any member of the Member Development Group if you have suggestions for future events.

Details of all future events will be circulated to Members via Calendar Brief and other channels as arrangements are confirmed.

MECCA BINGO

And finally, I'd like to acknowledge the public concerns about the former Mecca Bingo building in Hornchurch. I fully accept that the decision to demolish the building is unpopular with many residents. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport decided that the building did not have sufficient historical or architectural merit to justify it being a 'listed' building. In light of this, the Committee had to consider how it could best serve its local community, against the risk of it remaining derelict and in accordance with planning law. I would ask residents to accept that this decision was taken in good faith.

FULL COUNCIL, Wednesday 14 September 2016

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1) FLIGHTS FROM LONDON CITY AIRPORT

To the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Ramsey

From Councillor Jody Ganly

Would the Leader of the Council confirm the current position in respect of permission to increase flights over Havering from London City Airport and what steps the council will be taking to persuade London City Airport to review the concentrated flight paths over Havering to ensure that the burden of increased flights and the noise that accompanies it is shared equally amongst Havering residents.

Response

As far as the Council is aware, London City Airport continues to operate flight numbers within its previously agreed planning permissions.

London City Airport consulted stakeholders in 2014 on proposals to modernise flight paths linked to the airport as a result of new technology and needing to meet European legal requirements. Havering objected to the proposals principally because of the (limited) way that the consultation had been progressed. The Council's response also gave recognition to the views of residents who were concerned about potential adverse impact on Havering arising from flights being 'concentrated' on certain flight alignments. I have also written separately to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) expressing concern as to how the consultation was carried out by London City Airport.

In 2015 the Civil Aviation Authority approved the proposals. The new technology used allows aircraft to fly over the same corridors they have previously done but more accurately, resulting in some areas receiving a higher concentration of aircraft and others fewer aircraft.

Unfortunately, Havering has no control over the noise generated by aircraft. Aircraft noise is not a statutory nuisance in the UK, and it is not covered by the Environmental Protection Act. This prevents local authorities from being able to act on aircraft noise issues.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), as the UK's independent aviation regulator, does not currently have the legal power to prevent aircraft flying over a particular location or at a particular time for environmental reasons. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) may consider environmental factors when assessing proposals to establish new, or amend existing Controlled Airspaces, however only the Secretary of State for Transport has the power to prohibit or restrict aviation arrangements.

Having said that, the Council will continue to put pressure on the various organisations involved including London City Airport, National Air Traffic Services (NATS), and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and will take every opportunity to express our residents' concerns.

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In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council indicated that he would give consideration to views expressed on this matter by any local groups. The Leader had met with a pan-London group opposing the proposals and hoped that more flights could be routed over the Thames and countryside in order to reduce impact on parts of Havering.

2) HOUSING REGISTER

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White

From Councillor Patricia Rumble

What are the reasons that people are removed from the housing register?

Response

The main reasons are:

- Do not meet Havering residency period
- Adequately Housed
- Has sufficient earning/ Savings
- Failure to provide documentary evidence to support application for housing

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that people who failed to bid on at least one property fulfilling their requirements every six months would be suspended from the bidding system for a period of six months. The Cabinet Member felt that this policy was fair and was one of the changes that had been introduced by the new Allocations Scheme.

3) VILLAGE GREEN STATUS FOR LAND OFF NEW ZEALAND WAY

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White

From Councillor Michael Deon Burton

Please provide an update on the status of the Village Green application for land off New Zealand Way and whether a meeting can be arranged between Members, residents and officers to discuss the application.

Response

The London Borough of Havering in its capacity as Commons Registration Authority ("CRA") received an application made pursuant to section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 to register the land known as land bounded by New Zealand Way, Queenstown Gardens and Gisborne Gardens, Rainham ("Land") as a town or village green.

Before the CRA can accept the application and proceed to consider its validity there are a number of preliminary steps that must be undertaken as set out in the legislation on

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greens registration under the Commons Act 2006 as amended by the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013.

The legislation states that the right to apply for the registration of a green is excluded if one of a number of prescribed planning-related events has occurred in respect of the Land ("Trigger Events"). Where a Trigger Event has occurred the right to apply for registration of land as a green becomes exercisable again only if a corresponding terminating event has occurred.

Accordingly, the CRA contacted the Planning Inspectorate ("PIN's"), the Local Planning Authority and the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority to establish whether there are any Trigger Events in existence.

The CRA has now received a response from all relevant authorities with regard to the existence of Trigger Events. The CRA has received confirmation that there are no such events in existence. The CRA can now proceed to give the application preliminary consideration.

Should the CRA identify any defects in the application the applicant will be provided with an opportunity to correct the application by providing further information / documentation.

Once the application is considered 'duly made' it will be publicly advertised with all interested parties (landowners, lessees) informed directly. From the date of advertisement there follows a period of 6 weeks in which any member of the public can make representations for consideration by the CRA.

While the process is on-going, it would not be appropriate to hold the meeting that has been suggested. Once the decision on the application has been received, I would be happy to consider that.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member stated that he could not comment fully on the specific application until the CRA application had been decided. The Cabinet Member added however that the Council wished to maximise resources in order to deliver as much affordable accommodation as possible.

4) RESIDENTS HOUSED OUTSIDE HAVERING

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White

From Councillor June Alexander

Would the Cabinet Member confirm over the past 3 years, how many residents have been placed outside Havering for housing needs, including seaside accommodation and on average how long have they been outside Havering.

Response

- Seaside & Country scheme – 16 residents placed into permanent social housing outside Havering. Average period is 2 years
- Reciprocal agreement with other Councils - 6 residents placed into permanent social housing outside Havering. Average period is 2 years
- Temporary accommodation – 170 residents placed into temporary accommodation outside Havering. Average period is 1 year.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member agreed that he would ask officers to supply a breakdown by age of residents housed outside Havering.

5) ORANGE BAG RECYCLING

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Community Safety, Councillor Osman Dervish

From Councillor Lawrence Webb

Of our recycled (orange bag) waste what percentage is rejected when it is sorted?

Response

Approximately 10% of all materials put forward for recycling at the kerbside collection from residents is rejected when it is sorted. This compares to 35% for Barking & Dagenham and Newham who have comparable collection arrangements, while Redbridge has a 5% contamination rate.

Officers continue to encourage residents to recycle the correct materials in order to bring down the contamination rate, with details available on the Havering website as well as various social media pages. As part of National Recycling Week which commences on the 12th September, recycling road shows will be located in the larger supermarkets across the borough to embed the recycling message and to increase the percentage of waste recycled.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that plastic cartons and bottles (other than the cap) could be recycled via the orange recycling bags. Plastic food containers could be recycled but not currently in orange bags.

6) GRANT FUNDING FROM VEOLIA

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Community Safety, Councillor Osman Dervish

From Councillor Graham Williamson

Please provide an update regarding grant funding from Veolia.

Response

To the dismay of the Council, Veolia ES (UK) PLC has taken a decision to distribute landfill tax payments through a national trust, the “Veolia Environmental Trust” (VET), rather than through the locally based “Veolia North Thames Trust” (VNTT); despite previous commitments given to the Council that this would not happen without the consent of the stakeholders (which has not been given by this Council despite being one of those stakeholders).

The locally based VNTT is due to be wound up in the next few months as it has no new funds to distribute. The Council and organisations based in Havering will, in future, have to submit bids to the VET. Although it is too early to say, the Council fears that local organisations will be less likely to receive funding in the future because of the new funding arrangements.

The Leader of the Council has written to Veolia ES (UK) PLC to express the Council's concern and to seek a review of the decision that has been made. The Leader and officers have also met with an official from the Treasury to seek their help in reversing the decision. The Council is also working with local MPs to get their support in writing to Veolia asking for the local funding to be kept and have also offered accommodation to VNTT to help keep their administration costs below the threshold.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member agreed that all Members shared frustration and concern over this situation.

7) CLOSURE OF HORNBURCH FIRE STATION

To the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Ramsey

From Councillor John Mylod

Hornchurch Fire Station was closed between the hours of 20.00 pm on Friday 3rd June through to 09.30am on Saturday 4th June due to a lack of manpower throughout London. Would the Leader of the Council confirm what representations he will be making to ensure that this does not re-occur.

Response

It has been confirmed by the Borough Fire Commander for Havering, that a stand by fire appliance from Ilford was in fact based in Hornchurch Fire Station during the time in question, thereby providing the required emergency cover for Hornchurch's ground.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council stated that he would seek to arrange a meeting with Havering's London Assembly member in order that concerns over fire cover for the Hornchurch area could be discussed in more detail.

8) HOMELESSNESS

To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White

From Councillor John Glanville

Given the recent report by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee which has said that help given by local authorities to homeless people is often ineffectual and meaningless and which states that "The scale of homelessness is now such that a revised government strategy is a must" what if any is the council's response?

Response

Homelessness is driven in part by a lack of supply of accommodation - whichever the tenure. The structural changes that have been occurring within the housing market over the last three years has seen huge appreciation in house prices, which have led to a corresponding increase in rental prices.

Nationally, the government has brought in changes to the planning system, which have increased the ability of developers and house builders to bring new units of accommodation - such as increasing permitted development rights, mixed-use including up to two flats (in certain circumstances), changing of use of amusement arcade or centre or casino to dwelling houses; office conversions, retail or betting office/ pay day loan shops. Some (not all) will be subject to prior approval.

A historic backlog exists and based on addressing it over 10 years, a total of 1,288 affordable units each year is required to meet demand across the Borough after taking account of supply from existing stock turnover and new planned delivery - which, until this is met, pressure will continue to be placed upon our homelessness service.

Locally, I am pleased to have brought forward proposals for an ambitious new build programme - utilising existing resources of the Housing Department, to deliver

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approximately 500 new homes over the next three years - the biggest Council house building programme in a generation. Furthermore, proposals have also been agreed for the regeneration of our twelve key housing estates - providing 2,000 homes and new quality units over the next 10 years.

That, with both of our housing zones, will see 9,500 new homes delivered across Havering – 6,000 of which have been identified as affordable and 3,500 as private - over the next 10 years. This will be achieved without the need for Green Belt land - an achievement that should not be underestimated.

If viewed together, all the development and regeneration proposals, will see over £1 billion of investment within Havering.

That said, part of the report deals with the quality of support offered by the Council's homelessness service. I am very proud, Madam Mayor, to have personally overseen a transformation programme of our hostel and homelessness team, which will see become a quality provider of support for vulnerable Havering residents.

Part of the transformation was a restructure of staff, with 5 new members of staff joining our service - with a range of skills and support backgrounds.

Once a month, I hold a surgery for hostel tenants and residents in B&B accommodation, and the anecdotal comments are very encouraging. Although we offer emergency accommodation, our service is geared towards prevention and tenancy sustainment. We now actively support tenants in maintaining their tenancy and avoid the need for emergency accommodation. For those individuals that do require it, training programmes and support now ensure that tenants are supported in maintaining their tenancies once they leave the hostel service - avoiding the merry-go-round of homelessness.

An investment programme is currently being established to support our aim of becoming a Gold Star rated Council for our homelessness service - becoming one of only a handful in the Country.

Mystery shopping, regular inspections by outside agencies, a monthly meeting of Officers to drive forward the improvement programme, are all contributing towards a service improvement programme that will see Havering offering some of the highest quality support for a very vulnerable group within our society.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member felt that the Council was currently coping with the numbers of homeless people. As at 16 September, 89 families were housed in bed and breakfast accommodation and 94 families in hostels. It was planned to provide additional hostel accommodation but also to seek to house homeless families in more long-term emergency accommodation which better met their needs.

9) RIVER INGREBOURNE

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Community Safety, Councillor Osman Dervish

From Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Please provide an update regarding improvements to the southern end of the River Ingrebourne, including the removal of debris/foilage, clearing culverts and improving the public space behind the Angel Pub.

Response

The River Ingrebourne and Ingrebourne Branch Drain are both maintained by the Environment Agency who would carry out dredging and clearance work in line with ecology restrictions and within the water framework directive. The Environment Agency carry out inspections of the river and subsequently order works upon finding defects. Council officials will carry out an inspection in the coming months to assess the condition accordingly and advise the Agency accordingly.

Regarding the land to the rear of the New Angel Inn, this is private land and there has been no notification to Planning of any impending works. Officers will monitor the area shortly.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet member confirmed that he would ask offices to monitor the river area when the tide was out as this would be more effective.

10) HORNCHURCH LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

To the Cabinet Member for Culture and Community Engagement, Councillor Melvin Wallace

From Councillor Julie Wilkes

Given the large number of volunteers that the council boasts it has recruited, would the Cabinet Member confirm why it has still not been possible to increase the hours of opening (10am to 1pm) at Hornchurch Library (often the busiest library in Havering) beyond just Saturday.

Response

The 363 volunteers deployed by the Library Service (as at August 2016) work alongside staff during the core Library opening hours. They have specific roles that complement the roles and responsibilities of the staff; such as helping to put stock back on the shelves, helping people to use computers and helping children and young people to develop reading skills.

The volunteers, as individuals, have not been deployed to open the Library buildings beyond the core opening hours, as the Council does not believe that a group of individuals would be willing or should take on an individual or joint responsibility to manage risks associated with health and safety, security and safeguarding. Given the above the Council's position has always been that the core opening hours can only be extended if a voluntary organization (either established or newly created for this purpose) was willing to take on all of the responsibilities associated with managing a building, with no staff support.

The Council has been in discussion with an established voluntary organization for a number of months and if agreement can be reached then the Hornchurch Library could be opened a couple of additional mornings each week.

Should any other voluntary organization, or group of individuals interested in forming a new voluntary organization, wish to work with the Council to extend the Core opening hours they should contact the Library Services Manager with their proposals. The Council has produced a document that sets out how a voluntary organization should manage a Library building without staff and the Council can also provide advice and support if a voluntary organization comes forward.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that Hornchurch would be the first library to benefit if support from the voluntary organisation could be agreed. It was also hoped to accommodate other libraries within the scheme if possible.

11)CYCLE TRACK, MAIN ROAD

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Community Safety, Councillor Osman Dervish

From Councillor Lawrence Webb

What was the cost per metre of the new designated cycle path at the top on Main Road?

Response

The cycle path at the top of Main Road is part of the Main Road/Upper Brentwood Road junction improvement scheme, aimed at ensuring the safe navigation of the junction for pedestrians and cyclists. The scheme is fully funded by Transport for London (TfL)

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through the Local Implementation Plan (LIP). The cost of the new cycle path along Main Road between the junction with Upper Brentwood Road and Hockley Drive is approximately £175 per linear metre (per square metre this equates to £97.20).

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member explained that the need for improvements at the junction had been originally identified by consultants in 2011. The scheme was designed to greatly improve safety, accessibility and comfort for people using the junction, whilst maintaining the current motor traffic capacity.

12) GREEN BELT

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Community Safety, Councillor Osman Dervish

From Councillor Keith Roberts

There appears to be land clearance work taking place on land north of the A1306 between Rainham Road and Upminster Road North off Farm Road. Please provide any information about what is happening as this or nearby land has been put forward to be removed from Green Belt.

Response

Staff from Planning Enforcement have been in contact with the owner of the site who has confirmed that he has been clearing overgrown scrub and creating a fire break to nearby properties. The situation on the site is being monitored but there does not appear to be any breaches of planning control at this time.

13) OPERATIONAL AND ACCESS ISSUES

To the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Ramsey

From Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Leader of the Council confirm who within the Administration authorised the following:

- a) The Call Centre being closed to the public for 4 hours once a month for staff training.
- b) Refusal to allow prior approval planning applications to be "called in" before Regulatory Services.
- c) Stopping members from entering the members/CMT car park before 5pm.
- d) Refusing residents access to council services unless done online

Response

a) A number of years ago it was agreed by Senior Management that the Call Centre would close on the morning of the last Wednesday of each month for three hours, to undertake Team Briefings and any required training. As a multi service Contact Centre it was felt important to set aside time to ensure that staff were kept fully informed about the Council's services and to ensure that time was set aside for training.

The Team Briefings / training sessions have been taking place from 9:00am to 12:00pm. However, the Contact Centre had remained closed for a further hour (when staff all took their lunch break at the same time), to ensure staffing resources were maximised immediately after the closure period had ended, by having all available staff ready to handle calls and enquiries from 1pm.

It is recognised that there is a balance to be struck between briefing and training staff in a consistent manner and the need to reduce the amount of time that the Call Centre is closed as far as possible. It is now recognised that the right balance had not been achieved and the period of closure needed to reduce.

There has been a recent review of the 4 hour closure period and from September 2016 the Contact Centre will now be shut for two hours on a Wednesday morning and will open from 11am, rather than 1pm.

Although the Contact Centre will be closed for two hours, the Council's switchboard will remain open with relevant switch board staff having immediate access to a Team Manager if customers' enquiries are urgent. Following the recent review there will be one extra member of customer services staff working on the switchboard during the staff briefing / training session.

Messages on the emergency telephone line have also been changed to provide more clarity on how issues can be dealt with when the switchboard is closed. It is recognised that previous messages did not provide accurate information to residents making contact with the Council.

b) I am not aware of any decision by an Administration member. Prior approval essentially means the ability of a person or business to seek planning consent and if they don't receive a formal decision from a Council by a set date then they automatically can proceed with what they are seeking to do. The arrangement was introduced by Government initially for telecommunications proposals as a means of fast tracking proposals which would otherwise become delayed within conventional processing and decision making on planning applications. So, unlike the vast majority of planning applications, unless a decision on a prior approval is issued and received by the applicant within the timescale set by Government, then the decision will automatically default to an approval, regardless of what the Council's intended decision was. The introduction of the prior approval process for telecommunications development represented a significant risk given the sensitivities of that type of proposal, such that it was generally accepted practice that those types of application would not be capable of call in to committee. That was so that a decision could be properly issued and received in time. This process was followed for a number of years ensuring robust decision

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making in time and was carried across to more recent Government led changes which expanded the prior approval process to cover larger home extensions and office to residential conversions, again because of the default consequences. This is not a helpful arrangement for Councils to make decisions within and because the local decision making arrangement about prior approval and call-ins was pragmatically introduced for good reason rather than formally written into the Constitution this was reviewed at Governance Committee on 31 August and is of course the subject of a report to Council this evening.

c) The arrangement results from the introduction of the new staff parking policy in 2011, introducing parking charges in staff car parks. The Leader and Deputy Leader at that time were keen to demonstrate that councillors were willing to adopt the same measures for use of parking facilities at the Town Hall. Those councillors wishing to park at the Town Hall at any time of day are able to purchase a permit at the same price offered to staff, the cost of which is deducted from their Member allowances – several Cabinet Members currently pay for a parking permits. Free daytime parking for councillors is otherwise restricted to those attending specific meetings – hence whilst councillors are not prevented from entering the Member/CMT car park before 5.00pm, they are asked to confirm the meeting that they are attending.

This practice was the subject of a Motion presented to the last meeting of full Council and the current arrangements were subsequently fully considered by the Governance Committee on 31st August.

d) A blanket decision has not been taken to refuse access to Council services unless done on-line. However, the Council is encouraging as many residents as possible to access Council services in order to make services more accessible to those people who wish to interact with the Council on-line and to achieve efficiency savings.

Although a blanket decision to go “on-line only” has not been taken, Senior Management Team did agree to use an “on-line only” approach to the renewal of Green Waste bins earlier in the year. This approach proved very effective for most residents, but there were nevertheless a significant number of residents who were not able to access the service, either because they were not able to access a computer or did not know how to use digital technology.

The Council is currently reviewing how services are accessed by residents and will be producing a new Customer Access Strategy later in the year. This strategy will consider how the Council can encourage residents to interact with the Council on-line, as well as how the Council can most cost effectively retain face to face and telephone contact for those residents who need that approach to continue. All of these issues will need to be considered in the context of diminishing resources.

In the meantime the Council will continue to encourage residents to interact with the Council on-line, but it also remains committed to helping / supporting customers through face to face and telephone contact where that is required.

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In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council stated that he was not aware of any closures of the Call Centre being notified to the relevant Cabinet member and added that there was a distinction between Executive policy decisions and the day to day implementation of these policies by staff.

The Leader of the Council added that 'call-in' of planning applications had been thoroughly reviewed by the Governance Committee and that he was not aware of any aspects of the car parking policy not being implemented.

14) ICT STRATEGY

To the Cabinet Member for Financial Management, Transformation and IT Client Side, Councillor Clarence Barrett

From Councillor Ray Morgon

- a) When will there be a clear ICT strategy for Havering.
- b) What IT projects have been prioritised for this financial year and next and why were these chosen.
- c) Why are corporate priorities in Newham Council being put before those in Havering.
- d) ICT is regarded as the worst service within One Source. Why has this been allowed to happen and what clear plans are in place to rectify the situation?

Response

- a) The IT Strategy will consist of a number of parts, a core ICT Strategy that establishes a foundation and technology platform, looks to customise ICT services which in turn supports a Havering specific strategy that is centred around the Council's core objectives, direction of travel and digital agenda. The first draft for both strategies is estimated to be available at the end of October 2016.
- b) Havering have a number of large projects and programmes of work that will have significant input from ICT, these being:
 - A new Adults Social Care and Children Services system;
 - Mobile/Agile working;
 - Digital Transformation;
 - Website;
 - Customer Portal;
 - CRM.
 - Continued support with the development and deployment of the new Housing system;
 - ICT server & network infrastructure refresh.

- c) I cannot comment on the perceived historical position around corporate priorities, however my expectations are that each is accessed in turn and discussed to ensure the right approach and timelines for delivery are agreed and meet the needs of each oneSource partner.

Going forward the intention is to establish an ICT programmes board that will access the needs and priorities of each organisation. The make up of said board will be Director level from each organisation.

- d) Unfortunately I cannot comment on the state of the ICT service historically, what I can say is that the service will be more transparent, delivery and customer driven in the future.

The aim is to support services through regular contact and assist with the development of requirements and needs, demonstrating the art of the possible through partnership rather than a peripheral and fringe approach towards services.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member indicated he would be happy to look at a statement indicating that Havering was not receiving IT priorities but felt that this was a subjective view.

15) WASTE COLLECTIONS

To the Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Community Safety, Councillor Osman Dervish

From Councillor Barbara Matthews

Would the Cabinet Member explain the apparent increase in the number of missed waste collections since Serco took over the waste contract two years ago?

Response

The number of missed collections of black and orange sacks per hundred thousand collections made is the indicator used to measure Serco's performance.

During the 2015/16 financial year only 97 collections were missed for every 100,000 collections made, so less than 0.01%.

Whilst the numbers of missed collections have increased slightly when compared with the previous waste collection contractor, performance is still very good.

We have however been working with Serco to improve the service still further and the measures taken have included Serco introducing an additional collection vehicle and

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team and increasing the level of supervision. This has been done at no additional cost to the Council.

Reasons for missed collection include restricted access for vehicles due to parking, vehicle breakdowns and the rescheduling to accommodate the additional round which resulted in a change to some residents' collection times.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that he would ask contract managers to ensure that refuse collection was carried out effectively during the Christmas period.

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VOTING RECORD

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>					
The Mayor [Cllr. Philippa Crowder]	✓	✓	✗	✓					
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Linda Van den Hende]	✓	✓	✗	✓					
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u>									
Cllr Roger Ramsey	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Robert Benham	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Ray Best	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Joshua Chapman	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr John 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 Linda Trew	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Melvin Wallace	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Roger Westwood	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Damian White	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Michael White	✓	✓	✗	✓					
<u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>									
Cllr Ray Morgon	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr June Alexander	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Cllr Nic Dodin	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Jody Ganly	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Barbara Matthews	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	A	A	A	A					
Cllr John Mylod	✓	O	O	O					
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	A	A	A	A					
Cllr Reg Whitney	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Cllr Julie Wilkes	A	A	A	A					
Cllr John Wood	A	A	A	A					
<u>EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>									
Cllr Clarence Barrett	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Alex Donald	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Brian Eagling	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Gillian Ford	A	A	A	A					
Cllr Linda Hawthorn	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Ron Ower	A	A	A	A					
Cllr Darren Wise	✓	✓	✗	✓					
<u>UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY GROUP</u>									
Cllr Lawrence Webb	✓	✓	O	✓					
Cllr Ian De Wulverton	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr John Glanville	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Cllr David Johnson	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Phil Martin	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Patricia Rumble	✓	✓	✗	✓					
<u>INDEPENDENT LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>									
Cllr Jeffrey Tucker	✗	✓	✓	✓					
Cllr Michael Deon Burton	✗	✓	✓	O					
Cllr David Durant	A	A	A	A					
Cllr Keith Roberts	✗	✓	✓	✓					
Cllr Graham Williamson	✗	✓	✓	✓					
<u>LABOUR GROUP</u>									
Cllr Keith Darvill	✓	✓	✗	✓					
Cllr Denis O'Flynn	✓	✓	✗	✓					
<i>TOTALS</i>									
✓ = YES	43	46	8	45					
✗ = NO	4	0	37	0					
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	0	1	2	2					
ID =INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0					
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	7	7	7	7					
	54	54	54	54					

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