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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Virtual Meeting 10 June 2020 (7.30 - 8.45 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Michael Deon Burton at the start of the meeting, Councillor John Mylod thereafter) in the Chair

Councillors Councillors Robert Benham, Ray Best, Carole Beth, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Osman Dervish, Nic Dodin, David Durant, Tony Durdin, Brian Eagling, Gillian Ford, Jason Frost, Martin Goode, Linda Hawthorn, Judith Holt, Tele Lawal, Paul McGeary, Paul Middleton, Sally Miller, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Barry Mugglestone, Stephanie Nunn, Denis O'Flynn, Gerry O'Sullivan, Ron Ower, Dilip Patel, Nisha Patel, Bob Perry, Viddy Persaud, Roger Ramsey, Timothy Ryan, Jan Sargent, Carol Smith, Christine Smith, Natasha Summers, Matt Sutton, Maggie Themistocli, Jeffrey Tucker, John Tyler, Linda Van den Hende, Christine Vickery, Melvin Wallace, Ciaran White, Damian White, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Christopher Wilkins, Graham Williamson and Darren Wise

There were no apologies for absence .

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

The Mayor's Official Chaplain – Reverend Kevin Browning, Vicar, St John and St Matthew Church, South Hornchurch Hingley, of the Church of St Alban, Protomartyr, Romford opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

1 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 3)**

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Christine Smith, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Christine Vickery, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Ciaran White, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Darren Wise, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Dilip Patel, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor John Crowder, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Judith Holt, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Keith Darvill, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Maggie Themistocli, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Martin Goode, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Matt Sutton, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Michael Deon Burton, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Nisha Patel, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Paul McGeary, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Philippa Crowder, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Ray Best, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Robby Misir, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Sally Miller, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

10. APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Councillor Tele Lawal, Personal, Nominated for a position attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance.

2 **PROTOCOL ON THE OPERATION OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING DURING THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS (agenda item 4)**

The protocol on the operation of the Annual Council meeting during the Covid-19 restrictions was noted by Council.

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

A minute's silence was held in memory of former Councillors Wilf Mills, Fred Osborne and Patricia Rumble as well as of all local residents who had passed away during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The outgoing Mayor asked that the local community focus on supporting each other during the current difficult times.

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

4 **MAYORALTY 2020/21 (agenda item 6)**

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

That Councillor John Mylod be elected to the office of Mayor for the municipal year 2020/21.

The motion on behalf of the Conservative Group was **AGREED** without division and it was **RESOLVED** that:

Councillor John Mylod be elected to the office of Mayor for the municipal year 2020/21.

The Mayor indicated that the Mayoress for the year would be **former Councillor Pat Mylod**.

5 **DEPUTY MAYOR**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, the Mayor signified his appointment of **Councillor Christine Vickery** as Deputy Mayor for the coming year and to carry out the duties of the Mayor in case of the Mayor's illness or absence.

Councillor Vickery made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office accordingly. The Mayor indicated that the Deputy Mayor's consort for the year would be **Mr Thomas Vickery**.

6 **MINUTES (agenda item 7)**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2020 and of the extraordinary meeting held on 4 March 2020 were before the Council for approval.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2020 and of the extraordinary meeting held on 4 March 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

7 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE INCOMING MAYOR (agenda item 8)

The incoming Mayor thanked Council for giving him the opportunity to serve as Mayor for the municipal year and undertook to serve the people of Havering to the best of his ability. Thanks were also given to the outgoing Mayor for his work during the previous municipal year.

8 APPOINTING THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL AND THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION (agenda item 9)

A report of the Chief Executive asked Council to agree Council's Committee Structure as well as agree the section of the Scheme of Delegation which was within the remit of full Council.

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

- (1) That, so far as necessary to enable any changes proposed and agreed during this meeting to be carried in to effect, Council Procedure Rule 20.2 (proposals to amend the Constitution to be referred to Governance Committee without discussion) be suspended.**
- (2) That, subject to the Council's consideration of any motion or amendment to this report relating to changes in the Committee structure, the Committees listed in Appendix 1 of the report be appointed for the 2020/21 Municipal Year and that:**
 - (a) As required by statute, two voting co-optees representing the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church and three parent governor co-optees selected in accordance with the appropriate Regulations, be appointed to the Children & Learning Services Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee.**
 - (b) The other non-elected member "appointments" and invitations to attend shown in the Appendix (and particularly its annexes) be confirmed.**
- (3) Those Committees be appointed with:**
 - (a) the membership sizes and**
 - (b) the political balance****indicated in Appendix 2 of the report**
- (4) That the delegation of non-executive functions (as defined by the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England)**

Regulations 2000 (amended) to officers be agreed as set out in the Council's Constitution.

- (5) To agree that all officers with delegated powers have power to further delegate those powers to other officers under s.101 of the Local Government Act 1972 or as provided for by any other legislation and may agree a scheme of delegation to officers for their service areas.**

9 APPOINTING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES (agenda item 10)

Motion on behalf of the North Havering Residents Group

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Adjudication and Review (2 Vice-Chairmen)		1. 2.
Audit	Martin Goode	
Governance		
Highways Advisory	Brian Eagling	
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)		1. 2. 3.
Pensions		Martin Goode
Planning		
Strategic Planning		
Joint Venture Working Party		
Overview and Scrutiny Board	Darren Wise	
Children and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee		
Crime & Disorder Sub-Committee		
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee		

Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee		
Individuals Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee		
Towns and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee		

Sub-Committee of the Governance Committee:

Appointments		
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Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Adjudication and Review (2 Vice-Chairmen)	Matt Sutton	1. Tim Ryan 2. Ray Best
Audit		Viddy Persaud
Governance	Ciaran White	Damian White
Highways Advisory		Christine Vickery
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)	Philippa Crowder	1. Christine Smith 2. Christine Vickery 3. Sally Miller
Pensions	John Crowder	
Planning	Robby Misir	Carol Smith
Strategic Planning	Dilip Patel	Tim Ryan
Joint Venture Working Party	Michael Deon Burton	Christine Vickery
Overview and Scrutiny Board		Michael White
Children and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Judith Holt	Christine Vickery
Crime & Disorder Sub-Committee	Sally Miller	Matt Sutton

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Maggie Themistocli	Michael Deon Burton
Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Nisha Patel	Ciaran White
Individuals Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Christine Smith	Michael White
Towns and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Ray Best	Robby Misir

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Sub-Committee of the Governance Committee:

Appointments	Damian White	Robert Benham
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The following appointments were **AGREED** by 37 votes to 3 with 14 abstentions (see division 1).

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Adjudication and Review (2 Vice-Chairmen)	Matt Sutton	1. Tim Ryan 2. Ray Best
Audit	Martin Goode	Viddy Persaud
Governance	Ciaran White	Damian White
Highways Advisory	Brian Eagling	Christine Vickery
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)	Philippa Crowder	1. Christine Smith 2. Christine Vickery 3. Sally Miller
Pensions	John Crowder	Martin Goode
Planning	<i>Position contested.</i>	Carol Smith
Strategic Planning	Dilip Patel	Tim Ryan

Joint Venture Working Party	<i>Position contested.</i>	Christine Vickery
Overview and Scrutiny Board	<i>Position contested.</i>	Michael White
Children and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	<i>Position contested.</i>	Robby Misir
Crime & Disorder Sub-Committee	<i>Position contested.</i>	Matt Sutton
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	<i>Position contested.</i>	Michael Deon Burton
Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Nisha Patel	Ciaran White
Individuals Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Christine Smith	Michael White
Towns and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Ray Best	Robby Misir

Sub-Committee of the Governance Committee:

Appointments	Damian White	Robert Benham
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The following appointments were also agreed:

Chairman of Planning Committee

Conservative Group nominee Councillor	Labour Group nominee Councillor
Robby Misir	Paul McGeary

Councillor Robby Misir was **ELECTED** as Chairman of the Planning Committee by 30 votes to 9 with 15 abstentions (see division 2).

Chairman of Joint Venture Working Party

Conservative Group nominee Councillor	Labour Group nominee Councillor
Michael Deon Burton	Paul McGeary

Councillor Michael Deon Burton was **ELECTED** as Chairman of the Joint Venture Working Party by 30 votes to 11 with 13 abstentions (see division 3).

Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Board

North Havering Residents Group nominee Councillor	Labour Group nominee Councillor
Darren Wise	Keith Darvill

Councillor Darren Wise was **ELECTED** as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board by 31 votes to 11 with 12 abstentions (see division 4).

Chairman of Children and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Conservative Group nominee Councillor	Labour Group nominee Councillor
Judith Holt	Tele Lawal

Councillor Judith Holt was **ELECTED** as Chairman of the Children and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee by 31 votes to 7 with 16 abstentions (see division 5).

Chairman of Crime & Disorder Sub-Committee

Conservative Group nominee Councillor	Labour Group nominee Councillor
Sally Miller	Tele Lawal

Councillor Sally Miller was **ELECTED** as Chairman of the Crime & Disorder Sub-Committee by 31 votes to 9 with 14 abstentions (see division 6).

Chairman of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Conservative Group nominee Councillor	Labour Group nominee Councillor
Maggie Themistocli	Carol Beth

Councillor Maggie Themistocli was **ELECTED** as Chairman of the Crime and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee by 30 votes to 10 with 14 abstentions (see division 7).

For ease of reference, a summary of Members appointed by Council to positions is as follows:

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Adjudication and Review (2 Vice-Chairmen)	Matt Sutton	1. Tim Ryan 2. Ray Best
Audit	Martin Goode	Viddy Persaud
Governance	Ciaran White	Damian White
Highways Advisory	Brian Eagling	Christine Vickery
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)	Philippa Crowder	1. Christine Smith 2. Christine Vickery 3. Sally Miller
Pensions	John Crowder	Martin Goode
Planning	Robby Misir	Carol Smith
Strategic Planning	Dilip Patel	Tim Ryan
Joint Venture Working Party	Michael Deon Burton	Christine Vickery
Overview and Scrutiny Board	Darren Wise	Michael White
Children and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Judith Holt	Robby Misir
Crime & Disorder Sub-Committee	Sally Miller	Matt Sutton

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Maggie Themistocli	Michael Deon Burton
Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Nisha Patel	Ciaran White
Individuals Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Christine Smith	Michael White
Towns and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Ray Best	Robby Mlsir

Sub-Committee of the Governance Committee:

Appointments	Damian White	Robert Benham
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10 **APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBER CHAMPIONS (agenda item 11)**

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

That the following be appointed Champions as indicated:

For the Armed Forces –

For Equality and Diversity – Robby Misir

For the Historic Environment – Judith Holt

For the Over 50's – Christine Smith

For the Voluntary Sector Compact – Christine Vickery

For Young People – Ciaran White

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

That the following be appointed Champions as indicated:

For the Armed Forces – Denis O'Flynn

For Equality and Diversity – Tele Lawal

For the Historic Environment –

For the Over 50's –

For the Voluntary Sector Compact –

For Young People –

The following appointments were AGREED by 38 votes to 0 with 16 abstentions (see division 8):

Member Champion	Nominee - Councillor
For the Armed Forces	Denis O'Flynn
For Equality & Diversity	<i>Position contested</i>
For the Historic Environment	Judith Holt
For the Over 50's	Christine Smith
For the Voluntary Sector Compact	Christine Vickery
For Young People	Ciaran White

The following appointment was also agreed:

Member Champion for Equality and Diversity

Conservative Group nominee Councillor	Labour Group nominee Councillor
Robby Misir	Tele Lawal

Councillor Robby Misir was **ELECTED** as Member Champion for Equalities and Diversity by 30 votes to 7 with 17 abstentions (see division 9).

For ease of reference, a summary of Members elected to positions is as follows:

Member Champion	Nominee - Councillor
For the Armed Forces	Denis O'Flynn
For Equality & Diversity	Robby Misir
For the Historic Environment	Judith Holt
For the Over 50's	Christine Smith
For the Voluntary Sector Compact	Christine Vickery
For Young People	Ciaran White

11 MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2020/21 (agenda item 12)

A report of the Chief Executive asked Council to agree dates for Council meetings until the end of September 2020 and, provisionally, for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year.

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

1. The Council fixes the date of its meetings for the current municipal until September 2020;
2. Changes to the date of meetings of Council be determined by the Mayor, following consultation with Group Leaders;
3. Provisional dates are listed for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year and that a further report to confirm will be submitted to the September meeting of Council.

12 **STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (agenda item 13)**

The Leader of the Council showed a video giving details of the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

13 **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting decisions is attached as appendix 2 to these minutes.

Mayor

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 10 JUNE 2020 – ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Several months ago, our country joined many other in introducing a national lockdown to help stem the spread of the corona virus, which has been sweeping the globe. We all know this, as each one of us has lived through lockdown. Each of us has our own version of what lockdown means to us and the affect that it has had upon the lives of our loved ones.

Once it begun, everything that local government does became ever more vital for our communities. We set about supporting our residents on a scale not seen before. Uncertain of how this pandemic would progress, Officers of this Council worked together for the benefit of our Borough.

Mr Mayor, I am deeply proud of how our authority stepped in, and stepped up to fill the void created during the national lockdown. Despite no prior experience of humanitarian relief, officers from right across Havering – from every department, set about reducing the impact that this virus could have upon our community.

In preparing for this evening, I was amazed at the length and breadth of the scale of support that has been provided by our council to our communities. It is easy to forget that our council is made up of individual men and women who, like us, have never been through such a crisis before. They did not know what the impact of lockdown would be or how the virus would spread but regardless, they set to work to help reduce the human suffering of our residents.

At the start of the pandemic, we decided that the best way to help our residents was through daily communication. We launched our internal and external email bulletins to provide the latest information in a fast moving environment. This has been a critical element of our approach to respond to the pandemic, and it has allowed us to challenge any fake news that may have been spread by ill-informed individuals about the virus. It has also helped to encourage residents to follow the national guidance, not to break the lockdown, helping to keep them and their families as safe as possible.

The key messaging of stay and home, protect the NHS, and to save lives, borrowed by our Council from the government, became the focus of our communication.

To support people to stay at home, we changed our parking enforcement regime. In contrast to many other authorities, we ceased charging for on-street and off street parking, and stopped enforcing parking regulations provided that it did not block the carriageway or posed a danger to other users. This meant that we were able to remove that anxiety and worry from our residents.

It is worth noting that the enforcement approach is still with us, and we are now engaging with our residents to determine the right time to bring back charging and wider enforcement, which some Councils have already jumped back into

At the start of the pandemic, knowing which staff members were suffering symptoms and were self-isolating became a determining factor on how we could respond. I know that our waste collection contractor suffered issues with maintaining the service, and in support of retaining our weekly collection of refuse and recycling, we paused our green waste service, and we re-deployed Officers of our council to help out. This meant that we continued a weekly service throughout lockdown, and with the use of officers from across the Council, only missed two green collections.

It was only possible for the weekly service to be retained by the good will of our contractor's staff, and the staff of our council to pitch in. With greatly increased amounts of waste being generated whilst in lockdown, I know that staff even utilised some Sundays to get through the work.

There has been much media coverage about care homes and their ability to weather this crisis. And with one of the largest over 65 % populations in London, it became a great focus for our Council.

I would like to thank the Council staff in the adults social care department, because they put everything on hold to support the 63 care and residential homes across Havering. In what was a difficult time, we were able to provide additional financial support to ensure homes were able to meet the extra costs that they faced. The Council was able to provide emergency supplies of PPE, and put in place safe guards to ensure that should one care home suffer a reduction of staff due to the effects of corona.

Mr Mayor. To help with discharges from the hospital, we repurposed Council properties to support vulnerable residents to leave hospital to safe accommodation with care packages in place. Thereby freeing capacity within the NHS, and saving lives.

At the start of the pandemic thousands of households across Havering were told to self-isolate and remain at home. At that time, the shelves at most supermarkets were bare, and suddenly a whole group of people who had previously been completely independent, became vulnerable. Overnight, we were faced with issue of ensuring that these residents could get enough food to eat.

And so, Mr Mayor, our Council set about creating a food distribution hub, staffed by Council Officers, to help provide weekly food drops to our residents in need. Coordinated with help from the Havering Volunteers Centre, we were able to go above and beyond just the NHS shielding list, providing emergency food supplies to anyone that was in need. This help also extended to the three food banks across the Borough. As food donations dried up, our council was able to step in and support them to support our residents.

A great strength of our Borough is the community identity and feeling. It is the voluntary organisations that provide support and guidance to our residents that makes us special. To help coordinate our voluntary sector, we held a round table discussion with the voluntary stakeholders, provided funding and support the Havering Volunteers Centre, and signposted our residents accordingly.

Knowing the difficult financial position that many of our households would experience, our council put in place a package of financial support that went beyond any other London Borough that I am aware.

We placed £2 million of our Council's money into a hardship fund to provide grants of £100, capped at £1,000, to help people struggling through this crisis. We did this because we appreciated that financial worries at this time, could add to the anxiety and worry of some of most vulnerable residents.

It is not just households that were facing an uncertain financial future, but the many businesses and organisations that operate within our Borough. It became apparent that we needed to ensure that our business support offer was ready to help businesses through this crisis.

Armed with the first tranche of funding from the Government, our Business Rates Team worked 18 hours days, over the Easter bank holiday weekend, to administer and get out the grants to the eligible businesses as quickly as possible. This money has helped thousands of local businesses weather the storm of this pandemic.

Our three Facebook live events also ensured that our Council continued to engage with local businesses and were on hand to answer points and comments from residents.

The second wave of the business support, being the discretionary business support grants are now being processed with the first payments already having been made. This will help hundreds of micro businesses missed out from the tranche of funding, and will ensure that stallholders in Romford market are able to trade again.

In a changing world, we have taken a fresh look at the Romford market, and I am delighted to announce that – after working with the Market Stall holders association – we will be extending the operating days to include a Sunday – helping to create a vibrancy in Romford and a focus for people to return.

To help businesses right across the Borough, I am pleased to report that we will be working to launch a new shop local platform, to allow local traders to help sell their products on a wider scale. We will also be looking at extending the discount for people that pay for parking by App or phone, to encourage many more people to shop locally.

During lockdown, our parks and open spaces became a place of rest spite for residents. They provided the open space needed for residents to exercise safely and to help support our resident's mental wellbeing. At start of the pandemic, an option that other councils considered was closing their parks and open spaces, because of the fear that they would allow easier spread of the virus.

Instead, here in Havering, we opted to close our outdoor gyms and children's play equipment, and with added enforcement from our parks team. This allowed so many people in Havering to rediscover the amazing outdoor space that we have, and for

people to benefit from the years of investment and effort that have gone into our parks.

Last year, it was questioned whether our Council should aim for Green Flags in our parks due to cost – well, Mr Mayor, I am delighted that we have never listened to Members who have sought to do our parks down and have continued to invest despite them. I believe that the majority of our residents agree with this I wish to reconfirm this administration's commitment to our external environment.

As the lockdown eases, we enter a new phase. Our focus must be on recovery of our organisation and our communities. We need to take stock of what we have been through – our collective experience – and consider how we want our organisation to continue to provide excellent services going forward.

What does the “new normal” mean for Havering? Last year, we adopted a new strategy for people and places. We had aimed to make Havering more nimble and to adopt the latest advances in IT. The result of the corona virus has lead our organisation to adapt and change in a way that we never thought possible.

We now need to reconsider and re-imagine what sits behind our Council. We need to be more focus on outcomes and to challenge every preconceived idea and motion to deliver a better offering for our residents.

Next week, the first report on the financial impact of the corona virus will be submitted to the Overview & Scrutiny Board for pre-decision scrutiny on route to Cabinet. This will be the first report of a series to outline where we are and how we will respond to this crisis, each report relating to our COVID-19 response I shall be seeking to submit to the O/S board to help ensure that whatever we agree is the best that it can be.

Over the coming months, we must renew our commitment to our Borough's future. We will need to work in a different way – not just Council Officers but also politically. Politically, I very much hope that our “new normal” will mean a reset in our relationships.

With the end of the weekly all members' briefings, I wish to report that I will still continue to meet with Group Leaders every fortnight. Allowing any issues that members may have to be brought forward for us to resolve.

Whilst it is for my administration to provide the respond and to carry the responsibility of elected office, I very much hope that a new consensus can be established moving forward.

Finally, as many of you may be aware, of the tragic events in America that led to death of George Floyd.

We must always fight for what is right and to challenge ourselves to ensure that we do not allow compliancy or injustice to enter our council. Therefore, to guard against this, I am committing to an independent review of Havering Council and race relations in our borough more widely, and in particular, whether this Council has the

policies and processes in place to erase bias and discrimination. The result of this report will be taken to our Cabinet.

Mr Mayor. So much has happened over the last three months. The way that our authority has responded – the dedication that our Council Officers have shown to their roles, highlights the very best of local government.

We are here to be run in a business like way, but never forgetting the reason for why we are here. In this time of need, our residents deserved the very best that Havering Council could provide. It is at this moment that I realise how very lucky I am to be a resident of this Borough.

Mr Mayor, despite the challenges that we still face, we will be able to move forward in Havering, together.

Thank you.

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DIVISION NUMBER:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
The Mayor [Cllr. Michael Deon Burton at start of meeting, then Cllr John Mylod]	0	✓	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. John Mylod at start of meeting, then Cllr Christine Vickery]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CONSERVATIVE GROUP									
Cllr Robert Benham	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Ray Best	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Joshua Chapman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr John Crowder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Philippa Crowder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Michael Deon Burton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Osman Dervish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Jason Frost	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Judith Holt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Sally Miller	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Dilip Patel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Nisha Patel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Viddy Persaud	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Roger Ramsey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Timothy Ryan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Carol Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Christine Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Matt Sutton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Maggie Themistocli	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Ciaran White	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Damian White	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Michael White	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RESIDENTS' GROUP									
Cllr Nic Dodin	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr Paul Middleton	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr Raymond Morgon	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr Gerry O'Sullivan	✓	0	X	X	0	X	X	✓	0
Cllr Reg Whitney	0	0	0	0	0	✓	0	0	0
UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' GROUP									
Cllr Gillian Ford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr Linda Hawthorn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr Ron Ower	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr John Tyler	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr Linda Van den Hende	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr Christopher Wilkins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INDEPENDENT RESIDENTS' GROUP									
Cllr David Durant	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	X
Cllr Tony Durdin	0	X	X	X	0	0	X	✓	0
Cllr Natasha Summers	✓	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cllr Jeffrey Tucker	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	X
Cllr Graham Williamson	0	0	X	X	✓	X	0	0	0
LABOUR GROUP									
Cllr Carole Beth	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Cllr Keith Darvill	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Cllr Tele Lawal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Cllr Paul McGeary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	X
Cllr Denis O'Flynn	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
NORTH HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP									
Cllr Brian Eagling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Martin Goode	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Darren Wise	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
INDEPENDENT									
Cllr Bob Perry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Jan Sargent	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	0	✓	0
Cllr Melvin Wallace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TOTALS									
✓ = YES	37	30	30	31	31	31	30	38	30
X = NO	3	9	11	11	7	9	10	0	7
0 = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	14	15	13	12	16	14	14	16	17
ID = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54

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