



MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 14 October 2020
(7.30 - 8.14 pm)

Present:

Councillor Damian White (Leader of the Council), Chairman

Councillor Robert Benham

Councillor Osman Dervish

Councillor Joshua Chapman

Councillor Roger Ramsey

Councillor Viddy Persaud

Cabinet Member responsibility:

Cabinet Member for Education,
Children & Families

Cabinet Member for Environment

Cabinet Member for Housing

Cabinet Member for Finance &
Property

Cabinet Member for Public
Protection and Safety

1 ANNOUNCEMENTS

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Jason Frost.

3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

6. Private Sector Housing Enforcement Scheme Two. Expand Additional Licensing for Housing of Multiple Occupation and Introduce Selective Licensing Implementation and Enforcement.

Councillor Damian White, Pecuniary, Declaration of Interest made given that Councillor Damian White is a Landlord in the Borough. Cllr White took no part in the discussion and debate and absented himself from this part of the meeting.

4 PROTOCOL ON THE OPERATION OF CABINET MEETINGS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

Councillors noted the protocol for the procedure at meetings during the COVID 19 pandemic.

5 **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT HALL LANE PITCH & PUTT COURSE, UPMINSTER FOLLOWING ITS APPROPRIATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES - DETERMINATION OF CALL-IN**

This matter was withdrawn from the Agenda given that at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on Tuesday 13th October 2020, the Call-in was not upheld.

6 **PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT SCHEME TWO. EXPAND ADDITIONAL LICENSING FOR HOUSING OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION AND INTRODUCE SELECTIVE LICENSING IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Damian White, declared an interest and removed himself from the meeting. He took no part in the discussion or vote on this matter.

The Cabinet Member presented this matter detailing the report. This sought approval from Members for the introduction and operation of a selective private landlord-licensing scheme in Romford Town and Brooklands wards and an additional, house in multiple occupation (HMO) scheme in Cranham, Emerson Park, Hacton, Hylands, St Andrews and Upminster. This was based on the Private Rented Sector (PRS): Housing Stock Condition and Stressors Report, which had been presented at Appendix 1.

The results of the consultation on the licensing scheme proposals were presented in Appendices 2 and 3.

The public consultation and the evidence collated, supported the case for the introduction of a selective licensing scheme in these two wards due to poor housing conditions and anti-social behaviour. There is also a significant proportion of smaller HMO's in the proposed area which are being poorly managed as to give rise to one or more particular problems, either for those occupying the HMO's or for members of the public e.g. poor housing conditions and/or anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The implementation of selective and additional licensing will, alongside other existing and proposed activities, improve management practices in private rented properties and reduce the negative impact that below standard and poorly managed accommodation in the private rented sector can sometimes have on the local community. The Council is 100% committed to working with excellent landlords.

Following discussion and debate:

Cabinet:

Considered the representations received in response to the consultation on the selective licensing and additional HMO licensing scheme (detailed in Appendix 3 of the report).

1) Agreed to introduce a selective licensing of private rented properties and to designate a selective licensing area of the district of the London Borough of

Havering as delineated and shaded pink on the map at Annex A in Appendix 5 which covers 2 wards (Romford Town and Brooklands) in the Borough and to come into force from 25th January 2021 and be of five years duration.

2) Agreed to introduce an additional licensing of houses in multiple occupation (HMO's) and to designate an additional licensing area of the district of the London Borough of Havering as delineated and shaded pink on the map at Annex A in Appendix 4 which covers Cranham, Emerson Park, Hacton, Hylands, St Andrews and Upminster wards in the Borough and to come into force from 25th January 2021 and be of five years duration.

3) Agreed that the selective licensing scheme shall be cited as the London Borough of Havering Designation for an Area for Selective Licensing No 1, 2020

4) Agreed that the additional HMO licensing scheme shall be cited as the London Borough of Havering Designation for an Area for Additional Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation No 2, 2020.

5) Agreed that the scheme shall be publicised as required by regulation before enforcement starts and a comprehensive publicity campaign to begin as soon as the schemes are approved.

6) Delegated to the Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Safety, the authority to agree minor changes to the proposed implementation and delivery, including administration, fees and conditions where necessary and ensure that all statutory notifications are carried out in the prescribed manner for the licensing designation.

7 PAID FOR PARKING CHARGES AND HAVERING HERO PERMIT

Consideration was given to the report presented by Councillor Osman Dervish, Cabinet Member for the Environment, in relation to the Paid for Parking Charges and the Havering Hero's Permits. Cllr Dervish was delighted to bring the report which detailed a review of the previous decisions made and considered how the parking provision in the Borough might assist residents and support the businesses in an ever changing situation given the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Parking management is an important public service, which provides benefits to motorists and the wider community. Those benefits include reducing congestion, maintaining road safety, improving air quality, whilst helping to ensure access to goods and services. It is extremely important, particularly for key workers at this time, that traffic is kept moving to ensure essential services continue to be provided.

Based on benchmarking with geographical neighbours, the offer proposed for Havering exceeds those of surrounding boroughs. The continuation of the Havering Hero's permit will ensure that assistance is given to the most vulnerable residents in Havering and as a result, Councillor Dervish recommended the report to Cabinet.

Following discussion including other political groups and officers:

Cabinet approved the following measures to be introduced permanently:

- a 20% discount will be offered for customers using Council Car Parks where payment is made only via the cashless service (the discount will not be applicable for payments made via pay and display machines);
- one hours free on street parking for all customers, applicable whether payment is made via the cashless service or via pay and display machines (the free parking allocation excludes Council Car Parks and all off street parking provision);
- Due to the continued threat posed by Covid-19 it is recommended that the Havering Hero's permit (permitting parking in residential bays and Council Car Parks for 3 hours) is extended until the end of January 2021, under the existing terms and conditions (Appendix B)
- That the Council's Enforcement Agents do not clamp and or remove vehicles until such time as deemed reasonable and dependent on the status of the Covid-19 pandemic. This will be monitored and agreed between the service and Lead member going forward

8 **PARKS BYELAWS**

Cabinet considered the report in relation to the Updating of the Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws. During the lockdown period and the Pandemic generally, Havering's parks have proved to be an amazing asset to the Borough and have been much enjoyed by many residents.

The byelaws were last updated in 1983 and over time the nature of park usage has altered and the expectations of park users have also changed. The updated byelaws reflect the way in which the Borough's parks and open spaces are used today and the reasonable expectations of users. The updating also ensures that they are easier for park users to understand. Once approved by Cabinet, full Council will formally decide on whether to adopt the updated byelaws, as set out in Part 1 Paragraph 4.01 (j) of the Constitution.

This is a consultation document and was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board in their meeting yesterday and items for further consideration were highlighted as follows:

- The importance of enforcement of the byelaws, particularly at night.
- That outcomes and suggestions made during the consultation exercise be given consideration for inclusion in the updated byelaws
- That the Cabinet report and the consultation materials be distributed to all Councillors to allow them to make suggestions on the byelaws should they wish
- That the impact of the byelaws on housing land be clarified
- That careful consideration be given to the policy re cycling in parks
- That the use of horse and traps in parks be controlled via byelaws.

The Leader of the Council stressed the quality of Havering's Parks and it was noted that a further two green flags had been awarded to Parks in the Borough. High quality open space is the pride of the Borough and it is extremely important that these standards are maintained and prized. A refresh of the Byelaws will ensure standards are preserved.

Following discussion, Cabinet:

1. Agreed the draft New Byelaws for the Borough's Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks, and Open Spaces as shown in Appendix 1 and amended Schedule of areas as shown in Appendix 2 for public consultation.
2. Agreed that the existing Pleasure Ground Byelaws as shown in Appendix 3 and existing Schedule of Sites as shown in Appendix 4 are revoked once the final versions of the new Byelaws and Schedule of areas as set out in recommendation 1) above have been approved by Cabinet and subsequently full Council.

9 **EXTENSION OF THE ROMFORD TOWN CENTRE PSPO**

Cabinet considered the report to extend the current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place in Romford Town Centre.

The PSPO was introduced in October 2017. Such Orders were introduced within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The current PSPO is due to expire on 23 October 2020. Councillor Persaud proposed and recommended to Cabinet to extend the PSPO with the same conditions for a further 3 years.

The terms of the PSPO were outlined in the report. There had been a three-week consultation in relation to this with 139 responses to support the PSPO.

Following discussion, Cabinet APPROVED:

- The proposed Extension of the Romford Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). A copy of the PSPO is set out in **Appendix 1 of the report** and the Map is shown as **Appendix 2**.

The PSPO contains the following conditions;

- Persons must not be in possession of an open container of alcohol in a public place within the Alcohol Control Area (save on licensed premises or on a designated area where a pavement licence is in force);
- Persons must not consume alcohol in a public place within the Alcohol Control Area (save on licensed premises (save on

licensed premises or on a designated area where a pavement licence is in force);

- the procurement, replacement and display of appropriate signage

Chairman