



MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 10 November 2021
(7.30 - 9.28 pm)

Present:

Councillor Damian White (Leader of the Council), Chairman

	Cabinet Member responsibility:
Councillor Robert Benham	Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Families
Councillor Osman Dervish	Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor Joshua Chapman	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Jason Frost	Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Care Services
Councillor Roger Ramsey	Cabinet Member for Finance & Property
Councillor Viddy Persaud	Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Safety

No apologies were received for absence.

17 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18 ADOPTION OF THE HAVERING LOCAL PLAN

Cabinet considered the Adoption of the Havering Local Plan (HLP) report presented by Helen Oakerbee (Assistant Director, Planning).

It was explained that the HLP set out a vision, strategic priorities and a spatial planning policy framework for development in the Borough which positively planned for the future development and infrastructure requirements that would meet the needs of Havering's communities and would be used to determine all planning applications submitted to the Council.

It was to be noted that the HLP had been through an extensive preparation process, including evidence base collection, public consultation and

independent examination. In July 2017, full Council approved the publication and subsequent submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Examination in Public.

Following Examination hearings in 2018 and 2019, at the request of the Inspector consultation on a number of proposed Main Modifications commenced in August 2020. Consultation on Further Main Modifications took place in 2021.

The Inspector's Final Report was received on the 14th October 2021. The report concluded that the Local Plan was sound and legally compliant, subject to the main modifications underway.

It was further explained that it was now necessary to adopt the HLP to ensure the Council had a robust and up-to-date spatial planning policy framework.

Cabinet:

Noted the content of the Inspector's Report into the soundness of the Havering Local Plan (refer to annex 1).

Endorsed and make the following recommendations to full Council:

That full Council:

- (i) Agree to adopt the Local Plan 2016-2031 including:
 - a. the main modifications to the Submission Local Plan that are set out in the appendix to the Inspector's report (refer to annex 2)
 - b. The minor modifications as set out in annex 3.
- (ii) Agree to revoke the Council's current adopted Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document 2008 and the Romford Area Action Plan 2008 (excluding Site Specific Allocations) from the 29th December 2021 (following the statutory six week legal challenge period from Local Plan adoption).

Authorised:

- the Assistant Director of Planning to prepare and publish an Adoption Statement and Sustainability Appraisal Report in accordance with S26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- the Assistant Director of Planning to make typographical amendments to the plan prior to its publication to improve cross-

referencing (e.g. paragraph numbering, page re-numbering) and typographical errors.

- the Assistant Director of Planning to prepare and publish an updated Policies Map, reflecting the proposed changes previously consulted on.

Revoked the following Supplementary Planning Documents:

- i. Sustainable Design and Construction 2009
- ii. Shopfront Design 2013
- iii. Residential Design 2010
- iv. Protection of Trees During Development 2009
- v. Protecting and Enhancing the Boroughs Biodiversity 2009
- vi. Landscaping 2011
- vii. Designing Safer Places 2010

Approved:

- the publication of an updated Local Development Scheme (as set out in Annex 4)
- the publication of an updated Statement of Community Involvement (as set out in Annex 5).

19 **HAVERING CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN**

Cabinet considered a report on the Havering Climate Change Action Plan.

It was explained that Havering Council had resolved to review its policies to ensure that Havering leads the way on environmental protection and climate change. Establishing the Havering Climate Change Action Plan signaled a commitment by the Council to tackle climate change, influence decisions and bring together existing environmental policies.

The plan would form part of the considerations when evaluating the options for Council action and would establish the values of the Council and ensure that those values were considered when making policy decisions.

A policy statement provided a narrative on the importance of environmental considerations. It established the ambition of the Council to use its community influence in the field of tackling climate change and protecting the local environment for the benefit of all local residents. When coupled with a published Climate Change Action Plan it would allow the Council to celebrate and record the investments made to protect the local environment and health priorities. Drawing upon previous Havering documents it was suggested that an overarching policy statement could read:

“The impacts and causes of climate change are recognised by the UK government and Havering Council has, over several years, developed

strategies to identify and address these. We believe we have a duty to act to reduce our carbon emissions in a way that has positive economic and welfare benefits for Havering residents, businesses and visitors and we are committed to continuing the initiatives we have already developed to protect Havering's green heritage and natural environment. We are committed to the principles of sustainability and efficiency at the heart of our decision making and support residents and businesses across the borough to develop sustainable communities and services aligned to our Havering values."

The statement could be considered and adjusted by Members with a wider policy consultation undertaken prior to its adoption. It would then replace previous statements.

The following values were also suggested as a guide to the development of actions associated with the Havering Climate Change Action Plan:

- Taking pride in Havering
- Working with residents to make informed choices
- Being financially efficient and effective
- Building community wealth

Cabinet:

1. **Noted** the work already being undertaken to address Climate Change both within the Council and the local community.
2. **Approved** the establishment of two permanent posts to support the ongoing work of the Climate Change Action Plan
3. **Committed** to Havering Council being an organisation becoming carbon neutral by 2040 or sooner
4. **Agreed** that Cabinet receive a report every six months setting out the progress of the implementation and the impact of the Havering Climate Change Action Plan
5. **Approved** the themed action plans set out in Appendix A
6. **Agreed** that officers publish emissions data for both the Council as an organisation and for the borough on an annual basis
7. **Agreed** that officers design a carbon zero route map for the Council as an organisation
8. **Agreed** that officers develop a branding for the Climate Change Action Plan and incorporate this in a Communications Plan for the wider community

9. **Agreed** to adopt the principles of the Amazon Climate Pledge.

These are:

- A. Regular reporting - Measure and report greenhouse gas emissions on a regular basis
- B. Carbon elimination - Implement decarbonisation strategies in line with the Paris Agreement through real business changes and innovations, including efficiency improvements, renewable energy, materials reductions, and other carbon emission elimination strategies
- C. Credible offsets - Neutralise any remaining emissions with additional, quantifiable, real, permanent, and socially-beneficial offsets to achieve net-zero annual carbon emissions by 2040

10. **To recommend** to Full Council that it endorses the content of the report and associated action plans.

20 **INTRODUCTION OF ALL DAY VISITOR PERMIT/VOUCHER**

Cabinet considered a report on the Introduction of All Day Visitor Permit/Voucher.

It was explained that following concerns raised by ward members and residents of visitor permits primarily in controlled parking zone ROST and which were currently Havering's only controlled parking zone operational 24 hours per day 7 days per week, officers had reviewed the visitor's permit policy with a view to introducing a zone-specific visitors' permit.

Therefore the reported suggested an implementation an all-day visitor permit in resident parking zones where applicable. This would enable and assist those who have longer term visits and should reduce the use of the shorter-term visitor permits which are currently the only option available to them.

Cabinet:

Agreed to the introduction of a new all-day visitor permit, at the cost of £39 for 10 visits, for use in controlled parking zone ROST which covers the following roads in Romford Town Ward:

- Cotleigh Road
- Honiton Road
- Stockland Road
- St Andrews Road – Upon completion of redevelopment
- Queens Street - Upon completion of redevelopment

- Waterloo Gardens - Upon completion of redevelopment
- Albion Close - Upon completion of redevelopment

21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA), INDEPENDENT RACE, EQUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, (READI), COMMISSIONED REVIEW MAY 2021: APPROVAL OF ACTION PLAN.

Cabinet considered a report on the Local Government Association (LGA), Independent Race, Equality, Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion, (READI), Commissioned Review May 2021: Approval of Action Plan.

It was explained that in June 2021, the Leader of the Council committed to commissioning a proactive improvement independent review of race relations initially within the Council. Whilst this retained a significant focus on Race, it was broadened out to ensure other protected groups were included to ensure that Havering was a dynamic place that recognised its demographics are changing fast.

It was to be noted that some external press articles said this was an Investigation; it was not, nor was the review requested by any other organisations. The independent review was part of the Council's decision to hold a "mirror up", and get an honest snap-shot of the Council's internal policies and procedures, to safe-guard against complacency in its public sector equalities duties (PSED). This review was bravely undertaken during a global pandemic, and heightened awareness and sensitives raised by the heinous murder of George Floyd, which directly influenced the commitment to this review. Few other Councils would have chosen to do this at such a period in our history. Havering felt that due to the events it was the right time to review this.

The report focused on the Council's action plan, developed in response to the Council commissioning the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake the Independent Race, Equality, Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion (READI) Review and addresses the LGA's fifteen priority improvement recommendations.

The Council had a ten point plan to ensure it maximised the "warts and all" candour afforded through a "tell-us how it really is for you, and what needed to change" ethos. A 400 page internal self-assessment was prepared for use by the LGA, to support its focus and enable robust exploration in confidential sessions with staff, Members and the public and key partners through the Community Cohesion and Engagement Forum.

It was proposed that the action plan in Appendix B was approved by the Cabinet and monitored on a six monthly basis to ensure the recommended improvements were implemented and any appropriate action taken to keep this on track, together with other information that can help show the impact on the ground.

Given the importance of this review and why it was undertaken, Cabinet had reiterated the Council's stance and promise to be resolute in its zero tolerance of racism and discrimination of any kind. Given some of the misrepresentation in the press, it is an important cornerstone to reiterate and strengthen building trust and the dialogue that must be in place if things are to change. Without this the Council can't grow the culture where people feel able to report, receive support, deal with and discuss the issues, however uncomfortable going forward.

Furthermore, as the improvements were strategic and cross-cutting in nature, and underpinned the Council's ambition to be an Inclusive employer of choice and achieve the 'Excellence' standard in the Equality Framework for Local Government (EFLG), a role for Overview and Scrutiny was proposed, this was in accordance with the statutory role of the Overview and Scrutiny function as set out in the Council's Constitution. This request was one for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, who selected their own areas for scrutiny.

Cabinet:

- **Agreed** the high level action plan in Appendix B
- **Agreed** the LGA's READI report is published in its entirety
- **Will review progress** against the action plan on a six monthly basis
- **Agreed** this report goes to Full Council for their endorsement
- **Urged** all Members to support the READI Programme
- **Will request** the Overview and Scrutiny Board to consider progress against the action plan on a six month basis in line with the Scrutiny function
- **Agreed** this review and subsequent programme, informs the borough-"Phase two", Borough wide READI review planning.

Chairman