



MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 8 November 2023
(Times Not Specified)

Present:

Councillor Ray Morgon (Leader of the Council), Chairman

	Cabinet Member responsibility:
Councillor Keith Darvill	Lead Member for Climate Change & Housing Need
Councillor Gillian Ford	Lead Member for Adults & Wellbeing
Councillor Oscar Ford	Lead Member for Children and Young People
Councillor Paul McGearay	Lead Member for Housing & Property
Councillor Paul Middleton	Lead Member for Digital, Transformation & Customer Services
Councillor Barry Mugglestone	Lead Member for Environment
Councillor Christopher Wilkins	Lead Member for Finance
Councillor Graham Williamson	Lead Member for Regeneration

In attendance: Councillor Keith Prince, Councillor Martin Goode

Councillor Mandy Anderson and Councillor Matthew Stanton also attended.

128 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were advised of the Fire Safety procedures in the Council Chamber.

129 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

130 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

131 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on **4th October 2023**, were agreed as a correct record and the Chair signed them.

132 **UPDATE ON THE 2024-25 BUDGET**

Report: **Progress on the 2024/25 Budget and MTFS Update**

An overview of the Budget report was presented by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ray Morgon, with a call to all parties to work together and thanked the opposition leaders for their support in these difficult times.

Cllr Wilkins, Cabinet Member for Finance, stated that the report sets out the actions the Council is taking in order to control spending and mitigate the pressures the Council is facing in 2023/24. The report also sets out proposals to close the 2024/25 budget gap. These proposals will be consulted on before final decisions are taken in the new year on the 2024/25 budget

The Cabinet **agreed** to the recommendations in the report:

1. Cabinet **agreed** that we proceed with consultation on the £11.9m of budget savings proposals set out in section 4.7 of this report and appendix A.
2. Cabinet **noted** that that despite the £11.9m of proposals put forward, there is still a residual budget gap of £12.0m and that Officers will be putting additional proposals forward for further consideration and decision in due course.
3. Cabinet **agreed** for Officers to engage with the Department of Levelling Up and Communities to formally request a Capitalisation Directive which will only be drawn down in the event the Council is unable to set a legally balanced budget for 24/25.
4. Cabinet **noted** the actions the Council is taking to control in-year spending.
5. Cabinet **agreed** the Consultation approach set out in Section 6 of the report.

133 **ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2022-25**

Report: **Annual Review of the Community Safety Plan 2022-25**

The report was presented for consideration by Cllr Barry Mugglestone, Cabinet Member for Environment.

The report provides a progress update on the Community Safety Plan approved by Cabinet in October 2022 and provides recommended priorities for the Havering Community Safety Partnership for 2023-25.

Cabinet:

1. **Noted** the update on the implementation of the Community Safety Plan set out in this Report.
2. **Approved** the priorities for action for the period 2023-25 set out at paragraph 3 of this Report.

134 **TO APPROVE UPDATE TO PHASE 5 SCHOOL EXPANSION**

Report: **Outline Proposals to address Early Years, Primary, Secondary, SEND and AP rising rolls – Update to Phase 5 expansion Programme**

The report was presented by Cllr Oscar Ford, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People. This phase 5 of the Schools Expansion Programme sets out proposals for capital investment of £70m to provide for expansion of school places in those areas where there is clear evidence of sustained growth in need over the next five years. The investment will be funded from a combination of basic needs allocation, unallocated capital budget from earlier phases, SEND capital grant and S106 Housing Development contributions.

Cabinet:

1. **Agreed** Phase 5 school expansion programmes should continue to be developed based on the following approach in line with the decision on the [Children & Young People Education Place Planning Plan 2023-2027](#)
 - i. To have a preference for expanding **existing popular and high-performing schools** and inclusion of nursery provision and SEND units where appropriate and in areas where there are no schools with high surplus capacity.
 - ii. To consider the expansion of existing schools, but only to a maximum size of 4FE in the primary phase, ensuring at all times that high standards of education are paramount.
 - iii. To consider the delivery of additional primary and secondary places as a result of major regeneration through establishment of new schools.
2. **Agreed** that in respect of all proposals set out below that all relevant statutory processes, including planning, should be followed and where the process is the responsibility of an Academy to provide all necessary support. Where consultation is necessary the proposals below are subject to the outcome of such consultation.

3. **Approved** the detailed stage 1 programme of works totalling £70m to fund Phase 5 of the Schools Expansion Programme from 2023/24 to 2026/27, noting that this is fully externally funded.

135 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman