



MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 6 November 2024
(7.30pm - 9.18pm)

Present:

Councillor Ray Morgon (Leader of the Council), Chairman

	Cabinet Member responsibility:
Councillor Gillian Ford	Lead Member for Adults & Wellbeing
Councillor Oscar Ford	Lead Member for Children & Young People
Councillor Paul McGearry	Lead Member for Housing & Property
Councillor Barry Mugglestone	Lead Member for Environment
Councillor Natasha Summers	Lead Member for Housing Need & Climate Change
Councillor Christopher Wilkins	Lead Member for Finance
Councillor Graham Williamson	Lead Member for Regeneration

In attendance: Cllr Keith Prince (Conservative); Cllr Keith Darvill (Labour); Cllr Martin Goode (EHRG)

9 ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Chair, there was an announcement about the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor Paul Middleton.

11 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

12 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 18th September, 25th September and 9th October 2024, were agreed as a correct record and the Chair signed them.

13 **APPROVAL OF THE JOINT HAVERING DEMENTIA STRATEGY 2024-2029**

Report: Approval of the Joint Havering Dementia Strategy 2024-2029

Presented by: Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care Services

Summary:

This report provides an overview of the Joint Dementia Strategy for Havering, 2024-2029. Dementia remains a key national and local priority. It is therefore important that a locally agreed Joint Strategy is in place.

Cabinet:

Noted the contents of the report and the accompanying Strategy.

Agreed to adopt and approved the local Joint Dementia Strategy for Havering (subject to the amendment of the Strategy to include the recommendations of the People Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee as detailed in the agenda to this meeting and the deletion of the sentence “the government’s social care charging reforms, with more generous means testing and lifetime cap on care costs” from page 5 of the Strategy).

14 **2025-2029 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE**

Report: 2025-2029 Medium Term Financial Strategy Update

Presented by: **Councillor Chris Wilkins (Cabinet Member for Finance)**

Summary:

This report provides an update on the progress towards setting the Council’s budget for 2025/26. The report includes the latest monitoring position for 2024/25 and how this will impact on the 2025/26 budget. The report sets out the national financial context following the General election in July and how this might affect the budget position. At the time of writing the report, the measures proposed in Autumn Budget are yet to be announced.

The report updates the medium-term financial strategy taking account of the latest assumptions and includes detail of proposed growth and savings for the budget. The report shows the remaining gap facing the Council for 2025/26 and the cumulative estimated gap over the next 4 years. The report focuses on the Council’s General Fund position. A further report on the Council’s Housing Revenue Account position will follow in January and the February budget report will contain additional information on the Dedicated Schools Grant, Capital and Treasury management strategies.

Due to years of systemic underfunding based on data from over a decade ago, the government grant Havering receives no longer meets the fast-

changing demands on the Council's services. Despite putting forward a sizeable savings programme of £15.3m, 2024/25 was the first year the Council was unable to set a legally balanced budget report without Exceptional Financial Support from the Government. This report sets out the impact of the capitalisation direction agreed for 2024/25 and the implications if future capitalisation directions were used to balance future years.

The Council will continue to engage with our community openly and transparently, raising awareness of the Council's financial challenges and the proposals put in place to respond to the significant financial challenges ahead.

The Council continues to deliver for its residents and the community. A number of the initiatives the Council has delivered and/or is progressing with is captured in this report.

Cabinet:

Noted the medium-term financial position set out in this report

Noted the proposed savings and investment set out in this report and authorised officers to start the budget engagement process, including specific consultations (where required) to deliver the savings in this report.

Noted the position regarding further exceptional financial support from the Government and agreed to the proposed steps to lobby the Government on this matter.

Chairman