



Haverling

LONDON BOROUGH

PLACE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE AGENDA

7.00 pm

Tuesday
16 July 2024

Appointment Centre
Room 10 & 11, Town
Hall, Romford

Members 9: Quorum 5

COUNCILLORS:

**Conservative Group
(2)**

David Taylor (Chairman)
Ray Best

**Labour Group
(2)**

Katharine Tumilty (Vice-Chair)
Vacancy

**Haverling Residents' Group
(4)**

John Wood
Philippa Crowder
Laurance Garrard
Vacancy

**East Haverling Residents Group
(1)**

Darren Wise

For information about the meeting please contact:

Taiwo Adeoye - 01708 433079
taiwo.adeoye@onesource.co.uk

Under the Committee Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution the Chairman of the meeting may exercise the powers conferred upon the Mayor in relation to the conduct of full Council meetings. As such, should any member of the public interrupt proceedings, the Chairman will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chairman will order their removal from the meeting room and may adjourn the meeting while this takes place.

Excessive noise and talking should also be kept to a minimum whilst the meeting is in progress in order that the scheduled business may proceed as planned.

Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements. Each overview and scrutiny sub-committee has its own remit as set out in the terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

The sub-committees have a number of key roles:

1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy and decision makers.
2. Driving improvement in public services.
3. Holding key local partners to account.
4. Enabling the voice and concerns to the public.

The sub-committees consider issues by receiving information from, and questioning, Cabinet Members, officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals, policy and practices. They can then develop recommendations that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations. These are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and if approved, submitted for a response to Council, Cabinet and other relevant bodies.

Sub-Committees will often establish Topic Groups to examine specific areas in much greater detail. These groups consist of a number of Members and the review period can last for anything from a few weeks to a year or more to allow the Members to comprehensively examine an issue through interviewing expert witnesses, conducting research or undertaking site visits. Once the topic group has finished its work it will send a report to the Sub-Committee that created it and will often suggest recommendations for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to pass to the Council's Executive.

Terms of Reference

The areas scrutinised by the Committee are:

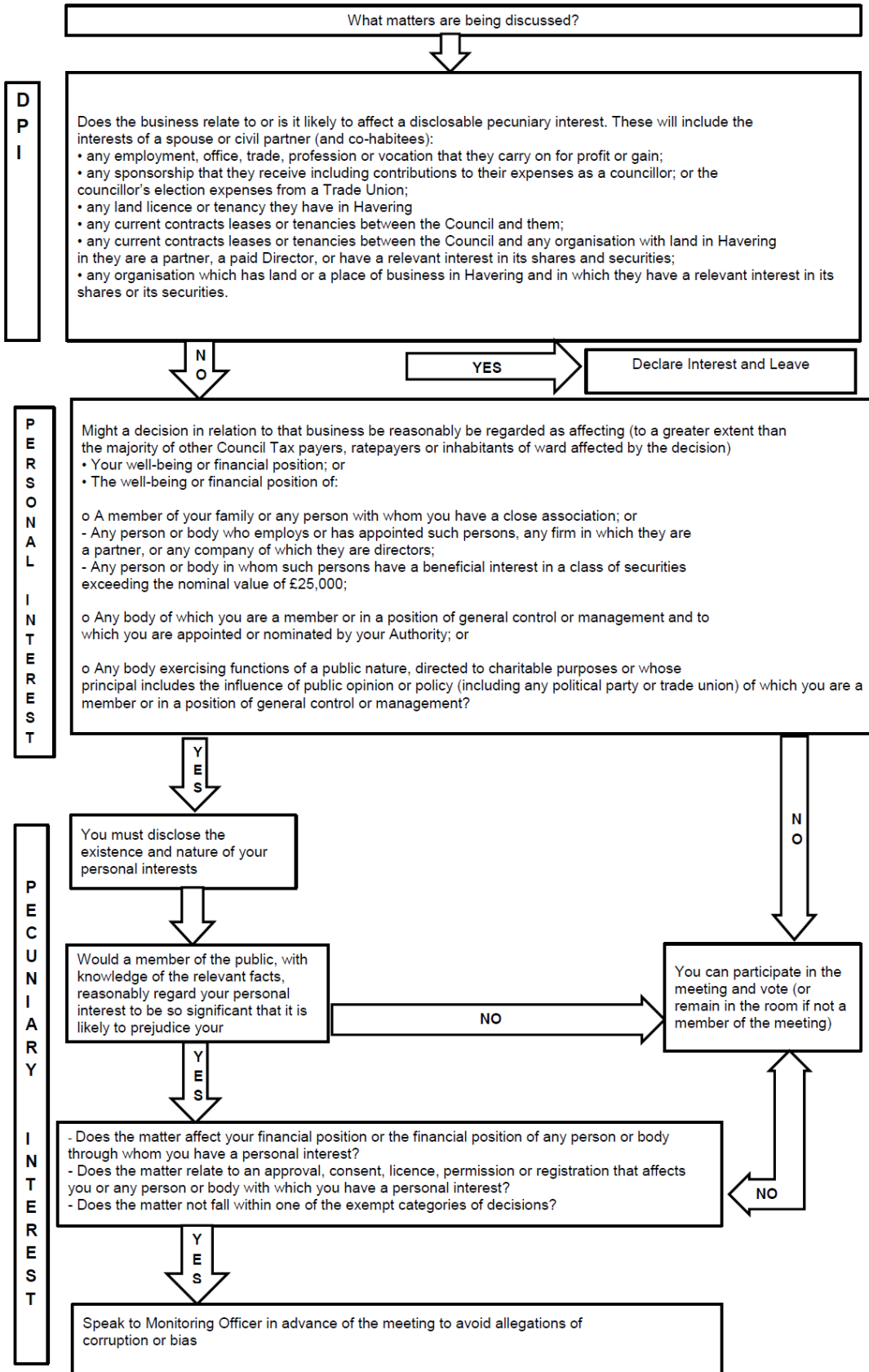
- Housing & Accommodation Services
- Land & Property Services
- Planning
- Building Control
- Business Services
- Inward Investment
- Asset Management
- Property Services
- Facilities Management
- Sports

Place Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee, 16 July 2024

- Leisure
- Arts
- Music
- Libraries
- Heritage
- Parks & Open Space
- Highways
- Parking & Traffic
- Waste & Recycling
- Climate Change
- Transport & Infrastructure
- Public Protection & Licensing
- Emergency Planning
- Technical Services

Place Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee, 16 July 2024

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



AGENDA ITEMS

1 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Receive (if any)

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are invited to disclose any interests in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting. Members may still declare an interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

4 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Sub-Committee held on 26 March 2024 and authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 VERBAL UPDATE - BANK HOLIDAY REFUSE COLLECTION (Pages 11 - 12)

Cover Report attached

6 PROGRAMME OF THE DISPOSAL OF ESTATE ASSETS

Report to follow if available.

7 WATERLOO ESTATE UPDATE

Report to follow if available.

Zena Smith
Head of Committee and
Election Services

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PLACE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE
Appointment Centre Room 10 & 11, Town Hall, Romford
26 March 2024 (7.00 - 9.40 pm)**

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Conservative Group David Taylor (Chairman), Ray Best and Jason Frost

Havering Residents' Group Gerry O'Sullivan and John Wood

Labour Group Matthew Stanton and Mandy Anderson

The Chairman reminded Members of the action to be taken in an emergency.

47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Brian Eagling and +Katharine Tumilty. Councillor Mandy Anderson substituted for Councillor Tumilty.

48 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Jason Frost declared a non-pecuniary interest on the pre decision scrutiny item on Climate Change Action Plan 2024-27.

49 MINUTES

The minutes of the sub-committee meeting held on 14 December 2023 and special meeting of 23 January 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

50 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT REVIEW OF RESOURCES

The Sub-Committee received a report following the recommendation of the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) review of resources for the Enforcement function within planning had been undertaken.

The report detailed that the review had been completed, setting out the current issues within Planning Enforcement and making recommendations in relation to recruitment, enforcement plan, business support, interaction with planners and performance monitoring and performance.

The report informed the sub-committee of the following issues identified:

- Significant backlog of cases: Historically, case levels have been very high, but there has been successful effort over recent years (particularly when fully staffed) to reduce the number of cases on hand. Despite this, the current number of cases on hand (604) exceeds the number of cases received in each of the last two years (469 22/23 and 414 23/Feb 24). At present there are over 300 cases which are over a year old, which is a significant number of the total caseload.
- The number of cases per officer being very high: The number of cases per officer makes it difficult for officers to manage cases in order to respond in a timely manner to new cases received and ultimately to resolve cases (the problem identified by the LGO). Members seeking updates which itself contributes to the officer workload. The consequences of high officer workloads contributed to the backlog of cases.
- Notices served reflects staffing levels: A high number of notices served was not necessarily an indication of a good or efficient service albeit it is currently the only planning enforcement 'performance' indicator that central government monitors. Based on previous statistics, it is considered about 60 notices a year would be expected to be served and that a manageable workload per officer would be in the order of 80.

Members were informed that the specific reasons why the LGO sought a review of the service was that at present the planning enforcement team in the planning service does not have the resources to carry out its functions.

The report detailed the following action plan to address this issue:

Recruitment to vacant Establishment Posts: Recruitment would enable reduction in officer workloads and allow more timely resolution of complaints or the taking of formal action. Recruitment would be dependent on agreement of the Recruitment Panel and ensuring that sufficient budget is available. Timescale: To begin progress from April 2024.

Adoption of Enforcement Plan: An updated enforcement plan has been drafted and will form part of an overall Enforcement Policy for the Planning and Public Protection Directorate for approval this year. Timescale: Policy adopted by December 2024.

Explore Additional Business Support: Explore scope of business support needs across Place, which the Planning and Public Protection Directorate forms part of. Timescale: Ongoing as part of review

Greater Interaction between Enforcement and Planning Officers: Better interaction would result in increased learning and development for officers; prioritisation of retrospective planning applications and making better informed decisions as to whether to invite planning applications to regularise any breach. Timescale: From April 2024

Expand Reporting on Performance to Lead Member and Planning Committees: Currently, only numbers of cases received and closed and notices served is reported to the committees each quarter. It was recommended that in addition, current case load, including number of open cases per officer be included in any reporting so issues of backlog and output can be more easily identified and reported on. Timescale: From April 2024

Following the presentation and discussion the sub-committee **noted** the content of the review and the actions recommended.

51 **CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

At the request of Members, the revised Havering Climate Change Action Plan (HCCAP) 2024-27 was presented under the pre-decision scrutiny arrangement.

The report falls under the auspices of the Sub-Committee and form a key decision to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 10 April.

The report outlined impacts and causes of climate change that have been recognised by the council. It was stated that in the report that the Council had developed strategies and goals to address these impacts and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The sub-committee noted that the costs of annually reviewing the Havering Climate Change Action Plan that would be contained in the existing corporate financial provision. Members indicated to receive an update in 6 months' time.

Following presentation and debate the sub-committee made the following comments and recommendations that would be passed to the Cabinet for consideration for inclusion in the action plan.

That the sub-committee support the Approval and adoption of the revised HCCAP 2024-27.

The Sub-Committee also ask that:

- Could Cabinet consider an action around promoting greywater and rainwater harvesting.
- Could Cabinet consider how the plan may incorporate green energy generation.

Chairman



PLACES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:

Cover Report -
Recent Bank Holiday Refuse Collection

SLT Lead:

Report Author and contact details:

Taiwo Adeoye - Committee Officer

Policy context:

Place/Refuse Collection

Financial summary:

As this report is a briefing item to obtain comments and no decisions are sought, there are no direct Financial implications or risks.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	[x]
Places making Havering	[x]
Opportunities making Havering	[x]
Connections making Havering	[x]

SUMMARY

The Sub-Committee is to receive an update presentation on recent Bank Holiday Refuse Collections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The update is for noting.

REPORT DETAIL

That the Sub-Committee comment and note the briefing.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: None of this covering report.

Legal implications and risks: None of this covering report.

Human Resources implications and risks: None of this covering report.

Equalities implications and risks: None of this covering report.