



MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 11 June 2025
(7.00 - 8.27 pm)

Present:

Councillor Ray Morgon (Leader of the Council), Chairman

Cabinet Member responsibility:

Councillor Gillian Ford (Vice-Chair)	Lead Member for Adults & Wellbeing
Councillor Oscar Ford	Lead Member for Children & Young People
Councillor Paul McGeary	Lead Member for Housing & Property
Councillor Paul Middleton	Lead Member for Digital, Transformation & Customer Services
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: Councillor Michael White (CON), Councillor Matt Stanton (LAB) substitution for Councillor Keith Darvill, Councillor Martin Goode (EHRG), Councillor Laurance Garrard (Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Board)

87 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.

88 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

89 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

90 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on **7th May 2025**, were agreed as a correct record and the Chair signed them.

91 **THE MAKING OF TWO VILLAGE GREENS IN HAVERING**

Report Title: Proposals for the voluntary making of two Village Greens within Havering.

Presented by: Councillor Graham Williamson – Portfolio Holder for Development and Regeneration.

Summary:

This is a report to enable Cabinet to consider proposals to make voluntary village green registrations of two green spaces in the borough. If the recommendations in the report receive approval, Officers will carry out the necessary actions to ensure the delivery of the village greens.

Cabinet:

1. **Agreed** to apply for the voluntary village green registration of the two pieces of open land considered in this report.
2. **Instructed** officers to carry out all necessary actions to achieve successful registration as agreed in recommendation 1 above.
3. **Agreed** the attached engagement and consultation process.

92 **TOBACCO HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY**

Report Title: Tobacco Harm Reduction Strategy 2024-2029

Presented by: Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults & Wellbeing

Summary:

This strategy supports Havering Council to meet its People Theme priorities of ensuring that people are helped to live independent, socially connected and healthier lives as set out in the Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2026/2.

Addressing the wider determinants of health, including lifestyle factors such as smoking behaviour, supports the vision and broader objectives of reducing smoking-related harms and inequalities as set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Place Based Partnership Strategy.

Delivery of the strategy will be supported largely by government grant and public health grant. In 2023, the government announced commitment to five-year funding

to local authorities from 2024/25 to 2028/29 to boost stop smoking activities as part of national drive to achieve a smoke-free England by 2030. In 2024-25 Havering was allocated £307,543 and £315,471 in 2025-26. Public health grant contribution is £36,040.

This five-year Tobacco Harm Reduction strategy sets out the vision and aims of the Havering Tobacco Harm Reduction Partnership (THRP) group to jointly reduce tobacco harm and address the rising youth vaping in line with national ambition of creating a smoke-free society by 2030 set out in the National Tobacco Control Plan and the 2023 policy paper Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smoke free generation.

The strategy outlines a comprehensive approach to tackle tobacco use and its associated harms emphasising collaboration with various partners, enabling more people to stop smoking, preventing smoking initiation among youth, creating and expanding smoke-free environments to protect children and vulnerable from second-hand smoke whilst also strengthening regulation and enforcement.

Insight into the extent of smoking and vaping, the impact, challenges and groups disproportionately affected by smoking are highlighted in the strategy as well as the growing trend of youth vaping propelled by significant vapes marketing to young people.

Recommendations from the Tobacco Harm Reduction needs assessment such as expansion of local services, prioritised tailored support for groups with high smoking levels, training of health and social care professionals, communication and strengthened capacity of trading standards underpin the ambition and strategic objectives and the need for tailored interventions to address the inequalities caused by smoking.

There are four clear strategic priorities set out over the coming years as below:

- Supporting smokers to quit and reducing variation in smoking rates.
- Prevention - empowering individuals to avoid smoking and vaping.
- Creating smoke-free environments
- Strengthening local regulation and enforcement

Progress will be tracked by specific targets and indicators with a focus on achieving a downward trend in smoking prevalence by 2028/29. Delivery is through a yearly action plan, refreshed annually in line with funding allocation, reflecting new developments and Havering changing needs. The strategy incorporates feedback from public consultation and has been agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 7th May 2025 to proceed to cabinet for approval.

Cabinet:

Approved the Havering Tobacco Harm Reduction Strategy 2024-2029 for implementation.

93 **DAMP AND MOULD POLICY (2025)**

Report Title: Damp & Mould Control Policy for HRA Housing (2025)

Presented by: Councillor Paul McGeary, Cabinet Member for Housing & Property

Summary:

This report sets out the proposed policy for dealing with Dampness and Mould and clarifies the Council's commitment to supporting residents' health and wellbeing, through addressing any detected presence of damp and mould in its properties.

The goal is to provide excellent customer service, and we recognise that timely and high-quality repairs are a priority for all residents. The new damp and Mould Policy is based on the proposed Awaab's Law, the Housing Act 2004 and the Decent Homes Standard.

This policy sets out to clarify the Council's commitment to supporting residents' health and wellbeing, through addressing any detected presence of damp and mould in its properties.

We plan to revise the policy as guidance and legislation evolves. This policy explains the circumstances in which we will manage the treatment of damp and mould.

Cabinet:

1. **Approved** the Damp & Mould Policy (2025) for HRA Housing set out in Appendix A of this report.

94 **HAVERING LONDON - CHARITABLE STATUS APPLICATION**

Report Title: Havering London - Charitable Status Application

Presented by: Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults & Wellbeing

Summary:

Havering London Limited (HL) is registered at Companies House as a Council controlled company limited by guarantee. HL was established as a new cultural and place making organisation that would support the Council to deliver the London Borough of Culture (had the application been successful), and to realise future opportunities.

Cabinet agreed the recommendation at the meeting on 13 March 2024 to establish HL. The report also stated the company be established initially, with a longer term ambition to evolve into charitable status which would be subject to an options appraisal and relevant governance decisions.

This report seeks authority to apply for charitable status for HL for the reasons set out.

Cabinet agreed:

1. that an application is submitted to the Charity Commission for Havering London Limited to become a registered charity. Following registration, HL will be a charitable company limited by guarantee.
2. to delegate to the Strategic Director of People in consultation with the Deputy Director of Legal Services to take all steps necessary to establish the charity if the application is successful.

Cabinet noted that the Council nomination for appointments on the Charity Board will be made subject to the Council's Constitutional Rules.

95 **REVISION TO THE CABINET PAPER REQUESTING PERMISSION TO PROCURE ADULT SOCIAL CARE FRAMEWORK**

Report Title: Permission to procure a framework for Adult Social Care Residential & Nursing Care Home, Homecare and Supported Living Placements.

Presented by: Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults & Wellbeing

Summary:

This contract supports Havering Council to meet its priorities in its Corporate Plan 2024/25. This plan sets out how the Council intends to invest and transform the borough with an emphasis on improving the lives of vulnerable children, adults and families. In summary, this framework ensures the Council fulfils its aim of ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable are met and that people are supported to be healthy and active.

The budget for this procurement will come from Adult Social Care budgets. Placements will be called off as required using the brokerage system, from the framework which will have no minimum or maximum value, nor will any commitment to expenditure by the Council be stipulated within the framework contracts. Expenditure will only be incurred when individual packages of care are purchased.

The expected annual call off from the framework will be approx. £90 million. This is based on 2023/24 spend on ASC placements.

To ensure that all placements can be made through the framework without limitations, £500 million has been established as the maximum value for the 4-year framework. This precaution avoids the risk of depleting funds, which would hinder the ability to call off from the framework.

This decision paper is seeking permission to procure a framework for Adult Social Care Residential & Nursing Care Home, Homecare and Supported Living Placements to replace the current Complex Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) and Active Homecare Framework.

The procurement of a comprehensive framework for Adult Social Care encompassing Residential & Nursing Care Homes, Homecare, and Supported Living Placements is an indispensable step towards enhancing the quality of care and support for adults in need.

This document outlines the fundamental reasons why such a framework is essential and highlights the multitude of benefits and improvements it brings to the realm of adult social care.

Cabinet:

1. **Approved** the procurement of a framework for Adult Social Care Residential & Nursing Care Home, Homecare and Supported Living Placements.
2. **Delegated** authority to approve the award of the contracts to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health.

96 **IMPROVEMENT & TRANSFORMATION PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE AND CIPFA FM REVIEW**

Report Title: Improvement & Transformation Plan Progress Update and CIPFA FM Review

Presented by: Councillor Ray Morgon, Council Leader

Summary:

In 2023/24, our unit costs were the 16th lowest compared to 16 other Outer London boroughs, i.e. the lowest as independently assessed by LG Futures. Our income collection for Council Tax was in the top-quartile in London. We consistently sold off assets (over £160m since 2013/14) to minimise borrowing costs of our capital programme, and Members increased Council Tax throughout austerity.

The Council takes its financial responsibilities very seriously. We have maximised Council Tax income, have one the lowest unit costs in the country, have sold assets, do not have high levels of borrowing and have been forced to use our reserves to mitigate underfunding.

After significant systemic underfunding since 2010, the Council's financial challenge was no longer one we could manage without Government intervention. Exceptional Financial Support through a capitalisation direction was applied for to prevent us from issuing a S114 for last financial year (2024/25). As part of the requirements to receive this support, an Improvement & Transformation Plan was required to be submitted no later than 27th August 2024. The plan has been monitored internally, since its approval at Cabinet in July 2024.

Another condition of the Capitalisation Direction was for the Council to undergo an independent Financial Management review to assess the Financial Management and Governance arrangements of the Council. This report provides additional information on the Financial Management review which was conducted last summer, and the recommendations put forward by CIPFA.

Officers received thanks from the Members and asked that the RAG system be used for the Overview & Scrutiny Board projects.

Cabinet:

- (1) **Noted** the Improvement and Transformation Plan Updates within the Action Plan.
- (2) **Noted** the CIPFA Financial Recommendations and Updates within the Improvement and Transformation Action Plan.

Cabinet noted that the delivery of the actions set out within this plan is the responsibility of the Executive Leadership Team.

97 **Q4 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Report Title: Corporate Plan Q4 Performance Report: (2024/25)

Presented by: Councillor Ray Morgon, Council Leader

Summary:

The report sets out Quarter 4 performance for each of the three strategic priorities (People, Place and Resources)

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. It is expected that the delivery of targets will be achieved within existing resources.

The Council's Corporate Plan was formally adopted in April 2024.

The Corporate Plan is made up of the three Strategic Director Service plans and describes how we will deliver the vision under the following three themes:

- Supporting our residents to stay safe and well
- A great place to live work and enjoy
- Enabling a resident-focussed and resilient council

Under each theme sit a number of outcomes and key deliverables associated to the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that were agreed to be the most appropriate for measuring progress. These KPIs have been brought together into a Corporate Plan Performance Report, which provides an overview of the Council's performance. The report is presented in *PowerBI* and highlights good performance and potential areas for improvement.

The Overall KPI status page identifies where the Council is performing well (Green) not so well (Amber and Red). KPIs which are narrative only, or for which it is not appropriate to set a target, are shown in Blue. RAG ratings for 2024/25 are as follows:

- **Red** = Below target and below the 'variable tolerance' off the target
- **Amber** = Below target but within the 'variable tolerance' of the target
- **Green** = Above annual target

Also included in the Power-BI report are Direction of Travel (long-term and short-term), which compares:

- Short-term performance – with the previous quarter (Quarter 3 2024/25)
- Long-term performance – with the same time the previous year (Quarter 4 2023/24, where available)

Please note the green arrow shows if (↑) higher performance is better or (↓) lower performance is better.

The Corporate Performance Report will be brought to Cabinet at the end of each quarter.

Cabinet:

Noted all indicators (especially the red indicators highlighted within the body of this report) and **noted** the levels of performance set out in the power-bi report, subject to amendments to the comments on pages 169 and 174

98 **2024-25 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT**

Report Title: Council Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2024/25

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

Summary:

The report provides detail of the outturn position on Capital and Revenue for 2024/25 including the funding of the outturn and impact on reserves and balances.

This report includes:

- 2024/25 Revenue Outturn Position
- Analysis of Service overspends and mitigating corporate items
- Update on savings delivery
- Financing and impact on reserves and balances
- Capital Outturn position for 2024/25

1.1 This Report sets out the revenue outturn position for the Council and includes commentary on the variances to budget by service. The report also includes explanation of mitigating corporate items and explains how the outturn position will be financed.

1.2. The report also sets out the Capital outturn for 2024/25 compared to revised budget and explains the variances and slippage on the budget.

1.3. The table below sets out the final revenue outturn position of the Council which is a £30.4m overspend against the original budget without exceptional financial support. This table also provides a comparison to the Period 9 forecast which was submitted to cabinet in March

Table 1: Revenue Outturn 2024/25	Revised Budget (m)	Final Actual (m)	Variance to Budget (m)	Period 9 Forecast Outturn (m)
Directorate				
Resources	26.5	25.9	(0.6)	0.0
People	159.4	180.0	20.6	22.3
Place	14.8	16.4	1.6	2.5
Corporate	10.8	5.6	(5.2)	(4.7)
Worst Case	18.5	0.0	(18.5)	(18.5)
contingent budget				
TOTAL	230.0	227.9	(2.1)	1.6
	(32.5)	0.0	32.5	32.5
Capitalisation requirement				
TOTAL	197.5	227.9	30.4	34.1
OVERSPEND				
Settlement	(39.5)	(39.5)	0.0	0.0
Funding				
Assessment				
Council Tax	(158.0)	(158.0)	0.0	0.0
Total Funding	(197.5)	(197.5)	0.0	0.0

1.4 Further details of the reported departmental variances are set out in Section 4 of this report. There are then sections setting out the Corporate position, including Treasury management, HRA and Capital Outturn.

Cabinet;

2.1 Noted the revenue outturn position for the Council and the financing of the overspend (section 7 of the report)

2.2 Approved the Capital Outturn position for 24/25 as set out in section 9 of this report

2.3 Noted the outturn position for the Council's earmarked reserves and General balances as set out in section 6 of this report

2.4 Noted the write off of debt approved by the Strategic Director of Resources as set out in paragraph 5.4

Chairman