



COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 pm Wednesday, 3 September 2025
At Council Chamber - Town Hall

Members of the Council of the London Borough of Havering are advised that a meeting of the Council is scheduled to take place on the date and time shown above. Details of the business to be dealt with are given below.

Gavin Milnthorpe
Monitoring Officer

For information about the meeting please contact:
Anthony Clements tel: 01708 433065
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Please would all Members and officers attending ensure they sit in their allocated seats as this will enable correct identification of participants on the meeting webcast.



Please note that this meeting will be webcast.

Members of the public who do not wish to appear in the webcast will be able to sit in the balcony, which is not in camera range.

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:-

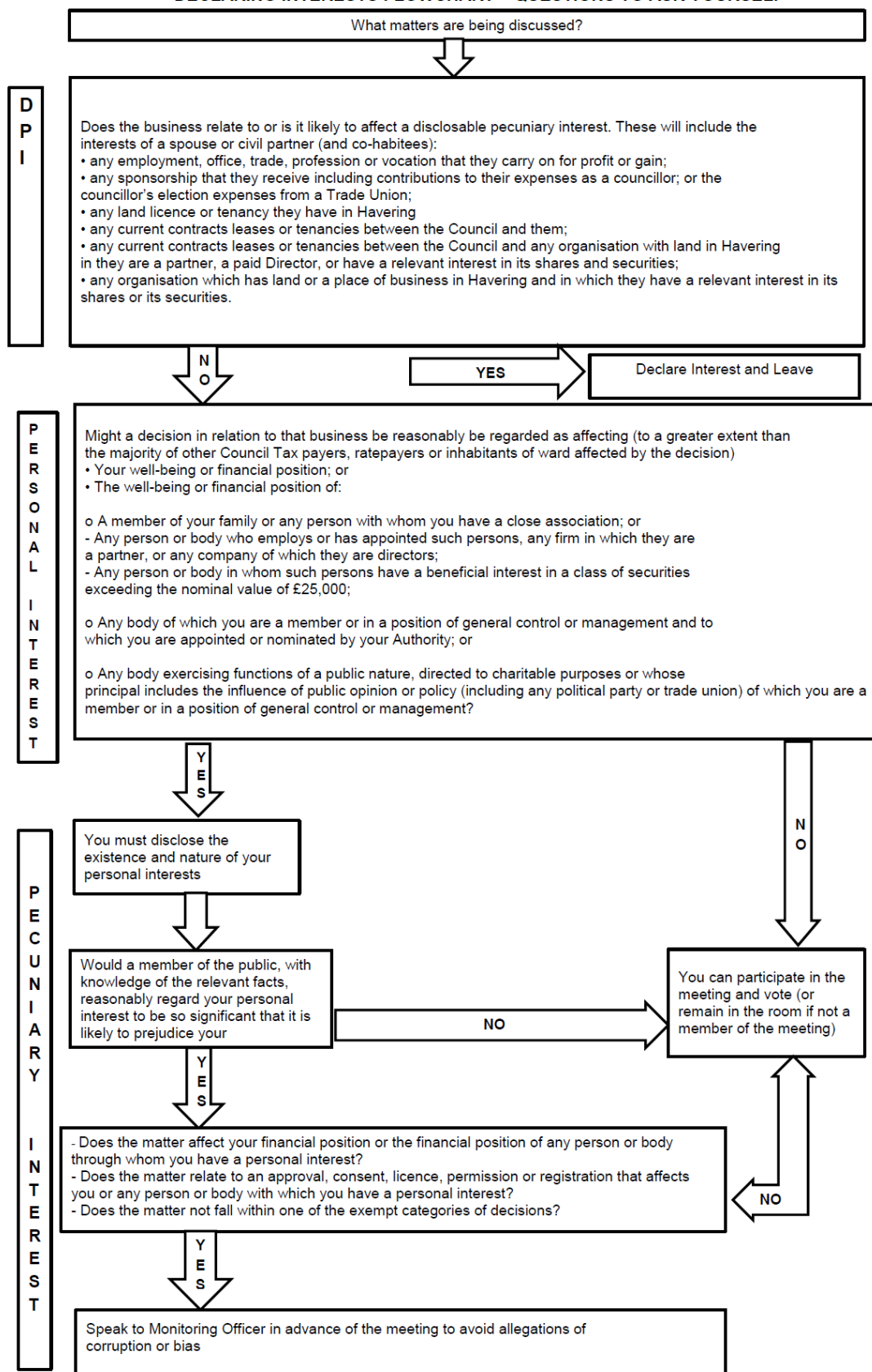
- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing,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

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



Principles of conduct in public office

In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, when acting in the capacity of a Member, they are committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the following principles to achieve best value for the Borough's residents and to maintain public confidence in the Council.

SELFLESSNESS: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

INTEGRITY: Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

OBJECTIVITY: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

OPENNESS: Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

HONESTY: Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

LEADERSHIP: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

AGENDA

1 PRAYERS

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Councillors Mandy Anderson, Joshua Chapman, Kathy Tumilty and Michael White.

To note any other apologies for absence.

3 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 26)

To sign as a true record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23 July 2025 (attached).

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are invited to disclose any interest in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

Members may still disclose any interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

To receive announcements (if any).

6 PETITIONS

Notice of intention to present a petition has been received from Councillors Philippa Crowder and Keith Darvill.

To receive any other petition presented pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 23.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS (Pages 27 - 30)

NOTE: The deadline for amendments is midnight, Monday 1 September 2025.

- A. To consider the report of the Chief Executive on a resolution to extend the six month attendance rule (attached).
- B. **To consider any other report or motion presented pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 2(h).**

8 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Pages 31 - 34)

Attached.

9 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE (Pages 35 - 38)

Attached.



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
23 July 2025 (7.30 - 10.22 pm)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Sue Ospreay) in the Chair

Councillors Councillors Robert Benham, Ray Best, Patricia Brown, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Keith Darvill, Osman Dervish, Brian Eagling, Sarah Edwards, Gillian Ford, Oscar Ford, Jason Frost, Laurance Garrard, David Godwin, Martin Goode, Judith Holt, Jane Keane, Paul McGeary, Trevor McKeever, Paul Middleton, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Barry Mugglestone, Stephanie Nunn, Gerry O'Sullivan, Dilip Patel, Nisha Patel, Viddy Persaud, Keith Prince, Philip Ruck, Christine Smith, Natasha Summers, David Taylor, John Tyler, Christine Vickery, Bryan Vincent, Frankie Walker, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Julie Wilkes, Christopher Wilkins, Graham Williamson, Darren Wise and John Wood

Approximately 20 Members' guests and members of the public and a representative of the press were also present.

The Mayor advised Members and the public of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

Reverend Elise Peterson Vicar, Rainham with Wennington Parish, opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mandy Anderson, Philippa Crowder, James Glass, Jackie McArdle, Tim Ryan, Matt Stanton, Katharine Tumilty and Jacqueline Williams.

2 MINUTES (agenda item 3)

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 21 May 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 4)

There were no disclosures of interest.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (agenda item 5)

The Mayor hoped all Members would support her charity – the MCA Trust supporting the families of children with cancer. The charity organised holiday breaks and football tournaments for children with cancer and their families as well as arranging teaching for children who may have missed school whilst having medical treatment.

The Leader gave congratulations on behalf of the Council to the England women's football team on reaching the final of the European Championships. The Leader also thanked Reverend Peterson for her support during the period of the Wennington fires.

5 PETITIONS (agenda item 6)

The following petitions were received:

From Councillor Viddy Persaud concerning a request for traffic calming measures in Palm Road and Pretoria Road.

From Councillor Paul McGeary concerning the proposal to build new homes at 55-67, Petersfield Avenue.

From Councillor Nisha Patel concerning safety in parks and gates not being locked in Marshalls and Rise Park wards.

From Councillor Nisha Patel concerning traffic and access issues by Gidea Park Bowls Club.

From Councillor David Taylor concerning traffic calming in Willow Street.

From Councillor David Taylor concerning safer streets measures such as CCTV, improved lighting and the locking of parks at night.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS (agenda item 7)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RULES – EXCEPTION TO THE CALL-IN (REQUISITION) PROCEDURE

As required under the Council's Constitution, a report of the Chief Executive detailed recent instances where an exemption to the call-in requirements had been granted for specific Key Executive Decisions.

The report was **AGREED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the report be noted.

7 **ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (agenda item 8)**

The following annual reports were received:

Audit Committee
Pensions Committee
Overview and Scrutiny Board
Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee
People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Corporate Parenting Panel

8 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 9)**

Fifteen questions were asked and responded to. A summary, including of the supplementary questions and answers given, is attached as appendix 1 to these minutes.

9 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE (agenda item 10)**

A. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council commits to taking back control of development in Havering, through the creation and implementation of Neighbourhood Plans and Social Value shopping lists within the next six months, putting residents and local communities at the heart of planning.

(Received 30/06/25, 2007)

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council commits to the refresh and implementation of the Local Plan, and recognizes the need for an up to date Social Value Strategy, putting residents and local communities at the heart of planning.

(Received 14/7/25, 2035)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

This Council commits to continuing to maintain control of development in Havering through the refresh of our Local Plan within the delivery plan timeframe.

(Received 14/7/25, 2111)

Following debate, the amendment on behalf of the Labour Group was **NOT AGREED** by 35 votes to 5 with 5 abstentions (see division 1); the amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association was **AGREED**

by 24 votes to 17 with 4 abstentions (see division 2) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion, without division. It was **RESOLVED**:

This Council commits to continuing to maintain control of development in Havering through the refresh of our Local Plan within the delivery plan timeframe.

B. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY/CCTV

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council commits to dedicating £1m of CIL money to the expansion of the CCTV network across Havering.

(Received 30/06/25, 2007)

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council calls for a progress report on the expansion of the CCTV network across Havering to be brought back to an urgent meeting of the People Overview & Scrutiny Subcommittee.

(Received 14/7/25, 2035)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

Having already invested £750,000 in phase one of the CCTV network upgrade, This Council commits to undertake a review of the expansion of the CCTV network once the first phrase is completed.

(Received 14/7/25, 2111)

Following debate, the amendment on behalf of the Labour Group was **NOT AGREED** by 35 votes to 5 with 5 abstentions (see division 3); the amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group was **AGREED** by 23 votes to 13 with 9 abstentions (see division 4) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion without division. It was **RESOLVED**:

Having already invested £750,000 in phase one of the CCTV network upgrade, This Council commits to undertake a review of the expansion of the CCTV network once the first phrase is completed.

C. LAUNDERS LANE

Motion on behalf of the Residents Association Independent Group

Given the significance and impact on residents who live near Launders lane, together with the impact on the general environment and the outcome of the recent judicial review, this Council calls for a report to be presented to the Full Council meeting in September 2025, of how the administration plans to rectify the situation in Launders Lane.

Such a report should include amongst other items, an issue log, risk analysis, costings, communication plan, key stakeholder analysis, key milestones and a detailed action plan with associated timescales. This report to be in line with good project management practice.

(Received 4/7/25, 1724)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

Given the significance and impact on residents who live near Launders lane, together with the impact on the general environment and the outcome of the recent judicial review, this Council calls for a report to be presented to Cabinet at its meeting in September 2025, of how the administration plans to rectify the situation in Launders Lane.

Such a report should include amongst other items, an issue log, risk analysis, costings, communication plan, key stakeholder analysis, key milestones and a detailed action plan with associated timescales. This report to be in line with good project management practice.

(Received 14/7/25, 2111)

The amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group was **AGREED** by 42 votes to 0 with 3 abstentions (see division 5) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion without division. It was **RESOLVED**:

Given the significance and impact on residents who live near Launders lane, together with the impact on the general environment and the outcome of the recent judicial review, this Council calls for a report to be presented to Cabinet at its meeting in September 2025, of how the administration plans to rectify the situation in Launders Lane.

Such a report should include amongst other items, an issue log, risk analysis, costings, communication plan, key stakeholder analysis, key

milestones and a detailed action plan with associated timescales. This report to be in line with good project management practice.

D. VEHICLE ENGINE IDLING

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council recognises the shared concern among residents regarding the impact of vehicle engine idling outside schools on the health of young children and those with respiratory conditions, and calls on the Administration to work with relevant stakeholders to develop and deliver a targeted public health campaign ahead of the September school intake, aimed at reducing engine idling around our schools.

(Received 8/7/25, 1041)

(No amendments received).

The motion on behalf of the Labour Group was **AGREED** by 45 votes to 0 with 0 abstentions (see division 6). It was **RESOLVED**:

This Council recognises the shared concern among residents regarding the impact of vehicle engine idling outside schools on the health of young children and those with respiratory conditions, and calls on the Administration to work with relevant stakeholders to develop and deliver a targeted public health campaign ahead of the September school intake, aimed at reducing engine idling around our schools.

10 VOTING RECORD

The record of voting decisions is attached as appendix 2 to these minutes.

Mayor



Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

FULL COUNCIL, Wednesday 23 July 2025

Appendix 1

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Subways on Romford Ring Road

**1) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor David Taylor**

Could the Cabinet Member confirm if there is an agreed start date, or expected start window, for the Liveable Streets scheme on Romford Ring Road i.e. the in-filling of the subways

Answer

The original Liveable Neighbourhoods Scheme comprised improvements to pedestrian and cycle accessibility at the three roundabouts on the western side of the ring-road:

- Oldchurch Road roundabout
- London Road roundabout
- North Street roundabout.

TfL withdrew funding from the Liveable Neighbourhoods Scheme on Romford Ring Road in 2023 due to their financial position after Covid. Given this the scheme, as originally set out, cannot be started.

That said, the Council is proposing improvements to North Street roundabout, that have been funded by CIL, S106 and external UKSPF grant. These proposed improvements include the infilling of subways at North Street Roundabout (i.e. those linking North Street to St Edwards Way) and the creation of surface level crossings, which were originally included in the Liveable Neighbourhoods Scheme.

The current indicative programme for North Street Roundabout shows construction work provisionally starting towards the end of 2026. This date is however, dependent on TfL and other factors over which the Council has no direct control.

It is also hoped, in time, to deliver improvements to pedestrian accessibility at Oldchurch Road roundabout as part of the Bridge Close regeneration proposals.

There are, as yet, no revised proposals for changes to the London Road roundabout following withdrawal of TfL funding.

The Council is continuing to actively seek funding for the rest of the construction work that was originally proposed in the Liveable Neighbourhoods Scheme. In particular, S106 contributions are being sought from all developments in the vicinity of the Ring Road as they come forward.

A supplementary question asked, given that work would not be starting until late 2026, how the Administration planned to keep subways safe and clean. The Cabinet Member responded that £2.99m had been spent on improving CCTV in the borough. Police had reviewed 300 hours of CCTV footage in response to a recent incident and the position with CCTV in the borough would continue to be monitored.

Use of Bed & Breakfast Accommodation

**2) To the Leader of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Housing Need
(Councillor Natasha Summers)
From Councillor Keith Darvill**

Will the Cabinet Member for Housing Need provide details of the Council's Bed & Breakfast Elimination Plan and the progress made in implementing it?

Answer

The objective of the 2024/25 B&B Elimination Plan is to eliminate the use of hotels to accommodate homeless families and, in particular, set out plans of how we will meet our statutory duty not to accommodate families with children in hotels for more than six weeks. We have made good progress on delivering these objectives with the number of families in hotels reducing in the last year from 31 to 22 now and the number who have been in hotels for more than six weeks is now just 6. We have done this by:

- Initiatives such as the Pay to Stay scheme, Find Your Own (FYO) programme, and Private Rented Sector (PRS) placements have been instrumental in this success.
- Making Direct Nominations of families in temporary accommodation to Housing Association stock
- Delivering 51 properties for homeless families through our buyback scheme
- We are well on the way delivery of 150 properties through the Chalkhill property acquisition scheme.

Coming up are:

- Construction of 18 new Modular Housing for Homeless Families
- Completion of the Family Welcome Centre development

Delivery of new schemes such as the Chesham and Eastgate Houses.

A supplementary question asked if early intervention had been considered to avoid the need for temporary accommodation. The Cabinet Member replied that this had been looked at.

Licensing conditions, as set out for the 'The Array' Bar and Restaurant, Shepherd's Hill, Harold Wood.

**3) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Brian Eagling**

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm, what oversight and follow up action is taking place for adherence to the licencing conditions that were set out for 'The Array' Bar and Restaurant, following its licence review.

Answer

Initial visits with the business were carried out following the review of the licence to ensure all licensing conditions were being met. The business was given advice on two issues, namely a telephone number and email address being on the business website for residents to access and advice on complaint and incident record keeping.

Following on from a change of owner, there has been further communication and visits to confirm that the licensing conditions are being met. Advice was given on the published contact information for residents on the web site. Information displayed online was corrected. All licensing conditions are now being met.

The last visit to the business was on 27th June 2025.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member was willing to meet with Councillor Eagling to discuss whether licensing conditions at the premises were being followed. The Cabinet Member responded that he had not had any concerns raised with him since the review of the premises' licence in 2022. He was however happy to meet with Councillor Eagling to discuss the matter.

Cabinet Members and Scrutiny
**4) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ray Morgon)
From Councillor Phil Ruck**

Scrutiny represents a clear way, apart from the ballot box, of holding the Administration of a Council to account. Does the Leader of the Council agree with this and if so, can the Leader explain the absence of Cabinet portfolio holders or their deputies at scrutiny meetings and what will he do to correct this oversight?

Answer

I wholeheartedly agree, and have been very clear of my unwavering support for Scrutiny.

I am aware that certain Cabinet Members and officers did not attend a recent scrutiny meeting due to scheduling issues or some confusion as to the nature of such matters to be discussed at the scrutiny meeting. I am not aware that this is a recurring issue.

Cllr Ruck may not be aware but the Monitoring Officer issued a guidance note last week to all Cabinet Members, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all the scrutiny committees and ELT. This reiterates the constitutional provisions that apply to ensuring proper attendance at scrutiny committee. A copy of that note can be provided to any member who wishes to see it. It covers the responsibilities of the Chair and the relevant member or officer who has been asked to attend.

You will also remember that at May's Cabinet I received a report from the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board that asked Cabinet to accept seven recommendations to aid effective scrutiny. Cabinet agreed five of them. As a result of that I have asked the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer to develop a working protocol for Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Board to further strengthen scrutiny practices.

(No supplementary question).

Unauthorised Encampments in Parks

5) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Viddy Persaud

What plans does the Council have to renew the legal restrictions which had been in place to stop Gypsy and Traveller groups from entering the Borough's parks and open spaces illegally?

Answer

The Council currently benefits from an Injunction that covers all unauthorised encampments, not just those consisting of Gypsies and Travellers. The Injunction expires on 19 October 2025.

An Injunction is not the only legal remedy for dealing with unauthorised encampments, but it is recognised that it has been effective during the period it has been in place.

Once the options have been reviewed and an estimate of costs is available, a business case will be put forward and a decision made on whether renewal will be progressed.

A supplementary question asked what alternative steps could be taken to protect parks and open spaces. The Cabinet Member replied that London Borough of Redbridge did not have a similar injunction but had not seen a rise in encampments. Other options included using Police powers under s 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act or s 87 and 88 of the same legislation.

Support for Residents on Low Incomes

**6) To the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Chris Wilkins)
From Councillor Jane Keane**

What plans does the Cabinet Member for Finance have in place to support residents with low incomes to support the uptake of Pensions Credit, Attendance Allowance and Emergency Household Funds, through in person support sessions in community places?

Answer

We are continuing to use the Household Support Fund (HSF) to help us deliver the Council's Poverty Reduction strategy. This year the HSF has funded a dedicated Benefits advisor in the CAB; two new Local area Coordinators (LACs); a Community Hub coordinator, who will bring together Council and community led hubs to deliver help more strategically; and the Food Alliance to bring discounted food to communities using existing community assets. Finally, the HSF is being used to fund events around the borough in collaboration with the Council and the NHS to deliver help and support in communities.

This work is all underpinned by a marketing campaign (funded by the HSF) which aims to be preventative by targeting help and support to people before they get into crisis.

This work is delivered under the Council's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

A supplementary question asked what more could be done to support residents on low incomes. The Cabinet Member responded that he would discuss this with officers and respond to Councillor Keane.

Highway Tree Maintenance in Harold Wood

**7) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Martin Goode**

Can the Cabinet member please confirm when this Council will be attending to The overgrown trees within the Harold Wood Ward, which are now in desperate need of a prune and cut back, including the trimming of the feathering for a number of trees, which are causing obstructions to the public walkways

Answer

The tree 'feathering' work is managed proactively on an annual cycle. Our contractors are currently working through the trees across the borough.

Tree pruning is also managed on an annual cycle. The trees are due to be inspected this year. However, now the member has highlighted this specific issue - we can arrange an ad-hoc inspection and make pruning recommendations.

We encourage residents to report concerns or requests for tree maintenance through the council's website so they can be investigated accordingly.

A supplementary question asked for confirmation of when trees in Harold Wood would be pruned as some residents had been waiting over a year for this. The Cabinet Member responded that, if residents could prove damage to trees, the Council could carry out root repairs. Members should follow the standard process for reporting these types of issues on behalf of residents.

Collection of Council Tax

**8) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ray Morgon)
From Councillor Nisha Patel**

Would the Leader of the Council please provide a detailed explanation as to why the Council collected the Council Tax (due on 1st April) earlier than its scheduled payment date?

Answer

The Council collected the first direct debit for Council Tax from some accounts on the 31st March instead of 1st April 2025 due to an administrative error

As soon as the Council became aware of the error on a message was placed on the Council's website to inform residents together with a phone number to contact if needed.

We also communicated this widely across our social media and email channels – signposting residents to further help and advice.

We once again apologise for this error which we understand must have caused unnecessary distress to a number of residents.

(No supplementary question).

Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

**9) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Matthew Stanton**

Following the motion adopted by Council on 15th January 2025 relating to abandoned shopping trolleys, what consideration and/or progress has the Administration made in implementing measures to deal with abandoned trolleys given the powers provided by the Environment Protection Act 1990?

Answer

The Powers conferred under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) were explored and found not to give the Council any new or additional powers than already provided by under the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 which has already been used to address the issue.

Implementing the EPA powers would also incur new obligations that would require additional funding, the sourcing of a storage facility and the necessity of issuing additional notices and administering other activity to coordinate the return of the seized trollies.

Instead, it has been agreed that damaged and homeless trollies will be collected and disposed of as 'waste' under existing arrangements without the need to implement new legislation and processes. Homeless trollies will be collected under existing processes (via reporting on the Trolleywise App, via existing shop routines with help from local volunteers).

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member would encourage the service provider to promptly collect abandoned trollies. The Cabinet Member responded that, if details of non-collected trollies and their locations could be supplied, he could discuss this with the relevant officers.

Tree Cutting in the Borough

10) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor David Taylor

Would the Cabinet Member for Environment explain why the activity of cutting back 'feathering' is not proactively attended to ahead of the late spring-summer season?

Answer

The tree 'feathering' work is managed proactively on an annual cycle. Our contractors are currently working through trees across the borough.

The work cannot begin any earlier, as the growth on some of the trees would not be of an issue at this stage and would mean a further visit a month or two later. This would not be cost effective.

The vigorous growth, due to environmental factors such as the recent weather we have been experiencing has no doubt made those trees still awaiting work even more noticeable.

We encourage residents to report concerns or requests for tree maintenance through the council's website so they can be investigated accordingly.

A supplementary question asked if priority should be given on safety grounds to the feathering of trees near schools. The Cabinet Member confirmed that current priority areas were those where there had been the most complaints of tree feathering being needed. He was happy to look at school sites requiring tree feathering having priority for next year.

Commercial Activities Unit

11) To the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Chris Wilkins)

From Councillor Trevor McKeever

How much revenue has the Commercial Activities Unit generated and what proposals are being developed to increase the revenue received by the Council?

Answer

The Council published its Commercial Strategy in September 2024, which provides a corporate direction for the delivery of commercial activities across the Council.

In 2024/25, the Council achieved income of £84.4m related to fees and charges, of which £28m related to discretionary services, including on/off street parking, permits, green waste, commercial income, registration, births deaths and marriages, highways, grounds maintenance and other income.

Some of the key achievements since the launch of the strategy include;

- Established Strategic and Operational Commercial Boards
- Identified resource for grants, bidding, & sponsorship opportunities.
- Integrated commercial innovation into STAR Awards
- Created a forum for sharing ideas relating to commercial activities.

Key priorities for the next year include;

- Embedding 'commercial opportunities' with existing decision-making processes.
- Identify training and development opportunities for staff on commercial awareness and customer service.
- Increase awareness across the borough about the range of services offered by the Council.
- Implement risk escalation and management process.
- Develop a 'prospectus' of services for potential new customers.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member would confirm if he felt the Council would get value for money from the Joint Venture process and if he could report back in 3 months on the financial gain received. The Cabinet Member felt that the Joint Ventures were a key opportunity to try to secure better value for money for the Council. He was happy to report back to Councillor McKeever on this.

Potholes

12) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Viddy Persaud

Since the Council received additional funding from the Government to repair potholes, could the Cabinet Member for Environment confirm how many additional potholes were filled compared to the last two years?

Answer

The Council has received £1.082m of grant funding from the Department for Transport for road repairs this financial year. The conditions of the funding requires the Council to deliver longer term maintenance repairs rather than short term quick fixes. Therefore, the funds are being used to supplement the planned resurfacing and patching programme rather than repairing isolated potholes.

One of the conditions of the funding agreement was that the Council produce and return a Highways Transparency Report that identifies the Council's approach towards both planned and reactive highways maintenance, how much has been spent on both as well as the outcomes in the last five years.

The Council's Transparency Report is published on our website. It shows that last financial year the Council repaired 2006 potholes compared to 3080 the year before (2023/24 financial year). The lower number of pothole repairs reflects the administration's commitment to investing in the Highway Improvement Programme over recent years and the improving state of the Council's road network.

A supplementary question asked why there were so many potholes in Havering. The Cabinet Member responded that he was happy to look at cases of reported potholes.

School Budgets

13) To the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People (Councillor Oscar Ford) From Councillor Dilip Patel

Could the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People please explain the impact of the recent National Insurance rise on schools' budgets?

Answer

The recent rise in employer National Insurance (NI) contributions is having a significant impact on school budgets across the UK, including in Havering. Key pressures include;

- Increased staffing costs: Schools are already under pressure from rising wages, and the NI rise compounds this by increasing the cost of employing staff.
- Budgetary strain: Schools with tight budgets, especially those with high numbers of support staff or part-time workers, will feel the impact most acutely.

- Contracted services: Providers of outsourced services (e.g. cleaning, catering) are likely to pass on their increased employment costs to schools, adding further pressure to stretched budgets that schools are managing.

The UK government has announced a £1 billion NI contributions Grant to support schools, colleges, and high needs settings to manage these increased costs.

Whilst this funding is intended to offset the increased cost from the rise in NI contributions, even with this grant, schools continue to be supported by the LA and are being encouraged to use LA devised financial planning tools to model the impact of NI and wage increases, and some schools may need to review staffing structures and or renegotiate contracts with service providers, to ensure financial sustainability moving forward.

A supplementary question asked what support the Council was offering to schools with additional costs to absorb. The Cabinet Member replied that regular reviews were conducted by officers of schools' financial positions both individually and collectively.

Gidea Park Library Consultation

14) To the Cabinet Member for Adults & Wellbeing (Councillor Gillian Ford) From Councillor Christine Vickery

Can the Administration please explain why the Squirrels Heath Ward members were excluded from the ongoing discussions on the immediate and future use of the now-closed Gidea Park Library?

Answer

Officers have been reviewing interim and long-term options for the re-purposing of each of the three former library sites.

In many cases, these considerations are at a formative stage, but is proposed to bring a report to Cabinet in September setting out recommendations for each site.

I'm sure and would expect officers will be liaising with Ward members in advance of this report being concluded.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member felt it was right that the first Members heard about library proposals was via social media. The Cabinet Member reiterated that no final decision on the issue had been taken.

Gallows Corner

15) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Judith Holt

In light of the ongoing works at Gallows Corner roundabout, can the Administration confirm whether they are pausing enforcement at the yellow box junction restrictions

within the area designated for traffic diversions i.e. Ardleigh Green, Gidea Park and Collier Row?

Answer

Enforcement of yellow boxes at junctions is being retained throughout the Transport for London works to prevent key junctions on the Local Authority road network becoming gridlocked during peak periods

The council recognises the significant, but unavoidable, disruption to residents and businesses caused by these works. For months we have been working with TfL to ensure widespread communication and advance notice as well as pressing for mitigation to reduce delays wherever possible.

Congestion is expected to improve following the on-set of the school holidays by virtue of a general reduction in traffic across our network, particularly softening the morning and afternoon peak periods and my officers will continue to work with Transport for London to minimise the impact of their works on local residents and businesses.

The Council has also suspended all other general road works in and around the area during the Gallows Corner TfL project.

However, closures and temporary traffic lights for emergency repairs such as burst water mains or gas works, which are carried out by external utility companies, have to go ahead where necessary.

A supplementary question asked that, given the location of yellow box junctions was based on traffic volume data and that this had increased significantly on Ardleigh Green Road, could some leeway be allowed re the use of yellow boxes. The Cabinet Member responded that the enforcement of yellow box junctions had to be retained as to do otherwise would lead to gridlock and impact on the Gallows Corner works.

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Minute Item 10

Appendix 2

Full Council

23 July 2025

<u>DIVISION NUMBER:</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Mayor (Councillor Sue Ospeay)	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Councillor Barry Mugglestone]	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP (17)</u>						
Cllr Robert Benham	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Ray Best	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Joshua Chapman	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Osman Dervish	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Jason Frost	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Judith Holt	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Jackie McArdle	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Dilip Patel	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Nisha Patel	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Viddy Persaud	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Keith Prince	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Timothy Ryan	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Carol Smith	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr David Taylor	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Christine Vickery	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Cllr Damian White	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Michael White	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
<u>HAVERING RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GROUP (23 + 2)</u>						
Cllr John Crowder	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Philippa Crowder	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Sarah Edwards	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Gillian Ford	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Oscar Ford	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Laurance Garrard	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr James Glass	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr David Godwin	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Paul McGeary	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Paul Middleton	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Raymond Morgon	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Gerry O'Sullivan	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Christine Smith	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Natasha Summers	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Bryan Vincent	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Reg Whitney	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Julie Wilkes	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Christopher Wilkins	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Jacqueline Williams	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Graham Williamson	O	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Cllr John Wood	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
<u>LABOUR GROUP (8)</u>						
Cllr Mandy Anderson	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Pat Brown	✓	X	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Keith Darvill	✓	O	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Jane Keane	✓	O	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Trevor McKeever	✓	O	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Matthew Stanton	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Katharine Tumilty	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Frankie Walker	✓	O	✓	O	✓	✓
<u>EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP (3)</u>						
Cllr Brian Eagling	O	X	O	O	O	✓
Cllr Martin Goode	O	X	O	O	O	✓
Cllr Darren Wise	O	X	O	O	O	✓
<u>RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT GROUP (2)</u>						
Councillor Philip Ruck	X	✓	O	O	✓	✓
Councillor John Tyler	O	✓	O	✓	✓	✓
TOTALS						
✓ = YES	5	24	5	23	42	45
X = NO	35	17	35	13	0	0
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	5	4	5	9	3	0
ID = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	10	10	10	10	10	10
	55	55	55	55	55	55

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COUNCIL, 3 SEPTEMBER 2025

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION TO EXTEND SIX MONTH ATTENDANCE
RULE**

SUMMARY

Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a Councillor fails throughout a period of six consecutive calendar months from the date of their last attendance to attend any qualifying meeting of the Authority, they cease to be a Member of the Council unless the failure was due to some reason approved by Council before the expiration of the period.

Councillor Katharine Tumilty is currently undergoing some medical treatment which has prevented her from attending meetings for some months. The last meeting which qualifies towards her attendance record was the full council meeting held on 4th September 2024 and the appropriate extension was agreed at the Council meeting on 15th January 2025. The six-month expiry period is therefore 4th September 2025.

The matter is being brought to this meeting in order for Council to consider whether there is a reason to approve Councillor Katharine Tumilty's non-attendance at meetings.

Should the Council approve the reasons for absence, the six-month attendance requirement recommences from the point that the previous six-month period expires. Therefore, Councillor Katharine Tumilty would continue to be a councillor until at least 4th March 2026. In the event of Councillor Katharine Tumilty attending a qualifying meeting before 4th March, the dispensation would fall and the six-month rule would reapply from the date of that attendance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to consider whether there is reason to approve Councillor Katharine Tumilty's non-attendance at meetings and, if appropriate, agree that she be deemed to be exempted from the requirements of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and, accordingly, shall continue to be a Member of the Council.

REPORT DETAIL

Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a Councillor fails throughout a period of six consecutive calendar months from the date of their last attendance to attend any meeting of the Authority ('six-month rule'), they cease to be a Member of the Council unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the Council before the expiration of the period.

For qualification purposes, attendance can be at any committee, sub-committee or other body discharging functions of the Council or at any meeting to which the Councillor has been formally appointed as a representative of the Council.

The decision whether or not to grant relief from the six-month rule in the case of a councillor failing to attend meetings of the Council is at the Council's discretion.

Councillor Katharine Tumilty has served on the Council since 5th May 2022.

Councillor Katharine Tumilty last attended a Council meeting held on 4th September 2024 and has been unable to attend further meetings due to ongoing treatment.

Following this evening's meeting which Councillor Tumilty has been unable to attend due to her continued treatment, there are no other qualifying meetings currently scheduled which she could attend before the expiry of the six-month period. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/392), made under section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, previously enabled councillors to remotely attend meetings. However, those regulations expired on 7 May 2021.

Should the Council approve the reason for absence, the six-month attendance requirement recommences from the point that the previous six-month period expires. Therefore, the further dispensation would commence from 4th September 2025, meaning that Councillor Tumilty would continue to be a Councillor until at least 4th March 2026.

The Council must consider whether there are reason(s) to grant relief from the application of the Section 85 six-month rule. It is entirely at the Council's discretion whether or not to grant an exemption from the Section 85 requirements and each case should be considered on its individual merits.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of appendices: None

Financial Implications and Risks:

In the event of a councillor ceasing to be a Member of the Council, the basic allowance of £10,240 per annum will no longer be payable. The Council would bear the costs of conducting a by-election if one was subsequently requested. However, these are relatively small amounts of money in terms of the Council's budget and can be met from existing resources.

Human Resource Implications and Risks:

None arising directly.

Legal Implications and Risks:

The requirement to attend qualifying meetings and the consequence of non-attendance is set out in Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. Failure to attend a qualifying meeting within the stipulated six-month period means that the individual ceases to be a Member of the Council immediately, and that their office as Councillor is vacated, unless that absence is for a reason approved by the Assembly.

There is no specific provision within Section 85 of the Act regarding any extension period that may be granted in the event of non-attendance. Therefore, if the reason for non-attendance is approved the six-month attendance requirement recommences from the point that the previous six-month period expires.

Staff Contact: Zena Smith, Head of Committee and Election Services

zena.smith@haverling.gov.uk

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Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

FULL COUNCIL, Wednesday 3 September 2025

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Allotments

- 1) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ray Morgon)
From Councillor Jackie McArdle**

Will the Leader of the Council provide assurance to the 1000s of allotment holders across the Borough that the Administration will take the appropriate steps to make statutory the four allotment sites in Havering still designed as 'temporary'?

Exemption Bays

- 2) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Keith Darvill**

What arrangements are made to ensure that the specially marked out exemption bays are maintained with clear markings so that residents, visitors and enforcement officers are in no doubt that parking is permitted in such bays thus avoiding misunderstanding and wrongful parking charge notices?

Capital Loans

- 3) To the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Chris Wilkins)
From Councillor Martin Goode**

Can the Cabinet Member for Finance, please confirm the total amount to date, that represents loans from Capital to cover Revenue expenditure?

Speed Enforcement

- 4) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ray Morgon)
From Councillor Philip Ruck**

Given that children are now back at school, can the Leader outline any plans his Administration has to increase the monitoring of 20mph areas (for example Alma Avenue), or to introduce additional measures such as speed bumps, to help reduce speeds and improve the safety of residents?

Volunteer Centre Rent

5) To the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Chris Wilkins)

From Councillor David Taylor

Can the Administration confirm whether the rents for the Havering Volunteer Centre will be increased?

Fly-Tipping Enforcement

6) To the Cabinet Member for the Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)

From Councillor Jane Keane

Fly-tipping is blighting the lives of households in Havering, does the Cabinet Member agree with me that tougher enforcement combined with the weekly publication of the Borough's fly-tipping statistics including the cost of clearing fly-tipped detritus and information relating to successful prosecutions and investigations, all of which will help to inform residents and contribute to reducing such illegal activity?

Recycling Sacks

7) To the Cabinet Member for the Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)

From Councillor Darren Wise

Could the Cabinet Member, outline what progress has been made in finding alternative venues in Harold Wood where recycling sacks can be collected from?

Social Housing

8) To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson)
From Councillor David Taylor

How many homes will be provided to Havering Council directly, for social rent or similar, by Mercury Land Holding's Como Street development?

FCC Performance

9) To the Cabinet Member for the Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)

From Councillor Mathew Stanton

Given the contract with FCC is described as an outcome based contract, is the Cabinet Member satisfied with the performance of FCC with regard to weed spraying and clearing across the Borough?

Illegal HMO

10) To the Cabinet Member for the Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)

From Councillor Tim Ryan

Will the Administration please outline the process for shutting down an illegal HMO, including the timeline from first report to affecting a closure order?

Anti-idling

11) To the Cabinet Member for the Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)

From Councillor Jane Keane

Following the motion passed at Full Council on 23rd July this year at which the Council committed to an anti-idling campaign, what actions have been taken towards implementing such a campaign?

Section 106

12) To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson)
From Councillor Jason Frost

At the last Full Council meeting during debate, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration said "...there was no additional unallocated 106 monies left." This is contrary to the £3 million plus unallocated 106 money as presented in July 2024. Could the Cabinet Member please inform the Council; where the £3 million pounds has been spent, which area and what additional infrastructure projects this will pay for, to benefit Havering residents?

PCN Discounts

**13) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Keith Prince AM**

Can the Administration please explain how it justifies the decision to remove the automatic re offer of the 50% discount to appellants who lose a PCN challenge—especially given evidence that this may disproportionately penalise residents making genuine, but ultimately unsuccessful, appeals?

Working Abroad

**14) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ray Morgon)
From Councillor Viddy Persaud**

How many staff members have applied for, and given leave to, work from abroad as per page 4 of Havering Council's 'Working from Abroad' procedure?

Resident Notification

**15) To the Cabinet Member for the Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)
From Councillor Robert Benham**

Can the Cabinet Member for the Environment explain why local residents on neighbouring roads have NOT been written to inform them of the implementation of the School Street Zone in Ayr Way Rise Park?

Council, 3 September 2025 – Motions

A. PLANNING – ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council calls on the Administration to instruct the planning policy team to prepare the necessary evidence for consideration of the widening/replacement of the current Article 4 Directions so that permitted development rights for change of use from C3 (dwellinghouses) to C4 (HMOs) are removed for all detached homes throughout the Borough, and commit to begin the necessary consultation and legal preparation process for its introduction within the next six months.

(Received 13 August, 1448)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

This Council calls on the Administration to ask the planning policy team to prepare the necessary evidence for consideration of the widening/replacement of the current Article 4 Directions so that permitted development rights for change of use from C3 (dwellinghouses) to C4 (HMOs) are extended to include all detached homes throughout the Borough, and commit to begin the necessary consultation and legal preparation process for its introduction after due process and evidence submitted to the Secretary of State.

(Received 22/8, 1054)

B. MERCURY LAND HOLDINGS BUSINESS PLAN

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council recommends a revision of the Mercury Land Holdings business plan, to focus the company on delivering much needed social homes and driving down temporary accommodation costs.

(Received 13 August, 1448)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

This Council recognises Mercury Land Holdings business plan, which focuses the company on delivering much needed homes driving down housing demand and offering affordable housing.

(Received 22 August, 1054)

C. REVIEW OF LICENCING POLICY

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council calls on the Administration to bring forward an urgent review of its Licensing Policy (ahead of its scheduled review in 2026) given the growing pressure for increasingly later night food and drink licences on neighbourhood shopping parades in residential areas and in the Borough's district and metropolitan centres.

(Received, 14 August, 1835)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

This Council calls on the Administration to bring forward as soon as practicable its review of the Licensing Policy (ahead of its scheduled review in 2026) given the growing pressure for increasingly later night food and drink licences on neighbourhood shopping parades in residential areas and in the Borough's district and metropolitan centres.

(Received 22 August, 1054)

D. GREEN FORUM

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council recognises the value of the Green Forum and is committed to empowering and enabling its influence, by any means, including but not limited to formally recording and publishing the minute thereof, publishing its meetings alongside other committees of the Council, and including a Green Forum section in the Living email.

(Received, 14 August, 1835)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

This Council recognises the value of the Green Forum and is committed to enabling its influence, including publishing dates of the forum in the eLiving and the actions and dates of the Forum on a dedicated Facebook Group, opening two-way communication.

(Received, 22 August, 1054)

E. TREE INSPECTIONS

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

In light of the tragic event in Southend at which a 7 year old girl sadly lost her life, and a near-miss in Harrow Lodge Park where a tree fell across a footpath, this Council commits to introducing a rigorous programme of regular tree inspections across the Borough.

(Received, 14 August, 1835)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

In light of the tragic event in Southend at which a 7 year old girl sadly lost her life, and in Harrow Lodge Park where a tree fell across a footpath, this Council commits to continuing our programme of regular tree inspections across the Borough.

(Received, 22 August, 1054)

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