



COUNCIL MEETING

7.30 pm Wednesday, 21 January 2026
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. An indication of the business to be dealt with is given below. The final agenda, which forms the official summons for the meeting, will be published in due course, in accordance with the meeting timetable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. M.' followed by a long, sweeping line.

**Gavin Miln thorpe
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.

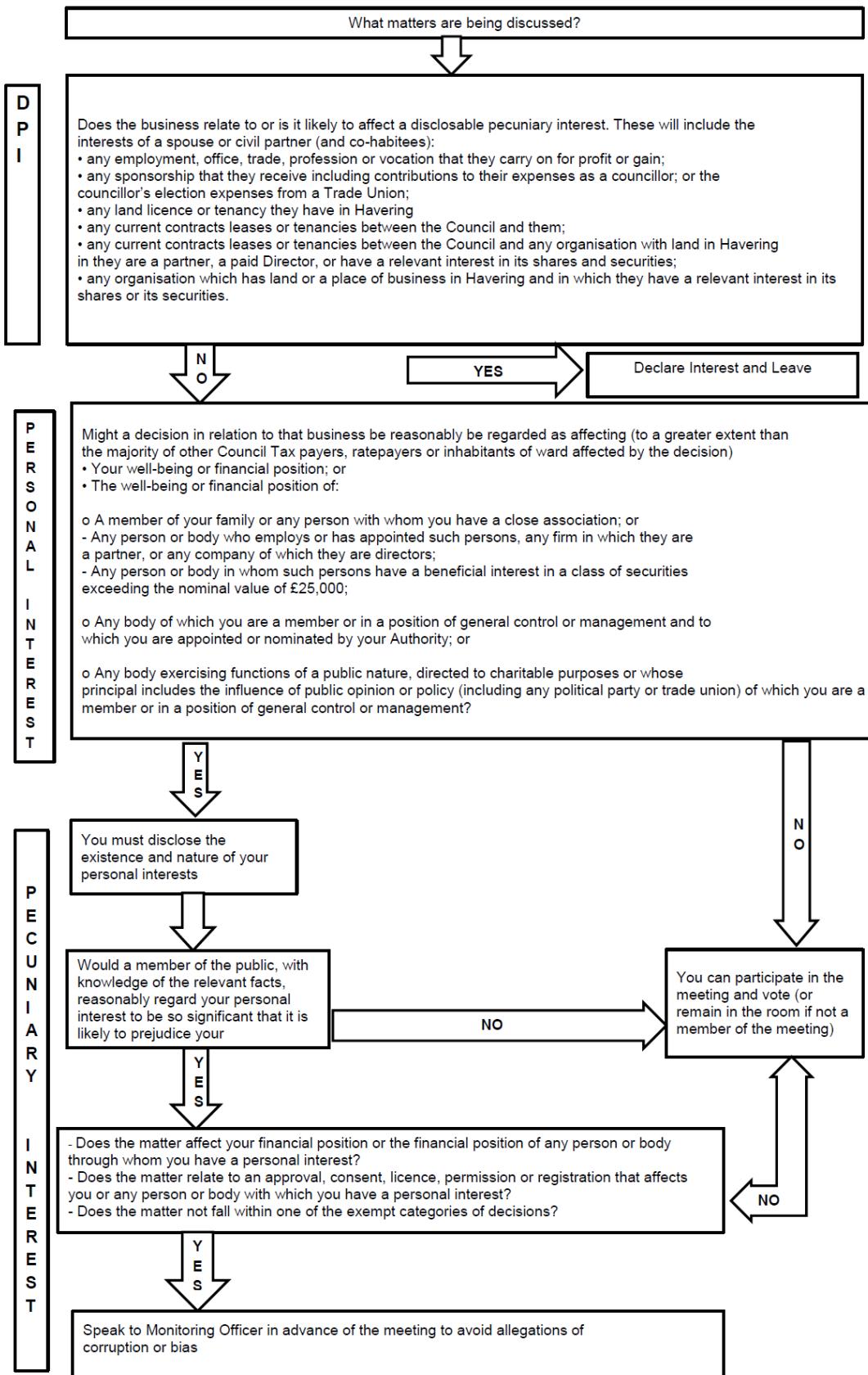
Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

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.

Council, 21 January 2026 - Agenda

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

Apologies have been received from Councillors Mandy Anderson, Laurance Garrard and Katharine Tumilty.

To note any other apologies for absence.

3 MINUTES (Pages 7 - 32)

To sign as a true record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19 November 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

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

Note: No notices of intention to present a petition have been received.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS (Pages 33 - 48)

NOTE: The deadline for amendments is midnight, Monday 19 January 2026.

- A.To consider a report of the Governance Committee on an Individual Polling Place Review (attached);
- B.To consider a report of the Chief Executive on Park Safety (attached);
- C.To consider any other report or motion presented pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 2(h)**

8 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (Pages 49 - 52)

Attached.

9 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE (Pages 53 - 56)

Attached.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Council Chamber - Town Hall 19 November 2025 (7.30 - 10.25 pm)

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

Councillors Councillors Patricia Brown, John Crowder, Philippa 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, Jacqueline McArdle, Paul McGeary, Paul Middleton, Robby Misir, Ray Morgan, Stephanie Nunn, Gerry O'Sullivan, Dilip Patel, Nisha Patel, Viddy Persaud, Keith Prince, Timothy Ryan, Carol Smith, Christine Smith, Matthew Stanton, Natasha Summers, David Taylor, John Tyler, Bryan Vincent, Frankie Walker, Reg Whitney, Julie Wilkes, Christopher Wilkins, Graham Williamson, Darren Wise and John Wood

Approximately 6 Members' guests and members of the public 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.

The Mayor's celebrant – Jay Belshaw opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 2)

Apologies were received from Councillors Mandy Anderson, Robert Benham, Ray Best, Joshua Chapman, James Glass, Jackie McArdle, Trevor McKeever, Phil Ruck, Katherine Tumilty, Christine Vickery, Michael White and Jacqueline Williams.

21 MINUTES (agenda item 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2025 were AGREED as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

22 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 4)

There were no disclosures of interest.

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

Tributes were paid to former Councillor Mike Davis who had sadly passed away recently. A minute's silence was held in memory of former Councillor Davis.

The Mayor reported that the recent installation of a poppy display at the front of the Town Hall had raised some £250 for the poppy appeal.

Recent and forthcoming events in support of the Mayor's Charity – the MCA Trust had included a cake day and raffle and a princess children's party in the Town Hall.

The Mayor also congratulated staff on the winning of a number of London in Bloom awards for Havering parks which had resulted in the borough being the best performing London borough for the last three years.

The Leader of the Council also congratulated staff re the London in Bloom awards as well as the retention of the Green Flag awards for Havering's parks.

24 PETITIONS (agenda item 6)

The following petitions were received:

From Councillor Viddy Persaud requesting traffic calming measures in Mawney Road.

From Councillor Natasha Summers requesting traffic calming in Wennington Village.

From Councillor Darren Wise requesting the installation of CCTV in Station Road, Harold Wood.

From Councillor Pat Brown against the proposed construction of a new service station on Green Belt land adjacent to the M25.

From Councillor Judith Holt on behalf of Councillor Christine Vickery requesting a 20 mph speed limit in Northumberland Avenue, Hornchurch.

From Councillor Judith Holt on behalf of Councillor Christine Vickery requesting a 20 mph speed limit in Cavendish Gardens, Hornchurch.

25 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS (agenda item 7)

A. RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE SIX MONTH ATTENDANCE RULE

A report of the Chief Executive asked Council to consider an exemption to the requirements of section 85 (1) for Councillor Mandy Anderson who was undergoing medical treatment.

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

That Councillor Mandy Anderson be exempted from section 85 (1) of the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 and, accordingly, shall continue to be a Member of the Council.

B. EAST LONDON JOINT WASTE PLAN SUBMISSION

A report of Cabinet sought Member approval to submit the East London Joint Waste Plan for public examination under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning(Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012).

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

1. **Authorise officers to proceed under Regulation 22 to submit the East London Joint Waste Plan Submission Plan (appendix 1, the East London Joint Waste Plan, approved by Cabinet in April 2025, as amended by the modifications provided in appendix 17) and associated documents (as set out in paragraph 2.19) to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, for independent public examination.**
2. **Delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Public Protection, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration to:**

- Make any inconsequential or factual updates to the Submission Documents listed in paragraph 2.19 to facilitate submission of the Plan under Regulation 22.**
- Make a formal request of the Planning Inspector at an appropriate point during the examination of the Waste Plan to recommend modifications to the Plan to make it sound and legally compliant in accordance with section 20 (7c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act; and**
- Exercise all examination procedural matters as prescribed by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and associated Regulations, including updates to submission documents and agreeing and consulting on further modifications, required to make the Plan sound.**

C. ZANE'S LAW

A report of Cabinet proposed that in seeking to keep local residents safe and to reduce the risks of harm, Havering Council supports the principles of "Zane's Law". This encouraged the Government to "make toxic landfills safe" by strengthening statutory requirements and providing the requisite funding for relevant authorities (including councils) to be able to address the issues.

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

That Council expresses support for achieving the principles of Zane's Law and agree to lobby the Government for its introduction

26 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 8)

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.

27 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE (agenda item 9)

A. 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.

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.

Following debate, the amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group was **AGREED** by 24 votes to 18 with 0 abstentions (see division 1) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion without division.

RESOLVED:

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.

B. ROMFORD POLICE STATION

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This council calls on the Mayor of London and Metropolitan Police to reverse their decision to reduce the opening hours for Romford Police Station's front counter, restoring it to a 24hr service.

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council calls on the Metropolitan Police to review its decision to reduce the opening hours for Romford Police Station's front counter.

Following debate, the amendment by the Labour Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 22 votes to 5 with 15 abstentions (see division 2) and the motion by the Conservative Group was **AGREED** by 35 votes to 4 with 3 abstentions (see division 3).

RESOLVED:

This council calls on the Mayor of London and Metropolitan Police to reverse their decision to reduce the opening hours for Romford Police Station's front counter, restoring it to a 24hr service.

C. SCHOOL STREET ZONES TRIAL

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council calls upon this Administration to pause enforcement of the new School Street Zones trial due to poor implementation, lack of public consultation and misleading/conflicting information.

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

This Council calls upon this Administration to review enforcement of the new School Street Zones trial in order to consider the effectiveness of the implementation, public consultation and public information.

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council calls upon this Administration to note concerns regarding the enforcement of the new School Street Zones trial including poor implementation, lack of public consultation and misleading/conflicting information, and to work with all members to address these concerns.

With the agreement of Council, this motion was withdrawn and resubmitted to the next meeting of Council.

D. CASE TRACKER SYSTEM

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council calls on this Administration to halt the current rollout of the new Case Tracker System on the grounds that there has been insufficient consultation with councillors regarding the design, implementation, and intended use of the system.

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

This Council calls on this Administration to review the current rollout of the new Case Tracker System in order to consider its effectiveness in consultation with councillors regarding the design, implementation and intended use of the system.

With the agreement of Council, this motion was withdrawn and resubmitted to the next meeting of Council.

E. CORONATION GARDENS MEMORIAL

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council calls upon the administration to consider setting aside a space within Coronation Gardens for the creation of a permanent public memorial dedicated to Havering residents whose lives have been tragically cut short because of violence.

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

This Council calls upon the Administration to approach the landowner to set aside a space within Coronation Gardens for the creation of a permanent

public memorial dedicated to Havering residents whose lives have been tragically cut short because of violence.

The amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group was **AGREED** by 26 votes to 4 with 12 abstentions (see division 4) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion, without division.

RESOLVED:

This Council calls upon the Administration to approach the landowner to set aside a space within Coronation Gardens for the creation of a permanent public memorial dedicated to Havering residents whose lives have been tragically cut short because of violence.

28 VOTING RECORD

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

Mayor

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COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 1

Question to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson)

From Councillor Judith Holt

Question:

Can the Cabinet Member for Regeneration please confirm the total amount borrowed to finance the Bridge Close development, the total expected cost to deliver the scheme, and the forecast return on that investment?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

As things stand:

- Current borrowing totals approximately £46m.
- The total estimated cost, including spend to date, is approximately £482m.
- The projected internal rate of return is 5.06% and the scheme is projected to pay back investment costs within 28 years from completion.
- As with other regeneration programmes, the Bridge Close Business Plan is subject to annual review, the next formal review being due to be considered by Cabinet in January 2026.

A supplementary question asked for details of the timescale for when the full development would be finished. The Cabinet Member felt that, whilst it was difficult to be certain, this was estimated to be in 10-12 years.



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 2

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglesstone)

From Councillor Jane Keane

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member for Environment commit to increasing lighting levels in the town centre subways to enhance the safety of pedestrians using them

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

The vast majority of the subways in Romford are well lit and comply to the required industry standards and guidelines. We are aware of issues with old equipment in Mercury Gardens and Cotleigh Road and there are currently plans to completely re-furbish these installing new lighting fittings throughout both subways.

We are also aware there have been a sudden number of failures of the LED units in the Oldchurch Road subway. Officers are currently in the process of replacing around 30 units here. Additionally, a cable is also being replaced in the London Road subway which has affected a small number of units there.

The administration is aware that lighting levels are important in subways for public safety and to enhance Romford as an important and vibrant shopping centre. Officers have a system of inspections and monitoring to ensure that any faults are quickly identified and when they are appropriate repair orders are raised.

A supplementary question asked for clarification of the timescale for replacing the lighting in the Oldchurch subway. The Cabinet Member agreed that he would confirm this to Councillor Keane after the meeting.



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 3

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglesstone)

From Councillor Brian Eagling

Question:

Would the Council give an update on when a similar system on pay and display that operates in LODGE FARM CAR PARK, MAIN ROAD, ROMFORD can be installed in HAROLD WOOD PARK due to the volume of commuter parking which has increased to 50 vehicles per day and is taking up valuable parking spaces.

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

We understand that most of the car park space is being used during the week with the majority being commuter parking.

We are currently considering introducing a similar system to the existing pay and display parks car parks such as Lodge Farm and Cottons Parks. This would mean that during the week there would be a maximum stay restriction to prevent vehicles from being left for extended periods.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member could expedite the installation of the pay and display system. The Cabinet Member responded that highways management officers were investigating the cost of introducing the parking charges. The Cabinet Member also confirmed that he had visited the park and was keen to ensure the car park was available for park users rather than commuters.



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 4

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglesstone)

From Councillor John Tyler

Question:

In the Spring I requested that the Grounds Maintenance Team undertake repair and re-seeding of grass verges that had been damaged by vehicles at various points in three roads in Cranham Ward - Kings Gardens, Avon Road and Ingrebourne Gardens. At the time, I was advised that they would not do so until the Autumn, when growing conditions were better, but this has not happened. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm when action will be taken repair these verges before it is too late in the year?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

The Grounds Maintenance team will undertake works over the next couple of weeks to reinstate these verges.

A supplementary question asked whether small amounts of Community Infrastructure Levy money could be used for the installation of wooden posts by the verges. The Cabinet Member confirmed that it had not proved possible to get reimbursement for the damage from the vehicle owners. The use of Community Infrastructure Levy funding could be investigated with the relevant Cabinet Member but this may not prove to be possible.



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 5

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Housing Need
(Councillor Natasha Summers)**

From Councillor Keith Prince

Question:

Following media reports of large-scale housing fraud in Barking and Dagenham Council, how many Council officers do we have checking for housing fraud in Havering?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

London Borough of Havering has 3 Tenancy Auditors checking for housing fraud, and their target is to visit and check 400 audits per month.

We are committed to ensuring that social housing only goes to those in the greatest housing need. Our Audit team make regular checks on the letting of council properties to ensure that our procedures are followed and properties are only let to those that are prioritised on the Council's Housing Register. This includes a stringent verification check that is carried out by the allocations team. The team also check the ID of all members of the household. While no Havering officers have been found to be acting fraudulently, we remain vigilant.

Our Housing Officers also visit every new tenant within two weeks, and check documents, and visit other tenants monthly.

A supplementary question asked for clarification over whether any fraud had been found and the Cabinet Member confirmed that no instances of fraud had been identified.



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 6

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglesstone)

From Councillor David Taylor

Question:

The RO2B parking permit zone being very large in area, will the Administration commit to a review of the zone with consideration given to whether it could be broken up into smaller zones?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

The RO2B parking zone currently has two different time restrictions. Roads north-east of Mawney Road have restrictions Monday to Saturday, 8:30am–6:30pm, while roads south-west of Mawney Road are restricted Monday to Friday, 8:30am–6:30pm. This is because the south-west area sees less non-residential parking on Saturdays and hence controls are not required.

It would be possible to split the zone to match these time differences. However, there's little evidence that people are parking across the two areas in a way that causes problems. Splitting the zone could make life harder for residents who want to use their permits for local shops, school drop-offs, or visiting friends. It could also limit where visitors can park when visiting residents on Mawney Road.

A supplementary question asked for details of the number of parking permits sold in this area. The Cabinet Member would confirm this with officers and provide this information. The Cabinet Member was also happy to arrange a meeting with officers, if required.



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 7

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)

From Councillor Jane Keane

Question:

Given the Havering Daily poll which indicated 99% support for the creation of a Havering Fly-tipping wall of shame, has the Cabinet Member given further consideration to implementing a similar facility to the one already successfully employed by the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

Havering Council's enforcement team carries out thousands of enforcement actions each year.

The team actively deploys surveillance cameras at known fly-tipping hotspots to monitor activity and gather evidence for enforcement.

Where offenders are not identified via usual methods, consideration is given to releasing their images to the public.

However, releasing personal images is also a significant breach of an individual's privacy, so before any footage is released the council must consider the Data Protection Act 2018, the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and Article 8 of the Human Rights Act.

The need to release the footage must satisfy the above conditions, whilst also avoiding intrusion of other people's privacy.

We also need to consider the potential vulnerability of residents before any release but cannot make an assessment purely from CCTV images.

It should also be noted that the success rate of similar 'Walls of Shame' is very low as people are reluctant to contact the council to identify their neighbours.

The council enforcement team prefers to identify suspects by conventional methods at this time.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member was listening to residents to which the Cabinet Member responded that he was.



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 8

Question to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson)

From Councillor Darren Wise

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member explain why in relation to the development at the rear of 12–26 Harold Court Road, RM3 0YU (planning reference P0685.23) that the CIL demand notice for £72,043.63 has not been requested?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

Following the grant of planning permission, a Liability Notice was sent to the developer in September 2024.

No response was received to that notice. The developer should have served a Commencement Notice on the Council.

A Demand Notice was sent to the developer on 7th October 2025. The developer has responded disputing the amount of CIL calculated and asked the Council to reconsider. A response to this query was sent to the developer on 24th October.

There has been no response and payment is awaited – this will be subject to late payment penalties.

A supplementary question asked if CIL money due from 2022 would be chased up. The Cabinet Member responded that this was the case and that the claim for payment would be taken to court if necessary.



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 9

Question to the Cabinet Member for Housing & Property (Councillor Paul McGahey)

From Councillor Jason Frost

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member for Housing please explain why employment status is not taken into account when arranging the timing of internal inspections/assessments (e.g. for repairs) to our tenants' homes?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

The Housing Service aims to provide flexibility when making appointments.

Our partnering contractors Mears & Sureserve both offer the following:

- Standard appointments: Monday to Friday, offered in three time slots:
 - AM: 8:00am – 1:00pm
 - School run: 10:00am – 2:00pm
 - PM: 1:00pm – 5:00pm
- Extended hours: For residents who are unavailable during standard hours and request evenings or weekends Mears and Sureserve can also offer appointments between 5:00pm – 8:00pm (Monday to Friday) and 8:00am – 1:00pm (Saturday) for basic repairs.

We have also reduced call waiting times for residents & leaseholders trying to report repairs and access the repairs services to an average 30 second answering time.

In addition, the residents' portal has also been improved so that repairs can be reported any time on-line. This process also allows residents to request repair dates and attach pictures.

Hopefully, the arrangements that we have made should give all customers, irrespective of their employment status, the ability to access appointments at a time that is reasonably convenient for them.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member could give performance figures on the take up of Mears appointments and the number of appointments offered by Mears that were unilaterally changed. The Cabinet Member confirmed that he would seek to obtain these figures.

COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 10

**Question to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson)
From Councillor Matthew Stanton**

Question:

Given the recent granting of planning permission for the Ticket Office for Beam Park Station, in line with the Mayor of London's statement in May 2025 that the go-ahead for the station itself is likely to be given in the first quarter of 2026, what conversations have been happening with regards to restarting regeneration works in Beam Park ward?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

A new station will make a significant contribution to public transport infrastructure for those living and working in this part of the borough and we hope will provide the necessary conditions for landowners and developers to continue their discussions with the council leading to the much-needed regeneration of the area.

In the meantime, the Council is considering meanwhile uses on the sites in our ownership which includes temporary accommodation, the use of modular homes and the use of the commercial space acquired.

However, in 2023, a further application was approved by LBBD adding more homes on that part of the scheme located in LBBD. Legal advice to LBH and LBBD was that the ticket office would then need to be safeguarded. A new application for the ticket office was submitted and subsequently approved by LBH in October 2025.

The Beam Park housing scheme is partly in Havering and partly in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD). Approved by the Mayor of London in 2019, the scheme includes infrastructure assuring high quality placemaking. This includes new schools, health centre, district centre, public transport facilities, and rail station including the ticket office.

The Council continues to work closely with the GLA and stakeholders including the Department for Transport, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and LBBD, and hopes that the Mayor of London will be able to confirm his support for the new station in early 2026.

A supplementary question asked if the Infrastructure Delivery Plan would be updated after the approval of the station. The Cabinet Member confirmed that this would be undertaken once approval of the station had been confirmed.



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 11

Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ray Morgan)

From Councillor David Taylor

Question:

What measures are the Administration taking to address the failure to meet proposed savings targets set out in its Budget for 2025/26?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

The Council is doing everything it can to achieve the 2025/26 savings. The majority of the savings are on track to be delivered but there are some proposals which are either delayed or are unlikely to be achieved.

The Council thoroughly reviews all savings proposals before they are included in the budget. However, there are some instances outside of officers' control resulting in savings that are no longer deliverable.

Where this is the case service have been asked to identify alternative efficiency measures or curtail spend to help bridge the gap. The Council is forecasting an underspend of £7.6m against its most likely budget, which will reduce the exceptional financial support the Council will need for 2025/26

The Council provides an update on progress towards delivery of savings as part of the quarterly revenue monitoring report to cabinet. There are also specific reports which have been produced for Overview and Scrutiny in July and October setting out progress against each saving in the budget.

A supplementary question asked if the Leader would commit to making public details of the informal meeting of Audit Committee on 3 June that had considered an overspend on temporary accommodation. The Leader confirmed that this could be done.



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 12

Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ray Morgan)

From Councillor Keith Darvill

Question:

What mechanisms are in place to ensure that the Target Operating Model is delivering measurable outcomes in collaboration, efficiency, and productivity, rather than just procedural alignment?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

The report that came forward from the Chief Executive for the implementation of a new Target Operating Model (TOM) set out the aim of the resulting benefits:

- the realignment and consolidation of the Council's organisational structure to reduce the number of separate and distinct Departments,
- coordinating complementary services with clear synergies
- enable effective delivery of the Council's key priorities
- build on the changes and learning from responding to the Covid-19 pandemic
- create a modern, dynamic and flexible organisation to meet the challenges of the future
- becoming an employer of choice with a clear employee value proposition for existing and future employees that is diverse and inclusive

Which was set against the backdrop of very tight and challenging financial circumstances, in the short to medium term.

To ensure that the Target Operating Model delivers tangible improvements in collaboration, efficiency, and productivity, the Council has enhanced a range of mechanisms:

- **Performance Monitoring:** We regularly track efficiency and productivity using monthly performance reports that assess delivery against service plans. This process is complemented by robust financial monitoring and ongoing evaluation of responses to customer service.
- **Staff Development:** Our workforce strategy prioritises leadership training for staff, ensuring they are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to drive continuous improvement and adapt to evolving challenges.



- **System Reviews:** We are committed to regularly reviewing and enhancing our systems and processes to generate further efficiencies and streamline operations wherever possible.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Council oversight and transparent reporting are at the heart of our approach, ensuring that progress is clearly communicated and that there is accountability at every level.

These steps help us move beyond procedures and achieve measurable improvements in how we work, ensuring the Council makes effective decisions against the backdrop of our financial situation.

A supplementary question asked if the Leader could provide a summary of goals and achievements of the Target Operating Model for the next budget. The Leader said he would check if this was possible and advise Councillor Darvill accordingly.

COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 13

Question to the Cabinet Member for Adult, Wellbeing, and Health (Councillor Gillian Ford)

From Councillor Nisha Patel

Question:

With all the new potential housing developments in Romford town centre, what steps have the Administration taken to ensure that government is sufficiently increasing health infrastructure, such as making improvements to Queens?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

Whilst the local authority does not hold responsibility for health infrastructure projects we do collaborate to support and lobby effectively.

This administration has a real focus on ensuring that regeneration is supported with appropriate infrastructure. Extensive engagement with Healthcare colleagues was carried out as part of the Romford Master Plan engagement with regular meetings with healthcare leaders via the Local Infrastructure Forum to ensure any impact on health infrastructure is planned for. This identified opportunities such as Rom Valley Way, Bridge Close and the Victoria Hospital site as options for BHRUT to move some outpatient services to these locations to free up space within Queen's for example.

We have seen this as a successful approach e.g. with the opening of the new St Georges Health and Wellbeing hub, which is the envy of most of East London, this type of facility is what is required to support changes in the model of care for frail and older people, shifting from acute hospital inpatient care to a proactive model focusing on keeping people well in the community. This has allowed services such as the Frailty Ward and Dialysis units to be moved out of the acute setting and into the community. More of this style of facility is required in all localities and is a key focus of the Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) work.

The challenge of reductions in funding for the Integrated Care Service (ICS) and our acute and community trusts will reduce capacity for this engagement but the administration is in active discussions with healthcare colleagues and landowners to ensure financial contributions from these landowners to fund public space improvements to bring forward more of this type of facility – for example at Victoria Hospital.

(No supplementary question).



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 14

Question to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglesstone)

From Councillor David Taylor

Question:

Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the promised parks safety report being brought to this Chamber?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

A report on Parks Safety will be brought to Full Council in January.

(No supplementary question).



COUNCIL, 19 November 2025

Question Number: 15

Question to the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Chris Wilkins)

From Councillor David Taylor

Question:

Can the Cabinet Member please outline details of meetings with the government over the retention of business rates relating to the proposed Data centre, including the expected receipts to be retained by Havering Council?

Answer: (The response should be no more than **200 words** in length)

Senior officers have met with MHCLG officials on a number of occasions most recently on 6th November to discuss the Council's financial position including the potential retention of business rates for the Data Centre should it be built.

At present, no formal decision has been taken regarding the Data Centre, and reports will be presented to the Strategic Planning Committee in due course.

Based on the current Business Rates retention system, if the Data Centre were to be classified as an investment zone, the Council would be able to retain 100% of the business rates for 25 years for reinvestment.

It is the Government who decide where future investment zones will be and whilst they continue to be supportive of the idea of investment zones, they have not indicated in any way whether the data centre if approved, would be designated

If the data centre were not designated the Council would benefit through retention of 30% of the business rates until the next business rate reset following the completion of the data centre.

The Government is proposing to carry out a Business Rates reset with effect from 1st April 2026. It is too early to determine the rateable value and subsequent business rates for the data centre as this will be subject to future valuations.

A supplementary question asked if information given in a recent budget briefing was correct that it would not be possible for the Council to retain the full business for the data centre. The Cabinet Member would check on this.

Minute Item 28

Appendix 2

Full Council, 19th November 2025

DIVISION NUMBER:	1	2	3	4
The Mayor (Councillor Sue Ospeay)	✓	✗	✓	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Concillor Barry Mugglestone]	✓	✗	✓	✓
CONSERVATIVE GROUP (16)				
Cllr Robert Benham	A	A	A	A
Cllr Ray Best	A	A	A	A
Cllr Joshua Chapman	A	A	A	A
Cllr Osman Dervish	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr Jason Frost	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr Judith Holt	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr Jackie McArdle	A	A	A	A
Cllr Dilip Patel	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr Nisha Patel	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr Viddy Persaud	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr Timothy Ryan	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr Carol Smith	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr David Taylor	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr Christine Vickery	A	A	A	A
Cllr Damian White	A	A	A	A
Cllr Michael White	A	A	A	A
HAVERING RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GROUP (23 + 2)				
Cllr John Crowder	✓	✗	✓	✓
Cllr Philippa Crowder	✓	✗	✓	✓
Cllr Sarah Edwards	✓	✗	✓	✓
Cllr Gillian Ford	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Oscar Ford	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Laurance Garrard	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr James Glass	A	A	A	A
Cllr David Godwin	✓	✗	✓	✓
Cllr Paul McGeary	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Paul Middleton	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	✓	✗	✓	✓
Cllr Raymond Morgan	✓	O	O	✓
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	✓	O	O	✓
Cllr Gerry O'Sullivan	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Christine Smith	✓	✗	✓	✓
Cllr Natasha Summers	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Bryan Vincent	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Reg Whitney	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Julie Wilkes	✓	O	O	✓
Cllr Christopher Wilkins	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr Jacqueline Williams	A	A	A	A
Cllr Graham Williamson	✓	O	✓	✓
Cllr John Wood	✓	✓	✓	✓
LABOUR GROUP (8)				
Cllr Mandy Anderson	A	A	A	A
Cllr Pat Brown	✗	✓	✗	✗
Cllr Keith Darvill	✗	✓	✗	✗
Cllr Jane Keane	✗	O	✓	✓
Cllr Trevor McKeever	A	A	A	A
Cllr Matthew Stanton	✗	✓	✗	✗
Cllr Katharine Tumilty	A	A	A	A
Cllr Frankie Walker	✗	✓	✗	✗
EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP (3)				
Cllr Brian Eagling	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr Martin Goode	✗	✗	✓	O
Cllr Darren Wise	✗	✗	✓	O
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT GROUP (2)				
Councillor Philip Ruck	A	A	A	A
Councillor John Tyler	✓	✗	✓	✓
REFORM UK (1)				
Cllr Keith Prince	✗	✗	✓	✓
TOTALS				
✓ = YES	24	5	35	26
✗ = NO	18	22	4	4
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	0	15	3	12

<i>ID =INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>A = ABSENT FROM MEETING</i>	13	13	13	13
	55	55	55	55



COUNCIL, 21 JANUARY 2026

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: INDIVIDUAL POLLING PLACE REVIEW

SUMMARY

As shown in the attached report, Council is asked to endorse the recommendation of Governance Committee that a new Polling Place be established at Squirrels Heath School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approve the decision of Governance Committee regarding the changes to the Polling Place for Polling District SQ3 (Squirrels Heath Ward). All other Polling districts and polling places remain unchanged.

REPORT DETAIL

At its meeting on 26 November 2025, Governance Committee approved the attached report recommending the establishment of a new polling place at Squirrels Health School, in place of that located at the former Gidea Park Library. Council is therefore asked to approve the decision of Governance Committee.

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

List of appendices: None of this covering report.

Financial Implications and Risks: None of this covering report.

Human Resource Implications and Risks:

None of this covering report.

Legal Implications and Risks:

None of this covering report.



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:	Individual Polling Place Review
SLT Lead:	Andrew Blake-Herbert
Report Author and contact details:	<p>Zena Smith Head of Committee and Election Services 01708 431 585 zena.smith@havering.gov.uk</p>
Policy context:	<p>There are no direct resource implications.</p>
Financial summary:	<p>There are no direct resource implications.</p>

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

People - Things that matter for residents -

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy –

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place. - X

SUMMARY

The London Borough of Havering undertook a review of all Polling Districts and Polling Places in accordance with the requirements of section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 and the Elections Act 2022). This action fulfilled the council's duty to conduct a compulsory polling district and polling places review in the period of 1 October 2023 until 31 January 2025.

This report was agreed at Governance Committee on 13th November 2024 and ratified at full Council on 20th November 2024. Since this decision there has been a change within one polling district SQ3 – Squirrels Heath Ward.

The current polling station used for the polling district SQ3 is Gidea Park library, the library is no longer in use. The polling district has been reviewed for an alternative venue, and the recommendation is that Squirrels Heath school be used. Whilst it is acknowledged that the use of schools is not always ideal, it is the best solution within the district. I have been liaising with the school so that there is enough notice to use polling day as an inset day if they chose to do so.

REPORT DETAIL

This report seeks to approve the proposed changes set out in the report and if agreed, these changes will be incorporated into the register and will be ratified at the Full Council meeting being held on 21st January 2026.

When considering venues to be used as polling stations the following criteria should be taken into account.

- To ensure all electors have reasonable facilities for voting, and as far as possible polling places are accessible to all electors.
- Where current polling districts can continue as the major part of the new districts, and there are sensible reasons for continuing with existing arrangements, then this principle has been followed.
- To consider natural boundaries for example railway lines, major roads and rivers.
- Account is taken of justifiable complaints by electors, feedback from staff and any responses received from a consultation.

- Polling places fall within the Polling District wherever possible

The use of schools be avoided where possible if suitable alternative premises are available.

Background Information

Under the provisions within the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the previous statutory review was undertaken in 2024.

The 3 ward councillors for the Squirrels Heath Ward have been consulted and agree with this proposal.

This change of venue has been included in calendar brief for Member comment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Governance Committee endorse the changes to the Polling Place for Polling District SQ3 (Squirrels Heath Ward)

All other Polling districts and polling places remain unchanged.

If these recommendations are agreed that Full Council on 21st January 2026 approve the decision of the Governance Committee.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: Any increase in the amount of polling stations would incur additional costs in terms of building hire, equipment and polling station staff. The cost incurred from using Council maintained buildings is limited to covering heating, lighting and cleaning costs. These costs are met by the Council only when used for Council elections or by-elections.

Legal implications and risks: The Representation of the People Act 1983 section 18D requires that local authorities designate the polling places within the Parliamentary Constituencies. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, Returning Officers have the right to use certain public buildings (including schools that receive public funds) for use as polling stations at elections.

Human Resources implications and risks: None.

Equalities implications and risks: The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

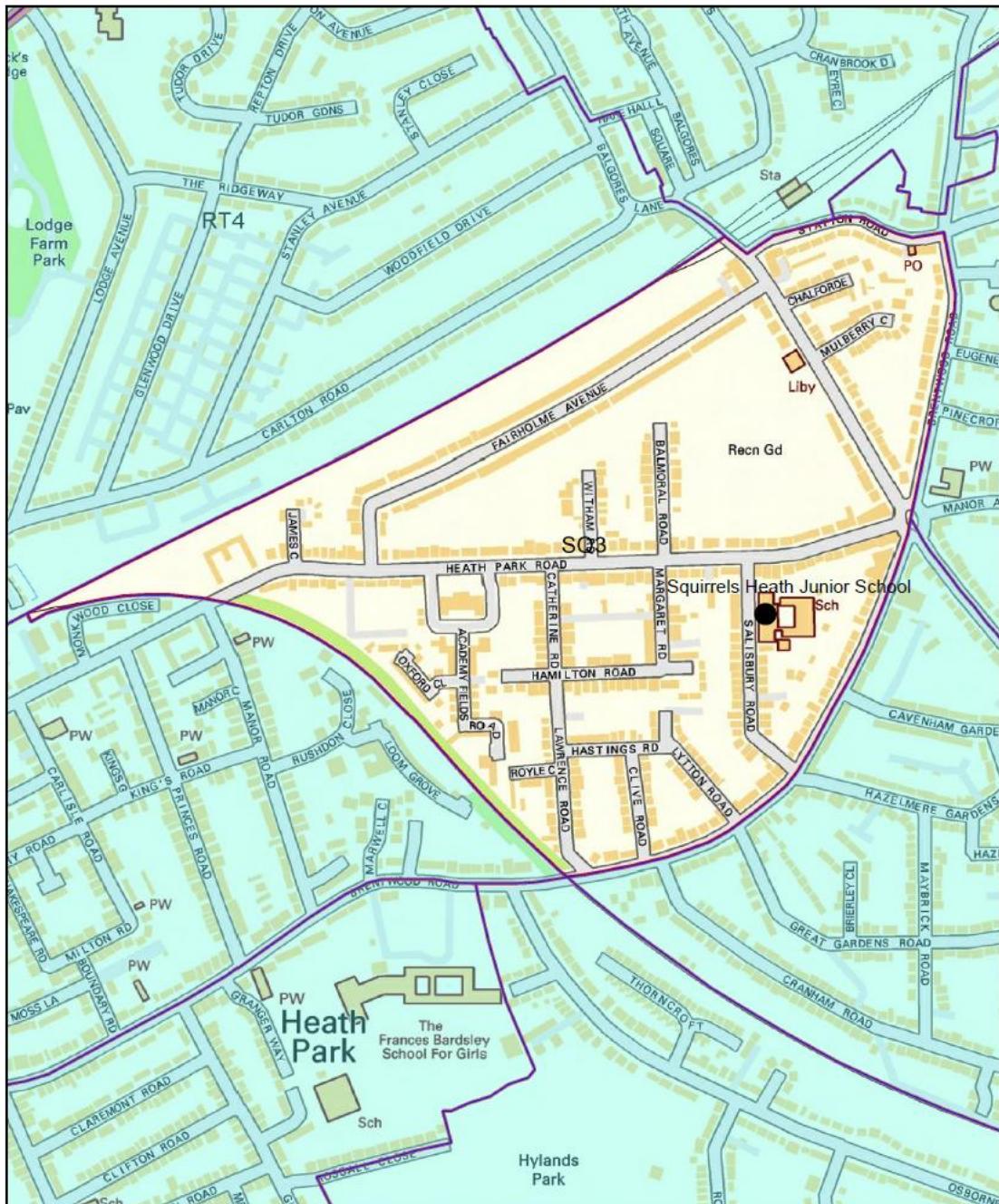
- (I) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

In all situations, urgent or not, the Council will seek to ensure equality, inclusion, and dignity for all.

The review looks to ensure that all eligible electors can access a polling station, and that Staff receive equalities training as part of the mandatory Polling Staff training for each election. I attach a map of the polling district for reference.



	
   The National Land & Property Gazetteer NSG NATIONAL STREET GAZETTEER Ordnance Survey Licensed Partner	Scale: 1:6500 Date: 26 June 2019
 London Borough of Havering Town Hall, Main Road Romford, RM1 3BD Tel: 01708 434343	© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 100024327

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COUNCIL, January 2026

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Subject: Report on Park Safety

SUMMARY

This report is brought forward in response to a previous commitment given at Council. Following debate, the substantive motion carried stated as follows:

This Council recognises some level of antisocial behaviour in our parks. The Council calls on the Administration to produce details of ongoing work to combat and further reduce levels of antisocial behaviour in our parks and to present this report at the meeting of Council.

This report outlines the current crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) landscape in Havering's parks, with a particular focus on Raphael's Park following specific concerns raised at the location over the past 12-18 months.

It also sets out the Administration's position on the cessation of the parks locking and assesses any behavioural impacts noticed as a result of the cessation. It also includes an Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to note the contents of this report.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Metropolitan Police are the primary agency for reporting and investigating crime and ASB. The Council is jointly responsible in assisting with reducing crime

and disorder in its area under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and for addressing serious violence under the Serious Violence Duty.

- 1.2 The Council also has a responsibility for the health and safety of residents using its parks and highways and regularly reviews and assesses risk across its parks and open spaces.
- 1.3 The Council has 89 parks and open spaces across the borough, 22 of which are lockable but not currently locked.

2. Parks Police

- 2.1 There are two officers who are trained and attested Parks Constables in Havering. They are Havering Council employees and are not part of the Metropolitan Police or Royal Parks Constabulary. These officers sit in the wider Havering Council Enforcement Team and report to the Enforcement Manager.
- 2.2 From November 2024 to November 2025, approximately 80 specific requests for patrols were received across all parks (not including Met Police requests for assistance or direction via Airwave).
- 2.3 Generally speaking, except for overnight fishing, rough sleeping and wildlife crime (poaching), the majority of reports occur during the day. Locking the parks historically did not have an impact on these incidents and these activities also often take place in parks which cannot be locked
- 2.4 Crime and ASB is also seasonal in our parks, with more ASB in summer due to good weather, longer days and higher footfall.
- 2.5 Urgent matters reported via 999 can be relayed from Havering Police to LBH Parks Police through their Airwave radio which shares the local Police frequency.
- 2.6 Non-urgent issues can be directed to the Parks Team or Parks Police via contact details on the Council website.
- 2.7 Parks Police operate on a rotating shift pattern (typically 0700–1900, four days on/four off) but are not available 24/7.
- 2.8 As of December 2025, the Parks Police team are being supported by three additional UKSPF Funded posts until March 2026. These posts are primarily funded to support all enforcement team activities in Romford Town Centre and its surrounding parks and estates such as outreach, reassurance and proactive patrolling and to address environmental offences and Anti-Social behaviours.

2.9 Common reports made to Havering Parks Police include:

- Overnight fishing
- Nuisance motorbikes
- Rough sleeping
- Dog-related nuisance (off lead, causing nuisance or fear, dog fouling etc)
- Criminal damage
- Theft of park equipment
- Drug paraphernalia
- Illegal encampments
- Injured wildlife
- High-risk missing persons (MISPERS)

3. Metropolitan Police Data and Analysis

3.1 A bespoke dataset focused solely on park-related crime across the borough would require a manual analytical piece of work which the Police typically lack capacity to undertake. However, a one-off analytical exercise, focussed on Raphaels Park was completed by the Met to support this report.

3.2 In addition, public data via the Tableau portal (this is the Met Police's Public facing data portal) provides ward-level breakdowns. Comparative analysis from 2020 to 2025 shows that overall offence numbers have fluctuated up and down but remained broadly stable.

Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs)

3.3 There has been a slight increase in TNOs across the borough from **20,552 in 2021-22** to **20,911 in 2024-25**. However, this rise is proportionate when compared to population growth.

3.4 There have also been changes to reporting methods, a new reporting database used by Police (called Connect) and an increase in awareness and reporting of certain crime types which may also be attributed to affecting the data that has been recorded.

Year-on-Year Crime Trends in Havering

3.5 This has shown a decrease in overall crime in the last 12 months compared to the previous year from 22,430 year ending November 2024 versus 20,911 year ending November 2025

Analysis (2024–2025)

3.6 Met Police data is categorised by crime type and ward, not specifically by park. We therefore do not have detailed crime data covering all Havering Parks.

3.7 However, as noted, a one-off review of Raphael's Park reported crime by the Met Police found:

- 15 total offences (June 2024-June 2025)
- 13 of these were daytime offences
- 1 was an evening offence (pre locking time)
- 1 was an overnight offence

3.8 Of these offences, the breakdown of crime types is as follows:

- Sexual offences: 2
- Robbery/knife crime: 1
- Public order: 3
- Hate crime: 1
- Violence against the person: 7
- Drug possession: 1

4. Council's own Strategic Analysis

4.1 An Annual Community Safety Survey is undertaken by Officers each year. Community Safety Analysts use the survey results to feed into the Strategic Needs Assessment to develop Havering's Serious Violence Strategy (SVS) 2024–2027. In the survey, Parks were not identified as the priority concern, but some fear of crime was noted.

4.2 'The Shout' youth survey of 1,029 children revealed the other primary concerns to be:

- 57% **felt unsafe** on streets
- 34% **felt unsafe** at bus stops/transport hubs
- 25% **felt unsafe** in parks

4.3 This higher perceived risk on streets and in transport hubs (especially Romford Town Centre) is reflected in actual crime stats.

4.4 Romford Town Centre remains the borough's primary hotspot for violence and sexual offences. Consequently, resources - including youth outreach, Night Marshals, and CCTV - are concentrated there.

4.5 Regular, intensive training (such as WAVE/Ask for Angela) for all staff that work in the footprint and/or are attached to the nighttime economy is also undertaken regularly. The Community Safety Team also carries out a high number of engagement events in the Town Centre with Police colleagues.

4.6 More detailed analysis and breakdown of the findings are captured in our Serious Violence Strategy. The headline themes of the Council's SVS are as follows:

- **Youth Violence:** Over 50% of serious violence involves under-25s; Romford is the main hotspot.
- **Weapon Offences:** Knife-related incidents increased by 19% between 2021-2022.
- **Domestic Abuse:** Rising cases, especially involving sons as perpetrators; Heaton and Gooshays are key hotspots.
- **Sexual Violence:** Concentrated in Romford town centre; 36% of victims are under 18.
- **Shift resources:** Address violence during “lost hours” (3–7 PM) rather than only night-time economy.
- **Improve intelligence:** there is a need to fill data gaps for future assessments - reporting needs to be encouraged.
- **Engage communities better:** Reform and increase outreach to reflect borough's changing demographics.
- **Advocate for resources:** Havering needs more funding to match rising demand.

5. **Council Parks ASB Record (2024-2025)**

5.1 The Council's separate own records for reports across all parks in Havering show:

- 8 reports were separately recorded by the Parks Team in a 12-month period
- Only 2 incidents occurred after official closing hours (both were low-level, one-off behaviour rowdy/inconsiderate) which were reported as a nuisance
- Most reported crime and ASB occurs during daytime hours
- It is noted that residual crime and ASB was present even when parks were locked pre-2022

5.2 This shows that overall, reported crime and ASB in our parks is low.

6. **Parks Locking**

6.1 Prior to 2022, parks were locked at or around dusk and reopened at or around 365 days per year. During that period, no specific crime or ASB data was recorded to draw a direct comparison to. At the time, the parks locking service

struggled with recruitment and retention resulting in gaps in the locking rota. This meant that some parks remained open.

- 6.2 Parks ceased being locked as of Autumn 2022 as part of the Council's MTFS savings at that time. The saving made was approximately £0.150m.
- 6.3 Between June 2023 and June 2024, Havering trialled an Enforcement Pilot with National Enforcement Solutions (NES) which saw increased littering enforcement in Parks and Town Centres and also brought back the parks locking service. The Pilot ended because NES struggled to recruit and retain staff which resulted in an ongoing performance issue which left half of the Parks not being locked on a regular basis.
- 6.4 Since June 2024, parks in Havering have not been locked and in the 18 months since June 2024 there has been very little evidence to suggest that this is driving or increasing any crime type when looking at Met Police data for Raphaels Park or internal Park records.
- 6.5 Parks Police Officer observations and knowledge, including Parks Police radio intercepts, indicates that nearly all park-related crime and ASB occurs during daytime hours when parks are open. Locking parks would not prevent these incidents. Of the overnight incidents that have been reported, most of these matters (fishing, rough sleeping, trespassing, drug taking, poaching etc) occurred previously even when the parks were locked.
- 6.6 Whilst it is accepted that a small number of crimes have been alleged to have occurred overnight in our parks since 2022, it cannot be clearly established if the opportunity was created by the park being open, or if the crime would have occurred there (or elsewhere) at another time.
- 6.7 There are no current plans to re-introduce parks locking. It is estimated (via local benchmarking and factoring in inflation) that a basic sufficient park locking service covering 365 days would be in the region of £0.20 - £0.25m

7. Action Plan Going Forward

- 7.1 Whilst the current data does not support the notion of rising crime or increased ASB in parks, there are several measures in place to monitor what is happening within our parks. The detail of this is set out below.
- 7.2 Continued reporting of crime and ASB is essential to build a comprehensive risk picture. All stakeholders must encourage anyone that wishes to report crime or ASB to do so via the correct channels.
- 7.3 In the first instance and especially in an emergency, the Police should be contacted via '999'.

7.4 If incidents are of a reoccurring nature, then it may necessitate informing the Parks Police team. Examples of repeat nuisance which may not trigger an immediate Police response but require action, could be:

- a regular gathering of people at a location that causes alarm or nuisance
- a dog regularly causing nuisance at a location to park users
- nuisance motorbikes

7.5 Any emerging issues are reviewed at Precision Crime meetings (which have replaced the former TTG - Tactical Tasking Co-ordination Group) or the JET group (Joint Enforcement Tasking). The JET is a fortnightly problem solving and tasking group, chaired by the Council and usually attended by all enforcement teams, housing and police colleagues. Other departments or specialist teams can be invited to attend as required (i.e Housing Associations). The Precision Crime meetings are monthly Police meetings and look at monthly crime data, trends and how the Police will be responding to them. This usually focuses on acquisitive crime such as burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and street violence.

7.6 If additional resources are required to tackle a trend or emerging pattern, a problem-solving group will be set up by the Enforcement Team.

7.7 Alongside the Precision Crime and JET group meetings, the Cabinet Member for Environment receives Lead Member briefings at which parks safety is discussed and any emerging issues and responses briefed.

7.8 Officers will also continue to undertake an Annual Community Safety Survey and will apply the insight from that survey to the tactical and strategic decisions taken.

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

List of appendices: None

8. Financial Implications and Risks:

8.1 This report has no financial implications for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) or current year budget.

8.2 The two Parks Constable posts are a discretionary commitment within the Council's budget at approximately £130,000 per annum. In 2025/26, there is additional one-off funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Grant for the three positions mentioned in this report, which ceases 31st March 2026. The additional posts funded by the UKSF fund are therefore expected to end this financial year.

9. Human Resource Implications and Risks:

9.1 There are no HR implications as part of this report

10. Legal Implications and Risks:

10.1 There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

Staff Contact: Zena Smith, Head of Committee and Election Services
zena.smith@havering.gov.uk



FULL COUNCIL, Wednesday 21 January 2026

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Asylum Seekers' Accommodation

1) **To the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Housing Need (Natasha Summers)**

From Councillor Dilip Patel

Following the Government's recent announcement that asylum seekers may be accommodated in Local Authority housing on a voluntary basis, can the Cabinet Member confirm whether London Borough of Havering has been approached by the Home Office or intends to participate in this scheme, and explain what assessment has been made of the impact on local housing waiting lists, temporary accommodation and homelessness services?

CCTV- Romford Town Centre

2) **To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)**

From Councillor Jane Keane

Could the Cabinet Member please advise what use has been made of the Council's CCTV system to prevent the repeated vandalism of its Romford Town Centre street furniture and misuse of town centre parking amenities which is resulting in many adverse impacts including detracting from the character and visual appeal of the Town Centre, lost revenue for the council whilst it is cutting services, lost customer parking for traders, loss of residents' parking amenities, and generally making some residents in the area feel unsafe?

Penalty Charge Notices

3) **To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mufflestone)**

From Councillor Darren Wise

Could the Cabinet Member confirm the frequency and accuracy of real-time updates including the MI Permit data to the handheld devices that the Civil Parking Enforcement Officers use when issuing penalty charge notices.

Planned Provision for the Traveller Community

4) **To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ray Morgan)**

From Councillor Keith Prince

The large unauthorised traveller development in Church Lane, Noak Hill, has angered many Havering residents, who feel that the traveller community continue to game the planning system.

Council, 19 November 2025

Can the Leader confirm how many of the existing sites which were identified by the Council in 2019, to provide planned provision for pitches and plots to meet the needs of Travellers and Travelling Show people are full, or have been developed beyond their permitted capacity?

Parking in Hornchurch

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

Now the revised parking costs of £1.00 for two hours and £2.00 for up to three hours are being trialled in the Fentiman Way and Appleton Way Car Parks in Hornchurch Town Centre to help support local businesses, will the Administration instigate the free 30 minutes parking for all the parking bays in Hornchurch beside shops for the same reason - including the bays outside the shops in Park Lane?

Speed Restrictions in Wennington Road

**6) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mufflestone)
From Councillor Trevor McKeever**

Residents have reported that many vehicles travelling on Wennington Road in Rainham exceed the 20MPH restriction. What additional road safety measures can the Administration undertake to improve compliance and increase safety?

Repairs to Potholes

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

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm the percentage of repairs to potholes that have to be re-addressed for further repairs within a one year period.

Visitor Parking Permits

**8) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mufflestone)
From Councillor Judith Holt**

Will the Administration consider asking MiPermit to adapt Visitor Parking Permits from four-hour to smaller time increments, to save wastage for users?

Planning Contraventions- Romford Town Centre

**9) To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson)
From Councillor Jane Keane**

For the last couple of months there has been an increase in domestic rubbish dumped in South Street Romford. In at least one block of flats (Equitable House, 88- 100 South St, RM1 1RX) the facilities for tenants to store their waste and

Council, 19 November 2025

recycling to the rear of the building has been withdrawn, in contravention of the planning condition number three attached to P1599.17. Can the Cabinet Member update Members on how officers are working to address issues of this nature?

Gallows Corner

**10) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mufflestone)
From Councillor Christine Vickery**

Given that the works at Gallows Corner are likely to continue at least until the end of Spring 2026, will the Administration reconsider its determination to continue enforcement of yellow box junctions affected by the traffic diversions (e.g. junction of Ardleigh Green Road)?

Housing Allocations

**11) To the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Housing Need (Councillor Natasha Summers)
From Councillor Keith Darvill**

How is the Council working to address the backlog of new and renewed Housing applications?

North Street/Como Street Sub-Way, Romford

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

Previous Council targets to infill the North Street / Como St subway have stated that work would begin in 2025. Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Liveable Neighbourhoods Scheme, making sure to include information on start dates for the work on the subways?

Temporary Homes on the Waterloo Estate

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

Can the Cabinet Member for Regeneration please provide an update on the placing and occupation of the proposed temporary homes on the Waterloo Estate?

Road Safety- Lower Mawneys

**14) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mufflestone)
From Councillor Viddy Persaud**

Can the Council commit to a traffic monitoring exercise in the Lower Mawneys area, specifically the roads adjacent to Mawney Road, which are used as rat-runs for people avoiding traffic on Mawney Road?

Parking Enforcement

**15) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Muqglestone)
From Councillor Nisha Patel**

Given the regular occurrence of parking enforcement complaints across the Borough, where residents say they have entered their number plate into the machine but still been fined, what steps are the council taking to ensure that the registration process is clear and understood?

Council, 21 January 2026 – Motions

A. CASE TRACKER SYSTEM

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council calls on this Administration to halt the current rollout of the new Case Tracker System on the grounds that its design threatens to undermine the ability of elected members to properly and effectively serve their residents.

(Received 6 January, 16:47)

Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

This Council calls on this Administration to review the current rollout of the new Case Tracker System in order to ensure it allows elected members to properly and effectively serve their residents.

(Received, 12 January, 17:13)

B. LIBRARIES

Motion on behalf of Councillors Keith Prince and Michael White

This Council calls upon the Administration to halt all plans to pass on, sell or demolish the three libraries which were closed in 2025 (namely Harold Wood, Gidea Park and South Hornchurch libraries). Harold Wood library shall be the exception, where Officers should continue their discussions with the local community group who have already put forward proposals to make use of the site.

(Received 5 January, 13:34)

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council calls upon the Administration to halt all plans to pass on, sell or demolish the three libraries which were closed in 2025 (namely Harold Wood, Gidea Park and South Hornchurch libraries) until alternative business plans have been presented to and considered by Cabinet. Harold Wood library shall be the exception, where Officers should continue their discussions with the local community group who have already put forward proposals to make use of the site.

(Received 12 January, 2155)

C. TAX RISES

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council recognises the vital role that pubs and small businesses play in the economic and social life of the London Borough of Havering. This Council condemns recent government tax changes which have increased costs for these businesses locally, putting Havering jobs and livelihoods at risk, and calls on the government to urgently reverse the rises.

(Received 5 January, 20:16)

(No amendments received).

D. HAVERING VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

That this Council congratulates Havering Volunteer Centre on celebrating its tenth anniversary indispensably assisting the residents of Havering, and commits to formalising its financial support for the Havering Volunteer Centre in its forthcoming budget.

(Received 5 January, 22:02)

(No amendments received).

E. COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Motion on behalf of the Residents' Association Independent Group

This Council agrees that to enable both Members and Officers with school age families to avoid potential conflict between council and family responsibilities, and encourage more people to become involved in local government, future Full Council Meetings should be scheduled outside of the London Borough of Havering's published school holiday dates.

(Received 6 January, 11:08)

(Amendment to follow once agreed by Monitoring Officer).

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