

Appendix 1**Announcements by the Leader of the Council at Council meeting,
26 November 2014**

- We have just over a month left of our budget consultation and I'm pleased with the level of interest in the proposals shown by local people
- Cabinet colleagues have attended three formal public meetings, as well as other less formal gatherings and specific meetings related to particular services, to discuss budget matters with residents.
- At the three formal meetings in Elm Park, Harold Hill and Romford, local people engaged in lively debate. A range of issues and comments were put to us – foremost amongst them were the proposed changes to youth services and libraries, though many other issues were also discussed.
- We have had over 2,500 responses so far to our budget consultations, including specific consultations on council tax support, libraries and parking.
- With a month to go, we will be encouraging those residents who have not yet had their say to do so, by visiting haverling.gov.uk/your say, or by picking up questionnaires from their local library.
- We're writing to all council tax support claimants to encourage them to fill in the questionnaire.
- We're providing updated information on our website and in the December edition of Living to develop the dialogue with local people and encourage people to have their say before the close of consultation.
- A report on the budget consultation and the issues raised, will come to the January meeting of the Cabinet for consideration.

- As an aside, one of the areas that we are proposing to protect from significant savings is waste and recycling.
- You may have seen some media coverage of recycling rates overnight that painted Havering in a negative light.
- Sadly, despite our efforts to correct them ahead of publication, DEFRA published some inaccurate figures for Havering. Our actual performance on recycling is in line with the London average. I will be writing to the Minister to register my disappointment.
- Though we are all naturally pre-occupied by the budget consultation and the challenges that lie ahead, it's important not to lose sight of the ongoing good work of the Council – making a real difference in the community.
- One project which makes a huge difference at this time of the year is our Warm Homes Programme to tackle fuel poverty – with a particular focus on our large elderly population
- The programme is a partnership effort, across the public, private and voluntary sectors, which has secured over £1 million in grants over the last three years to help improve the energy efficiency of people's homes.
- I'm delighted to say that this work has just won a Green Apple Award for Environmental Best Practice – so very well done to those involved.
- I'd also like to congratulate everyone involved in the bid for London LEP funding to invest in retaining and encouraging business investment in the Borough.
- Havering has been awarded over £1.2 million of funding, which is a real vote of confidence in what we're trying to do here.

- The money will go towards projects to re-energise the high streets of Romford and Hornchurch, as well as specific work to attract, encourage and support new businesses across the Borough.
- Those new businesses will benefit from Crossrail, when it reaches Havering and we've been buoyed by the very welcome news that the Mayor has allocated around £4 million to fund improvements to the stations and their surroundings on the Crossrail line – namely Romford, Gidea Park and Harold Wood.
- And we've just heard that the Council's efforts, with partners, to make Romford safe and welcoming at night has been recognised with a Gold Safer Communities Award
- It's fitting that all of these announcements are related to projects or services that have been overseen by Cynthia Griffin.
- Cynthia is leaving the Council next month, after more than 13 years of service to the people of Havering.
- As the Group Director responsible for StreetCare, Economic Development, Culture & Leisure and a host of other services over the years, there's no doubt that Cynthia has left her mark on Havering.
- The list of her achievements as Group Director is very long and covers most of the areas that have the greatest impact on the community, but to name a few:
 - Nine Green flags for our parks
 - Ten refurbished or rebuilt libraries and new and improved leisure centres

- A hugely valued and successful waste and recycling service, working within the East London Waste Authority that Cynthia helped shape.
- Massive regeneration programmes in Harold Hill, Rainham, Hornchurch and Romford that have changed the face of the Borough and opened up new opportunities for our residents
- Through her work and the work of her teams, Cynthia has made a real difference to people's lives and has strived always to provide better and better services to the residents of this Borough.
- I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Cynthia the very best for the future and thanking her in the usual way.