



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Havering Town Hall, Romford
26 November 2014 (7.30pm – 10.30pm)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Linda Trew) in the Chair.

Councillors June Alexander, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Ray Best, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Michael Deon Burton*, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Meg Davis, Osman Dervish, Ian De Wulverton, Nic Dodin, Alex Donald, David Durant, Brian Eagling, Gillian Ford, Jason Frost, Jody Ganly, John Glanville, Linda Hawthorn, Philip Hyde, David Johnson, Steven Kelly, Phil Martin, Barbara Matthews, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Barry Mugglestone, Stephanie Nunn, Ron Ower, Garry Pain, Dilip Patel, Viddy Persaud, Roger Ramsey, Keith Roberts, Patricia Rumble, Carol Smith, Frederick Thompson, Jeffrey Tucker, Linda Van den Hende, Melvin Wallace, Lawrence Webb, Roger Westwood, Damian White, Reg Whitney, Graham Williamson, Darren Wise* and John Wood.

*- part of meeting

Approximately ten Members' guests and members of the public were present. One representative of the press was also present.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors John Mylod, Julie Wilkes and Michael White.

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 Chaplain, Reverend David Hague, Area Dean of Havering and Vicar, The Church of the Good Shepherd, Collier Row opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the national anthem.

52 **MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 September 2014 and of the extraordinary meeting held on 22 October 2014 were before the Council for approval.

It was **AGREED**, without division, that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 September 2014 and of the extraordinary meeting held on 22 October 2014, be signed as a correct record.

53 **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS (agenda item 4)**

There were no disclosures of interest.

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

The Mayor thanked Members, officers, the Royal British Legion and all participants in the recent Remembrance Day services held around the borough.

The recent switching on of the Romford Christmas lights had been a highly successful event with approximately 10,000 people attending. The Havering float for the New Year's Day parade was currently being constructed by Havering College and details of how Havering's entry could be supported on the day would be supplied to Members.

A summary of the announcements made by the Leader of the Council is shown as appendix 1 to these minutes.

55 **PETITIONS (agenda item 6)**

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 23, the following petitions were presented:

From Councillor Dilip Patel concerning road safety measures in Percy Road and the renewal of pavement slabs and road surfaces in Essex Road.

From Councillor Keith Darvill concerning the enforcement of the one-way system in Albert Road.

It was **NOTED** that the petitions would be passed to Committee Administration for attention in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme.

56 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF AUDIT COMMITTEE (agenda item 7)**

Councillor Julie Wilkes had been nominated by the Residents' Group to the position of Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee.

The nomination of Councillor Wilkes was **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED** that:

Councillor Julie Wilkes be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee.

57 **CONVERSION TO LED STREET LIGHTS (agenda item 8)**

A report of the Cabinet invited Council to agree to the addition of funding to the capital budget in order to fund the conversion of 10,600 street lights in roads across the borough to more energy efficient LED lights. This work would have a number of advantages including the reduction of annual energy costs to the Council, helping residents feel safe and secure and reducing levels of light pollution.

It was noted that, in the footnotes to the financial information, the unit cost of capital investment should have read £254 per unit rather than as stated. It was also noted that the reference in note 3 to 'planned finish' referred to the completion date of the work to convert the streetlights, with the first loan repayment due as stated in July 2016.

The recommendation of the Cabinet was **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED** that:

Funding of the scheme as set out in appendix 2 to these minutes be added to the Capital Budget for 2015/16.

58 POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW (agenda item 9)

A report of the Governance Committee asked Council to agree the findings of a recent review of polling stations in Havering. The Governance Committee had requested that a further review be undertaken as to the continued use of the polling station CM5 – Upminster Methodist Church Hall.

The recommendation of the Governance Committee was **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED** that:

The changes to the Polling Districts reviewed should be incorporated into the register published on 1 December 2014, and the alternative polling stations used at the Parliamentary elections in May 2015 in accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2006 with the exception of CM5 Upminster Methodist Church Hall, Hall Lane for which a further review is to be undertaken and a recommendation brought back to a future meeting of the Council.

59 APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE (agenda item 10)

A report of the monitoring officer asked Council to agree the allocation of seats on the Appointments Sub-Committee following the establishment of the East Havering Residents' Group and the associated changes in the political make-up of the Council.

The recommendations of the Monitoring Officer were **AGREED** without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

- (1) That, so far as necessary to enable any changes proposed and agreed during this meeting to be carried in to effect, Council Procedure Rule 20.2 (proposals to amend the Constitution to be referred to Governance Committee without discussion) be suspended.**
- (2) That the Council, having due regard to the political balance rules, agree the allocation of seats on the Appointments Sub-Committee as set out in Appendix 3 to these minutes.**

60 EXCEPTIONS TO THE CALL-IN (REQUISITION) PROCEDURE (agenda item 11)

In accordance with paragraph 18e of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, a report of the Chief Executive summarised three recent Executive Decisions to which an exemption from call-in had been agreed. These

covered the following issues – arrangements for non-housing repairs, the approval of submission to NHS England for the Better Care Fund programme and the disposal of 16 new flats at Taplow House, Rainham to a registered provider for onward individual sales as shared ownership units.

It was noted that in paragraph 2.2.1 of the report, Councillor Clarence Barrett should have been referred to as the Chairman of the then Value Overview and Scrutiny Committee rather than as stated.

The recommendation of the Chief Executive was **AGREED** without division and it was **RESOLVED** that:

The report be noted.

61 **COUNCIL HOUSING NEW BUILD PROGRAMME (agenda item 12)**

A report of Cabinet requested Council to approve the allocation of a total of £19,069,000 of unallocated funding from the Housing Revenue Account. This would allow the use of £3,192,000 additional funding which had been successfully bid for from the Greater London Authority (GLA) for schemes comprising a total of 117 new homes and a shop unit integrated into one of the housing schemes.

The recommendation of Cabinet was **APPROVED** without division and it was **RESOLVED** that:

The requested increase to the Capital Budget to £22,756,000 (inclusive of the externally funded grant from the GLA of £3,192,000) be approved.

62 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 13)**

Fifteen questions were asked and replies given.

The text of the questions, and their answers, are set out in **Appendix 4** to these minutes.

63 CITY AIRPORT FLIGHTPATHS (agenda item 14A)**Motion on behalf of the East Havering Residents' Group**

Given the need to assess in detail any potential impact of the proposed changes to flight paths from City Airport as part of the London Airspace Management Programme, this Council calls upon:

- a) the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to extend the consultation period in respect of the proposed London Airspace Management Programme to 31st January 2015 in order to inform opinion and give Havering residents a greater opportunity to engage in the consultation process.
- b) City Airport operators to provide greater detail to local stakeholders in terms of flight numbers, noise levels and Co2 emissions as a result of the legal mandate which requires all aircraft to be equipped with Area Navigation technology and to operate in revised airspace by 2020.

Following debate, the East Havering Residents' Group motion was **CARRIED** by 50 votes to 0 (see division 1).

RESOLVED:

Given the need to assess in detail any potential impact of the proposed changes to flight paths from City Airport as part of the London Airspace Management Programme, this Council calls upon:

- a) the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to extend the consultation period in respect of the proposed London Airspace Management Programme to 31st January 2015 in order to inform opinion and give Havering residents a greater opportunity to engage in the consultation process.**
- b) City Airport operators to provide greater detail to local stakeholders in terms of flight numbers, noise levels and Co2 emissions as a result of the legal mandate which requires all aircraft to be equipped with Area Navigation technology and to operate in revised airspace by 2020.**

64 **CARE ACT (agenda item 14B)****Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group**

Under the Care Act's 'Ordinary Residence' rules, people who move into one of Havering's many residential homes as 'self-funders', and then require social care support, automatically become the financial responsibility of Havering Council. This Council calls upon the Government to review the rules associated with this system so that the costs don't overwhelm Havering Council or other local authorities that support a large care sector.

Following debate, the Conservative Group motion was **CARRIED** by 50 votes to 0 (see division 2).

RESOLVED:

Under the Care Act's 'Ordinary Residence' rules, people who move into one of Havering's many residential homes as 'self-funders', and then require social care support, automatically become the financial responsibility of Havering Council. This Council calls upon the Government to review the rules associated with this system so that the costs don't overwhelm Havering Council or other local authorities that support a large care sector.

65 **REFERENDUM ON COUNCIL TAX INCREASE (agenda item 14C)****Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group**

Many groups in the borough are protesting against the cuts to protect local services. They rightly say that EU-austerity [to protect the Euro] has gone on for far too long and it's now time to promote rather than cut local services.

The Government claim they are cutting local government funding because 'the money has run out', but if so why are they imposing damaging sanctions on Russia and promoting war in the Middle-East?

For the last few years the Council has made efficiency savings and cuts and frozen council tax and this is why the merger with Newham happened because most councillors believed this was the way to make savings and avoid a council tax increase. But now we are faced with having to make a further forecast £45 million of cuts that will wreck local services and our lean but mostly well run council.

The only alternative is to hold a legally required referendum and LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE if they want to raise council tax to save local services and keep our borough green, pleasant and secure! A majority of councillors will need to agree before a referendum is held, but we need to consult residents about a possible council tax rise and not just about what services to cut.

Thus this Council agrees to hold a referendum on whether to increase council tax by 2% or more to ameliorate the need for cuts and to balance the books. The figure to be agreed by those voting for the motion in consultation with the Finance Officer and the referendum to be held prior to the budget meeting in February to ensure a robust budget is delivered on time.

Following debate, the Independent Residents' Group motion was **NOT CARRIED** by 38 votes to 4 (see division 3).

66 VOTING RECORD

The record of voting divisions is attached as **Appendix 5**.

Mayor
28 January 2015

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](http://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.

LED Streetlighting - replacement of 10,600 units

Appendix 2

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Totals
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Total Cost	2,700,000													2,700,000
Less TfL funding	(50,000)													(50,000)
Less loan (SEELS)	(1,400,000)													(1,400,000)
Initial Cost to Council	1,250,000													1,250,000
Loan repayment		350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000									1,400,000
Capital Cost to Council	1,250,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000									2,650,000
Revenue Savings														
Energy	(139,000)	(300,685)	(312,712)	(325,221)	(325,221)	(325,221)	(325,221)	(325,221)	(325,221)	(325,221)	(325,221)	(325,221)	(325,221)	(4,004,604)
Component Replacement			(83,000)	(83,000)	(83,000)	(83,000)	(83,000)	(83,000)	(83,000)	(83,000)	(83,000)	(83,000)	(83,000)	(581,000)
Total revenue savings	(139,000)	(300,685)	(395,712)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(4,917,604)
Net flow in year	1,111,000	49,315	(45,712)	(58,221)	(58,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(408,221)	(2,267,604)
Net flow cumulative	1,111,000	1,160,315	1,114,603	1,056,382	998,162	589,941	181,720	(226,500)	(634,721)	(1,042,942)	(1,451,162)	(1,859,383)	(2,267,604)	
								Payback yr 8						
NPV at 4%	1	0.962	0.925	0.889	0.855	0.822	0.790	0.760	0.731	0.703	0.676	0.650	0.625	
NPV of net flow in year	1,111,000	47,441	(42,284)	(51,758)	(49,779)	(335,557)	(322,494)	(310,248)	(298,409)	(286,979)	(275,957)	(265,343)	(255,138)	
Net NPV flow cumulative	1,111,000	1,158,441	1,116,157	1,064,399	1,014,621	679,063	356,569	46,321	(252,088)	(539,067)	(815,025)	(1,080,368)	(1,335,506)	
														Payback Yr 9

Notes

1. Assumed start 1 April 2015, finish December 2015
2. Unit cost of capital investment - £2.7m, by 10,600 units gives £254 per unit. Up by 17% from first roll out
3. SEELS loan repayable in 6 monthly tranches over 4 years; planned finish Dec 15, 1st repayment July 16
4. Energy - savings pa of £278k at current prices. Per Ofgem, assumed energy 4% rise year on year to 18/19 - thereafter assumed to stabilise.

Council, 26 November 2014
Appendix 3

		CONS		RES		EHRG		UKIP		IRG	
		22		11		8		7		5	
		41.51%		20.75%		15.09%		13.21%		9.43%	
	Membership										
Appointments Sub-Committee	7	2.91	3	1.45	1	1.06	1	0.92	1	0.66	1

COUNCIL 26 November 2014

Appendix 4

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Q1 Children & Families Act

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning – Councillor Meg Davis

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what changes this council and local health authority have made under the Children & Families Act to ensure that they work more effectively to fulfil needs identified in the new Education, Health and Care Plans?

Answer:

This act aims to make a more family-friendly process for parents with children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It aims to draw together the support a child requires from education, health and social care services, replacing Statements of Special Educational Needs, which mainly focused on education, with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC).

Colleagues in education, health and social care have been working closely together and have established a project team to ensure we are fully ready to meet all aspects of the act.

We have recently restructured to create a joint team across education and social care and are putting together a development plan to ensure staff across all services understand the implications of the act. Our new local offer for families is online it is still being developed but its purpose is to allow those with special educational needs and their families to see clearly what help and services are available in the borough. And we are working with schools to ensure the information they publish is in line with the regulations.

We have worked together to draw up a template for the new education, health and care (EHC) plans which has been approved by the DfE and we are currently trialling this, with the first plans to be in place by January 2015. We are also reviewing the commissioning of our services to ensure we are jointly commissioning with partners. We are currently re-commissioning our speech and language therapy services. I think everyone welcomes these changes which allow more joined up thinking how we can best serve our children and families with SEN needs. In the past families have had to repeat their stories numerous times and this act should deal with this.

Q2 Declaration of Interests

To the Cabinet Member for Housing Company Development and One Source Management - Councillor Ron Ower

By Councillor Ian De Wulverton

Question:

Is the council aware that the public availability of a Cllr's declaration of interests includes information which is privileged and protected under the data protection act?

Answer:

Under section 30 of the Localism Act 2011, members are required to inform the monitoring officer of the disclosable pecuniary interests that they may hold. There are seven categories set out by the act and this is covered in part A-H on the declaration of interest form. It is a criminal offence not to disclose them. The monitoring officer is required to publish this information on the council's website and to have hard copies available, as set out by section 29

Parts I-N of the form are requirements set out by Council. We do not consider any of these to be privileged or protected under the data protection act. It is in everyone's interest to keep a regular check on their interests and if they have any problems then please contact officers.

Q3 Arnolds Field – fly-tipping

To the Cabinet Member for Environment – Councillor Robert Benham

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Question:

There have been further reports of fly-tipping at Arnold's Field by people who open and close the gates with a key and more recently that the gates have been left open for many days.

Please provide an update on the situation at Arnold's Field and give assurances that action is being taken to secure the site and deter further fly-tipping.

Answer:

I sympathise with Councillor Tucker's concern regarding fly tipping. This is private land, and it's a site that we have been concerned about for some time. The Environment Agency is leading on tackling the issues being seen at this site, including fly-tipping, and we are supporting the agency in every way we can.

Last month, we created barriers using 60 tonnes of soil outside both gateways to the field. They're fairly high and are aimed at preventing people from driving any vehicle over them to get into the site.

We are also planning some small-scale landscaping to soften the harshness of the barriers and hopefully act as a further deterrent. In addition, we will be reinstalling several concrete blocks in front of the barriers.

A CCTV system is being installed in the area to monitor truck movements, which will be managed by the Council and will help to catch further fly tippers.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that he would respond in writing as regards when the site would be offered back to the people of Rainham.

Q4 Proposed Council Homes developments

To the Deputy Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White

By Councillor Keith Darvill

Question:

What alternative Council house developments have been considered by the Administration as additions to or as an alternative to the proposed development in the Briar Road Estate Heaton Ward?

Answer:

We are currently consulting on options for the redevelopment of the Briar Road estate. The redevelopment of the estate has had a long history. The first set of proposals, put forward by Notting Hill Housing Trust, is currently being implemented in part. Our aspirations initially were to provide the central part of the estate, known as the Village Square with shops, a doctor's surgery and a café. However, on closer examination, and subject to more detailed financial appraisal, these proposals proved to be unaffordable, and Notting Hill Housing Trust indicated that they were unable to proceed with this part of the proposal.

Since then, we have worked hard to develop alternative proposals. We have been successful in obtaining GLA funding to implement new proposals. We are currently consulting on these proposals.

We have reduced the number of shops in the proposal, because market research has proved that the location is not sustainable for a large number of shops. We have not finally settled on the right number and size of shops to be provided, but this is part of the consultation exercise. We are still in discussion with the CCG about whether they have funding to deliver the proposals in relation to the doctor's surgery. We have committed to finding an alternative location for the Briar Road Action Group, although it is not sensible to maintain two community Centres on the estate.

We are currently consulting the residents on a further proposal which includes a smaller proportion of shops, some green space, and around forty new homes. When we have the results of the consultation exercise, I will consider the findings and make final decisions about the best way to proceed. I am confident that we will provide a better and higher quality of housing on this

site, with better quality green space as well as rented and shared ownership housing for local people.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member agreed that residents of the estate had endured a lot of disruption but added that he had met with residents who were in favour of the development.

Q5 Recycling of waste

To the Cabinet Member for Environment - Councillor Robert Benham

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Question:

Since the Green Points scheme was introduced in Havering, would the Cabinet Member confirm whether the recycling of waste has increased, and if so, by how much.

Answer:

Green Points has only been running since January this year and is a five-year programme, which is based on changing people's behaviour and attitudes to waste management over the longer term, so it is very early to begin to assess its impact.

The Havering scheme is focussed on reducing overall waste as this has the greatest impact to Havering in terms of collection, processing and treatment costs. Whilst it does promote increased recycling this is very much the secondary aim.

A comparison of the first quarters recycling and composting performance in 2014/15 with the same period in 2013/14 shows we were recycling and composting 37% of our household waste, an increase of 1% on the 2013/14 figure.

To date 25,000 residents have signed up to Green Points and 118 local business have signed up to the Havering Points Card – which provides residents with discounts and offers, and those businesses with free promotion.

On a more general note on recycling, it's important to clarify our position following the recent publication on the 2013/14 waste and recycling figures on 18 November 2014 and as reported on the BBC last night.

Havering had recycling rates of 33.15% for 2013/14, which is very close to the London average at 33.99%. This is contrary to the statistics released by DEFRA, which show our performance as 31.51%. The associated drop from 2012/13 when our recycling rates were 34.5% placed us among the worst performing in London.

In October, we noticed errors with the data we had entered for last year, which had the result of increasing our total household waste figure to the detriment of our performance.

We raised this with DEFRA and Waste Data Flow, which runs the system we enter our tonnage data into, on 16 October and again on 13 November, and we are still awaiting a response and as the Leader highlighted he will be writing to the minister as well.

I have a spreadsheet that shows how we compare to other London Boroughs using our actual performance, and we're placed around the middle, so around the London average and we are also the best performer in ELWA.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that the Green Points scheme was funded in full by the Department of Communities and Local Government. Maximum efforts would be made to reach the Council's 50% recycling target.

Q6 Pensions

To the Cabinet Member for Financial Management - Councillor Clarence Barrett

By Councillor David Johnson

Question:

Can you confirm what steps have been taken to reduce the fees of the pension fund manager that was selected at the last pensions committee meeting given that their fees were £200k more than the other quotes?

Answer:

The Pensions Committee recently appointed the successful tenderer to manage part of the Multi Asset Pooled Fund Portfolio in preference to two other managers who tendered for the contract. The fees of the successful tenderer were not negotiable and their charges were made very clear to the committee.

Whilst the management fees are higher than the other two bids, the Committee had greater confidence in their ability to deliver the level of investment performance required by the fund. Our external advisors Hymans Robertson also gave independent advice to the committee.

In terms of the fee structure, the assessed ability of the fund manager to achieve a higher rate of return on the portfolio will, in turn, represent greater proportionate value to the Pension Fund.

The specification of the contract means that the management fees incurred will be deducted from the total return on the fund before comparing it with our performance target.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that due diligence was not specifically carried out by the Committee but a rigorous selection process was undertaken with the help of the Committee's approved advisor.

Q7 Parsonage Farm Primary school

To the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning - Councillor Meg Davis

By Councillor David Durant

Question:

The Cabinet approved an expansion of Parsonage Farm Primary school to 4th form entry. But is it wise for the school to begin enrolling pupils for a 4th form entry before securing the planning permission needed to expand the school buildings and facilities to manage a 4FE, particularly as the planning committee may reject their expansion plans and when the Chafford Head teacher is willing to assist with a more practical expansion of Brady school?

Answer:

We are not enrolling pupils for the 4th form of entry at the school. Parents applying for a school place for their child for September 2015 are able to include Parsonage Farm on their application, but no places will be allocated before the national offer day for infant and primary children on April 16 next year.

The planning application has been submitted and a decision is due early in the New Year. There will be a full planning process, including public notices. If the planning application was unsuccessful, the school admissions team will have time to adjust the allocation systems so that they only have to offer up to 3FE. The school is a very good site with new classrooms and a play area. The plans for new facilities for 4FE entry had also been well thought through and will add to the value of education in the area. I would recommend that Cllr Durant visit the school and discuss the plans with the head teacher.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reiterated that fresh school places would be allocated if planning permission was not obtained. Further information on alternative provision could be supplied if required.

Q8 Area Liaison Officers

To the Cabinet Member for Environment - Councillor Robert Benham

By Councillor Barry Mugglestone

Question:

Would the cabinet member confirm how many hours of Area Liaison Officers time was lost in the last 12 months as a result of preparatory work and appearances in court to defend claims against the council.

Answer:

The role of an Area Liaison Officer (ALO) is to maintain the borough's highways, roads and footways, and therefore work towards preventing accidents. So a lot of what they do means they are protecting pedestrians, and also motorists from damaging their vehicles. As a result of this work, we are able to drive down any claims made against the council because we have this robust monitoring scheme in place. We do receive claims and preparing for these does take some time, though we estimate that it would be no more than 10 per cent of an ALOs time.

Q9 Pyrgo Park School – playing field in front of school

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety - Councillor Osman Dervish

By Councillor Lawrence Webb

Question:

Given that the playing field in front of Pyrgo Park School was not passed on to the academy as part of the land transfer, what assurance can you give the local residents that this will not be used to build houses on?

Answer:

The Council plans to use the land at the front of Pyrgo School for Harold Hill Learning Village. Outline planning consent has been granted to use the land as part of the Learning Village and the Council re-affirmed its commitment to that use in the October Cabinet decision. (reported to Cabinet on 20 October 2014).

Q10 Essex Wildlife Trust

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety - Councillor Osman Dervish

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

Question:

The Essex Wildlife Trust in partnership with Havering Council and funding from various sources is building a visitor centre in Hornchurch Country Park overlooking the River Ingrebourne.

This is very welcome news, but it is important that all those organisations involved in building and funding this new wildlife and heritage project are informed about planning application P1066.14 to extend Ingrebourne Hill into the Hornchurch Country Park, because these landfill plans could adversely impact on local wildlife and restrict access to the visitor centre!

To ensure all interested parties are aware of these landfill plans will the Council insist the applicant holds stated public consultation meetings and provides information about the intended soils treatment and recovery facility contained within their proposals?

Answer:

The Essex Wildlife Trust has been notified of planning application P1066.14 and any response from them will be included in the report on the application to the Regulatory Services Committee. Natural England have also been notified and their response will similarly be included in any forthcoming committee report. The planning application does not propose blocking existing footpaths.

A public consultation, which included a public exhibition, was carried out by the applicant prior to the submission of the application. The applicant has informed the Council that they wish to reduce the size of the soil treatment and processing facility and will be revising the proposal to show this.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that the Essex Wildlife Trust had been notified that the planning application was due to go before the Regulatory Services Committee in the next week.

Q11 Health & Wellbeing Board – voluntary sector representation

To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Health - Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson

By Councillor June Alexander

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member explain why the important Voluntary Sector do not have any representation on the Health and Well Being Board.

Answer:

The Health and Wellbeing board was established to be a small, strategic commissioning board. It was decided at the beginning that providers such as NELFT and representatives from the voluntary sector would not be members, which is in line with the model for the most effective boards of this kind. We have a range of other ways to engage with providers including the voluntary sector, allowing their views to be represented. However, the board meetings are public and therefore anyone representing the voluntary sector would be welcome to attend.

Q12 Attendance at meetings

To the Cabinet Member for Housing Company Development and One Source Management - Councillor Ron Ower

By Councillor Ian De Wulverton

Question:

When a Cllr is unable to attend a meeting it is recorded in their attendance statistics, however due to the number of meetings that sometimes clash or are added to the calendar it is not possible to be in two places at once. Why therefore should Cllrs be unfairly penalised for non-attendance?

Answer:

The only penalty for non-attendance at meetings is if a member fails to attend a meeting for more than 6 months without special dispensation; this leads to automatic disqualification as a councillor. This is in accordance Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

If a member is unable to attend a meeting due to a clash of meetings then it is for the member to decide which meeting he/she should attend and to send his/her apologies to the clerk or the chair of the meeting, and in most circumstances, arrange for another representative from their party to attend on their behalf as a substitute.

The council's constitution states that all committee meetings should be held on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday so although every effort is made to try and avoid clashes sometimes it cannot be helped. When apologies are submitted or a representative attends on the absent member's behalf, it is recorded accordingly in the minutes. If the member wishes for it to be noted in the minutes that he/she is absent due to their attendance at another council meeting then this can be arranged.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member agreed to pass on the suggestion that it should be recorded in the minutes when a Member is unable to attend due to another Council meeting.

Q13 Safety Zone initiative

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety - Councillor Osman Dervish

By Councillor John Wood

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member confirm why councillors were not informed about the new Safety Zone Initiative and how it was decided which wards will benefit from the initiative?

Answer:

Members were informed of the Partnership Protected Area or Safety Zones initiative in a report to the Crime and Disorder Committee on 21st November 2013. The results of the first two areas were reported in full. The safety zones are subject to a quarterly report to each Havering Community Safety Partnership and there is a 'one year on' update to the Crime and Disorder Committee on 20th November 2014.

As part of the strategic assessment each year, a burglary strategic problem profile is produced. This is a three year profile of burglary in Havering. This document identified areas of Havering which suffer higher rates of burglary dwelling than the local and regional average. The safety zone initiative concentrates on these areas.

Q14 Carepoint – Footfall figures

To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Health - Councillor Wendy Brice-Thompson

By Councillor Stephanie Nunn

Question:

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the footfall figures for the Carepoint facility for the years 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Answer:

The figures are as follows:

In 2012 460 people visited Carepoint in person

In 2013 that went up to 762 face-to-face visits

And so far this year, from January to September, there have been 828.

Q15 Planning – Designated green belt areas

To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety - Cllr Osman Dervish

By Councillor Reg Whitney

Question:

Given the rapid increase in London's population and the growing shortage of accommodation across London, does the Cabinet member think that the relaxation of planning rules by central government will force Havering Council to build on land currently designated green belt under its Local Development Framework.

Answer:

We are satisfied that the Mayor's proposed annual target of 1170 new homes per year can be achieved without needing to use land in the Green Belt.

Growing population and increased need for more homes do not in themselves provide a reason for development in the Green Belt. Taking land out of the

Green Belt or changing its boundary has to be justified and is subject to examination by a Planning Inspector.

Planning applications for development in the Green Belt are considered against national, regional and local planning policy which says that development on green belt land should not be approved except in very very special circumstances.

VOTING RECORD

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	1	2	3
The Mayor [Cllr. Linda Trew]	O	O	O
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Barbara Matthews]	✓	✓	X
CONSERVATIVE GROUP			
Cllr Roger Ramsey	✓	✓	X
Cllr Robert Benham	✓	✓	X
Cllr Ray Best	✓	✓	X
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson	✓	✓	X
Cllr Joshua Chapman	✓	✓	X
Cllr John Crowder	✓	✓	X
Cllr Phillipa Crowder	✓	✓	X
Cllr Meg Davis	✓	✓	X
Cllr Osman Dervish	✓	✓	X
Cllr Jason Frost	✓	✓	X
Cllr Steven Kelly	✓	✓	X
Cllr Robby Misir	✓	✓	X
Cllr Garry Pain	✓	✓	X
Cllr Dilip Patel	✓	✓	X
Cllr Viddy Persaud	✓	✓	X
Cllr Carol Smith	✓	✓	X
Cllr Frederick Thompson	✓	✓	X
Cllr Melvin Wallace	✓	✓	X
Cllr Roger Westwood	✓	✓	X
Cllr Damian White	✓	✓	X
Cllr Michael White	A	A	A
RESIDENTS' GROUP			
Cllr Ray Morgon	✓	✓	X
Cllr June Alexander	✓	✓	X
Cllr Nic Dodin	✓	✓	X
Cllr Jody Ganly	✓	✓	X
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	✓	✓	X
Cllr John Mylod	A	A	A
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	✓	✓	X
Cllr Reg Whitney	✓	✓	X
Cllr Julie Wilkes	A	A	A
Cllr John Wood	✓	✓	X
EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP			
Cllr Clarence Barrett	✓	✓	X
Cllr Alex Donald	✓	✓	X
Cllr Brian Eagling	✓	✓	X
Cllr Gillian Ford	✓	✓	X
Cllr Linda Hawthorn	✓	✓	X
Cllr Ron Ower	✓	✓	X
Cllr Linda Van den Hende	✓	✓	X
Cllr Darren Wise	✓	✓	X
UK Independence Party			
Cllr Lawrence Webb	✓	✓	O
Cllr Ian De Wulverton	✓	✓	O
Cllr John Glanville	✓	✓	O
Cllr Phillip Hyde	✓	✓	O
Cllr David Johnson	✓	✓	O
Cllr Phil Martin	✓	✓	O
Cllr Patricia Rumble	✓	✓	O
INDEPENDENT LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP			
Cllr Jeffrey Tucker	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Michael Deon Burton	✓	✓	O
Cllr David Durant	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Keith Roberts	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Graham Williamson	✓	✓	✓
Labour			
Cllr Keith Darvill	✓	✓	X
TOTALS			
✓ = YES	50	50	4
X = NO	0	0	38
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	1	1	9
ID = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	3	3	3
	54	54	54