

Full Council – 10 June 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

- Mr Mayor – at the Annual Council meeting I spoke of the challenges we face in the coming years and the hard work of managing the Borough on an ever-tightening budget.
- But I closed my speech by reminding us all that the future can still be bright – and that we still have the chance to chart a positive course for Havering and its residents.
- One of the ways we can do that is to work with organisations that are able to invest in our Borough and use our influence to shape that investment to get the best for Havering.
- Tonight I want to tell you about two very striking examples of investment in the Borough that perfectly illustrate how Havering can benefit from a wide partnership of support.
- First and most excitingly, I hope many of you will be aware of yesterday's announcement from the GLA, marking a huge turning point for the south of the Borough.
- Yesterday morning I attended the launch in central London of the Beam Park project attended by Deputy London Mayor for Housing and many potential development partners and professionals with the Leader of LBBD
- The Mayor of London has announced that major regeneration is set for Beam Park – a disused industrial area to the west of Rainham.
- The Mayor's vision, which we share, would see the creation of a new community, providing a mixture of private and affordable housing for thousands of residents.
- This new community – a brand new garden suburb - will be served by a brand new railway station at Beam Park, which has already been approved for funding by TfL. That station will offer local people a twenty-minute link in to the City, making the Beam Park Garden Suburb an attractive option for commuters.

- This will also be a huge benefit to existing residents in that area
- But the Mayor's announcement will also be the catalyst for further investment in jobs and infrastructure in the area, with new opportunities for industry opening up along the riverside in Dagenham and Rainham.
- For our part, we have started consultation with local people in Rainham about a masterplan for the future and we expect confirmation that our bid for Housing Zone investment in Beam Park will be confirmed shortly, so we can help deliver on the promise of the area.
- At the launch the importance of the Housing Zone funding to the improvement of the whole area was set out
- That would mean investment in the run-down industrial areas along the A1306, to create attractive housing developments, linked by a tree-lined boulevard, with access to new open, green space.
- And it would lead to the development of community facilities - like schools, health services and leisure, that will make the communities of Rainham and Beam Park sustainable and attractive places to live and raise a family for generations to come.
- During the launch it was indicated that there would be a total housing zone investment of £30 million with a total of 3,400 new homes at Beam Park and other areas to be developed. There would be a total investment value of £763 million and the creation of a potential 6,200 jobs during the construction period.
- Beam Park shows what's possible, with major investment from outside bodies – in this case the Mayor of London – but there are smaller investments being made across Havering that make a real difference too.
- Veolia is an organisation that has long held a stake in Havering. It's a large employer based in the south of the Borough.
- But Veolia also has a long history of investing in the Havering community and we as a Council have worked with them for many

years to direct that investment at projects large and small that we feel will benefit local people.

- Tonight, I'm very pleased to announce that the Veolia North Thames Trust Board has just approved a broad range of investments in the community – from small purchases, to local improvements costing tens of thousands of pounds. These include:
 - The purchase of equipment for the Rush Green Project group
 - A £5,000 grant to the Friends of Harold Wood Park, to create a scooter park for young people
 - Floodlights for the Upminster Hall Sports Association
 - £35,000 to the Elm Park Community Association for roof repairs
 - A new boiler and upgraded windows for the Robert Beard Youth Centre
 - And £90,000 worth of playground improvements in Upminster and Harold Hill
- These two examples demonstrate both the importance of our role in influencing major infrastructure investment in Havering and also the work we do as a community broker – matching local needs to local investors.
- Both approaches will become ever more vital, as our own resources are squeezed in the years ahead.