

Appendix 1**Announcements by Leader of the Council – Full Council – 15th July 2015**

- Mr Mayor – I'd like to start by echoing your congratulations to our Chief Executive, Cheryl Coppel on being awarded the Order of the British Empire by the Queen in Her Majesty's birthday honours last month.
- The OBE was awarded for services to local Government, over a forty year career, which has included twenty years as a Chief Executive – first at Slough Council and then here in Havering.
- During her career, Cheryl has also taken leadership roles within London on Children's Services and she is now a Trustee with the Centre for Ageing Better.
- She has provided tremendous support to us all in this chamber and steered the Council through some very challenging times.
- When Cheryl was given the honour, she commented that it also reflected the efforts of her colleagues. On that note, we will shortly say goodbye to Joy Hollister – which we reflected on at last month's meeting.
- I wanted to update members on the search for a suitable replacement for Joy.
- We are undertaking a very thorough search for the most suitable candidate – and that task is ongoing.
- In the meantime, I'm very pleased to welcome Isobel Cattermole to Havering as interim Director of Children, Adults & Housing.
- Isobel is very experienced, having held leadership positions in the social care departments at a number of London Boroughs and major Councils across the country and I'm sure she will provide excellent support until a permanent Director is appointed.

- Since our last meeting there has been the Chancellor's special budget. The ongoing detailed implications for local government will not be known until the Spending Review in the late Autumn. However upon the basis of the information and projections which are known progress is being made on preparing further budget savings options for consultation
- Ever since the start of this period of Government austerity in 2010, unlike many other Councils, Havering did not sit back and bury its head in the sand, pretending it wasn't happening or dwindling reserves on running day to day services. Havering has taken a sound, pragmatic and often visionary approach to managing the pressures on our budget.
- However, we can never be complacent and sit back, as I said at Annual Council, we all know that we have challenges ahead; it was not a secret that we had only set a two year budget, with a further two years to close.
- Rightly, we waited till after the outcome of the General Election before addressing the final two years of the period. And we are also looking beyond – to a time when the reduction in Government grant will leave us effectively self-funding.
- I also spoke about actively engaging opposition groups as part of this and that we would consider any budget proposals that come forward. To support that engagement and to try to make it as meaningful as possible I have agreed a number of actions with officers.
- Firstly, in the next few weeks each of the political groups will be invited to have a presentation from the Director of Communities & Resource outlining the financial challenges that we currently face. This will set the context for you about the financial gap which will need to close and some of the risks currently facing the organisation. This will then formally come forward in a Cabinet report in September, although the detail of what it truly means for Havering will not become apparent until later in the year after the Comprehensive Spending Review and the draft settlement.

- Secondly, it is often said that is hard to put up alternative budgets due to lack of information around the budget, so to help with this through late August and into September we will be running 6 member briefing sessions, open to all political groups that will outline service spend, performance, income, and where potential savings could be made, or radical decisions taken. The dates and times of these will soon be sent out to all members.
- One the back of these we will be asking for any savings suggestions by other groups to be put forward for the end of September so there is time for them to be considered and if appropriate reported to cabinet in October
- At the same time as trying to cope with budget challenges our work to improve Havering also goes on.
- When we set out our vision of a clean, safe and proud Borough - that would continue to thrive despite the budget cuts - we said that we would lead by example and run a cost-efficient council.
- A big part of that efficiency is found through partnership working – such as our support service partnership with Newham called oneSource.
- The oneSource partnership was based on the premise that sharing support functions like HR, legal services, accountancy and ICT with other councils would reduce overheads and allow us to preserve more of our funding for frontline services to residents.
- I'm pleased to report that we have opened discussions with Bexley Council on joining the oneSource partnership. Talks are at an early stage, but integrating Bexley into oneSource and continuing to look for other partners in the future, could deliver more potential savings for Havering, that do not need to be found by cutting our services to residents or restricting our efforts to improve our Borough.

- Those improvements can be achieved and last month, the Mayor of London confirmed as expected the success of our bid for Housing Zone funding. Around £40 million will be made available to unlock the potential of Beam Park and surrounding areas in the south of the Borough.
- We can now start bringing forward the improvements in the area that will make the new garden suburb a vibrant and attractive place to live – including new green spaces, the transformation of the A1306 into a smart, tree-lined boulevard, new homes, a new station, new school and new health facilities.
- It's an exciting new chapter for Havering, which – alongside the arrival of Crossrail and the new investment plans for Romford which we discussed at Cabinet – promises much for our Borough.
- We are establishing our approach to new investment and regeneration – which is about attracting the investment we need, but without sacrificing the quality of life we all enjoy.
- Whether in Romford, or in Rainham or elsewhere - we are determined to preserve what's best about our Borough, while ensuring that current and future generations of Havering residents can benefit from living in thriving and successful towns and communities.
- Finally I would like to refer to the Anniversary Games to be held at the Olympic Stadium on 25th and 26th July. On Sunday 26 July Londoners can be afforded an opportunity to see Paralympic stars like Hannah Cockcroft and David Weir in action
- The Mayor of London's office have offered a number of free tickets for London Boroughs to allocate to volunteers who have made a meaningful contribution to society
- If any members would like to make a nomination for a pair of volunteers to attend this significant event, please advise Guy Selfe in Culture & Leisure of their name and contact details as soon as possible
- Thank you