



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
27 January 2016 (7.30 - 10.50 pm)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Brian Eagling) in the Chair

Councillors Councillors June Alexander, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Ray Best, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Meg Davis, Ian de Wulverton, Osman Dervish, Nic Dodin, Alex Donald, David Durant, 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, John Mylod, Stephanie Nunn, Ron Ower, Garry Pain, Dilip Patel, Roger Ramsey, Keith Roberts, Patricia Rumble, Carol Smith, Frederick Thompson, Linda Trew, Jeffrey Tucker, Linda Van den Hende, Melvin Wallace, Lawrence Webb, Roger Westwood, Damian White, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Julie Wilkes, Graham Williamson, Darren Wise and John Wood

Approximately 10 Members' guests and members of the public and 6 representatives of the press were also present.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Michael Deon Burton and Viddy Persaud.

The Mayor advised Members and the public of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

Reverend David Banting, Vicar, St Peter's Church Harold Wood and Assistant Area Dean of Havering opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

67 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Deon Burton and Viddy Persaud.

68 MINUTES (agenda item 3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2015 were before the Council for approval.

It was **AGREED**, without division, that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 November 2015 be signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council held on 25 November 2015 be signed as a correct record.

69 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS (agenda item 4)

There were no disclosures of interest.

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

A minute's silence was held in memory of former Councillor Ronald Whittaker who had recently died. Several Members paid tribute to former Councillor Whittaker.

The Mayor commended Councillor Wilkes on her recent efforts to save the life of a member of the public.

Congratulations were recorded to a local young person who had recently swum 220 lengths in order to raise funds for the Mayor's Appeal.

The Mayor, with the Leader of the Council, had recently met with the autism project based at Frances Bardsley Academy.

The text of the announcements given by the Leader of the Council is shown in appendix 1 to these minutes.

71 PETITIONS (agenda item 6)

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 23, the following petition was presented:

From Councillor Alex Donald concerning opposition to the introduction of a residents' parking scheme in Thurso Close, Harold Park.

72 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2016/17 (agenda item 7)

A report of Cabinet asked Council to adopt the proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2016/17. This included copies of the Equalities Impact Assessments related to the 2015 and 2016 Local Council Tax Support Schemes.

Deemed motion on behalf of the Administration

That the report be adopted and its recommendation carried into effect.

Amendment by the Independent Residents' Group

That the recommendation that the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) for 2016/17 be approved, be amended to read:

That the Cabinet Member for Finance revisits the Council Tax Support Scheme to consider resetting the scheme by removing all the new charges made on vulnerable and low income residents following the localisation of the Council Tax Support Scheme to ensure council tax increases fall on those most able to pay.

It was **AGREED**, without debate, that this matter should be dealt with on a vote only basis.

The amendment by the Independent Residents' Group was **NOT CARRIED** by a majority vote and the deemed motion on behalf of the Administration was **AGREED** without division.

RESOLVED:

That the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) 2016/17 be approved.

73 ROMFORD MARKET TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (agenda item 8)

A report of Cabinet asked Council to approve the allocation of £1 million capital funding and the appointment of architects to develop full proposals for the development of Romford Market Place. A recent requisition of the matter by the Overview & Scrutiny Board had been upheld and Cabinet acknowledged the concerns of the Board. Cabinet wished however to proceed on the basis of the original recommendations, whilst acknowledging that Overview and Scrutiny would have a significant role to play in the project.

Deemed motion on behalf of the Administration

That the report be adopted and its recommendation carried into effect.

Amendment by the Residents' Group**Amend report recommendation to read:**

Given the widespread concerns by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, as demonstrated by the upholding of the requisition of the decision made by Cabinet on 18th November 2016, this council recommends that before engaging Architects to take this project forward, that a cross party group is formed, together with appropriate stakeholders, to carry out a comprehensive review of what is being proposed and to ensure that it is fit for purpose and to review the terms of the grant agreement with the GLA.

Following debate, the amendment by the Residents' Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 33 votes to 13 and the deemed motion on behalf of the Administration was **AGREED** without division.

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of architects to cost and develop full proposals for the physical development of the Market Place be approved along with the allocation of £1m Council capital funding of the programme subject to securing sufficient match-funding from other sources and subject to a business case being signed-off by the Finance Business Partner and Group Director, Communities & Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment.

74 SEALING OF COUNCIL DOCUMENTS AND DELEGATION TO LEGAL OFFICERS (agenda item 9)

A report of the Governance Committee recommended to Council that the Mayor or Deputy Mayor should no longer be required to attest the sealing of Council documents and that the base-line for documents which would require sealing should be raised from £100,000 to £150,000.

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

1. The second paragraph of Article 10.4 of the Constitution be amended to read:

“Contracts must be made under the common seal of the Council in accordance with rule 16 of the Contract Procedure Rules. Contracts under £150,000 may, in most circumstances, be signed by the Chief Executive or the appropriate Group Director, Director of Legal and

Governance or Head of Service in accordance with the Contracts Procedure Rules set out in Part 4.

2. The monetary threshold for the sealing of contracts as set out in rule 16 of the Contract Procedure Rules be raised to £150,000.

3. Article 10.5 of the Constitution be amended to read

“The common seal of the Council may be affixed to any document on the authority of any either of the Chief Executive, a Group Director, the Director of Legal and Governance, the Deputy Director of Legal and Governance, a Principal or Senior Lawyer.

“The seal shall be attested by that individual and an entry of every sealing of a document shall be made and consecutively numbered in a register to be provided for the purpose and shall be signed by the person who has attested the seal.”

75 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RULES: EXCEPTIONS TO THE CALL-IN PROCEDURE (agenda item 10)**

A report of the Chief Executive gave details, as required by the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, of decisions made in the last three months that were granted exemption from the call-in (requisition) procedure. Details of the decision and the reasons for exemption from call-in were given for the following decisions:

1. Implementation of the Nursery Class at Crownfield Infants School – whether to proceed.
2. London Borough of Havering 2016/17 LIP Annual Spending Submission – Approval of submission to Transport for London.
3. Romford Leisure Development – Award of contract.

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

That the report be noted.

76 **PROCEDURAL MOTION**

A procedural motion that agenda item 12D on the European Union be considered at this point of the meeting was **AGREED** by 31 votes to 20 (see division 1 on voting record).

77 EUROPEAN UNION (agenda item 12D)

Motion on behalf of the United Kingdom Independence Party Group

Due to the negative impact that EU directives such as the agency working time directive and EU procurement rules have on the ability and cost of Havering Council to fulfil its obligations, this council agrees that Britain would be better off outside the European Union.

Amendment by the Independent Residents' Group

Amend motion to read:

To restore the sovereignty of Parliament and strengthen our borders and local democracy and safeguard against joining the Euro-currency and protect the NHS this Council recommends Britain leaves the EU so that Havering Council has the powers and funding to fulfil its obligations on behalf of all Havering residents.

And in particular, to avoid the costs to Havering Council of EU procurement and competition rules and the EU-USA TTIP trade deal that threatens the future of the NHS on which Havering residents depend.

Amendment by the East Havering Residents' Group

As has been widely communicated, the opportunity to decide on the continued UK membership of the European Union will be subject to a Public Referendum by the end of 2017.

Given the many implications of remaining in the European Union or leaving, it is important that voters are equipped with as much information as possible in order to make an informed choice.

As representatives of the whole borough, this Council therefore notes that it is for individuals to decide for themselves, rather than as a Council, as to whether or not Britain would be better off outside the European Union and to express that choice, should they choose to do so, at the aforementioned Referendum.

Following debate, the amendment by the Independent Residents' Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 42 votes to 4. The amendment by the East Havering Residents' Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 27 votes to 21. The motion by the United Kingdom Independence Party Group was **AGREED** as the substantive motion by 30 votes to 15.

Resolved:

Due to the negative impact that EU directives such as the agency working time directive and EU procurement rules have on the ability and cost of Havering Council to fulfil its obligations, this council agrees that Britain would be better off outside the European Union.

78 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 11)

Due to lack of meeting time, no questions were asked.

The text of the questions, and their answers, are set out in **Appendix 2** to these minutes.

79 LEISURE CENTRES (agenda item 12A)

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

As we await the promised new Romford Leisure Centre it is still vital to maintain and enhance the existing borough wide provision of leisure facilities that serve all our residents. Presently the borough wide leisure centre contract is held by "Sports and leisure Management Limited" and operates at a loss requiring a council subsidy. To cut costs there has been a contractual variation to reduce hours and presumably improvements at Chafford, Rainham and no doubt the Central Park, Romford and Hornchurch Leisure Centres face potential cutbacks too!

Following Academy status and a Land Tribunal Adjudication the Chafford Leisure Centre will be owned by the school when the council contract ends in Oct 1st 2016 and without financial help will close, because their priority is educational rather than leisure spending. The existing facility needs significant investment and if it were to close there is planning permission in place for a new swimming pool at Chafford when funding becomes available. But will the Council allow an existing Leisure Centre, as well as an Ice Rink, to close as we await a second and 'state of the art' leisure centre in Romford that includes a promised £2 million funding from reserves?

Thus this Council calls on the Administration to maintain and enhance the existing borough wide provision of leisure facilities at

Rainham, Romford and Hornchurch Leisure Centres in the healthy interests of all Havering residents.

Amendment by the Conservative Group:

Amend motion to read:

Noting with approval the imminent commencement of the construction of the Romford Leisure Centre in Romford Town Ward, the letting of the contract for the first phase of the £3 million Broxhill Sports Park in Heaton Ward, the recent opening of the Visitors Centre at Hornchurch Country Park in Elm Park Ward, the recent opening of the new library and establishment of a new park in Rainham Ward, the current construction of a new library in Gooshays Ward, the achievement of Green Flags in parks across the borough and noting that the Council's Leisure Management Contract, the negotiation of which is currently in progress, is likely to provide an enhancement of leisure facilities rather than cutbacks, this Council welcomes the Administration's intention to continue to maintain and enhance the existing borough wide provision of leisure facilities in the healthy interests of Havering residents.

The amendment by the Conservative Group was **CARRIED** by 36 votes to 6 and **AGREED** as the substantive motion without division.

RESOLVED:

Noting with approval the imminent commencement of the construction of the Romford Leisure Centre in Romford Town Ward, the letting of the contract for the first phase of the £3 million Broxhill Sports Park in Heaton Ward, the recent opening of the Visitors Centre at Hornchurch Country Park in Elm Park Ward, the recent opening of the new library and establishment of a new park in Rainham Ward, the current construction of a new library in Gooshays Ward, the achievement of Green Flags in parks across the borough and noting that the Council's Leisure Management Contract, the negotiation of which is currently in progress, is likely to provide an enhancement of leisure facilities rather than cutbacks, this Council welcomes the Administration's intention to continue to maintain and enhance the existing borough wide provision of leisure facilities in the healthy interests of Havering residents.

80 PARKING CHARGES IN PARKS (agenda item 12B)**Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group**

Parking charges in the four parks where charges currently apply are not meeting their income targets. In light of this, together with the optimistic visitor numbers and viable alternatives to parking in parks, this council calls upon the Administration to abandon its plans to add further parks and open spaces to the list where parking charges will apply.

Amendment by the Conservative Group:**Amend motion to read:**

Recognising that the proposal to extend car park charging in parks (at rates reduced following full public consultation and feedback) was one of the measures in the financial strategy and budget savings plan agreed by the Council following public consultation in February of last year, and that a further updated cost benefit analysis has been undertaken, this Council supports a review by the Administration of the proposal before a final decision is taken in the near future.

This motion was withdrawn by the Residents' Group and resubmitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council.

81 INGREBOURNE HILL LANDFILL APPEAL (agenda item 12C)**Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group**

The Inspector has now cancelled the Ingrebourne Hill Public Hearing in favour of a Public Inquiry, date to be arranged, which provides time for the Council to review its approach to this indefinite landfill application to ensure its effectively opposed.

Local councillors, Friends of the Earth, Friends of Ingrebourne Hill & Hornchurch Country Park, residents and planning officers attended the Hearing.

Thus this Council calls on the Executive to effectively oppose the Ingrebourne Hill/Hornchurch Country Park landfill Appeal by ensuring all relevant council departments attend the Public Inquiry to highlight the many reasons why the Appeal should be refused.

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council notes that its policy as articulated by the Executive is that in each and every planning appeal the decision of the Regulatory Services Committee shall be supported effectively by all relevant council departments.

The amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group was **AGREED** by 32 votes to 3 and **AGREED** as the substantive motion without division.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes that its policy as articulated by the Executive is that in each and every planning appeal the decision of the Regulatory Services Committee shall be supported effectively by all relevant council departments.

82 VOTING RECORD

The record of voting decisions re the Procedural Motion (minute 76) is attached as **Appendix 3**.

Mayor

Appendix 1

Full Council – 27 January 2016 – Leader's Statement

Thank you Mr Mayor, there are a number of important matters which have arisen since our last meeting and which I should mention this evening. In view of the size of the agenda I will try and be as brief as possible.

Autism Ambassadors

At our last meeting we focussed on Autism and I would like to start by referring to some inspirational work by some of our young people.

On Monday the Mayor and I welcomed members of the Frances Bardsley Autism & Disabilities Club to the Town Hall to recognise their services to the autism community in Havering. These young ladies have given their free time and energy to help 18-24 year olds with autism in Havering in connection with the RIEES Club, operating from the Romford Baptist Church, which is something worth recognising.

They have already received high accolades from other groups and charities, including those supported by the Prince of Wales, and it was a privilege to meet with them and thank them for their hard work.

RSG

Turning now to a less inspiring subject we have now received the provisional settlement and know the cut in government funding in 2016/2017 which we are facing. This is some £5m worse than was ever predicted.

The settlement was released on 17 December, however Council's did not receive the correct figures until 23 December due to errors in the Department of Communities and Local Government's own workings.

The settlement announced a completely different methodology for apportioning cuts which is based on an authority's spending powers and the product of any council tax increase. This consequently hits hardest on those with high Council Tax, or a high Council Tax base.

Due to these changes Havering faces a reduction of over 96% to its Revenue Support Grant by the 2019/20 financial year, which will leave us with a paltry £1.38m at that time. It is possible however that there will be a switch to councils receiving all or a greater share of business rates earlier than that. How this would affect us remains to be seen.

We believe that this new methodology is flawed in that it penalises further authorities that have had to increase Council Tax to negate the impact of previous poor settlements.

With our demand pressures in regard to homelessness, children's and adult's services beyond original assumptions and continually increasing the time ahead will be very challenging for us all..

The Council is robustly lobbying on behalf of our residents. I have responded to the Department highlighting the inadequacies of the new methodology and its consequences on outer-London boroughs like Havering, whom I am in close contact with on this issue.

We have also requested to see a cumulative impact assessment upon all of the decisions within the settlement proposal and are seeking legal advice on this.

On Monday evening Cllr. Damian White, Andrew Blake-Herbert and Andrew Rosindell MP attended a meeting with the Minister for Local Government, Greg Clarke MP who promised to look into our concerns. The final settlement will be announced in the next week or two.

Bexley

I am pleased to announce that Bexley are to join OneSource our joint back office service venture with LB Newham. I have had good meetings with the Leader of Bexley and the Mayor of Newham and the arrangements are now to be formalised. Bexley will initially be taking in one part of their service with the prospect of others to follow. A report will be submitted to the next Cabinet meeting and will outline the further significant and much needed savings which we should be able to achieve.

Bexley intend also to join the group of East London Boroughs seeking devolution of which we are a member.

Rainham Riverside

I turn now to the London Riverside where there has been an important development. Employment growth in the area should receive a major boost with the appointment of SEGRO as the GLA's development partner.

SEGRO in Havering

The GLA own 86 acres of land in Havering, Barking and Dagenham and Newham. SEGRO, one of the UK's leading industrial property companies, has been selected as the Greater London Authority's preferred partner to deliver the development on the sites, which are known collectively as **East Plus**

The planned 10 year partnership with SEGRO will see 86 acres of land across five sites rejuvenated for a range of industrial uses, 60% of this land is in Havering at Beam Reach 5, Beam Reach 6 and Ferry Lane

SEGRO estimates that across their sites they can support approximately 1.4 million sq. ft. of new urban logistics and light industrial spaces, suitable for occupiers ranging from blue-chip companies to start-up firms. SEGRO's investment is

expected to be approximately £180 million over the coming years. The development will have the potential to create 6,500 new jobs in east London.

One of the first sites to come forward will be Beam Reach 5 which will provide high quality commercial units from 19,000 to 180,000 sq ft which will provide space for a range of sectors and size of business. We are working with SEGRO to create opportunities for the relocation of businesses impacted by the HZ.

Segro will work with the borough to improve the connection of communities to jobs and public transport and developing infrastructure enhancements such as broadband connectivity.

Employment opportunities for local people will be generated during construction and occupation stages and they have committed to work with CEME to promote (STEM) Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to 1000 students

Segro are also committed to development of a community fund for local community and voluntary groups. This is a very positive development for the people of Havering and of South Havering in particular.

Romford Housing Zone Bid

I am pleased to inform members of plans to bring comparable levels on investment and regeneration to support new housing in Romford too.

The Council, following extensive stakeholder consultation adopted a new planning framework in July 2015 that strengthened planning policies for residential growth in Romford.

Increasing supporting viability will lead to sites coming forward, especially with the arrival of Crossrail.

New homes for Romford, if of the right quality, will meet the needs of our residents and attract economically active residents into the Borough and boost the economic vibrancy of Romford.

The Council was asked by the GLA to consider Romford becoming part of the GLA's second wave of Housing Zones. This was due to their view of our strong vision for the town, our investment as a Council such as the new leisure centre and our proactive working with potential developers. We have recently put forward an outline Romford Housing Zone approach.

The prospect of a Romford Housing Zone means that our vision for Romford can become a reality faster. It will assist with ensuring good quality development. It is early days yet, and if our outline proposals are supported we will bring forward comprehensive proposals for a Housing Zone in Romford to the Council.

Continuing with the development theme I can also update members on proposed river crossings in London.

River Crossings

In December the Mayor set out his vision for 13 new river crossings for London in a report called “Connecting the Capital”. These include a Rainham to Belvedere bridge or tunnel.

Earlier this month I met with the TfL project team to emphasise the importance of it listening to Havering’s concerns and taking account of them.

The Council remains committed to ensuring that where river crossings are proposed that will have an impact on Havering, appropriate mitigation measures are secured including better public transport provision.

Just before Christmas, the Chancellor announced a health devolution deal for London. This takes the form of a number of pilot projects across London, where health and social care innovations will be trialled. I am pleased to say that our own health economy, the Barking, Havering and Redbridge health economy, was announced as having been selected to trial one of the most comprehensive and ambitious pilots to explore a business case for greater integration between the NHS and our local social care services. We all know that at the moment too many people end up at A and E because they can’t get a GP appointment or the kind of support they need to manage their health conditions at home and so I welcome us being able to have a comprehensive look across health and social care to see if we can devise a more user friendly and effective set of services for our residents that support their health and wellbeing. This initiative is particularly important for Havering as we have the oldest population in London. It’s great that people are living longer, but as they get older they do need the right care and support to help them maintain an active life for as long as possible.

The proposal is that, over the next six months, new ways of working will be explored and a business put together to establish if greater integration both of local NHS services and of our social care services could deliver better results for our residents and help to ensure that the resources we have, and that the NHS spend in our area, are used most effectively. The Leaders and Chairs of H&WBBs from all three boroughs will be working together with our NHS colleagues on this pilot and I believe we will be much better informed about how services can be improved and made more relevant and effective at the end of this pilot process.

Finally as members will know, Cheryl, who has served this borough well for nine years, has decided that the time is right for her to retire. I was able to persuade Cheryl to postpone her retirement plans once before however all good things must come to an end. Cheryl has agreed to help ease the transition with her successor

whom we hope to appoint by April and I am sure you will all join me in wishing her a long and happy retirement when her last day in Havering does arrive.

If I could add a few short details regarding the appointment process, the Council is currently working with recruitment consultancy to find suitable candidates and as this is a Chief Executive appointment, the Appointments sub-committee is asked to participate within each stage of the selection process: the long- and short-listing as well as the formal interviews.

Short and long-listing is currently scheduled to take place mid-February with final interviews provisionally planned for late March. Members will already be aware that the March Council meeting has been rescheduled from Wednesday 23 March to Wednesday 30 March to accommodate this.

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Appendix 2

FULL COUNCIL, Wednesday 27 January

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1) To the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Ramsey

From Councillor David Durant

How much do Havering residents give the GLA every year via the GLA levy and as an estimate how is it proportioned between TfL, Police, emergency services and others?

Response:

The Mayor's draft budget proposals were made just before Christmas on 21 December. There is an indication that there will be a slight reduction of the current £295 in relation to a Band D household to £276 – this is a reduction of £19, or around 6.44%. This reduction includes an assumption that the Olympic levy of £12 will stop next year.

The £276 breaks down as:

- £206.79 to support the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (principally the Met Police)
- £50.35 for the London Fire Brigade
- £14.63 for the Mayor and GLA assembly
- £4.23 for transport and other services.

Consultation on the Mayor's draft budget proposals ended on 12 January.

2) To the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Robert Benham

From Councillor Keith Roberts

Following a site visit with a Council Officer it was clear action was needed to reduce flood risk and improve amenity by further maintenance and improvement of the River Ingrebourne by historical Rainham Village.

In recognition of a shortage of council funds can the Council:

- a) contact Veolia Environmental Trust with a request they fund reed and culvert clearance and improve the public area by/behind the New Angel Inn and
- b) contact Tesco with a request they assist with clearing the culverts by their Rainham store as this would reduce the risk of flooding by an estimated 20%.

Response:

The Environment Agency has historically taken responsibility for this location, however a recent investigation has shown that the area is the responsibility of Havering Council to maintain. As the culvert runs along the designated line of a main river, consent must be sought from the Environment Agency to undertake the works, which officers applied for on 4th January 2016. We hope that consent will be granted in time to complete the works by the end of this financial year, which will vastly improve the drainage of this and the surrounding area

The Council always hopes to obtain funding from partner organisations when undertaking larger works and I would support and encourage officers in making these applications. However, the budget for this project has come from Council funds.

3) To the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Robert Benham

From Councillor Nic Dodin

Would the Cabinet Member confirm:-

- a) what income has so far been generated from Moving Traffic Contraventions.
- b) whether consideration has been given to taking on any other police activities such as enforcement against motorists who exceed the speed limits for example within 20 mph zones.

Response:

Since the introduction of Moving Traffic Contraventions in September last year, the income generated is £137,986.50. Income raised from MTCs is ring-fenced and will be reinvested in Highways and road safety initiatives

The enforcement of speed limits remains a Criminal offence and therefore is within the powers of the Police. At present there are no proposals in place to empower local authorities to take on the enforcement of speeding violations.

4) To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and Community Safety, Councillor Osman Dervish

From Councillor Jody Ganly

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what processes are in place to ensure that applicants are advised of the council's decision on their planning application within the statutory period.

Response:

There are a number of processes in place which ensure that applicants are advised of the Council's decision on their planning application within the statutory period.

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Officers process applications via a software system that chronologically lists the applications they are dealing with. Monitoring reports giving details of applications due for decision are emailed on a daily or weekly basis, as appropriate, to team leaders and managers within the service.

Case reviews are held between officers and team leaders to identify any issues with a proposal in advance of the decision being taken. The performance of the team is reviewed and monitored during the 1 to 1 process.

Extension of Time Agreements are used where it is evident that a decision will not be made within the statutory period.

In most cases, automatic emailing of decision notices and all prior approval decisions go direct to the applicant, or their agent where they have one, via email, but also by post.

5) To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White

From Councillor Graham Williamson

I welcome the Council's desire to ensure that rented Council and Housing Association properties are prioritised for Havering residents to give meaning to the term Local Homes for Local People, but can you confirm however that, unlike other Councils, we have not insisted that Associations give us 100% nomination rights and that, for example in my South Hornchurch ward, we turned down just under 20% of the properties in the new Passive Close development because they were 4 bedrooms.

Given the increasing number of new properties being built can we not ensure that our borough's waiting list is at least cleared first before any non-Havering tenants can move into such developments?

Response:

I can confirm that the Council has 100% nomination rights to all properties on new developments. We've also retained the standard re-let nomination rights to all the properties.

With regards to the new Passive Close development, 74 out of the 83 units were let to Havering residents. The remaining nine, which were four bedroom houses, could not be let due to a lack of demand for properties of that size at the time. The reason for an oversupply during that period was because there were three other developments which were all completed around the same time – at Briar Road, Hilldene and Harold Wood Hospital during the end of 2014/early 2015.

In order to minimise the level of void losses to Circle Anglia Housing Association, it was agreed that Tower Hamlets would be able to nominate their residents in exchange for smaller two and three bedroom units – for which Havering has the highest demand. As a result, seven of the units were let by Tower Hamlets and the other two units were let by Circle Anglia Housing Association as a transfer for their internal tenants. Tower

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Hamlets have already rehoused four Havering tenants to compensate for this and are working towards offering the remaining three vacancies they still owe.

6) To the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Robert Benham

From Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Outside our modern new Rainham library is a bus stop on a wide pavement by a green area next to a refurbished station, but with only one litter bin which often results in this expensively redeveloped area looking a mess. I know people shouldn't drop litter but it would help if more bins were provided to help reduce the litter problem.

Please can some more bins be provided by the library/bus stop/station and by the shops and other bus stops in the Rainham Village Conservation Area.

Response:

Four new litter bins have recently been installed in the Rainham Village area, and two additional litter bins are due to be placed before the end of January, outside the library and the station. This will bring the total number of litter bins in the area to 25. Once the new bins have been installed their impact will be assessed and, if necessary, additional bins will be installed.

The locations of the 4 bins recently installed are :
Junction of Cowper Road with Wennington Road
Junction of Melville Road with Wennington Road
Outside Flames Kebab, Upminster Road South
Outside Moments of Memory, Upminster Road South

7) To the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Robert Benham

From Councillor Lawrence Webb

Where someone lives within a controlled parking zone are they permitted to give visitor parking permits to all and any of their friends and relatives in advance of them coming to visit them?

Response:

Yes - residents who live within a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) can purchase Visitor Permits at any time, and while it is preferable that Visitor Permits should be issued upon arrival of any visitor, there are circumstances where permits may be issued in advance, for example when a person visits someone frequently and convenience is a factor.

8) To the Cabinet Member for Housing Company Development and oneSource Management, Councillor Ron Ower

From Councillor David Johnson

I and a fellow Councillor visited Broadford School recently, although we had an excellent overall impression of the school and how it was run there were many issues that were brought to our attention.

One in particular as it is something I am very interested in having recently installed solar panels on my domestic property, my first impression was to congratulate the Council on installing solar panels on the roof of the School to cut the electricity bill and make money on the 'feed in tariff' payments, my enthusiasm was then dashed by being informed although installed in December 2011 the system had never been commissioned/connected.

How is it that the Council go to the trouble of installing solar panels and not actually get them connected? What was the cost of the installation and how much has been lost from the feed in tariff by them not being connected.

Response:

The photo voltaic panels on the school roof are connected and have been operating since the build of the school so they are contributing to lower energy bills for the school. Since installation in September 2011 the school is saving approximately £976.00 per year at current prices which equates to a total of approximately £4,300.00.

There is an issue with the Feed in Tariff (FiT) as the panels appear to not have been registered, meaning that the school is unable to enjoy the additional benefit of selling surplus energy to the national grid. In order to be registered for FiT the owner of the panels, which in this case is the school, needs to submit documentation and a letter from the school confirming their ownership of the panels and generation meter to EDF Energy. The school were advised at the time of the action that it needs to take and Council officers are assisting the school in carrying out these actions. Unfortunately the Council cannot register the panels on the school's behalf.

The contract cost for the PV system works by the specialist sub-contractor, PV Systems Ltd was £82,271.11

9) To the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Councillor Meg Davis

From Councillor John Mylod

Given the current Government's desire to move all schools to academies, would the Cabinet Member confirm what steps are in place to protect any Council assets being lost to the private sector and to ensure any services provided to academies are fully reimbursed.

Response:

When a school converts to an Academy, their estate and other assets have to transfer to the sponsor under a 125 year lease with the Council. This is contained in the Academies Act and is something the authority has no power to change. The range of statutory services that the schools would have received pre-conversion can then be purchased on a traded services basis from the Local Authority or any other provider.

**10) To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety,
Councillor Osman Dervish**

From Councillor Reg Whitney

Would the Cabinet Member confirm for the past 5 financial years the income and expenditure on the council's Licensing activities.

Response:

The total income from Licensing activities regarding the Licensing Act 2003 for the last five years is £758,965, the total expenditure is £887,205.

The expenditure figure includes officer's salaries, including National Insurance and pensions, and hearing costs, however it does not include all on costs or responsible authority costs.

Licensing authorities are entitled to charge a fee to cover the cost of issuing, administering and enforcing licences. The fees are not intended, or permitted to generate income for the Council.

The Licensing Act 2003 has fixed national fees set by central government which haven't changed since the introduction of the Act.

I can provide a breakdown of the totals for the last five years if Councillor Whitney requires them.

11) To the Cabinet Member for Financial Management, Councillor Clarence Barrett

From Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member for Financial Management confirm what checks are in place to ensure that:-

- a) All contractors have fully documented contracts in place.
- b) Their business continuity plans have been checked.
- c) Their financial stability has been checked.

Response:

For contracts above £100,000 procurement rules require that individual and specific contracts are in place. All procurement activity above £25,000 has to go through the Councils e-tendering system which ensures that all the relevant requirements are in place. Below that figure contracts are derived from the Councils financial iProc terms and conditions, which suppliers must comply with to be a registered supplier. Business continuity and financial stability is based on the value and risk of the contract in line with all EU procurements. I can confirm that this is undertaken as part of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and Invitation to Tender process.

**12)To the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services & Community Safety,
Councillor Osman Dervish**

From Councillor Barry Mugglestone

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how many more years will pass before a comprehensive plan is put together for Bretton Manor House and grounds.

Response:

A draft planning document is currently being prepared, to provide a framework within which the Council and potential partners may work together to shape the future of the Bretons site, so that the important heritage buildings can be improved and to encourage the development of a scheme that enhances the sport, leisure, education and recreational opportunities on the site.

Once the planning document has been agreed the Council will market the opportunity at Bretons, with the intention of receiving back proposals from interested parties later in 2016. It is intended that a decision on the future of the Bretons site will be made towards the end of this year.

13)To the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damian White

From Councillor June Alexander

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what steps are being taken by the Council to ascertain the number of properties in Havering used by other Local Authorities to house their residents.

Response:

I can confirm that the majority of Havering properties are used by local people.

Only a very small number of properties are accessed by residents of other Local Authorities in exceptional circumstances. This is generally reached through the London Mayor's Housing Moves Scheme and where a reciprocal agreement exists with another Local Authority.

Under this agreement, Havering gets back a similar vacancy from that authority which is then used for Havering residents who may also wish to move out of the Borough – for example, in cases of harassment or domestic violence.

Over the last three years, Havering has housed 12 residents from other Local Authorities/Housing Associations through reciprocal agreements and 13 residents through the Housing Moves scheme.

I can provide a more detailed breakdown of the figures from the last three years if Councillor Alexander requires it.

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

From Councillor Philip Hyde

Is it possible to force the CCG to reduce patient to GP ratios to a level more consistent with the London wide averages. The average in London is around 950 but in Havering it is nearer 1250.

The average for our Borough masks some practices which are over 2,500 per GP. I ask this in light of recent national press reports of GPs closing their books to new patients. Given the extensive population growth in some wards, this situation will only go from bad to worse.

Response:

The Clinical Commissioning Group is made up of its GP members, with GP clinical directors on its governing body, and isn't able to 'force' individual practices – as private businesses – to do anything as such. As a priority, we are now developing a primary care transformation programme looking at a wide range of issues that affect both GPs and patients – including access and patient experience.

Last year, Havering GPs launched the first of the successful and popular GP 'hubs' across our area and these continue to offer late evening and weekend urgent, same day, GP appointments booked directly by patients. Posters advertising this service have recently gone up at Council poster sites across the Borough.

The CCG has been working closely with Havering Council's Communications Team to urge the public not to visit already overburdened hospital A & E departments except for real emergencies. Key messages are consistently included in all communication channels available to the Council. This joint approach will continue.

15)To the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Robert Benham

From Councillor Julie Wilkes

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what steps are taken by Havering Council to check that businesses, and restaurants in particular, appropriately dispose of their waste.

Response:

Each year all businesses, including restaurants, are sent an advisory leaflet with the business rate demands, which sets out their responsibilities to correctly store and dispose of their commercial waste.

In addition, the Enforcement Team within Streetcare issue demands for Waste Transfer Notes, which is a document showing the type and amount of waste produced by the business, the collection arrangements in place, together with details of who collects the waste, and how it is disposed of.

Failure to provide copies of the Waste Transfer Note can result in a prosecution or a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued.

The StreetCare team issue demands for waste transfer notes on a random basis to ensure that correct waste management arrangements are in place, but also to any business which is suspected of illegally disposing of waste. Enforcement officers also regularly pay unannounced visits to businesses if there are visible waste management issues.

If the Councillor is concerned about a specific business or businesses then please provide the details to StreetCare who will investigate.

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VOTING RECORD

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	<i>1</i>
The Mayor [Cllr. Brian Eagling]	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Philippa Crowder]	✓
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u>	
Cllr Roger Ramsey	✓
Cllr Robert Benham	✓
Cllr Ray Best	✓
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson	✓
Cllr Joshua Chapman	✓
Cllr John Crowder	✓
Cllr Meg Davis	✓
Cllr Osman Dervish	✓
Cllr Jason Frost	✓
Cllr Steven Kelly	✗
Cllr Robby Misir	✓
Cllr Garry Pain	✓
Cllr Dilip Patel	✓
Cllr Viddy Persaud	A
Cllr Carol Smith	✓
Cllr Frederick Thompson	✓
Cllr Linda Trew	✓
Cllr Melvin Wallace	✓
Cllr Roger Westwood	✓
Cllr Damian White	✓
Cllr Michael White	✓
<u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>	
Cllr Ray Morgon	✗
Cllr June Alexander	✗
Cllr Nic Dodin	✗
Cllr Jody Ganly	✗
Cllr Barbara Matthews	✗
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	✗
Cllr John Mylod	✗
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	✗
Cllr Reg Whitney	✗
Cllr Julie Wilkes	✗
Cllr John Wood	✗
<u>EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>	
Cllr Clarence Barrett	O
Cllr Alex Donald	✗
Cllr Gillian Ford	✗
Cllr Linda Hawthorn	✗
Cllr Ron Ower	✗
Cllr Linda Van den Hende	✗
Cllr Darren Wise	✗
<u>UK Independence Party</u>	
Cllr Lawrence Webb	✓
Cllr Ian De Wulverton	✓
Cllr John Glanville	✓
Cllr David Johnson	✓
Cllr Phil Martin	✓
Cllr Patricia Rumble	✓
<u>INDEPENDENT LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>	
Cllr Jeffrey Tucker	✓
Cllr Michael Deon Burton	A
Cllr David Durant	✓
Cllr Keith Roberts	✓
Cllr Graham Williamson	✓
<u>LABOUR</u>	
Cllr Keith Darvill	✗
<u>INDEPENDENT</u>	
Cllr Philip Hyde	✗
<i>TOTALS</i>	
✓ = YES	31
✗ = NO	20
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	1
ID =INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	2
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