

COUNCIL, 8 June 2016

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

A RESTRICTIONS ON BUILDING OF SCHOOLS

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

This Council regrets that Government's devolution plans involve banning councils from building new schools and restricting capital funding for existing local authority schools, as part of their policy of removing all schools from local authority control and centralising control to Whitehall.

The Council still retains a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places to meet demand from within and outside the borough, but does not have a statutory duty to provide the infrastructure needed to service the additional places and thus this council further regrets the lack of government capital funding and duty to provide quality facilities as well as additional places.

In particular, this Council believes the forecast demand from the proposed Dovers Corner-Dagenham New Road Housing Zone should be met by building an entirely new 3FE Primary school within the development and not by expanding existing schools. Existing schools should only where appropriate be expanded to meet demand from existing residential areas. At present the prospect of an entirely new school within the New Road Housing Zone is dependent on Officers securing a new privately sponsored school with funding from GLA/developer!

Thus this Council will 1) make representations to our local MPs, the Local Government Association and Secretary of State for Education to seek an urgent increase in capital funding and change in the law to allow councils to build new schools where they are needed. 2) where appropriate expand existing schools with the necessary infrastructure to meet the growing forecast demand for school places in Havering. 3) only progress the New Road Housing Zone if a 3FE Primary school is secured as part of the development to make it sustainable.

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council noting that the Government's further plans to reform school and education provision will be considered by Parliament on introduction of the forthcoming Education for All bill welcomes the intention of the Executive to review

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the proposals coming forward and to make appropriate representations through the LGA and London Councils and to local MPs.

The Council notes further with approval that primary school provision is an integral part of the Beam Park scheme and that progress on this will be reported to members as the matter progresses.

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council regrets the Government's Education Policies and the direction of travel set out in the recent White Paper 'Education Excellence Everywhere' which together undermine the role of Local Education Authorities and which:-

- 1) Severely restrict the ability of local authorities to plan and build new schools to address the demand for new school places;
- 2) Reduce local councils influence and ability to support schools and to assist them achieving higher standards of performance; and,
- 3) Eliminates local democratic accountability

In view of the above the Council calls upon the Government to reverse its policies and provide the capital resources it has provided in the past to enable this Borough and others to address the demand for new school places. In furtherance of this aim the Council it will make representations to its Members of Parliament, the Mayor of London, the Local Government Association, London Councils and the Secretary of State for Education.

The Council believes in encouraging schools to collaborate and resolves to strengthen the Havering Schools Education Partnership which continues to provide high quality outcomes for all students in the Borough.

B ON-LINE POLICY

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

This Council calls on the Executive to review its policy that all customer enquires need to be made online to assist those residents who are not computer literate and/or wish to speak to a staff member when accessing council services.

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Amendment on behalf of the Residents' Group

Amend motion to read:

Whilst this council agrees the benefits from digitalisation of services, nevertheless, this council agrees to a cross party working group to look at how customers (including members) are able to access all council services other than online to ensure that no resident of this borough becomes socially isolated or excluded.

Amendment on behalf the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council welcomes the revision of Cabinet portfolios in order to review all implementation of national policy for channel shift and digitalisation so as to assist those residents who are not computer literate and/or wish to speak to a staff member when accessing council services.

C 'ROGUE' LANDLORDS

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

Following the Localisation of the Housing Revenue Account and the enhanced status and resources this gives the Housing Department, this Council recommends to the Executive that it agrees a policy to take effective action to deal with 'rogue' landlords both large and small throughout Havering in the interests of tenants.

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council welcomes the action taken so far in combating rogue landlords within Havering, through the possible introduction of an Article 4 direction and licensing of private landlords, as well as any other measure that would support sustainable tenancies and a vibrant housing sector.

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council reaffirms its decision to introduce an Article 4 Direction and an effective Licensing Scheme of Private Landlords as soon as it can and further agrees as a matter of priority to ensure that it takes action under the Housing Act 2004 when it has concerns about the quality of accommodation provided in residential property

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within the Borough and also to use both housing and planning powers simultaneously to take action against rogue Landlords.