



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Council Chamber - Town Hall 14 June 2017 (7.30 - 10.10 pm)

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor Linda Van den Hende) in the Chair

**Councillors** 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, Ian de Wulverton, Osman Dervish, Nic Dodin, Alex Donald, Brian Eagling, Gillian Ford, Jason Frost, Jody Ganly, John Glanville, Linda Hawthorn, David Johnson, Steven Kelly, Phil Martin, Barbara Matthews, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Barry Muggleston, Stephanie Nunn, Denis O'Flynn, Dilip Patel, Viddy Persaud, 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, Graham Williamson and Darren Wise

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

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors David Durant, John Mylod, Ron Ower, Garry Pain, Julie Wilkes and John Wood.

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

Father Roderick Hingley, of the Church of St Alban, Protomartyr, Romford opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

### 11 **MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 17 May 2017 were before the Council for approval.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2017 be signed as a correct record.**

12     **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 4)**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

All Members joined the Mayor in sending their condolences to those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire and by the terrorist attacks in London and Manchester. A letter from Havering Islamic Cultural Centre, sending condolences to the victims of the Manchester attack and their families, was read out by the Mayor.

The Mayor wished good luck to all areas of the borough entered in the forthcoming London in Bloom awards and confirmed that her other charities for the year would be Dementia UK, Admiral Nursing and the Havering Volunteer Centre. The Mayor's Cadet for 2017/18 would be a Police Cadet and the recent Langtons Concert had been very successful. The Mayor also sent congratulations to the three local MPS who had been elected at the recent General Election.

14     **PETITIONS (agenda item 6)**

Petitions were presented by Councillor Brice-Thompson concerning a request by parishioners of Romford Elim Church for a new church building in the area and by Councillor Ramsey regarding a request for parking restrictions in Hillview Avenue.

15     **PENSION FUND DEFICIT FROM THE FORMER GREATER LONDON COUNCIL (agenda item 7)**

Council had before it a report of Cabinet that had been agreed by Cabinet on 13 June 2017. This related to proposals to fund the Council's liability for part of the pension fund deficit from the former Greater London Council. This was a legal liability that was shared amongst all London Borough Councils. The total estimated liability for Havering was estimated to be £2.132m and it hoped to negotiate a repayment term of up to 30 years, which would be advantageous to the Council.

Payments for 2017/18 would be funded from the corporate risk budget and would be incorporated into the base budget from 2018/19 onwards as part of the budget setting process.

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

**That a payment of £2.132m towards the pension fund deficit of the Greater London Council over a period of up to 30 years be approved.**

16 **STATEMENT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (agenda item 8)**

The text of the statement given by the Leader of the Council is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes. It was noted that there would be an opportunity to debate the statement at the July meeting of the Council.

17 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 9)**

Twelve questions were asked and replies given. The text of the questions, together with their answers, is shown as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

18 **GRAMMAR SCHOOLS (agenda item 10A)**

This motion was withdrawn by the Labour Group.

19 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (agenda item 10B)**

**Motion on behalf of the Residents' Group**

Over many years, members have voiced their concerns about the ineffectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny process. As a result, this council therefore calls for an immediate cross party review to consider changes to the current process to bring about service improvements for our residents, as well as ensuring that all members play their active part and this important function provides better value for money. Additionally, this Council calls for this review to be completed in time for any changes to be implemented with effect from the new council in May 2018.

**Amendment by the Conservative Group**

This Council recognises that despite the findings of previous cross party working groups and these having been considered in the changes made in 2014 members have continued to voice their concerns about the ineffectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny Process. This Council therefore notes with approval that the Administration has already commenced informal discussions about a further cross party review to consider changes to the current process and calls for such a review to be completed in time for any recommendations to be considered by the new council elected in 2018.

Following debate, the amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group was **CARRIED** by 30 votes to 14 (see division 1) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion without division.

**RESOLVED:**

**This Council recognises that despite the findings of previous cross party working groups and these having been considered in the changes made in 2014 members have continued to voice their**

concerns about the ineffectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny Process. This Council therefore notes with approval that the Administration has already commenced informal discussions about a further cross party review to consider changes to the current process and calls for such a review to be completed in time for any recommendations to be considered by the new council elected in 2018.

20 **GRAVEL EXTRACTION (agenda item 10C)**

**Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group**

The Planning Inspector has approved gravel extraction on Green Belt land by Wennington Village **APP/B5480/W/16/3159082** despite only 30% of the gravel coming from the land and 70% from processing imported inert waste.

This motion therefore calls on the Council to recommend to the Executive that the decision be legally challenged as contrary to Green Belt policy and because this landfill scheme involves 270 HGVs (135 in/out) everyday, plus a smaller number on Saturdays for next 9 years and is clearly another over-development too far in the south of the borough.

**Amendment by the Conservative Group**

It is noted that the Planning Inspector approved gravel extraction on Green Belt land by Wennington Village APP/B5480/W/16/3159082 on appeal from the refusal of the application by this Council and that in this as in other cases it is only appropriate to make a legal challenge by way of appeal when there are sufficient grounds to do so.

This motion was dealt with on a vote only basis. The amendment by the Conservative Group was **CARRIED** by 28 votes to 16 (see division 2) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion without division.

**RESOLVED:**

**It is noted that the Planning Inspector approved gravel extraction on Green Belt land by Wennington Village APP/B5480/W/16/3159082 on appeal from the refusal of the application by this Council and that in this as in other cases it is only appropriate to make a legal challenge by way of appeal when there are sufficient grounds to do so.**

21     **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting decisions is attached as Appendix 3 to these minutes.

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**Mayor**

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## Appendix 1

### Leader's statement to Full Council – Wednesday 14 June 2017

Madam Mayor

Before I start I would like to pass on the sympathies of myself, the administration and, I am sure the entire Council to the families and loved ones of all those affected by this tragic fire incident today. There are no words that can adequately describe how we all feel at this time and our thoughts and prayers are with all those involved.

We have all seen the horrific pictures on the TV and heard the harrowing accounts of residents. It is far too early to speculate on what has happened in the Grenfell Tower fire, what the cause was or what may have contributed to what has clearly been an unprecedented outcome. However, I would like to say a few words about fire safety in Havering blocks of flats.

Havering Council has no tower blocks over fourteen stories. All our blocks of flats have up to date fire risk assessments and regular fire safety inspections. Many of them have also received ad hoc inspections from the fire brigade over previous years. We are therefore confident that our blocks comply with necessary safety regulations.

However, we are not complacent and we have started a programme of inspections of the common parts and public areas to ensure all fire safety requirements are complied with, including the removal of all rubbish or items that could create a risk. We will also be re-issuing our fire safety leaflet to all residents, both tenants and leaseholders to remind them of the need for care and caution when it comes to fire and not to engage in behaviours that increase the risk of fire or fire spread.

Over the coming days, weeks and months, we will keep a watchful eye on the issues that come out from the investigation of this tragedy and work with the fire authority to ensure any changes that need to be made are carried out without delay so that we protect our residents where ever we can.

I would now like to start by adding my congratulations to you as our newly elected Mayor for 2017/18 and to the Deputy Mayor and both your consorts. I hope that your year is a successful one.

Madam Mayor although it has been the practice for the Leader to deliver a report to the annual full Council meeting in May, this was not appropriate this

year as we were in the purdah period, and I thought it more sensible to leave this until tonight's meeting.

Following the General Election last week I would like to congratulate the duly elected Members of Parliament those being Andrew Rosindell MP who retained his seat for Romford, Jon Cruddas MP who retained his seat for Dagenham and Rainham and Julia Dockerill MP who won the seat for Hornchurch and Upminster following the retirement of Dame Angela Watkinson. I am sure they will all diligently represent the Borough and our residents in Parliament and that we as councillors will work with them in our respective capacities in a spirit of cooperation.

As you did on the night, or should I say in the early hours of the morning, Madam Mayor, I would also like to thank all of the 400 plus staff that opened and ran our 134 polling stations across the Borough, open from 7am right through to the close at 10pm, as well as the 200 plus staff that were at the count for the two constituencies, firstly to validate the number of votes and then count them. I would particularly like to thank Andrew as the Acting Returning Officer and Zena Smith our Elections Manager and her team for organising and delivering it. The turnout in the Romford and Hornchurch constituencies was 68% and 70% respectively and the count was concluded and you were able to make announcements Madam Mayor before the 3am target. I am sure Andrew and Zena will take all of the learning from the election into the planning for future elections including in particular those to be held next May in which some of us may well be involved.

With the outcome of the General Election and any consequential ministerial changes we shall need to ensure that the progress which we have made in important issues, especially the need for a fair funding review, is maintained and that any new ministers do not take a different course.

Before I turn our attention to some of the progress made over the past year, I feel that it is important to reflect on the recent weeks' other tragic events. London and Manchester have faced atrocities beyond belief, which I know has shocked the nation. At the Town Hall, the flags were lowered to half-mast, and most recently a minute's silence was held on Tuesday 6 June, which saw council staff, Councillors and members of community groups come together in memory of the victims of the London attacks. The attendance was impressive and showed that no matter what age, faith, background or culture we are from, we will all stand together against those who seek to divide us.

While I endeavour to bring members up-to-date with current matters through the year at Council meetings, I would like to take the opportunity today to



highlight some of the most significant achievements, whilst not forgetting some of the challenges and issues that we have faced, and will continue to face in the coming years.

I am pleased to report that with some committed work from our staff and policy decisions from my Cabinet colleagues, we have made substantial progress in a number of areas:

## **Vision**

This year, we saw the launch of the Council's new vision: Havering – Making a greater London – with four cross-cutting themes that clearly define the focus of our objectives to serve the people of Havering, working with residents, businesses, partner agencies and the voluntary sector to shape the Borough for the future. These are:

- Communities making Havering
- Places making Havering
- Opportunities making Havering
- Connections making Havering

The vision reflects our aspirations for Havering as a Borough, within the context of the challenges, and the opportunities that we collectively face.

## **Local Plan**

During the past two years the Council has been going through the various preliminary stages required for the preparation of the final draft Local Plan. As with all councils we are expected to have an up to date development plan which forms the background for regulation of land use and development over the next 15 years. Once agreed by the Council it needs to be approved by an inspector after examination on public inquiry. Objectors including landowners may be heard in this process. To date some 70 sites in the Green Belt have been proposed by landowners for residential development. . Therefore in our draft plan which is about to be put before us prior to final public consultation the very character of our area is under review. This is a major task which is almost upon us, and we owe it to our residents to get it right. One crucial feature of the Local Plan will be the setting of annual housing targets which are sufficiently realistic and evidence based to make the plan fit for purpose as a sustainable development plan.

The new Local Plan is therefore key to our aspirations for the future of the Borough. Having a strong Local Plan will help us to shape and influence development at a local level, which is critical in allowing us to cater for the needs of local people and future generations. It will also help make sure new homes are built in the right places and alongside the required investment in infrastructure. Thank you to those Councillors who attended the session with our expert legal adviser earlier this week. It is important that we all understand the need to agree a Local Plan so we may retain control locally and therefore ensure the nature, quality and sustainability of new developments in the Borough. Final consultation on the new draft Local Plan is expected to be held over the summer.

### **Estate regeneration programme**

Our officers have been in extensive consultation with tenants and residents as to plans for 12 estate generation schemes over the next 10 to 15 years. Following the Council's participation in the proactive marketing organised by the Local London group of boroughs at the important MIPIM conference this year 48 companies have so far expressed interest in working with us on this project.

The required notices have been published in OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) so that the formal competitive dialogue can take place throughout the remainder of this year with the aim of selecting a partner to work with us in the Joint Venture Company early next year.

There are currently 12 estates included within the regeneration project, which will see phased implementations, the first three being Waterloo Road Estate Romford, Napier and New Plymouth Houses Rainham and Serena, Solar & Sunrise Hornchurch. Normally in Havering, where there are new housing developments, we have typically come to expect between 10 and 12 per cent of the new properties to be affordable homes. However over the 10-15 years of the projects, it is proposed to build 3,000 new homes of which 35 per cent will be affordable homes for local people. This will double the amount of affordable homes currently on the 12 sites, thus providing much needed affordable housing for Havering residents as well as reducing the financial pressures on the General Fund from the costs of temporary accommodation.

By increasing the numbers of homes through regeneration of these estates we are helping to protect our Green Belt and meet any targets ultimately required of us.

Residents living on the regeneration sites are already being matched to new homes that meet their needs in areas they have chosen. More than 100 Council tenants have voluntarily been moved to date and 15 leaseholders have sold their homes back to the Council.

Where appropriate the homes in the regeneration areas that become vacant are being used for temporary accommodation, which means we now have no one in bed and breakfast, compared with around 100 at the start of 2017. This has already had a positive financial impact on the General Fund.

We also have some vacancies in our three hostels which, incidentally, were inspected by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) in December last year. The CIH report was published recently and praised the improvements we have made to the support and accommodation for people needing to live in the hostels. Our congratulations go to the lead member and all the staff who have worked hard to achieve these improvements.

### **Rainham and Beam Park**

The Council is also working to deliver new homes for residents through the Rainham and Beam Park Housing Zone. We have recently selected a preferred development partner for many of the sites and are in the process of submitting planning applications. The Housing Zone will go alongside infrastructure improvements, including the new Beam Park station, which will improve transport links in the south of the borough. The designs of the new station are currently being developed in partnership with Network Rail. Havering is also working with the local NHS to ensure that the improved health facilities are delivered. The development plans include also a new school.

### **Romford Housing Zone**

A great deal of scoping work has been undertaken for the proposed Bridge Close development. Following preliminary consultation and information about plans for the area the voluntary acquisition of properties has commenced. A planning application will be forthcoming prior to any necessary compulsory purchase orders. Formal process and decisions as to joint venture arrangement will also be required.

### **Mercury Land Holdings**

The Council's wholly owned company has acquired its first apartment block in Romford, Cathedral Court, and lettings have been progressing ahead of schedule. Planning consents having been given for the proposed development

in North Street Hornchurch, construction will be commencing in the near future.

### **Culture, Sports and leisure**

Our sports and leisure provision across the Borough has seen major progress and improvement over the past year with significant investment. In line with the Vision, it will hopefully encourage residents to lead more active and healthy lifestyles, while at the same time, providing competition-level facilities for aspiring athletes in swimming and ice-skating.

### **The Romford Leisure Development**

Romford Leisure Development is currently on schedule and due to be completed early next year. The centre is very much starting to take shape. The construction of the pool is complete and currently undergoing testing. The structure of the ice rink is in place above the pool and is moving on to fitting out. On the 17<sup>th</sup> May we had the topping out ceremony so the building is now water tight, and the plaque we have been given by the builders is displayed next to the Mayor tonight.

### **The Noak Hill Sports Complex**

In January this year, Havering opened another new sports centre in the Borough - Noak Hill Sports Complex in Harold Hill. The facilities there include a full size 3G artificial turf football pitch and a multi-use games area which has four floodlit tennis courts. A grand opening Family Fun Day is currently being planned and I look forward to sharing details of this with you soon.

### **Central Park Leisure Centre**

Major refurbishment work began in April at Central Park Leisure Centre to improve its facilities, which includes extending the centre's gym area with an additional area for cardio exercise and over 140 pieces of brand new equipment. There will also be a new reception with a retail area, all to be complete by the end of this year.

### **Hornchurch Sports Centre**

The proposed replacement of the existing centre as part of the new leisure contract is at an advanced stage of preparation, and a planning application is expected to be lodged in the near future. This will provide up to date and

modern facilities and offer to local residents enviable facilities to enhance the quality of life and leisure opportunities.

### **Harold Hill Library opening**

The new Harold Hill Library, based in the eastern arcade of the Hilldene shopping centre in Harold Hill opened in September 2016. The library is bigger than the previous 1950s building and offers local residents contemporary facilities including 19 new public access PCs and a meeting room available for hire. It has been welcomed by the community.

### **Langtons Gardens and Park Improvements**

Over the past year the improvement works at Langtons gardens and park have been completed enhancing one of the Borough's environmental gems. Visitors to last weekend's Concert in the Park were able to enjoy the facilities and to see a special flowerbed complete with a magnificent crown feature in honour of Her Majesty's Sapphire Jubilee. We are grateful to sponsors for their support.

### **Britain in Bloom/London in Bloom/Green flag**

The Council's commitment to our 108 parks and green spaces continued to pay off over the past year.

The Borough surpassed all expectations in the London in Bloom competition, winning 55 awards, the most across London. There was also success for Havering in the Britain in Bloom competition – with the Borough earning a Silver Gilt award. This success along with a record number of 11 green flags for Havering parks - again demonstrates the Council's ambitions for our parks.

### **The New Website**

The council's new website has been put in place over the past year. Sitemorse have rated it as the most improved in the UK and the best for a London Borough.

### **Events**

In the past year we have again successfully delivered a number of free public events despite reduced budgets. These have included the Havering Show attended by tens of thousands of people, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Sunday, Holocaust Memorial Day, and the various Christmas lights illuminations across the Borough, the largest in Romford attended by

thousands of residents and the Business Awards. Our programme of events continues in the coming year, with the Concert in the Park having already been enjoyed by the many residents who attended and the popular Armed Forces Day Parade coming upon the 24<sup>th</sup> June.

In addition, Havering is marking Her Majesty the Queen's Sapphire Jubilee year with a number of events and activities throughout the year,

### **Sapphire Jubilee**

The celebrations began last month with a special service held at St Helen and St Giles Church in Rainham, where residents and local dignitaries attended to honour Her Majesty's long reign.

In addition to the brilliant flower bed at Langtons we will also see the planting of a special flower bed in front of the Town Hall. Music to celebrate the Queen's Sapphire Jubilee formed part of the Concert in the Park.

### **Tri- Borough Policing Pilot**

Now I turn to matters of the safety of our residents. As members are aware our Borough is part of a tri-borough command policing pilot scheme at the request of the Metropolitan Police. Since the inception of this Havering has seen an increase of 20 extra Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) working in the Borough as part of the Met's ambition to improve neighbourhood policing. This is hopefully a comfort in these times of uncertainty, and I hope this helps to go some way to reassure our residents. Chief Superintendent Jason Gwillim leads the new East Area Command Unit which includes neighbouring boroughs Barking & Dagenham and Redbridge, and having Jason lead this as the former Borough Commander for Havering is beneficial for the Borough. We are also seeing much better interaction and response through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

As we continue to keep under review the impact of the pilot some colleagues have helpfully passed on issues and comments and these are being looked at. One of the matters which appears to warrant scrutiny in response times and any related operational changes. Members should continue to feed back anything of relevance so that the pilot can be properly assessed.

### **Health devolution (Localities)**

I would also like to update members about the work on the health devolution pilot which has been in progress over the past year. The Council is leading

work with partners across the NHS, local Pharmacies and Voluntary Sector to make changes to the way our local health and care services work together. We have been looking for the best ways of joining up services and are developing approaches built on the needs of local communities. This also links into the way forward for the NHS and the Strategic Transformation Plans (STP's) being picked up for us across North East London.

For our Children's services we will be take a whole family approach to 'emotional wellbeing', with a 'key worker' assigned according to their case dependant on their individual needs, who can give them the support and information that they require, drawn from a team of professionals with a variety of specialisms. This will feel like a more seamless, easier to access, joined-up service and will deliver better outcomes for our service users. It will aim to prevent the need for further, more intensive services later in life.

For our Adult services too, we are aiming to provide a more seamless 'virtual team' approach, again drawing the right support from a range of options, dependent upon need. This team, including GPs, therapists, carers and pharmacists, will support people to live independently in their own home, try to avoid unnecessary stays in hospital or visits to A&E. It will also help to get people home from hospital as quickly as possible and to get settled at home for a better recovery.

## **Challenges**

So Madam Mayor, having dealt with some of the many positive and progressive matters of the past year I will now highlight serious challenges facing the Council over the coming years.

## **Financial Strategy**

At the core of all the Council does is its budget and financial strategy. After the elections in 2014 we launched the MTFs proposals to secure most of the reductions in spending needed to balance the budgets to 2018. These were adjusted to reflect the outcome of extensive public consultation. They have subsequently been varied and augmented to cope with unforeseeable events and funding changes. Latterly in 2016/2017 there has been excessive demand on Adults' and Childrens' services which has led to overspending against even enhanced budgets in those areas. This has been mitigated by management action so far as possible but still presents a significant risk for which we will have to cater. These are services which are demand led, and the rate of demographic change in the Borough is only predictable to a certain extent.

Central Government has assisted us by allocating an additional Adult Social Care Grant to the Better Care Fund. Although precise rules for spending this have been held up by the general election the extra money should assist in providing more effectively for our elderly and those needing intensive social care.

Our excellent Childrens' officer team have also secured a £2m grant towards a project supporting the improvements in children's social services which have been endorsed by OFSTED.

There is more to be done to prepare the 2018/2019 budget and the Executive will be working on this in the coming months. In 2018 there will be a need for the new Council to commence the work on another round of savings to meet future predicted budget gaps. Members will need to bear this firmly in mind when considering aspirations for spending by the Council.

One of the main challenges continues to be balancing the budget in the face of continued reductions in Government grants and funding, whilst still meeting the demand-led needs of those who are the most vulnerable in our Borough to which I have referred. We expect that we will also continue to be limited in the tax that we can raise, and we do not want to overburden hard-pressed families with excessive tax increases. Reports will come back during this autumn as we firm up what the next financial year will look like.

With the highest proportion of older people in London, the new Government imposed obligations, and large increases in the numbers of children in the borough, the pressures on our budgets have continued to grow. Our responsibility to vulnerable residents to whom we owe a duty of care is a heavy one that demands our full attention. This will be particularly challenging despite the extra government funding to which I have referred.

The Government's plans to move to Business Rates retention to local authorities and a Fair Funding Formula have been progressing more slowly than originally anticipated. Responses to the Business Rates Retention consultation were submitted at the beginning of May and it will be some time before local authorities learn the outcome. The consultation on Fair Funding has been deferred due to the General Election and a revised date is yet to be provided. These developments will need to be closely followed and Havering's position will need to be presented robustly taking into account as I have already said any ministerial changes. A "Fair" system for government funding must adequately address the pressures associated with the demands of a growing population and more vulnerable residents. As members will be aware we do not believe that Havering has been fairly treated by successive



governments (of whatever political party or parties) in determining our need for Government funding.

Managing the homeless agenda also remains a challenge. We are required to carry out new prevention duties that will help find alternative solutions in the private sector. If we are not able to achieve this, we will need to find another way of coping with any increase in homelessness.

In addition, there remains the need to provide affordable homes for residents at a time when house prices in the Borough have been rising steeply, which is key to the provision of additional affordable housing through the estate regeneration programme.

## **Education**

During the past year our primary schools have continued to secure impressive results whereas some of our secondary schools have attracted criticism from OFSTED. Working in conjunction with the Regional Schools Commissioner our officers have secured cooperation of the secondary academies in the formation of an improvement board and in some cases highly rated schools are joining with those with less impressive inspection outcomes as multi-academy trusts. Whilst local authority roles in Education have changes and powers diminished the Council is using all its influence to ensure the best outcomes for our children. The lead member and I have visited and met heads to review issues and assure them of our support in the improvement programme.

With a great deal of cooperation from the Education community the Council has also been able to provide school places for the rapidly increasing school aged population. More will need to be done year by year to keep pace with demand.

## **Highways and Parking**

Being a large Borough geographically and with the highest level of car ownership in London car parking and highway usage is one of our main challenges. The PSPO pilot scheme around some schools has been a success and resources to extend it are significant. Priorities need therefore to be judged. However this is a potent tool in tackling the dangers associated with unlimited drive to school parking.

Pending completion of a comprehensive borough-wide parking review it will be necessary to address individual areas of difficulty.

Major issues like the Lower Thames Crossing and new M25 junction in the Borough, the plans for a river crossing at Rainham, major work on junction 28, Gallows Corner improvements and delays in the A127 road bridge replacement are all work in progress for our officers and members.

Finally I will turn to some specific current matters.

### **Orchard Village**

Residents have raised concerns regarding the Orchard Village Development, which were first brought to the attention of the Council back in early 2016. The development had been undertaken by Circle Housing Association (now Clarion) following a stock transfer from the Council in 2008. Following the concerns raised, regular meetings were set up between ward councillors, Council officers and senior representation from Circle to identify the issues and find resolution to those issues. The Council has been holding Clarion responsible for ensuring those matters are resolved to the satisfaction of the residents. Generally the issues raised related to poor build quality, poor insulation, high heating costs, poor or inadequate plumbing, and pest infestation although this is not an exhaustive list. A weekly update on progress is provided to the council and the ward councillors by Clarion.

### **Wennington Village Planning Appeal**

I also wanted to make reference to the recent decision of the Planning Inspector following the appeal against the Council's decision to refuse permission for the extractions of minerals and subsequent landfill in Wennington Village. We have sought expert legal advice from a QC on appealing the Planning Inspector's decision to the High Court. Any such decision can only be challenged on legal grounds such as failure on the part of the Planning Inspector to apply the correct legal test, or making a perverse decision. Having carefully considered the background to this matter and the written decision of the Planning Inspector, counsel has advised that there is no prospect of a successful appeal by the Council.

Madam Mayor, these matters are not exhaustive but I am pleased to have been able to update members with examples of positive progress on important issues and highlight some of the challenges that will have to be faced over the coming years.

I would like to thank all my Cabinet colleagues for their tireless efforts in their areas of work and for enabling policies to be put in place to make this progress

and to tackle the challenges that we face. I would also like to thank the Council's Senior Leadership Team, for implementing these policies. A year into the Chief Executive's tenure, we have successfully recruited some very capable individuals into his new structure and those individuals have settled in well and are driving the services forward on a positive footing. So despite the challenges we collectively face, we have a strong team in place to help guide us through them.

So Madam Mayor, thank you for your forbearance and we look forward to your year in office.

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## Appendix 2

FULL COUNCIL, Wednesday 14 June 2017

### MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

#### Charging Council Tenants for CCTV and Community Wardens

1) **To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Damian White)**  
**From Councillor Nic Dodin**

Does the Cabinet Member feel that charging council tenants for CCTV and Community Wardens is fair, particularly if in most ordinary roads, council tenants receive neither service, but even if they did receive such a service, is it fair that non-council tenants would benefit from the service without contributing anything to it?

#### **Response**

All council tenants pay a service charge for CCTV and Community Wardens.

There are two charges for CCTV, a higher and a lower charge. The lower charge is where there is no permanent CCTV in the locality. The lower charge is used for the provision of mobile/reactive CCTV as and when antisocial behaviour is identified (subject to suitability criteria). The higher charge is where there is permanent CCTV in the locality.

Community Wardens provide a highly visible patrol service on foot and in marked vehicles. They wear body cameras and have cameras in their vehicles. They can be contacted by any Council tenant and will patrol areas where antisocial behaviour has been identified.

By providing both services across the Borough where mixed tenures apply some areas, predominately owner/occupiers, with only minimum Council tenants, will benefit from the services at no cost to themselves.

The council does not have the power to charge non-council tenants' service charges as they do not pay rent.

The service charges fund both services and without those charges neither would continue.

The service provision is for all council tenants and they can request access to both services. Non-council tenants cannot.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member accepted that a small number of permanent cameras may not have been working but funding would be brought forward to ensure that all cameras were operational. The use of mobile CCTV allowed the collection of evidence and surveillance.

## **Member Enquiries**

**2) To the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Ramsey  
From Councillor Phil Martin**

What is the average time taken to respond to Member enquiries?

**Response**

Services respond to Member Enquiries in line with corporate timescales; aiming to respond to 95% of enquiries within 15 days. For the year April 2016 – March 2017, there were 3,536 enquiries from members, 97% (3,426) of them were responded to within time.

(No supplementary question asked)

## **Improvements to Hildene Public Toilets**

**3) To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety (Councillor Osman Dervish)  
From Councillor Keith Darvill**

Will the administration bring forward plans to improve the public toilets in Hildene Shopping Centre Harold Hill?

**Response**

The Automated Public Toilet in Hildene Avenue is monitored by the contractor, JC Decaux, for defects etc for which they arrange repairs. I am aware that during the recent Bank Holiday weekend this unit was not available, which was reported to JC Decaux on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May for investigation and repair.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member agreed to investigate reports that public toilets in the area had been unavailable for a longer period.

## **Performance Monitoring in Environmental Services**

**4) To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety (Councillor Osman Dervish)  
From Councillor Ray Morgon**

One of the functions of the Corporate Performance Framework is to ensure that relevant, timely and accurate information is available to monitor performance and to support decision making. Would the Cabinet Member demonstrate how this is being provided in Environment Services?

## **Response**

As the Councillor will be aware, the Council is in the process of driving an improvement in business intelligence across all services, and has invested resources in systems such as the Data Warehouse. Improving business intelligence is the drive to improving performance across the Council.

The Environment Service, via the Corporate Policy & Performance Team, produce quarterly reports regarding progress against targets set in both the Corporate Plan and the Service Plan. These are used to test the quality of services whether delivered in-house or via contractors. Any issues are then identified and escalated as appropriate.

In addition local indicators are produced to enable operational managers to monitor performance, such as missed waste collections rectified within target, and street cleansing completed against schedules. The outturns are measured and reviewed at operational meetings and are used to redesign service provision to ensure resources are allocated to those locations most in need.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that the new corporate indicators could be supplemented by more in depth indicators and he was happy to provide more information on this.

## **Road Sweeping in the A12 area**

### **5) To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety (Councillor Osman Dervish) From Councillor Lawrence Webb**

How many council contractors does it take to sweep the area on the A12 between Gubbins Lane and Brook Street Roundabout?

## **Response**

A team of three employees are normally deployed to litter pick the verges adjacent to the trunk roads including the section of the A12 mentioned.

Between three and four weeks ago the Council received late notification from TFL that the grass verges on the A12 between Gubbins Lane and the Brook Street roundabout were due to be cut. To avoid the litter being shredded by the mowers five Council employees were deployed and eight members of a Community Payback team were also used.

**Council, 14 June 2017**

Both sides of the road were litter picked.

All the individuals working on this stretch of the road were wearing hi visibility clothing which may have given the impression that they were all Council employees.

The job was completed in about three hours because of the number of people that were used.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member agreed that Havering should receive fair funding from the Greater London Authority.

**Council's Statutory Duties on Flood Risk**

**6) To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety (Councillor Osman Dervish)**

**From Councillor John Mylod**

Given the increasing risk of flooding, would the Cabinet Member set out the statutory duties imposed on the council, how these duties are being fulfilled and what resources are being allocated to this service?

**Response**

The Council's main statutory duties are set out in sections 19 and 21 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Highways Act 1980 and the Land Drainage Act 1991 also provide the Highway Authority certain powers and rights in relation to flooding and drainage.

Havering has fulfilled its duties under section 19 of the Act by commissioning a joint investigation with the Environment Agency following floods of June 2016 which affected the Borough. A report has been published following the investigation and is available publically on the Council's website. The critical drainage areas have been identified and works to mitigate the flood risk have already commenced.

The Council has one full time post which oversees all aspects of drainage/flooding within the Environment Department supported by officers within other departments as necessary including the emergency planning officer to support the Council's statutory function.



## **Council, 14 June 2017**

The following documents are all available online and officers can arrange for these to be forwarded on to you if you wish:

- Multi Agency Flood Plan
- Strategic Flood Risk assessment
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

(No supplementary question asked).

## **Ward Information for Members**

### **7) To the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roger Ramsey From Councillor John Glanville**

What is the protocol to ensure that councillors are kept informed and involved in decision-making within their Wards?

#### **Response**

All Members are kept up-to-date with news and information through a regular weekly email bulletin that includes key upcoming calendar dates, public notices, key service news and current housing consultations. Members are also sent the weekly staff Global News, which includes key corporate information and news. In addition, when it comes to matters such as planning and highways improvements, Ward Members are notified as part of the consultation process.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council added that the Council communications team used a variety of methods to keep councillors informed.

## **“A” Boards on Footways**

### **8) To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety (Councillor Osman Dervish)**

#### **From Councillor John Wood**

Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether he feels an “A” board in the middle of the footway is more hazardous than a vehicle driving along the same footway?

#### **Response**

The use of A boards to advertise a business, or tables and chairs outside cafes and restaurants are all part of modern life in busy and thriving town centres. The recent Code of Practice implemented by the Council in January this year allows one A board per business, it does not prohibit all boards. This is a sensible approach and, along with the provision of tables and chairs in some areas, allows local business to advertise and continue to trade.

With regards to vehicles, it has been a long established practice in some town centres that vehicles access private forecourts with the use of an installed vehicle crossing. This has not proved to be any more of a hazard to footway users than any other stationary object in place.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that cars travelling on footways or across crossovers were monitored and enforced via the use of CCTV in town centres.

### **Strategy for Coping with Traveller Incursions**

#### **9) To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety (Councillor Osman Dervish)**

##### **From Councillor Patricia Rumble**

With the recent traveller incursion into Harold Hill and fearful that there may be a return of last years repeated unlawful traveller incursions, what steps are being made to produce a long term solution to this problem?

### **Response**

The Council successfully evicted the travellers at Harold Hill with the support of the Police and our Parks Protection team.

The Council will not tolerate the presence of unlawful traveller incursions within the Borough and is working with partners to introduce a long term solution on both private and public land. We are in the process of preparing a legal injunction to prevent both named individuals and other persons from illegally entering onto Council land within the Borough to be in place later this year.

The Environment Agency is implementing a national operation called "Operation spider DOG" primarily to identify and target persistent offenders who occupy land illegally and fly tip. The objective of this operation is to disrupt their lifestyle and develop a more targeted approach against persistent offenders.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that discussions had been held with the Police around taking action more forcefully and quickly to deal with future Traveller incursions.

## **Calls to Housing Repairs Service**

### **10) To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Damian White)** **From Councillor Barbara Matthews**

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what analysis is carried out in relation to housing repair requests to stop repeat calls being necessary, particularly in relation to gas boiler inspections where currently the contractor decides whether a boiler needs to be replaced?

## **Response**

Our approach to the service we provide is to work in partnership with our contractors to highlight and address repeat requests. This is embedded within our contract documents and has been an integral part of our demand management strategy. The approach has allowed us to reduce the numbers of works requests we are dealing with and the strategy is an ongoing project.

The decision to replace a boiler is made by the Council but we do seek information from the contractor on the economic viability to repair the appliance or where numerous repair requests have been made. In such incidents we will look at the repair history to identify a breakdown trend, alongside an inspection to make an assessment on whether to replace the boiler. We are constantly monitoring our service for efficiency and ensure that resident satisfaction is paramount.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member added that the existing arrangements were in the best interests of tenants but he was happy to look into a case of apparent repeated repair call-outs if Councillor Matthews could provide further details.

## **Penalty Charge Notices for “Idling” Vehicles**

### **11) To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety (Councillor Osman Dervish)** **From Councillor Jody Ganly**

Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether Penalty Charge Notices are issued for idling vehicles, especially near schools?

## **Response**

Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) are not issued to any vehicle that may be idling within Havering.

Councillor Ganly may be interested to know that there is an experimental scheme recently launched in City of Westminster that is seeking to issue PCNs to idling vehicles in certain ‘hotspots’ and I have asked Havering officers to keep abreast of this scheme as it progresses.

**12) To the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community  
Safety (Councillor Osman Dervish)  
From Councillor Jody Ganly**

When the Public Space Protection Orders became operational outside schools, residents were promised that after six months a review and re-consultation would be carried out. Would the Cabinet Member advise why this has not happened?

**Response**

A post implementation review has been undertaken following the introduction of the (Public Space Protection Order) PSPOs outside the four schools in Havering. The report outlines the observations of officers reviewing post PSPO implementation around 4 school locations, the behaviours of the parents and children as a result, including any displacement to adjacent areas and recommends a further course of action. This report has already been circulated to local ward members where these schools are located for their views and incorporated within the final report presented at the Highways Advisory Committee (HAC) on the 2nd May 2017.

A consultation programme has commenced with an on-line survey that closes on 30th June, and drop-in sessions at the four existing schools and Havering Town Hall during June to seek views from the broader community and stakeholders on the scheme. These results will be made available alongside the findings of the six-month comprehensive review.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member added that the next stage of implementation of PSPOs would be decided once the review had concluded.

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
<b>The Mayor [Cllr. Linda Van den Hende]</b>	✓	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Dilip Patel]	✓	✓
<b><u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u></b>		
Cllr Roger Ramsey	✓	✓
Cllr Robert Benham	✓	✓
Cllr Ray Best	✓	✓
Cllr Wendy Brice-Thompson	✓	✓
Cllr Joshua Chapman	✓	✓
Cllr John Crowder	✓	✓
Cllr Philippa Crowder	✓	✓
Cllr Meg Davis	✓	✓
Cllr Osman Dervish	✓	✓
Cllr Jason Frost	✓	✓
Cllr Steven Kelly	✓	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	✓	✓
Cllr Garry Pain	A	A
Cllr Viddy Persaud	✓	✓
Cllr Carol Smith	✓	✓
Cllr Frederick Thompson	✓	✓
Cllr Linda Trew	✓	✓
Cllr Melvin Wallace	✓	✓
Cllr Roger Westwood	✓	✓
Cllr Damian White	✓	✓
Cllr Michael White	✓	✓
<b><u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u></b>		
Cllr Ray Morgon	X	X
Cllr June Alexander	X	X
Cllr Nic Dodin	X	X
Cllr Jody Ganly	X	X
Cllr Barbara Matthews	X	X
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	X	X
Cllr John Mylod	A	A
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	X	X
Cllr Reg Whitney	X	X
Cllr Julie Wilkes	A	A
Cllr John Wood	A	A
<b><u>EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP</u></b>		
Cllr Clarence Barrett	✓	✓
Cllr Alex Donald	✓	✓
Cllr Brian Eagling	✓	✓
Cllr Gillian Ford	✓	✓
Cllr Linda Hawthorn	✓	✓
Cllr Ron Ower	A	A
Cllr Darren Wise	✓	✓
<b><u>UK INDEPENDENCE PARTY GROUP</u></b>		
Cllr Lawrence Webb	O	X
Cllr Ian De Wulverton	O	O
Cllr John Glanville	O	O
Cllr David Johnson	X	X
Cllr Phil Martin	X	X
Cllr Patricia Rumble	O	X
<b><u>INDEPENDENT LOCAL RESIDENTS' GROUP</u></b>		
Cllr Jeffrey Tucker	X	X
Cllr Michael Deon Burton	X	X
Cllr David Durant	A	A
Cllr Keith Roberts	X	X
Cllr Graham Williamson	X	X
<b><u>LABOUR GROUP</u></b>		
Cllr Keith Darvill	✓	O
Cllr Denis O'Flynn	✓	O
<b>TOTALS</b>		
✓ = YES	30	28
X = NO	14	16
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	4	4
ID = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	6	6
	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>

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