



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
23 January 2019 (7.30 - 10.31 pm)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Dilip Patel) in the Chair

Councillors Councillors Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Ray Best, Carole Beth, Michael Deon Burton, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Osman Dervish, Nic Dodin, David Durant, Tony Durdin, Brian Eagling, Gillian Ford, Jason Frost, Martin Goode, Linda Hawthorn, Judith Holt, Tele Lawal, Paul McGeary, Paul Middleton, Sally Miller, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Barry Mugglestone, John Mylod, Stephanie Nunn, Denis O'Flynn, Gerry O'Sullivan, Ron Ower, Nisha Patel, Bob Perry, Viddy Persaud, Roger Ramsey, Timothy Ryan, Jan Sargent, Carol Smith, Christine Smith, Natasha Summers, Matt Sutton, Maggie Themistocli, Jeffrey Tucker, John Tyler, Christine Vickery, Melvin Wallace, Ciaran White, Damian White, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Graham Williamson and Darren Wise

Approximately 6 Members' guests and members of the public and a representative of the press were also present.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillor Christopher Wilkins.

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 Hague, Vicar, Church of the Good Shepherd, Collier Row and the Mayor's Official Chaplain opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

52 **MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

Amendment on behalf of Independent Residents' Group

*AMENDMENT:- The 'show of hands' voting record for votes 4, 5 and 6 are unreliable and should be deleted from table and replaced in minutes with:- **Motion C** Amendment by IRG NOT CARRIED by a majority, motion by Conservative Group CARRIED without division. **Motion E** Amendment by*

*Conservative Group CARRIED by a majority and AGREED as substantive motion without division. **Motion F** Amendment by Conservative Group CARRIED by a majority and AGREED as substantive motion without division.*

EXPLANATION. At last Council the voting machine broke and votes 4, 5 and 6 was by show of hands. On vote 4 “anti-Semitism” the published record shows the IRG amendment was lost by 43 to 3 with 8 abstentions. The minutes shows all Con/HW3, UPRA, RA voting against the amendment, all Labour and 3 IRG abstaining and 3 IRG voting in favour of the amendment and the substantive motion was agreed without a vote.

However on the webcast the Democratic Services Officer announces vote 4 was lost by 40 to 3. As this is a clear discrepancy and as it can now be no longer certain how everyone voted by ‘show of hands’ the voting record for vote 4, 5 and 6 in the table needs to be deleted and the minutes changed.

The amendment on behalf of the Independent Residents’ Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 37 votes to 16 (see division 1).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 November 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

53 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 4)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The Mayor made announcements concerning:

- The Havering entry achieving second place in the New Year’s Day Parade
- The forthcoming Mayor’s variety show

The Leader of the Council made some announcements concerning:

- Thanking staff and residents who had worked on the New Year’s Day parade entry
- The Council’s cold weather protocol
- Christmas entertainment that took place in Romford market
- The Joint Venture regeneration work in the borough
- The receipt of funding for improved internet connection in the south of the borough
- The Holocaust Memorial Day service, 27 January
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55 **PETITIONS (agenda item 6)**

The following petitions were presented:

By Councillor Barrett relating to parking provision in Plover Gardens, Cranham

By Councillor Tucker relating to Chafford Sports Complex

By Councillor Philippa Crowder relating to traffic issues in Havering Road and Mashiters Hill

By Councillor O'Flynn relating to proposed budget cuts impacting on Havering Music School

56 **BRIDGE CLOSE, ROMFORD - PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES ON WATERLOO ROAD AND OLDCHURCH ROAD (agenda item 8)**

A report of Cabinet recommended the purchase of all residential properties in the Bridge Close area not already in Council or Joint Venture public ownership and that these be acquired in accordance with the terms of the Joint Venture legal agreement signed in April 2018. This required the agreement by Council of an adjustment to the HRA Capital Programme to provide sufficient funding for the council to acquire the privately owned residential properties through private treaty.

The report was **AGREED** without division.

RESOLVED:

That Council agree to include sufficient financial provision as set out in Appendix A of the report to Cabinet on 29 November 2018 to enable the private treaty purchase of the 23 residential properties on Waterloo Road and Oldchurch Road, Romford.

57 **UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2019 AND COUNCIL TAX SURCHARGE ON EMPTY HOMES (agenda item 9)**

A report of Cabinet gave details of the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme from 1 April 2019 as well as of a proposal to increase from 50% to 100% the surcharge rate of Council Tax for properties that have been empty for more than two years, with effect from 1 April 2019.

In accordance with Schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Council was asked to consider and approve the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme to take effect from 1 April 2019. In addition to the Cabinet papers, the full proposed Council Tax Support Scheme was included in the Council agenda papers, for Members' information.

Deemed motion on behalf of the Administration

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

Amendment by the Upton and Cranham Residents' Associations Group

That recommendations 1 and 2 of the Cabinet report be replaced with the following:

1. Given the adverse response to the consultation, along with the stated negative equality impacts on claimants, Council agrees the Council Tax Support Scheme remains unchanged for 2019/20 with a continued contribution of 15% towards the Council Tax Bills from eligible working age claimants.
2. Approve and recommend to Council an increase from 50% to 100% as a surcharge rate of Council Tax for the properties that have been empty for more than two years with effect from 1 April 2019.

Following debate, the amendment by the Upton and Cranham Residents' Association Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 29 votes to 24 (see division 2) and the deemed motion on behalf of the Administration was **CARRIED** by 29 votes to 24 (see division 3).

RESOLVED:

1. **That the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme as summarised in Appendix C of the Cabinet report of 29 November 2018 be adopted, with effect from 1 April 2019.**
2. **That an increase from 50% to 100% as a surcharge rate of Council Tax for the properties that have been empty for more than two years be agreed, with effect from 1 April 2019.**

58 **COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES (agenda item 10)**

A report of Governance Committee proposed some changes to the Council Procedure Rules aimed at improving the efficient and effective conduct of business transacted at meetings of full Council within the time available. This included amending the number of Council meetings held each year, limiting the consideration of Council questions at the meeting to a maximum of 45 minutes and of motions to a maximum of 75 minutes.

Deemed motion on behalf of the Administration

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

Amendment by the Residents Group

That all the recommendations contained in the report be replaced with the following:

This Council agrees to a cross party review of the Council Procedures Rules with a view to reporting back to the next Governance Committee in March 2019 with any suggested changes.

A procedural motion that the report be referred back to Governance Committee to allow further consideration of the issues was **AGREED** without division.

59 ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL (agenda item 11)

A report of the Chief Executive sought to address a recent change in the make-up of the Council and the effect on allocation of committee seats caused by Councillor Wallace ceasing to be a member of the Conservative group and becoming an independent member of the Council.

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

That the seat allocation for political balance as set out in appendix 1 to these minutes be agreed.

60 VACANCIES FOR THE POSITIONS OF CHAIRMAN, STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE AND VICE-CHAIR, PENSIONS COMMITTEE (agenda item 12)

A report of the Chief Executive advised that following the resignation of Councillor Melvin Wallace from the Conservative Group, vacancies had arisen for the positions of Chairman of Strategic Planning Committee and Vice Chairman of Pensions Committee and that nominations be received for these positions.

The following votes were recorded for the vacant positions:

A. Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee

Councillor Jason Frost	30 votes
Councillor Graham Williamson	20 votes

(see division 4)

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Jason Frost be appointed Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee

B. Vice-Chair, Pensions Committee

Councillor Martin Goode	28 votes
Councillor Stephanie Nunn	25 votes

(see division 5)

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Martin Goode be appointed Vice-Chair, Pensions Committee

61 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 7)

Fifteen questions were asked and replies given. The text of all questions submitted and their answers, as well as a summary of the supplementary questions and answers is shown as appendix 2 to these minutes.

62 USE OF BUS LANES BY MOTOR CYCLES (agenda item 13A)**Motion on behalf of the Upminster and Cranham Residents' Associations Group**

While motorcyclists make up 1% of traffic volume across London, they account for 27% of all killed and seriously injured casualties, with 33 fatalities over the last year.

Permitted use of bus lanes across London is inconsistent with some councils allowing motorcyclists to use the lanes, some not (Havering do not), and some partially.

Allowing motorcyclists to use bus lanes would not only improve the safety of motorcyclists and other road users but would add clarity over the potential to receive a £160 fine for entering a bus lane which may change from one borough to the next.

While this would ideally be a London wide aspiration, this Council calls upon the Executive to undertake measures, including the necessary consultations, to allow motorcyclists to use bus lanes in Havering.

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

Amend motion to read:

This Council recognises the different approaches across London and calls upon the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee to investigate

the matter and report back to the Cabinet in due course. In readiness for that report, Council also calls upon the Mayor of London to bring forward guidance on the use of bus lanes by non-bus traffic as to create a consistent approach across the capital.

The amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group was **CARRIED** by 53 votes to 0 (see division 6) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion, without division.

RESOLVED:

This Council recognises the different approaches across London and calls upon the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee to investigate the matter and report back to the Cabinet in due course. In readiness for that report, Council also calls upon the Mayor of London to bring forward guidance on the use of bus lanes by non-bus traffic as to create a consistent approach across the capital.

63 **SIZE OF PLANNING COMMITTEES (agenda item 13B)**

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

The March 7th Governance meeting and subsequent March 21st Council approved a Governance report proposing changes to the council's planning regime. The report included a recommendation to create two planning committees, a Strategic Planning committee with 7 members and a Planning committee with 11 members, but did say the actual size of the committees (and all committees) would be a matter for Annual Council on May 23rd.

At Annual Council it was proposed to create two size 8 planning committees as part of item 9 on the Council agenda. Item 9 was approved without debate following a procedural motion to go vote only. Following the meeting the Monitoring Officer advised the creation of size 8 committees was to "assist with proportionality", except it doesn't and neither does the Planning Advisory Service provide specific advice on size of committees.

Due to the quasi-judicial importance of planning committees, the overall creation of two new planning committee positions is welcome, however this motion calls upon Council to agree to change the size of the two planning committees from size 8 to size 7 (strategic) and 11 (planning) as recommended in the approved March 7th Governance Committee report, subsequently approved at March 21st Council.

Council is further asked to agree to increase the total number of seats on committee to 136 (from 134), and to ensure political balance rules are adhered to, agrees to the allocation of seats as set out in the appendix to this motion.

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council notes the decision taken by full council on 23rd May this year to establish the committees of the authority having regard to political balance.

This motion was withdrawn by the Independent Residents' Group and resubmitted to the March 2019 meeting of Council.

64 **SEXUAL HARRASSMENT (agenda item 13C)**

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

Senior councillors and officers recently held the LGBT flag in front of the Town Hall, albeit up-side down, to mark LGBT month. The Council Leader attended this worthy event, but Council now calls on the Executive to show support for the female and wider community by condemning sexual harassment, bullying and misogyny?

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

Delete the motion and insert the following in its place:

This Council condemn all forms of sexual harassment, bullying and misogyny and reaffirms its commitment to upholding the Equality Acts and those protected by its provisions.

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council welcomes the steps taken by the administration in spreading inclusion through the adoption of the first community cohesion strategy of Havering Council and looks forward to the official launch of the community cohesion strategy and engagement forum. Furthermore, this Council notes that the LGBT flag will be flown at the Town Hall to mark the start of LGBT month.

This motion was withdrawn by the Independent Residents' Group.

65 **PARKING MACHINES (agenda item 13D)**

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

Parking meters cost money to remove, buy and install. A few years ago the council removed the old 'flag' meters and replaced them with 215 digital

machines costing between £4000 - £5000 each. **The council's new parking strategy proposals include** removing, at a cost, of £70,000 154 machines valued @ between £616,000 - £770,000 and converting the remaining 61 to cashless card/phone machines at a cost of £244,000!

As this reduces maintenance costs it's forecast, by reducing staff, to make an annual revenue saving of £244,000 which means it will take over 4 years of revenue saving to recoup the £1m capital cost of removing and converting the parking meters.

However going cashless will deter many people from parking and these upgraded machines will still be subject to vandalism and so could result in a big drop in income! And staff reductions could mean no enforcement of parking restrictions in the areas where machines have been removed, to the detriment of local shops.

Council calls on the Executive to drop these proposals as a false economy as going cashless will reduce income and result in deserted shopping centres and parades outside Romford.

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

Delete the motion and insert the following in its place:

The Council recognises the benefits of cashless card/phone parking machines and calls on the Executive to incorporate within its new parking proposals the replacement of exiting machines with the gradual introduction of cashless machines.

Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group

This Council welcomes the proposed upgrading of parking park and display machines across the borough as part of the new parking strategy; and welcomes the addition of contactless payment to reduce running costs and to provide greater ease for users.

Following debate, the amendment on behalf of the Labour Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 33 votes to 14 (see division 7); the amendment by the Conservative Group was **CARRIED** by 32 votes to 16 (see division 8) and the amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group was **AGREED** as the substantive motion by 31 votes to 15 (see division 9).

66 **VOTING RECORD**

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

Mayor

RECOMMENDED SEAT ALLOCATION

Having regard to the principles of political balance and of seat allocation referred to in Appendix 1, the following allocation of seats is recommended on the basis that, taking all factors into account, it shows a “reasonably practicable” allocation of seats and is therefore the default position.

		CONS	RES	UCRG	LAB	IRG	NHRG
Governance	11	5	2	1	1	1	1
Licensing	11	5	2	1	1	1	1
Planning	8	4	1	1	1	1	0
Strategic Planning	8	4	1	1	1	1	0
Highways Advisory	8	4	1	1	0	1	1
Adjudication	8	4	1	1	1	1	0
Pensions	7	3	1	1	1	0	1
Audit	6	3	1	1	0	0	1
JV WP	8	4	1	1	1	1	0
O&S Board	16	8	2	2	1	2	1
Children's	9	4	2	1	1	1	0
Crime & Disorder	6	3	0	1	1	1	0
Towns & Communities	9	4	2	1	1	1	0
Environment	6	2	1	0	1	1	1
Health	6	3	1	0	0	1	1
Individuals	7	3	1	1	1	1	0
Total seats allocated	134	63	20	15	13	15	8

- Committee seats are allocated, and each Committee is balanced, as “reasonably practicably” as possible



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Appendix 2

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Homelessness Strategy in the Borough

1) **To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Joshua Chapman)**
From Councillor Paul Middleton

Given the growing number of people in Havering who are either homeless, rough sleeping or begging, would the Cabinet Member confirm the steps being taken by this Council to deal with these issues and that the full powers available to the Council and other agencies are being used to deal with these growing problems.

Answer

Along with 40 staff volunteers from the Council both Cllr Persaud and I attended the rough sleeper count that took place on 29 November 2018, targeting known hotspots around the borough. Two rough sleepers were found on the streets that night but 10 are more widely known to the Council. This is a significant reduction from the 22 encountered during the previous year's count.

This is a positive sign that the Council's proactive approach in working with key partners to tackle rough sleeping is having a positive effect. We recognise that the count is a snapshot in time and also carry out a bi-monthly count based on local intelligence gathered from local police teams in all 18 wards targeted at rough sleeping hotspots.

With regards to begging, some of those who are begging are not homeless and the council and police use all available powers. The main powers available are contained within the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014.

A communications campaign is under way to raise awareness of how the Council is helping rough sleepers and to encourage residents who would like to help to give directly to the charities and organisations who provide services to homeless people.

A supplementary question asked if the number of deaths of rough sleepers in the last year could have been reduced if there was a larger Council team working on this issue. In response, the Cabinet Member stated that the new Director of Housing was putting in a new structure to assist work with the homeless and that the Council had a very good homelessness lead.

Special Responsibility Allowances

2) **To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Damian White)**
From Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Following the creation of new committees with SRAs the Executive decided to fund them from within the SRA budget rather than add to the overall amount. This

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involved reducing the SRAs of opposition group leaders by 50% to pay for the newly created SRAs. The Council Leader has special responsibility for Executive decisions, but can Cllr White confirm whether this was his idea or was he solely acting on advice?

Answer

As the report to Council in May last year explained, the changes to the Member Allowances Scheme sought to reflect both governance changes to the planning regime and the results of the local council elections which increased the number of groups on council. The outcome would have been an increase in the number of SRAs awarded and more money spent on allowances. Options were therefore explored to avoid that outcome, some of which were detailed in that same report.

Ultimately it was Full Council's decision to make changes to the allowances scheme, which I might add, included the rejection of a suggestion by an opposition group to keep opposition group leader allowances at the same level despite the increase in the number of groups.

A supplementary question asked whose idea was the reduction in SRAs of opposition group leaders and if the Leader felt it was fair for opposition group leaders to be victimised for being loyal to residents. In response, the Leader of the Council emphasised that the changes to SRA levels were his decision.

Penalty Charge Notices issued in the Borough

**3) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Osman Dervish)
From Councillor John Tyler**

Of the 120,713 Penalty Charge Notices issued in 2017/18, would the Cabinet Member give a split between how many were issued at a higher level (£130) and how many at the lower level (£110)?

Answer

The London Borough of Havering issued 120,713 PCN's in 2017/18.

Higher level PCN's – 101,396

Lower level PCN's – 19,317

A supplementary question queried the use of staff resources to undertake a borough wide survey on the Council's parking strategy and the use of the higher PCN banding. In response, the Cabinet Member stated the issuing of more high band PCNs did improve safety and this had been evidenced by a deterrent factor shown in the lower increase in the issuing of higher band PCNs, compared to the lower band.

Number of Rough Sleepers in the Borough

4) **To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Joshua Chapman)**
From Councillor Carole Beth

How many rough sleepers are currently sleeping outside in Havering?

Answer

As previously answered, along with 40 staff volunteers from the Council, both Cllr Persaud and I attended the rough sleeper count that took place on 29 November 2018, targeting known hotspots around the borough. Two rough sleepers were found on the streets that night but 10 are more widely known to the Council. This is a significant reduction from the 22 encountered during the previous year's count.

This is a positive sign that the Council's proactive approach in working with key partners to tackle rough sleeping is having a positive effect. We recognise that the count is a snapshot in time and also carry out a bi-monthly count based on local intelligence gathered from local police teams in all 18 wards targeted at rough sleeping hotspots.

We encourage residents to report rough sleepers to help the council to locate and give them the necessary support. This can be done by calling the Council on 01708 431180 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. Outside these hours please call 01708 433999. Alternatively, this can be done on the council's website or via the StreetLink app.

A supplementary question queried the accuracy of the numbers of rough sleepers identified. In response, the Cabinet Member stated that this was the official Council count but bi-monthly counts of the homeless population were also carried out. Homelessness was one of the top priorities of the Council.

Policing and Community Safety

5) **To the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Safety (Councillor Viddy Persaud)**
From Councillor Martin Goode

What are the Council's initiatives and objectives for working more closely with the Metropolitan Police force, Local Safety Neighbourhood Police teams and Park Security officers to encourage a more consistent and proactive approach in dealing with the rising issue of street crime in our Borough? In particular to engage more closely with the local Schools and Youth Education Centres to possibly identify and discourage high risk young individuals that may be currently involved or coerced into being involved with such groups who are committing or the victims of such crimes within our Borough.

Answer

The 3 year Havering Community Safety Partnership Plan was agreed by Full Council on 12th July 2017. The plan sets out the Council and Police priorities for addressing crime and disorder and includes Serious Youth Violence as a priority.

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The recent Annual Strategic Assessment 2018 found that Havering remains the 8th safest Borough in London.

A Strategic Serious Youth Violence group has been established, chaired by the Director of Children's services and a refreshed serious violence and knife crime action plan is due to go to cabinet shortly.

A monthly serious youth violence panel meets to case manage those individuals who come to notice for violence, knife crime or are affected by gangs. This is attended by a wide range of partner agencies including schools and colleges, safer school officers.

A range of projects are currently being delivered through schools and colleges which include:

- Street Doctors
- No knives in schools
- Junior Citizen scheme
- You and Me Counselling

A mentoring programme is funded by the Mayor of London Crime Prevention fund locally for young people who are gang affected. 44 young people have been supported by the scheme with 86% not reoffending within 6 months.

A victim's worker is based in the youth offending service to support young victims of crime.

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member would arrange an all Member briefing on these issues to which the Cabinet Member agreed.

Leases in Council Owned Properties

**6) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Damian White)
From Councillor Barry Mugglestone**

Would the Leader of the Council confirm that all Council owned properties that are occupied by third parties all have current and up to date leases in place?

Answer

I will respond to the Councillor in writing due to the commercial sensitivity of the information.

(No supplementary question).

Staffing in Democratic Services

**7) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Damian White)
From Councillor David Durant**

The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Administration, has revised the structure of Democratic Services by creating 3 new Cabinet support positions at a cost of £160,000. If, due to the day job, the 7 Cabinet Members need further assistance answering emails then the £160,000 should be found within the

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existing SRAs paid to Cabinet Members which now stands at a combined £220,368 per annum. Does the Council Leader agree?

Answer

No, I would not agree. As Members are all too aware, the budgetary challenge for Havering is significant over the next four years. The Council has developed a major change and transformation programme which will deliver a more efficient Council to provide services which are valued, relevant and which balances cost with quality and meets community and individual needs.

Responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the programme and vision rests with the Executive. Revised internal governance arrangements are being introduced to provide the means to achieve this. Officers have assessed the adequacy of current departmental arrangements and have delivered an alternative structure to provide assistance to Cabinet Members in support of their role. This will enable Cabinet colleagues to make more effective use of their time to ensure we are delivering for our residents and I have made clear to Cabinet colleagues the expectations I have of them in ensuring they do just that. It is of course for officers to determine the allocation of resources working within the budgets set by this Council.

A supplementary question asked if these were party political posts, stating that an employment agency used employed a Cabinet member and that one of the post holders was known to a Cabinet member. In response, the Leader of the Council stated that he did not agree that these were party political posts and that the correct recruitment process had been followed throughout.

Residents in PSL Properties

**8) To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Joshua Chapman)
From Councillor Clarence Barrett**

Further to the pledge made in July 2018 to reassess all 878 people living in Private Sector Leasing (PSL) properties, how many of those residents have since been placed in out of borough accommodation?

Answer

The review process that has been carried out is not about savings but about supporting people. No one has been moved as a direct result of the reassessment process.

As part of normal service delivery, two PSL residents were moved to out of borough PSL accommodation. The first resident was moved because the landlord served notice on the Council to terminate the lease in line with the terms of the lease agreement. The second resident was moved due to risk of domestic abuse from their PSL accommodation.

Both residents' housing rights are not affected as they were moved into other PSL properties and the council continues to owe them a housing duty.

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A supplementary question asked if all 878 people in PSL properties had now received a visit from a housing officer. The Cabinet Member responded that he would bring forward an update to Members on this issue in due course.

Maintenance of Lifts in High Rise Flats

**9) To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Joshua Chapman)
From Councillor Denis O'Flynn**

In light of frequent complaints from residents in high rise flats relating to lifts not working will the Lead Member inform me as to the level of preventive maintenance carried out to reduce the number of reported lift breakdowns?

Answer

A lift replacement programme has been included in the HRA budget for 2019/20 which will enable a rolling replacement of all lifts throughout the borough's housing stock.

In order to help reduce the likelihood of lift breakdowns, we use a specialist Lift Company, Express Lift Alliance group (ELA), to undertake all maintenance and servicing of the passenger lifts in our Housing stock. The contractor is robustly managed by the Building services and Compliance team who hold regular contract meetings with ELA, where contractor performance is reviewed, improvement actions identified and plans put in place.

Part of the service provided by ELA is to undertake regular monthly planned and preventative maintenance inspections of our passenger lifts. These inspections are undertaken with a view to proactively identifying and rectifying potential maintenance problems or health and safety issues and to undertake routine maintenance, all of which will help reduce the likelihood of the lifts breaking down.

In addition, there is also an independent annual inspection undertaken on each of our passenger lifts by our insurers Zurich, to ensure their safety and also identify any maintenance issues they consider need addressing using a risk based reporting approach.

A supplementary question asked for assurances that the company would supply skilled people to carry out lift repair jobs and whether Councillors could attend discussions re the tendering of the contract. In response, the Cabinet Member stated that most lift problems were responded to within a four hour call-out but repairs could take longer if for example parts were awaited. The Council did however have fully compliant processes in place.

Grass Verges

**10) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Osman Dervish)
From Councillor Darren Wise**

With the onset of Winter and the continuing issue of vehicles driving over grass verges and churning these up, could the Administration advise what actions they are taking to eradicate this and whether there are plans to restore them or install bollards especially as it is a problem in Harold Hill?

Answer

Complaints of damage to grass verges caused by vehicles are referred to the Council's Environment Services for investigation and where sufficient evidence can be gathered, offending vehicle owners are identified and can be pursued for enforcement action under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Alternatively, where reports indicate that damage is being caused by contravention of parking regulations, Civil Enforcement Officers can be deployed to issue a PCN (Penalty Charge Notice) if a vehicle is observed parked on a grass verge or pavement.

Reinstatement of grass verges is considered but in the first instance if the evidence clearly suggests a local resident/ business is at fault the Council would encourage them to apply for a vehicle cross-over where appropriate. For persistent problems the use of bollards on a case by case basis could be investigated alongside other options, but are not always appropriate.

A supplementary question stated that Councillor Wise would write to the Cabinet Member re specific grass verge cases and the Cabinet Member agreed to investigate these.

Enforcement on Gardens

**11) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Osman Dervish)
From Councillor Ray Morgon**

In order to "Keep Havering Special" Would the Cabinet Member introduce a policy with appropriate powers to ensure that front and rear gardens are kept tidy by residents.

Answer

The Council already has powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, to deal with an accumulation of waste and hazardous gardens. Where complaints are received the Council will investigate and where necessary appropriate action will be taken including enforcement.

A policy is already in place for housing tenants and it is enforced through tenancy agreements which stipulate that gardens be 'well maintained at all times'.

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A supplementary question asked why there were delays in taking action that often still did not solve problems. In response, the Cabinet Member stated that each case had to be looked at individually. Action would be taken but the appropriate legal process had to be followed.

Costs of Development, Dovers Green

**12) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Damian White)
From Councillor Graham Williamson**

The planning committee by 7 to 1 approved a stopping up order regarding Dovers Green, off New Zealand Way. Residents intend to strongly object to the stopping up order in favour of keeping the Green as a high value green open space. In this situation the Mayor of London can instruct the Council to hold a local enquiry to determine the matter.

How much has it cost the Council so far to progress plans to build on the Green, including the Village Green Public Enquiry, and how much more are the Executive prepared to pay contesting a new local enquiry into the future of the Green?

Answer

The proposed development at New Zealand Way consists of 30 new dwellings and comprises a mix of 2- bedroom and 3- bedroom houses.

The cost to the Council, both as developer and regulator, to progress plans to build the new houses on the proposed site at New Zealand Way was £116,581.52 and the breakdown is as follows:

- Pre-development fees are £87,855.45. The cost covered all the surveys, planning application fees and other professional fees;
- Cost incurred to defend the community led application for Village Green status £19,800;
- Costs already incurred for legal advice received on “stopping up and Appropriation” was £8,926.07.

The costs of bringing this site forward are normal for any developer or land owner wishing to bring forward a new scheme of this nature and size.

The scheme produces 30 units of much needed affordable family housing for local people.

A supplementary question asked if people would believe the Administration’s priority to ‘Keep Havering Special’ if the Green had been saved. In response, the Leader of the Council stated that the land would deliver 30 units of affordable housing for vulnerable people. It was important to provide quality homes to vulnerable residents and this showed the Council cared about homelessness and associated issues. The Leader added that he was proud that the project had been brought forward.

Licences and penalties issued to Landlords of HMO's

13) To the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Safety (Councillor Viddy Persaud)

From Councillor Chris Wilkins

It was recently reported that penalties to the value of £304,250 had been issued against landlords operating inadequate and dangerous living conditions in houses of multiple occupation (HMOs) over the past 11 months. Over that period, how many licences have been issued and how much of the £304,250 has actually been received to date?

Answer

We take this issue extremely seriously with the impact it has on people's lives. Legislation was changed less than a year ago to make it easier to crack down on so called rogue landlords

Since then, based on figures up to the 9th January 2019, the Council issued 164 licenses and a further 32 are currently being processed.

We expect more to be issued as we continue the crackdown.

Additionally, 110 fixed penalty notices have been issued and, to date, 12% of those have been paid. A robust approach will be taken to recover the remainder.

A supplementary question asked why the register of licensed HMOs had not been updated since 5 June 2018. In response, the Cabinet Member agreed to check on this and provide an update to the Councillor.

Future High Street Fund

14) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Damian White)

From Councillor Keith Darvill

Will the Leader make a statement about the Council's intention to submit an application to the Future High Street Fund for grant funding to support essential improvements to Havering's High Streets and Retail Centres?

Answer

Supporting the future vitality of the borough's Town Centres is of critical importance to the Council, and central to achieving the ambitions set out in the corporate plan. As such, we are certainly looking at the High Streets Fund as an opportunity to increase the Council's ability to make improvements. The Future High Streets Fund is designed to support transformative capital investments, and officers are looking carefully at the detail of the prospectus with a view to bringing forward a proposal for submission. The prospectus asks for expressions of interest by the 22nd March 2019.

A supplementary question asked if, given the tight timescale, there would be consultation with Councillors and local groups on the development of the vision.

Council, 23 January 2019

In response, the leader of the Council stated that he hoped Members across the Council would get involved in the new area action plans. Discussions on these would take place with stakeholders and residents and Councillors would also be able to be involved in the development of the action plans.

Resources to Underpin Future Development in Havering

**15) To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Damian White)
From Councillor Ray Morgon**

Would the Leader of the Council confirm what pledges he has received from other public sector services that operate within Havering that resources will be increased to meet the increased demands placed upon it by the numerous developments in Havering in the next ten to fifteen years?

Answer

Funding for additional community infrastructure such as primary care health facilities or schools is not achieved through pledges.

The growth identified to meet the Borough's future housing needs is contained in the Local Plan and we work closely with a wide range of agencies to ensure their plans and programmes match that growth so our residents can enjoy a high quality of life.

Funding is also obtained from developers to ensure they mitigate the impact of their developments through S106 obligations and our new Community Infrastructure Levy; we continue to work closely with partners such as the GLA, Transport for London and neighbouring local authorities to secure major infrastructure improvements.

A supplementary question asked how emergency services were being made aware of the increased number of developments and residents in Havering over the next 10-15 years. In response, the Leader of the Council stated that the Local Plan had been consulted on with all local bodies and that he was happy to meet with Group Leaders to go through the current Local Plan if they wished.

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
The Mayor [Cllr. Dilip Patel]	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Michael Deon Burton]	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP</u>									
Cllr Robert Benham	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Ray Best	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Joshua Chapman	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr John Crowder	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Philippa Crowder	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Osman Dervish	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Jason Frost	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Judith Holt	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr John Mylod	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Nisha Patel	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Bob Perry	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Viddy Persaud	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Roger Ramsey	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Timothy Ryan	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Carol Smith	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Christine Smith	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Matt Sutton	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Maggie Themistocli	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Christine Vickery	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Ciaran White	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Damian White	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Michael White	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
<u>RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>									
Cllr Nic Dodin	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Paul Middleton	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Sally Miller	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Raymond Morgon	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Gerry O'Sullivan	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Reg Whitney	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X
<u>INDEPENDENT RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>									
Cllr David Durant	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Tony Durdin	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Jan Sargent	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	0	0
Cllr Natasha Summers	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	0	X	X
Cllr Jeffrey Tucker	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Graham Williamson	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
<u>UPMINSTER & CRANHAM RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>									
Cllr Clarence Barrett	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	0	0	0
Cllr Gillian Ford	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	0	0	0
Cllr Linda Hawthorn	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	0	0	0
Cllr Ron Ower	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	0
Cllr John Tyler	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	0	0	0
Cllr Christopher Wilkins	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
<u>LABOUR GROUP</u>									
Cllr Carole Beth	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Keith Darvill	✓	✓	X	0	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Tele Lawal	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr Paul McGeary	✓	✓	X	0	X	✓	✓	X	X
Cllr Denis O'Flynn	✓	✓	X	0	X	✓	✓	X	X
<u>NORTH HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP</u>									
Cllr Brian Eagling	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Martin Goode	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Cllr Darren Wise	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	0	✓	0
<u>INDEPENDENT</u>									
Cllr Melvin Wallace	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
<u>TOTALS</u>									
✓ = YES	16	24	29	20	28	53	14	32	31
X = NO	37	29	24	30	25	0	33	16	15
0 = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	0	0	0	3	0	0	6	5	7
ID = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54

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