



**MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING**  
**Council Chamber - Town Hall**  
**Wednesday, 17 April 2019**  
**(7.30 - 8.15 pm)**

**Present:**

Councillor Damian White (Leader of the Council), Chairman

|                           | <b>Cabinet Member responsibility:</b>             |
|---------------------------|---|
| Councillor Robert Benham  | Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Families |
| Councillor Osman Dervish  | Cabinet Member for Environment                    |
| Councillor Joshua Chapman | Cabinet Member for Housing                        |
| Councillor Roger Ramsey   | Cabinet Member for Finance & Property             |
| Councillor Viddy Persaud  | Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Safety   |

An apology was received for the absence of Councillor Jason Frost.

**54 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**55 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 13th March, 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the same.

**56 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SPECIAL FREE SCHOOL IN HAVERING**

The Implementation of the New Special Free School in Havering report was presented to Cabinet by Councillor Robert Benham, Cabinet Lead Member for Education, Children & Families.

The Local Authority projected a continued increase in the number of pupils being assessed as having more complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), however the growth in SEND numbers was increasing at a faster rate than forecasted. As such, it was not possible to

accommodate the increase at existing facilities, so a new site and building was required.

In November 2016, the Local Authority submitted an expression of interest to the Department for Education (DfE) for a new special school in Havering. In April 2017, the DfE notified Havering that their bid had been successful. In March 2018, following the completion process, the DfE announced that Samuel Ward Academy Trust, now known as Unity Schools Partnership Trust, had been successful.

During the DfE's feasibility process, it became apparent that the original site proposed for the school, Century Youth House in Albert Road, Romford was too small to deliver the school. A lack of suitable site would have risked the entire project, so an analysis of alternative sites was undertaken. The results of this analysis identified the Gaynes secondary school site as the preferred option, and so the DfE conducted a further feasibility study of the Gaynes site. The results of this study showed that whilst there was sufficient site at Gaynes to accommodate the new special free school, there would need to be significant remedial costs to ensure that Gaynes had sufficient accommodation for their pupils, at a cost of c£2.1m. Therefore, it was decided to seek a further alternative site.

In April 2018, St Edward's Church of England Academy joined the Unity Schools Partnership Trust, so once the Gaynes site had been discounted, it was decided that a potential further alternative option would be investigated, siting the new special free school on the St Edward's Church of England Academy site, as both shared the same Academy Trust.

An initial feasibility report identified that it would be possible to accommodate the new special free school on the St Edward's Church of England Academy site by demolishing block B, the music block at the front of the site, and re-providing the music block, either via a new build block or re-providing the music block within existing accommodation. The Council has to compensate the Academy for the loss of the music block, which was estimated at £800k. However, the compensation was deemed to be good value for money, as the estimated cost for the new special free school was £8.5m, which was coming from the DfE.

This option was recommended to Cabinet as it would release the site area required to enable the new special free school to be built on the St Edward's Church of England Academy site in an area separate from the main Academy building, whilst resulting in no loss of provision for the Academy, through the re-provision of the music facilities.

The new special free school would provide provision for 60 places for individuals aged 3 – 16 years old.

Following discussion,

**Cabinet:**

1. **APPROVED** the new special free school to be sited on St Edward's Church of England Academy site, London Road, Romford RM7 9NX
2. **APPROVED** additional funding to Unity Schools Partnership Trust for remedial works needed at St Edward's Church of England Academy as a result of using part of the School building for the purpose of a new free school:
  - Re-provision of the music block - £800,000

57 **SERIOUS GROUP VIOLENCE AND KNIFE CRIME STRATEGY 2019-2022**

The Serious Group Violence and Knife Crime Strategy 2019-2022 was presented to Cabinet by Councillor Viddy Persaud, the Cabinet Lead Member for Public Protection and Safety.

Cabinet agreed to receive the supplementary agenda amending the report recommendations and legal implications.

Havering launched its first Serious Group Violence Strategy in 2014. This second strategy aligned its strategic aims with those set out in the regional (MOPAC and London Crime Reduction Board) and national (Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation) strategic ambitions with a focus on:

- Tackling knife crime and gangs
- Early intervention for those on the periphery of crime
- Protecting and safeguarding our children (from exploitation & county lines)

Serious youth violence and knife crime was of high concern for residents and the public in general, with fear of crime disproportionately high in Havering; and tackling violent crime remained a priority for the Havering Community Safety Partnership.

Young people at risk of involvement in serious youth violence would be offered targeted, tailored prevention and intervention from an early age, in order to discourage their involvement in offending and ensure they receive the right support from the right partners at the right stage in their life.

The Strategy would be delivered in partnership with the Police, Council and commissioned and voluntary services as detailed in the action plan.

The strategy and associated action plan focused on 4 key areas - prevention, intervention, enforcement and intelligence and information sharing.

It was noted that Safer Schools Officers carried out workshops for Year 6 pupils and secondary school pupils, providing information on safety and the consequences of violence and knife crime and the Gangs Mentoring Service was active in the borough. There had been an increase in stop and search in the borough since January 2019 and this was monitored on a monthly basis. Members agreed that the prevention of crime needed to be a higher priority for the Council, and recognised the reduction in Police resources. Following discussion:

**Cabinet:**

1. **APPROVED** the Serious Group Violence and Knife Crime Strategy 2019-2022 and associated Action Plan.

58 **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY 2019-2022**

The Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2022 was presented to Cabinet by Councillor Viddy Persaud, the Cabinet Lead Member for Public Protection and Safety.

Havering launched its first Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy in 2014. This second VAWG strategy was aligned to the MOPAC VAWG strategy launched in 2018.

Domestic Violence seriously impacted on the lives of families in Havering and was a key demand driver for services such as community safety, children and young people services and housing.

Between January to December 2018, there were 4,061 domestic violence incidents reported to the police and 2,515 domestic violence offences recorded by the police.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales 2017 estimated that 20.5% of people aged 16 to 59 (6.8 million victims) had experienced some form of domestic abuse since the age of 16, which meant there were potentially around 30,000 survivors of domestic abuse currently living in Havering.

In 2018, domestic abuse offences saw an increase by 8.5% nationally; in comparison Havering saw an increase of 13.7%.

Havering had aligned its objectives with those set out in the MOPAC VAWG Strategy for London, in respect of prevention, provision and protection.

The VAWG Strategy was to be delivered over a three-year period. The action plan would be refreshed annually to take into account emerging trends, or developments in legislation or working practices. The Strategy would be implemented and monitored by the VAWG Strategic Group, which reported directly to the Havering Community Safety Partnership. The Strategic Group would also have oversight of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), which reviewed high risk victims within

the Borough. Progress would be reported annually to the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Group.

**Cabinet:**

1. **APPROVED** the VAWG Strategy 2019-2022

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**Chairman**