

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

**Note:** Questions 1 to 8 were answered at the meeting. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.6(a); the remainder were treated as if put for written answer

**1 DISRUPTION CAUSED BY STREETWORKS****To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor John Mylod

Learning from the chaos over the last several months in various areas of Hornchurch, would the Cabinet Member:

- a) give assurance that in future, early consultation with the appropriate ward Councillors takes place ahead of any planned works; prior to other stakeholders.
- b) ensure that **all** Councillors are notified when emergency works are necessary, detailing relevant work, affects (such as diversion) and timescales.

**Response**

- a) *Give assurance that in future, early consultation with the appropriate ward Councillors takes place ahead of any planned works; prior to other stakeholders.*

All the statutory utility companies have a legal right to update and modernise their equipment as required. The Council cannot prevent such works taking place, but can influence the timing.

Streetcare hold quarterly liaison meetings with the companies regarding street works proposals, and in the case of the Hornchurch Town Centre works Regeneration staff have also been attending these meetings due to the major works proposed in the High Street. The utility companies agreed that they would bring any major essential works forward so that they were completed before the High Street project was implemented. The benefit of that approach is that there will then be a five year period when the town centre is free of all but emergency utility works. There were however major works which the utility companies insisted were necessary.

All planned works by the utility companies require them to notify the Council. Last year there were in excess of 30,000 such notifications, excluding the notifications for LBH works. StreetCare officers do notify Ward Councillors of works that take place that have the potential for major or prolonged disruption, although at present they do not notify all Councillors of all planned works.

- b) *Ensure that **all** Councillors are notified when emergency works are necessary, detailing relevant work, affects (such as diversion) and timescales.*

Emergency works undertaken by the utility companies are for situations where there is a gas leak, burst water main, or collapsed sewer for example. In these circumstances it must be the

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priority of the utility to make safe their apparatus, and under the terms of the New Roads and Street Works Act the utility companies have two hours in which they must notify the local authority. In these cases, works to failed apparatus takes place first, and notification to the authority second meaning that officers are not in a position to notify Councillors immediately of the works.

There are thousands of emergency notices issued each year in Havering, and to notify all Councillors of each notice would be impractical.

Details of all notices issued, for both planned and emergency works, are available on the London Works website, and there is a link to this site from the Havering website should Councillors wish to be informed of all works undertaken in the borough.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member indicated that revised notification arrangements were currently being discussed with Transport for London and other London authorities, which were likely to be implemented in late 2012, and which might facilitate the sort of notification of planned works sought by the questioner.

**2 PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN HAROLD HILL****To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)**

By Councillor Paul McGeary

In view of the rise in the birth rate and the proposed housing developments in Gooshays and Heaton Wards what are the Administration's plans to expand primary school provision in Harold Hill?

**Response**

Discussions are underway with Mead Primary School about the need for extra capacity for this school to take additional Reception Year pupils this coming September, as a 'bulge', in anticipation of a possible formal expansion at the school which would be required the year after.

There is likely to be a further need for places in September 2013 and discussions are almost finalised with other schools who have expressed an interest in expansion.

We believe that the plans described above will provide for the immediate future requirements for primary school places on Harold Hill. Beyond that, i.e. 2014/15 onwards, it is likely that new school provision for Harold Hill, and indeed for the Borough as a whole, will be met either by existing Academy sponsors expanding existing provision or by new Academy and Free School sponsors coming forward to establish new schools or indeed by a combination of these approaches.

We are keeping matters constantly under review, both in terms of the rate at which overall demand is increasing and of the interest already being shown by potential new school promoters whose involvement in the changing 'schools scene' could well have an impact on the Council's own plans for expanding existing provision.

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In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member gave assurance that there would be detailed planning for the future provision of places but not that the questioner would be involved in doing that.

**Council 28 March 2012****3 USE OF CCTV CAR FOR PARKING ENFORCEMENT****To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Obstructive and long term parking in our smaller shopping centres and Parades should be deterred, but the CCTV car continues to act against the interests of local residents and shopkeepers by penalising motorists who stop for short periods to load and shop.

Will the Administration issue new guidelines to ensure the CCTV car is used to assist local residents and shopkeepers, rather than simply as a "cash cow" for the Council?

**Response**

The Council operates CCTV Parking Enforcement according to its Code of Practice which is approved by London Councils. Additionally, The Council's Civil Enforcement Officers undertake such enforcement in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Local business vitality is important and the Council's Traffic & Parking Control (T&PC) service endeavour to support local areas such as Rainham and the boroughs other satellite towns by ensuring that traffic flows safely and through the availability and management of parking places for local business customers and deliveries.

In the majority of cases a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) will not be issued within 3 to 4 minutes where a parking contravention is allegedly taking place. Where a Pay and Display payment is required then up to 5 minutes is felt to be reasonable amount of time to purchase a ticket and display it. Some PCNs are issued "instantly" but these are generally for parking contravention that are serious such as zebra crossings, school zig zags and where a loading ban is in place (That list is not exhaustive); parking contraventions where an exemption or a fee may apply are not ordinarily enforced using CCTV and so a period of observation or opportunity to purchase will be given.

Traffic & Parking Control do not use parking enforcement as a cash cow and that fact is supported by the fact of this Council being either bottom or within the bottom three of the 33 parking enforcement authorities in London annually.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member gave assurance that the staff operating the CCTV car were appropriately qualified. He undertook to provide the questioner with details of the staff and their qualifications provided there was no legal impediment to his doing.

**4 PAYMENT OF TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES****To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Leader confirm whether any union reps are paid for by the Council, along with a breakdown of those costs (e.g. FTEs)? In addition, can he give a projection of expenditure for the current financial year?

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Can I thank the Member for raising this issue? It gives me an opportunity to talk about how this Council works with its trade unions. We have very good relationships with them.

The current level of time off for Trade Union representatives paid for by the Council and projected 2011/12 costs are shown below.

<b>Trade Union Role</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>2011/12 Projected Cost</b>
Unison Branch Secretary	0.8	£26,808
Unison Representative	0.6	£23,887
Unison Representative	0.5	£14,985
Unison Representative	0.2	£5,606
GMB Branch Secretary	1.0	£21,951
GMB Representative	1.0	£30,885
GMB Representative	1.0	£31,739
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>£155,861</b>

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council pointed out that the Council was working hard with the trade unions on delivering the required savings but gave assurance that he would, in due course, review the level of support given to the trade unions and report back to the Council upon it.

**5 PROVISION OF FOOTBALL PITCHES****To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)**

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement about the proposed re-provision of football pitches from the land forming part of Central Park, Gooshays Drive (to the rear of the Albermarle Youth Club) to either the land at Broxhill or Dagnam Park?

**Response**

The two football pitches that form part of the Albermarle Youth Centre site will be re-provided.

At the Broxhill Centre, two pitches will be levelled and new drainage laid to create good quality playing surfaces. Additionally, works will be carried out to improve the changing facilities. The Romford Royals, who play at the Albermarle, will relocate to the Broxhill Centre.

At Dagnam Park, works will be carried out to provide two new pitches. Changing facilities will be provided in association with the Drapers Academy, which are part of the new-build school development currently nearing completion.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that work on the pitched would begin in the near future, funding was in place and there would be time for the

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pitches to settle to be available for use for the 2013/14 season. Next season's games, ending in spring 2013, will be played at the Albemarle.

**6 INGREBOURNE HILL - LANDFILL****To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)**

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

Exacerbated by public disquiet and exposé in the press, e.g. 'Yellow Advertiser Newspaper 29/2/12', many residents have concerns as to whether this Council has advanced the complete truth about Agenda item 10, Cabinet Report of 16:11:11 (the wanted intention to deposit other people's waste in a local South Hornchurch park) or if it is indeed 'hit and miss' as to whether they will be provided with the truth when asking important questions.

Unsurprisingly, residents in the South of the Borough have started to question the probity, integrity and whole truthfulness supporting the claim as advanced in agreement with Ingrebourne Valley Limited, that the driving force behind this proposal is the want to "provide a more interesting profiled and managed forested/wetland",

- 1 As an intended partner, in a venture described in such green environmental terms, does the Council know who owns Ingrebourne Valley Limited. Yes or No?
- 2 Who are and what is the primary registered description of the owners..?

**Response**

The Cabinet Report of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 referred to by the questioner, was a lengthy and very detailed report to ensure that all aspects of this proposal were available for consideration by Members when the decision was taken. In due course a planning application will be submitted which will be available for public consultation in the usual way.

The proposal is to extend the existing Ingrebourne Hill which has already been created by Ingrebourne Valley Limited on adjoining land. After completion of the extension works the land will be planted and it is proposed that the Council's land will be managed by the Forestry Commission, which already manages the existing Ingrebourne Hill. The landform will be created from inert materials under licence from the Environment Agency in the same way as the existing Ingrebourne Hill was created.

Ingrebourne Valley Limited is a joint venture between various companies. This includes Ahern Waste Management & Recycling - the Pryor Group, which is an earthmoving and civil engineering group - and RJD Limited which specialises in reservoir construction and minerals.

Ingrebourne Valley Limited specialises in restoration projects and has completed a number of schemes in the local area. Its association with the Forestry Commission in providing high quality public parkland has already worked successfully and the Forest Commission website describes the recently created Ingrebourne Hill as follows:

**A great site – a gentle hill fringed by the Ingrebourne River and its reedbeds to the east and lakes to the south, offering brilliant views across the Thames from its centre, with play**

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areas and gentle paths to the west. Walk the dog or jog, ride your horse or mountain bike, picnic or play, or just relax. You can do it all at Ingrebourne Hill. There's a great deal to look out for. Whether it's mountain bikes hurtling around the specially built track, spotting distant sights from its viewing point, taking in relaxing views whilst picnicking beside the lake, overseeing children playing in the scramble area, or just observing the wildlife.

The site attracts an average user rating of between 4.5 and 5 (with the top mark being a 5).

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member re-affirmed that Ingrebourne Valley Limited was not a gravel extraction company and there no plans whatsoever to extract gravel from Ingrebourne Hill nor was there any proposal to dump refuse or decomposable material or other substances that would affect air quality or the environment. The people of South Hornchurch would benefit from a site already considered to be near-perfect.

## 7 **FREQUENCY OF STREET SWEEPING**

### **To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member explain how cleaning streets is one of Administration's top priorities when in 2002 the majority of streets were swept once a week, and now they are only swept every three weeks?

### **Response**

As Cllr Morgon will be aware, we have just launched the Spring Clean Survey which asks people to identify the cleanliness issues in their local area. This will help us target our resources even more effectively to keep the Borough clean and tidy

Keeping the streets clean and tidy is about more than just sweeping them; it's also about working with local people and local businesses to reduce littering, providing bins in the right places and targeting the areas that need additional resources.

Town Centres, transport hubs, and shopping areas continue to be swept on a daily basis, and other areas are swept weekly, fortnightly, and in some, mainly residential areas, sweeping occurs every three weeks, based on our knowledge of local needs. The Spring Clean Survey will add to this local knowledge, and allow residents to tell us of their priorities.

Areas such as very busy industrial areas are mechanically swept weekly, and there are two weekly schedules for areas such as trunk road footways and busy residential roads

Back in 2002, when my predecessor was in post, there was priority for double-shifting and there was some sweeping every day. That was when our depot was down at Purfleet. As you will be aware, we now have our more modern facilities in Upper Rainham Road and also Harrow Lodge. That re-siting allows us to double-shift and prioritise our work within areas, reducing mileage by some 250,00 miles a year.

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In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that shopping centres and the like were swept daily, that trunk and other busy roads were swept weekly and other areas were swept on a three-weekly cycle.



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**8 ENCOURAGING DISABLED PEOPLE TO TAKE UP SPORT**

**To the Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns & Communities (Councillor Andrew Curtin)**

By Councillor Denis Breading

What initiatives will the Administration take to encourage more disabled people in Havering to take up sport?

**Response**

The Administration has always viewed greater inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of Culture, including sport and physical activity, as a key part of ensuring a better society.

We should, of course, bear in mind that people with disabilities do not necessarily form a homogeneous whole, and there may be great diversity of interests marking people with sensory impairments out from those with learning disabilities or physical disabilities, for example.

Much work has been done to improve access to sport and physical activity for people with disabilities since 2002. Future initiatives can be divided into five main areas;

1. Further strengthening the voice of people with disabilities in shaping the future of sport in Havering.
2. Maximising the efficiency of joint working between the Council's Cultural Services Department and agencies dealing specifically with people with disabilities in both the public and charitable sector, and the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
3. Continuing to expand the number of facilities accessible to people with disabilities.
4. Training to ensure that clubs and facilities providers are better able to benefit from the talents and interest of people with disabilities.
5. Support for elite level disability sports people.

To pursue these goals the following initiatives will be undertaken;

- To strengthen the voice of people with disabilities in sport and physical activity we will reconvene the Disability Sport Steering Group as the Inclusive and Active Steering Group, with more emphasis on inclusion.

Inclusive and Active sport and exercise opportunities for people with disabilities, including the chance to participate in some Paralympic Sports.

A third annual Culture and Disability Forum will be held this year. The forum seems well regarded by people in the disability sector as a way of pursuing greater inclusion refers to the Mayor of London's "Inclusive and Active 2" strategy, which Havering has committed to. The strategy aims to increase opportunities for disabled people to take part in sport and physical activity and is co-owned by the Greater London Authority, NHS London and Interactive.

- The Disability Sport Steering Group has existed for a number of years and has brought together sports people with disabilities and sports providers from the public, charitable and club sectors. Among its achievements has been the establishment and development of the annual Havering Active for All Day, which showcases and promotes

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and participation, and brings together people from the disability sector, providers in the Culture sector (including sport), representatives from social care and health agencies, and the charitable sector.

- To strengthen links between the sports sector and agencies working with disabled people, the borough's second Culture Strategy will contain a cross-cutting commitment to inclusion. The strategy has been widely consulted on, including presentations at the 2011 Culture and Disability Forum and Havering Sports Council. It will establish Health and Wellbeing as a key priority and, combined with its commitment to Inclusion, this is intended to support measures to further refine joint working between all agencies with an interest in promoting sport and exercise opportunities, among other aspects of Culture, for people with disabilities.
- The number of accessible sports facilities in the borough will be increased by the planned new swimming pool, ice rink and gym in Romford. The borough has an award-winning commitment to inclusive design at its sports centres, having worked closely with representatives from disability groups on the development of Central Park Leisure Centre, and on inclusive changing facilities (including for adults with complex multiple disabilities) and equipment accessible by people with visual impairments at Hornchurch Sports Centre. This approach will be continued in the planned new centre in Romford, taking advantage of the latest thought on the matter and working with representatives from the disability sector.
- The company Sport and Leisure Management who run the Council's three sports centres will seek Inclusive Fitness Industry Accreditation for Hornchurch Sports Centre, and have already achieved it for Central Park Leisure Centre.
- The new PlayFootball five-a-side football centre in King George's Playing Fields in Romford will provide a fully accessible pavilion and opportunities for all to participate in playing football. All schools, including special schools will be able to use the facilities free of charge during the school day. The Health and Sports Development Team have access to pitches at certain times for community use. These will include sessions for people with disabilities either new to the sport, or those that already participate but need a quality venue to train.
- Children's play facilities in parks are an important way for children to exercise, and we have pursued a programme of installing equipment suitable for children with physical disabilities over recent years, and have worked with Corbets Tey School to install equipment which will enable children with learning disabilities to play. We hope to consider ways of improving access for children with Autism, and improving the information available to parents and carers of children with disabilities about play, toilet and changing facilities suitable for them in parks in the borough. It seems clear to us that little will contribute better to a more inclusive society in the future than all children playing together now.
- To promote training to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in sport we will encourage providers (including clubs and voluntary organisations) to undertake disability awareness training specific to sport and physical activity, and will offer that training for free where we can.

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- To enable disabled sports people to flourish at the elite sports level, we will continue to ensure that the Havering Talented 30 scheme for outstanding young sports people and artists - run in partnership with Havering College of Further and Higher Education - is operated in an inclusive way, and we will continue to support Havering Sports Council in ensuring that their excellent Annual Sports Awards are fully inclusive, something which was perfectly demonstrated by the winners of this year's awards. We will work with Havering Disabled Sports Association to offer "taster" sessions in a variety of sports. We will take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the new Havering School Sports Collective (one of only ten such organisations in the country) to promote further inclusion in sport and dance for children and young people with disabilities, and ensure that as many Havering young disabled sports people as possible have the opportunity to take part in local competition and represent Havering in the new London School Games, the Balfour Beatty London Youth Games, and Panathlon.

**9 PENSIONS COMMITTEE: REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBER TRAINING****To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor David Durant

The March 14<sup>th</sup> Governance committee recommended that Pension Committee Members and substitutes must undertake compulsory training or be debarred from the Committee!

This is anti-democratic because Members are elected by the voters and should not be debarred from any Committees.

Also it is misguided, because it is based on a misconception that compulsory training will improve decision making. Training may help some Members, but other Members have already had training in the real world and gained a wealth of common sense which they contribute to committee meetings. Indeed, excluding Members with common sense will undermine decision making.

For example, was the decision to gamble £12.5 million in the Icelandic Banks due to a lack of training or common sense?

Therefore Cllr Michael White, do you agree that compulsory training for Members is anti-democratic, misguided and counter-productive, particularly as not all of us have the time, or want, to be professional politicians?

**Response**

I do not agree with the questioner's suggestion that a requirement to be familiar with the subject that one is reaching decisions about, especially in an area as technical as investments and pensions, is "anti-democratic, misguided and counter-productive". Quite the opposite in fact.

The days of the "gifted amateur" approach to decision making are long gone and, in fact, the Council would quite rightly be open to considerable criticism if it left decision-making to Members who were unaware of the context of their decisions, and made no effort to provide them with appropriate training (which is readily available and is organised by officers). Our

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residents have a right to expect that their elected representatives are able to make informed decisions on how their council tax money is spent.

Members receive a reasonable allowance for their work as Members, which is intended partly to compensate them for loss of earnings when they give priority to Council work over other forms of income.

10 **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS - vacancies****To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)**

By Councillor Linda Van den Hende

Can the Cabinet Member inform me how many vacancies, in each rank, there are in each of the Havering Safer Neighbourhood Teams?

**Response**

Assuming the model of 1 Police Sergeant, 2 PCs and 3 PCSOs (apart from Gooshays which is a "Super Ward" and has a model of 1-2-6):

- Gooshays is missing 3 PCSOs
- Mawneys , Harold Wood , Heaton ,Cranham ,Hylands and Emerson Park are all carrying 1 PCSO vacancy
- Cranham is carrying vacancies for 2 PCs
- Elm Park is carrying a vacancy for 1 PC
- In summary, the SNTs are carrying 3 PC vacancies and 9 PCSO vacancies

These figures do change from time to time.

11 **MY PLACE****To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)**

By Councillor Pat Murray

When will the 'MyPlace' facilities open for public use? Will he make a statement about the proposed programme of activities to be organised from it?

**Response**

I am delighted to report that MyPlace is on track to open to the public on June 11th. There will be a programme of activities in place from the outset including a range of activities for young people as well as for the wider community. Details of opening times and planned activities will be publicised after Easter.

12 **ABOLITION OF HOMES IN HAVERING****To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)**

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By Councillor Mark Logan

Abolishing the ALMO will make it more difficult to remove Council tenants' security of tenure and to impose the compulsory privatisation of Council Housing. However can the Administration confirm that this move is not just a cost cutting exercise, but will improve the delivery of housing services to council tenants?

**Council 28 March 2012****Response**

Councillor Logan is mistaken in his understanding of the structure of the Arms Length Management Organisation (Homes in Havering). The establishment of the ALMO made no difference to the security of tenure of any council tenant. Tenants remained tenants of the Council, before the establishment of the ALMO, during the time that Homes in Havering managed the service, and they will continue as council tenants with the same security of tenure after the service is brought back in house. It is also not the case, that the establishment of an ALMO can be seen in any way as a privatisation of council housing. When the service is managed by the Council or the ALMO, the housing management service remained a public service, wholly owned by the Council.

We do expect to make savings as a result of the decision to bring the service back in house. In the consultation material that we sent out, we said that the savings were likely to be a minimum of £300,000. However, we expect to make these savings by removing duplication between the Council and Homes in Havering. We do not expect the service standards to be reduced. We fully expect to build on the improved standards of housing management that Homes in Havering have achieved, and indeed, to continue to improve on them in the future.

13 **SPITTING****To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Leader agree that spitting in a public place is an unwelcome habit and will he consider following the example set by the London Borough of Enfield who are seeking to establish a bye-law to ban spitting in public?

**Response**

Spitting in a public place is a disgusting habit and I would like to announce this evening that this Administration plans to apply to bring in a bye-law to ban spitting in public.

14 **THE FUTURE OF COUNCIL HOUSING MANAGEMENT IN HAVERING****To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)**

By Councillor Paul McGeary

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement about the outcome of the recent Tenants' consultation relating to the future of Council housing management in Havering?

**Response**

I am happy to make a statement about the outcome of the recent Tenants' consultation on the future of the Council's housing management service.

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The Council has spent time between October 2011 and January 2012 raising awareness amongst tenants of the consultation on the future of the housing management service.

There were 35 public meetings, including discussions at the Annual Tenants and residents Conference in October 2011

Articles were placed on the Council's website, and in Living Magazine, and in the Homes in Havering magazine, At the Heart

In January, the Electoral Reform Society (ERS) were appointed to carry out the test of tenant opinion.

The results were that 39.4% of tenants and residents expressed their views

- 48.3% stated that they preferred the Council to provide the housing management service
- 32.1% expressed the view that they would prefer Homes in Havering to continue to provide the service
- 19.6% stated that they did not mind who provided the housing management service

We also invited Homes in Havering to express a view about the future of the service. They have done this, and accepted that the views of the tenants and residents are that the tenants and leaseholders would prefer the service to be provided by the Council

In conclusion, this was a full consultation exercise, with a good turnout and a clear result

I am therefore pleased to say that Cabinet, have accepted my recommendation that the service is brought back in house, and that officers have been instructed to take the necessary steps to achieve this result

I would like to express my thanks to Homes in Havering for all their work over the past five and a half year in improving the housing service

I am committed to maintaining the quality of the service, and to involving tenants and leaseholders in the decisions about the service in the future

15 **HIGHWAY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**To the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment (Councillor Robert Benham)**  
By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

If the Council undertakes a Highway Impact Assessment (HIA) before or after planning applications are submitted, or for any other reason, will local ward councillors be informed and provided with the criteria being used to undertake the HIA. In particular will the HIA consider the environmental impact too?

**Response**

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The Council does not undertake a Highways Impact Assessment and as far as we are aware, there is no such methodology in use in the UK.

There are Transport Assessments (TA's) and Transport Impact Assessments (TIA's) routinely in use, but they would be submitted by the applicant as part of a planning application. TAs are used for smaller, simpler schemes and TIAs on larger complicated schemes.

It is for the applicant to demonstrate how their development fits in with the Council's policies and Highways staff will review the submissions against policy and comment in line with policy.

In terms of ward councillor involvement, they are able to comment on the TAs and TIAs as part of any planning application as they would form part of the developer's submission.

In terms of environmental assessment, TAs and TIAs are not specifically designed for such a purpose.

**16 EXCEEDING THE 20mph LIMIT****To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

Since April 2010 how many penalties have been issued for exceeding the speed limit in 20mph zones?

**Response**

This question does not apply to the Council as only the Police Service can enforce speed limits and restrictions.

**17 LAMP-POST BANNERS IN UPMINSTER TOWN CENTRE****To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)**

By Councillor Linda Van den Hende

Further to the question at September Council, would the Cabinet Member confirm:

- a) the total cost of installing lamp-post banners in Upminster Town Centre?
- b) the annual income budget?
- c) what income has been generated since the installation?

**Response**

- a) There is no cost to the Council for installation. These costs met by the supplier
- b) Income is £100 per site and we have 28 in Upminster so a total of £2800 per annum
- c) No income has been generated as yet as we have only just signed the contract.

**18 PAYMENTS TO LOBBYISTS****To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)**



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By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm if any Council funds have been paid to lobbyists over the past five years?

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Having made enquiries of relevant officers, I am not aware of any instances where the Council has retained the services of lobbyists over the past five years.

19 **LATE NIGHT LEVIES****To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what the Administration's view is on late night levies on pubs and clubs in Havering?

**Response**

The enabling legislation for this function has not been introduced yet. Discussions are nevertheless underway with the Police and a report will be taken to the Licensing Committee in due course.

20 **INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATION SERVICES****To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)**

By Councillor Nic Dodin

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how much was spent on interpreter and translation services in each of the past three financial years?

**Response**

The Council is committed to providing fair, inclusive and accessible services to our customers. As part of this commitment we use translation and interpreting services in order to:

- Meet our legal duties (e.g. Children Services – child protection and child safeguarding cases), and
- Communicate with customers whose first language is not English and customers with specific needs such as Deaf people who use British Sign Language and/or Lip Reading.

The approximate costs for use of these services by Children's Services are in the region of £60-£70k a year for the last 3 years, so approximately £200k in total. A corporate contract has also been in operation, managed by Culture & Community Services, total spend over the last 3 years was approximately £23k.

A corporate contract has also been in operation, managed by Culture & Community Services, for which the total spend over the last 3 years was approximately £23k.

Having made enquiries of relevant officers, I am not aware of any other spending on translation and interpretation services over the last three years.

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**21 EMPLOYMENT OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS**

**To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)**

By Councillor John Wood

Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether the Council has employed any private investigators in the last four years and if they have, what was the annual cost and what financial benefit did it achieve?

**Response**

The Council does not use private investigators.

**22 COMPLIANCE WITH DATA PROTECTION ACT**

**To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Leader of the Council confirm how he ensures that all parts of the Data Protection Act are complied with by the Council?

**Response**

The Council's compliance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act is a matter for the Corporate Management Team and Heads of Service.

**23 COMPLAINTS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS - monitoring**

**To the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment (Councillor Robert Benham)  
(to be answered by the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning – Councillor Paul Rochford (by arrangement))**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how he monitors complaints made about an individual school?

**Response**

All general complaints in relation to schools are dealt with in the first instance by the school's governing body.

The 2002 Education Act determined that all governing bodies must have complaints procedures in place and must have regard to guidance given by the Secretary of State. Only if the complaint owner is unhappy with the outcome from the governors' complaint process would the LA be involved. If the LA is required to be involved the LA would undertake an investigation

In relation to the LA's statutory duties or powers, procedures are in place to deal with such issues as child protection.

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These procedures are undertaken by a variety of teams across Children's Services depending upon the particular issue being brought to officers' attention.

The lead member is kept apprised of progress in all matters relating to his statutory duties as lead member for Children's Services through regular briefings with officers.

**24 COUNCIL STAFF: PAYMENT OF BONUSES, AND AS LIMITED COMPANIES****To the Cabinet Member for Transformation (Councillor Michael Armstrong)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether any members of council staff receive bonuses and are paid as limited companies?

**Response**

No members of Council staff receive bonuses or are paid as limited companies.

**25 RECORDED CRIMES IN HAVERING****To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the number of recorded crimes in Havering under the various categories of crime for the years ending 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011?

**Response**

The numbers of recorded crimes are as follows. They are recorded per financial year and not calendar year. There is also an element of double counting, since some crimes will have been recorded more than once, in different categories. This is unavoidable if a true picture is to emerge.

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	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>
<b>Total Notifiable Crime: actual</b>	<b>17210</b>	<b>18025</b>	<b>17147</b>	<b>17575</b>
Violence With Injury Offences	<i>Classifications changed - direct comparison not possible</i>	1584	1562	1597
Assault with Injury Offences		1361	1322	1362
Most Serious Violence Offences		221	244	233
Common Assault Offences		664	766	938
Offensive Weapon Offences	122	133	80	79
Sexual Offences	133	179	228	218
Robbery Offences	312	341	347	417
Robbery Personal Offences	266	277	297	370
Robbery Business Offences	46	64	50	47
Burglary (res) Offences	1101	1500	1882	1635
Burglary (non-res) Offences	1119	1011	908	689
Motor Vehicle Crime Offences	2742	2712	2030	2498
Theft/Taking Of MV Offences	1148	1137	816	930
Theft From MV Offences	1594	1575	1214	1568
MV Interference & Tamp Offences	122	159	101	142
Theft From Person Offences	358	443	557	440
Criminal Damage Offences	2927	2773	2287	2137
Tier 2 Serious Acquisitive Offences	4155	4553	4259	4550
Serious Sexual Offences	95	125	162	162
Racially & Religiously Aggravated Offences	128	145	164	146
Serious Youth Violence	<i>Did not exist in 07/08</i>	141	139	159
Youth Violence		584	555	545
Gun Crime Offences	31	41	44	45
Knife Crime Offences	172	203	205	222
Theft Of Pedal Cycles Offences	122	143	146	175
Theft From Shops Offences	1157	1418	1448	1203
Possession Of Drugs Offences	1134	958	865	1049
Other Theft Offences	1725	1781	1949	2016
Other Drug Offences	2	1	1	1
Murder Offences	3	1	1	1
Handling Stolen Goods Offences	59	48	26	43
Drug Trafficking Offences	32	60	95	104
Drugs Offences	1168	1019	961	1154
Child Sex Abuse Offences	30	37	56	51
Cannabis Production Offences	0	26	42	37
Fraud or Forgery Offences	902	1170	698	910
Harassment Offences	609	646	870	994
Other Violence Offences	138	109	122	105

**Council 28 March 2012****26 STAFF AND SALARIES - TOTALS****To the Cabinet Member for Transformation (Councillor Michael Armstrong)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the number of FTE's and total salary bill, including agency staff, during the financial years ending 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

**Response**

The relevant information is shown below

Year	Employee FTE	Employee Payroll Costs Total	Agency Worker Headcount	Agency Worker Costs Total
2008/9	2221.67	£79,617,210	560	£14,324,813
2009/10	2320.64	£80,869,370	575	£14,790,880
2010/11	2321.86	£82,740,761	580	£15,934,333
2011/12	2187.45	£84,876,213	530	£13,147,675

Note:

- Employee FTE and Payroll Costs exclude schools employees
- Employee FTE figures are as at 31 March each year except 2011/12 where figure is as at 23 March
- Employee Payroll Costs include National Insurance and Pension costs
- Agency Worker Headcount is an average of the 12 monthly averages during each year

Havering Council uses Agency Workers for a number of reasons including covering short term assignments or where specialist skills are needed that are not available in house.

With all of the restructures that have been undertaken over the last two years, managers will have used Agency Workers on short term temporary assignments to cover roles during those restructure processes. These are then immediately available as redeployment opportunities for employees who are redeployed so that the costs of redundancy are minimised to the Council.

We are currently reviewing all of the Agency Worker assignments and Heads of Service are being asked whether these roles can now be filled by permanent employees (which will include redeployees), an employee being recruited permanently to the role or whether the role is no longer required.

**27 POLICE IN HAVERING - NUMBERS****To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)**

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet member confirm the number of police officers based in Havering, split between the different ranks, and confirm the minimum number of officers available at anyone time to deal with 999 calls?

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**Response**

Chief Superintendent -1  
Superintendent - 1  
Chief Inspector (inc Detective) - 4  
Inspectors - (inc Detectives) - 19  
Sergeants (inc Detectives) - 68.9 (FTE)  
Constables (inc detectives) - 261.27 (FTE)

Total: 355.17 (FTE)

Safer Transport officers are additional to the above numbers:

Sergeants: 3  
Constables: 21

Patrol Teams (Emergency Responders) have a **minimum** strength as follows:

Early Turn: (0700-1500) - 1 insp, 1 sgt and 10 constables.  
Late Turn: (1400 - 2300) - 1 Insp, 1 sgt and 14 constables.  
Night Duty: (2200-0700) - 1 insp, 1 sgt and 12 constables.

Additionally, safer neighbourhoods officers are available for deployment to emergency calls on their own wards, when on duty.