



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Havering Town Hall, Romford
30 March 2011 (7.30pm – 10.50pm)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Pam Light) in the Chair

Councillors: Councillors June Alexander, Michael Armstrong, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Becky Bennett, Sandra Binion, Jeff Brace, Denis Breading, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Dennis Bull, Michael Deon Burton, Andrew Curtin, Keith Darvill, Osman Dervish, Nic Dodin, David Durant, Brian Eagling, Ted Eden, Roger Evans, Gillian Ford, Georgina Galpin, Linda Hawthorn, Lesley Kelly, Steven Kelly, Mark Logan, Barbara Matthews*, Paul McGeary, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, John Mylod, Pat Murray, Barry Oddy, Denis O'Flynn, Fred Osborne, Ron Ower, Gary Pain, Roger Ramsey, Paul Rochford, Geoffrey Starns, Billy Taylor, Barry Tebbutt, Frederick Thompson, Jeffery Tucker, Linda Van den Hende, Keith Wells, Melvin Wallace, Damian White, Michael White and John Wood

* For part of the meeting

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

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Peter Gardner, John Mylod, Lynden Thorpe and Linda Trew.

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

Rev Armstrong Fummey of Trinity Methodist Church, Romford opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

66 **MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23 February 2011 be signed as a true record.

67 **PHILP HEADY, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER**

The Mayor and the Leader of the Council both referred to the forthcoming retirement of Philip Heady, Democratic Services Manager and, on behalf of the Council, thanked him for his service since 1982 and wished him well for the future.

68 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (agenda item 4)**

Councillors Steven Kelly, Jeff Brace, Billy Taylor and June Alexander each declared a personal interest in the matters referred to in minute 71, as members of the Board of Homes in Havering.

Following a request for guidance, the Council noted advice that Members of the Regulatory Services Committee were not precluded from participating in the debate, or voting, on the motion referred to in minute 79.

In the course of the debate on the motion referred to in minute 78, Councillor Linda Van den Hende declared a personal interest as the wife of a serving police officer.

69 **ANNOUNCEMENTS (agenda item 5)**

The Mayor's Announcements are attached as **Appendix 1 to these minutes**.

70 **PETITIONS (agenda item 6)**

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 23, petitions were presented as follows, by Councillors:

Jeffrey Tucker - From more than 500 residents of Rainham & Wennington Ward opposing the proposed development at Dovers Corner

Michael Deon Burton - (1) From more than 450 signatories opposing the proposed development at Dovers Corner

(2) From 115 residents opposing conversion of Will Perrin Court to a hostel

- Georgina Galpin - From residents of Thorncroft, Hornchurch seeking double yellow line parking restrictions at the junction of Osborne Road and Thorncroft
- Pat Murray - From residents of Bridgwater Road, North Hill Drive, Hildene Avenue and adjoining areas objecting to the sale of off-street parking facilities in that neighbourhood

It was noted that each petition would be passed to Democratic Services for attention in accordance with the Petitions Scheme.

71 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PROGRAMME, 2011-2012 (agenda item 7)**

The Mayor had accepted the report as an urgent item, pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as the decision of the Cabinet from which it arose had not be taken until after the despatch of the agenda for the meeting.

Councillors Steven Kelly, Jeff Brace, Billy Taylor and June Alexander each declared a personal interest, as members of the Board of Homes in Havering.

There was before the Council a report of the Cabinet concerning the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme, 2011-2012. No amendment was proposed and the recommendations of the Cabinet were **ADOPTED** without debate or division. It was, accordingly, **RESOLVED**:

That the HRA Capital Programme for 2011/12 as now proposed by the Cabinet, be approved.

72 **FORMAT OF MEETINGS OF FULL COUNCIL (agenda item 8)**

The Governance Committee had considered a number of proposals intended to facilitate more efficient and effective transaction of the business coming before meetings of the full Council and its report now before the Council set out a range of proposed changes in meeting procedure.

Those proposals were **ADOPTED** without debate or division, and it was **RESOLVED that**:

- 1 **The Annual Meeting of the Council start at 7pm and be arranged in two parts with an adjournment between them:**
 - (a) **Mayor Making, at which the Mayor for the coming municipal year will be elected, the Deputy Mayor**

appointed and the Leader of the Council's Annual Statement presented; and

(b) other business, to include the appointment of Committees, their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, consideration of Reports, Members' Questions and debates on Motions on any matter relevant to the Council.

2 (a) At ordinary meetings of the Council, proposers of motions have the ability to propose either a more limited form of debate than the full debate currently provided for, or dealing with the motion by vote-only (without requiring a procedural motion to that effect) and that the Council Procedure Rules be amended as set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes accordingly; and

(b) In the limited form of debate ("Intermediate debate procedure"), the restrictions on participants be as follows:

1 A speech of 5 minutes for the proposer of a motion or amendment;

2 A speech of 2 minutes for all other speakers, including those seconding the motion;

3 That the number of speakers, including those seconding the motion and any amendment but excluding those proposing the motion or an amendment, shall not exceed five from the Administration and five from Groups other than the Administration (and there shall be a formal convention as to how those speakers may be identified, to be agreed by the Group Leaders);

4 That rights of reply shall be exercisable by the Leader of the Opposition (or his nominee) and the Leader of the Council, both having 5 minutes.

3 (a) That, when seconding a motion or amendment, Members rise only formally to second the proposal and make any speech subsequently, in general debate; and

(b) the current seconder's right to a speech of 8 minutes be abolished.

4 That the pattern of meetings of the Council be:

January (or 1 February if necessary)

February (Council Tax and budget)

March

May (the Annual Meeting, including Mayor Making)

July

September

November

- 5 That, when Council considers a report by Cabinet, a Committee or an officer, in addition to proposing formal amendment, Members have the right to submit questions for response by the Leader of the Council, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the appropriate Committee Chairman, any such question to be submitted to the same deadline as an amendment to the report.
- 6 That the revised Council Procedure Rules set out in Appendix 2 be adopted and that the Assistant Chief Executive be authorised to make any other necessary minor or consequential amendments that result from these decisions.

73 **REVIEW OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURE (agenda item 9)**

A report of the Governance Committee was submitted, dealing with changes proposed to the Council's Committee structure, following a review by the Administration. The proposals were **ADOPTED** without debate or division, and it was **RESOLVED**:

That, with effect from the Annual Meeting on 25 May 2011:

- (a) **The Adjudication & Review Committee and the Appointments Committee be re-constituted as Sub-Committees of the Governance Committee and that Hearings Panels be re-designated as Panels of that Committee, and that their respective functions be assigned to this Committee as set out in Appendix 3A to these minutes; and**
- (b) **The Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee be abolished and its functions re-distributed to other Overview & Scrutiny Committees as set out in Appendix 3B;**

and that the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to make all consequential adjustments to the Council's Constitution.

74 **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (agenda item 10)**

- A **Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 – Designation of Statutory Scrutiny Officer**
- B **Head of Development and Building Control: adjustments to the scope of planning applications which can be decided under delegated powers**

A report of the Governance Committee invited the Council to approve two amendments to the Council's Constitution concerning the delegation to certain officers of authority (a) as to act statutory Scrutiny Officer and (b) of additional powers in relation to certain planning applications BY Homes in Havering and by Schools.

Both adjustments were **APPROVED** without debate or division and it was **RESOLVED:**

- 1 **That the post of Committee Administration and Member Support Manager be designated as statutory Scrutiny Officer with effect from 1 April 2011 and that the holder of the post, Ian Buckmaster, be appointed accordingly.**
- 2 **That the Head of Development and Building Control be authorised to determine planning applications by or on behalf of Homes in Havering or Schools and that the existing delegations to that officer be adjusted by the addition to paragraph 3.7.6 of the following new delegations:**
 - (i) **Erect extensions, conservatories, alterations, disabled ramps and similar household type development in respect of Homes in Havering submitted planning applications which, were they not Homes in Havering properties, would be determined under staff delegated powers**
 - (ii) **Extensions less than 1,000sqm and freestanding shelters and boundary treatment including walls and fencing proposals in respect of school related applications unless objections have been received or the school is within the Green Belt.**

75 **DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS (agenda item 11)**

The Chief Executive reported upon the proposed schedule of meetings of the Council in 2011/12, taking into account the adjusted cycle approved at minute 72(4) above. The schedule was **APPROVED** as submitted and it was accordingly **RESOLVED:**

That Council fix the dates of its meetings for the Municipal Year 2011/12 and, on a provisional basis, the balance of 2012, as follows:

2011

20 July

21 September *

23 November *

*** replacing those shown in the current diary as provisional**

2012

1 February

22 February (Council tax Setting)

28 March

23 May (Annual Meeting)

18 July (provisional)

19 September (provisional)

28 November (provisional)

76 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS(agenda item 12)

16 questions were asked and replies given.

The texts of those questions and their answers, together with those not asked orally, are set out in **Appendix 4 to these minutes.**

77 FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE OF HRH PRINCE WILLIAM OF WALES AND MISS KATE MIDDLETON

With the consent of the Mayor, a Member referred to the forthcoming marriage of HRH Prince William of Wales and Miss Kate Middleton. A proposal that the Mayor write on behalf of the Council and the people of the Borough to convey to His Royal Highness and his fiancée best wishes for a long and happy marriage was **AGREED** unanimously.

78 **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING (agenda items 13/13A)**

Councillor Linda Van den Hende declared a personal interest as the wife of a serving police officer.

Motion on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

This Council affirms its support for Safer Neighbourhood policing and opposes any changes that are detrimental to the size and future of ward based Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Amendment by the Administration

Amend to read:

This Council affirms its support for Safer Neighbourhood policing and opposes any changes that are detrimental to the size and future of ward based Safer Neighbourhood Teams, and welcomes the Mayor of London's commitment of an extra £42million in London policing.

Following debate, the Administration amendment was **CARRIED** by 40 votes to 8 (see voting division 1) and adopted as the substantive motion without division.

RESOLVED that:

This Council affirms its support for Safer Neighbourhood policing and opposes any changes that are detrimental to the size and future of ward based Safer Neighbourhood Teams, and welcomes the Mayor of London's commitment of an extra £42million in London policing.

79 **REDEVELOPMENT OF GARAGE SITES AND CAR PARKING AREAS IN HAROLD HILL (agenda item 14/14A)**

Councillor Linda Van den Hende declared a personal interest as the wife of a serving police officer.

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

This Council regrets the time constraints and unwarranted haste to implement the proposed development of garage sites and car parking areas in the Harold Hill Estate as a consequence of the time limited funding arrangements imposed by the Homes & Communities Agency and the Mayor of London which has led to the premature serving of Notices on Tenants and the proposed commencement of works on parts of the Estate before the planning processes have been completed.

Amendment by the Administration

Amend to read:

This Council regrets the time constraints to implement the proposed development of insufficiently used garage sites as a consequence of the time limited funding arrangements imposed by the HCA; but congratulates the Administration for its policy to provide much needed family homes for Havering residents.

Following debate, the Administration amendment was **CARRIED**. The motion as amended was then **CARRIED** as the substantive motion by 30 votes to 9 (see voting division 2).

RESOLVED that:

This Council regrets the time constraints to implement the proposed development of insufficiently used garage sites as a consequence of the time limited funding arrangements imposed by the HCA; but congratulates the Administration for its policy to provide much needed family homes for Havering residents.

Mayor
25 May 2011

Note: the record of the voting divisions is attached as
Appendix 5 to these minutes.

**Appendix 1
(Minute 68)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR

May I start by congratulating Fairkytes Arts Centre for receiving a nationally recognised accreditation for excellence of service. The Quest accreditation is a quality scheme for sport and leisure and was awarded following a gruelling two day inspection. Congratulations too to the Council's Adult Services for being 'highly commended' in the LGC Awards. The Council came second in the Health and Social Care category, for its pioneering social enterprise scheme – to give our vulnerable residents the choice of how they would like to be cared for.

The Queen's Theatre also had something to celebrate when they received three top awards. The inaugural Off West End Theatre Awards called 'The Offies' were presented by actor Simon Callow. The Queen's won The People's Favourite Production Award for the musical Camp Horror; The People's Favourite Entertainment Award for the production of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and for the Most Welcoming Theatre, which is something I think we can all vouch for. Further good news that I heard today is that the Queen's Theatre has been successful in its bid to the Arts Council, England.

Speaking of a warm welcome. I recently visited Hesdin, our twin town, and met with the Mayor, Jean Marie Roussel and his wife Francine, to mark the 10th anniversary of twinning between our towns, which was extremely successful.

I was very impressed with our first Bikewise event as one of the Mayor of London's Biking Boroughs. Around 4,000 residents came to Hornchurch Country Park, many by bike. Well done to the organisers – and to Councillor Michael White, who rode with me on the front seat of a tandem and didn't once tip off!

Another event which attracted more than 600 people was the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day event we held at Havering College of Further and Higher Education. Its success marks the hard work and enthusiasm of everyone involved. And it doesn't stop there - the Council's Walking for Health scheme is attracting a record number of walkers. It has also received praise from Natural England, the Government's advisor on the natural environment, when some 79 people turned out for one of the six walks Leisure Services hold a week.

I was also impressed by the brilliant performance of the one hundred pupils from Rainham schools who took part in the Moyo, an event of music, dance and drama. I attended too the Havering Primary Dance Festival, part of the Emerson Park School Partnership Dance Festival, which was just as impressive. Both events were extremely well organised and professionally performed.

I was extremely pleased to be asked to launch the nominations for the Caring Neighbour Scheme organised by Havering's Over 50s Forum. This is a great scheme which recognises ordinary people of all ages who go out of their way to show good neighbourliness, expecting nothing in return. I hope you will give it your support.

A big thank you to Members, colleagues and friends for their support for my Charity Boxing Dinner fundraising event. With your help we raised £1,200 for my charities the Rainbow Trust and HAD – Havering Association for people with Disabilities.

I will also be walking in the footsteps of Dick Whittington to raise funds for my charities this coming Sunday. I intend to complete the seven mile walk in full robes, sponsorship forms are available: please give generously!

**APPENDIX 2
(Minute 72)**

AMENDED COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Rule 1 - Annual Meeting of the Council

Amend the second paragraph and list of agenda items as follows:

The annual meeting will commence at 7pm and comprise two Parts, as follows:

Part 1

- (a) choose a Member to preside if the Mayor is not present and to receive apologies for absence;
- (b) elect the Mayor of the Borough and receive notice of the appointment of the Deputy Mayor;
- (c) approve the minutes of the last meeting and of any subsequent extraordinary meeting;
- (d) receive any announcements from the Mayor and/or Chief Executive;
- (e) in a year when there is an ordinary election of Councillors, elect the Leader of the Council, and receive any notice of the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Members of the Cabinet
- (f) receive a statement by (or on behalf of) the Leader of the Council relating to any aspect of the Council policy or in respect of any issue affecting the Council or the borough.

Part 2

- (g) receive any declarations of interest from members;
- (h) other than in a year when there is an ordinary election of Councillors, consider whether to confer on any person of distinction or who has rendered eminent service to the borough the Honorary Freedom of the Borough
- (i) appoint the overview and scrutiny committees, the Standards Committee and any such other committees as the Council considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions; appoint their Chairmen and Vice Chairmen; and appoint the following seven Champions:
 - (i) for Diversity
 - (ii) for the Historic Environment
 - (iii) for the 14-19 Diploma Scheme
 - (iv) for the Over Fifties
 - (v) for Standards
 - (vi) for the Voluntary Sector Compact
 - (vii) for Younger Persons
- (j) receive any petitions pursuant to rule 23(a);

- (k) receive and consider the following business, in the order indicated:
- (i) recommendations from the Cabinet and the Council's committees;
 - (ii) reports of the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer;
 - (iii) proposals from the Cabinet in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework;
 - (iv) reports of the overview and scrutiny committees and/or the Member Champions;
 - (v) any statutory or other plans submitted for the Council's approval;
 - (vi) consider questions from members submitted in accordance with Rule 10;
 - (vii) debate any petition exceeding the threshold of 3,500 signatories, and reach a decision on it, in accordance with the procedure set out in Rule 23;
 - (viii) consider any motions submitted in accordance with the procedure set out in Rule 11; and
 - (ix) consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting.

The Initial, Revised and Final Agendas for the Annual Meeting, and any papers or other submissions for consideration at that meeting, shall be delivered in accordance with Timetable 1 appended to these Rules.

Rule 11 - Motions of which notice is given

Insert new paragraph 11.3 (and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly)

11.3 Mode of debate

The proposer of a motion may indicate at the time of submitting the motion, or at any time prior to the publication of that motion in the final agenda for a meeting, that the motion may be dealt with at the meeting by the intermediate debate procedure provided for in Rule 13.5 or by vote only as provided for in Rule 13.6. That indication shall apply also in respect of any amendments proposed to the motion and shall be noted on the agenda papers.

If no such indication is given, the motion (and any amendments) shall be debated in full (unless Rules 7(d) (Mayor's powers) or 9.1(d)(conclusion of meeting) apply).

Amend paragraph 11.7 as follows:

11.7 Amendments to, or questions about, reports

Amendments to any reports before Council shall be submitted to the Proper Officer as follows:

- (a) To reports issued with the final agenda, no later than the Monday before the meeting (but if the Monday is a Bank Holiday, the time limit will be extended to noon on the Tuesday before the meeting).
- (b) An amendment to an urgent report may be proposed without notice at any time before the debate on it is concluded.

A Member may question the Leader of the Council, a Cabinet Member, a Committee Chairman or a Member Champion, as appropriate, about the content of any report before Council. Questions:

- (a) About reports issued with the final agenda shall be submitted to the Proper Officer no later than the Monday before the meeting (but if the Monday is a Bank Holiday, the time limit will be extended to noon on the Tuesday before the meeting).
- (b) About an urgent report may, with the consent of the Mayor, be asked without notice at the time the report is considered by Council.

Rule 12 – Motions without notice

In paragraph 12.1, insert the following and renumber subsequent clauses accordingly:

- (f) to apply to a motion (including a deemed motion relating to a report) the full debate procedure (rule 13.4), intermediate debate procedure (rule 13.5) or vote only procedure (rule 13.6);
- (g) where a motion is being considered by the Intermediate debate procedure (rule 13.5), to vary the number of Members who may speak;

Rule 13 – Rules of debate

Replace paragraph 13.3 by the following:

13.3 Mode of debate

This Rule shall not apply to any motion or amendment proposed in relation to the Council Tax and budget at the meeting of the Council at which they are set.

Unless an indication has been given in accordance with Rule 11.3 (mode of debate) or Rule 9.1(d) (conclusion of meeting) applies, all motions shall be debated in accordance with Rule 13.4 (Full debate procedure).

Where the proposer has indicated that the motion shall be debated using the intermediate debate procedure, Rule 13.5 (Intermediate debate procedure) shall apply unless a procedural motion is passed to apply either the full debate procedure or the vote only procedure

Where the proposer has indicated that the motion shall be dealt with by vote only, Rule 13.6 (Vote only procedure) shall apply unless a procedural motion is passed to apply either the full debate procedure or the intermediate debate procedure.

Speeches must be directed to the agenda item under discussion or to a point of personal explanation, clarification, order or information.

Rename paragraph 13.4 and amend its content as follows:

13.4 Full debate procedure

No speech may exceed the following time limits without consent of the Mayor:

- (a) ten minutes for a mover of a motion or an amendment and
- (b) five minutes for other speeches in any debate

Except that, at the meeting setting the council tax under rule 3, the speeches of any Group Leader (or of a member nominated to speak on behalf of a Group Leader) on any motion or amendment relating to the council tax shall not exceed twenty minutes.

At the close of each debate upon a motion or report, or after a motion "That the question be put" has been carried, rights of reply may be exercised in the following order:

- (a) The Leader of the Group by which any motion, recommendation or amendment was proposed (if not the Leader of the Council or the Leader of the Opposition), or, if the mover is not a member of a Group, that Member.
- (b) Where more than one Group or individual Member has proposed a motion or amendment, each shall be entitled to exercise a right of reply, in the order in which the motion or amendment(s) appears on the agenda.
- (c) The Leader of the Opposition
- (d) The Leader of the Council.

In each case, the appropriate Leader may nominate another member of their Group to reply on their behalf.

Insert new paragraphs 13.5, 13.6 and 13.7:

13.5 Intermediate debate procedure

No speech may exceed the following time limits:

- (a) five minutes for a mover of a motion or an amendment
- (b) two minutes for all other speeches and
- (c) a right of reply for five minutes each for the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Council (or their respective nominees).

Unless agreed otherwise by procedural motion, the number of speakers, including those seconding the motion and any amendment but excluding those proposing the motion or an amendment, shall not exceed five from the Administration and five from Groups other than the Administration.

A convention agreed by Group Leaders will govern the selection of speakers.

The motion and any amendment shall be voted upon as if there had been a full debate of the matter.

13.6 Vote only procedure

Where this procedure is invoked, the Mayor shall put the matter to a vote without debate. The motion and any amendment shall be deemed to have been moved and seconded, and shall be voted upon as if there are been a full debate of the matter.

13.7 Seconding a motion or amendment

No motion or amendment shall be debated or voted upon unless it has been seconded by a Member other than its proposer. A Member seconding a motion or amendment shall do so formally, without making a speech.

Delete existing paragraph 13.6 and renumber the subsequent paragraphs.

**APPENDIX 3
(Minute 76)**

Appendix 3A

REVISED FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Note – for ease of reference, the functions being transferred to the Governance Committee are shown in **bold font**

Hearings Panels, currently the responsibility of the Adjudication & Review Committee, would become the responsibility of this Committee (through the new Adjudication & Review Sub-Committee). The functions below marked * would be the responsibility of that new Sub-Committee and those marked ø would be under the Appointments Sub-Committee.

Governance	<p>Monitoring constitution</p> <p>In accordance with Part 2, Article 11 of this constitution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor and review operation of the constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the constitution are given full effect • To make recommendations to the Council about amending the constitution • To monitor and review the Members' Allowance Scheme and make recommendations to Council • To monitor and review the role of Overview and Scrutiny including numbers, operation and responsibility of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and their terms of reference and make recommendations • To monitor and review all aspects of Corporate Governance • To approve the Annual Governance Statement <p>Staff disciplinary, capability and grievance procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where necessary, to establish a panel to consider and determine any appeal by the Head of Paid Service, a Group Director, Assistant Chief Executive, Assistant Director or a Head of Service from the decision of a panel of the Appointments Committee. • Where necessary, to establish a panel to hear a grievance submission made by the Head of Paid Service, a Group Director, Assistant Chief Executive, Assistant Director or a Head of Service • Where necessary to establish a panel to consider and determine any appeal against dismissal or final stage grievance lodged by "Havering Grade" staff. <p>ø Appointments and dismissals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make recommendations to Council about appointing and dismissing the Head of Paid Service • To appoint and dismiss Group Directors, Assistant Chief Executive, Assistant Director and Heads of Service, in accordance with the procedures set out in the Staff Employment Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this constitution • Where necessary to establish a panel to consider and determine any allegation under the Council's disciplinary or capability procedures against the Head of Paid service, a Group Director, Assistant Chief Executive, Assistant Director or Head of Service. • To appoint (or in the case of appointments to be made by the
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	<p>Executive, to recommend for appointment) any individual:</p> <p>(a) to any office (other than an office in which he is employed by the authority) in the authority's gift</p> <p>(b) as the authority's representative to any body other than the authority or to any committee or sub-committee of such a body</p> <p>and to revoke any such appointment (see Part 3, section 5: local choice functions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve delegated arrangements for such appointments • To interview candidates for the independent member positions on the Standards Committee and to make recommendations to Council about the appointment of the independent members <p>∅ Terms and conditions</p> <p>To determine the local terms and conditions, pay and grading arrangements of the Head of Paid Service, Group Directors, Assistant Chief Executive, Assistant Director and Heads of Service</p> <p>* Appeals and complaints</p> <p>To determine an appeal against any decision made by or on behalf of the authority, except where statute provides for some other route of appeal (see Part 3, section 4: functions not to be the responsibility of an authority's Executive (group B functions) and Part 3, section 5: local choice functions) - see Hearings Panels below</p> <p>* Admission and exclusion of pupils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make arrangements pursuant to Chapter I of Part III of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (admission appeals) • To make arrangements pursuant to Chapter V of Part II of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (exclusion appeals and children to whom section 87 applies: appeals by governing bodies) <p>* Governing bodies</p> <p>To hear appeals from teachers about early retirement decisions by governing bodies</p> <p>Member support</p> <p>To oversee matters related to the facilities available to support members</p> <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>To undertake those functions assigned under Part 3, section 4: functions not to be the responsibility of an authority's Executive (group EA functions)</p>
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The entries currently in Part 3.1.2 of the Constitution relating to the Adjudication & Review Committee and the Appointments Committee will be placed immediately following that of the Governance Committee and be re-designated as Sub-Committees.

Redistribution of functions of the Partnerships OSC

Note – for ease of reference, the functions being transferred from the Partnerships OSC to the alternative OSCs are shown in **bold font**; only the affected OSCs are shown

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Area of responsibility
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment • Local Development Framework and Strategic Transport • Transport for London • Environmental Strategy • Community safety • Streetcare • Parking • Social Inclusion • Scrutiny of relevant aspects of the LAA • Councillor Call for Action
Towns & Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement • Cohesion • 3rd Sector Compact • Regulatory Services • Planning and Building Control • Town centre strategy • Licensing • Leisure, arts, culture • Housing Retained Services • Partnership with the ALMO • Community safety • Social and economic regeneration • Parks • Social inclusion • Scrutiny of relevant aspects of the LAA • Councillor Call for Action

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Area of responsibility
Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and commissioning • Local Strategic Partnership • Partnerships with Business • Customer access • E-government and ICT • Finance (although each committee is responsible for budget processes that affect its area of oversight) • Human resources • Asset Management • Property resources • Facilities Management • Communications • Democratic Services • Social inclusion • Scrutiny of relevant aspects of the LAA • Councillor Call for Action

**APPENDIX 4
(Minute 76)**

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Note: Questions 1 to 16 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 BANNING OF FOOTBALL TRAINING IN THE BOROUGH'S PARKS

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

By Councillor Linda Hawthorn

Further to the recent publicity surrounding the reported banning of football training at Upminster Park and other parks across the borough, would the Cabinet Member:

- a) Set out the exact position regarding football training at parks across the borough and in particular the impact on junior football teams?
- b) Explain what consultation with users was undertaken prior to any decision to ban football training at Upminster Park and other parks across the borough?

Answer:

In answer to part a)

We actively encourage participation in football and all sports by Havering residents, but particularly by children and young people. The current position regarding football in some parks is that we are trying to relocate teams who are currently undertaking organised training in formal parks to use either areas that are set out for sports or to use areas on sites that are playing fields. In addition we are undertaking a review of teams who are using the sites for training to help us contact them in future. The impact of our action has been for teams to understand that the Parks Service will assist them in finding areas for them to train and protect the pitches that they have booked from other teams using them for unauthorised training. They are now aware we do not permit areas of formal parks to be damaged when there are alternative locations where sport is permitted and by undertaking a review of who is doing the training we will be able to ensure that training is only provided by qualified people with all of the required CRB checks in place that enable them to work safely with children.

In answer to part b)

We have not banned football. We were trying to locate footballers away from playing on the more formal areas of parks or on other teams hired pitches. Because we do not have a list of who is training and where they are training it is very difficult to consult with the teams as they are not always training at the same site in consecutive weeks. The review and contact list that we are currently compiling will greatly assist in our ability to contact these clubs.

At the time when we took action to relocate the teams many games had been abandoned due to water logging and we received complaints from the public on the damage that was being done to the parks. We took action to minimise the damage and consulted with the teams during the process. Havering has a large number of teams who train on our sites and the majority of teams relocated without any comment. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the vast majority of teams that co-operated in this exercise.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member undertook to keep the questioner informed as groups were re-located.

2 UPHELD STANDARDS COMPLAINT: COSTS

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

By Councillor Mark Logan

After the attempts of the Administration to financially burden me with a Cost Order after the Mark Gadd fraud allegation what was the Tribunal Service decision on this matter?

Answer:

The Councillor is mistaken as the Council did not make any formal application for costs against him – the possibility of him having to pay costs was raised by the Tribunal because of his conduct.

Having considered the matter further the Tribunal concluded that Councillor Logan's statements and actions "were not sufficiently obstructive in their effect as to constitute a ground for making an order" for costs against him

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member undertook to advise the questioner of the cost of engaging a barrister to represent the Council at the hearing.

3 THE FUTURE OF LIVING

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

When does the Administration expect the Government to announce its detailed policy relating to Council Publications following the recent consultation which will determine the future of *Living*?

Answer:

The government has already announced its detailed policy, which is currently making its way through Parliament and should be effective from next month. The last two copies of *Living* have carried articles explaining this - and telling residents that the next issue will be published in June and every quarter after that.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader referred the questioner to the answer to Question 20 following.

4 LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TRANSPORT FOR LONDON ACT 2003: IMPLEMENTATION

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member explain why the provisions of Section 16 of the London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003, approved by Members at October 2010 Council, have not yet been advertised?

Answer:

The decision to implement this legislation was taken by the Cabinet on 8th December 2010. I am advised that, due to staffing constraints, the Notice advertising that Havering was going to enforce Section 16 of the London Local Authority and Transport for London Act 2003 was unfortunately not published until 7th March 2011. Since the Act requires that 3 months' notice is given prior to a Local Authority enforcing Section 16 of the Act, these powers will now not come into force until 8th June 2011.

5 DEVELOPMENT AT DOVERS CORNER AND THE HAVERING LDP

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

Does Cllr Michael White agree, that the Government Inspector's decision to approve a Tower City at Dovers Corner overturns the Council's own Local Development Plan and threatens to inflict over-development throughout Havering?

Answer:

As previously stated, we are disappointed with the Inspector's recommendation on the Dovers Corner planning appeal, which was adopted by the Secretary of State. Nevertheless, we are intending to produce new local planning guidance which will strengthen our ability to limit development along the A1306 in Rainham to predominantly three storeys, in line with the Local Development Framework.

I do not think this will affect the rest of the borough, because the Council's borough-wide policies provide strong protection for Havering's existing suburban character.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader confirmed that the Council remained committed to the protection of the borough from inappropriate development,

In response to a point of order, the Acting Assistant Chief Executive expressed the view that reference in the supplementary question to a particular prospective development would be unlikely to be regarded as prejudicial.

6 THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Paul McGearry

How and when is the Council's Capital Programme reviewed, which Overview & Scrutiny Committee will monitor its progress and will the Administration provide Members with a schedule of projects within the Capital Programme approved by Full Council?

Answer:

The Council is required to approve a budget annually. As part of the budget-setting process, Council is asked to approve proposals for both revenue and capital spend. The 2011/12 budget, which was approved by Council in February, includes the overall level of proposed capital spend for the coming year, but not the detailed schemes within it.

In the past, approval of detailed schemes has been delegated to the relevant Cabinet member. This has been accomplished through executive decision forms, which are subsequently published formally and are thus available for both Members and the community to examine. As part of being as more open and transparent, Cabinet agreed that the proposed detailed programme for 2011/12 would be brought back to Cabinet. A report is currently being prepared and this will be considered by Cabinet in April. This report will also set out the proposed approach to the 2012/13 budget.

Heads of service are responsible for the implementation of detailed programmes and included within their performance packs details of both spend and progress with their capital schemes. This information is available to Overview & Scrutiny members. In addition, the Council produces a monthly monitoring report - which for 2011/12 will broadly be on a quarterly basis, with exception reporting for the intervening months. These reports are available from the Council's website.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reminded the questioner that Overview & Scrutiny Committees were free to pursue any questions they wished arising from the performance information available on the Council's website.

7 PROVISION OF PITCHES FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

To the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment (Councillor Robert Benham)

By Councillor Linda Van den Hende

Now that the London Mayor has stated he will not set a target for the number of Gypsy and Traveller pitches for each London Borough within the London Plan, would the Cabinet Member set out how Havering is planning to determine the quantity of pitches it should permit?

Answer:

The removal of borough targets from the Draft Replacement London Plan means that the need for pitches will be identified solely through a borough-level needs assessment. The Council has committed to producing a Gypsy and Traveller Sites planning document as part of its Local Development Framework, which will determine how many pitches we should plan for in Havering, after taking account of all relevant planning policies, including the Green Belt. A draft document will be the subject of public consultation in due course.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that consultation on the number of pitched was in hand – his expectation was that fewer would in fact be required than had earlier been thought necessary.

8 DEVELOPMENT AT DOVERS CORNER: POSSIBILITY OF FLOODING

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

The Thames Estuary floodplain includes Dovers Corner Rainham, which is a particularly porous site. In the opinion of Havering Council Planning Department, would tower blocks on this site sink and would underground car parks flood - and would properties get insurance cover?

Answer:

The Environment Agency, who would advise on flooding issues, did not object to the planning application but recommended conditions which the Secretary of State attached to the planning permission, to ensure adequate drainage and flood mitigation.

Buildings within flood plains are common and the foundation design would be subject to the Building Regulations.

The question of insurance is not one that the Planning Department can answer, but given that there are existing properties within identified flood plains in the borough, there is no reason to suppose that it would not be possible to get insurance cover.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that the questioner was free to quote him accurately and subject to the law of defamation.

9 HAVERING'S CCTV INFRASTRUCTURE

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

By Councillor Pat Murray

What plans does the Administration have to review the central control of CCTV cameras and their monitoring arrangements, and what plans are there to amalgamate and restructure its infrastructure?

Answer:

A scoping report has been produced however to date no decision has been taken to amalgamate and restructure.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member gave assurance that the a report would be put before the Cabinet in due course.

10 CRIMINAL RECORD BUREAU CHECKS

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member explain why this Council is ignoring section 17 of the London Safeguarding board procedures that clearly states that it is illegal to appoint someone without a CRB check?

Answer:

The London Borough of Havering prioritises, conforms to and exceeds the minimum standards set out in relation to the safer recruitment of staff and volunteers.

The Council gives the safer recruitment of staff the highest priority and implements a range of safer recruitment practices to ensure that statutory requirements are complied with across the Children's Trust and LSCB Partnerships.

Recruitment and vetting checks are a key element in the work to ensure that children are safeguarded and the risk of harm from those who are in contact with them in whatever capacity is minimised.

CRB Disclosures must be obtained before or as soon as practicable after appointment.

The full range of checks must be carried out on all agency or supply staff by the supply agency. Robust audit procedures are in place to monitor compliance.

Head Teachers, Principals and local authorities have discretion to allow an individual to begin work in schools and colleges pending receipt of a CRB Disclosure but should ensure that the individual is appropriately supervised (as defined in paragraph 4.25 of the Guidance) and that all other checks including List 99 have been completed.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member re-affirmed the Council's compliance with, and exceeding of, the required minimum standards.

11 ST GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

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

By Councillor David Durant

Basildon Council is promoting a "St George's Day Party in a Box scheme". Will Havering Council contact Basildon Council for further details and promote a similar scheme in Havering?

Answer:

Officers have already spoken to Basildon Council. The Basildon scheme is open to registered charities and community organisations and the Council pays for a box of bunting, hats, flyers etc to help groups organise St George's Day celebrations.

In Havering, we already support the festivities in Romford Market and there are many other celebrations that take place across the borough without any formal Council input. We would have to consider whether the extra cash and officer time was necessary to encourage local people to celebrate – or whether our patriotic residents really needed any help from us to celebrate St George's Day! What I can assure Cllr Durant is that this Council will continue to fly the St George's Cross and promote St George's Day as we have always done.

12 YOUTH OUTREACH SERVICES

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement about the current and planned provision for Youth Outreach Staff and the services they provide?

Answer:

Currently the Integrated Youth Service operates a number of services within its remit including the provision of targeted, universal and specialist services to young people aged 11-25 within the borough. This includes outreach services.

Due to the economic pressures facing the Council as a whole, the service is currently going through a redundancy and restructure programme which will help deliver a projected and anticipated efficiency saving of c.£500k by 2012.

The effect of this saving will mean that the way in which services are delivered will change. This will include outreach services. The team of Detached Youth Workers that currently operate in the 3 localities will be restructured so that they can still work on the streets and where young people meet, but with a much more targeted approach determined by needs of young people. The finer detail of the restructure is not yet determined, largely due to individual redundancy situations which are ongoing with staff members.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that resources were being concentrated in the areas of greatest need, and that the questioner's request for attention to be given to the area of, and surrounding, the Hilldene Shopping Centre would be borne in mind.

13 ALLOCATION OF TICKETS FOR THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Ron Ower

Would the Leader of the Council please confirm that Havering Council will follow the example of several other London boroughs by not buying the proposed allocation of 100 tickets for the 2012 Olympics and that any free tickets that are obtained will be offered to Havering residents with sporting links?

Answer:

Given the overall financial position, Havering Council has decided to return all of the 100 tickets it was offered for purchase, apart from two tickets which will be purchased on behalf of the Mayors of the Council's twin towns, Ludwigshafen and Hesdin. The two Mayors have also been asked if they wish to purchase additional tickets, at their expense, through Havering Council. The Council is awaiting a response from the two Mayors to this offer.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader confirmed that Members and officers would be expected to refuse free tickets and that, hopefully, schools and other organisations would be given allocations.

14 PROPOSED CHANGES TO TENANCY CONDITIONS: CONSULTATION

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Mark Logan

Are the Council aware that the consultation for the 32 changes proposed to amend the Council tenants' secure tenancy is a flawed consultation and they are left wide open to a legal challenge?

Answer:

It is unclear from Cllr Logan's question here on what basis he believes the consultation to be flawed. Substantial consultation has been carried out by Homes in Havering on the Council's behalf, with Homes in Havering following the Council's legal advice throughout the process and, therefore, the Council has complied with the relevant legislation in consulting on and varying the tenancy agreement.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member expressed regret that members of the public had corresponded with the questioner rather than comment formally on the proposals. It was entirely reasonable that failure to respond should be taken as signifying acceptance of the proposals. She did not accept that the consultation was flawed.

With the consent of the Mayor, the Cabinet Member offered to meet the questioner to clarify issues with which he appeared to have difficulty.

15 FOOTPATH, ROADS AND HIGHWAYS REPAIRS

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Denis Breading

What plans have the Council to repair the Borough's footpaths, roads and highways which have fallen into even greater disrepair as a result of the extreme weather conditions experienced in the winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11, what is the estimated cost of such repairs and how much additional financial support has been allocated by Central Government for this purpose?

Answer:

The council has revenue and capital budgets in place next year 11/12 for reactive maintenance (patching) and planned maintenance (carriageway resurfacing and footway renewals).

Last year the council provided additional funding (£270K) for the patching of the carriageway following the severe winter conditions experienced and central government also provided additional resources (£148K).

Central Government have allocated further funds nationally of £100M for the next financial year 11/12 and there is a further £100M recently announced in the forthcoming budget (23.03.11) following the second severe winter in a row.

It is difficult to calculate the cost of such repairs arising from the severe weather only.

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader indicated that about £357,000 would be available to Havering.

16 GREEN WASTE COLLECTION: PAYMENT METHODS

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Brian Eagling

Would the Cabinet Member explain why the option to pay by Direct Debit for Green Waste Bins has been withdrawn?

Answer:

The decision was made by Head of StreetCare and Head of Customer Services to withdraw the Direct Debit facility this year and review for future years. The reason for this was due to the inefficiencies in the Allpay Direct Debit facility, which were identified by StreetCare and the Customer Services Team.

Adminstrating the 10% of customers paying by DD was extremely time consuming, mainly due to the lack of integration with the other processing systems, which is why it was felt it would be better to review, future DD payments when the new systems were available

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that DD would be reinstated once the new systems were in place.

17 RE-DEVELOPMENT OF ONGAR WAY GARAGE SITES

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

The residents of Ongar Way are not against the garages being replaced with quality housing, but do not want to lose the open space by Rainham Road/Ongar Way roundabout. Has this area been 'appropriated for planning purposes' to facilitate the building of high-rise, high-density flats on this site?

Answer:

Prospective purchasers of land that have been identified for development commonly require local authorities to provide clean title to land. The Council has accepted external legal advice that appropriating land for planning purposes best achieves this requirement. The originally proposed purchaser of the land is not now proceeding and any new purchaser is likely to want to consider the most appropriate form of development for the site, which would be subject to the usual planning processes.

18 'YOUR COUNCIL, YOUR SAY' SURVEY

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Leader disclose the full cost of the recent 'Your Council, Your Say' survey and set out when the results will be conveyed to members?

Answer:

The full cost of producing and distributing the survey, together with an estimate of postage costs relating to Freepost returns, totals just under £10,000.

The 'Your Council, Your Say' survey has been the single most successful survey we've run, leading to well over 11,000 responses from residents. The results will help us shape our future strategies and I think many councils will wonder how on earth we managed to get such a huge response from residents. I'm very grateful to everyone who took the time to fill in the questionnaire.

A summary of the interim results was published in Living on March 21st and the full set will be shared with members and the public shortly.

19 MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL HOUSING

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Mark Logan

Now that we have the third worst record in the UK and second worst in London for bringing Council housing up to the Decent Homes standard would you agree now is the time to bring the management control back in house?

Answer:

Councillor Logan has confused a number of issues. The Council's housing stock is badly in need of improvement. However this deterioration in the condition of the stock is not caused by the current management arrangements, by which our Arms Length Management Organisation (Homes in Havering) have delegated responsibility to manage our housing stock. The condition of the housing stock is directly as a result of under investment, and our shortage of capital with which to carry out essential repairs and improvements. We hope to be able to address this, following the announcement of our Decent Homes Backlog funding, of £62.7m which we will receive over the next four years, whether we have an Arms Length Management Organisation in place or not.

20 ***LIVING: CHANGE FROM FORTNIGHTLY TO QUARTERLY PUBLICATION***

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Ron Ower

Would the Leader advise what annual savings will be derived by the *Living* newspaper going from fortnightly to quarterly?

Answer:

There will be no savings. Even though the running costs are being reduced and a member of staff is being made redundant, there will still be an advertising income target over and above the base budget of £88,000 in order to cover the full costs.

As I have repeatedly said in this chamber, *Living* was extremely cost-effective as a fortnightly publication. This year it is expected to pay for itself entirely from advertising, without using any of its budget. So, had the publication remained as a fortnightly newspaper, we would have been able to reduce that budget considerably, but now it's unlikely we'll be able to do that. And we will also have to pay for our public notices to be placed in a local newspaper.

It is very unfortunate that the Government has applied a blanket rule on Council publications, because it means that we have to abandon a very cost-effective and very popular fortnightly publication. We will continue to lobby Government to allow us to publish public notices online – which we are not currently permitted to do – in order to recoup those costs.

21 ***HOUSING ALLOCATION: BIDDING SYSTEM***

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Mark Logan

People on the Council waiting lists are allowed to make two bids upon the choice-based lettings bidding system on a weekly basis. Tenants staying in a PSL property are given a direct offer of a property at the end of the PSL contract; these properties are the ones that no one else wants. If they refuse these dilapidated properties they are sent a notice to quit and put on to the streets. Will Cabinet look into this part of LB Havering's disgraceful lettings policy?

Answer:

This question appears to be based on a misunderstanding of how the Council's choice-based lettings system works. Cllr Logan is correct that all those on the Housing Register can place up to two bids per week through the choice-based lettings system, he is not right, however, in assuming that PSL tenants do not also have this ability.

Homeless households placed in a PSL property may bid for a council or housing association property at any time. If the PSL lease comes to an end before they receive an offer of council or housing association accommodation, the tenant will typically be offered another PSL property.

Alternatively, if at this time the tenant has lived in PSL accommodation for a number of years, it is likely they will be placed on the Council's move-on programme under which they will receive a higher priority on the Housing Register for six weeks. If they are still unsuccessful in their bidding during this six weeks, the Council will make a direct offer of council or housing association accommodation with the necessary number of bedrooms.

Council housing in the borough is in high demand, and there is no pool of unwanted properties earmarked for PSL tenants. Furthermore, properties are only offered once they meet the Council's lettable standard.

In cases where the Council is offering a property under the homelessness legislation, the household has a statutory right to request a review of its suitability. It is always advisable for the household to accept the property and then seek a review if they wish to do so. Should the review determine the property is not suitable, another home will be offered.

22 SUPPORT FOR TOWN CENTRES: BUDGET AND STAFFING

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Would the Leader set out the budget associated with supporting Town Centres and the number of staff employed as Town Centre managers?

Answer:

Recent restructuring within the Regeneration, Policy and Planning Service has concentrated resources to support the Council's priority programmes. The former town centre management budgets have been integrated with regeneration budgets to deliver comprehensive programmes in areas such as Harold Hill, Hornchurch, Rainham and Romford, and to deliver a range of initiatives to improve the competitiveness of businesses across the whole borough including town centres. In addition, we are continuing to co-ordinate specific promotional activities, such as Christmas lights and specialist markets in town centres.

As a result, there are no longer specific budgets for town centres nor staff employed as town centre managers.

23 CABINET MEMBERS' MEETINGS

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Mark Logan

Over the past five years how many "jolly-boys' outings" have there been by the Conservative Cabinet staying at luxury hotels to discuss Council business and what have been the financial implications?

Answer:

None

24 DISPOSAL OF GREEN WASTE

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Further to the Council question in October 2010, would the Cabinet Member set out what measures are to be put in place to avoid the contents of green waste sacks (at a cost of £1.10 each) being collected and disposed of with residual waste?

Answer:

The existing vehicles that collect the green waste from our wheeled bin customers operate very efficiently and are not designed for the manual loading of sacks, due to the lifting mechanism in place.

To introduce a dedicated vehicle collecting garden sacks would cost between £85,000 and £170,000 per year depending on if the service was to operate through the main growing period or throughout the year.

There are also other operational and administrative changes that would need to be made to the current service which would add to the overall cost.

A proportion of the garden waste collected in the green sacks is already diverted from landfill at the Shanks Frog Island Waste Management facility.

Based on estimated tonnages a separate collection service for garden waste sacks would improve our recycling and composting performance by around 1%.

The introduction of a separate collection service for garden waste sacks would need to be considered in light of the current financial situation, and the impact it would have on composting rates.