

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Note: No question was answered at the meeting as there was insufficient time available.

1 DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME: SUPPORT

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

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Due to this administrations withdrawal of support for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, could the Cabinet Member advise this Council when and where the young residents of the borough can complete their already started awards?

Answer:

I am delighted to reassure residents that we have an agreement with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme to provide the award on an open access basis in Havering and that the youth service will be launching the scheme in the summer. Young people including those who have already started will be able to join the scheme in September and complete in April next year.

2 "SECTION 106" AGREEMENT RECEIPTS

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Keith Darvill

What is the total amount of unspent and/or unallocated Section 106 receipts currently held by the Council?

Answer:

As of 24 May 2012, the amount of unspent S106 receipts held by the Council was £6,181,440.81. All the monies are allocated in accordance with the terms of the individual S106 Legal Agreements.

3 CCTV COVERAGE IN RAINHAM & WENNINGTON

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

By Councillor Jeffrey Tucker

Are CCTV cameras an effective tool in deterring crime and if yes, what progress has been made in extending CCTV coverage to Rainham and Wennington ward

Answer:

CCTV has been shown to be a major crime deterrent and to have a beneficial effect on residents' perceptions of community safety. Analysis of national crime and incident data indicates that the presence of CCTV has a strong deterrent effect on burglaries, criminal damage and (non motor) vehicle theft and that cameras are most effective in reducing property crime, particularly burglary,

in town centres. CCTV control rooms can also act as control centres identifying incidents and using information to co-ordinate appropriate and effective responses from a range of partners including the Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance and Council Services. Radio links between staff in pubs and shops, police officers and camera operators are also used successfully to monitor incidents and activate appropriate responses.

CCTV operates in 5 localities across the borough and deploys 79 cameras in total. There are currently no plans to extend the provision into Rainham and Wennington.

4 PAVEMENT DEFECTS

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the top ten roads in Havering where most pavement defects were reported during 2011?

Answer:

Information held on the councils CRM systems does not allow us to define a top ten table of pavements - there are a number of factors and a number of reporting routes via CRM, email, complaints and inspection. However each request is followed up and inspected and where appropriate added to the list of priorities for future works.

5 ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY PLACES IN THE BOROUGH

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

By Councillor Denis Breading

Will the Lead Member for Children & Learning make a statement about the allocation of primary school places in the Borough for the academic year commencing September 2012?

Answer:

The percentage of parents/ carers who were allocated a place in the Reception year at one of their top three preferred schools for the academic year commencing September 2012 was 95%. This figure compares very favourably with the average for all London boroughs of 90%

The number of applications processed for the September 2012 Reception intake increased by 126 over the previous year. All parents/ carers who applied for a Reception place for September 2012 were offered a school place.

An additional 135 Reception places have been added to schools across the borough to meet the forecast increase in demand. The following schools have increased their intakes for the September 2012 Reception intake: Pinewood Primary School (30), St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (15), Broadford Primary School (15), Harold Court Primary School (15), Wykeham Primary School (30), and Parsonage Farm Primary (30).

6 NOTICE OF IMPENDING FOOTWAY REPAIRS

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor David Durant

When residents are informed by StreetCare of Footway Repair Works, they also receive a covering letter from the Council Leader informing them that StreetCare is about to undertake Footway Repair Works. The message from the Council Leader begins with, "I am pleased to inform you" etc.

I have no objection to this polite message from the Council Leader, but local ward councillors should be mentioned too!

Will the Council Leader now agree to change the wording to read, "I and your local ward councillors are pleased to inform you" etc?

Answer:

No.

The footway repair works programme was initiated by this administration so it would be incongruous for opposition ward councillors to be referenced in a way that suggested they were part of the decision-making process which brought the scheme into being.

7 SUPERVISION OF CONTRACTORS PROVIDING SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Given the wide range of council services which are carried out by contractors, would the Leader set out how works are quality checked and whether contractors are still paid for works not completed or below an agreed standard?

Answer:

As recognised within the question, the Council now procures a diverse range of services covering functions within Streetcare, Culture and Leisure, Social Care and Asset Management to name but a few. The precise detail of each contract will inevitably vary, but as a broad principle each contract is managed by a specified Council officer acting as 'contract administrator' responsible for monitoring the quality of service provision and level of expenditure. As such, regular contract review meetings will take place between the contract administrator and service provider.

The means of quality checking will again vary depending on the nature of the contract and the agreed performance indicators, some of which may be quantitative, others qualitative. Large scale works e.g. building construction or highway maintenance will be monitored directly by the contract administrator but small scale/large volume works are more likely to be random sampled or subject to customer satisfaction surveys, e.g. housing repairs.

Clearly we would not as a broad principle, authorise payment to a contractor for works which have not been completed, or are of an unsatisfactory standard. In such cases the contract administrator would follow the dispute resolution provisions in the case of larger works, or invoke default/penalty clauses depending on the nature of the contract and scale of works concerned.

8 NEW HOMES: GOOSHAYS, HEATON AND HAROLD WOOD WARDS

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Denis O'Flynn

How many new homes are planned to be built in Gooshays, Heaton and Harold Wood Wards during the next 5 years?

Answer:

Planning do not keep record of all homes planned by ward, however major sites (10+ units) with either planning permission, sites currently seeking planning permission, or major sites where the principle of development has been approved, are listed below.

Harold Wood - 834

- Harold Wood Hospital - outline planning permission for 810 units
- Gubbins Lane - proposal for 16 units currently with Planning
- Garages programme - 8 units

Heaton - 333

- Whitworth Centre - permission for 144 units
- The Briar Estate - development proposals being finalised - up to 164 units
- Garages programme - 25 units

Gooshays - 438

- Gooshays Drive - outline permission for up to 242 units
- Hilldene North & East - approx 170 units - hope to make application June 2012
- Garages programme - 26 units

9 SHOPPING PARADES: SUPPORT FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND PARKING SCHEMES

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Mark Logan

The shopping parades in Wennington Road and the northern part of Upminster Road South need road improvements and a parking regime that encourages rather than deters local trade.

Are these shopping parades eligible for help from the GLA outer-London fund and will the Administration support TfL funded road improvements and a Council parking regime that helps these local shops survive?

Answer:

The objective of the Outer London Fund is to strengthen the vibrancy and growth of high streets. In discussions with the funders, the GLA has identified the retail core within district centres as the most suitable areas for support. Rainham Village was successful in securing £200,000 in Round 1 and £900,000 in Round 2 of the Outer London Fund. This Funding has been used to strengthen the village centre and to support events to make it a focus for the wider area. In Round 2 it is proposed to continue this work and develop the appeal that Rainham has as a destination for people from throughout the borough

The shopping parades on Wennington Road and at the northern end of Upminster Road South are outside the core village area and are, therefore, not currently eligible for support in the current round of the Outer London Fund.

However, in Wennington Road, officers are currently completing a bus stop accessibility and parking scheme, which has included the resurfacing of the footways between Numbers.113 and 139a Wennington Road.

In Upminster Road South we have funding for this year, and aiming for next year too, through the TfL L.I.P. for an improvements package for the shops at the northern end of the area. Officers will start looking at some ideas over the summer months with a view to liaising with the businesses to try and get ideas which we can take to the detailed design and consultation stage.

Initial ideas provided concentrate on footway renewals, provision of parking by the shops, decluttering and possibly street lighting and road surfacing next year.

10 LANGTONS JUNIOR SCHOOL

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

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Last year, following a poor OFSTED report for Corbets Tey School, the Cabinet Member assured me that the Schools Inspection Team was on the case. The recent OFSTED inspection of Langtons Junior has placed them in special measures. Would the Cabinet Member explain why the Schools Inspection Team is not picking up under-performing schools before OFSTED do?

Answer:

Langtons Junior School was placed in Special Measures in February 2012, after the introduction of the new Ofsted Framework in January 2012, which was specifically designed to 'raise the bar' in education. Langtons Junior was one of the first schools in Havering to be inspected under this new, tougher framework.

Naturally, everyone is very concerned and disappointed with the inspection report. The School Improvement Services were indeed aware of the performance issues at the school. The LA's Schools' Monitoring Group determined that the school was a Local Authority 'School Causing Concern' and as a result had been receiving additional guidance and support to improve, and termly Progress Review Meetings were held with senior leaders and the Chair of Governors to assess progress.

11 FOOTBALL PITCHES, HAROLD HILL: REQUIREMENTS

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

By Councillor Pat Murray

What are the requirements of Sport England in respect of the provision of football pitches required as a result of the proposal of the Council to sell the land to the rear of the Albermarle Youth Centre Gooshays Drive?

Answer:

The requirements of Sport England are reflected in the conditions attached to the outline planning consent that was recently granted in respect of the land at Gooshays Drive. The conditions specify that two new pitches will be created at Dagnam Park and that suitable changing facilities will be provided. There is a further condition – initially proposed by the Council - which states that sports field areas within the Broxhill Centre site are to be levelled and new drainage installed to bring the areas into use as good quality pitches. The condition also states that suitable changing facilities

are to be provided to support these pitches. These pitches are to be used by Romford Royals FC who are the existing users of the pitches at Gooshays as they had already expressed to the Council that their preference was for a move to Broxhill. This is part of a programme of increasing the number of changing rooms and pitches in the borough which we have pursued over recent years. These proposals in Harold Hill will increase the overall provision of good quality pitches in Harold Hill, and the existing users of the pitches at Gooshays will enjoy improved facilities at their preferred location.

12 COST OF FUTURE COUNCIL-TAX BENEFIT PAYMENTS

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

As part of the 2010 spending review, councils will become wholly responsible for Council Tax support payments as from April 2013. Central government funding for the new scheme will only amount to approximately 90% of current expenditure. Would the Cabinet Member set out how this council expects to discharge this responsibility and what are the implications for Council Tax?

Answer:

The Council - like all others to whom this responsibility is being devolved - will be developing proposals for a local scheme and the details of this will be presented to Cabinet in July. The proposals will then be issued for consultation. Once the responses to the consultation have been considered, a further report will be brought back to Cabinet later in the year. The financial implications of the scheme being proposed will be set out in these reports, and these in turn will be considered as part of the Council's budget development process.

13 ENFORCEMENT OF CARAVAN SITE LICENCE CONDITIONS

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Paul McGeary

Will the Council ensure that Caravan Site Licence conditions are enforced to ensure site owners comply with their obligations to Park Home Residents in the Borough?

Answer:

The Council will ensure that caravan site licence conditions are enforced, in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Policy, to ensure that site owners comply with their obligations.

14 EAST LONDON SOLUTIONS: BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Linda Van den Hende

Would the Leader quantify what material benefits have been gained by Havering by being a member of East London Solutions and how much has the Council contributed to the organisation since its inception?

Answer:

As at the 31 March 2012; Havering contributed £40k and has committed to fund a further £20k in 2012/13.

ELS covers a number of programme areas including Children's Services, Adult Social Care, ICT and Procurement. The projects are numerous and a full report on the work of ELS can be found on the London Councils website within the May Board papers for Capital Ambition.

In respect of material benefits:

- Financial savings, for example:
 - Efficiencies from procurements being undertaken by others- £210k
 - Collaborative Highways and Street Lighting Procurement - 27% reduction in rates achieved on Highways and £100k on Street Lighting, with further potential for another £100k along with cost avoidance of £11k.
 - Collaborative Children Personal Support Framework in place and Havering identified savings potential of £50k per annum.
 - OT Equipment contract is in place and Redbridge have identified £70k savings per annum – awaiting Havering's.
 - Joint ICT arrangements expect £4m in savings
 - Shared Bulk Print Service includes reduced staffing requirement savings of £53k per annum with further savings from equipment and additional income.
 - Havering is now generating an income by sharing an Information Security Lead with 2 other boroughs.
 - Havering is benefiting from sharing a CAMHS Coordinator with another borough, taking advantage of their capacity, allowing for expertise to be accessed without employing a full time employee.
 - And more to come through several procurements and projects in progress.
- Service improvements have been enabled through the work to date, such as sub regional specifications to deliver improved service levels and services being more resilient with an ability to innovate.
- Sharing is more common place amongst the partners enabling smarter working through discussing issues and sharing resources not required on a full time basis.
- By speaking from a united front, boroughs are beginning to develop the market, as well as support providers to expand and diversify their current offers. Currently ELS has a Learning Disabilities Placements Project on-going which looks to reduce costs by collective supplier negotiations, maintain and improve quality as well as develop more sophisticated and joined up approaches so that local services can be developed.
- Boroughs are more engaged and aware generally, sub regionally and on matters that are pan London; they also have improved intelligence, market knowledge and awareness of issues through regular meetings between professional leads (such as the ELS Heads of Procurement, Heads of ICT and Directors of Children's and Adult's Services). A recent example is Children's and Finance leads attended an ELS workshop in April 2012 to discuss their understanding of the proposed changes to school funding, to ensure that all learning was shared.
- Projects taken forward through ELS are always conscious of supporting local providers and the community. The Independent Travel Training pilot that Havering have conducted as part of the wider ELS ITT Project has allowed 5 Havering residents to train as travel trainers and so finding employment. As this scheme continues this is likely to increase. Independent Travel Training is an important way for the borough to improve outcomes for the young people that it has been transporting to school and college. Based on 20 young people

successfully taking part the programme, the full-year notional transport saving after completion of training would be £100,000.

- All of the ELS savings already delivered or being worked towards are included in the MTFS.

15 NEW HOMES: HAROLD HILL AND HAROLD WOOD - INFRASTRUCTURE

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Paul McGearry

With the proposed future housing developments in the Harold Hill/Wood area increasing the households in the area by over 1500 in the next 3 to 5 years, will the Administration in co operation with their partners, outline how they will be addressing the impact on the future planning for the infrastructure such as police, health and school place provision in the area.

Answer:

Harold Hill Ambitions sets out a programme of infrastructure improvements to support the improvement of the area. This programme was agreed by Cabinet November 2008 following public consultation and included recognition of the future provision of new homes for local people.

The ambition for Harold Hill was described as: to create more opportunities for local people; to work with the police to stamp out unacceptable behaviour and crime; to build a learning village to provide a centre of educational excellence on Harold Hill; modernise and improve community facilities for everyone; create new housing opportunities; improve health and wellbeing; and provide excellent new sports and recreation facilities.

Since beginning the programme we have;

- Completed the My Place Youth Centre to provide opportunities for young people
- Opened Drapers Academy, which has increased the rolls from the former Kingswood School. The new school building work has progressed well and will be open in September 2012.
- Provided new community accommodation
- Increased parking provision for Hilldene Shopping Centre
- Worked with the community to establish and support the Briar Road Action Group and agreed an environmental improvement programme for the estate.
- Refurbished and extended the Betty Strathern Community Centre
- Re-established the Harold Hill Summer Festival, held Christmas events and delivered a small grants programme for local community groups.
- Begun demolition of the Broxhill site preparing for conversion to a new park.
- Undertaken significant investment in Roads and Pavements in Harold Hill

In addition since the beginning of the programme a new Poly-clinic has opened in Harold Wood providing a range of medical treatments under one roof as well as a new joint police and fire station in Ashton Road, Harold Hill.

There has, therefore, been substantial progress on providing improvements to local infrastructure for well in advance of new housing being built for local people.

Turning to the future, more infrastructure improvements in Harold Hill are planned as part of the Ambitions programme to improve the quality of life for local people and to support the long term development of new homes in the area.

Ensuring that the right provision of facilities for local people is made is a high priority for the council and we are working closely with partners to ensure that future services will meet the needs of residents.

A good example of this is the strategic Community Safety Plan, which is developed in partnership with the police and other agencies on an annual basis, using local crime, demographic and other data. The plan presents priorities for the borough and its localities and results in the development and delivery of action plans to address those priorities. There is a robust system of partnership monitoring and tactical planning to support the delivery of the plan, ensuring that resources are most effectively deployed to meet emerging short, medium and long term community safety needs.

In terms of health services, there are health centres in both Harold Hill and the new polyclinic in Harold Wood that are well placed to meet the needs of future residents. Ultimately many of the decisions around the provision and availability of healthcare services in these areas will in future be determined by the Clinical Commissioning Group, made up of Havering GPs, who will be responsible for commissioning health services in the borough. Changes in the population of Havering will be reflected in the funding the Clinical Commissioning Group receives. Through the Health and Wellbeing Board, chaired by the Deputy Leader, we will seek to influence the provision of accessible healthcare facilities sharing demographic and customer insight data with partners to ensure provision of health services evolve to reflect changes in demand across Havering.

Turning to schools, the Council has produced pupil projections, forecasting the numbers of children expected to be generated by local housing developments and is planning to provide sufficient additional places in local schools to accommodate the rising numbers. These schools include Harold Court Primary and Harold Wood Primary where feasibility works have begun on how they would be expanded.

Finally having a supply of new homes in the borough that can meet the needs of local people in the long term is crucial for families in our community. We are planning for the future needs of our residents and in Harold Hill and Harold Wood have plans in place to improve the quality of life of local people. We can also demonstrate our commitment to ensuring communities have access to improved facilities through the substantial progress we have made in delivering Harold Hill Ambitions.

16 PROCEEDS OF CRIME LEGISLATION: COUNCIL INCOME

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm how much money the Council has received each year as a result of the proceeds of crime legislation coming into force and where the income is contained within the Council's budgets?

Answer:

Under the proceeds of crime legislation, local authorities are enabled to recover monies gathered through criminal activities. The legislation covers a wide range of criminal acts and allows for a number of options for recovering the proceeds.

Having made enquiries amongst officers, this legislation is not relevant to most services. By their nature recovery activities tend to be concentrated in specific areas of the Council. In the main, this falls within Housing & Public Protection and Customer Services. In the case of H&PP, the relevant service is Trading Standards.

The following information comes from the Trading Standards budget:

Year	Income Target in Budget	Actual Income (approx)
08-09	£7,820.00	£7,471.00
09-10	£8,090.00	£21,891.00
10-11	£8,210.00	£34,985.00
11-12	£8,330.00	£90,636.00
12-13	£8,450.00	

No separate accounts for proceeds of crime income exist prior to 08-09 - until then it was incorporated with all court costs income, so it is not possible to distinguish separately. Income from POCA is ring fenced to be used for further regulation and pursuit of the confiscation of proceeds of crime.

The 11-12 income figure includes POCA awards relating to the Operation Augusta fake golf clubs case, this will increase over time but is required to offset costs already incurred by the Council in this case.

Within the housing benefit fraud area, around £20k has so far been recovered as a result of the proceeds of crime legislation. Whilst this is a relatively small sum, in broad terms, the legislation in place to recover both fraudulent and inadvertent benefit overpayments has enabled the council to recoup a significant element of such payments from beneficiaries. The threat of action under the POCA legislation acts as a deterrent. Use will be made of POCA in appropriate circumstances should recovery through other channels not prove effective.

17 COST OF POT HOLE REPAIRS

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the cost of repairing a pot hole in the road (by square metre)?

Answer:

The cost to break out and reinstate one square metre of carriageway is £49.17 per square meter, in line with the current schedule of rates.

18 LIMITING SUBSIDISED RENTS

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor John Wood

Would the Cabinet Member confirm whether any plans are being discussed to follow conservative Hammersmith and Fulham Council to limit subsidised rent to tenants who earn under a certain level of income?

Answer:

I think that the question is wrongly phrased. I suspect that what is asked is whether there is a plan to limit subsidised rent to tenants who earn ABOVE a certain level of income.

In the London Borough of Havering, we currently already have a financial test in our Allocations Policy. It states that

Ability to afford to privately rent, buy and/or commute

"We will ask you about your income and savings on your housing register application form to assess whether you can afford to privately rent or buy a property in Havering or reasonably commute if you do not currently live in borough.

Because of the severe shortage of affordable rented properties in the borough, if you have sufficient money to afford to rent privately in the borough, we will give you a lower priority than those who cannot afford to rent privately. Please note that we will judge that if you cannot afford to rent privately, you will not be able to buy a property either.

You should bear in mind that if you chose not to fill in the savings and income questions on the application form, we will assume that you have sufficient resources and will assess your application accordingly."

More detail about how we assess whether someone can afford to rent privately is set out in the Lettings Policy, which is available on the Intranet.

There are proposals to change the lettings policy further, which are currently subject to consultation. We are proposing to limit who may register for housing more strictly in the future, based on the new freedoms offered to local authorities as part of the Localism Act. We will be restricting the Housing Register to exclude owner occupiers (except in exceptional circumstances) and again, those who can afford to rent privately. There is not one fixed income band which causes a household to be excluded – it is based on their ability to pay, depending upon income and size of household.

19 MONITORING OF ACADEMIES AND FREE SCHOOLS

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

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Two Basildon academies were recently placed into special measures, with the authority stating it was "aware of the issues" but had limited powers to intervene. Could the Cabinet Member confirm what lobbying is being carried out with Ministers to address the growing concerns over the lack of external monitoring and the inability to intervene in Academy and Free school education?

Answer:

There is external monitoring that local authorities can take and this is taking place in Havering in relation to both LA maintained schools and Academies. Good relationships exist with Academies in Havering and many education 'traded' services are working in Academies in Havering and so we do have the opportunity to provide additional support to Academies in Havering.

In addition, where a local authority has concerns about the performance of an Academy it can contact both Ofsted and the Department for Education to raise any issues about the performance or otherwise in the school. However, it is governors who are now responsible for Academies'

performance. Ofsted and the DoE will then decide what action to take in relation to the information received.

20 USE OF CCTV ENFORCEMENT CARS

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

According to Government guidance, CCTV Smart Cars should only be used where enforcement is difficult, sensitive or not practical in being carried out by a traffic warden. Would the Cabinet Member comment on this statement?

Answer:

Much is written about the terminology of the Secretary of State's guidance on the use of CCTV enforcement and in particular the sentence;

“approved devices are used only where enforcement is difficult or sensitive and where (Conventional) Civil Enforcement Officer enforcement is not practical”.

The guidance cannot be quantified in the simplest terms and is open to varying interpretation, however, the Council considers the Secretary of State's guidance as a measure of good practice and is content that due regard has been given to the guidance and to the multitude of practical factors and impacts, including the Health and Safety of Civil Enforcement Officers. It should be noted that since the introduction of CCTV enforcement, incidents of abuse and physical assault against Civil Enforcement Officers have decreased.

Whilst CCTV enforcement is not always welcomed by some, it has enabled the reasonable enforcement of sensitive areas and locations within the Borough that had otherwise proved difficult to manage. It should also be said that the Council's enforcement activity is fair and reasonable and of benefit to local residents and businesses.

21 EFFECTS OF PREVIOUS PRIMARY SCHOOL CLOSURES

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

By Councillor Nic Dodin

Given the predicted shortfalls in primary school places, would the Cabinet Member explain the rationale for the closure of Dunningford and Ayloff primary schools in 2008?

Answer:

Detailed analysis at the time showed that Dunningford Primary was closed in 2009 because of the expected long term falling rolls within the borough. Primary school numbers were projected to fall from around 18,300 in 2007 to some 17,868 by 2012. Pupil numbers were considered to increase marginally again from 2013 but it was difficult to assess the rate of growth given those pupils have yet to be born.

In the Rainham, South Hornchurch and Elm Park locality in which Dunningford was located, there was considered to be a need to reduce overall capacity as 15% surplus places was forecast by 2011/12. Neither Ayloff nor Dunningford had been recruiting to their admission capacity. For some time both had significant surplus places, the greater percentage being at Dunningford School. Removal of those places [315] was considered to be the way to improve the balance between

supply and demand in the area whilst maintaining a sensible geographical spread of places located in both newly built and modernised schools.

22 FUTURE OF STAFF SOCIAL CLUB BUILDING

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

Would the Leader advise if there are any plans for the Havering Staff Social Club building in Hornchurch and if it is to be retained in its current capacity?

Answer:

The question refers to the Unison (formerly NALGO) clubhouse in North Street, opposite the Queens' Theatre, which is let on a 21 year lease, granted in 1992 and is therefore due to expire next year.

Given the forthcoming lease expiry, consideration will need to be given as to the future of this arrangement, but no firm decision has been taken at this stage.

23 HIGH STREET INNOVATION SCHEME

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor John Mylod

Would the Leader confirm whether Havering Council applied for any funding made available from DCLGs High Street Innovation scheme?

Answer:

To support local authorities in their efforts to improve the look of their high streets, DCLG allocated £10million as a High Street Innovation Fund to one hundred local authorities to help address the issues of riots and empty shops.

Town Centres in Havering are performing comparatively well and vacancy rates are below the national average. Havering was, therefore, not included in the 100 local authorities who could apply for the High Street Innovation Fund which was targeted at the top 100 locations in England with the highest Non Domestic vacancy rates.

The Council was, as a result, not eligible to apply for the High Street Innovation Fund.