

Cabinet, 8 February 2023

Agenda items 8-10: Approval of the HRA Business Plan Update, Budget 2023/24 and Capital Programme, 2034/24 – 2027/28

At its meeting on 7 February 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed the following comments and recommendations for consideration and response by the Cabinet:

- That the importance of securing a good performance by the housing contractor be recognised, given the impact of this on the budget through for example the imposition of penalty clauses.
- The Board agrees that the formula for Social Care Grant allocations is not fair to Havering. It is therefore important that any monies for Social Care are spent appropriately. Evidence on how such services are delivered in other boroughs should be considered.
- That Cabinet undertakes a review of the use of earmarked reserves.
- Officer training should be reviewed to maximise the cost savings from the investment in IT.
- That details be provided on the impact assessments undertaken on the proposed reduction in the level of adult social care equipment provided and the review of subsidies for assistive technology provided to residents.
- The impact of the closure of the Corbets Tey toilets should be fully considered.
- That an explanation be provided of why the fee charged to utility companies for road closures is to be reduced.
- That clarification be given of why fines for flytipping and fixed penalty notices are not being increased. Whilst accepting these levels are controlled by Central Government, the Board would like to establish what lobbying has been undertaken by the Council on these issues.
- That an explanation be provided of why charges for solo motorcycle parking are being introduced when there was no such charge previously.