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MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING Council Chamber - Town Hall Wednesday, 9 August 2023 (7.30 - 8.17 pm)

Present:

Councillor Ray Morgon (Leader of the Council), Chairman

Councillor Gillian Ford

Councillor Oscar Ford

Councillor Paul Middleton

Councillor Barry Mugglestone

Councillor Christopher Wilkins

Cabinet Member responsibility:

Lead Member for Adults and Health

Lead Member for Children and
Young People

Lead Member for Corporate, Culture
and Leisure Services

Lead Member for Environment

Lead Member for Finance and
Transformation

106 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members were advised of the Fire Safety procedures in the Council Chamber.

107 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Councillor Paul McGeary and Councillor Keith Darvill.

Cllr Graham Williamson also sent apologies, but attended via the video conference facility to present a report.

108 **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interests.

109 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on **19th July 2023**, were agreed as a correct record and the Chair signed them.

110 **ALL AGE CARERS STRATEGY**

Carer's Strategy 2023-2026. A strategy for those of all ages who provide informal and unpaid care in Havering.

The report was introduced by **Councillor Gillian Ford**, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care Services.

The Carer's Strategy focusses on unpaid Carers (those who provide unpaid and informal care to their friends or family) who provide invaluable support for loved ones and friends on a daily basis. The recent Covid Pandemic further highlighted the significant role that they play in supporting people to remain well at home. They coordinate care and appointments, provide personal care, and improve the wellbeing of those they look after. It is important that health, care and the community and voluntary sector support unpaid carers to continue to provide the invaluable tasks that they carry out every day. They often however don't recognise that they are performing this crucial function as a 'carer'. 2021 Census data suggests up to one in ten people in Havering provide informal and unpaid care on a regular basis.

In the context of the developing Havering Place based Partnership, which brings together health, care and the community and voluntary sector in Havering with a focus on integrating services and support for local people in a way that is meaningful to them, partners in Havering have jointly undertaken a refresh of the strategy for informal and unpaid carers, to ensure that we deliver improved experiences and outcomes in the Borough.

The Cabinet **approved** the implementation of the Carer's Strategy 2023-2026.

111 **SITE DISPOSALS UNDER THE ASSET DISPOSAL PROGRAMME 2022-2028**

Site Disposals under the Asset Disposal Programme 2022-2028

The report was introduced by **Councillor Graham Williamson** (via zoom) – Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration

This report follows on from the Cabinet decision of 8th February 2023, which adopted a medium-term asset disposal programme to provide a sustainable asset pipeline to deliver capital receipts as an integral part of the Council's wider Capital Strategy.

The February decision noted that the disposal of the car park sites reported was provisional and subject to public consultation relating to modification of Traffic Management Orders relating to the sites. The Cabinet agreed to make a final decision on the disposal of the car park sites after considering the outcome of the consultation. In addition, the report noted that further reports would follow seeking approval for disposal of specific assets within the disposal programme.

This report seeks to report the outcome of the consultation to inform the Cabinet decision to authorise disposal of the car park sites. It also seeks to declare additional assets surplus to operational requirement and obtain authority for their disposal.

Site Disposals under the Asset Disposal Programme 2022-2028

Cabinet **agreed** the recommendations below:

- **Confirmed** authority to the Assistant Director Housing, Property and Assets to dispose the following assets having considered the outcome of a statutory consultation relating to the removal of the car parks from the Council's off street parking, modification of Traffic Management Orders and pursuant to the Cabinet decision of 8 February 2023:
 - Como Street Car Park, RM7 7DN
 - Keswick Avenue Car Park, RM11 1XR
 - Dorrington Gardens Car Park, RM12 4HX
 - Angel Way Multi-storey Car Park, RM1 1HR
- **Noted** that the potential disposal of Slaney Road car park will be the subject of further appraisal to consider the potential retention of part of the existing site
- **Noted** that in the exercise of delegated authority, any disposal to Mercury Land Holdings would be subject to the terms for any interim lease-back of operational assets and/or subsequent buy-back of assets not subsequently progressed by Mercury Land Holdings, as set out in the previous report to Cabinet on 8th February 2023.
- **Declared** the following assets as surplus to the Council's operational requirements:
 - Mercury House, 11 Western Rd, Romford, RM1 3RL
 - Gays Field, Jubilee Close, Romford, RM7 9LU
 - Land at Bedale Road/Tiverton Road, Harold Hill, RM3 9TU
- **Delegated** authority to the Assistant Director Housing, Property and Assets in consultation with the Deputy Director of Legal and Democratic Services to appropriate the Group Homes at 79/ 81 Maybank Avenue, Hornchurch, RM12 5SH from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Act. Such appropriation to be exercised in the event that there is a requirement for the properties by the Council's housing acquisition program. Otherwise, the properties are to be declared surplus to the Council's operational requirements.
- **Agreed** to the disposal of the assets identified within Appendix A at values representing the best consideration reasonably obtainable to

the Council, subject to any required consultation relating to public open space

- **Delegated** authority to the Assistant Director Housing, Property and Assets to decide upon the most appropriate disposal method for each asset and should that be considered to be auction, such authority to be exercised in consultation with the Lead Member for Development & Regeneration to agree appropriate reserve values for the properties.
- **Delegated** authority to the Assistant Director Housing, Property and Assets in consultation with the Deputy Director of Legal and Democratic Services to conduct all appropriate steps to progress and conclude the asset disposals in a manner that satisfies all legal/regulatory requirements.
- **Agreed**, in principle, that the following sites should be appropriated (where necessary) for planning purposes with a view to their subsequent disposal:
 - Land at Bedale Road/Tiverton Road, Harold Hill, RM3 9TU
 - Gays Field, Jubilee Close, Romford, RM7 9LU
 - Como Street Car Park, RM7 7DN
 - Keswick Avenue Car Park, RM11 1XR
 - Dorrington Gardens Car Park, RM12 4HX
 - Angel Way Multi-storey Car Park, RM1 1HR
- **Delegated** authority to the Assistant Director Housing, Property and Assets in consultation with the Deputy Director of Legal and Democratic Services, for the purposes set out above and in accordance with section 122(2A) Local Government Act 1972 and section 233(4) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 that notices are placed in a local newspaper circulating in the area for two consecutive weeks expressing:
 - (i) an intention to appropriate (where necessary) the above sites to planning purposes; and
 - (ii) an intention to dispose of the above sites (where necessary) following its appropriation.
- **Delegated** authority to the Assistant Director Housing, Property and Assets in consultation with the Deputy Director of Legal and Democratic Services consider any objections to the intended appropriation and/or disposal before a decision to appropriate or dispose is made.

112 **THE LGA CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE REPORT AND ACTION PLAN**

The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report and Action Plan

This report focuses on the Council's Action Plan, developed in response to the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge Review Team's key improvement recommendations.

It is proposed that the Action Plan is approved and monitored on a six monthly basis to ensure the recommended improvements are implemented.

As the improvements are strategic in nature and underpin the Council's Corporate Plan, the Overview and Scrutiny Board may wish to select it for scrutiny, this is in accordance with the statutory role of the Overview and Scrutiny Function as set out in the Council's Constitution.

Cabinet **agreed:**

- The Action Plan
- The Senior Leadership Team are collectively the "Lead Officers" for delivery
- Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Board review progress against the Action Plan on a six monthly basis.

113 **THE RACE, EQUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION (READI) PROGRAMME REVIEW**

Race, Equality, Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion (READI) Programme Review.

- 1.1 In May 2021 the Council commissioned an independent Race, Equality, Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion (READI) peer review by the LGA.
- 1.2 The review was a commissioned as a pro-active one to ensure the Council was undertaking its statutory Equalities Duties. The review focused on internal policies, procedures and sought experience of staff both in the workplace and undertaking their front-line duties. The review was undertaken by an experienced external team and followed the LGAs scope with a particular emphasis on race.
- 1.3 All those that took part did so on the understanding that contributions made were in confidence and for the sole use of the LGA peer team, whose report would be made public and include improvement recommendations. This is fully in-line with the LGAs sector offer.
- 1.4 The LGAs report was published at the 10th November 2021 Cabinet, along with the Councils Action Plan to deliver the improvement recommendations.

- 1.5 This report provides an update on the progress against the agreed action plan to achieve the improvement recommendations. A further detailed progress update will be provided to staff by the READI Programme Team in due course.
- 1.6 Havering's Vision and Corporate Plan agreed in November 2022 reaffirms its commitment for Havering as a safe place and committed to equality of opportunity for all.
- 1.7 Underpinning this, Havering has a clear zero tolerance to racism and discrimination of any kind, including providers of Council Services.
- 1.8 All Members, Staff, and third party providers are responsible for complying with the Equalities Act requirements and advancing Equality and Diversity and fostering good relations.
- 1.9 Council reports require authors to consider, comment on and address issues that arise from an Equality and Diversity consideration.
- 1.10 Both Members and Officers have access to Equality and Diversity Training and there are mandatory Equality and Diversity objectives in staff Personal Development Review

The Cabinet **agreed** the recommendations

- Cabinet **noted** the READI Programme Review Progress update in *Appendix 1*.
- All Members agreed their continued their support of the READI Programme (Members signed their commitment to the Havering pledge upon election).

The Cabinet **approved** the action plan.

Chairman