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## MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING Council Chamber - Town Hall Wednesday, 13 December 2023 (Times Not Specified)

### **Present:**

Councillor Ray Morgon (Leader of the Council), Chairman

### **Cabinet Member responsibility:**

Councillor Keith Darvill	Lead Member for Climate Change & Housing Need
Councillor Oscar Ford	Lead Member for Children and Young People
Councillor Paul McGeary	Lead Member for Housing & Property
Councillor Paul Middleton	Lead Member for Digital, Transformation & Customer Services
Councillor Barry Mugglestone	Lead Member for Environment
Councillor Christopher Wilkins	Lead Member for Finance
Councillor Graham Williamson	Lead Member for Regeneration

### **In attendance:**

Councillor Keith Prince (Group Leader – Conservatives)  
Councillor Martin Goode (Group Leader – EHRG)

Also, in the chamber Cllr Matthew Stanton (Labour).

### 136 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

### 137 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Councillor Gillian Ford.

### 138 **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest.

139 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on **8<sup>th</sup> November 2023**, were agreed as a correct record and the Chair signed them.

140 **SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY STRATEGY**

Report: **Serious Violence Duty Strategy**

Presented by **Councillor Barry Mugglestone, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The Serious Violence Strategy focuses on addressing serious violence, including youth violence and exploitation, weapon-enabled crime, domestic and sexual violence. A thorough Strategic Needs Assessment has been completed to drive our actions to prevent and reduce violence over the next three years.

1.1 This Strategy document has been produced as part of the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

1.2 The duty places several requirements upon local areas, including agreeing

a local partnership arrangement to lead on the duty, agreeing a definition of serious violence, having consistent data sharing, analytical processes to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), and production of a Strategy to set out how the duty will be implemented locally.

1.3 A thorough needs assessment has been completed by a multi-agency working group of analysts; a summary is included within the Serious Violence Strategy. There is no requirement under the duty that we publish the full needs assessment; this will be made available to professionals and organisations working in the borough where requested.

1.4 The needs assessment outlines the key findings, gaps and makes five recommendations for tackling violence in the borough. These, and the views of the partnership gathered through a workshop in September 2023 have driven the eight initial actions set in the strategy. These are as follows:

Cabinet **approved** the Serious Violence Duty Strategy 2024-2027.

141 **PROPOSED DE-DESIGNATION AND CLOSURE OF CHIPPENHAM ROAD CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

Report: **Proposed De-Designation and Closure of Chippenham Road Children's Centre**

Presented by **Councillor Oscar Ford, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

The purpose of this report is to recommend the permanent closure and de-designation of Chippenham Road Children's Centre, as outlined in the 2023-24 Council budget setting report.

Service delivery at the site stopped in March 2020 due to restrictions created by the Covid-19 pandemic and the centre has not reopened. All services previously delivered from Chippenham Road Children's Centre are now delivered from Ingrebourne Children's Centre (approx. one mile away), where we have seen a sustained increase in footfall over the last three years.

When a decision is taken to de-designate or repurpose a Children's Centre, the local authority is required to notify the Department for Education.

The Cabinet **agreed** the permanent closure and de-designation of Chippenham Road Children's Centre (Heaton Ward).

**142 AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE FAMILY WELCOME CENTRE**

Report: **Main Contract Award - Family Welcome Centre**

Presented by **Councillor Graham Williamson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration**

1. This Cabinet report provides a summary of the Family Welcome Centre project and the recommendations to award the main contract to deliver the scheme.
2. Harold Hill has for many years been one of the most deprived areas, not only in Havering but in London. In an effort to rectify this, Harold Hill was the focus of a Council regeneration programme called Harold Hill Ambitions. This programme was successful in delivering improvements to the area and local communities.
3. The Family Welcome Centre is the first phase of the wider Farnham and Hildene masterplan vision. The scheme will create an exemplar of this type of facilities for emergency accommodation for families and will provide 74 self-contained temporary homes. The scheme also includes a modern high quality new health centre.
4. Provision of this purpose-built emergency accommodation will substantially ease the financial burden currently being absorbed by the General Fund, where homeless families are being housed in hotels. In addition, the Family Welcome Centre aims to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable families and will include facilities for housing support staff and social workers who can work closely with these families.

5. The associated health centre will provide much needed high quality health facilities in the Harold Hill area. Negotiations are progressing with the NHS to utilise the facility for primary care use.
6. The demolition of the existing buildings on the site, including Abercrombie House, was completed in August 2023. The site is now ready for construction.
7. Following the single stage tender process, it is intended to appoint Bidder A to deliver the construction works under the JCT Design and Build 2016 form of Contract, as amended by the London Borough of Havering. This form of contract allows the contractor to take on part of the design risk and would also provide the Council with cost certainty in the form of a lump sum fixed price for undertaking the works.

**Cabinet:**

8. **Approved** the award of the construction contract for the Family Welcome Centre and Health Centre (shell and core) to Bidder A, as set out in this report.
9. **Agreed** to the Council entering into an Agreement for Lease with the NHS Health Provider for a Health Centre at the Family Welcome Centre based upon the draft Heads of Terms (provided as Exempt Appendix B).
10. **Delegated** authority to the Strategic Director of Place after consultation with the S151 Officer and the Deputy Director of Legal Services to:
  - i. Agree terms for a Memorandum of Understanding with the NHS Health Provider;
  - ii. Finalise and agree the Heads of Terms for the Agreement for Lease; and
  - iii. Execute the Memorandum of Understanding, Agreement for Lease, Lease and associated ancillary legal agreements with the NHS Health Provider for the Health Centre, as necessary and appropriate.

143 **APPLICATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO AMEND THE PARKS BYLAWS**

Report: **Application to the Secretary of State to amend the Parks Bylaws**

Presented by **Councillor Barry Mugglestone, Cabinet Member for Environment**

The Council is responsible for various parks, open spaces and public gardens in the Borough. The conduct of the public in these locations is regulated by

byelaws, which aim to ensure that everyone is reasonably able to use the spaces without unreasonably inconveniencing other users. The bylaws were last updated in the 1980's and over time the nature of park usage has altered and the expectations of park users have also changed. The proposed updated byelaws reflect the way in which the Borough's parks and open spaces are used today and the reasonable expectations of users.

A Cabinet decision was made in October 2020 to progress the process of updating the bylaws

Following a public consultation, the next step in the process is to apply to the Secretary of State (SoS) who will need to approve any amendments to DLUHC's model bylaw clauses. The Cabinet will need to agree for this application to be made.

**Cabinet:**

**Approved** the amended draft Parks Byelaws (Appendix 1) for submission to the Secretary of State for approval;

**Delegated** authority to the Director of Environment to take all necessary legislative and procedural steps enabling submission of the amended Parks Byelaws to the Secretary of State for approval;

**Noted** that following approval of the amended Parks Byelaws by the Secretary of State a report will be taken to Full Council for its approval on implementation of the Draft Byelaws.

**144 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - PERIOD 6 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Report: **Budget Monitoring Report - Period 6 September 2023**

Presented by **Councillor Chris Wilkins, Cabinet Member for Finance**

This Report sets out the monitoring position for the Council for 2023/24 based on figures to period six (30th September).

The Leader on behalf of the Cabinet and Havering Council, thanked Jon Cruddas MP for raising Havering's financial situation in Westminster Hall.

The Leader and Cabinet also thanked the Strategic Director of Resources and her team for their invaluable work in the past few months.

**Cabinet:**

**Noted** the revenue financial position at Period 6 and the action taken to mitigate the overspend.

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**Chairman**