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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE
Council Chamber - Town Hall
5 March 2024 (7.03 - 9.17 pm)**

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Conservative Group Jason Frost (Chairman), Judith Holt and Christine Smith

Havering Residents' Group Laurance Garrard

Labour Group Frankie Walker (Vice-Chair) and Mandy Anderson (In place of Patricia Brown)

1 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members of the action to be taken in an emergency.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Jacqueline McArdle and Julie Wilkes.

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

4 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

The Sub-Committee was presented with the school performance report.

It was noted the performance was compared against all other Local Authorities (LAs) where possible. In Early years there was a good level of development with stable performance which was in-line with national statistics. For Key Stage 1, there was stable performance for phonics ability with improved performance in the 3 key areas of reading, writing and maths. Members noted Key Stage 2 performance had increased following COVID

with a combined standard across reading, writing and maths. GCSE performance for attainment 8 (average academic achievements across 8 subjects) was above national average. There had been a drop in performance but officers were content that the overall performance was still positive however there had also been a drop in pupils attaining a grade A* to C in English and Maths. Members noted Havering had an average performance overall of A-Level students attaining grades AAB or higher but there had been a big drop since 2022. Officers confirmed this would be investigated with individual 6th Form settings.

The Sub-Committee approved the recommendations.

6 HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME

The Sub-Committee was presented with a report on the Housing Allocation Scheme.

Members noted the new scheme had been designed to allocate priority based on needs using a points based system based on local connection, homelessness, medical needs and more. Benefits of the new scheme were noted as there would be less ambiguity, it reduces choice, it reduces the refusal of properties, there would be greater transparency and would allow for a better understanding. It was explained to members that the points would act as a currency to be used to 'bid' on properties. Waiting times for houses would depend on the size of houses available, the size of the house needed and any other needs to be considered.

Officers explained a consultation had been announced via the website and a magazine but responses were only collected online which would be reviewed for future consultations had the response rate was poor. Members also suggested a review to reach the BAME community.

There was overall support of the new scheme from the Sub-Committee with members requesting a review of the performance at least a year after the scheme had been implemented.

The Sub-Committee approved the recommendations.

Chairman