

# Public Document Pack



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Council Chamber - Town Hall 24 July 2024 (7.30 - 10.13 pm)

**Present:** The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Sue Ospreay) in the Chair

**Councillors** Councillors Mandy Anderson, Ray Best, Patricia Brown, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Osman Dervish, Brian Eagling, Sarah Edwards, Gillian Ford, Oscar Ford, Laurance Garrard, James Glass, David Godwin, Martin Goode, Judith Holt, Jane Keane, Jacqueline McArdle, Paul McGeary, Trevor McKeever, Paul Middleton, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Barry Mugglestone, Stephanie Nunn, Sue Ospreay, Dilip Patel, Nisha Patel, Viddy Persaud, Keith Prince, Timothy Ryan, Carol Smith, Christine Smith, Matthew Stanton, Natasha Summers, Katharine Tumilty, John Tyler, Christine Vickery, Bryan Vincent, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Christopher Wilkins, Graham Williamson and John Wood

Approximately five Members' guests and members of the public and a representative of the press were also present.

The Mayor advised Members and the public of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

### 13 **PRAYERS (agenda item 1)**

Reverend Ken Wylie, of St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch opened the meeting with prayers.

### 14 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 2)**

Apologies were received from the Mayor (Councillor Gerry O'Sullivan) and from Councillors Robert Benham, Jason Frost, Philip Ruck, David Taylor, Julie Wilkes, Jacqueline Williams, Frankie Walker, Darren Wise and Damian White

### 15 **MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

The minutes of the Extraordinary and Annual Meetings of the Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

16 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 4)**

There were no disclosures of interest.

17 **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (agenda item 5)**

The Deputy-Mayor did not make any announcements.

The Leader of the Council welcomed Councillor Michael White back to the Chamber.

The Chief Executive announced that the Improvement and Transformation Plan Report had been presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Board meeting the previous night and a recommendation had been made. It was announced the Chief Executive has delegated powers to make the changes to the report.

18 **PETITIONS (agenda item 6)**

The following petitions were received:

From Councillor Stephanie Nunn re the closure of Elm Park Library.

Two petitions from Councillor Dilip Patel re the closure of Collier Row Library from Parklands School and Crownfield School.

19 **VACANT POSITIONS (agenda item 7)**

Councillor Philippa Crowder was **ELECTED** as Chairman of the Licensing Committee by 23 votes to 9 votes for Councillor Jane Keane with 13 abstentions (see division 1).

As Councillor Jane Keane was referred to in error on the nomination paper, Councillor Christine Smith was **ELECTED** as Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee (Councillor Keane would also continue in this role).

Councillor Julie Wilkes was **ELECTED** as Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Board by 23 votes to 9 votes for Councillor Matthew Stanton with 13 abstentions (see division 2).

20 **OFSTED IMPROVEMENT PLAN (agenda item 8)**

The OFSTED Improvement Plan Report was **AGREED** without division.

21 **IMPROVEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION PLAN (agenda item 9)**

The Improvement and Transformation Plan Report was **AGREED** without division.

22 **NEW PRODUCTIVITY PLAN (agenda item 10)**

The New Productivity Plan Report was **AGREED** without division.

23 **POLITICAL BALANCE OF COMMITTEES (agenda item 11)**

**Deemed motion by the Administration**

That the report be adopted and its recommendations carried into effect.

**Amendment by the Labour Group**

That the Political balance table in the report be amended as shown on the table attached to the motion paper.

Following debate, the amendment on behalf of Labour group was **NOT AGREED** by 35 votes to 8 with 2 abstentions (see division 3) and the substantive motion in the wording of the Administration deemed motion was **AGREED** without a division.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the report be adopted and its recommendations carried into effect.**

24 **RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE SIX MONTH ATTENDANCE RULE (agenda item 12)**

The report on the Resolution to Extend the Six Month Rule Attendance Rule was withdrawn with the agreement of Council.

25 **FLAG FLYING POLICY AND SOCIAL MEDIA PROTOCOL (agenda item 13)**

The Flag Flying Policy and Social Media Protocol Report was **AGREED** without division.

26 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RULES - EXCEPTIONS TO THE CALL-IN (REQUISITION PROCEDURE) (agenda item 14)**

The Exceptions to the Call-In (Requisition) Procedure Report was **AGREED** without division.

27 **ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND MEMBER CHAMPIONS (agenda item 15)**

The following annual reports were received by Council:

Audit Committee  
Pensions Committee  
Overview and Scrutiny Board  
People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee  
Member Champion for the Equality and Diversity

The remaining Member Champion reports would be presented to Council at a future meeting.

28 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (agenda item 16)**

Fifteen questions were asked and responded to at the meeting. A summary, including of the supplementary questions and answers given, is attached as appendix 1 to these minutes.

29 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE (agenda item 17)**

A. PAIRING SYSTEM FOR MEMBERS

**Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group**

This council agrees to implement a pairing system for members, to ensure that serious illness does not impact the political balance of the Chamber.

(No amendments received).

Following debate, the motion on behalf of the Conservative Group was **NOT AGREED** by 30 votes to 14 with 1 abstention (see division 4).

B. LIBRARY SERVICES

**Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group**

Council calls upon Cabinet to maintain the operation of all local libraries, acknowledging the critical social impact of their potential closure, and to encourage the use of financial reserves to ensure their continued funding.

**Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group**

Council calls upon Cabinet to maintain the operation of all local libraries, acknowledging the critical social impact of their potential

closure, and to encourage regeneration of the library sites to facilitate wider community use.

**Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents' Association Group**

Please note that the amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group had previously been transcribed incorrectly and should have read as shown:

To maintain the operation of all local libraries, acknowledging the social impact of their potential closure, The Council encourages the new Government to review Havering's underfunding urgently, as it is not prudent or sustainable to use financial reserves to ensure their continued operation.

**The motion was withdrawn by the Conservative group.**

C. **FULL COUNCIL – FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS**

**Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group**

Council agrees to amend the Constitution to allow for 2 follow-up questions during full council meetings.

(No amendments received).

Following debate, the motion on behalf of the Conservative Group **NOT AGREED** by 30 votes to 14 with 1 abstention (see division 5).

D. **CHARTER AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY**

**Motion on behalf of the Labour Group**

This Council adopts the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery as shown on the attached.

**Amendment on behalf of the Havering Residents' Association Group**

This Council confirms the Council's Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for 2023/24 incorporates all applicable principles of the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery as shown on the attached.

**Amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group**

This Council adopts the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery as shown on the attached. Havering council will join the Salvation Army in marking Anti-Slavery Day on 18th October.

Following debate, the amendment on behalf of Havering Residents Association Group **AGREED** by 22 votes to 21 with 2 abstentions (see division 6) and **AGREED** as the substantive motion without division.

**RESOLVED:**

**This Council confirms the Council's Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for 2023/24 incorporates all applicable principles of the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery as shown on the attached.**

30 **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting decisions is attached as appendix 2 to these minutes.

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**Mayor**

**FULL COUNCIL, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

### **Anti-Social Behaviour in Parks**

**1) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone)  
From Councillor Viddy Persaud**

Could the Cabinet Member please outline what steps are being taken to tackle anti-social behaviour, drug use, and littering in our parks?

### **Answer**

Thank you for your question Councillor Persaud,

We are very proud of the parks in Havering, 16 of which have received and recently retained National Green Flag Awards for excellence. Our parks are there for the pleasure and enjoyment of all our residents and visitors to the Borough. But sadly on occasions this enjoyment is spoilt by unacceptable antisocial behaviour involving drug use and littering.

The council has 2 Parks Police who work on shifts and regularly patrol all of the Council's parks. The Parks Police Team is supported across the borough by a small number of council enforcement officer. They prioritise which parks they focus on based on the number of calls or complaints of anti-social behaviour they have received, which can be from a number of different sources. The Parks Police team will also change their shift patterns to accommodate the times complainants are reporting anti-social behaviour.

Complaints of anti-social behaviour such as drug use, scrambler bikes and nuisance gatherings that may require a multi-agency response are discussed at a bi monthly meeting of the Joint Enforcement Tasking Group which is attended by the Parks Police Team as well as the Council housing, youth service, public protect and licencing teams . Parks that have previously been experiencing high levels of antisocial behaviour have had additional resources allocated to them including increased patrols by the Police and the council's Enforcement Team.

I would encourage anyone, Councillor or residents who witness antisocial behaviour taking place in any of our parks to report it. Details of how to report antisocial behaviour can be found on the Council's webpage.

A supplementary question asked how many rough sleepers had been removed from Romford parks in the previous six months. The Cabinet Member responded that he would look into the numbers but any issues should be raised to him by ward Councillors.

## **Car Park Shutters at New Green**

### **2) To the Cabinet Member for Housing & Property (Councillor Paul McGeary) From Councillor Matt Stanton**

What arrangements are proposed to address the difficulties imposed on New Green Residents by the poor design and placement of 4 parking spaces in the area adjoining the shutters at the point of access and egress to the car park which impedes residents from travelling in and out of the car park when those spaces are being used?

#### **Answer**

The car park design was undertaken as per the planning approval, however we are aware of the issues occurring on site.

The proposal is to remove from use the four external car parking spaces. Initially the car park marking on the ground will be removed and a temporary barrier will be installed to prevent the spaces being used.

Given this action will be an amendment to the approved planning permission, an application to vary the permission will need to be made to the LPA to remove the 4 spaces. Discussions have taken place with the Planning Officers and an application is in the process of being drafted.

A supplementary question asked if the temporary barrier would be placed to not recreate the issue of cars parking in those spaces. The Cabinet Member responded that the barrier would be in place until the planning application has approval.

## **Response time for Planning Enquiries**

### **3) To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson) From Councillor Martin Goode**

Could the cabinet member please explain why responses to queries raised by Ward councillors and residents, requesting an update to an application (P0685.23) that went to the planning committee in February, still remains unanswered or being addressed adequately within the 15 days SLA despite numerous chasers to the case officers?

#### **Answer**

It is acknowledged that this application is sensitive and has given rise to significant interest from local residents and elected representatives. However, the Council is not aware of any significant delays in responding to queries raised by either ward councillors and residents with regard to this planning application. The application was subject of a Planning Committee site visit on 21 March. The most recent member correspondence on this case was from Councillor Wise on 24 June, to which a response was issued on 9 July. The most recent correspondence from a resident was received on 17 June and responded to on 9 July.



The case is also subject to a planning enforcement complaint. The planning enforcement team is dealing with a high volume of cases, which does have some impact on response times, but they confirm that updates have been given to both residents and ward councillors.

Staff are committed to providing timely responses to all enquiries raised by both ward councillors and residents and use best endeavours to respond to these within published timescales.

A supplementary question asked if the timeframe of submitting questions and having responses was unacceptable. The Cabinet Member responded that he could not comment on the acceptability of the timeframe but due to a lack of funding and resources there may be a delay in processes.

### **Payment Options for PCNs**

#### **4) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Dilip Patel**

Can the Cabinet Member for Environment please explain why the payment plan option is not extended to PCN recipients at the discounted rate if intention is made to pay within this discounted period?

#### **Answer**

The Councils main objective for parking and moving traffic enforcement is to ensure parking controls and traffic restrictions are observed. This helps maintain safety, secure parking space availability and the efficient operation of the road network by deterring motorists from breaking restrictions.

The risk of receiving a Penalty Charge Notice is designed to act as a deterrent and encourage compliance. In London the PCN level is set by London Councils and it has not increased since 2011. There is a mandatory 50% discount to the PCN value if it is paid within 14 days.

The true value of the PCN is therefore the full value. Payment plans allow the payee an extended period to settle the Penalty Charge. Customers can choose to pay half the discount immediately on receipt of the Penalty and pay the balance before the end of the 14 days. If a customer requires more than 14 days to make payment, then the full charge of the Penalty must be applied.

The Council currently has no plans to offer a payment plan at the discounted rate. If such an offer was made it is likely the deterrence would be reduced.

A supplementary question asked if Cabinet would consider reducing the discount to more than half the value of the PCN. The Cabinet Member responded that all options would be considered.

## **Air Quality Action Plan**

**5) To the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Housing Need (Councillor Natasha Summers)**

**From Councillor Keith Darvill**

When will the Administration publish its revised Air Quality Action Plan?

### **Answer**

The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) is currently under internal review by Environmental Health Officers, this is expected to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

Once the draft has been finalised and briefed to Lead Members, the Greater London Authority (GLA) must review the document. The GLA Review is expected to take approximately 6 weeks.

After the GLA review and any changes, a Public Consultation can then take place. The Public Consultation Period is required to run for 12 weeks.

Any responses or recommendations from the Public Consultation will need to be incorporated into the AQAP as appropriate.

Approval of the final AQAP will then be finalised by our Democratic Process and published.

With the above time scales and no unforeseen circumstances which could cause delay, it is expected the report would be adopted no later than the end of March 2025.

A supplementary question asked if assurance could be given that Cabinet would not continue to delay to avoid the risk of being non-compliant. The Cabinet Member responded that officers would be consulted and a response would be given following the meeting.

## **Library Consultation Meetings**

**6) To the Cabinet Member for Digital, Transformation & Customer Services (Councillor Paul Middleton)**

**From Councillor Martin Goode**

Would the Cabinet member, please explain why this council is advising the public and Library users, that they must apply on line to book an event ticket to attend the scheduled Library Closure consultation meetings and why the number of tickets are limited to 20 in some instances (as stated in *Living in Havering, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July*).

### **Answer**

For these meetings we are using Eventbrite so that we can make sure the space allocated is sufficient to meet the demand. This was used for the most recent Budget Consultation and was very successful. We have ticketed seats at each meeting but

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also standing room and we do not anticipate turning anyone away who wants to ask about the consultation. In the three consultations to date, attendance has been high from both ticketed and walk-ins.

Later on in the consultations we move to the bigger libraries which have larger capacity. There is over 500 places available to book across all of the events involved in the consultation and not including the capacity for walk ins.

The attendance at each event so far has been as follows

9<sup>th</sup> July - Town Hall – 37  
11<sup>th</sup> July – Gidea Park – 35  
12<sup>th</sup> July – Collier Row - 22  
18<sup>th</sup> July – Elm Park - 25  
19<sup>th</sup> July – Harold Wood – St Peter’s Church - 39  
19<sup>th</sup> July – South Hornchurch 14

We have listened to feedback and made it clearer there is walk in space and the website and Eventbrite have been updated.

Around 3,000 people have already responded to the consultation, which is one of the highest responses to a consultation we have published. Residents can continue to add their views to the consultation until it closes on 2 August

A supplementary question asked if the Cabinet Member would agree the information was false. The Cabinet Member denied the information was false but accepted it was not of a good enough standard and it had been updated.

### **Highway Weed Spraying Contract**

#### **7) To the Cabinet Member for Environment Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Tim Ryan**

Will the Administration accept that the delivery of the annual weed spraying programme has proved ineffective at best, and commit to action to hold the contractor to account for their apparent failure to meet their obligations?

#### **Answer**

The current contract specifies three sprays per year, which officers are monitoring. These take place during March to October, on a cyclical basis around the borough.

The product used continues to be a clean label product, which is heavily diluted. Whilst the product is effective in killing off the weeds, it does not persist in soil and therefore does not prevent regrowth, which given the amount of rain experienced this year, is considerable. Officers are working with the contractor to identify alternative treatments and provide the cost impacts, with consideration being given to more bespoke treatments based on land use, rather than the current “one size fits all” approach.

A supplementary question asked when was the last time the weeds in Rush Green had been cut. The Cabinet Member responded that he was not aware when they had last been cut but any issues should be reported to him by ward Councillors.

### **Flood Risk at Brookside School**

- 8) **To the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People (Councillor Oscar Ford)**  
**From Councillor Keith Darvill**

Will the Lead Member report on progress of the proposed flood alleviation proposals in respect of Brookside School?

### **Answer**

The council has no current proposals to carry out any flood alleviation works at this site.

As Brookside School is an Academy, any additional flood risk reduction measures would have to be carried out by the Department for Education (DfE) as part of their building relocation project.

DfE cannot give any further update on this, other than assuring that discussions are active and hope that there will be progress soon.

The Council will continue to work with partner agencies and support the school and academy trust in relation to current risk management arrangements, and in the negotiations with the DfE to relocate the school buildings.

A supplementary question asked if the proposals could be brought forward. The Cabinet Member responded that Cabinet would continue to work with partners on the issue.

### **Romford Market Management**

- 9) **To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson)**  
**From Councillor Nisha Patel**

Would the Cabinet Member for Regeneration please explain why it is necessary to employ three market managers at a time of significant financial strain at the same time that they have chosen to reduce the operating days of Romford Market?

### **Answer**

The Market team comprises one Manager and two other personnel, responsible for physical operation of the market, including oversight of daily set up and dismantling, plus a variety of administrative tasks including management of licences, trader liaison and financial matters.

The headcount of the team has been reduced in recent years, and contrary to what the question might imply, was not increased when Sundays were added to the trading days in 2020. Reverting to a three-day market has however enabled the elimination of overtime and in conjunction with other changes should enable the Market to operate without a deficit for the first time in many years.

Resourcing within the service, as in all services, will continue to be monitored such that further operating efficiencies can be made when appropriate.

A supplementary question asked if the need for 3 staff in the team could be justified. The Cabinet member responded that there were 5 members of staff in 2019 and he had seen their work schedule and would keep the staff numbers under review.

### **Criminal Activity on Council Regeneration Sites**

**10) To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration (Councillor Graham Williamson) From Councillor Jane Keane**

Will the Cabinet Member advise the steps that the Council is taking to prevent buildings on its regeneration sites from being used for criminal purposes?

#### **Answer**

Where the Council is in the process of acquiring sites for regeneration purposes, it engages external property agents to manage the current premises pending demolition for subsequent redevelopment.

Premises occupied by existing businesses that continue to trade in the interim are subject to periodic, but less frequent inspection on the basis that ongoing occupation tends to ensure that the premises remain more secure and accordingly lower risk. Nonetheless, inspections by managing agents are required to ensure that there is no serious breach of covenant by the current lessee(s). Any substantive breach of lease covenant will be referred to solicitors for legal action.

A supplementary question asked if security would be reviewed following the incident. The Cabinet Member responded that nothing had been found at the site so no raid could have been conducted.

### **Road Traffic Accident, junction of Wennington Road and New Road**

**11) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Jackie McArdle**

Following the fatal RTC at the Wennington Road/New Road junction last April, can the Administration confirm that it is now in receipt of a Met Police report on suggested traffic calming measures and outline a timeline for the implementation of the recommendations contained therein?

**Answer**

It is unfortunately the case that road traffic collisions can lead to devastating consequences and life changing injuries. The Mayor of London's "Vision Zero" target is that there will be no one killed or seriously injured on London's roads by 2041. The council is aligned with this target and is using funding from TfL to try and achieve this.

The process following a fatality includes an officer site visit with specialist police officers, reviewing accident reports, assessment of data, development of a scheme and securing funding. As part of this process a consideration of scheme impact (benefits and any disbenefits) including consultation and other consequences, takes place.

In this case the Council has received recommendations and feedback from the police. The Council is in the process of procuring further detailed collision data for the area and will use this and other analysis to develop possible safety measures.

The Council has secured funding from TfL to complete a study and potential design this year. If a viable scheme is identified a further bid for funding next year (for implementation) will be made.

A supplementary question asked if it was possible to see the report. The Cabinet Member responded that he would have to consult officers as there could be confidential information contained within the report.

**Car Park Shutters at New Green**

**12) To the Cabinet Member for Housing & Property (Councillor Paul McGeary)  
From Councillor Matt Stanton**

What arrangements are proposed to address the difficulties imposed on New Green Residents by the failure of allocated Push Button Fobs and the inadequate replacement of such Fobs to residents?

**Answer**

All users of the car park have been issued with new fobs to operate the roller shutters which should overcome the issue.

The control systems and fob creator equipment is located in the estate management suite at New Green. The Council have purchased additional blank fobs which can, if required, be reprogrammed on site and given to residents.

A supplementary question asked if the fobs could operate the entrance and exits. The Cabinet Member responded that he would confirm the position with officers.

## **Locking of Park Gates**

### **13) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Dilip Patel**

Following the cancellation of the contract with National Enforcement Solutions, for litter enforcement and the locking of our parks, can the Cabinet Member please confirm what steps will be taken to ensure that Romford's parks are locked at night?

#### **Answer**

Parks Locking activity is an expensive yet non-statutory function and was therefore stopped in 2022 as part of financial savings suggested and accepted to assist with the current and future financial position of the council.

The activity was restarted at no cost to the Council under a wider Enforcement Pilot. This contract, which was delivered by National Enforcement Solutions (NES) started in May 2023 and ceased on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

Benchmarking carried out with other London boroughs reveals that most Councils approached have scaled down or stopped parks locking.

Currently, Officers are assessing whether there is a pressing and justifiable need to recommence parks locking and unlocking. An update on potential options is due in September this year, when my Cabinet colleagues and I will consider any recommendations.

(No supplementary question asked)

## **Parking in Park Lane, Hornchurch**

### **14) To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Mugglestone) From Councillor Judith Holt**

Following an email from the relevant Director, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, which confirmed free parking on Park Lane, can the Cabinet Member please confirm why the free parking period has now been removed?

#### **Answer**

Thank you Councillor Holt for your question.

All parking controls are supported by a legal order. When prices for parking change it is necessary to advertise a statutory notice. This is usually done through a bulk order update following Council approval of new charges.

Unfortunately, when the notice for 24/25 was published it was not presented in the correct order in the press. This caused confusion and following publication it was also noted that Park Lane and Kyme Road were included in the wrong section, which was an administrative error.

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A new Notice was written and published to correct the error, stating that current paid parking arrangements will continue and that 30 minutes free parking does not apply to these roads.

The Administration has committed to reviewing this after the first 6 months of the financial year.

A supplementary question asked why other roads in the surrounding area had retained the free parking period. The Cabinet Member responded that there had never been free parking on the roads in question.

### **Grass Cutting in Cemeteries**

**15) To the Cabinet Member for Digital, Transformation & Customer Services  
(Councillor Paul Middleton)  
From Councillor Judith Holt**

Given that Upminster cemetery appears to have been looking neglected as of late, can the Cabinet Member confirm the mowing schedules for the public Cemeteries across Havering.

#### **Answer**

The London Borough of Havering manages four cemeteries, Upminster, Romford, Hornchurch and Rainham. The total acreage of the combined sites is approximately 80 acres.

The operations team consists of two Supervisors, four Bereavement Service Operatives and seven Gardeners. The team aim to cut to the grass 12 times in the growing season. This means the gardening team will have a turnaround timetable of three/four weeks for the ride on mowers and seven weeks for the strimming.

This year the weather in March and April was unusually wet which meant it delayed the team being able to use the ride on mowers. The impact of this was a 6 week delay to the start of cutting season on the larger accessible areas.

Over the last five years, there has also been an increase in weed and grass growth, primarily because of the extended growing season due to climate change . This has resulted in additional pressure on the gardening team being able to stay on top of the grounds maintenance. Historically the growing season was between April and September but the service is now actively cutting and weeding between March and October.

Staff are working hard to restore and maintain the grounds to the high standards customers expect while battling adverse weather patterns.

Upminster Cemetery is a working cemetery which has burial provision for a further 23 years. The operations team are committed to delivering an excellent service,



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testament to this is the 'Gold Standard' award in London in Bloom which the team won last year.

A supplementary question asked if Councillor Holt could meet with the gardeners of the cemeteries. The Cabinet Member responded that he would be happy to introduce the Councillor to the team.

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## CHARTER AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY

The London Borough of Havering will:

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publish its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

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VOTING RECORD

Minute Item 30

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>The Mayor (Councillor Gerry O'Sullivan)</b>	A	A	A	A	A	A
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr. Sue Ospreay]	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
<b><u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP (17)</u></b>						
Cllr Robert Benham	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Ray Best	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Joshua Chapman	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Osman Dervish	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Jason Frost	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Judith Holt	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Jackie McArdle	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Dilip Patel	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Nisha Patel	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Viddy Persaud	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Keith Prince	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Timothy Ryan	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Carol Smith	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr David Taylor	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Christine Vickery	O	O	X	✓	✓	X
Cllr Damian White	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Michael White	O	O	X	O	O	O
<b><u>HAVERING RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GROUP (23 + 2)</u></b>						
Cllr John Crowder	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Philippa Crowder	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Sarah Edwards	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Gillian Ford	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Oscar Ford	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Laurance Garrard	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr James Glass	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr David Godwin	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Paul McGeary	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Paul Middleton	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Raymond Morgon	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Christine Smith	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Natasha Summers	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Bryan Vincent	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Reg Whitney	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Julie Wilkes	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Christopher Wilkins	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr Jacqueline Williams	A	A	A	A	A	A
Cllr Graham Williamson	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Cllr John Wood	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
<b><u>LABOUR GROUP (8)</u></b>						
Cllr Mandy Anderson	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Pat Brown	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Keith Darvill	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Jane Keane	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Trevor McKeever	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Matthew Stanton	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Katharine Tumilty	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Cllr Frankie Walker	A	A	A	A	A	A
<b><u>NORTH HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP (3)</u></b>						
Cllr Brian Eagling	X	X	O	✓	✓	X
Cllr Martin Goode	X	X	O	✓	✓	X
Cllr Darren Wise	A	A	A	A	A	A
<b><u>RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT GROUP (2)</u></b>						
Councillor Philip Ruck	A	A	A	A	A	A
Councillor John Tyler	✓	✓	✓	X	X	O
<b>TOTALS</b>	55	55	55	55	55	55
<b>✓ = YES</b>	23	23	8	14	14	22
<b>X = NO</b>	9	9	35	30	30	21
<b>O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE</b>	13	13	2	1	1	2
<b>ID = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>A = ABSENT FROM MEETING</b>	10	10	10	10	10	10

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