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MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING Council Chamber - Town Hall Wednesday, 18 September 2024 (7.30 - 9.09 pm)

Present:

Councillor Ray Morgon (Leader of the Council), Chair

Councillor Gillian Ford

Councillor Oscar Ford

Councillor Paul McGeary

Councillor Paul Middleton

Councillor Barry Mugglestone

Councillor Natasha Summers

Councillor Christopher Wilkins

Councillor Graham Williamson

Cabinet Member responsibility:

Lead Member for Adults & Wellbeing

Lead Member for Children & Young People

Lead Member for Housing & Property

Lead Member for Digital, Transformation & Customer Services

Lead Member for Environment

Lead Member for Housing Need & Climate Change

Lead Member for Finance

Lead Member for Regeneration

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors .

224 ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Chair, there was an announcement about the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

225 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

226 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interests.

227 **MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on **14th August 2024** and to authorise the Chair to sign them.

228 **ROMFORD MASTERPLAN FORMAL CONSULTATION**

Report: Romford Masterplan Formal Consultation

Presented by: Councillor Graham Williamson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Summary:

This report seeks approval to consult on the Draft Romford Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Consultation is proposed to start in late September and run for a minimum of 6 weeks, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

It was noted that a briefing with the Romford Ward councillors was due to take place and at the request of the opposition parties, ongoing discussions could be undertaken via the Overview & Scrutiny Board.

Cabinet:

1. **Agreed** the publication of the Draft Romford Masterplan and associated documents as set out below for a minimum 6-week period of statutory public consultation under regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, with an anticipated start date in late September 2024.
2. **Agreed** the following documents to be published:
 - Final Consultation Draft Romford Masterplan
 - Romford Masterplan Baseline Report
 - Romford Masterplan Baseline Report Appendix – Heritage Audit
 - Romford Masterplan Engagement Summary Report 2024
 - Romford Masterplan Engagement Summary Report 2019
 - Romford Masterplan Health Impact Assessment 2024
 - Findings of No Significant Effect Report

229 **HOUSING SERVICES - HATE CRIME POLICY (2024)**

Report: Housing Services – Hate Crime Policy (2024)

Presented by: Councillor Paul McGeary, Cabinet Member for Housing and Property

Summary:

This report explains the legal definition of Hate Crime; the numerous forms of Hate Crime and the measures – both legislatively and by Havering Council – currently in place to deal with the perpetrators of hate crime, regardless of whether they are tenants, leaseholders, staff or representatives of the Council.

This policy sets out the Council's position in relation to the behaviour of its tenants and leaseholders with regard to Hate Crime.

It is required by the Housing Regulator as a stand-alone policy, and aligns with other, relevant Council Housing policies, such Domestic Abuse (2024) and Anti-Social Behaviour (2024).

Cabinet:

1. **Agreed** the safety of residents and the reputation of the Council would benefit from clearly declaring and communicating its position concerning Hate Crime; defining the consequences for the perpetrators and the support available to victims/witnesses.
2. **Approved** the policy.

230 **HOUSING SERVICES - DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY (2024)**

Report: Housing Services – Domestic Abuse policy (2024)

Presented by: Councillor Paul McGeary – Cabinet Member for Housing and Property

Summary:

This report explains the legal definition of the terms used in this policy; what constitutes Domestic Abuse and the measures – both legislatively and by Havering Council – currently in place to deal with the perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, regardless of whether they are tenants, leaseholders, staff or representatives of the Council.

It also sets out the rehabilitative support for perpetrators and support for victims of Domestic Abuse.

This policy sets out the Council's position in relation to Domestic Abuse conducted or suffered by its tenants and leaseholders.

It is required by the Social Housing Regulator as a stand-alone policy, and aligns with other, relevant Council Housing policies, such Hate Crime (2024) and Anti-Social Behaviour (2024).

It was confirmed that the Policy should be reviewed annually and in line with legislation and the Housing Regulator.

Cabinet:

1. **Agreed** the safety of residents and the reputation of the Council would benefit from clearly declaring and communicating its position concerning Domestic Abuse.
2. **Approved** the policy.

231 **HOUSING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY (2024)**

Report: Housing Services – Anti-Social Behaviour Policy (2024)

Presented by: Councillor Paul McGeary – Cabinet Member for Housing and Property

Summary:

Section 218A of the Housing Act 1996 requires local housing authorities, as social landlords, to prepare and publish policies and procedures in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

Anti-Social Behaviour is defined in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 as:

- (a) conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm, or distress, to any person;
- (b) conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises; or
- (c) conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

Most people care deeply about the neighbourhood and community in which they live. Many play an active part in making their neighbourhood a more pleasant place to live.

This policy fulfils a legal requirement for the Council to publish an ASB policy.

This policy is designed to give a clear statement on the Council's approach to ASB, and the way it works with residents and expert, partner organisations, to address it within the Council's housing.

This report sets out the Council's policy in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour in relation to Council tenants and leaseholders.

It aligns with other Council policies, such as Domestic Abuse (2024) and Hate Crime (2024).

It is required to be a stand-alone policy by the Social Housing Regulator.

Cabinet:

1. **Agreed** the reputation of the Council would benefit from clearly stating and communicating its position concerning ASB; defining the consequences for perpetrators and the support available to victims and witnesses.
2. **Approved** the policy.

232 **SEND & ALTERNATIVE PROVISION STRATEGY**

Report: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision (SEND & AP) Strategy

Presented by: Cllr Oscar Ford, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People

Summary:

This is a wide ranging strategy outlining a wide and varied range of services across education, health and social care. Some of the proposed actions, while not yet specified, will require additional investment, without which they will not be fulfilled and consequently there will be no improvement in outcomes / performance. This would include failure to comply with statutory obligations.

The Local Area Partnership, comprising education, health and social care services, working with families, educational settings, and voluntary / third sector, has a range of responsibilities in regard to the delivery of services to children and young people with SEND and in AP, and is evaluated by Ofsted in regard to outcomes and experiences for children and young people with SEND.

In reference to the framework used to evaluate the local area, this strategy sets out the partnership's programme for the next five years to improve the lives of Havering families with SEND, organised around six priorities which together represent the vision for Havering's SEND and AP system.

Please note that the strategy will be made available publicly, and so the primary audience for the document is Havering families. This is reflected in the language, tone, and level of detail included.

Cabinet:

1. **Agreed** the SEND & AP Strategy.

233 **ENERGY CONTRACTS 2024-28 - RENEWAL**

Report: Award of Energy Contracts 2024-28

Presented by: Councillor Paul McGeary – Cabinet Member for Housing and Property

Summary:

This report seeks approval to use the LASER (Kent County Council) flexible Procurement Framework 2024-28 and award contracts for the supply of electricity and gas upon expiry of the existing arrangements on 31st March 2025. This approach will save the Council a substantial amount of money over the term of the contracts. Further details of this are contained within exempt Appendix A.

It is recommended that Cabinet award the Council's electricity supply contract to Npower, and gas contract to Corona energy utilising LASER's 2024-2028 framework agreement. The term of the Framework Agreement will be from 2022 - 2028. The supply period is 1st October 2024 through to 30th September 2028, unless terminated in accordance with the Conditions of the Framework Agreement. The combined value of the proposed call-off contracts is expected to be around £21.2m in total over the next 4 years, for the 2025-2029 contractual period with the option to extend for a further 1 year estimating the total cost to be around £26.7m.

The contracts will include the supply of electricity and gas to the Council's corporate buildings; street lighting; housing, and schools that choose to opt-in.

This report recommends the use of the following two framework agreements:

Flexible Procurement and Supply of Half Hourly (HH), Non-Half Hourly (NHH), Metered and Unmetered Electricity with Meter Operations and Additional Services — Y22009; and Supply of Natural Gas Daily Metered and Non-Daily Metered — Y22008.

Cabinet;

1. **Approved** entering into an access agreement with Kent County Council, trading as LASER, so the Council can access framework agreements for Electricity (Flex 2024-2028, Framework Number: Y22009) and Gas (Flex 2024-2028 Framework Number: Y22008).
2. **Approved** the award of an electricity supply contract under LASER framework agreement Y22009, to Npower Commercial Gas Limited (Company number 03768856) (Npower), for the period of four years commencing on 1 April 2025 and expiring on 31 March 2029, with an estimated value of £14m) and with one year's extension option with an estimated value of £17.5m.

3. **Approved** the award of a gas supply contract under LASER framework agreement Y22008 to Corona Energy Retail 4 Ltd (Company number 02798334) (Corona) for the period of four years commencing on 1 April 2025 and expiring on 31 March 2029, with an estimated value of £7.2m, with an option to extend for one year with an estimated value of £9m.
4. **Approved** the use of LASER's 'Price Certainty' energy buying strategy for both electricity and gas.
5. **Approved** the use of LASER's 'Procurement Only Service Option' (POSO)

234 **COUNCIL'S COMMERCIAL STRATEGY**

Report: Commercial Strategy

Presented by: Councillor Ray Morgon, Leader of the Council.

Summary:

This report presents Havering Council's Commercial Strategy for 2024-2029 detailed in Appendix 1. It seeks to consolidate the organisation's approach to commercial activities, fostering enhanced synergy among teams delivering commercial activity to ensure swift identification and actions taken on commercial opportunities.

The Strategy is underpinned by 4 strategic priorities and outcomes:

1. Governance.
2. Commercial Capability.
3. Communication & Marketing.
4. Data & Technology.

Cabinet:

1. **Approved** the Commercial Strategy and the Action Plan.
2. **Agreed** to the resourcing of the Strategic and Operational Boards.

235 **NORTH EAST LONDON JOINT SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH STRATEGY (2024 – 2029)**

Report: North East London Joint Sexual & Reproductive Health Strategy (2024 – 2029)

Presented by: Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care services

Summary:

This paper seeks Cabinet approval of the North East London Joint Sexual & Reproductive Health Strategy (2024-2029), and of proposed governance arrangements for the development and implementation of an accompanying local action plan. The strategy aims to support the delivery of a high quality, easy access and equitable sexual and reproductive health offer across the North East London, strengthening existing joint working practices to deliver best outcomes for local residents.

The strategy and proposed local oversight arrangements were endorsed by the Havering Health and Wellbeing board in July 2024.

This strategy supports the Council in delivering against its statutory responsibility for improving the health of the local population and the effective delivery of mandated sexual health service provision, under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Cabinet:

1. **Approved and adopted** the North East London Joint Sexual & Reproductive Health Strategy (2024-2029)
2. **Approved** the proposed governance arrangements under the Havering Place-based Partnership for oversight of the development and implementation of a Havering action plan.

Chair