



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAVERING**

**Havering Town Hall, Romford
25 May 2011 (7.30 p.m. – 10.40p.m.)**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Pam Light) in the Chair at the start of the meeting

Councillors June Alexander, Michael Armstrong, Clarence Barrett, Robert Benham, Becky Bennett, Sandra Binion, Jeff Brace, Denis Breeding, Wendy Brice-Thompson, Dennis Bull, Michael Deon Burton, Andrew Curtin, Keith Darvill, Osman Dervish, Nic Dodin, David Durant, Brian Eagling, Ted Eden, Roger Evans, Gillian Ford, Georgina Galpin, Peter Gardner, Linda Hawthorn, Lesley Kelly, Steven Kelly, , Mark Logan, Barbara Matthews, Paul McGeary, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Eric Munday, John Mylod, Pat Murray, Barry Oddy, Denis O'Flynn, Fred Osborne, Ron Ower, Gary Pain, Roger Ramsey, Paul Rochford, Geoffrey Starns, Billy Taylor, Barry Tebbutt, Frederick Thompson, Lynden Thorpe, Linda Trew, Jeffery Tucker, Linda Van den Hende, Melvin Wallace, Keith Wells, Damien White, Michael White and John Wood

Colonel Markham Bryant DL, Hon. Aldermen Ivor Cameron, Wilf Mills, Graham Price, Andrew Rosindell MP, Louise Sinclair and Angela Watkinson MP, John Cruddas MP and approximately 60 guests, members of public and press also attended.

The Reverend David Banting of St Peter's Church, Harold Wood opened the meeting with prayers.

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.

1 MAYORALTY

Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group (Agenda Item 3A)

That Councillor Melvin Wallace be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2011/12.

The Conservative Group proposal was **AGREED** without a vote. It was, therefore, duly **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Melvin Wallace be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2011/2012

Councillor Melvin Wallace, having made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor as required by the Local Government Act 1972, then took the Chair and thanked the Council for the honour conferred upon him. The Mayor indicated that his Mayoress would be **Mrs Joan Wallace**.

The Leader of the Council and other Members expressed the thanks of the Council to Councillor Pam Light for her services in 2010/11. Councillor Light suitably replied.

2 DEPUTY MAYOR - Appointment

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, the Mayor signified in writing his appointment of **Councillor Lynden Thorpe** as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year and to carry out the duties of the Mayor in case of the Mayor's illness or absence.

Councillor Thorpe made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office accordingly. The Mayor indicated that the Deputy Mayor's Consort for the year would be **David Thorpe**.

3 MINUTES

Council noted the following corrections to the minutes:

- In minute 79, deletion of an erroneous reference to a declaration of interest by Councillor Linda Van den Hende
- in minutes 68 and 71, Councillor Robby Misir being recorded as having declared an interest and not Councillor Billy Taylor, as shown
- the addition among the names of those present of Councillor Eric Munday

It was **RESOLVED:**

That, subject to the corrections now listed, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30 March 2011 be signed as a true record.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor made the following announcement:

Thank you very much for electing me to be the 48th Mayor of the London Borough of Havering. You have made me very proud and I will do my utmost to uphold the proud tradition of this office and to serve the community to the best of my ability.

Having been Deputy Mayor for two years, I am reminded of what Gary Player, the South African golfer said back in 1974 when he won the British Open: “Do you know what? The more I practice, the luckier I get” – and tonight I feel very lucky!

I would like to thank both Roger Ramsey and Pam Light for all their help and consideration over the last two years when I was their Deputy. I would also like to thank my daughters and all my friends for supporting me today, and a very special welcome to Mr Barry Anderson, former Mayor the London Borough of Lewisham.

Lastly, my main charity this year will be St Francis Hospice. I will throughout my year consider other charitable organisations with a view to trying to help the lesser known.

There were no announcements by the Chief Executive on this occasion.

5 STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Council received a Statement by the Leader of the Council (attached as **Appendix 1** to these minutes).

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Members present named in minutes 3, 4 and 10 (the Mayoralty and various Committee Chairmanships) who were candidates for offices attracting a Special Responsibility Allowance, each declared a personal interest under paragraph 8 of the Members' Code of Conduct as they would benefit from the Members' Allowance Scheme 2011.

7 AWARDS FOR EMINENT SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White) proposed that the Honorary Freedom of the borough be conferred upon Mrs Joyce Leicester in recognition of her service to the borough, particularly as Secretary of the Gidea Park & District Civic Society.

Councillor Andrew Curtin seconded the proposal.

The proposal was **AGREED** by 53 votes to 0 (see voting division 1) and it was **RESOLVED**:

To confer upon Mrs Joyce Leicester the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

The Mayor then congratulated Mrs Leicester, who was present at the meeting, and Members applauded.

Councillor Ray Morgon proposed that the Honorary Freedom of the borough be conferred upon Ms Sue Ospreay in recognition of her service to the borough as leader of the Lightning Drama Group.

The Leader of the Opposition (Councillor Clarence Barrett) seconded the proposal.

The proposal was **AGREED** by 53 votes to 0 (see division 2) and it was **RESOLVED**:

To confer upon Sue Ospreay the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

The Mayor then congratulated Ms Ospreay, who was present at the meeting, and Members applauded.

The Leader of the Labour Group (Councillor Keith Darvill) proposed that the Honorary Freedom of the borough be conferred upon Mr Tom Horlock in recognition of his service to the borough, both as a dedicated supporter of the Labour Party and in supporting youth activity in Upminster.

Councillor Denis O'Flynn seconded the proposal.

The proposal was **AGREED** by 53 votes to 0 (see division 3) and it was **RESOLVED**:

To confer upon Tom Horlock the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

Mr Horlock was unable to be present at the meeting and the Mayor announced that a suitable event would be held in due course to mark the conferment of the award.

8 **APPOINTING THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

There was before Council a report of the Chief Executive concerning the appointment of the Committees of the Council, and advising upon political balance issues. The report referred in particular to the consequences of the decision made at the last meeting of the Council to abolish the Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to reconstitute the Adjudication & Review

and Appointments Committees as Sub-Committees of the Governance Committee.

The report was **AGREED** without debate or division and it was **RESOLVED**:

That:

- (1) The Committees listed in Appendix 2 to these minutes be appointed for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.**
- (2) Those Committees be appointed with:**
 - (a) the membership sizes and**
 - (b) the political balance**indicated in Appendix 2 of the report submitted and its annexes (including the note to the table in annex B) and that it be noted that this includes an increase in the size of the Governance Committee to 13 (8:2:2:1)
- (3) The voting co-optees, the two representing Church of England and Roman Catholic interests and the three parent governor co-optees selected in accordance with the appropriate Regulations, be appointed to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- (4) The other non-elected member "appointments" and invitations to attend shown in Appendix 1 to the report be confirmed.**

9 PROCEDURAL MOTION

A procedural motion on behalf of the Administration, that the following matter, the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees (agenda item 9) be dealt with by vote only was **AGREED** by 43 votes to 2 (see division 4) and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the following matter, the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees (agenda item 9), be dealt with by vote only.

10 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

A. Motion on behalf of the Administration

1. That the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen be appointed –

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Audit	Georgina Galpin	Osman Dervish
Governance	Frederick Thompson	Rebecca Bennett
Pensions	Eric Munday	Damian White
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)	Peter Gardner	1 Georgina Galpin 2 Linda Trew 3 Lynden Thorpe
Regulatory Services	Barry Oddy	Barry Tebbutt
Highways	Billy Taylor	Frederick Thompson
Children's & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Learning	Sandra Binion	
Environment Overview & Scrutiny	Jeff Brace	
Individuals Overview & Scrutiny	Wendy Brice-Thompson	
Towns and Communities Overview & Scrutiny	Frederick Osborne	
Value Overview & Scrutiny	Robby Misir	
Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny	Ted Eden	
Health Overview & Scrutiny	Pam Light	

- 2 That the Governance Committee be delegated authority to appoint the Chairmen and the Vice-Chairmen of the Adjudication & Review and Appointments Sub-Committees

B. Amendment on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group

- 1 That the following Chairman be appointed –

Committee	Chairman Councillor
Audit	Michael Deon Burton
Governance	Michael Deon Burton
Pensions	Michael Deon Burton
Licensing	Michael Deon Burton
Regulatory Services	Michael Deon Burton
Highways	Michael Deon Burton
Children & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Learning	Michael Deon Burton
Environment Overview & Scrutiny	Michael Deon Burton
Individuals Overview & Scrutiny	Michael Deon Burton
Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny	Michael Deon Burton
Towns and Communities Overview & Scrutiny	Michael Deon Burton
Value Overview & Scrutiny	Michael Deon Burton
Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny	Michael Deon Burton
Health Overview & Scrutiny	Michael Deon Burton

2 Sub-Committees of the Governance Committee:

That Council appoint the Chairmen of the Adjudication & Review and Appointments Sub-Committees and that the following appointments be made accordingly:

Sub-Committee	Chairman Councillor
Adjudication & Review	Michael Deon Burton
Appointments	Michael Deon Burton

C. Amendment on behalf of the Residents' Group

- 1 Licensing Committee: one vice chairman position -
Replace Councillor Linda Trew with Councillor Brian Eagling
- 2 **Insert** following Overview & Scrutiny Committee Vice-Chairmen -

Committee	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Children & Learning	Gillian Ford
Environment	John Mylod
Individuals	Linda Van Den Hende
Towns & Communities	Linda Hawthorn
Value	Ray Morgon
Crime & Disorder	John Wood
Health	Brian Eagling

In accordance with the procedural motion (minute 9 preceding), the motion and amendments were dealt without debate.

With the consent of the Council, the nominations for appointment as Chairman set out within the Independent Residents' Group amendment (B 1 above) were **WITHDRAWN**.

The proposal within the Independent Residents' Group amendment (B 2 above), that Council retain responsibility for the appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Adjudication & Review and Appointments Sub-Committees and that the Group's nominee be appointed Chairman of those Sub-Committees, was **LOST** by 4 votes to 39 (division 5).

The Administration motion (A above), except so far as concerning the appointment of the Vice-Chairmen of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees and of one Vice-Chairmen of the Licensing Committee, was then **CARRIED** by 49 votes to 0 (division 6).

The proposed appointments set out in the Residents' Group amendment (C 2 above), other than that of the second Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee, were **AGREED** without division.

The Residents' Group amendment (C 1 above) relating to the appointment of second Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee was put to the vote. There were 32 votes for Councillor Linda Trew (Administration nominee) and 18 votes for Councillor Brian Eagling (Residents' Group nominee) (division 7). Councillor Linda Trew was duly **DECLARED ELECTED**.

It was accordingly **RESOLVED**:

1 That the following Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen be appointed:

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Audit	Georgina Galpin	Osman Dervish
Governance	Frederick Thompson	Rebecca Bennett
Pensions	Eric Munday	Damian White
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)	Peter Gardner	1 Georgina Galpin 2 Linda Trew 3 Lynden Thorpe
Regulatory Services	Barry Oddy	Barry Tebbutt
Highways Advisory	Billy Taylor	Frederick Thompson
Children's & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Learning	Sandra Binion	Gillian Ford
Environment Overview & Scrutiny	Jeff Brace	John Mylod
Individuals Overview & Scrutiny	Wendy Brice- Thompson	Linda Van Den Hende
Towns and Communities Overview & Scrutiny	Frederick Osborne	Linda Hawthorn
Value Overview & Scrutiny	Robby Misir	Ray Morgon
Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny	Ted Eden	John Wood
Health Overview & Scrutiny	Pam Light	Brian Eagling

- 2 That the Governance Committee be delegated authority to appoint the Chairmen and the Vice-Chairmen of the Adjudication & Review and Appointments Sub-Committees

11 **APPOINTMENT OF THE STATUTORY LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Motion on behalf of the Administration

That the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning be appointed Statutory Lead Member for Children's Services and Champion for the new Diploma Scheme.

The motion was **AGREED** without division, and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning be appointed Statutory Lead Member for Children's Services and Champion for the new Diploma Scheme.

12 **APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBER CHAMPIONS**

Motion on behalf of Administration

That the following be appointed Champions as indicated:

For Diversity	Councillor Osman Dervish
For the Over Fifties	Councillor Pam Light
For the Historic Environment	Councillor Andrew Curtin
For Standards	Councillor Wendy Brice- Thompson
For the Voluntary Sector Compact	Councillor Andrew Curtin
For Younger Persons	Councillor Garry Pain

The motion was **AGREED** without division, and it was **RESOLVED**:

That the following be appointed Champions as indicated:

For Diversity	Councillor Osman Dervish
For the Over Fifties	Councillor Pam Light
For the Historic Environment	Councillor Andrew Curtin
For Standards	Councillor Wendy Brice- Thompson
For the Voluntary Sector Compact	Councillor Andrew Curtin
For Younger Persons	Councillor Garry Pain

13 **PETITIONS**

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 23, a petition was presented by Councillor Fred Osborne from residents of Rush Green, seeking a new bus route to run from Dagenham Civic Centre to Hornchurch Town Centre via the Tesco store at Roneo Corner.

It was noted that the petition would be passed to Committee Administration & Member Support for attention in accordance with the Petitions Scheme.

14 **DELEGATION OF POWERS TO THE NATIONAL ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING TEAM**

A report of the Governance Committee concerning action taken to deal with illegal money-lending was considered. Previously, the Council (and others) had delegated authority to Tower Hamlets Council to investigate and prosecute instances of illegal money-lending within Greater London but the arrangement had now been superseded by a national arrangement, led by Birmingham City Council.

As a matter of some urgency, the Council needed to delegate appropriate authority to the City Council and the Governance Committee had made recommendations accordingly.

The Committee's recommendations were **AGREED** without debate or division and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council:

- 1 **In pursuance of Section 101(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Regulation 7 of the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2000, delegates to Birmingham City Council:**
 - (a) **Enforcement of Parts III and IV of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, and**
 - (b) **The enforcement functions and powers under Parts XI and XII of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, and**
 - (c) **The power of prosecution under section 222 of the Local Government Act 1972**

all in connection with money-lending or the activities of money lenders and/or their agents and associates, and the laundering of the proceeds of illegal money-lending.
- 2 **Agrees that Part 3, Section 2.3 of the Constitution (functions exercised by another authority on behalf of this authority) be amended accordingly**

- 3 **Authorises the Acting Assistant Chief Executive to agree the terms of the delegation agreement with Birmingham City Council.**
- 4 **Agrees that the Council will enter into a joint Cross Border Working Protocol with Birmingham City Council in respect of illegal money lending.**
- 5 **Notes the exercise by the Chief Executive of her powers within Part 3, Section 3.1.8 of the Council's Constitution temporarily to delegate the above powers to Birmingham City Council to allow an investigation to proceed prior to this meeting.**

15 **THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011-2014**

There was before the Council a report of the Leader of the Council concerning the Council's Capital Programme 2011-2014. A question was asked in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.7 and replied to, but no amendment was proposed and the recommendations of the Leader were **ADOPTED** without debate or division. It was, accordingly, **RESOLVED:**

That the Council's Capital Programme for 2011/14 as now proposed by the Cabinet, be approved.

16 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

16 questions were asked and replies given. Following the main period for questions, as there remained time at the conclusion of ordinary business (see minute 18 following), the Mayor continued the time for questions until closure of the meeting.

The texts of those questions and their answers, together with those not asked and replied to orally, are set out in **Appendix 3 to these minutes.**

17 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1(a), the Mayor announced that, in view of the time, he intended to modify the length of speeches to 5 minutes for those Members proposing a motion or amendment, and to 2 minutes for those participating in any general debate.

Councillor Jeffrey Tucker, on behalf of the Independent Residents' Group, objected to the likely effect of the Mayor's ruling on the debate of the motion concerning the Local Government Funding Formula and withdrew it. Following

exchanges and interventions by other Members, the Members of the Independent Residents' Group then retired from the meeting.

Councillor Keith Darvill, on behalf of the Labour Group, withdrew the motion on Youth Services Cuts.

Mayor
20 July 2011

Note: the record of voting divisions is attached as **Appendix 4 to these minutes.**

**APPENDIX 1
(Minute 7)**

LEADER'S STATEMENT TO THE COUNCIL

Mr Mayor, I would like to begin by congratulating you on becoming First Citizen of the borough. I know I speak for everyone here, when I say that our best wishes go with you for your term of office as Mayor. I'm sure you will be a tremendous ambassador for Havering in the year ahead.

Mr Mayor, before I begin to deliver my annual address to Council, I wish to bring to colleagues' attention a milestone of 25 years' service to our community that Councillor Barbara Matthews has reached. Normally after 25 years a councillor would be awarded the freedom of the borough, however many of you will remember that I proposed that a couple of years ago. Therefore, tonight, I would like to mark this anniversary by having it recorded in the minutes, and by commending Cllr. Matthews for being a great ambassador for Havering. We have got you a small token of the Council's appreciation of your work (*at which point the Leader presented a bouquet to Councillor Matthews*).

Mr Mayor, if we ask ourselves in this Chamber 'why did we stand for elected office?' I think our answers would be very similar. Whatever political party we represent, we took a decision to enter into public office because of a personal sense of civic duty. A desire to make things better for local people. A hope that in some small way, we could improve Havering for the people who live here.

That desire to make improvements leads us to make new investments. Over the last few years, we have seen new libraries, improved parks, better sports facilities and a whole host of other improvements to the fabric of our towns and communities.

So far, so good.

But now the landscape has changed. As councillors returned in last year's election, we face a new challenge - the challenge of unprecedented cuts to our budget. These cuts were not of our making. The country's finances were running out of control and something had to be done to restore the balance. I agree entirely with the steps that this Government is taking. But none of us stood for elected office because we wanted to manage budget reductions, or say 'no' to new investments. I'm sure if we can agree on one thing across this chamber, it's that we wouldn't choose to be in this position. But this is the position we are in.

The people of Havering are now looking to us to make the best of this situation. They want us to make the right decisions about how to spend the money we have. They want us to invest wisely, in projects and services that have the most impact on their lives. And they want us to be sensible about the savings we have to make. They understand that savings have to be made, but they want to know that we won't slash and burn the services that they cherish; and they want to know that there is a clear rationale behind the decisions we make.

In short they expect us to behave responsibly.

Three years ago, I stood in this chamber and outlined our *Living Ambition* for Havering. It was a long term ambition to improve the quality of life for residents, built around five goals;

- to improve our environment – making our communities cleaner, greener and safer
- to provide excellent standards of education, and learning opportunities for young and old alike
- to develop thriving towns and communities,
- to look after vulnerable individuals
- and to deliver value for money to local taxpayers.

Our Living Ambition sets out what we stand for in this Administration. And I can sum that up in one word - we stand for aspiration: aspiration for our communities; for our residents; and for what we can achieve as a Council.

So we face a dilemma.

How can we build a better and brighter future for Havering - at a time when our budgets are falling so sharply?

How can we make the right decisions about saving money - and still work towards our Ambition to provide our residents with the highest possible quality of life?

In short: how can we balance responsibility on the one hand, with aspiration on the other?

I want to look first at the need for responsibility and what that means in our borough.

Last year, I spoke about the likely impact of the emergency budget that followed the general election. I said that it would take some time to evaluate the impact on Havering of the inevitable cuts in funding to councils. Since my speech to annual council last year, the scale of the funding cuts has become apparent. We calculated that this council needed to reduce its running costs by around £40 million by 2014 if we were to balance our books. We were faced with a real and immediate need to act and I am very pleased to say that we did.

While some councils dithered, we were decisive. The Cabinet and the lead officers had already set in train far-reaching changes to the way Havering does business. Changes that would make the machinery of the Council more flexible, more streamlined and crucially, cheaper to run. So last year, we were able to set out plans to reduce our running costs by £19 million and we started to deliver those plans straight away.

In July, we will announce further proposals to save millions more. The process of change is not a big bang - but rather a measured and considered effort to become the most efficient organisation we can be. Every year to 2014 and beyond, we will become more and more cost-effective, through innovation and new thinking.

That will mean we can meet our savings targets, of course. But far more importantly, it means that we will be able to deliver better and better value for money to our residents.

We will do this by becoming a fitter and more flexible organisation - one that is able to work smarter and adapt more quickly to the needs of our residents and the circumstances of the times.

Our residents expect us to meet this challenge in a responsible way and we need to be clear about what 'responsibility' looks like, at a time when difficult decisions are being made. The responsible thing to do - and the right thing to do - is to cut our running costs first, to protect frontline services where we can.

That's why we have introduced new back-office systems that eliminate paperwork and bureaucracy.

It's why every service area in the Council has reviewed its structures and costs.

And it's why we are looking at sharing some functions with other Councils - whether that's collection of business rates, shared with Barking & Dagenham, or the management of IT services, shared with Newham.

It is said, that the greatest asset of an organisation are the people that work in it - and this is definitely the case in Havering. Our staff have had to deal with a lot of change and uncertainty over the last year, but I am always incredibly impressed by the professionalism and commitment they show and the hard work that they put in for the community. Good Public Service is extremely important and is something that our officers take very seriously. I would like to pass my thanks to our staff for the work they do and to thank Cheryl and the Corporate Management Team for their efforts in managing the transformation of the council and its service delivery.

Mr Mayor, Greater efficiency is at the heart of everything we do, to squeeze every last penny of value out of taxpayer's hard-earned money. But efficiency alone won't be enough to bring down our costs. We also need to look at the way we deliver services. In the future, we will need to focus our efforts where they will do the most good.

That means protecting the most vulnerable in our society, but it also means tackling problems before they take root – whether that's in families, or in communities.

Nowhere is this focused approach to services more apparent than in adult's and children's social services – under the stewardship of Cllr Steven Kelly and Cllr Paul Rochford, respectively.

For some time, we have been developing more personalised services for vulnerable adults. We have been giving more and more older and disabled residents greater control over their care, by handing the budget over to them and providing real choice as to how they receive support and care. That's both more effective than one-size fits all services and it's also less costly, because it recognises that not everyone needs, or wants the same level of care.

I would like to tell you about Lillian and Debbie. Lillian is nearly 90 and lives in her own home. That's very important. The fact that Lillian lives in her own home is good for the taxpayer - because it's a lot less expensive than if she lived in a care home. And, more importantly, it's great for Lillian - because it means she can still enjoy her independence. Debbie works for our Telecare service. It's the work of people like Debbie in the Telecare team that allows Lillian and many more like her to remain in their own homes - but still be kept safe from harm.

A little while ago, Lillian had a fall at home and suffered severe head injuries. Thankfully, she had her telecare alarm around her neck and was able to press the button. A short while later Debbie arrived and saw to it that Lillian got to hospital. Within a few weeks, Lillian was back at home, still independent and enjoying life.

Lillian said about the incident: "I'd only had the alarm a few days when I had the fall. I didn't know what to do at first then I remembered the alarm around my neck and the next thing I knew, Debbie was here.

"She was wonderful; she took care of me and called an ambulance. I am extremely grateful to her and the Telecare Service. The alarm saved me - I won't take it off."

The work of the Telecare team is one of a number of support services we provide either directly or through the voluntary or private sector to help people stay in their own homes for longer.

That achieves two ends – it improves the quality of life for some of our more vulnerable residents and it saves taxpayers' money. It balances responsibility, with aspiration.

In children's services, we are also changing the way we deliver services. We are moving away from the provision of a single, universal service to all and instead focusing our efforts to where they will do the most good.

That means working with the young people who are most at risk. This approach is the most cost-effective one, but it will also help deliver our ambitions not just for individuals, but also for communities - and I'll return to this work later on. This change to our work with young people demonstrates how these decisions may be clearly thought through, but that does not make them easy decisions to make.

We have seen voices raised against these proposals this evening, because they will have an impact on the way we deliver youth services.

I understand people's feelings on this issue. But I would return to the theme of this speech. We must balance aspiration with responsibility.

Unless we can make some sensible and responsible savings, we will simply not have enough money to preserve - let alone improve the quality of life in Havering.

Focusing our efforts where they will do the most good – whether that's child protection or helping older residents live longer in their own homes – is one side of a balancing act. The other side is allowing local people and local communities to help themselves more and this is another thread that runs through the Council's strategy.

So we'll shortly be launching a new, more interactive website to allow people to do business with the Council at a time that suits them. Again, this cuts down on bureaucracy and costs, but it also provides a level of service from the Council that people have come to expect, at time when they can do their supermarket shopping, book a holiday or tax their car online.

It's an aspirational, as well as a responsible, new development.

So 'responsibility' means cutting our costs first, where we can.

It means helping local people to help themselves, where they can.

And it means focusing our efforts where they will do the most good – to squeeze every bit of impact, from every pound we spend.

It also means listening to our residents.

Earlier this year, we undertook a hugely successful survey, called "Your Council, Your Say". Well over 11,000 people took the time to respond – and we are very grateful to all of them. The survey was a fascinating insight into what makes Havering tick.

We wanted to know if people were satisfied with their local area. And the overwhelming majority are.

We wanted to know if residents are satisfied with our key services and they clearly are.

And we wanted to know what our residents felt should be the priorities for the Council and its partners in the years ahead.

Quite clearly, our residents place great importance on local health services – so we need to work with the local health providers to make sure Havering is well served by the NHS and other agencies.

They want to see us continue to invest in our roads and pavements.

We've invested many millions of pounds in recent years to upgrade roads and pavements, but it's a big task – made worse with every cold winter. So our investment in roads and pavements has to continue - and it will.

Crime is low in Havering. We're one of the safest boroughs in London. But the fear of crime remains a factor for some of our residents.

If people don't feel safe in their local town centre, they won't be convinced otherwise by any statistics, or by pretty graphs showing the trends in crime going down.

They need to know we are taking action to address their concerns.

That's why the Council is forging ahead with new schemes - in close partnership with the police in Havering - to tackle anti-social behaviour in our town centres.

A few weeks ago, I welcomed the Mayor of London to Romford to give his backing to some of the cutting edge work that we're doing to tackle the handful of drunken idiots that spoil a night out for others. We are ahead of the game and our work is being noticed across the Capital, because this is an issue faced by virtually all councils. Our residents can be assured that this Administration will continue to work closely with the police to make Havering even safer. And I'd like to thank Cllr Geoff Starns for the work he does driving the anti-crime agenda forward.

So I've spoken about responsibility and how we are doing our level best to make the right decisions about where to spend and how to save money in the years ahead.

There is no consensus on how to save money at a time like this. All of the decisions we take will be difficult and no decision is likely to be universally applauded.

But if we are able to demonstrate some clear principles, explain the logic behind our decisions and show local people that we are approaching this challenge responsibly – we have a very good chance of avoiding the sort of division and anger that can really damage communities.

So if that's how we can deal with these cuts responsibly and repay the trust put in us by our residents, how can we hope to deliver on our goals?

Where does aspiration belong in a time of austerity?

The root of aspiration for Havering comes from understanding what makes the borough special and making sure we don't lose sight of that, in the name of saving money. We have not simply run the rule over our services, protected those that we are legally obliged to provide and cut the rest -and nor do we intend to do that in the future. The quality of life in this borough is about more than meeting obligations.

And the quality of life in this borough is also not entirely within the gift of the Council to improve.

If we look at some of the most valued and cherished aspects of life in Havering, we see that many are not directly managed or maintained by the Council. We are often involved, either through direct support, or by providing the right encouragement to allow enterprise and community groups to flourish. But many aspects of life are part of a bigger picture involving the community, business, the voluntary sector and others.

So we see the success of the Queen's Theatre. Hugely popular with visitors and successful in retaining Arts Council funding. We see the success of the new Havering Museum – particularly in building links with schools and helping provide our children with an understanding of Havering's past. We see the many programmes in the borough that rely on volunteers – from support groups, to neighbourhood watch schemes – and we see the work of HAVCO and others in encouraging and developing more volunteers.

We see the coming together of groups of like-minded residents to work with us and with each other to develop and improve their neighbourhood through Friends of Parks groups, allotment societies, the Older People's Forum and many more.

The Prime Minister talks about the power of the Big Society – and we can see that power at work in Havering right now.

As we look to the future, we must harness that power to drive up the quality of life we enjoy still further.

Our aspiration, then, will be delivered through new partnerships with the other public bodies, the voluntary sector, the private sector and with communities and individuals across Havering.

We need to set out a new understanding with our residents about what the Council can do within the confines of its funding and what local people can do to build on the work of the borough's public bodies. Working together will be the key to our future success and to achieving our aspiration for the borough.

That aspiration is still defined by our Living Ambition and its five goals. And it will be supported by the work of this Council and ten new projects being taken forward across the term of office for this Administration.

These projects, like their predecessors in the Administration's last term are designed to develop further the quality of life for our residents and to improve the facilities available to the people of Havering – as far as we are able. The projects are managed by Cabinet colleagues and focus on either improving Havering's infrastructure, or on developing the Big Society in the borough.

So, I would like to set out how the Living Ambition goals are evolving, how they are supported by these ten projects and what that means for the communities and individuals we serve.

The **Goal for Environment** remains at the heart of our Ambition for the Borough.

Keeping our borough clean, safe and green is not only what the residents of Havering expect from their Council – but it is also probably the most fundamental thing we can do to improve the local quality of life.

Travelling around Havering should be a pleasure – so we need to keep the borough moving, keep it looking good and keep it safe. And we need to find new ways to improve still further our impressive rates of recycling and our energy efficiency. So keeping our streets, parks and open spaces clean and tidy remains a top priority, under the watchful eye of Cllr Barry Tebbutt as Cabinet Member for Environment and Cllr Andrew Curtin as the lead member for our award-winning parks.

Our partnership work with the police, meanwhile is the responsibility of our Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Cllr Starns and I've already highlighted some of the excellent partnership work that we're doing in Havering.

But our aspiration for our environment should go further than simply maintaining clean and safe streets and open spaces, within the budgets we have available. We need to work with our communities to explore how they can build on the work we deliver and have a greater say in how they would like their neighbourhoods to be maintained and kept safe.

So the first of our projects is called **Neighbourhood Responsibility**, led by Cllrs Tebbutt and Starns, and it is looking at new ways to improve the borough's street scene and safety.

We are piloting a scheme on the Briar Road Estate in Harold Hill to give residents there more of a say in how their estate is cleaned and what more can be done to improve the safety of its residents. The scheme is backed by the Home Office, through Baroness Newlove, who visited Briar Road recently to see the project for herself.

If successful, it could provide a model of how we can involve communities more in the management of their neighbourhoods.

Our **Goal for Learning** remains aspirational – we want our young people to benefit from an excellent education, and we want our older residents to have access to first class opportunities to continue their education, or learn new skills. Lifelong learning and the acquisition of new skills is going to be crucial to our local economy in future years and I'm sure we all want to see our young people given every chance of future success.

The new Government has made education reform a centrepiece of their plans and so we need to be flexible enough to support education in Havering in the most effective way. We have already seen a new Academy open in Harold Hill and other schools opt for Academy status and it is likely the future will see the shape of schooling in the borough change still further.

As a Council, we will support our young people and our schools in whatever way is most appropriate to help achieve that Goal for Learning, overseen by Cllr Paul Rochford, Cabinet Member for Children & Learning.

Our **Goal for Individuals** sets out our desire to value and enhance the lives of local people.

We will do this by getting to know and understand the needs of different groups and individuals within our borough, so that we can identify and provide the right range of services for them. We may be focussing services to where they will do the most good, but we will also make sure that we are fair to the people who most rely on us for support.

Cllr Steven Kelly is Cabinet Member for Individuals – not to mention an invaluable deputy leader - and he oversees the excellent work done by our social care team which I touched on earlier. He is also in charge of developing a new, joint information service with other providers of support from across the voluntary and charitable sector that will help people in need of support find the most appropriate service for them – even if that is not via our own social services team.

I spoke earlier about our approach to children's services, under the guidance of Cllr Paul Rochford. As part of the changes to the way we deliver care and support to young people, Paul will work alongside Cllr Lesley Kelly who spearheads the second project - called **Think Family**.

This innovative approach to working with families which include children at risk of being taken into care, or getting into trouble with the police is aimed at both preventing long term dependence on the state and also improving child safety.

The savings that can be made by preventing the need for a child to go into care or becoming involved with the youth justice system are considerable, but the social benefits of keeping families stable can be huge – not just for the family members, but also for the neighbourhoods they live in and the schools they attend. This is a responsible solution to a problem, but one that aspires to go further and make a real difference to communities across Havering.

Our **Goal for Towns & Communities** covers a lot of ground and takes in economic, social and cultural activity across the borough. We want Havering's towns and communities to be green places of culture, commerce, community and beauty of which residents will be proud. And we know that we cannot achieve this on our own.

We have high aspirations for our towns and communities, so we need to work with local people, local groups, a wide range of public and voluntary sector partners, the business community and government - at both a regional and national level. We will encourage local people to play a more active part in shaping the places where they live. We will make it easier for individuals and community groups to meet their own needs locally, by getting rid of barriers that might prevent or discourage local communities from acting for themselves.

In short, where local people are willing and able to help themselves, we will do our best to get out of the way.

And now more than ever, we need to persuade businesses and industry to locate themselves in Havering. And we must encourage the entrepreneurship and innovation that will kick-start new enterprises in the borough and build a more confident and successful local economy.

Working towards our **Goal for Towns & Communities** are a spread of services and functions of the Council overseen by several colleagues – including Cllr Andrew Curtin, Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns & Communities; Cllr Robbie Benham, Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment and Cllr Lesley Kelly, Cabinet Member for Housing.

Housing is another area of our work which is subject to changes in government policy, but it remains our aspiration that Havering residents should have access to good quality affordable housing. So we will be making full use of the government's new proposals to respond to the needs of local people - particularly in allocating and managing social housing for local families.

A number of our new projects are geared towards our goal for Towns and Communities. Three projects focus on pulling together the efforts of the Council and its partners in specific areas of the borough:

Two of these will build on previous achievements.

The Harold Hill Ambitions project, led by Cllr Steven Kelly has been transforming both the fabric of Harold Hill and also the lives of its residents. This project will continue. We can look forward to a new library and a new state-of-the-art youth centre, as well as improvements to the park and shopping centre.

One of the most satisfying aspects of the Ambitions project is the way the community has joined in and been part of the discussion about the area's future – and the next phase of the work will be reliant as ever on the support and contribution of local residents.

In the south of the borough the **Rainham Compass project** – under Cllr Mike Armstrong - has sought to bring together the efforts of the Council, Thames Gateway Development Corporation, London Development Agency and others to deliver real and lasting improvements to Rainham and South Hornchurch.

Much has been achieved and more is just around the corner. Including better access to the Marshes and the riverside, improvements to the Village and a new Tesco distribution centre that will bring nearly 1,000 new jobs to the area and underline the importance of business and enterprise in the south of the borough.

Romford now has its own project, aimed at capitalising on the town's many strengths – not least its position as major centre for retail and leisure.

Together with Councillors Benham, Tebbutt and Curtin, I will be leading the Romford project and working towards encouraging new investment in the town centre, the promotion of Romford's heritage and cultural attractions and helping to promote the town across London.

Tying together the work on developing the infrastructure of some specific towns are two new projects that build on our greatest asset – our residents.

The **Civic Pride project**, under the leadership of Cllr Benham will seek to maximise the benefit we can derive from national and local celebrations.

We all saw the great outpouring of pride in the street parties across the borough to mark the Royal Wedding - and I suspect next year's Diamond Jubilee for Her Majesty the Queen will prompt many more residents to take to the streets in this most positive of ways. Next year too sees the Olympics come to London and the Civic Pride project will look at how we can ensure that Havering benefits from the worldwide interest in the city. And the project will also oversee a number of our own events that bring our residents together and give us an opportunity to celebrate life in our corner of Greater London.

Meanwhile, Cllr Andrew Curtin leads the **Community Action** project – aimed squarely at achieving as much as we can through our partnerships with the voluntary and community sector and our efforts to encourage local residents to have a real stake in the future of their borough.

Through Cllr Curtin's project we will be able to see just how much of an appetite there is in Havering for the Big Society and how we can become a Council in the forefront of this shift of power from the state to our communities.

Value for money is the driving force behind all that we do, but two members are focused most of all on achieving our **Goal for Value**. They are Cllr Roger Ramsey, Cabinet Member for Value and Cllr Mike Armstrong, Cabinet Member for Transformation.

The challenges we face are very real and they are evolving all the time. We must ensure we are able to make the best use of new legislation, new technology and new ideas to improve our effectiveness and the value for money we offer taxpayers.

Three new projects push us on towards our Goal for value:

Open Government is a project led by Cllr Paul Rochford that will see Havering become more open and transparent. Already, we publish every invoice we pay over £500 and we list the pay of senior officers and the allowances of elected members.

In the future we will assess how we can make our decision-making even more open and accountable. The government believes that open data will lead to more and better analysis of public information, that might actually help us in our decision-making – so we will consider how greater transparency can help the council, as well as provide greater accountability to local taxpayers.

Council effectiveness – Cllr Starns' project – will consider how we can do more to put our customers – council taxpayers and their families - at the heart of our decision-making. It will consider how, in the new age of less centralised target-setting, we can ensure we meet the needs of our residents.

And finally **Future Financing** – a project overseen by Cllr Roger Ramsey will consider the impact of the changing face of local government funding. This is a more academic project than the others, but it is absolutely crucial that we understand how Havering will be affected by changes to the funding regime and how we can ensure that our borough and our residents benefit from the changes and are not penalised by them.

These projects will allow us to develop a new understanding with our residents about the role of the Council, the role of our partners and the role of the community.

If we are to succeed in our Living Ambition; and if our aspiration for Havering is to lead to real and lasting benefits for our residents, then we need a new contract with local people.

We need to show our residents exactly what they get from the council and its partners, in return for their council tax. But we also need to demonstrate that something special can happen when we work together with local people and local communities.

Together, we can do more than just provide public services – we can really improve the quality of life in Havering.

Together – even in a time of austerity – we can balance responsibility with aspiration.

Thank you.

**APPENDIX 2
(Minute 9)**

SEAT ALLOCATION

COMMITTEES		CONSERVATIVE	RESIDENTS	LABOUR	IND LOCAL RESIDENTS
Governance	13	8	2	2	1
Licensing	11	7	2	1	1
Regulatory Services	11	7	2	1	1
Highways Advisory	9	5	2	1	1
Standards	9	5	2	1	1
Pensions	7	4	1	1	1
Audit	6	4	1	1	0
Children's OSC	9	6	2	1	0
Crime & Disorder OSC	9	5	2	1	1
Towns & Communities OSC	9	5	2	1	1
Environment OSC	7	4	2	0	1
Health OSC	6	4	2	0	0
Individuals OSC	6	4	2	0	0
Value OSC	6	4	2	0	0
Total seats allocated	118	72	26	11	9

- All Groups are represented on the Governance, Highways Advisory, Licensing, Regulatory Services and Standards Committees
- Committee seats are allocated, and each Committee is balanced, as “reasonably practicably” as possible

SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		CONSERVATIVE	RESIDENTS	LABOUR	IND LOCAL RESIDENTS
Adjudication & Review	10	6	2	1	1
Appointments	7	4	2	1	0

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Note: *All Questions were answered at the meeting, except 11, 13, 15 and 17, which, in the absence of their respective questioners, were treated as if put for written answer,*

The Questions are listed in the order in which they were taken at the meeting.

1 "YOUR COUNCIL, YOUR SAY": SATISFACTION LEVELS

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Is the Leader of the Council able to provide an explanation as to why in the "Your Council, Your Say" survey, the top three wards by satisfaction with their local area were Cranham, Hacton and Upminster Wards?

Answer:

I wouldn't want to second guess the good people of Cranham, Hacton and Upminster, but having looked at some statistics, there are a few reasons why they might be particularly satisfied to live where they do:

- Cranham and Hacton have the lowest crime rates in the borough
- 83% of Upminster residents said that people in their neighbourhood get on well together more than anywhere else in the borough
- Upminster and Cranham have the lowest levels of deprivation in Havering and Hacton is not far behind
- Upminster has the lowest level of child poverty in the borough
- More people in Upminster have access to a vehicle than in other wards
- Cranham and Upminster have more retired people than any other wards and, in all three wards, pensioners are more likely to own their own homes than in other wards
- Life expectancy in these wards is amongst the highest in Havering

In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council referred to the 0.5% reduction in the Council Tax for 2010/11 and there being no increase in 2011/12 as other reasons for residents' satisfaction.

2 CLAMPING COMPANY

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Jeffery Tucker

A well known South Ockendon clamping company continues to clamp local residents in Parkway, Rainham, including family members visiting the houses and flats.

Does this Council intend to take any action or can this Council advise local residents what further steps they should take when pressured to pay many hundreds of pounds and in some cases lose their cars?

Answer:

The clamping taking place in Parkway, Rainham is deplorable. The signs indicating that clamping will occur are almost inconspicuous, the amount of time before a car is clamped and towed away is minimal, and the release fees are extortionate.

This is causing misery to countless motorists. Unfortunately the clamping is taking place on private land owned by a property management company. The clamping company claims to have received authorisation from the owners and occupiers of the private flats.

Whilst the clamping is of dubious legality, there is very little the Council can do to prevent this occurring. The Council has written in the strongest of terms indicating that the clamping is unlawful. However, ultimately the owners/residents of the block of flats and any individuals who have been clamped are the best placed to take any legal action and would need to seek their own independent legal advice.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member indicated that he was unable to advise the car owners in question what further they could do.

3 BRIDGEWATER ROAD, HAROLD HILL: ROAD WIDENING

To the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment (Councillor Robert Benham)

By Councillor Pat Murray

What is the estimated cost of the proposed widening of Bridgewater Road and how will the cost be funded?

Answer:

As part of the redevelopment of the garage site at the eastern end of Bridgewater Road, the part of the road from its junction with Montgomery Crescent is to be widened to give access to emergency vehicles and provide parking on both sides of the road. The costs are being met in full by the developers of the garage site, East Thames Housing Association. There is no requirement for the Council to contribute towards the costs of these works. East Thames are currently pricing up the works.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that due process would be followed when the works were being planned.

4 NEW HOMES BONUS

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Barbara Matthews

Further to the £397,000 new Homes Bonus awarded to Havering for 2011/12, and in line with government guidance which states that local councillors should be involved in the expenditure plans, would the Cabinet Member set out how this process will work?

Answer:

The Council Tax setting report referred to the New Homes Bonus. Local Councillors were therefore involved in discussions around its use. As this is non-ring fenced funding, is one-off money, and the Council still has to deliver some very significant savings over the rest of the comprehensive spending review, this money will be used to support the delivery of the rest of the savings.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member re-iterated that the money would be best used to support the savings programme.

5 CCTV CAMERAS

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)

By Councillor Jeffery Tucker

Is Rainham Village still in line to receive CCTV as promised by this Council and how much longer does this part of the borough have to wait before they are installed?

Answer:

The installation of CCTV into Rainham village has not previously been formally considered or agreed, and there are no formal plans for the consideration of CCTV provision in Rainham Village at this time.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member affirmed that CCTV programme had been in being for some years but the possibility of installing it in Rainham had not previously been raised. He denied that Rainham had “drawn the short straw”.

6 SPEED ENFORCEMENT CAMERA AT THE JUNCTION OF NOAK HILL ROAD, STRAIGHT ROAD, LOWER BEDFORDS ROAD AND BROXHILL ROAD

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Denis O’Flynn

Is the Speed Enforcement Camera at the junction of Noak Hill Road, Straight Road, Lower Bedfords Road and Broxhill Road functional and if so how many drivers have been prosecuted for exceeding the speed limit during 2009 and 2010?

Answer:

Speed enforcement cameras fall outside the jurisdiction of Havering Council and are the responsibility of the Police.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member expressed doubt that the police would be willing to provide information about the operation of the camera or prosecutions etc arising from it.

7 GERPINS LANE RRC – PRODUCTION OF IDENTIFICATION

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

In respect of the recent requirement to provide a driving licence and Council Tax bill to use the Gerpins Lane RRC, would the Cabinet Member explain:

- (a) While accepting the need to limit the use of Gerpins Lane RRC to those residing in the ELWA (East London Waste Authority) area, why no consultation was undertaken with councillors regarding the imposition of new entry requirements?
- (b) Why a permit scheme (given out free with the council tax demand) could not have been introduced, as successfully used in many other councils?
- (c) What measures are being taken to deal with the potential increase in fly-tipping?

Answer:

ELWA have provided the following response:

- a) Management of the Recycling Centres is the responsibility of the ELWA rather than the individual boroughs. As such, ELWA Members were fully consulted about the new entry requirements, and a briefing note was sent to all councillors in the individual boroughs prior to the implementation of the new rules.
- b) A permit scheme was considered. However, the driver for this change is the achievement of cost savings, and ELWA found that significant resources are required to implement, maintain and monitor a permit system.
- c) ELWA is aware of the possibility of increased fly-tipping, although anecdotal evidence from other councils that have made similar changes suggests there will not necessarily be a notable increase. The boroughs’ enforcement teams have been alerted to the changes to ensure they are prepared.

Havering has also installed covert CCTV on the roads around Gerpins Lane to catch any fly-tipping activity in that area, and ELWA will be monitoring reported fly-tips to gauge the impact of this change.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member confirmed that leaflets had been available to users of the site prior to the implementation of the change.

8 FOOTBALL PITCH CHANGING ROOMS: HOT WATER

To the Cabinet Member for Towns & Communities (Councillor Andrew Curtin)

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

How many of our football pitches, as a percentage, have changing rooms with hot running water that our football clubs can use?

Answer:

The percentage of all football pitches (including mini soccer) that have changing rooms with hot running water is 28.3%

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member undertook to write to the questioner with information relating to storage facilities at changing rooms.

9 SERVICE CUTS IN EARLY YEARS AND PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Paul McGeary

Will the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning make a statement about the recent reduction of 6 members of staff in the Early Years Service and 1 member of staff in the Parents in Partnership Service with particular reference to the need for parental support for children with Special Education Needs?

Answer:

The Service Manager for Early Years took responsibility for the Parents in Partnership Service (PIPs) in August 2008 following a restructure of Social Care & Learning. Nationally, PIPs and Family Information Services have become aligned over the years as a similarity exists within roles around Information, Advice and Guidance.

With the need to identify efficiency savings and with the removal of Area Based Grant (ABG) for the Choice Adviser post with effect from 1 April 2011, it was considered appropriate to implement a restructure. This strengthened the links between the two services further by fully integrating them into the renamed Foundation Years & Independent Advice Service (FYIAS).

Whilst the number of posts within the overall service has reduced (6 in total, 3 already vacant), the number of personnel providing Parents in Partnership Services has increased from 2.6 FTE to 4 FTE and primarily undertaken by:

Parent Partnership Lead Officer 1FTE
Senior Information Officer x 3 FTE

As part of the restructure consultation, parents who accessed the service were asked if they would have any particular concerns and none were noted. To conclude the restructure effectively, legal training and professional training has been provided to all staff, the new ways of working will be fully evaluated and the findings reported in spring 2012.

The service is in daily contact with parents to provide advice and support to families with children with Special Educational Needs; those parents remain satisfied with the quality of service provided.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member re-affirmed that effort was being made to provide the best possible service, having regard to the circumstances.

10 FUNDING FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISABILITIES

To the Cabinet Member for Individuals (Councillor Steven Kelly)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet member confirm what impact there will be on the Council, if any, as a result of the recent High Court decision made against Birmingham City Council which reduces funding to the disabled unless they were assessed as having "critical" needs?

Answer:

The full judgement in the Birmingham City Council case has not yet been published; however, it appears that the decision under challenge was an increase in the threshold for access to care services from "substantial needs" to "critical needs". The Court held that the Council had failed to have due regard to its equality duties and accordingly that decision will need to be reconsidered in the light of a lawful equality impact assessment.

In Havering there is no plan to adjust the threshold for access to care services so there is no directly comparable set of circumstances. However, the case reinforces the need for the Council to have due regard to its equality duties whenever decisions of this nature have to be taken. Equality impact assessments are already embedded in practice within the Council and these will continue to be carried out and duly considered wherever appropriate.

I would just like to emphasise that we have no plans to reduce "substantial". We are quite proud of our Social Services and we will find money to provide care for the vulnerable.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member gave assurance that the Council would consult fully on any proposals. He reminded Council that no judicial review had been granted against the Council on social care issues where consultation arrangements had been challenged.

12 PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES: APPEALS

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Clarence Barrett

In 2010/11, 32,885 Penalty Charge notices were issued for parking offences of which 16,193 were via the CCTV enforcement vehicles and 16,692 via handheld units. Would the Cabinet Member set out the number of appeals as set out below:

	Number of appeals	Successful appeals
16,193 (CCTV)	x	y
16,692 (handheld)	x	y

Answer:

As at 31st March 2011, 464 cases were appealed to the Independent Parking and Traffic Appeals Service in 2010/2011.

As at 31st March 2011 the Independent adjudicator declined 173 appeals. The number is made up of 115 CCTV and 58 Handheld Penalty Charge Notices.

As at 31st March 2011 the Independent adjudicator upheld 107 appeals. The number is made up of 60 CCTV and 47 Handheld Penalty Charge Notices.

The remainder of the cases are waiting to be heard by the Independent adjudicator. It should be noted that some appeals heard in 2010/2011 may refer to Penalty Charge Notices issued in previous financial years.

14 CCTV ENFORCEMENT

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)

By Councillor Ron Ower

The Havering Council Code of Practice for the operation of CCTV Enforcement Cameras (paragraph 2.3.5) states that 'Relevant camera enforcement signs should be displayed in areas where the system operates. The signs will not define the field of view of the cameras but will advise that CCTV camera enforcement is taking place in the area.' Would the Cabinet Member confirm that this guidance is adhered to across the borough?

Answer:

This guidance is adhered to across the borough. We are not aware of any areas not covered, however, if any member is aware of any area not covered, please make it known.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member undertook to respond to the questioner on any sites identified where appropriate signage had not been provided.

16 WITHDRAWAL OF YOUTH SERVICES

To the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning (Councillor Paul Rochford)

By Councillor Gillian Ford

Would the Cabinet Member advise this Council what impact studies have been carried out prior to the proposal to withdraw 19 youth service posts, the withdrawal from Angel Way development and the reorganisation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award service?

Answer:

The Integrated Youth Service has a target to achieve £500k of savings as part of the Havering 2014 Transformation programme. A robust Equalities and Fairness Assessment was undertaken. However the savings schedule had to be brought forward to start in 2011, to achieve immediate and extensive savings.

The result meant that the work which was scheduled for major consultations and full impact analysis was affected. However, a robust Equalities and Fairness Impact was undertaken within this round of savings.

The assessment looked at the likely impact each saving would have and what measures could be brought which took account of the following: 1. The need to reduce the universal aspects of the service in a move towards transformation of the service towards preventative work; 2. How to make the least impact on the numbers of young people likely to be affected by reductions in provision; 3. Targeting admin and officer reductions wherever possible ; 4 Creating opportunity to reduce service provision by bringing in new ways of working; 4. Creating temporary funding aimed at capacity building within the voluntary youth sector to assist them in the expansion of the universal youth offer. Such measures will be assisting programmes like the Duke of Edinburgh's Award now that temporary capacity funding is likely to be made available.

18 **QUALITY OF HIGHWAY REPAIR WORKS**

To the Cabinet Member for Environment (Councillor Barry Tebbutt)

By Councillor Ray Morgon

Would the Cabinet Member confirm what steps are taken by this Council to ensure that repairs undertaken to roads and pavements following works carried out by utility companies and Council contractors meet the relevant standard set by this authority?

Answer:

All Utilities reinstatements & works are strictly monitored and checked as per the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 & the Traffic Management Act 2004.

A criteria of 30% is set or generated for inspections on all notices via a sample inspection system, and routine inspections, 3rd party reports & investigatory inspections are extra to those already set by the Act(s).

100% of all planned maintenance works are checked to ensure the works meet the specification, and a proportion of the reactive works are checked due to the volume and nature of the works.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reported that, in the past 12 months, there had been several instances of utilities being requested to carry out further reinstatement.

19 **COUNCIL TAX ARREARS**

To the Cabinet Member for Value (Councillor Roger Ramsey)

By Councillor Ron Ower

Would the Cabinet Member confirm the level of residential Council Tax arrears as at 1st April 2011 and what measures are in place to recover these debts?

Answer:

The total arrears outstanding at 1st April 2011 amounted to £17.6m. This is a cumulative figure and includes arrears from previous years. Furthermore we are in the upper quartile of council tax collection for London Boroughs.

With the deepening effects of the current recession, along with many authorities, the collection of Council Tax has proven to be increasingly difficult. This is coupled with the constraints placed upon the Council to the extent of the recovery action taken, as there is a growing call to avoid the use of Committal and bankruptcy as deterrents.

Additionally a number of initiatives were taken within the last couple of years to validate data within the Council tax records, primarily the removal of invalid single person discount and other fraudulent claims, which have added retrospective arrears to accounts.

In response to a supplementary question, the Cabinet Member reported that he had joined a debt management board monitoring the Council's recovery of debts. A range of steps had been taken including bankruptcy and committal to prison in efforts to pursue recovery of arrears and debts. The Council was doing all it could to achieve recovery but, in current financial circumstances, it could not achieve 100% recovery.

The following Questions were not answered orally at the meeting.

11 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS - REDUCTIONS

To the Cabinet Member for Community Safety (Councillor Geoff Starns)

By Councillor David Durant

There is concern that elected Police Commissioners will undermine the operational independence of the Police, but the Government say they "will be more responsive to local needs"!

In London this post would be taken by the GLA Mayor Boris Johnson who was elected on a promise to represent outer-London, but who may make cuts to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

If cuts are made to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams would this negate the claim that elected Police Commissioners "will be more responsive to local needs"?

Answer:

There are no moves to cut the overall numbers of Safer Neighbourhood Team staff. In February this year the London Mayor Boris Johnson announced that Safer Neighbourhood Teams are set to be protected in every borough, even in the larger wards. The Metropolitan Police are currently reviewing the deployment of Safer Neighbourhood Teams, to consider whether the question of whether their deployment in the numbers and the localities currently determined is the most effective and efficient use of resources. The results of the review have not yet been made available.

13 ONGAR WAY, SOUTH HORNCHURCH – VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION

To the Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment (Councillor Robert Benham)

By Councillor Michael Deon Burton

Is it true that the South Hornchurch Conservatives have delivered leaflets supporting Village Green status for the land at Ongar Way and was this cleared with Councillor Michael White?

If yes, why is the Council determined to ignore Ongar Way residents who want the garages developed but the open space retained?

Answer:

Yes, a joint leaflet was delivered by the Parliamentary candidate Simon Jones and the South Hornchurch Conservative Action Team, to that effect.

The leaflet was not cleared nor written by Cllr Michael White. But was promoted by their election agent as per election rules.

With regards to the rationale behind the garage developments, I have answered this question on at least three occasions now, so will refer you back to my previous answers. Furthermore Cllr Steven Kelly, Cllr Lesley Kelly and I have spoken about this topic on several occasions outlining why we are doing this, so I shall not repeat old ground.

15 PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: ENFORCEMENT

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Michael White)

By Jeffrey Tucker

There are all day Monday to Saturday parking restrictions outside the Rainham Village shops. However a Rainham resident who parked outside the shops on Bank Holiday Monday May

2nd was outraged when he received a parking ticket for doing so, because he thought Sunday rules applied on Bank Holidays. He paid the fine but felt morally cheated.

How many parking tickets were issued on Bank Holiday Monday 25th & Bank Holiday Friday 29th April and do you think penalising unsuspecting motorists on quiet days in our smaller shopping centres is a good policy?

Answer:

Traffic and Parking Control issued 109 Penalty Charge Notices on 29th April 2011 and 142 on 2nd May 2011.

Parking restrictions are by default and active 24 hours seven days a week unless signs inform otherwise.

Parking issues are present in many areas on all days and so the importance of enforcement in keeping congestion to a minimum, and maximising safety is ever present. It is not unreasonable to expect motorists to park legally and safely on all days, including Bank Holidays and / or Public Holidays

Traffic and Parking Control aim to ensure our roads are safe, traffic flows freely and our Civil Enforcement Officers enforce using common sense.

17 FUTURE OF WILL PERRIN COURT

To the Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor Lesley Kelly)

By Councillor Jeffery Tucker

A proposal has been brought to the attention of residents for a change of use of the empty Will Perrin Court, Guysfield Drive into a hostel. In this respect, I would ask:

- (a) To bring this intention to fruition, are any consents required and, if so, what are they?
- (b) Are residents to be officially notified by the Council about this change?

Answer:

- (a) Use of the vacant sheltered housing complex Will Perrin Court as a hostel would involve a material change of use requiring planning permission. Planning permission would also be needed for any extensions to the building.

Separate consent would be needed for any physical works or alterations to the building which fall under the Building Regulations.

- (b) Should a planning application be submitted, neighbouring properties would be notified and invited to submit their written comments on the proposal.