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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Council Chamber - Town Hall 21 May 2025 (7.30 - 8.43 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Gerry O'Sullivan at start of meeting, Councillor Sue Ospreay thereafter) in the Chair

Councillors Councillors Robert Benham, Ray Best, Patricia Brown, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Osman Dervish, Brian Eagling, Sarah Edwards, Gillian Ford, Oscar Ford, Jason Frost, Laurance Garrard, James Glass, David Godwin, Martin Goode, Judith Holt, Jane Keane, Paul McGeary, Trevor McKeever, Paul Middleton, Robby Misir, Ray Morgon, Barry Mugglestone, Stephanie Nunn, Sue Ospreay, Dilip Patel, Nisha Patel, Viddy Persaud, Keith Prince, Philip Ruck, Timothy Ryan, Carol Smith, Christine Smith, Matthew Stanton, Natasha Summers, David Taylor, John Tyler, Christine Vickery, Bryan Vincent, Frankie Walker, Michael White, Reg Whitney, Julie Wilkes, Christopher Wilkins, Graham Williamson, Jacqueline Williams, Darren Wise and John Wood

Approximately Members' guests and members of the public 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 Mayor's Official Chaplain – Canon Ken Wylie of St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

80 **PRAYERS (agenda item 1)**

The Mayor presented Canon Ken Wylie of St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch with a badge to mark his year as the Mayor's Official Chaplain.

81 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (agenda item 2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mandy Anderson, Jacqui McArdle and Kathy Tumilty.

82 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 3)**

There were no disclosures of interest.

83 **RESOLUTION TO EXTEND SIX MONTH ATTENDANCE RULE (agenda item 4)**

A report of the Chief Executive asked Council to consider the granting of an exemption to section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 for Councillor Mandy Anderson who had been unable to attend recent Council meetings due to ongoing medical treatment. This would allow Councillor Anderson to continue as a Member of the Council.

The report was agreed without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

That Councillor Mandy Anderson be exempted from the requirements of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and, accordingly, shall continue to be a Member of the Council.

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

The outgoing Mayor thanked Members for allowing him the opportunity to be Mayor. He also recorded his thanks to the Mayoress – Susan O’Sullivan and his Official Chaplain – Ken Wylie.

85 **MAYORALTY 2025/26 (agenda item 6)**

Motion on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

That Councillor Sue Ospreay be elected to the office of Mayor for the municipal year 2025 – 2026.

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

That Councillor Pat Brown be elected to the office of Mayor for the municipal year 2025 – 2026.

Following proposing speeches by the respective Group Leaders, Councillor Sue Ospreay was **ELECTED** as Mayor for the 2025/26 municipal year by 25 votes to 10 for Councillor Brown with 16 abstentions (see division 1).

Councillor Sue Ospreay, 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 bestowed upon them.

The Leader of the Council expressed the thanks of the Council to the outgoing Mayor – Councillor Gerry O’Sullivan for his service during 2024/25. Councillor O’Sullivan suitably replied.

The Mayor indicated that the Mayoral Consort for the year would be Ms Sharon Sutton.

86 **DEPUTY MAYOR**

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

Councillor Mugglestone made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office accordingly. The Mayor indicated that the Deputy Mayor's consort for the year would be Councillor Stephanie Nunn.

87 **MINUTES (agenda item 7)**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26 March 2025 were **AGREED** as a correct record, without division.

88 **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE INCOMING MAYOR (agenda item 8)**

The Mayor advised that her charity for the year would be the MCA Trust which supported local children with cancer and their families.

89 **ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL AND CONFIRMING THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION (agenda item 9)**

Deemed motion by the Administration

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

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

That the proposed seat allocation as shown in the appendix of the report be amended in line with the attached spreadsheet.

Note: For clarity a supplementary table is also appended showing the existing allocation of seats on Committees together with, in brackets, the allocations proposed under the amendment. Any figure without a bracketed number next to it is unchanged under the amendment.

Following debate, the amendment by the Labour Group was **NOT AGREED** by 25 votes to 7 with 19 abstentions (see division 2). The deemed motion by the Administration was **AGREED**, without division and it was **RESOLVED**:

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

90 **APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES (agenda item 10)**

Motion on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Audit	Julie Wilkes	Jacqueline Williams
Governance	Ray Morgon	Gillian Ford
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)	Philippa Crowder	1. Christine Smith 2. 3.
Pensions	John Crowder	Stephanie Nunn
Planning	Bryan Vincent	Robby Misir
Strategic Planning	Reg Whitney	Robby Misir
Overview and Scrutiny Board	Laurance Garrard	Julie Wilkes
People Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee		
Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee		

Sub-Committee of the Governance Committee:

Appointments	Ray Morgon	Gillian Ford
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Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Audit		
Governance		
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)		1. 2. Jane Keane 3.
Pensions	Mandy Anderson	
Planning		
Strategic Planning		
Overview and Scrutiny Board		
People Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee		Frankie Walker
Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee		Matthew Stanton

Sub-Committee of the Governance Committee:

Appointments		
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Motion on behalf of the Residents' Association Independent Group

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Audit	Philip Ruck	
Governance		
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)		1. 2. 3.
Pensions		
Planning		
Strategic Planning		
Overview and Scrutiny Board		
People Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee		
Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee		

Sub-Committee of the Governance Committee:

Appointments		
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Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Audit		
Governance		
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)		1. 2. 3. Christine Vickery
Pensions		
Planning		
Strategic Planning		
Overview and Scrutiny Board		
People Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee	Jason Frost	
Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee	David Taylor	

Sub-Committee of the Governance Committee:

Appointments		
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A Procedural motion on behalf of the Labour Group that the nomination of Councillor Mandy Anderson for the position of Chairman of Pensions Committee be withdrawn was **AGREED** without division.

Members were appointed by Council to positions as follows:

Committee	Chairman Councillor	Vice-Chairman Councillor
Audit	<i>See below.</i>	Jacqueline Williams
Governance	Ray Morgon	Gillian Ford
Licensing (3 Vice-Chairmen)	Philippa Crowder	1. Christine Smith 2. Jane Keane 3. Christine Vickery
Pensions	John Crowder	Stephanie Nunn
Planning	Bryan Vincent	Robby Misir
Strategic Planning	Reg Whitney	Robby Misir
Overview and Scrutiny Board	Laurance Garrard	Julie Wilkes
People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Jason Frost	Frankie Walker
Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee	David Taylor	Matthew Stanton

Sub-Committee of the Governance Committee:

Appointments	Ray Morgon	Gillian Ford
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Councillor Julie Wilkes was **ELECTED** as Chairman of Audit Committee by 26 votes to 25 for Councillor Phil Ruck with 1 abstention (casting vote of Mayor, see division 3).

91 **APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBER CHAMPIONS (agenda item 11)**

Motion on behalf of the Havering Residents Association Group

That the following be appointed Champions as indicated:

For the Armed Forces – Barry Mugglestone

For Equality and Diversity – Robby Misir

For the Historic Environment – Bryan Vincent

For the Over 50's –

For the Voluntary Sector Compact –

For Young People –

Motion on behalf of the Labour Group

That the following be appointed Champions as indicated:

For the Armed Forces –

For Equality and Diversity – Jane Keane

For the Historic Environment –

For the Over 50's –

For the Voluntary Sector Compact –

For Young People – Frankie Walker

Members were appointed by Council to positions as follows:

Member Champion	Nominee - Councillor
For the Armed Forces	Barry Mugglestone
For Equality & Diversity	<i>See below.</i>
For the Historic Environment	Bryan Vincent
For the Over 50's	<i>No nomination received.</i>
For the Voluntary Sector Compact	<i>No nomination received.</i>
For Young People	Frankie Walker

Councillor Robby Misir was **ELECTED** as Member Champion for Equality and Diversity by 25 votes to 9 for Councillor Jane Keane with 17 abstentions (see division 4).

92 **STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (agenda item 12)**

The Leader emphasised the lack of funding received from Central Government, particularly given the rising costs in areas such as temporary accommodation and services for children with special educational needs and disabilities. A budget petition had also been launched.

Planned improvements in transport infrastructure included a new Superloop route serving the borough and improvements to the Gallows Corner flyover.

Housing had developments had progressed in areas such as Rise Park and Harold Hill where the Family Welcome Centre has been opened.

Five village greens had been delivered in Havering and a £66m investment in school expansion was planned. The Where We Live campaign had been introduced recently to keep the borough clean, green and safe. A Keep It Local campaign sought to boost the Havering economy.

The Leader also emphasised how the Council was supporting businesses and looking to attract new businesses to come to Havering.

Initiatives to tackle crime & disorder included a new CCTV control room and the continued success of the Council funded section 92 police officers. The Leader also met on a bi-monthly basis with faith leaders to ensure the borough remained as cohesive and safe as possible.

93 **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting decisions is attached as appendix 1 to these minutes.

Mayor

		CONSERVATIVE		RESIDENTS		LAB		EAST HAV		RA IND		Entitlement check		Checksum	Con RA Lab RWRA		
55	55	17	25	8	3	2											
Percentage		30.91%	45.45%	14.55%	5.45%	3.64%							100.00%	100.00%			
														0.00%			
Size of body	Seat:	Entitlement	Allocation	Entitlement	Allocation	Entitlement	Allocation	Entitlement	Allocation	Entitlement	Allocation						
3	3	0.93	1	1.36	1	0.44	1	0.16	0	0.11	0	3	0				
4	4	1.24	1	1.82	2	0.58	1	0.22	0	0.15	0	4	0				
5	5	1.55	2	2.27	2	0.73	1	0.27	0	0.18	0	5	0				
6	6	1.85	2	2.73	3	0.87	1	0.33	0	0.22	0	6	0				
7	7	2.16	3	3.18	3	1.02	1	0.38	0	0.25	0	7	0				
8	8	2.47	3	3.64	3	1.16	1	0.44	1	0.29	0	8	0				
9	9	2.78	3	4.09	4	1.31	1	0.49	1	0.33	0	9	0				
10	10	3.09	4	4.55	4	1.45	2	0.55	0	0.36	0	10	0				
11	11	3.40	4	5.00	4	1.60	2	0.60	1	0.40	0	11	0				
12	12	3.71	4	5.45	5	1.75	2	0.65	1	0.44	0	12	0				
13	13	4.02	5	5.91	5	1.89	2	0.71	1	0.47	0	13	0				
14	14	4.33	5	6.36	6	2.04	2	0.76	1	0.51	1	14	0				
15	15	4.64	5	6.82	6	2.18	3	0.82	1	0.55	1	15	0				
16	16	4.95	6	7.27	6	2.33	3	0.87	1	0.58	1	16	0				
55		17.00	17	25.00	25	8.00	8	3.00	3	2.00	2						
	Governance	10	3.09	3	4.55	4	1.45	1	0.55	1	0.36	1	10	0			
	Licensing	6	1.85	2	2.73	3	0.87	1	0.33	0	0.22	0	6	0			
	Planning	6	1.85	2	2.73	3	0.87	1	0.33	0	0.22	0	6	0			
	Strat. Planning	6	1.85	2	2.73	3	0.87	1	0.33	0	0.22	0	6	0			
	Pensions	8	2.47	2	3.64	4	1.16	1	0.44	1	0.29	0	8	0			
	Audit	10	3.09	3	4.55	4	1.45	1	0.55	1	0.36	1	10	0			
	People	8	2.47	3	3.64	4	1.16	1	0.44	0	0.29	0	8	0			
	Places	8	2.47	3	3.64	4	1.16	1	0.44	0	0.29	0	8	0			
	Board	11	3.40	3	5.00	4	1.60	2	0.60	1	0.40	1	11	0			
	Seats allocated	73.00	23.00	33.00	10.00	4.00	3.00	73.00	0								
	Seats entitled to	22.56	33.18	10.62	3.98	2.65											
		22.56	23	33.18	33	10.62	10	3.98	4	2.65	3						
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00											
	Adjustment needed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
	Appointments S/C	5	1.55	2	2.27	2	0.73	1	0.27	0	0.18	0					

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Annual Council 21 May 2025 – Agenda item 9 – Amendment by Labour Group

RECOMMENDED SEAT ALLOCATION

Shown below is the current allocation of seats across the Committees of the Council together with, in brackets, the revised allocations proposed under the amendment by the Labour Group. Any allocations without a figure in brackets are unchanged by the proposed amendment.

		CONS	HRA	LAB	EHRG	RAIG
Governance	12 (10)	3	5 (4)	2 (1)	1	1
Licensing	6	2	3	1	0	0
Planning	6	2	3	1	0	0
Strat. Planning	6	2	3	1	0	0
Pensions	6 (8)	2	3 (4)	1	0 (1)	0
Audit	6 (10)	2 (3)	3 (4)	0 (1)	0 (1)	1
People OSSC	9 (8)	3	4	1	1 (0)	0
Places OSSC	9 (8)	3	4	1	1 (0)	0
O & S Board	12 (11)	3	5 (4)	2	1	1
Total seats allocated	72 (73)	22 (23)	33	10	4	3
Appointments S-C	5	2	2	1	0	0

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
The Mayor (Councillor Gerry O'Sullivan - Vote 1, Councillor Sue Ospreay - Votes 2-4)	✓	×	✓	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Cllr Sue Ospreay - Vote 1, Cllr Barry Mugglestone - Votes 2-4]	O	×	✓	✓
Mayor casting vote			✓	
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP (16)</u>				
Cllr Robert Benham	O	O	×	O
Cllr Ray Best	O	O	×	O
Cllr Joshua Chapman	O	O	×	O
Cllr Osman Dervish	O	O	×	O
Cllr Jason Frost	O	O	×	O
Cllr Judith Holt	O	O	×	O
Cllr Jackie McArdle	A	A	A	A
Cllr Dilip Patel	O	O	×	O
Cllr Nisha Patel	O	O	×	O
Cllr Viddy Persaud	O	O	×	O
Cllr Keith Prince	O	O	×	O
Cllr Timothy Ryan	O	O	×	O
Cllr Carol Smith	O	O	×	O
Cllr David Taylor	O	O	×	O
Cllr Christine Vickery	O	O	×	O
Cllr Damian White	A	A	A	A
Cllr Michael White	O	O	×	O
<u>HAVERING RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GROUP (23 + 2)</u>				
Cllr John Crowder	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Philippa Crowder	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Sarah Edwards	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Gillian Ford	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Oscar Ford	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Laurance Garrard	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr James Glass	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr David Godwin	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Paul McGeary	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Paul Middleton	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Raymond Morgon	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Barry Mugglestone	✓			
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Sue Ospreay				
Cllr Gerry O'Sullivan		×	✓	✓
Cllr Christine Smith	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Natasha Summers	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Bryan Vincent	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Reg Whitney	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Julie Wilkes	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Christopher Wilkins	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Jacqueline Williams	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr Graham Williamson	✓	×	✓	✓
Cllr John Wood	✓	×	✓	✓
<u>LABOUR GROUP (8)</u>				
Cllr Mandy Anderson	A	A	A	A
Cllr Pat Brown	×	✓	×	×
Cllr Keith Darvill	×	✓	×	×
Cllr Jane Keane	×	✓	×	×
Cllr Trevor McKeever	×	✓	×	×
Cllr Matthew Stanton	×	✓	×	×
Cllr Katharine Tumilty	A	A	A	A
Cllr Frankie Walker	×	✓	×	×
<u>EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP (3)</u>				
Cllr Brian Eagling	×	O	O	O
Cllr Martin Goode	×	O	×	×
Cllr Darren Wise	×	O	×	×
<u>RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT GROUP (2)</u>				
Councillor Philip Ruck	×	✓	×	×
Councillor John Tyler	✓	O	×	O
TOTALS				
✓ = YES	25	7	26	25
× = NO	10	25	25	9
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	16	19	1	17
ID = INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	4	4	4	4
	55	55	55	55

* Vote 3 includes casting vote of Mayor in favour of Councillor Wilkes.

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