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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE Town Hall, Main Road, Romford 6 May 2025 (7.00 - 7.41 pm)

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Conservative Group	Keith Prince, Joshua Chapman and Nisha Patel
Havering Residents' Group	Ray Morgon (Chairman), Gillian Ford (Vice-Chair), Stephanie Nunn, Barry Mugglestone and Reg Whitney
Labour Group	Keith Darvill and Matthew Stanton
East Havering Residents Group	Martin Goode
Residents' Association	John Tyler
Independent Group	

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillor Mandy Anderson (Councillor Matthew Stanton substituting).

2 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Monitoring Officer updated that he was in discussions with the communications section regarding the elections process for Pensions Committee and would report back at the next meeting. An update on governance issues would also be brought to the next meeting.

The discussion on whether to continue with prayers and the playing of the National Anthem at meetings of full Council would not be considered by the Constitution Working Party in the short term. This would be included in a review of the Council Procedure Rules that was likely to take place within

six months. It was noted that Governance Committee had not made any specific recommendation regarding these issues.

4 **APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS 2025/26**

All Council votes at the Local Government Association (LGA) General Assembly were currently cast by the Leader. The Leader indicated however that he was happy to consider revising this and asked for proposals from Members. It was suggested that each of the four Council nominees should have one vote each with the Leader also casting the fifth allocated vote.

This proposal was agreed by 11 votes to 1 with Councillors Morgon, Ford, Mugglestone, Whitney, Chapman, Patel, Prince, Darvill, Stanton, Goode and Tyler voting in favour and Councillor Nunn voting against.

It was **AGREED**:

As the Council is entitled to 5 votes at the General Assembly of the Local Government Association, cast across 4 appointees from the Council, Governance Committee agrees that each individual appointed to the General Assembly by the Council shall exercise one vote, with the Leader of the Council exercising the extra vote (making two).

It was also noted that Councillor White would replace Councillor Prince on the LGA General Assembly.

The nominations to Outside Bodies were otherwise **AGREED** for non-executive appointments and recommended to the Leader to be made for executive appointments, as shown in the schedules attached to these minutes.

It was **AGREED** that:

Where the Council's representative (or any deputy or alternative representative where applicable) is unable to attend a particular meeting and the constitutional arrangements of the body in question so permit, that representative may authorise the Chair of the meeting to exercise a proxy vote.

5 **MAYORAL HANDBOOK**

The Head of Committee and Election Services explained that the Mayoral Handbook had previously been presented to the Committee in June 2024 and had since been reworked in light of the comments made by Members. Wording had been amended to reflect that there was no maximum number of recipients for the Civic Awards.

It was planned for the new handbook to be ready for the start of the mayoral year. The handbook would be monitored throughout the year and brought

back to the Committee for review in spring 2026. Feedback on the handbook had also been received from the current Mayor.

Officers would resolve minor issues re use of capital letters etc before the handbook was launched. The reference to the Civic Awards panel would be more clearly defined and the section regarding 'unsung heroes' would also be reworded. It was clarified that there were no significant changes from previous Mayoral operations and that the handbook simply sought to tighten up existing good practice. Mayoral events were also now declared in the Register of Member Interests.

Including the changes outlined above, the Governance Committee **APPROVED** adoption of the Mayoral Handbook.

6 **COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS - ANNUAL UPDATE**

As Governance Committee had oversight of Member Conduct, the Monitoring Officer had submitted his annual report on this issue. There had been a total of six formal complaints about Members in the previous year. The Monitoring Officer undertook an initial assessment of each complaint which could then be reviewed by an independent person.

In only one case had the Monitoring Officer recommended that a complaint should proceed to an assessment panel but the resident concerned had indicated they did not wish to continue with the process.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

Chairman

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APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE COUNCIL TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS, 2025/26

ORGANISATION AND NUMBER OF APPOINTEES	EXECUTIVE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS	
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Capital Letters- 1

Cabinet Member for Housing Need – ***Cllr Natasha Summers***

CEME (Centre for Engineering & Manufacturing Excellence) - 1

Strategic Director of Place

East London Waste Authority - 2

Cabinet Member for Environment and Cabinet Member for Finance –
Cllr Barry Mugglestone and ***Cllr Chris Wilkins***

East London Waste Authority Board (officer)

Director of Environment
Assistant Director of Environment

London Councils
(Leaders' Committee)

Representative (1): Leader of the Council – ***Cllr Ray Morgon***
Deputy: (1) Deputy Leader of the Council – ***Cllr Gillian Ford***

Transport & Environment Committee

Representative (1): ***Cllr Barry Mugglestone***
Deputies (up to 4): ***Cllr Graham Williamson, Cllr Paul McGeary***

Appointments to other organisations, 2024/25

Grants Committee

Representative (1): ***Cllr Gillian Ford***Deputy (up to 4): ***Cllr Oscar Ford, Cllr Natasha Summers***

Pensions CIV (Sectorial Joint Committee)

Representative (1): Chairman of Pensions Committee – ***Cllr Mandy Anderson***Deputy (up to 2): Vice Chair of Pensions Committee – ***Cllr Stephanie Nunn***

Greater London Employment Forum

Representative (1): ***Cllr Ray Morgon***Deputy Representative (1): ***Cllr Graham Williamson*****Local London Inter Authority**Representative: Leader of the Council – ***Cllr Ray Morgon***Deputy: Deputy Leader of the Council – ***Cllr Gillian Ford****Agreed by
Executive Decision
on 04/05/2023***Newable (formerly Greater London
Enterprise Limited) -1*****Cllr Graham Williamson*****London Riverside (BID) Ltd**Representative (1): Cabinet Member for Regeneration - ***Cllr Graham Williamson*****Thames Freeport Governance Board**Leader of the Council – ***Cllr Ray Morgon***

Appointments to other Organisations 2025/26

ORGANISATION AND NUMBER OF APPOINTEES	MEMBER APPOINTED (Non-Executive Appointments)	COMMENTS AND NOTES
Adoption & Permanency Panel-2	Cabinet Member for Children & Young People – Cllr Oscar Ford and Cllr Joshua Chapman	
Children’s Executive Board	Cabinet Member for Children & Young People – Oscar Ford	
Coopers Company & Coborn Educational Foundation -1	Cllr Christopher Wilkins	
Havering Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Cabinet Member for Regeneration- Cllr Graham Williamson	
Havering Community Safety Partnership – 2	Cabinet Member for Environment – Cllr Barry Mugglestone & the Chief Executive – Andrew Blake-Herbert	
Havering Joint Forum - 6	Leader of the Council – Cllr Ray Morgon Deputy Leader of the Council – Cllr Gillian Ford Leader of the Opposition Group – Cllr Michael White Cllr Keith Darvill Cllr Martin Goode Cllr John Tyler	
Havering Theatre Trust	Cllr Trevor McKeever Cllr Paul Middleton Cllr John Wood	

Appointments to other Organisations 2025/26

ORGANISATION AND NUMBER OF APPOINTEES	MEMBER APPOINTED (Non-Executive Appointments)	COMMENTS AND NOTES
<i>Hornchurch Housing Trust (Nomination Trustees) - 1</i>	Councillor Carol Smith (sine dies)	
Local Government Association General Assembly - 4	Leader of the Council – Cllr Ray Morgon Councillor Gillian Ford Councillor Keith Darvill Councillor Michael White	
Local Government Information Unit - 1	Leader of the Council- Cllr Ray Morgon	
London Road Safety Council - 2	Cabinet Member for Environment – Cllr Barry Mugglestone and Cllr Jane Keane	
London Youth Games-1	Cabinet Member for Adults & Wellbeing – Cllr Gillian Ford	
<i>Lucas Children's Play Charity Nominative Trustees – 2</i>	<i>Councillor Jane Keane (until June 2028)</i> <i>Councillor Matthew Stanton (until June 2028)</i>	
NELFT NHS Council of Governors	Cllr Jacqueline McArdle (until July 2026)	
North East London NHS Foundation Trust – 1	Strategic Director of People – Barbara Nicholls	
Poyntz (a.k.a. Richard Poyntz's) and other charities	<i>1 ex-officio</i> <i>2 Vacancies Representative Trustees (until March 2028)</i>	<i>Cllr Williams resigned as at 31.12.2024</i>

ORGANISATION AND NUMBER OF APPOINTEES	MEMBER APPOINTED (Non-Executive Appointments)	COMMENTS AND NOTES
Reserve Forces & Cadets Association -1	Champion for the Armed Forces- Cllr Barry Mugglestone	
Romford Town Management Partnership	Cabinet Member for Regeneration- Cllr Graham Williamson	
<i>Romford Combined Charity <u>Nominative Trustees</u> – 2</i>	Mrs Wendy Brice Thompson and Councillor Jane Keane (until 3.11.26) Mr Melvin Wallace (until 3.11.27) Councillor Viddy Persaud (until 3.11.28)	
Safer Neighbourhood Board	Cabinet Member for Environment – Cllr Barry Mugglestone	
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) - 5	Vacancy Councillor Jacqueline McArdle Councillor Philip Ruck Councillor David Taylor Councillor Katharine Tumilty	
Tenant Management Organisations - 3	BETRA (Gooshays) – Councillor Paul McGeary DELTA (Squirrels Heath)- Ward Councillor – Councillor Keith Prince PETRA (St Andrews’) – Councillor Bryan Vincent	
<i>Wennington Quarry Community Liaison Committee- 1 (until May 2026)</i>	Councillor Sarah Edwards	

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