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MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING

Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 14 January 2026
(7.00pm - 9.21 pm)

Present:

Councillor Ray Morgan (Leader of the Council), Chairman

Councillor Gillian Ford (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Oscar Ford
Councillor Paul McGahey
Councillor Paul Middleton
Councillor Barry Mugglestone
Councillor Natasha Summers
Councillor Christopher Wilkins
Councillor Graham Williamson

Cabinet Member responsibility:

Lead Member for Adults & Wellbeing
Lead Member for Children & Young People
Lead Member for Housing & Property
Lead Member for Digital, Transformation & Customer Services
Lead Member for Environment
Lead Member for Housing Need & Climate Change
Lead Member for Finance
Lead Member for Regeneration

In attendance: Councillor Michael White (CON), Councillor Keith Darvill (LAB), Councillor Martin Goode (EHRG), Councillor Julie Wilkes (HRA) as Vice-chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Councillor David Taylor (CON) as Chair of Place Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee

58 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received.

60 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

61 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on **10th December 2025**, were agreed as a correct record and the Chair signed them.

62 HAVERING COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2026-29

Report Title: Approval of the Havering Community Safety Partnership, Partnership Plan 2026 to 2029

Presented by: Councillor Barry Mugglestone, Cabinet Member for Environment

Summary:

Havering Community Safety Partnership Plan: *People will be safe, in their homes and in the community.*

The Council has a statutory to produce an annually refreshed community safety plan.

The Havering Community Safety Partnership has a statutory responsibility (under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) to produce a 3 year partnership plan (refreshed annually) which sets out how the partnership will tackle Crime and Disorder within Havering.

Cabinet:

Agreed the revised Havering Community Safety Partnership Plan 2026-29 set out in Appendix 1

63 ADOPTION OF NEW CCTV POLICY

Report Title: Adoption of New CCTV Policy

Presented by: Councillor Barry Mufflestone, Cabinet Member for Environment

Summary:

This report seeks the adoption of a new Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and Body Worn Video (BWV) Policy. This is to primarily improve compliance of the regulation and administration of the Council's CCTV function.

The policy also underpins how the Council meets its statutory obligations. These obligations fall under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998,

which requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder reduction in all their functions, and under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, which places a duty on councils and their partners to address serious violence (Serious Violence Duty-SVD) in the borough by using the technologies legally and ethically.

Cabinet:

Noted the contents of and **agreed** to the publication of the new CCTV Policy, appended to this report at **Appendix 1**.

64 APPROVAL OF THE REVISED INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGY

Report Title: Adoption of Revised Inclusive Growth Strategy.

Presented by: Councillor Graham Williamson, Lead Member for Development & Regeneration

The proposed revised Inclusive Growth Strategy describes the context of economic challenge and opportunity and the proposed strategy approach to supporting the economic growth of the Borough.

There are no direct financial implications from approving the revised strategy as the process was completed on a 'light touch' basis. Financial implications will be considered through any proposed action to deliver and approval sought at that time

This report presents to Cabinet for adoption the revised Inclusive Growth Strategy. The current Inclusive Growth Strategy was last presented to Cabinet and was adopted in November 2021 based on data collected and reviewed in 2019.

Cabinet:

Agreed to adopt the draft revised Inclusive Growth Strategy

65 ADOPTION OF SOCIAL VALUE GUIDANCE POLICY

Report Title: Adoption of Social Value Policy and Guidance

Presented by: Councillor Ray Morgan, Leader of the Council

Summary:

The proposed Social Value Policy and Guidance describes how social value can be leveraged to benefit the Council and its residents above and in addition to the sums agreed as part of procurement processes.

Social Value refers to the wider financial and non-financial value created by the Council through its day-to-day activities and Community Leadership in

terms of the wellbeing of individuals and communities, social capital created and the environment.

The Social Value Policy will act as a 'golden thread' between the Council's Corporate Plan and how the Council procures Goods, Services or works. Social Value requested in procurements must be relevant to the procurement and should link back to the priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan 2024-2027.

Social Value is defined in the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 which came into force in January 2013. It requires the Council and its supply chain to look beyond the financial cost of a contract and consider how the services we commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.

The Council procures using three sets of legislation "Procurement Act 2023, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023" all of which require the Council to consider how Social Value can be leveraged to gain additional benefit for its residents and communities, this is also supported through the Governments National Procurement Policy Statement.

Cabinet:

Approved the adoption of the Social Value Policy, as set out in Appendix A and the Social Value outcomes matrix as set out in Appendix B. This will be incorporated in the revision of the Contract Procedure Rules.

66 APPROVAL OF THE EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT SKILLS STRATEGY

Report Title: Adoption of new Education & Employment Skills Strategy

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

Summary:

The proposed Education & Employment Skills Strategy outlines the context of line-of-sight challenge for young people and residents to opportunities to upskill, enter the workforce, and the proposed strategic approach to supporting the residents of the Borough.

Currently, all of the proposed activity is covered by the existing provision of secured external grants covering Adult Education, Connect to Work and Trailblazer programmes, for example, rather than core Council budgets. These funds have been secured for the duration of this iteration of the Strategy.

This report presented to Cabinet for adoption the draft Education & Employment Skills Strategy.

Cabinet:

Agreed to the adoption of this new Education & Employment Skills Strategy

67 SITE SELECTION FOR FAMILY HUB

Report Title: **Site Selection for a Family Hub**

Presented by: **Councillor Oscar Ford, Lead Member for Children and Young People**

Summary:

Havering has a statutory duty under the Children's Act to provide support as appropriate within our local area. We successfully bid for funding under the Family Hubs and Best Start in Life Programme to establish a Family Hub site which must be identified by January 2026, prioritising disadvantaged communities to maximise reach and accessibility. The hub will offer integrated support across health, education, and social care, including delivery of parenting programmes, home learning interventions, and mental health services. Delivery in line with guidance will be flexible, community-based, and inclusive, with a strong emphasis on co-location of services, digital access, and continuous improvement through local governance and collaboration.

The Department for Education (DfE) has awarded Havering a Best Start Family Hubs Development Grant of £153,555. This funding will help establish a Local Family Hub to deliver parenting and home learning programmes from April 2026. The aim, in line with national guidance, is to improve early childhood development and help children thrive at school, with a target for 75% of children to reach expected development levels by 2028.

The grant requires us to identify at least one Family Hub site by January 2026. The site must be in a disadvantaged area, accessible, welcoming, and able to host parenting programmes and co-located services. The enhanced family hubs offer will need to be in place from April 2026.

Cabinet:

Agreed a recommendation to select St Kilda's Children's Centre in Romford as the main Family Hub for phase one of the programme with satellite hubs at Ingrebourne Children's Centre and MyPlace Youth and Community Centre, both in the Harold Hill area, in order to ensure sufficient reach and delivery across the breadth of the offer.

Following a review of local data, service and demand needs within the Borough, this recommendation is based on St. Kilda's central location, accessibility, existing infrastructure, and high service usage. The site meets

the criteria set by the DfE and offers opportunities to expand our existing services and partnerships.

Cabinet agreed to the proposal that, alongside St Kilda's as the main Family Hub, Ingrebourne Children's Centre and MyPlace Youth and Community Centre, both in the Harold Hill area, are utilised as satellite family hubs during this initial phase to ensure sufficient reach and delivery across the breadth of the offer.

Cabinet agreed to the recommendation that the sites for service delivery remain under frequent review to ensure that maximum potential reach is being achieved and that all appropriate community venues are being utilised.

68 ARNOLD'S FIELD WORKS- CONTRACTS AWARD (PHASE 1)

Report Title: **Arnold's Field Works – Contracts Award (Phase 1)**

Presented by: **Councillor Ray Morgan, Leader of the Council**

Summary:

Due to the determination, on 16 October 2025, that the Arnold's Field site is now formally identified as "contaminated land", it became urgent and necessary to seek to stop (or significantly reduce) the cause of the adverse effects on human health before the next annual cycle of fires/smoke (likely to start in the approach to the summer of 2026).

As reported to residents at the public meeting on 25 November 2025, the Council has been in dialogue with the site landowner with a view to having initial works carried out at the site – aiming to be completed by 30 April 2026. These works will focus on the areas which were either responsible for most of the fires in the 2025 summer fire season and/or are most likely to be the seat of fires in 2026.

These initial works (known as "Phase 1") are regarded as a temporary means to halting or reducing the fires to provide some interim relief to residents and do not constitute a permanent solution or full coverage of the site. The success, or otherwise, of Phase 1 will be reviewed to provide learning for any further works.

Due to the impact on public health and the need to take all necessary reasonable steps to facilitate the achievement of the works, consideration has been given to the Council providing funds, without prejudice and with no acknowledgement of responsibility for clearing up the wider site, of up to £300,000 for the Phase 1 works. This was noted in the Cabinet report (17 September 2025) on "Launders Lane (Arnold's Field)" to achieve a "voluntary temporary solution" (at least in part) in 2026.

Whilst, at the time of drafting this report, the Council and the landowner have differing views as to the best way forward to achieve the desired result, there exists (at this time) a common commitment to meet the required works timeline.

The Phase 1 works are estimated to take up to three months and, in order to finish in April, they should begin in February. However, the preliminary drone surveys (currently being procured), will not bear results until the start of January and the detailed specifications and any alternative proposals for works cannot be developed until after those results are available.

Consequently, the timeline is tight – particularly in the context of the timescales required for the Council's governance and procurement processes.

This report therefore seeks Cabinet approval to delegate authority to officers to decide on the nature of the initial (Phase 1) works to be conducted and either to directly award a contract for those works or to support the landowner's alternative proposed works (if they would achieve a similar or better outcome).

Cabinet Members Agreed

1. In principle, to the proposals for the Phase 1 works for Arnold's Field (as set out in this report) (without prejudice and with no acknowledgement of responsibility for works across the wider site) to be a maximum value of £300,000.
2. To delegate, to the Strategic Director of Place in conjunction with the Strategic Director for Resources, authority to:
 - a. procure and award a contract for Phase 1 remedial works at Arnold's Field as set out in this report; and/or
 - b. Consider alternative arrangements on required works from the owner
 - c. negotiate and enter into any contracts and ancillary arrangements required to give effect to the recommendations in this report
3. To waive the Contracts Procedure Rules, as required, to give effect to the recommendations in this report.

69 JOINT PEOPLE/PLACE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMENTS - LAUNDER'S LANE (ARNOLD'S FIELD)

Report title: Joint People/Place Overview & Scrutiny Comments - Launder's Lane (Arnold's Field)

Presented by: Councillor David Taylor, Chair of Place Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Response from: Councillor Ray Morgan, Leader of the Council

Using its Constitutional powers under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees at a joint meeting have made a number of recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet is required to respond to these.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet considers and responds to the following recommendations made by the People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees in relation to the report on Launders Lane (Arnold's Field) in response to a motion on Arnold's Field agreed by Full Council.

1. That the Council review relevant past documents and communication and look at putting together an engagement strategy as to how it communicates in the future. Council has been and continues to be proactive in communicating with the residents in Rainham
2. That the Council look at proactive communication in general on the Launders Lane issue with particular emphasis on the site clean-up and the provision of clear health advice.
3. That the Council explore advising residents and the landowner to cut back the bush shrubbery.
4. That the Council provide further information on the existence of asbestos on the site
5. That the Council lobby the government to request a tightening of the legislation around smoke with reference to Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
6. The Sub-Committees also recommend that the Council seek legal opinion on its potential exposure to being sued in the future by local residents.
7. That the Council plan to monitor and to detect long term health impacts in order that an action plan around detecting long term health impacts be put in place.
8. That the Council consider a data sharing partnership specifically with the London Fire Brigade.

1. Communications & Engagement

The Council has maintained proactive communication with Rainham residents since May 2022 through:

Newsletters, public meetings, presentations, a dedicated webpage, email address, and WhatsApp channels.

The Leader emphasised the administration's commitment to openness, transparency and honesty.

Scrutiny Committee recommendation: a review of communications should still take place despite strong performance to date.

2. Scrutiny Recommendations

Scrutiny recommendations fall into two themes:

(a) Communications and (b) Improvements.

Key points raised by the Scrutiny Chair:

Recommendation for Cabinet to receive and respond to scrutiny input.

Appreciation expressed for the joint meeting attended by LFB, Environment Agency and residents.

Clarifications were gained regarding the Council's legal position.

3. Lobbying & Legislative Change

Recognition that current legislation is inadequate.

Council progressing with lobbying for Zane's Law, supported by:

Engagement with the borough's three MPs.

Meetings planned with families and stakeholders involved in prior legal actions.

Aim: improve powers and funding available to councils in dealing with hazardous sites.

4. Long-Term Health Monitoring

Concern noted that health impacts may emerge many years later.

Recommendation: develop a monitoring and detection plan for long-term health impacts.

Council update:

Permanent air quality monitoring in place.

Ongoing work with Public Health, NHS partners and universities.

Further updates will return to Scrutiny (likely in February).

5. Data Sharing

Scrutiny recommended establishing a data-sharing partnership with London Fire Brigade.

Discussion on whether data should be sourced from LFB directly or the Fire Brigades Union.

The union provided insight on firefighter PPE requirements and exposure; use of that data may support public health analysis.

6. Asbestos and Environmental Measures

Soil sampling confirmed asbestos present underground.

Air monitoring during fires confirmed no airborne asbestos.

Extensive environmental monitoring undertaken, including soil analysis and air quality readings.

Council reaffirmed commitment to ensuring residents' health and wellbeing.

7. Legal Work

The Council has sought KC-level legal advice from the outset to support enforcement and resolution.

Judicial Review outcomes contributed to new case law around smoke and contamination considerations.

8. Next Steps

Council will return to Scrutiny with:

Updates on health monitoring, data sharing, asbestos matters and environmental measures.

Timings aligned with outcomes of ongoing work such as drone surveys and contract awards.

70 **PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMENTS - EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT SKILL STRATEGY**

Report Title: People Overview & Scrutiny Comments - Education & Employment Skill Strategy

Using its Constitutional powers under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee have made a recommendation to Cabinet. Cabinet is required to respond to these.

That Cabinet considers and responds to the following recommendation made by the People Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee in relation to the report on the Education & Employment Skills Strategy.

- The strategy strengthens the route for residents who wish to move to higher skill levels (for example Level 2 to Level 3)

Cabinet supported the recommendation

71 **COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD ON REQUISITION OF CABINET DECISION - FUTURE PROPOSALS FOR FORMER LIBRARY PREMISES**

Report Title: **Comments of Overview and Scrutiny Board on Requisition of Cabinet Decision - Future Proposals for Former Library Premises**

Presented by: **Councillor Julie Wilkes – Deputy Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Board.**

Response from: **Councillor Graham Williamson, Lead Member for Development & Regeneration**

Following the call-in considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 8th January 2026 and after consideration of the comments made, Cabinet have clarified the recommendations made in the report for transparency:

Cabinet are asked the following:

Former Gidea Park Library site:

Approve in principle the re-purposing of the former Gidea Park Library site for the development of a 6-person accommodation facility for children with disabilities, subject to a separate business case being submitted to and **Agreed by Cabinet**.

Endorse a request for capital budget in the sum of £120,000 to be included in the 2026/27 capital programme and approve the submission of any related planning application for the demolition of the former library building at Gidea Park. **Agreed by Cabinet**

Former Harold Wood Library site:

Note the ongoing evaluation of the proposal received from the Harold Wood Foundation in respect of the temporary use of the former Harold Wood library premises including the granting of a 7-year lease with a 3-year break-clause.

Note that any decision to be made in relation to the further proposals for the former Harold Wood Library site will be presented to a future Cabinet for decision. **Agreed by Cabinet**

Former South Hornchurch Library site:

Agree to the disposal of the former South Hornchurch library site, as identified in the red line plan shown in Appendix A. **Agreed by Cabinet**

Instruct officers to report back to a future Cabinet the outcome of the evaluation of the marketing of the site and premises of the former South Hornchurch library site with officer recommendations as to how achieve best value for the site can be achieved. **Agreed by Cabinet**

Endorse a request for capital expenditure in the sum of £110,000 and approve the submission of any related planning application for the

demolition of the former library building at South Hornchurch. – the final decision to demolish will be subject to the decision by Cabinet detailed above. **Agreed by Cabinet**

Delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Regeneration & Place Shaping, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, Section 151 officer and Deputy Director of Legal and Democratic Services to conduct all appropriate steps to progress the recommendations above. **Agreed by Cabinet**

72 2026/27 COUNCIL TAXBASE REPORT

Report Title: **Council Tax base 2026/27**

Presented by: **Councillor Chris Wilkins (Cabinet Member for Finance)**

Summary:

- 1.1. This report is produced to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory role to set a council tax base for 2026/27. The Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1992, as amended by the LGFA 2003 & LGFA 2012 requires the Authority to formally calculate the council tax base for 2025/26 and pass this information to precepting authorities by 31 January 2026. The tax base must be set between 1 December 2025 and 31 January 2026. The regulations stipulate that:
 - The appropriate figure must be calculated using the Valuation List and Council Tax records as at 30 November 2025 Calculation of the Tax Base,
 - The calculation of the Council Tax Base is by way of a statutory prescribed formula, which is set out at Appendix A.

Cabinet:

- 2.1 **Agreed** a taxbase of 91,122 band D equivalents for 2026/27,
- 2.2. Cabinet **noted** the estimated collection rate set out in section 3.3 which is a prudent assumption and reflective of current collection levels.

Chairman

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