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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING Council Chamber - Town Hall 4 March 2026 (7.30 - 10.00 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Sue Ospreay) in the Chair

Councillors Councillors Robert Benham, Ray Best, Patricia Brown, Joshua Chapman, John Crowder, Philippa Crowder, Keith Darvill, Brian Eagling, 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, Stephanie Nunn, Gerry O'Sullivan, 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

Around 20 Members' guests and members of the public and a representative of the press were also present.

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Mandy Anderson, Sarah Edwards and Katharine Tumilty.

The Mayor advised Members and the public of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

Reverend Elise Petersen, Vicar, Rainham and Wennington Prish, opened the meeting with prayers.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mandy Anderson, Sarah Edwards and Katharine Tumilty.

39 **MINUTES (agenda item 3)**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21 January 2026 were agreed as a correct record, without division.

40 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (agenda item 4)**

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Barry Mugglestone, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Brian Eagling, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Bryan Vincent, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Carol Smith, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Christine Smith, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Christine Vickery, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Christopher Wilkins, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Darren Wise, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor David Godwin, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor David Taylor, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Dilip Patel, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Gerry O'Sullivan, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Gillian Ford, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Graham Williamson, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Jacqueline Williams, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor James Glass, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Jane Keane, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Jason Frost, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor John Crowder, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor John Tyler, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

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Councillor John Tyler, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor John Wood, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Joshua Chapman, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Judith Holt, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Julie Wilkes, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Keith Darvill, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Keith Prince, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Laurance Garrard, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Martin Goode, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Matthew Stanton, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Michael White, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Natasha Summers, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Nisha Patel, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Oscar Ford, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Patricia Brown, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Paul McGeary, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Paul Middleton, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Philip Ruck, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Philippa Crowder, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Ray Best, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Ray Morgon, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Reg Whitney, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Robby Misir, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Robert Benham, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Stephanie Nunn, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Sue Ospreay, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Timothy Ryan, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Trevor McKeever, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

7. THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27.

Councillor Viddy Persaud, Pecuniary, Occupier of land with a liability for Council Tax.

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

The Mayor advised that the recent Prince and Princess Ball at the Town Hall had been very successful with in excess of 90 children and parents attending.

The Mayor also reminded Members of the forthcoming Civic Awards Ceremony on 6 March and Civic Dinner on 21 March.

42 **PROCEDURE (agenda item 6)**

There were no procedural motions proposed.

43 **THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET 2026/27 (agenda item 7)**

Council had before it a series of reports covering the Council's Budget, Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy Statement. Reports also covered the Housing Revenue Account and business plans for Bridge Close, Havering & Wates, Rainham & Beam Park and the Housing Revenue Account.

Deemed motion on behalf of the Administration

That the reports be adopted and their recommendations be carried into effect.

Amendment on behalf of the Labour Group

As appended to these minutes.

Following debate, the amendment by the Labour Group was **NOT CARRIED** by 17 votes to 9 with 23 abstentions (see division 1).

The reports of Cabinet and deemed motion on behalf of the Administration were **CARRIED** by 31 votes to 4 with abstentions (see division 2).

RESOLVED:

1. That Council agree and endorse the recommendations in the report to Cabinet of 28 January 2026 titled Rainham and Beam Park LLP Business Plan Update.

2. That Council agree and endorse the recommendations in the report to Cabinet of 28 January titled Havering and Wates LLP Business Plan and Budget Update 2026/2027.

- 3. That Council agree and endorse the recommendations in the report to Cabinet of 28 January 2026 titled Bridge Close Regeneration LLP Business Plan and Budget Update 2026/2027.**
- 4. That Council agree and endorse the recommendations in the report to Cabinet of 28 January 2026 titled Mercury Land Holdings Business Plan and Budget Update 2026/27.**
- 5. That Council approves the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan update, Budget for 2026/27 & Capital Programme for 2026/27-2030/31 and all recommendations, as set out in the report to Cabinet of 28 January 2026.**
- 6. That Council approves the Capital Strategy and Programme for 2026/27 as shown in the separate report to Cabinet of 18 February 2026.**
- 7. That Council approves the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Indicators, and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2026/27 as shown in the separate report to Cabinet of 18 February 2026.**
- 8. That the following as submitted in the report to Cabinet of 18 February 2026 be approved:**

 - The General Fund budget for 2026/27**
 - The Council Tax for Band D properties and for other Bands of properties, all as set out in Appendix E of the Cabinet report.**
 - The Delegated Schools' Budget for 2026/27, as set out in section 6 of the Cabinet report.**
 - The Capital Programme for 2026/267 as set out in the Capital Strategy and Programme Report reported to Cabinet on 5 February 2026.**
- 9. The Council delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer to adjust the Corporate Risk Budget to account for any further variations that may arise.**
- 10. That, in accepting recommendation 1, Council is mindful of the advice of the Chief Finance Officer as set out in Appendix H of the report to Cabinet.**
- 11. That it be noted that under delegated powers the Chief Finance Officer has calculated the amount of 91,122 (called T in the Act and Regulations) as its Council Tax base for the year 2026/27 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended) made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended.**

12. That the amount of £174,421,000 be now calculated as the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2026/27, with £29,751,000 of that amount being ringfenced for Adult Social Care.

13. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2026/27 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:

(a) 841,201,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.

(b) (666,780,000) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

(c) 174,421,000 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.

(d) £1,914.15 being the amount at (c) above divided by the taxbase, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

13. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2026/27 for each of the categories of dwellings.

Valuation Bands London Borough of Havering

	Havering		Adult Social Care		Total	
	£	p	£	p	£	p
A	1,058.43		217.67		1,276.10	
B	1,234.84		253.95		1,488.79	
C	1,411.24		290.22		1,701.46	
D	1,587.65		326.50		1,914.15	
E	1,940.46		399.05		2,339.51	
F	2,293.26		471.62		2,764.88	
G	2,646.07		544.18		3,190.25	
H	3,175.29		653.01		3,828.30	

14. That it be noted for the year 2026/27 the major precepting authority (the GLA) has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below as proposed by the Mayor.

Valuation Bands Greater London Authority

	£	p
A	340.34	
B	397.06	
C	453.79	
D	510.51	
E	623.96	
F	737.40	
G	850.85	
H	1,021.02	

15. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 7 and 8 above, the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2026/27 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

	£	p
A	1,616.44	
B	1,885.85	
C	2,155.25	
D	2,424.66	
E	2,963.47	
F	3,502.28	
G	4,041.10	
H	4,849.32	

16. That Council having considered the principles approved under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government concludes that the Council's basic relevant amount of Council Tax for 2026/27 is not excessive.

17. That any Council Tax payer who is liable to pay an amount of Council Tax to the Authority in respect to the year ending on 31 March 2026, who is served with a demand notice under Regulation 20(2) of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 as amended and who makes payment to the Authority of the full balance of the estimated amount shown on that demand by 1 April 2026, may deduct a sum equivalent to 1.5% of and from the estimated amount and such reduced amount shall be accepted in full settlement of that estimated amount.

18. That Council approves that the Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27 is adopted for 2026/27 as set out in Section 10 of the Cabinet report of 18 February 2026.

44 **VOTING RECORD**

The record of voting decisions is appended to these minutes.

Mayor

PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT FROM THE LABOUR GROUP

(Proposer Cllr Keith Darvill)

(Seconded Cllr Matthew Stanton)

The Labour Group proposes the following budget amendment:

This Council calls on the Administration to introduce and promote an SME Support Package, initially, funding such a proposal from unspent UKSPF (and/or other unspent grants) seeking partnership for such a support package with organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Adult College.

The Support Package would include:

1. High Street Activation Fund up to £150,000 - To deliver public realm improvements, signage, greening, lighting, local events, markets, and mean-while use activation in priority town centres.
2. Small Business Digital & Skills Support Hub up to £75,000: To commission digital adoption support (e-commerce, payments, social media, SEO), cashflow and business planning help, and sector specific resilience programmes.
3. Micro Grants for Independent SMEs up to £100,000: £1,000–£5,000 grants for equipment, accessibility upgrades, shopfront improvements, security, digital tools, and minor refits.
4. Planning & Licensing SME Support — Cost Neutral Simplified guidance, clearer standards for minor retail/hospitality applications, quicker routes for low-risk licensing.
5. Local Procurement Opportunities for SMEs — Cost Neutral Segmented contracts, forward procurement pipelines, and “Meet the Buyer” sessions to widen SME access.

Financial Implications from Strategic Director of Resources

The Council's budget for 2026/27 incorporates all grants including the UKSPF. The current UKSPF has been fully allocated to projects in conjunction with the GLA so would need to be re-directed to enable the proposals in this amendment to be funded. The original grant timelines for the UKSPF was for expenditure to be incurred by 31st March 2026, however, this has now been extended to the end of September 2026.

If this proposal is approved, officers will proceed with discussions with the GLA regarding the re-allocation of this grant to incorporate some of the initiatives above. However, this will require de-prioritisation of existing schemes, some of which may be in contract.

The Council may have underspends on this grant or receive further grants in the future. Providing the proposals above meet the grant conditions of existing external funding sources, officers will seek to incorporate the proposals above subject to Full Council approval of this budget amendment.

Subject to the Budget Amendment being approved, officers will develop a simplified guidance for SMEs, minor hospitality and retail planning and licensing applications. This proposal will be cost neutral as it can be absorbed into officers' current work programmes.

Regarding the proposed Local Procurement Opportunities, under the current legislation (Procurement Act 2023, Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Provider Selection Regime under the Health Care Act), the Council has a requirement to support SMEs. A number of initiatives below are already being conducted or will be explored further in the coming months, in support of Small Businesses:

- Create our own frameworks - this can allow for larger procurements to be broken down into smaller elements, which removes some of the barriers for SMEs to apply, this includes those in our Borough. An example is the development of the Adults Placement Framework which is currently being evaluated and has targeted businesses within the borough boundary to provide services. The response from the market has exceeded expectations.
- For below threshold but above £30,000; in some circumstances the Council is able to "reserve" contracts under the legislation to SME's that will also include local providers, which will be subject to rules of engagement. This element will need further exploration and support from legal colleagues as there are specific legislative elements that need to be complied with.
- Use Social Value as a tool to develop strategic alliances between larger operators and our local supply chain, as an example we can request local suppliers used as sub-contractors, employment opportunities are advertised locally, or goods are purchased locally creating a circular economy. Social Value can also be used to contractually engage in commitments that the supplier needs to conduct, such as "how many 'meet the buyer' events will they attend". This already occurs patricianly within the larger construction and/or regeneration contrcats, these stipulate that the bidder must use local supply chains to purchase goods and services where available, to use local residents and companies in terms of employment or sub contracting.
- Engagement locally - the Procurement team can arrange with other parts of the Council, targeted 'meet the buyer' events so we get the right people and companies in the room, this tends to work well if there are a few up and coming procurements that will be going to market, so they can see the benefit. This will need to be carefully planned with other parts of the Council to ensure there are enough live procurements to give validity to the event. Events have

occurred and have been received well in the construction and regeneration sectors and have been conducted as collaborative events with neighbouring Councils to drive economies of scale.

- As part of the procurement strategies, the Council has an obligation to consider and remove barriers for SME's bidding for work, and these are actively challenged at numerous check points such as Governance Review Group. This occurs on a regular basis, as an example both procurement strategies and award submissions are reviewed at Governance Review Group on a weekly basis.
- Under the Act the Council has an obligation to publish a pipeline of potential procurements over £2m in the next 12 to 18 months. The Council's Procurement Pipeline will be published prior to the statutory period of 56 days after the 1st April and then annually.

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Minute Item 44

Appendix 1

Full Council, 4 March 2026

<i>DIVISION NUMBER:</i>	1	2
The Mayor (Councillor Sue Ospeay)	X	✓
The Deputy Mayor [Concillor Barry Mugglestone]	X	✓
<u>CONSERVATIVE GROUP (14)</u>		
Cllr Ray Best	O	O
Cllr Joshua Chapman	O	O
Cllr Osman Dervish	A	A
Cllr Jason Frost	O	O
Cllr Judith Holt	O	O
Cllr Jackie McArdle	A	A
Cllr Dilip Patel	O	O
Cllr Nisha Patel	O	O
Cllr Viddy Persaud	O	O
Cllr Timothy Ryan	X	O
Cllr Carol Smith	O	O
Cllr David Taylor	O	O
Cllr Damian White	A	A
Cllr Michael White	O	O
<u>HAVING RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GROUP (23 + 2)</u>		
Cllr John Crowder	X	✓
Cllr Philippa Crowder	X	✓
Cllr Sarah Edwards	A	A
Cllr Gillian Ford	O	✓
Cllr Oscar Ford	O	✓
Cllr Laurance Garrard	X	✓
Cllr James Glass	X	✓
Cllr David Godwin	O	✓
Cllr Paul McGeary	O	✓
Cllr Paul Middleton	O	✓
Cllr Robby Misir	X	✓
Cllr Raymond Morgon	X	✓
Cllr Stephanie Nunn	O	✓
Cllr Gerry O'Sullivan	X	✓
Cllr Christine Smith	X	✓
Cllr Natasha Summers	O	✓
Cllr Bryan Vincent	X	✓
Cllr Reg Whitney	X	✓
Cllr Julie Wilkes	O	✓
Cllr Christopher Wilkins	X	✓
Cllr Jacqueline Williams	X	✓
Cllr Graham Williamson	O	✓
Cllr John Wood	X	✓
<u>LABOUR GROUP (8)</u>		
Cllr Mandy Anderson	A	A
Cllr Pat Brown	✓	✓
Cllr Keith Darvill	✓	✓
Cllr Jane Keane	✓	✓
Cllr Trevor McKeever	✓	✓
Cllr Matthew Stanton	✓	✓
Cllr Katharine Tumilty	A	A
Cllr Frankie Walker	✓	✓
<u>EAST HAVERING RESIDENTS' GROUP (3)</u>		
Cllr Brian Eagling	✓	O
Cllr Martin Goode	✓	O
Cllr Darren Wise	✓	O
<u>INDEPENDENT MEMBERS (2)</u>		
Councillor Philip Ruck	X	X
Councillor John Tyler (UCRA)	O	✓
<u>REFORM UK (3)</u>		
Cllr Robert Benham	O	X
Cllr Keith Prince	O	X

Cllr Christine Vickery	O	X
TOTALS		
✓ = YES	9	31
X = NO	17	4
O = ABSTAIN/NO VOTE	23	14
ID =INTEREST DISCLOSED/NO VOTE	0	0
A = ABSENT FROM MEETING	6	6
	55	55