



MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 8 July 2026
(7.00 - 7.55 pm)

Present:

Councillor Keith Prince (Leader of the Council), Chairman

	Cabinet Member responsibility:
Councillor Sue Benjamins (Vice-Chair)	Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member, Finance
Councillor Terry Brown	Cabinet Member, Planning & Public Protection
Councillor Martynas Cekavicius	Cabinet Member, Public Realm
Councillor Graham Day	Cabinet Member, Adults & Health Care
Councillor Kevin Gill	Cabinet Member, Children
Councillor Martin Lardner	Cabinet Member, Housing Allocation
Councillor Sean McMahon	Cabinet Member, Customer Services
Councillor Alex Sibley	Cabinet Member, Highways
Councillor Robert Whitton	Cabinet Member, Regeneration

In attendance: Councillor Chris Wilkins (HARA), Councillor Martin Goode (EHRG), Councillor Matt Stanton (LAB)

1 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair outlined the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire alarm or any other emergency requiring the evacuation of the meeting room or the building.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members of Cabinet were present.

3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

4 MINUTES

On guidance from Officers, Cabinet noted the minutes as a reflection of the decisions made and matters addressed at Cabinet on 11 March 2026 and authorised the Chair to sign them.

5 APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A S75 AGREEMENT WITH THE NHS NORTH EAST LONDON ICB TO GOVERN THE DELIVERY OF THE BETTER CARE FUND 2026-2027

Report Title: **Approval to enter into a section 75 Agreement with the NHS North East London ICB to govern the delivery of the Better Care Fund 2026-2027**

Presented by: **Councillor Graham Day (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)**

Summary:

This report seeks approval to enter into a s75 Agreement with the NHS North East London ICB to govern the delivery of the Better Care Fund 2026-2027.

The oversight for this in Havering will be the Health and Wellbeing Board, with delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health and the Strategic Director of People, to undertake monitoring and scrutiny of the operation of the arrangements.

Members were advised that the Better Care Fund supports preventative services designed to promote independence, improve outcomes for residents and reduce pressures on hospital and long-term care services. Key priorities include hospital discharge, reablement, domiciliary care, residential and nursing care, support for carers, assistive technology and wider community-based services.

During discussion, Members queried the effectiveness of the neighbourhood model, funding pressures and anticipated savings. It was acknowledged that delivery of improved outcomes would require stronger integration between health and social care partners, particularly with local NHS providers. The importance of prevention and early intervention was emphasised as a means of reducing longer-term costs and improving resident outcomes.

Questions were also raised regarding projected savings and the financial contribution from the Council. Officers confirmed that the Council's contribution remained consistent with the previous year at approximately £8.4 million and highlighted that the Better Care Fund is intended to facilitate preventative approaches that reduce future expenditure. Members recognised that improvements required to address Care Quality Commission findings would require continued investment and may take time to realise.

Cabinet:

1. **Agreed** to enter into a section 75 agreement with NHS North East London ICB, on the terms and conditions outlined in this report, to govern the delivery of the approved Better Care Fund Plan for Havering for the period 2026/2027.
2. **Delegated** authority to approve the final terms of the proposed section 75 agreement to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health and the Strategic Director of People.
3. **Delegated** the function of monitoring the implementation and operation of the Better Care Fund and s75 Agreement to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health.
4. **Delegated** authority for all necessary decisions with respect to the implementation and operation of all matters relating to the Better Care Fund and section 75 agreement to the Strategic Director of People.

6 COUNCIL REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2025/26

Report Title: Council Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2025/26

Presented by: Councillor Sue Benjamins (Cabinet Member for Finance)

Summary:

1. Executive Summary
 - 1.1. This Report sets out the revenue outturn position for the Council and includes commentary on the variances to budget by service. The report also includes explanation of mitigating corporate items and explains how the outturn position will be financed.
 - 1.2. The report also sets out the Capital outturn for 2025/26 compared to revised budget and explains the variances and capital achievements against the budget.
 - 1.3. The table included in the report sets out the final revenue outturn position of the Council which is a £37.7m overspend against the original budget without exceptional financial support. This table also provides a comparison to the Period 10 forecast which was submitted to cabinet in March.
 - 1.4. Further details of the reported departmental variances are set out in Section 4 of this report. There are then sections setting out the Corporate position, including Treasury management, HRA and Capital Outturn.

The Cabinet Member for Finance emphasised the administration's commitment to achieving financial sustainability while avoiding reductions in frontline services. It was noted that lower borrowing requirements would

also reduce future interest costs and improve the Council's medium-term financial position. Concerns were raised regarding the timeline for eliminating reliance on Exceptional Financial Support; however, officers advised that further analysis was ongoing and that future progress would depend on both local financial performance and wider government funding arrangements.

Members also discussed:

- Ongoing negotiations with NHS partners to secure appropriate funding contributions towards adult and children's social care services.
- The management and review of earmarked reserves, with officers confirming a strategy to strengthen financial resilience by increasing reserve levels over time.
- Future review of the capital programme and the need to align housing delivery with local demand, particularly for larger family homes.
- The impact of inflation and project reprofiling on future capital delivery.

In response to questions regarding debt recovery, officers confirmed that all proposed debt write-offs had been subject to extensive recovery action and legal processes. Members requested greater transparency, and officers agreed to provide more detailed anonymised information in future reports. Cabinet also expressed support for wider cross-party engagement through the Council's Debt Board.

Cabinet:

1. Councillors **noted** the revenue outturn position for the Council and the financing of the overspend (section 7 of the report).
2. Councillors **approved** the Capital Outturn position for 25/26 as set out in section 9 of this report.
3. Councillors **noted** the outturn position for the Council's earmarked reserves and General balances as set out in section 6 of this report.
4. Councillors **noted** the write off of debt approved by the Strategic Director of Resources as set out in paragraph 5.4.

Chairman