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MINUTES OF A CABINET MEETING
Council Chamber - Town Hall
Wednesday, 25 September 2013
(7.30 - 8.50 pm)

Present:

Councillor Michael White (Leader of the Council), Chairman

Councillor Steven Kelly (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Michael Armstrong

Councillor Robert Benham

Councillor Andrew Curtin

Councillor Roger Ramsey

Councillor Paul Rochford

Councillor Geoffrey Starns

Councillor Lesley Kelly

Cabinet Member responsibility:

(Deputy Leader) Individuals

Transformation

Community Empowerment

Culture, Towns & Communities

Value

Children & Learning

Community Safety

Housing & Public Protection

Apologies were received for the absence of Councillors Barry Tebbutt.

Councillors Clarence Barrett, Keith Darvill, Linda Hawthorn and Pat Murray were also in attendance.

1 member of the public and a representative of the Press were present.

Through the Chairman, an announcement was made regarding the emergency evacuation arrangements.

There were no disclosures of interest.

76 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 August 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

77 REPORT OF THE CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOPIC GROUP

Councillor Michael White, Leader of the Council, introduced the report.

At its meeting on 8 May 2012, the Crime & Disorder Committee agreed to establish a topic group to:

- review the level of services delivered locally in respect of the effects of Domestic Violence on Young People and Children both as victims, witnesses and/or perpetrators;
- look at what steps the Community Safety Partnership were taking to tackle the problem in the future;
- identify good practice in other boroughs; and
- make recommendations to the administration on areas which could be improved, if appropriate.

The Topic Group's report was submitted for consideration. The conclusions and recommendations of the Topic Group were detailed in an appendix to these minutes.

Reasons for the decision:

The report of the dementia strategy joint topic group had been referred to Cabinet for consideration.

Other options considered:

No alternative had been considered.

Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee and wished to place on record its thanks to the Members of the Committee for their hard work.

78 THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Councillor Roger Ramsey, Cabinet Member for Value, introduced the report.

At a previous meeting, Cabinet had received a report which set out the key elements of both the National Budget and the subsequent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announcement. These had now been analysed and their impact on the Council's financial position had been assessed with details set out in the report to Cabinet.

The report updated the longer term financial prospects which had first been outlined in a report to Cabinet in February 2013. It was explained that these needed to be set in the context of the current strategy and savings plan, and the current financial position; both of which were covered in the report to Members.

The report also set out the proposed approach to the development of a long term financial strategy, progress with the budget strategy for 2014/15, and the financial position in the year just ended and the initial forecast for the current year. Whilst accepting that any forecasts that run to the end of the current decade were open to change, the need for the development of a strategy was clear. The report set out the proposed approach to doing so.

Reasons for the decision:

It is essential that the Council's financial strategy takes due account of Government plans, and any other material factors where these are likely to

have an impact on the Council's financial position. This report provides an update to Cabinet on a range of Government announcements that impact on the Council's funding for coming years, which are particularly relevant to the budget setting process, as well as further information on both the previous and current financial years.

Other options considered:

None. The Constitution requires this as a step towards setting the Council's budget.

Cabinet:

1. **Noted the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review and associated announcements on the Council's financial position.**
2. **Noted the final outturn position for 2012/13 and the initial forecast for 2013/14.**
3. **Agreed that a detailed long term financial strategy, covering the period from 2015/16 to 2018/19, should be presented for consideration by Cabinet by August 2014, taking into account the announcement of the Local Government Finance Settlement, which is not expected until after Christmas.**
4. **Instructed officers to prepare a range of proposals to deliver a stable financial position over that four year period as part of the budget strategy for consideration at that meeting.**
5. **Approved and recommended to Council the adoption of the revenue budget strategy statement set out in Appendix A of the report.**
6. **Noted that options were being assessed for potential Pension Fund investments and this would be brought back to Cabinet at a future meeting.**
7. **Approved the principle of the 2014/15 schools' maintenance programme, as set out in Appendix C of the report, being funded up to the level of grant funding, ie £2.9m, and delegated to the Lead Member for Children & Learning authority to approve any additional schemes should further funding become available.**
8. **Agreed to allocate Havering's allocation of £422,197 for the Early Education Entitlement (EEE) for 2 Year Olds to fund works as set out in paragraph 7.6 of the report, and to delegate to the Lead Member for Children & Learning authority to approve individual schemes.**

79 **APPROPRIATION AND DISPOSAL OF OPEN SPACE NOTICES-
VARIOUS SMALL SITES**

Councillor Roger Ramsey, Cabinet Member for Value, introduced the report

The report before Members explained that approval had been given to the disposal of the freehold interest in a number of small sites currently owned by the Council.

In connection with these disposals, a decision had been taken to formally advertise the proposed disposal of any open space and the appropriation of the disposal site for planning purposes. The statutory process governing these activities required the proposal to be publicly advertised and for any objections to be considered.

This report described the background to the proposals, set out the responses received to the relevant public notices and provided an analysis of these responses for consideration by Members.

The Cabinet Member announced that the sites at Heaton Avenue, Harlow Gardens and Dorking Walk had been assessed as being of low quality and low value in a report on open spaces produced for the Council. The Cabinet Member emphasised that despite the written objections which had been given due consideration, the opportunity to obtain a capital receipt and to provide new homes for the borough was the preferred approach and that appropriation and disposal should proceed.

The two remaining sites, at Tiverton Grove and Tavistock Close, were also both agreed for disposal. The Cabinet Member announced however that after reflecting on the circumstances in each case, a different approach was preferred.

With regards to Tiverton Grove, it was accepted that the setting, size and relativity of the land as a large open space directly overlooked by adjoining houses did give a value that, in retrospect, had not been fully reflected in earlier considerations. Cabinet was therefore asked to decide whether the land should be retained in its existing use.

With regard to Tavistock Close, representations had been received that the land was valued as a recreational area. Also, there were development proposals to create a new restaurant on the site of the adjoining Plough Public House that might affect the nature of this site. Furthermore, staff had suggested that air quality assessments should be concluded on the site together with a review of any other development issues before a decision was reached.

Reasons for the decision:

The decision was required as a result of the statutory process involved in dealing with the proposed disposal and appropriation of land for planning purposes.

Other options considered:

Having placed the notices it was necessary for the Council to formally consider the response received. As the report only concerns the consideration of these responses no other options were available.

Cabinet, having considered the responses made to the public notices in respect of the sites listed below in connection with the proposed disposal and appropriation of land for planning purposes, gave approval to proceed as follows:-

- a) **To confirm the disposal of the following sites (authorisation for disposal in principle having been provided in a Lead Member Decision dated 9 July 2012) under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972. Plans of the sites were attached as Appendix 3 to this report.**

- i. Dorking Road
 - ii. Harlow Gardens
 - iii. Heaton Avenue
- b) To confirm the appropriation of the following sites as shown in a Lead Member Decision dated 9 July 2012 to planning purposes.
 - i. Dorking Road
 - ii. Harlow Gardens
 - iii. Heaton Avenue
- c) To not confirm the appropriation or disposal of the following site having regard to representations received and following further consideration of the proposal.
 - i. Tiverton Grove
- d) To defer a decision on the disposal and appropriation of the following site until further consideration by Members at a later date.
 - i. Tavistock Close

80 **APPROVAL TO ACCESS ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUNDING THROUGH THE GREEN DEAL & ENERGY COMPANY OBLIGATION (ECO) VIA A GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY (GLA) FRAMEWORK**

Councillor Lesley Kelly, Cabinet Member for Housing & Public Protection, introduced the report

The report sought permission for the Council to take part in a Greater London Authority (GLA) procurement framework to select a preferred provider for accessing funding from the national Green Deal scheme and the ECO strand of the Green Deal, which was targeted at low income households.

The report recommended that the Council access this funding through a preferred provider because of the likelihood that, through the Energy Companies' Obligations within the Green Deal, a significant amount of funding could be brought into Havering, potentially as much as £1.89million over two years, depending on take up.

It was noted that the GLA had already set up the framework, therefore there would be no costs to the Council in setting up its own framework if it joined the GLA framework. It would also allow the Council to partner with other London boroughs in accessing funding.

If the council was successful in securing funding through the framework for its social housing stock, this could also free up earmarked funds to be re-directed to other properties in need of improvement work.

Reasons for the decision:

Procuring services to access funding and deliver household energy efficiency measures is necessary to enable the Council to:

- Address fuel poverty in Havering,
- Assist residents most vulnerable to energy price increases,
- Reduce excess winter deaths and the need for higher levels of social care and health services during winter,
- Improve the quality of housing in Havering,
- Enable older residents to maintain independent living, by ensuring their home environments have adequate heating and insulation, a priority identified in the Havering Health and Well-being Strategy 2012-14,
- Redirect allocated resource in the Homes and Housing capital (Decent Homes) and maintenance budgets, which will allow further works to be delivered.

Using the GLA RE:NEW framework to procure these services is the most cost-effective and efficient mechanism to compare offers by a range of providers and will enable the Council to secure the best offers to deliver a range of measures across housing tenures for the benefit all Havering residents.

Other options considered:

The other options that have been considered are:

- To tender for the works independently:

This option has been considered but discounted, as it is deemed to be unnecessarily resource intensive. The GLA has procured a Framework Panel of organisations under their RE:NEW project which allows London boroughs to procure for similar services. Some London local authorities will be using the GLA framework, while others may choose to undertake their own tendering exercises. However, the existing GLA framework provides the flexibility in delivering schemes that Havering requires, without the need to undergo a full tender process. Officers are satisfied with the range of contractors on the GLA framework and that it meets procurement rules for Havering.

Using the GLA Framework will enable Havering to procure the services required while requiring less Council staff time and expertise if we were to tender directly. It will enable us to undertake fair comparison amongst a range of providers to determine best value for money, and to procure a larger package of services in order to get better funding offers rather than through quotes for individual projects.

- To not seek to attract external funding:

Green Deal and ECO funding are required to meet the priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan, the Council's Fuel Poverty Strategy, the Climate Change Action Plan, the Housing Strategy, Private Sector Housing Strategy and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The government's Home Energy Conservation Act (1995) requires Councils to report annually on the actions undertaken to promote Green Deal and access ECO in their local authority areas. Without ECO and Green Deal schemes, we would not be able to achieve our objectives to tackle fuel poverty and assist our vulnerable, typically older, residents who may be struggling to adequately heat their homes. This

will lead to related social and health impacts for vulnerable residents in winter, resulting in greater pressure on health services and adult social care support for vulnerable residents.

To not seek funding would also ignore opportunities to attract possibly significant funding for the Housing Revenue Account Capital Budget.

Cabinet AGREED:

- 1. That the Council enter into an Access Agreement with the GLA as required by the GLA RE:NEW Framework Agreement**
- 2. That the Council commence a mini-competition under and in accordance with the terms of the GLA RE:NEW Framework Agreement to select delivery partners that will access external funding and deliver energy efficiency measures under Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation, and provide energy saving support for Havering residents to approximately 550 Council properties and 900 private residential properties.**
- 3. To delegate authority for approval of individual ECO and/or Green Deal schemes stemming from this process to the Group Director of Children, Adults and Housing.**

81 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

Councillor Michael White, Leader of the Council, introduced the report.

It was explained that the purpose of the Annual Report 2011/12 was to provide information to the public, partners and staff on the Council's performance and progress towards achieving the Living Ambition goals and objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2011-14. It was also an opportunity to promote the Council's key projects and achievements in 2012-13.

The Annual Report had a similar structure to the Corporate Plan, with a chapter on each corporate goal and a list of performance indicators at the end. Each chapter lists the key achievements in that area, followed by case studies on a particular project/achievement. Where a performance indicator was relevant, it had also been included in this section (as well as listed at the end of the document).

It was noted that the Annual Report was available as an electronic resource from the Council's website.

Reasons for the decision:

To give Cabinet Members the opportunity to receive and review the draft Annual Report 2012/13 and to approve its publication on the Council's website.

The report also provides assurance that the Council is delivering the Corporate Plan, and reaffirms the Council's goals and objectives.

Other options considered:

N/A

Cabinet approved the Annual Report 2012/13 for publication on the Council's website, under the Living Ambition page.

82 QUARTER 1 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013/14

Councillor Michael White, Leader of the Council, introduced the report.

The report before Member set out the performance of the Council's Corporate Performance Indicators for the first quarter (April-June 2013), against the five Living Ambition Goals of the Corporate Plan:

- Environment
- Learning
- Towns and Communities
- Individuals
- Value

Of the 61 Corporate Performance Indicators, 47 were measured quarterly. The remaining indicators were collected on an annual or bi-annual basis only.

The report identified where the Council was performing well and not so well and highlighted what action the Council was taking to address poor performance where appropriate.

Appended to the report was a chart which detailed each of the 68 Corporate Performance Indicators. Officers provided responses to queries raised by Members in respect of some of the performance indicators.

Reasons for the decision:

To provide Cabinet Members with a quarterly update on the Council's performance against the Corporate Performance Indicators.

Other options considered:

N/A

Cabinet AGREED to note the contents of the report.

83 CIVIC PRIDE MEMBER PROJECT

Councillor Robert Benham, Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment, introduced the report

At the beginning of this term, ten Strategic Administration Projects were established to help deliver services more effectively and in new ways. The Projects were each to be driven by a Member of the Cabinet, working with a select team of officers, representing a diverse variety of disciplines within the Council.

The projects were:

Council Effectiveness

Neighbourhood Responsibility

**Think Family
Open Government
Community Action
Harold Hill Ambitions**

**Civic Pride
Future Financing
Rainham Compass
Romford Regeneration**

In the last year of this Administration, each Project will be reporting back to Cabinet, to note the achievements attained and the progress made.

The **Civic Pride** project has now been completed.

The project:

- **Supported and encouraged local celebration to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen** including the staging of public events and the facilitation of nearly 100 street parties in Havering.
- **Saw the introduction of a Visitor Centre** to capitalise on interest in East London during the Olympics, which is now being used to promote the Borough and its attractions to visitors and residents alike
- **Celebrated our armed forces** through popular annual parades and the award and exercising of Freedom of the Borough for the Royal Anglian Regiment.
- **Brought people together**, at a range of successful public events and oversaw the growth of the Havering Show as a free event attended by 50,000 people

Reasons for the decision:

This report is being brought to Cabinet to provide Members with an overview of what the Civic Pride Member project delivered between 2011 and 2013.

Other options considered:

N/A

Cabinet noted the outcomes delivered by the Civic Pride project.

Chairman

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CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE

Under the Police and Justice Act 2006, s. 19, Cabinet is required to consider and respond to a report of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee within two months of its agreement by that Committee. In this case, Cabinet is required to do this by (25/9/2013) at the latest. Cabinet is also required to give reasons for its decisions in relating to the report, particularly in instances where it decides not to adopt one or more of the recommendations contained within the report.

<p style="text-align: center;">REPORT OF THE CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOPIC GROUP</p>

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting on 8 May 2012, the Crime & Disorder Committee agreed to establish a topic group to
- review the level of services delivered locally in respect of the effects of Domestic Violence on Young People and Children both as victims, witnesses and/or perpetrators;
 - look at what steps the Community Safety Partnership were taking to tackle the problem in the future;
 - identify good practice in other boroughs; and
 - make recommendations to the administration on areas which could be improved, if appropriate.
- 1.2 All members of the Committee indicated a desire to serve on the Topic Group. These were: Councillors Osman Dervish (Chairman); John Wood (Vice-Chairman); Becky Bennett; Denis Breading; David Durant; Roger Evans; Georgina Galpin; Frederick Osborne and Linda Van den Hende.
- 1.3 The topic group met on four occasions including two visits. The first visit was to the Annual General Meeting of Havering Women's Aid, the second to look at the work of the Partnership Triage in Hackney.

2.0 SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

- 2.1 The Topic Group decided to look at:
- how effectively services were co-ordinated to meet the needs of children and vulnerable adults who were living with Domestic Violence;
 - what specific interventions were available;
 - the impact of current policies and procedures including reporting and detection of Domestic Violence; and
 - whether anything could be learnt from other borough's approaches to Domestic Violence.
- 2.2 This report sets out the findings of the topic group review.

3.0 How effectively services were co-ordinated to meet the needs of children and vulnerable adults who were living with Domestic Violence.

Housing Services

- 3.1 The victims of Domestic Violence are dealt with by Housing under the statutory Homelessness provisions. In 2011/12, 38 households were accepted as homeless because of violent relationship breakdown.
- 3.2 Individual Domestic Violence cases are dealt with in different ways, depending on whether victims own their own property, live in private rented accommodation or live in social housing.
- 3.3 If a person does not live in social housing and fears they could become the victim of Domestic Violence they can approach the Homelessness and Housing Advice Service. If staff feel there is a risk of violence the potential victim will be removed to a place of safety, which would normally be a place in a refuge. Once a place of safety has been found the victim has a choice as to whether to continue with the application to the Council or make an application to another authority.
- 3.4 The Council can only secure accommodation within the borough, therefore, an approach to another authority was sometimes in the best interests of an applicant in cases where there was a risk of further violence if resident in the borough.
- 3.5 If that local authority is satisfied that an applicant is eligible, homeless and in priority need they will then look to see if the applicant has a local connection with them. A local connection could be established by

residence in the borough, immediate family residing in the borough or by employment in the borough, for example.

- 3.6 If the local authority were satisfied that an applicant was eligible, homeless and has a local connection they would be offered on-going accommodation. This would ordinarily be a private sector property leased by that Council.
- 3.7 The topic group found that where the person fleeing violence is a secure tenant of Havering Council, the authority will always attempt to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by losing their tenancy. This would normally be done by arranging a management transfer to another property as long as that is a safe option for the tenant.
- 3.8 Under the New Allocations Scheme which came into effect in April 2013 the victim would not need to participate in the Choice Based Lettings Scheme and instead the case would be deemed an emergency requiring an assisted, direct offer of accommodation.

School Admissions

- 3.9 The topic group also looked at the issues of re-housing domestic violence victims and access to school places, which was a key issue for many victims. When a woman and child(ren) were placed in a Woman's Refuge in Havering they sometimes needed to apply for a place at a school using the Local Authority's In-Year Common Application Form. Members found that staff at the Refuges were familiar with this process and were able to provide good assistance to mothers in going through this process.
- 3.10 If a place was available at the requested school this was granted. However, if a primary school place was required it could well be that no place was available within a reasonable travelling distance. In those circumstances the request would be considered by the Fair Access Panel who would take into account exceptional social circumstances. Given the shortage of places at reception age and in the primary sector generally this was likely to be a common occurrence.

Conclusion

- 3.11 The topic group was satisfied that the co-ordination of Council services to meet the needs of Domestic Violence victims was working well. Members questioned whether anything further could be done to improve the linkages between Housing Services and School Admissions, in terms of Housing Services checking if suitable school places were available in reasonable proximity to accommodation being offered to victims of Domestic Violence.

4.0 What specific interventions were available?

Havering Women's Aid

- 4.1 Havering Women's Aid provide refuges for the victims of Domestic Violence nationally, and they run two refuges, one in Romford and the other in Hornchurch.
- 4.2 The Council currently has commissioning arrangements in place with Havering Women's Aid, this includes almost £300k from Social Care and Learning to support both Domestic Violence schemes and provide a floating support service. In addition Community Safety provides a further £15k, including £4k for a Domestic Violence Support Group and £11k for the Domestic Violence advocacy project. The Community Safety team also apply for additional funding throughout the year to provide Domestic Violence awareness raising and other support services.

Family Mosaic

- 4.3 Family Mosaic are a Housing Association who provide care and support to families in need. They provide a floating support system to provide support where it was needed. They work closely with, and are commissioned by, the Council.
- 4.4 A key area of support was the provision of money for a rent guarantee scheme to help victims of domestic violence find suitable accommodation.
- 4.5 Family Mosaic help find out-of-borough accommodation and have a good relationship with Housing Benefits. They worked closely with the Police, and both Adult and Children's services. The £40,000 they have available for the rent deposit scheme helped up to 100 families a year. They received around 20 referrals a week.

5.0 The Impact of current policies and procedures including reporting and detection of Domestic Violence.

Troubled Families

- 5.1 The Council had begun, in May 2011, to identify and work with high need, high contact families, across all agencies. Approximately 350 individuals had been identified at risk from Domestic Violence (DV).

5.2 The Troubled Families Team had adopted the following approach when dealing with DV:

- Lead professionals allocated to DV families;
- A team approach to working with the family;
- Specialist DV support and capacity in front line teams;
- Introduced SMART Plans and Common Assessment Framework
- Young male Adolescent Perpetrators are put in Anger Management courses, although the topic group noted that places are limited.

6.0 Lessons to be learnt from elsewhere.

Partnership Triage

6.1 The Chairman and officers visited Hackney on the 6th March to look at how their Partnership Triage Scheme worked and see if there were any lessons Havering could learn from this model. The model had been introduced 2 years ago because there had been a lack of coordinated response to Police Merlin referral reports in Hackney.

6.2 During the past year, the Partnership Triage's role had been broadened to take more than police referrals. Referrals were now accepted from schools, Health Visitors, School Nurses, Children's Centres and Parenting Service. Partnership Triage dealt with more than just Domestic Violence, it also worked with missing children and Children Missing Education. Much of the work undertaken by the Partnership Triage was similar to the MASH arrangements in Havering.

6.3 In a typical month approximately 4% of case referrals to partnership Triage were Domestic Violence cases and a further 4% Domestic Dispute. Members noted that approximately 30% of cases referred related to male/parents as victims of domestic violence.

6.4 Partnership Triage had developed a strong relationship with Health, and a representative from Health worked in Triage. They also had a good working relationship with Homerton Hospital (maternity unit) and school nurses. Links with housing services were not working as well in Hackney as they do in Havering.

Conclusion

6.5 Although the Partnership Triage approach was innovative, given the Council's work on the Multi Agency Sharing Hub, there did not appear to be much for the Council to learn from this approach and indeed in terms of the breadth of Havering's MASH, we are leading the way in this area. Members noted however that some innovative work had taken place in Hackney with young people which could be replicated

elsewhere. In Havering, we already commission engagement work with young people in schools to help increase awareness of domestic violence.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To recommend the Lead Member with responsibility for Housing and Public Protection to review, possibly in 12-18 months time, how the new Allocations Scheme is supporting victims of Domestic Violence;

7.2 To recommend the Lead Members for Housing and Public Protection and Children and Learning to ensure that wherever possible school placements are taken into account before an alternative housing offer is made

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During the course of its review, the topic group met and held discussions with the following people:

Vicki Nicholson – Havering Women’s Aid
Sarah Thomas – Troubled Families
Neil Keylock – Manager, Additional Education Needs Service
Alexander Szantal – Housing Options Manager
Jonathan Geall – Housing and Public Protection
James and Kelly – Family Mosaic
Jeanne and Katherine – Hackney Partnership Triage

The following comments are submitted by members of staff:

Financial implications and risks:

The recommendations have no specific financial implications.

The level of services provided in the borough impact services across a range of Council services, as highlighted in the report. Resource implications are managed from within existing budgets.

Legal implications and risks:

No implications or risks identified

Human Resources implications and risks:

Cabinet, 25 September 2013

No implications or risks identified

Staff Contact: **James Goodwin**
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