

## **ASSEMBLY**

Wednesday, 4 January 2006  
(7:00 - 8:00 pm)

### **PRESENT**

Councillor J Davis (Chair)  
Councillor W F L Barns (Deputy Chair)

Councillor A Agrawal	Councillor J L Alexander
Councillor Ms M G Baker	Councillor G J Bramley
Councillor Mrs J E Bruce	Councillor Mrs D Challis
Councillor L A Collins	Councillor Mrs J Conyard
Councillor B Cook	Councillor R J Curtis
Councillor W C Dale	Councillor J R Denyer
Councillor C J Fairbrass	Councillor M A R Fani
Councillor A Gibbs	Councillor D Hemmett
Councillor Mrs D Hunt	Councillor I S Jamu
Councillor T J Justice	Councillor S Kallar
Councillor R C Little	Councillor M A McCarthy
Councillor D S Miles	Councillor W Northover
Councillor D O'Brien	Councillor B M Osborn
Councillor Mrs C T Osborn	Councillor R B Parkin
Councillor J W Porter	Councillor Mrs V M Rush
Councillor L A Smith	Councillor T G W Wade
Councillor L R Waker	Councillor P Waker
Councillor Mrs M M West	

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Mrs E E Bradley	Councillor Mrs J Blake
Councillor A C Clark	Councillor H J Collins
Councillor Mrs K J Flint	Councillor M E McKenzie
Councillor Mrs J E Rawlinson	Councillor A G Thomas
Councillor Mrs P A Twomey	

#### **78. Minutes (7 December 2005)**

**Agreed.**

#### **79. Local Issue - 2004 / 2005 Joint Audit and Inspection Letter**

Received a presentation of the 2004 / 2005 Joint Audit and Inspection Letter from Janet Dawson and Hywel Pullen of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC).

Due to illness Janette Whitfield from the Audit Commission was unable to attend, and the Chair asked that she be invited to a future Assembly meeting in order to present the inspection part of the audit letter.

PWC identified the challenging agenda the Council faces particularly in regard to the pace of improvements being made, and highlighted several key points including the level of Council reserves and its Medium Term Financial Strategy, the progress made by the Authority in the area of Risk Management, and the Authority's effective use of the Oracle system.

Members of the Council asked questions covering the following areas:

- the role of Councillors in providing challenge to the efficiency and value for money agenda;
- the Council making appropriate progress in its ambition to achieve the equivalent of 'Good' under CPA by 2006 and 'Excellent' by 2008;
- the role of residents in the auditor's assessment; and
- the level of detail in the Audit report;

## **80. Customer Services Report**

Received a presentation by Nina Clark, Head of Democratic Support, Corporate Strategy Department, on Customer Care in the Democratic Support Division.

## **81. Report of the Executive**

### **Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (Nuisance / High Hedges) - New Charges and Change to the Constitution**

**Agreed** the inclusion in Section N, Part C (Scheme of Delegation) of the Council's Constitution of delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and Environment to deal with all necessary procedures relating to Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (Nuisance / High Hedges); and

### **Council Tax Base 2006/07**

#### **Agreed:**

1. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, that the amount calculated by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham as its Tax Base for the year 2006/07 shall be 50,648.40 Band D properties;
2. That the discounts for second homes or long term empty properties are not reduced for 2006/07; and
3. That locally determined discounts should not be awarded for 2006 / 2007.