

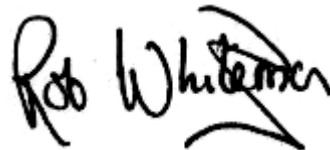
Notice of Meeting

ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 3 September 2008 - 7:00 pm
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Barking

To: Members of the Council of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Chair: Councillor R Gill
Deputy-Chair: Councillor W F L Barns



R. A. Whiteman
Chief Executive

26.08.08

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AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declaration of Members' Interests**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in any matter which is to be considered at this meeting.
3. **Minutes - To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2008 (Pages 1 - 12)**
4. **Tribute to the late former Councillor Mr Stan Sivell (Page 13)**
5. **Petition regarding crossing outside Westbury School, Gascoigne Ward (Pages 15 - 17)**

6. Annual Report of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum 2007/08 (Pages 19 - 21)

Members of the Youth Forum will attend to present the report.

7. Joint Audit and Inspection Letter 2006/07 (Pages 23 - 37)

Jon Hayes, Relationship Manager, Audit Commission, will attend to present the Joint Audit and Inspection Letter to the Assembly.

8. Neighbourhood Management Presentation: 'Bringing Communities Together'

The presentation will be given by Heather Wills, Head of Community Services Libraries and Heritage.

9. Deputy Monitoring Officers (Pages 39 - 40)

10. Appointment of Parent Governor (Secondary) Co-opted Member to the Scrutiny Management Board (Page 41)

11. Appointments

12. Motions (Pages 43 - 46)

13. Leader's Question Time

14. General Question Time

15. Any other public items which the Chair decides are urgent

16. To consider whether it would be appropriate to pass a resolution to exclude the public and press from the remainder of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted.

Private Business

The public and press have a legal right to attend Council meetings such as the Assembly, except where business is confidential or certain other sensitive information is to be discussed. The list below shows why items are in the private part of the agenda, with reference to the relevant legislation (the relevant paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended). There are no such items at the time of preparing this agenda.

17. Any confidential or exempt items which the Chair decides are urgent

ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 23 July 2008
(7:00 - 9:08 pm)

PRESENT

Councillor R Gill (Chair)
Councillor W F L Barns (Deputy Chair)

Councillor A Agrawal	Councillor J L Alexander
Councillor R W Bailey	Councillor G J Bramley
Councillor S Carroll	Councillor H J Collins
Councillor N Connelly	Councillor J R Denyer
Councillor Miss C L Doncaster	Councillor R W Doncaster
Councillor Mrs S A Doncaster	Councillor C J Fairbrass MBE
Councillor M A R Fani	Councillor N S S Gill
Councillor D Hemmett	Councillor Mrs D Hunt
Councillor I S Jamu	Councillor T J Justice
Councillor Mrs C A Knight	Councillor Miss T A Lansdown
Councillor R C Little	Councillor M A McCarthy
Councillor J E McDermott	Councillor M E McKenzie
Councillor Mrs P A Northover	Councillor W W Northover
Councillor E O Obasohan	Councillor B Poulton
Councillor Mrs J E Rawlinson	Councillor Mrs L A Reason
Councillor Mrs V Rush	Councillor L Rustem
Councillor Miss N E Smith	Councillor J Steed
Councillor D A Tuffs	Councillor Mrs P A Twomey
Councillor G M Vincent	Councillor L R Waker
Councillor P T Waker	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor R J Barnbrook	Councillor R J Buckley
Councillor Ms E Carpenter	Councillor J Davis
Councillor Mrs K J Flint	Councillor J K Jarvis
Councillor S Kallar MBE	Councillor L A Smith
Councillor Mrs M M West	Councillor J R White

21. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest

22. Minutes (25 June 2008)

Agreed, subject to the inclusion of Councillor R Gill's apologies.

23. Congratulations to Councillor Charles Fairbrass MBE

On behalf of the Assembly the Chief Executive congratulated Councillor Fairbrass on being awarded the MBE. The Chief Executive highlighted that Councillor Fairbrass had

lived in the Borough all his life and that the honour was in recognition of his service to the local community as a Member of the Council for the past 37 years.

24. Petition: Proposed Traffic Scheme for East Road/Geneva Gardens, Chadwell Heath

Received a report on the actions taken in response to a consultation on the possible introduction of one way roads and a 20mph zone in the Geneva Gardens area to reduce unnecessary through traffic, and the receipt of a petition.

The consultation and petition showed a majority of residents supported the 20mph zone with traffic speed reduction measures, but rejected the one way restrictions. Pinch points/width restrictions were also supported by residents but were rejected following representations from the Emergency Services.

Noted that a 20mph zone has been implemented, together with speed tables at Morley Road junctions with Geneva Gardens and Pemberton Gardens and other safety improvements.

25. Petition: Dog Fouling in the Local Area and Outside Local Schools - Becontree, Parsloes and Valence Wards

The lead petitioner presented the terms of a petition for action to be taken because of the high level of dog fouling problems in the Becontree, Parsloes and Valence Wards and, in particular, close to Valence Primary School.

Petitioners sought the following action to be taken by the Council:

- Installation of dog bins;
- Large anti-dog fouling warning signs placed where they could be easily read;
- Street cleansing staff to be provided with equipment to remove dog faeces;
- Arrange for Street Wardens to patrol and monitor affected locations; and
- The sale of poop-scoop bags in libraries and shops.

Darren Henaghan, Head of Environmental and Enforcement Services, reported that in addition to the proposals put forward by the petitioners, the Council would improve response time to requests for the cleansing of dog fouling from streets and Street Wardens would visit local schools and other venues to provide advisory presentations to promote responsible dog ownership. The area will also continue to be monitored.

Councillor McKenzie, Lead Member for Street Scene and Sustainability, stated that dog fouling was a serious problem all over the country, mainly due to irresponsible dog owners. Measures to address the problem were being taken across the Borough for the benefit of all residents and it was noted that arising from recent street warden patrols, two individuals had been stopped for not immediately clearing up their dog faeces. One cleared up the faeces at the time but the other refused and was subsequently fined £75.

Mr. Henaghan confirmed that the Street Cleansing Department had a range of specialist equipment available designed to remove faeces and it was suggested that local schools should be contacted to participate in a poster competition, which had previously proved successful in getting other important messages across to the public.

26. Petition: Parking, Traffic and Highway Improvements Around Great Cullings, Rush Green

The lead petitioners set out the terms of the petition to change parking restrictions and direction of priority traffic into a one-way operation, together with reduced vehicular speed and general highway improvements including regulated parking in the Great Cullings area.

It was considered by residents that the proposed changes would be safer for all, but especially children and the elderly. The area is not a cut through and, although there were previously high incidents of dumped cars being set alight on the open green fields between Great Cullings and Gorseway, since the establishment of the new estate, Parish Field, this had declined and emergency vehicles do not now have to access the estate on a regular basis.

Jeremy Grint, Head of Spatial Regeneration, reported that the emergency services had been contacted, but a response was still awaited. Mr. Grint emphasised the need for clarity from the Emergency Services before consideration of proposals. Councillor McCarthy asked that comment also be sought from the Environmental and Enforcement Services in respect of waste collection vehicle access.

The lead petitioners emphasised that the garage area had recently been made secure and all residents had been supplied with keys. For this reason there was no need for open access to the open play area at the rear. They also added that residents would like the pavements replaced with red tarmac and marked parking bays, as the paving slabs were very badly broken and dangerous.

Councillor McKenzie, Lead Member for Street Scene and Sustainability, stated that a meeting with residents, ward councillors and the Emergency Services would be set up to consider the terms of the petition as soon as possible.

27. Petition: Closure of Thameside Park City Farm, Thames View, Barking

The lead petitioners set out the terms of the petition requesting that the Council save the City Farm on the periphery of Thames View estate which has been closed for 18 months.

Lead Petitioner, Miss Jarrett, outlined plans for the day-to-day management and running of the farm by volunteers and stated that one of the key projects would be to establish after-school clubs for 8 to 16 year olds. Miss Jarrett confirmed that a detailed business case had been prepared and would be circulated to Councillors after the meeting.

Philip Baldwin, Group Manager, Community Development, reported that the Farm had been a success for many years, but from 2000 it run into financial difficulties, even though it had been supported by the Council with grants, the last one being £35,000 in 2006.

It was confirmed that the farm could not be re-designated and a brand new ecology centre was being planned that would offer a wider range of activity than those offered by the re-opening of the farm.

Mr. Baldwin stated a number of City Farms had been re-branded as ecology centres and the Council would work with the petitioners and local residents to establish what the new centre would offer.

Councillor McCarthy, Lead Member for Regeneration, reported the success of another project in the Borough where Barking Riverside Limited was consulting with local residents and ward councillors to develop a community space on a parcel of their land. Councillor Mrs. Rush, Lead Member for Communities, welcomed Councillor McCarthy's input and encouraged ward councillors to be involved in the Council's Regeneration consultation.

28. Joint Audit and Inspection Letter 2006/07

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

29. Neighbourhood Management Presentation: Improving Health in Barking and Dagenham

Received a presentation from Matthew Cole, Joint Director of Health Improvement on health inequalities across the Borough.

Mr Cole advised that the Council and the Barking and Dagenham NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT) are working closely together to improve the overall health and well being of residents in the Borough and target areas have also been identified according to overall health and well-being as measured by levels of deprivation and condition specific, for example, cancer mortality levels. He referred in particular to the Well London project, a lottery funded three-year programme to improve physical and mental well-being, and the Healthy Communities Collaborative, an initial two-year project in conjunction with the Health Improvement Foundation.

Arising from the presentation, Members raised a number of issues relating to the health problems in the Borough and the possible contributory factors. Matthew Cole reported on the steps that have been and are being taken to improve the health of the local community and undertook to provide additional details to Members where relevant. Mr Cole also referred to the role of the Local Strategic Partnership in delivering the improvement programme and it was also noted that the Council and the PCT had successfully lobbied for an additional £20m funding which will have a significant impact on healthcare provision in the Borough.

30. Gascoigne Project DVD

Glynis Rogers, Head of Community Safety and Preventive Services, reported on the 'Gascoigne Project' which was successful in the Safer London Problem Solving Awards 2008 for the crime reduction work carried out in partnership with the Metropolitan Police in the Gascoigne ward.

Councillor Rush, Lead Member for Communities, commended the work of all those involved which helped to secure the award. The initiative saw a 70% reduction in burglaries in the ward and it was noted that the work on the Gascoigne estate was just one example of the crime reduction initiatives being implemented by the Council and Police across the whole Borough. Youth crime, and in particular knife crime, is a key

focus this year and a number of initiatives are planned which will include considerable investment in the Borough parks, and particularly Barking Park, to provide children and young people with activities to focus on.

On the specific issue of knife crime, Councillor Rush pointed out that the Council is very concerned by the levels being experienced across London and felt that while the Council and Police take their roles and responsibilities very seriously the laws restricting access of knives to young persons below the age of 18 were undermined by the 'due diligence' legal loophole, which can allow retailers to avoid prosecution. In response to this Councillor Rush moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Councillor Fairbrass:

"This Council calls on the Government to change the law to close the defence loophole of 'due diligence' ensuring that retailers take every possible step to prevent sales of knives to young persons".

The resolution was **agreed**.

31. Annual Review of Council Constitution

Received a report from the Corporate Director of Resources on proposed changes to the Council's Constitution. The detailed schedule of amendments had been circulated separately to Members and some Members expressed their concern at the limited time available to study the changes having received the schedule of amendments only 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Agreed the amendments to the Council's Constitution as detailed in the schedule, to be effective from 28 July 2008.

32. Leader's Question Time

Question from Councillor Bailey

"A report by the Commons Communities and Local Government Committee has pointed out that Community Cohesion in Barking and Dagenham is in meltdown. Cohesion is measured by how many people believe those from different backgrounds get along.

The report paints a black picture. It blames Labour's policy of mass uncontrolled immigration for ruining community relations and creating 'significant public anxiety'. In Barking and Dagenham we know our infrastructure is at breaking point with schools forced to take on migrant children, displacing some local pupils from their local schools, ever increasing class sizes, and teachers forced to spend more time with children who do not speak English. We have escalating accommodation costs, virtually no council housing, overcrowding, and increasing homelessness. The Councillors may not have missed the people living in the bushes at the back of the Queen Victoria pub not a stone's throw from here.

The Labour Party looks everywhere for blame. First of all it blames flawed data and then it calls those who raise the issues associated mass uncontrolled immigration racists or xenophobes. Well the report by the Commons Communities and Local Government Committee says you cannot do this anymore. You cannot brow beat people into silence. There is public anxiety about the situation. The Local Government

Association has asked for an emergency grant of £250 million to deal with the problems associated with uncontrolled mass immigration.

In Barking and Dagenham Labour's immigration policy has resulted in an increase in the African population since 2001 of 73%. Most coming from Nigeria. The Bangladeshi Muslim population in the borough has increased by 171%. Who knows how many people are here from the EU states. Nobody knows. Conservative estimates point out that the white population of Barking and Dagenham has at the same-time dropped to less than 70% of the total population. Immigrants will make up the majority of the population growth in Barking and Dagenham which is expected to rise to 225,000 by 2024. This is totally unsustainable and insane.

I would like to ask the Leader have we asked central government for extra funds to cope with our own immigrant population crisis, and how much did we ask for, and I also want to hear from the leader what he will be doing to relieve the crisis that is affecting our schools, hospitals, housing, roads, and quality of life and what he and his party will be doing to help calm peoples anxieties?"

Response from Councillor Fairbrass:

"Cllr Bailey is very selective in his reading of the report. I draw his attention to page 18, paragraph 35 and which states "...Migrants do not qualify for social housing until they have been in the UK for one year..." and I welcome its interim report findings that there is no evidence to show migrants receive unfair priority access to housing."

I also refer to page 22, paragraph 43. This refers specifically to this Borough "...The concentration of effort and attention on fairness is a response to significant local concerns about the perceived unfair access of migrants to services. On the other hand, elected representatives can also potentially damage community relations. The Committee for Integration and Cohesion expressed concern that local Councillors are able to make inflammatory statements that can negatively affect cohesion without any consequences."

Elsewhere the report refers to myths about £50,000 being offered to migrants to move into the area. This, of course, refers to the BNP and then Cllr Bailey has the gall to ask what I can do to calm people's anxieties. His party to stop publishing lies would be a good start.

With respect to housing the BNP consistently votes against planning permission for home building schemes that have a large proportion of social housing. We are also about to become a pilot for a Local Housing Company that will let us directly provide more homes for local people.

As for schools, I spoke to Children's Services this morning and was assured by those working in our Education Service that there is no crisis in our schools, the results are higher than ever before. The infrastructure is not at breaking point. There is no recruitment problem - people actively want to work in our schools which are increasingly popular and well resourced. Class sizes are within nationally laid down standards. We are proud of our partnership with our schools and will continue our strong track record of support for our Headteachers and staff.

With respect to roads, Councillor Bailey voted against a budget that included £20million for road repairs.

With respect to health, we have successfully lobbied and received more funding for our PCT. We have more modern health facilities and clinics in Barking and Dagenham, one of which is currently being built just outside Barking Town Hall.

On finance we have not made specific bids but as has been mentioned before we are constantly challenging the population figures used by Central Government to calculate our grant. This year we received the highest grant settlement in London to the tune of approx £5 million. “

Supplementary Question from Councillor Bailey

“How many properties are actually allocated to local people?”

Response from Councillor Fairbrass:

Councillor Fairbrass stated that he did not have that detailed information as it was not part of his portfolio, but would give a written response.

Question from Councillor Justice

“With reference to the recently publicised plan to provide free swimming for children and for residents over retirement age; how is this to be funded and can borough tax payers expect a further rise in council tax to so do?”

Response from Councillor Fairbrass:

“The Government’s recent announcement of its offer to Local Authorities to initially introduce free swimming for the over 60’s is welcomed.

Our programme of free swimming for children is funded by our local PCT’s financial support of £1.2m.

The Government will provide a total of £140m to local authorities primarily for over 60s but it will also consider supporting schemes to increase participation in swimming particularly for under 16s – we will be well placed to take full advantage of this funding due to the experience gained through the project funded by the PCT.

So the answer to your question is that there will be no increase in Council Tax to pay for free swimming for the age groups mentioned.”

33. General Question Time

Question from Councillor Reason

“In view of the need to comply with the Council’s anti crime policies and show respect, would the Leader of the Minority Group confirm whether it is the policy of the opposition to agree with the statement made by Nick Eriksen, the BNP’s London organiser and the

second-highest candidate on its list for the Assembly during the London Assembly Elections, who said: "I've never understood why so many men have allowed themselves to be brainwashed by the feminazi myth machine into believing that rape is such a serious crime."

Response from Councillor Bailey

"Thank you Val, I guess you have been trawling the internet as your cyber stalking alter ego Tory Troll. Nick Erickson was in the Tory Party when he started that blog and made those comments all those years back. A bed fellow it would seem as that used to be your party of choice. Nick Erickson was replaced as number two during the election and he is not a member of the party now. Your innuendo and half truth is very much in line with your Party's policy of distraction and deception and pulling the wool over people's eyes. Iraq, Afghanistan, crime, immigration - need I say any more."

Question from Councillor Barns

"What proposed affordable housing developments in the borough have the BNP councillors indicated their support or opposition for?"

Response from Councillor Bailey

"Thank you Councillor Barns. The British National Party is diametrically opposed to the Labour Party's and Conservative Party's present housing policies. The BNP's policy is to stop the selling off of council housing stock. Under a BNP council no more council housing would be sold off. Ex-council housing which comes onto the market could be bought back at a 'fair' price and rented back to local people who can prove that at least one grandparent was born in the borough. A BNP council would put local people first not immigrants. We oppose the building of houses for more immigrants in whatever disguise. The indigenous British birth rate is falling so fast we will be a minority in many London boroughs in the years to come. Building houses for more immigrants and not putting local people first, as Margaret Hodge MP suggested, is causing resentment and harming community cohesion. Labour's current housing policy would have the founding fathers of the Labour Party turning in their graves."

Councillor Barns stated that his question had not been answered.

Question from Councillor Agrawal

"What efficiency savings does the opposition think it can deliver on top of that already being considered by the Council? For example, Councillor Barnbrook could drop one of his four jobs to demonstrate the first efficiency saving".

Response from Councillor Bailey

"Thank you Councillor Agrawal. This Council is bloated, top heavy and money is spent willy nilly. A BNP council would ensure that there are no cuts to essential services but slash spending. A BNP Council will not put up Council Tax year on year.

Savings could be made by scrapping Labour's divisive and racist politically correct pet projects. Do away with the 100 and more groups which foster division and resentment by withdrawing all council funding. At the same time put the staff wasting their time in these areas back to doing proper work.

Translators, translating documents into hundreds of different languages do away with them. If people do not want to speak English they can go back to their country of origin. Whatever colour or shape they are. A BNP council would rightly withdraw all funding for services to recently arrived immigrants who do not work. If people come here to work they should be made to support themselves, not expect handouts from the taxpayers.

A BNP council would aim to employ more local people and bring a lot of out-sourced services in-house. This covers services supplied to the elderly and young alike. The private sector cannot do it cheaper all the time and services will improve over time. This used to be a Labour policy but it has been abandoned because Labour now believes agencies and foreign workers can do the job cheaper.

I am glad the Council adopted the BNP's policy of developing a benefits fraud body to check up on benefit claimants. Previously millions of pounds were lost through sub-letting and individuals claiming for children which either do not exist or do not belong to the claimant. Some of these children are actually not family but domestic servants.

The BNP would also cut executive salaries. We would do away with the Leader's magazine, 'the Citizen' which costs over £600,000 a year and grants to favoured organisations like the Barking Rugby Club. These are just a few examples where money could be saved. When you are in a hole you stop digging. In this case facing a recession we should tighten the Council's collective belt."

Question from Councillor Denyer

"In light of the recent bad publicity concerning the marking of 'SATS' papers could I ask the Portfolio Holder for Education, has this Authority any concerns as to the standard of marking affecting our students and, if so, what steps are being taken to address the problem? Could I also ask, through you, for an update to Assembly on progress achieved to date in improving the educational standards of our youngsters and what plans are in hand to continue to drive up these standards in the coming years?"

Response from Councillor Alexander

"The situation in Barking and Dagenham mirrors the national picture. In common with local authorities across the country we have great concerns about the marking of the SATs papers this year.

For the tests for 11 year olds there are still quite a lot of missing results and at key stage three for 14 year olds only one school has a complete set of test results. On top of this there are some serious concerns about the accuracy of the marking, particularly in English.

Schools are looking very carefully at their returned test papers and are advised

to make full use of the provision for review of marking or appeal. They will not just accept marks which are out of line with their own teacher assessment. Members of the School Improvement Service are helping with the appeals.

The drive to keep improving educational standards is continuing as strongly as ever. Last year examination performance was the best ever in most areas. You will remember our primary schools were some of the fastest improving in the country in the test results at 11 and we had a letter of congratulation from Lord Adonis.

The secondary schools together recorded their best ever results at GCSE for our 16 year olds. At 58% we are now very close to the national average for 5A* - C, which is a tremendous achievement given the starting point 15 years ago – just about at the bottom. The Council has never wavered from its commitment to the children, young people and families of the Borough. Better qualifications are the key to a better future.

The 5A* - C measure with english and maths also improved last year. This is now the key measure at 16 and all schools, supported by their School Improvement Service colleagues, have been really focusing on english and maths this year. This indicator is drawing a lot of national attention and schools and advisory service colleagues have made it a priority this year.

We know that having a good start is vital and that if children can get a strong foundation by the age of seven they are much more likely to do well. The Council has been putting additional resources into education for the youngest children up to the age of seven. This is paying off in the dramatic improvement we are seeing in the Foundation Stage Profile results. This is a national record which shows what five year olds know, understand and can do and how well prepared they are for more formal education.

We are also helping to get better at identifying children who are struggling to get started as readers by the age of six. We are proud to be involved in the 'Every Child a Reader' project which is making a tremendous difference to the lives of some of our previously struggling children. They are taught by trained reading recovery teachers on a one to one basis. The evidence tells us that most catch up and keep up – because they have been helped at an early age by an expert.

So to sum up, whilst we continue to keep driving up performance at 11 and 16 the resources we put into those working with the youngest children are vital in preventing children from failing and keeping them motivated and confident."

Question from Councillor Claire Doncaster

"The Citizen Magazine costs the taxpayer over £600,000 to produce. It is no more than a mouth piece for the Leader of the Council. On nearly every single page there is a picture of the 'Leader' and the colour red which makes me think of Chairman Mao and his little red book. As we move into a depression some say which may be worse than anything we have ever seen is it not time to send a message to the public that we will wage war on waste and practice what we preach and spend the money we would save on this 'pet project' on improving waste disposal and speeding up the delivery of wheelie bins."

Response from Councillor Fairbrass

"The Citizen does not cost over £600,000 to produce. The figures are as follows:

- (i) Design and print £120,744 (12 issues);
- (ii) Distribution of 12 issues £41,500;
- (iii) Large print versions approx £3,000 per year; and
- (iv) There is about £24,000 income from adverts.

As for the stupidity of claiming I appear on almost every page, I have the last six issues with me. One issue has no picture of me, four have the usual photo on my column and one issue has my picture plus one group photo with young people planting a tree in our Peace and Memorial Garden.

A recent survey of readers of the Citizen had the following response:

- 97% find it informative;
- 94% prefer the magazine format;
- 92% say it's good value;
- 87% read all 12 issues;
- 79% read it from cover to cover;
- 72% are happy with the monthly frequency.

The most popular features are:

- What's On listings
- The Citizens Advice Column
- The Leader's page

As for the colour red, the Citizen is in all colours, no particular colour dominates. I suppose we could print it all in black but then your party has a pathological hatred of that colour.

It is always nice to see when someone is concerned about recycling, but I have no intention of recycling the answer that has been given to the BNP on three previous occasions. You can look it up on the Council's website."

Question from Councillor Justice

"Does the borough currently have an awarded contract for weed control of the streets and, if so, how is it monitored?"

Response from Councillor McKenzie

"Yes the borough has a contract with a company called Complete Weed Control who are based in Woodford Green. The contract is set up to be an outcome based contract, this means that the contractor must deliver satisfactory results, so if it rains after he has sprayed he must come back, and do it again.

Our Area Managers monitor the contract performance as well as managing the other environmental services in your area. I realise as a new member you might not understand the way the council works so I will ask the Area Manager to arrange a walkabout in your area so you can see the work that is going on.”

STANLEY SIVELL

Stan Sivell was married to Bella. They had one daughter and three grandchildren.

Stan, a member of the Labour Party, served as a Councillor on Barking Council for many years and was the youngest Mayor in 1962. One claim to fame that he did not like to be remembered for was the official opening of "The Lintons" Housing Estate when he was Mayor, and he was pleased to see its demolition last year. Stan was heavily involved in housing matters and after he retired as a Councillor he became a senior Estate Management Officer with the Council. Stan was also a staunch supporter of the Barking Carnival for many years and was Chair of the Barking Carnival Charities Committee. He was also Chair of the Sports Council whilst on the Council and received the Jack Thomas Award for Services to Voluntary Sport in the Borough.

As a Justice of the Peace, Stan regularly appeared at Barking Magistrates Court until having to retire at the age of 70.

A member of the original steering group for the formation of Barking & District Indoor Bowling Club, Stan became its Secretary in 1971 and subsequently also Company Secretary and President of the Club. As a strong supporter of the Essex Country IBA, he was elected President in 1982 and the following year Competition Secretary, a position he still held on his death. He also served as Liberty Trophy Team Manager for a number of years.

As an outdoor bowler Stan had some success, winning the Essex County BA Pairs on two occasions. He held office as the Group 7, ECBA Chairman and Competition Secretary for a time. He was also President, Chairman and Treasurer of the Barking Borough Bowling Club on a number of occasions.

Stan was a dedicated family man and will be greatly missed by Bella, his wife for 62 years, his family and friends, and not least by his many colleagues and contacts in the world of bowls.

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ASSEMBLY

3 SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

Title: Ripple Road /Movers Lane/Cranborne Road- Petition from residents of the area.	For Information
<p>Summary:</p> <p>A petition with 222 signatures from 189 residences (8 not in Borough) has been received showing support for the implementation of a crossing facility, (such as a zebra or pelican crossing) in Ripple Road outside the Westbury centre.</p> <p>The petition states that it is unsafe to stand on the central island with traffic passing either side and refers to a recent collision involving a mother and child and a car.</p> <p>The letter from the lead petitioner which accompanies the petition also refers to the dangers arising from vehicles performing illegal U turn manoeuvres in Ripple Road around the extended central island.</p> <p>Wards affected :Gascoigne</p>	
<p>Reason(s): To consider the request made by residents, by carrying out a full investigation into road safety, traffic and pedestrian movement aspects and undertaking a feasibility study into the placement of a crossing facility at this site.</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial: If a crossing facility is seen as appropriate and feasible a bid will be submitted through the LIP process for implementation 2010-2011.</p> <p>Legal: No specific implications other than the making of necessary traffic orders.</p> <p>Risk Management: Pedestrian access will be a key issue in determining any scheme to progress. The issue of road safety will be a key consideration in respect of risk management/scheme option selection.</p> <p>Social inclusion and Diversity: There are no specific implications insofar as this report is concerned other than access for disabled people which will be incorporated onto any new scheme.</p> <p>Crime and Disorder: There are no specific implications insofar as this report is concerned.</p>	

Options Appraisal: Scheme options will be developed for consultation with residents.		
Contact Officer: Barbara Cronin	Title: Road Safety Manager	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 3204 Fax: 020 8227 3490 barbara.cronin@lbbd.gov.uk

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 A petition was submitted by Mrs P Fredericks on behalf of local residents to request a safer place to cross Ripple Road (near its junction with Movers Lane and Cranborne Road). As lead petitioner she states that it is unsafe for elderly people, mums with pushchairs, and disabled people to stand in the middle of an Island with large vehicles going either side.
- 1.2 The lead petitioner is a School Crossing Patroller of thirty years standing and therefore concerned with pedestrian safety in her local area. However, it should be noted that her actual crossing site is directly outside Ripple Infants and junior schools in Suffolk Road and, as such, she is petitioning in her capacity as a local resident.

2 The Council's response

- 2.1 A site visit was undertaken on receipt of the petition by Council officers to review the traffic engineering and signage measures in place and to investigate the level of pedestrian usage. The junction of Ripple Road with Movers Lane has been the focus of a number of engineering measures in recent years to prevent rat running and congestion. There is currently an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing which cuts through the traffic island approximately five metres west of the junction with Movers Lane which is used by pedestrians and a controlled crossing further west near the junction with Ripple Road and King Edwards Road. There is a 'No U Turn' sign erected towards the end of the traffic Island to prohibit illegal manoeuvres outside the Westbury Teachers Centre.
- 2.2 Road safety is a major objective of the Council so it is intended that a full investigation of the site be undertaken and the feasibility of the implementation of a crossing facility explored. Considerable consultation will be required as Ripple Road is a key transport and strategic emergency services route.
- 2.3 The following steps will be taken to resolve the issues raised by the petitioners:
- a meeting will be arranged with petitioners/residents, Councillors and officers to hear at first hand the changes requested
 - this will be in association with a site visit
 - the emergency services will also be invited to the meeting
 - the objective of the meeting will be to agree a way forward with petitioners

3 Consultees.

The following were consulted in the preparation of this report:

Portfolio holders for Street Scene and Sustainability (Councillor Milton McKenzie)
and Regeneration (Councillor Mick McCarthy)

Ward Members – Councillors Milton McKenzie, Val Rush and Kay Flint

Corporate Director of Regeneration - Jennifer Dearing

Head of Spatial Regeneration Division - Jeremy Grint

Group Manager Transportation and Traffic-David Higham

Customer Services Department - Gary Ellison, Steve Jones

Emergency Services - Fire, Ambulance, Metropolitan Police

Legal Services – Robin Hanton

Finance – Alex Anderson

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

Approved Local Implementation Plan (LIP)

Letter and petition from petitioners

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THE ASSEMBLY

3 SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT OF THE BAD YOUTH FORUM

<p>Title: Annual Report of the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum (BAD Youth Forum) 2007/08</p>	<p>For Information</p>
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The BAD Youth Forum aims to give the Council greater contact with young people and in turn give young people a voice in local democracy.</p> <p>The Forum is an annually elected representative body of all young people aged 13 – 19 years old in the Borough, regardless of background. It is made up primarily of school students and representatives from various other youth organisations in the Borough.</p> <p>The elections for the current Forum were run in secondary schools on 9 October 2007. Those appointed to the Forum were invited to take part in an induction day at The Vibe Youth Centre ahead of the first meeting which took place on 15 October 2007.</p> <p>The Forum is based on the academic year (September – August). As in previous years this year's Forum was launched to coincide with Local Democracy Week (LDW). It meets as a whole every two months and newly formed sub groups meet more regularly to consider specific issues important to young people in the Borough.</p> <p>Young people identified issues which were important to them which this year included:</p> <p>Schools - including dinners/snacks, uniforms, curriculum content, including PSHE lessons, temperatures (too hot/cold), bullying, more advice about options choice and course content and greater cultural awareness.</p> <p>Transport - school and public bus provision;</p> <p>Environmental issues- more trees, road sweeping, brightening up the borough generally;</p> <p>Equalities - greater understanding between the generations;</p> <p>Crime- including knife crime and gang culture, under age drinking and celebrating diversity;</p> <p>The lack of youth facilities and</p> <p>Teenage pregnancy.</p> <p>Based on these issues the young people agreed to establish and nominate themselves to sit and contribute to one or two of four sub groups (Crime and Safety, Equalities and Youth Facilities.</p> <p>Proposals were outlined for setting up of the first Citizen's Panel for young people aged 5 to 17 in order to fully consult young people on all service provision within the Borough.</p>	

To further increase young people's awareness of issues of democracy the Forum attended a meeting on 28 April 2008 at the Houses of Parliament hosted by Jon Cruddas, MP. Issues raised included:

- The Mayor's Youth offer and how young people in partnership with the Council will decide what facilities/projects will be provided from the Borough's share of the funding
- Lighting in the parks
- Stop and search
- Bus security
- Additional litterbins
- Activities for young people
- Teenage pregnancy rates

The Forum also provides the opportunity to consult and inform young people, and officers from across the Council and representatives from other organisations have attended Forum meetings during the year. These have included:

- Current major developments in the Borough including "Planning for the future of Barking Town Centre", a consultation exercise
- Local and National democratic processes and how young people can get involved
- Presentations from the Chief Executive about the Council's finances and the importance of education and how to pursue a career. The latter was also supported with a presentation from a footballer from Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club
- Developing websites
- Participating in consultation with the Council on the best way of spending the £3.2m Heritage Lottery Funding to improve facilities in Barking Park
- Participating in a healthy eating consultation and providing young people's perspective on the best way of tackling this problem in schools within the borough.
- Alcohol resource consultation
- Presentation from the Metropolitan Police about knife crime
- Participating in a consultation on support networks for domestic violence

Other key activities/achievements of the Forum during 2007/08 include:

- Young people have taken part in board meeting training, democratically elected sub group chairs and decided the issues each of the sub groups will focus on
- Deciding on a logo for the website page entitled "U Count "
- Developing ideas and starting work on films which highlight equality and intergenerational issues and the impact knife crime has on everyone involved
- Developing a questionnaire seeking views on the current provision of recreational facilities for young people in the borough which is now available to complete online through the Borough website
- Pursuing a campaign for discount sports cards for all young people in the borough as an incentive to use sports facilities and tackle the problem of obesity
- Learning how to use media and filming equipment and using these new skills to film interviews between members Equalities Sub Group and Age Concern
- Developing a film lesson plan to be shown in schools as part of the PSHE curriculum

- Working towards, and achieving, bronze and/or silver levels of the accredited Youth Achievement Awards
- 17 members were awarded the Princess Diana award for their anti knife crime work

Name: John Dawe	Title: Group Manager Democratic Services	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2135 Fax: 020 8227 2171 Minicom: 020 8227 2685 E-mail: john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk
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Consultees

The following were consulted in the preparation of this report

- Councillor Jean Alexander, Lead Member, Children’s Services
- Bill Murphy, Corporate Director of Resources
- Nina Clark, Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services
- Ann Macdonald, Lead Youth Worker

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

Agendas and minutes of the BAD Youth Forum

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Annual Audit and Inspection Letter

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

External audit is an essential element in the process of accountability for public money and makes an important contribution to the stewardship of public resources and the corporate governance of public services.

Audit in the public sector is underpinned by three fundamental principles.

- Auditors are appointed independently from the bodies being audited.
- The scope of auditors' work is extended to cover not only the audit of financial statements but also value for money and the conduct of public business.
- Auditors may report aspects of their work widely to the public and other key stakeholders.

The duties and powers of auditors appointed by the Audit Commission are set out in the Audit Commission Act 1998, the Local Government Act 1999 and the Commission's statutory Code of Audit Practice. Under the Code of Audit Practice, appointed auditors are also required to comply with the current professional standards issued by the independent Auditing Practices Board.

Appointed auditors act quite separately from the Commission and in meeting their statutory responsibilities are required to exercise their professional judgement independently of both the Commission and the audited body.

Status of our reports

This report provides an overall summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the Council, drawing on audit, inspection and performance assessment work and is prepared by your Relationship Manager.

In this report, the Commission summarises findings and conclusions from the statutory audit, which have previously been reported to you by your appointed auditor. Appointed auditors act separately from the Commission and, in meeting their statutory responsibilities, are required to exercise their professional judgement independently of the Commission (and the audited body). The findings and conclusions therefore remain those of the appointed auditor and should be considered within the context of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by the Audit Commission.

Reports prepared by appointed auditors are:

- prepared in the context of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by the Audit Commission; and
- addressed to members or officers and prepared for the sole use of the audited body; no responsibility is taken by auditors to any member or officer in their individual capacity, or to any third party.

Copies of this report

If you require further copies of this report, or a copy in large print, in Braille, on tape, or in a language other than English, please call 0844 798 7070.

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For further information on the work of the Commission please contact:

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Key messages

- 1 The main messages for the Council included in this report are:
 - the Council is a three star authority and continues to improve well;
 - your auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's 2006/07 accounts and an unqualified value for money conclusion;
 - your corporate assessment concluded that the Council was performing well; and
 - improvements in the quality of services for children and young people and for housing are happening at a slower rate than in other services.

Action needed by the Council

- 2 The Council should:
 - ensure appropriate investment is made in services for children and young people and in housing to secure the improvements needed;
 - implement the recommendations included in the corporate assessment report; and
 - continue to strengthen its arrangements for the effective use of resources.

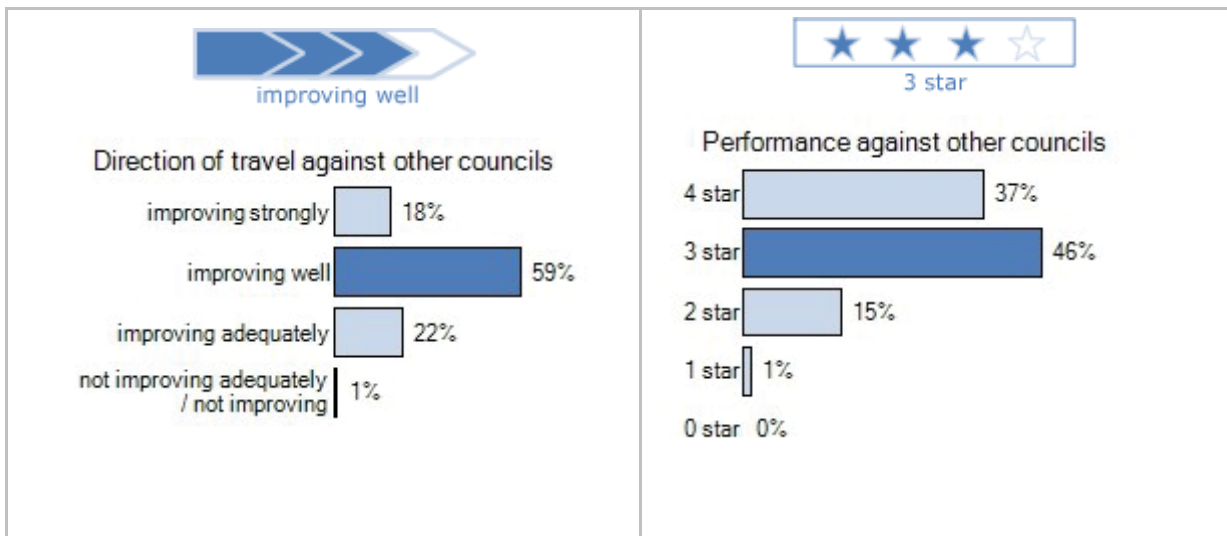
Purpose, responsibilities and scope

- 3 This letter provides an overall summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the Council. It draws on the most recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), the findings and conclusions from the audit of the Council for 2006/07 and from any inspections undertaken since the last Annual Audit and Inspection Letter. It also includes the results of the most recent corporate assessment.
- 4 We have addressed this letter to members as it is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for the conduct of its business and that it safeguards and properly accounts for public money. We have made recommendations to assist the Council in meeting its responsibilities.
- 5 This letter also communicates the significant issues to key external stakeholders, including members of the public. We will publish this letter on the Audit Commission website at www.audit-commission.gov.uk. In addition the Council is planning to publish it on its website.
- 6 Your appointed auditor is responsible for planning and carrying out an audit that meets the requirements of the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice (the Code). Under the Code, the auditor reviews and reports on:
 - the Council's accounts;
 - whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (value for money conclusion); and
 - whether the Council's best value performance plan has been prepared and published in line with legislation and statutory guidance.
- 7 This letter includes the latest assessment on the Council's performance under the CPA framework, including our Direction of Travel report and the results of any inspections carried out by the Audit Commission under section 10 of the Local Government Act 1999. It summarises the key issues arising from the CPA and any such inspections. Inspection reports are issued in accordance with the Audit Commission's duty under section 13 of the 1999 Act.
- 8 We have listed the reports issued to the Council relating to 2006/07 audit and inspection work at the end of this letter.

How is Barking and Dagenham Council performing?

- 9 The Audit Commission's overall judgement is that Barking and Dagenham Council is improving well and we have classified Barking and Dagenham Council as three-star in its current level of performance under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. These assessments have been completed in all single tier and county councils with the following results.

Figure 1



Source: Audit Commission

- 10 The detailed assessment for Barking and Dagenham Council is as follows.

Our overall assessment - the CPA scorecard

Table 1 CPA scorecard

Element	Assessment
Direction of Travel judgement	Improving well
Overall	3 star
Corporate assessment/capacity to improve	3 out of 4
Current performance	
Children and young people*	2 out of 4
Social care (adults)*	3 out of 4
Use of resources*	3 out of 4
Housing	2 out of 4
Environment	3 out of 4
Culture	2 out of 4
Benefits	3 out of 4

(Note: * these aspects have a greater influence on the overall CPA score)
(1 = lowest, 4 = highest)

The improvement since last year - our Direction of Travel report

- 11 Barking and Dagenham Council is improving well. Progress over the last year is good with the improvement of performance indicators in the top third in London. Residents recognise this improvement, as evidenced by substantial increases in satisfaction with priority services such as waste and recycling, public open spaces, libraries and transport. Adult social care services continue to progress well. However, assessments of housing services and those for children and young people show improvement happening at a slower rate.
- 12 Delivery against the council's aim of building communities and transforming lives is becoming evident. The first phase of the Dagenham Dock scheme, which has generated over 1000 jobs, has been completed. Improvements have been made to customer access, which have been well received by local people. The Barking Learning Centre, incorporating the first one stop shop, opened in the summer and services available through Barking and Dagenham Direct have been extended.
- 13 The Council has robust plans for improving further and service planning has been strengthened to embed the focus on value for money. Effective work with partner organisations has enhanced the capacity of the council to deliver its plans.

- 14 Our corporate assessment work found the Council to be performing well. The Council's seven community priorities are clear and give a focus to the ambition which is that: 'together we will build communities and transform lives'. They reflect national priorities and address the most pressing concerns for local people, namely crime, housing, improving skills and job prospects. The Council's approach to equality and diversity supports its ambitions for community cohesion.
- 15 Access to services is good overall and significant improvements have been made in this area over the past three years through initiatives such as the 'Tell Us' campaign and 'Done in One'.
- 16 The Council demonstrates effective community leadership through the Chief Executive, officers and in its partnership working, for example in the development of a community development trust in Barking Riverside. Scrutiny generally works well and the Council is now extending its focus to enable involvement of the wider community.
- 17 There is a well established approach to performance management and the Council has been successful in instilling the right culture and values so that it is at the heart of decision making. The Council now needs to focus on delivering wider community outcomes in respect of local priorities such as skills, access to employment and housing. The Council needs to sharpen its approach to prioritisation as it seeks to deliver its ambitious agenda for revitalisation of the borough.
- 18 We made a number of recommendations and in particular that:
 - the role of councillors, in particular in relation to community leadership, requires further development;
 - the Council needs to take a more strategic and co-ordinated approach to the development of its policy framework; and
 - the Council needs to strengthen its approach to communication. In particular, improving the way in which it communicates its successes and plans for the future.

Service inspections

- 19 An important aspect of the role of the Relationship Manager is to work with other inspectorates and regulators who also review and report on the Council's performance. Relationship Managers share information and seek to provide 'joined up' regulation to the Council. During the last year the Council has received the following assessments from other inspectorates.

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (BFI)

- 20 BFI assessed the Council as providing a good service. Although aspects of performance on claims administration deteriorated during 2006/07, this was due to the introduction of a new benefits system, which meant that the council was unable to process claims for four weeks. The Council took steps to minimise the impact of this change. These included taking on temporary staff and manually pre-assessing cases whilst the system was closed down. The implementation of the new system went smoothly and data for the final quarter of 2006/07 showed that performance was improving again.

Ofsted

- 21 Ofsted assessed the Council's services for Children and Young people as level 2 (out of 4). The Council and its partners provide adequate outcomes for the children and young people of Barking and Dagenham. Achievements at GCSE and A levels are improving but are still below the national average. The number of children and young people not in employment, education or training in Barking and Dagenham is too high though this number is declining. Retention rates on post 16 courses are poor, which suggests that young people may not be getting correct advice.
- 22 Outcomes for looked after children are good but the needs of children and young people with learning difficulties and or disabilities are not yet effectively addressed. In particular, there are few opportunities for them to be involved in decision making and too many of them become without employment, education or training when they leave school. The looked after children health education service team provides a good service to support the health and education of looked after children and outcomes in both these areas have significantly improved.
- 23 Most children are healthy and many health outcomes are in line with comparator groups. However, rates of teenage pregnancy, though reducing, remain high and there is a high incidence of oral decay amongst the child population.
- 24 Early years provision is good and there has been an increase in the amount of childcare places available. Provision for children out of school is improving but there is not yet an effective arrangement for the reintegration of excluded pupils.

Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)

- 25 The Council's services for adult social care have been assessed by CSCI as having good outcomes and excellent prospects for improvement. The Council was awarded the maximum 3 star rating overall. Strengths existed in the following areas:
- active promotion of health and well being, including a range of leisure activities and exercise classes on prescription;
 - for older people a variety of health promotion initiatives, including leisure and exercise classes and an award winning 'garden shed' project;

10 Annual Audit and Inspection Letter | How is Barking and Dagenham Council performing?

- for people with learning disabilities an effective partnership board, co-chaired by users; and
- for mental health service users an innovative range of services to promote well being, such as self help books on prescription.

26 There are still some further improvements needed in the following areas:

- continue to reduce delayed transfers of care;
- increase extra care sheltered housing for older people; and
- reduce waiting times for major adaptations.

The audit of the accounts and value for money

- 27 Your appointed auditor has reported separately to the Audit Committee on the issues arising from the 2006/07 audit and has issued:
- an audit report, providing an unqualified opinion on your accounts and a conclusion on your vfm arrangements to say that these arrangements are adequate on 25 September 2007; and
 - a report on the Best Value Performance Plan confirming that the Plan has been audited.

Use of Resources

- 28 The findings of the auditor are an important component of the CPA framework described above. In particular the Use of Resources score is derived from the assessments made by the auditor in the following areas:
- financial reporting (including the preparation of the accounts of the Council and the way these are presented to the public);
 - financial management (including how the financial management is integrated with strategy to support council priorities);
 - financial standing (including the strength of the Council's financial position);
 - internal control (including how effectively the Council maintains proper stewardship and control of its finances); and
 - value for money (including an assessment of how well the Council balances the costs and quality of its services).
- 29 For the purposes of the CPA your auditor has assessed the Council's arrangements for use of resources in these five areas as follows.

Table 2

Element	Assessment
Financial reporting	3 out of 4
Financial management	3 out of 4
Financial standing	4 out of 4
Internal control	3 out of 4
Value for money	3 out of 4
Overall assessment of the Audit Commission	3 out of 4

(Note: 1 = lowest, 4 = highest)

The key issues arising from the audit

Accounts

- 30 Audit working papers were of a good standard, audit queries were generally addressed promptly and the draft financial statements submitted for audit were of a good standard. There were some errors in the accounts, but the majority were trivial. Your auditors made a number of recommendations to improve accounting systems further and these were largely concerned with improving reconciliations between systems.

Use of resources

- 31 The 2007 key lines of enquiry raised the standard required for level 2 and level 3 assessments. Your auditor found that the Council had responded well to these new requirements. At the same time, the Council has consolidated and continued to embed the arrangements put in place in 2006 and is now in a stronger position than last year. Further improvements have been implemented during 2006/07, although the impact and outcome of all of these actions will not be fully realised until 2007/08 onwards. Moving forward, key areas for the Council to focus on include:

- ensuring the evidence that the MTFS has been agreed with partners is robust;
- using the CIPFA financial management model to develop a training programme;
- ensuring that the processes that will support the annual governance statement are sufficiently embedded; and
- continuing work to embed arrangements for delivering VFM, including closer links between reports on costing and performance.

Data Quality

- 32 Your auditors performed a spot check on 15 performance indicators produced by the Council. The results of this exercise were positive as none of the indicators required any amendment. These findings echoed the auditors overall assessment of the data quality arrangements which concluded that the Council had reached level 4 'Performing strongly' and that 'a review of the arrangements highlighted that policies and procedures are very strong and the arrangements in place for performance management are proactive and robust'.
- 33 This is a significant improvement from the previous year and results from the Council implementing a number of changes in its approach to collating and validating performance data.

National Fraud Initiative (NFI)

- 34** The NFI is a computerised data matching exercise designed to identify overpayments to suppliers and to detect fraud perpetrated on public bodies. The referrals from the current exercise were released to participating bodies in January 2007. The Council has been proactive in reviewing the output from NFI. Internal Audit co-ordinates the follow-up of matches, which is undertaken by the responsible department, for example, council tax and payroll. As at the end of December 2007, the Council had identified over £36,000 of potential savings arising from the exercise.

Grants

- 35** Due to an increase in the financial thresholds above which grant claims and returns require an audit certificate, the number of grants audited reduced to 18 this year. The audit fee for this work was £83,000, a reduction of £73,000 from the previous year's fee.

Looking ahead

- 36 The public service inspectorates are currently developing a new performance assessment framework, the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). CAA will provide the first holistic independent assessment of the prospects for local areas and the quality of life for people living there. It will put the experience of citizens, people who use services and local tax payers at the centre of the new local assessment framework, with a particular focus on the needs of those whose circumstances make them vulnerable. It will recognise the importance of effective local partnership working, the enhanced role of sustainable communities strategies and local area agreements and the importance of councils in leading and shaping the communities they serve.
- 37 CAA will result in reduced levels of inspection and better coordination of inspection activity. The key components of CAA will be a joint inspectorate annual area risk assessment and reporting performance on the new national indicator set, together with a joint inspectorate annual direction of travel assessment and an annual use of resources assessment. The auditors' use of resources judgements will therefore continue, but their scope will be widened to cover issues such as commissioning and the sustainable use of resources.
- 38 The first results of our work on CAA will be published in the autumn of 2009. This will include the performance data from 2008/09, the first year of the new Local Area Agreements.

Closing remarks

- 39 This letter has been discussed and agreed with the Chief Executive and Director of Resources. A copy of the letter will be presented at the Audit Committee on 16 April and the Executive on 22 April 2008. Copies need to be provided to all Council members.
- 40 Further detailed findings, conclusions and recommendations on the areas covered by audit and inspection work are included in the reports issued to the Council during the year.

Table 3 Reports issued

Report	Date of issue
Audit and inspection plan	April 2006
Corporate assessment	July 2007
Annual governance report	September 2007
Opinion on financial statements	September 2007
Value for money conclusion	September 2007
Best value performance plan	December 2007
Annual audit and inspection letter	February 2008

- 41 The Council has taken a positive and constructive approach to audit and inspection work, and I wish to thank the Council's staff for their support and cooperation during the audit.

Availability of this letter

- 42 This letter will be published on the Audit Commission's website at www.audit-commission.gov.uk, and also on the Council's website.

Jon Hayes
Relationship Manager

March 2008

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ASSEMBLY

3 SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Title: Deputy Monitoring Officers	For Information
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Following the commencement of the three Legal Partners, whose role includes acting as Deputy Monitoring Officer, this report notifies a change. Bill Murphy, Corporate Director of Resources, will no longer perform this role.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p> <p>The Assembly is asked to note that Winston Brown, Melanie Field and Yinka Owa, Legal Partners, have been appointed by the Monitoring Officer as Deputy Monitoring Officers to act in her absence.</p>	
<p>Reason</p> <p>To regularise the statutory positions.</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial: None</p> <p>Legal: The Monitoring Officer is a statutory appointment under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Monitoring Officer has a statutory responsibility to ensure that the Council acts in a lawful manner, and that it does not do anything which might cause maladministration, or injustice to any individual. The Monitoring Officer is responsible for the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct, the Council's Standards Committee, the Declarations of Interests Register, and the Council Constitution. The duties of the Monitoring Officer are performed by her personally or, where she is unable to act owing to absence or illness, by those staff she has nominated as her deputy at her discretion.</p> <p>Risk Management: The appointments should ensure that at all times Monitoring Officer advice is readily available to the Council in that there are now three Deputies at a senior level.</p>	

Social Inclusion and Diversity:

No specific implications.

Crime and Disorder

No specific implications

Options Appraisal:

Not applicable

Contact**Officer:**

Nina Clark

Divisional Director of Legal
and Democratic Services

Tel: 020 8227 2114**Fax:** 020 8227 2252**Email:** nina.clark@lbbd.gov.uk**Mincom:** 020 8227 2685**Consultees:**

Corporate Director of Resources

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

None

THE ASSEMBLY

3 SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Title: Appointment of Parent Governor (Secondary) Co-opted Member to the Scrutiny Management Board		For Decision
<p>Summary</p> <p>The Secondary School Parent Governor representative position on the Scrutiny Management Board is currently vacant.</p> <p>The selection of the Parent Governor representatives is a two-stage process, the first being the nomination stage and the second being a ballot (assuming more than one nomination is received). All serving school parent governors are eligible to take part in the election process.</p> <p>An election process was co-ordinated by Children's Services in October 2007, and nominations to fill the positions of Primary and Secondary School Parent Governor representatives on the Scrutiny Management Board were agreed. Unfortunately, although the nominee for the Primary School role was appointed, the successful nominee for the Secondary School role subsequently withdrew and the position remained vacant.</p> <p>A fresh election process has been undertaken for this position. The successful nominee for the Secondary School Parent Governor position is Mrs Tina Woodhouse. Mrs Woodhouse is currently serving on the governing body of Jo Richardson Community School.</p>		
<p>Recommendation</p> <p>The Assembly is recommended to approve the appointment of Mrs Tina Woodhouse as the Secondary School Parent Governor Co-opted Member to the Scrutiny Management Board.</p>		
<p>Contact Officer: Clair Bantin</p>	<p>Title: Team Manager, Scrutiny and Civic</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2352 email: clair.bantin@lbbd.gov.uk</p>

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THE ASSEMBLY

3 SEPTEMBER 2008

Title: Motions	For Decision
<p>The following motions have been received in accordance with paragraph 15 of Article 2, Part B of the Council's Constitution:</p> <p>1. Commending a petition against Knife Crime</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Mrs Rush:</p> <p>“That this Council commends the work of the Reverend Steven Hanna in starting a petition that will make a valuable contribution to this Labour Council's fight against knife crime and that the Council notes the efforts of Labour Councillors in getting support for this petition.”</p> <p>2. Congratulating Team GB on their Olympic Success</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Liam Smith:</p> <p>“That this Council congratulates Team GB on their success at the Olympics. This Council notes that the money that our Labour Government has invested in sports has been pivotal in supporting this success. Council also notes that this Labour administration has introduced initiatives such as ‘Summer Sorted’ and free swimming for young people that will hopefully help produce local gold medal winners in 2012. Council further notes that, along with the Rugby World Cup and the Football World Cup, this country” achieves its greatest sporting successes when there is a Labour Government.”</p> <p>3. Condemnation of a Councillor's Action</p> <p>To be moved by Councillor Barnbrook</p> <p>“Considering the alleged recent disgraceful, foul-mouthed, homophobic outburst directed towards the mother of a fellow Councillor, this motion calls for a vote of recognition and condemnation concerning not only the severity of the situation which, considering the hypocrisy and the seniority of Councillor Liam Smith, considerably undermines the authority and standing of the Council itself. In so doing, we wish to condemn the politically inspired emasculation of the report of this incident contained in last week's Barking and Dagenham Post.</p> <p>Further to this, if the resultant Standards Board investigation does not find in favour of Councillor Smith, we call upon him to resign from all positions of responsibility currently held within Barking and Dagenham Council.”</p>	

4. Community Spirit in the Borough

To be moved by Councillor McDermott

“That this Council believes that one of the roles of Councillors is to maintain and build community spirit in our borough. Councillors should be building strong relationships with headteachers and local vicars and not attacking them.”

5. One Stop Shop in the Heathway

To be moved by Councillor Lee Waker

“That this Council congratulates officers, local residents and local Labour Councillors on the progress being made in the development of a one stop shop in the Heathway. Council believes that this is yet another step that this Labour Council is taking to regenerate Dagenham and improve the Services it is giving to its residents.”

The deadline for proposed amendments to these motions is midday on Friday, 29 August 2008. For information, attached at Appendix A is the relevant extract from the Council’s Constitution relating to the procedure for dealing with Motions.

Recommendation

The Assembly is asked to debate and vote on the above motions or any amendments put forward.

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**Extract from the Council Constitution
Part B, Article 2 - The Assembly**

15. Procedure for Motions on issues directly affecting the Borough

- 15.1 Motions must be received by the Chief Executive not later than 4.00 pm on the Wednesday two weeks before the meeting.
- 15.2 The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, or in their absence the Deputy Chair, of the Assembly may decide not to place on the agenda any motions that he/she considers are of a vexatious or derogatory nature, or contrary to any provision of any code, protocol, legal requirement or rule of the Council; or that do not relate to the business of the Council or are otherwise considered improper or inappropriate.
- 15.3 The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, or in their absence the Deputy Chair, of the Assembly may decide not to place on the agenda any motions the content of which he/she feels forms the basis of a motion already considered at the Assembly within the previous twelve months.
- 15.4 Motions will be listed on the agenda in the order in which they are received.
- 15.5 Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which directly affect the borough.
- 15.6 Amendments to motions should be presented in writing to the Chief Executive not later than 12 noon on the Friday before the meeting. Amendments proposed after this time may only be considered with the consent of the Chair.
- 15.7 Order/rules of debate:
1. Except with the Chair's consent, the debate on each motion shall last no longer than 10 minutes and no individual speech shall exceed two minutes.
 2. The mover will move the motion and explain its purpose.
 3. The seconder will then second the motion
 4. The Chair will then invite other Members to speak on the motion and put forward any amendments.
 5. Once all Members who wish to speak have done so, or the time limit has elapsed, the Chair will allow the mover of the original motion a right of reply.
 6. At the end of the debate, any amendments will be voted on in the order in which they were proposed.
 7. If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved and voted upon.

8. After an amendment has been carried, the Chair will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.
9. If all amendments are lost, a vote will be taken on the original motion.