

# THE ASSEMBLY

18 MAY 2011

## REPORT OF THE CABINET

<b>Title:</b> Annual Report of the Cabinet 2010 / 2011		<b>For Information</b>
<b>Summary</b> The Cabinet is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developing key policies and budget proposals for the Assembly's agreement;</li><li>• Making decisions about Council strategies, services, finances and resources, based on the policies set by the Assembly;</li><li>• Ensuring all Council departments work well together in delivering services to local people; and,</li><li>• Ensuring the Council works well with external partners and other local organisations, such as the police, health services, education providers, business and the third sector, for the benefit of the community.</li></ul> This report summarises the Cabinet's role and highlights the major issues it has dealt with over the last municipal year.		
<b>Recommendation</b> The Assembly is asked to note the Cabinet's annual report for 2010/11.		
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### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Cabinet is the main decision-making body of the Council and is made up of ten Councillors who each have areas of responsibility or 'portfolios'.

1.2 The Cabinet has considered a total of 102 reports this municipal year, over ten meetings. The issues have covered a wide range of subjects and listed below are some of the major areas:

- **Contracts Overview**

Twenty-two reports involved contracts with a value in excess of £400,000 and covered issues as diverse as the care provisions at Colin Pond Court and Darcy

Gardens and the Internal Audit and Anti Fraud Service. A number of the contracts also involved joint working or commissioning with other partner organisations, for example the PCT / NHS, police and other local authorities, for contracts such as the provision of a parks safer neighbourhood team by the Metropolitan Police, the mental health accommodation, employment and day services, and the joint procurement of the highways and street lighting service with the London Borough of Havering.

- **Joint Venture**

Approved the appointment of Agilisys as the Council's Joint Venture Strategic Partner and the subsequent new governance arrangements for the new Elevate Joint Venture and its Boards for subsequent consideration by the Assembly. This decision should result in savings of up to £10m per year over the course of the seven year agreement which will enable the Council to continue to deliver essential front-line services to the local community.

- **Schools**

Increased Provision - Approved increased provision of school pupil places, including additional resource provision at Beam, Ripple, St. Peter's and Roding Primary Schools and Thames View and Cambell Junior Schools with effect from 1 September 2011. Delegated authority was given to arrange for the permanent expansion at St George's Halbutt Street Site. The provision of a Church of England voluntary aided primary school (due to open September 2011) and a new secondary (due to open in 2012) both at Barking Riverside were also approved.

BSF - Approved the appointment of the Local Education Partnership (LEP) and necessary action to put the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) element into place for the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project.

- **Strategic Grants Programme**

Considered a review of the programme and agreed a revised policy to ensure that limited funds are targeted where they would be most effective whilst continuing development of the borough's thriving third sector as well as the subsequent allocation of the grants.

- **Green Energy**

Authorised the provision of solar panels for up to 1,000 council houses and up to 50% of available school roof space, thereby providing the recipients with the opportunity to benefit from reduced energy bills and the Council with a reduction of around 1,165 tonnes of carbon emissions.

- **Olympic Legacy**

Agreed to the borough becoming a member of a Joint Committee of the six Host Boroughs for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games with effect from 1 April 2011. Also authorised the lease to the development partner of the Olympic Development Authority of part of Mayesbrook Park to provide a purpose built sports centre, which will become a training venue for the 2012 games and provide, at no cost to the borough, a national sports venue and some refurbishment / improvement works to the Park.

- **Health**

Health and Wellbeing Strategy - Adopted the Health and Wellbeing Strategy that had been produced by the Barking and Dagenham Partnership. This strategy sets out ten health and wellbeing priorities for the next three years and is aimed at addressing health inequalities of the borough residents.

Health North East London Proposals - Considered proposals for the reconfiguration of acute and secondary health services in the region and agreed the Council's response, which would include its concerns in regard to the removal of Accident and Emergency Services at King George's Hospital, capacity at Queen's Hospital and the need for progress on the East Dagenham Community Hospital Development, the importance of midwifery and the Birthing Centre at Barking Community Hospital.

Integration and Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities from the PCT / NHS - Considered the integration with the NHS Barking and Dagenham and the implications of the Government's White Paper "Equality & Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and the effect that the radical reforms will have on providers, commissioners and users of health services, including the health responsibilities that the Council will gain under the proposals. Also agreed a transition plan in order to ensure the best possible health care outcomes for the residents of the borough.

- **Adult and Social Care**

Care Quality Commission Inspection - Received the Care Quality Commission Inspection Report Findings, which gave the Council an 'Excellent' rating.

Older People's Strategy 2010-13: "Helping You to Live the Life You Want" - Approved the strategy which outlines the key priorities that older people in the borough have identified as most important to them and the action plans on how the Council intends to deliver further improvement. The strategy also recognises the leadership role the Council has in ensuring that older people can live independently, with a good quality of life for as long as possible.

Fairer Contributions Policy for Adult Social Care - In view of the new government guidance requiring substantial changes to existing charging and contribution policies and the other pressures, considered and endorsed for consultation new proposals which will offer fair and equitable services that take the income levels of the borough into consideration.

- **Sustainable Employment**

Authorised an agreement with Bexley Council in order to obtain London Development Agency funding of £595,155 towards projects to support long-term and economically inactive residents back into work via the Sustainable Employment Pilot Project.

- **Regeneration, Development and Construction of New Council Houses**

Approved a number of strategies and plans associated with the regeneration and development of the Borough, such as the London Road / North Street regeneration scheme and the borough-wide Estate Renewal Programme and its phasing and the construction of new Council housing at Roycraft Avenue, Alderman Avenue, Thornhill and Alfred Gardens in Barking and Goresbrook Compound and

Maplestead Road in Dagenham, as well recommending to the Assembly a number of Local Development Framework (LDF) documents and plans.

- **Management of Community Centres**

Approved the offer of long-leases and management agreements for a number of community centres in order that community associations can realise significant benefits for their communities.

- **Council Tax and Budgets**

Agreed the formulation of the Council's budget for 2011/12, which has enabled Council Tax to be frozen for the third year in succession. Also received monthly budget monitoring reports which have resulted in a range of measures being introduced to overcome extraordinary pressures on spending during the year.

- **Customer Access Strategy**

Approved the plan for the way the Council delivers services and interacts with customers and ensures that services are available through the right channel for the individual and the use of the strategy to inform service planning.

- **Single Equalities Scheme**

Adopted the scheme which will enable to the Council to continue to meet its legal duties and deliver real improvement in equality for people living and working in the borough.

**Background papers used in the preparation of this report:**

- Agendas and Minutes of Cabinet meetings 2010 - 11
- Council Constitution