

MEETING OF HARLOW COUNCIL
7.30 pm on Thursday 4 April 2019
In the Council Chamber, Civic Centre

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors' declarations of interest (if any) in relation to any items on the agenda.

3. Minutes (Pages 4 - 21)

To agree the minutes of the meetings held on 7 and 28 February 2019.

4. Communications from the Chair

5. Petitions from the Public

6. Questions from the Public

7. Questions from Councillors

8. Motions from Councillors

a) Affordable Housing

Proposed by Councillor Mark Ingall (seconded by Councillor Danny Purton):

“This Council notes that Harlow’s emerging Local Plan was predicated on the assessment that 30% of all developments should be available for affordable housing and that this proportion is needed to meet Harlow’s Housing demand.

Some recent development proposals have made no provision, or a ludicrously low provision, of affordable housing. These proposals are often supported by independently sourced viability assessments paid for by the developer. These viability assessments usually show that affordable housing is not viable at the 30% level in Harlow.

All development schemes must be assessed against defined criteria, but this Council notes that if planning is granted to

schemes with less than 30% affordable housing our Local Plan will fail and our housing need will not be met.

This Council also notes the high rate of refusals that are overturned at appeal, taking little notice of the affordable housing need, with the result that the schemes go ahead and expose the Council to possible punitive costs and risk of special measures.

The Council urges the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State alerting him of the problems this is causing and urging him to include affordable housing need as a priority factor in planning appeal cases.”

b) Libraries

Proposed by Councillor Tony Edwards (seconded by Councillor Jodi Dunne):

“This Council notes that:

- i) Essex County Council (ECC) have not responded to the letter of concern about library closures sent by the Leader of Harlow District Council and co-signed by the Leader of the opposition on 7 January 2019.
- ii) At the meeting of ECC on 12 March 2019, that council had concluded that as the libraries consultation had only just closed, it was too early to put forward a decision to their Cabinet on the matter and therefore a final closure decision has yet to be taken; and

This Council urges:

- i) the Leader to write again to the Portfolio Holder responsible for the consultation around library closures asking for ECC to reconsider particularly in light of the (disproportionate) effect the proposed closures in this and immediately surrounding areas; and
- ii) Members to support the motion and this council’s position, both at district level and ECC members when the matter comes before them for decision.”

9. References from Cabinet and Committees

- a) Referral from Licensing Committee - Private Hire Operator Application Procedure Update (Pages 22 - 34)

Licensing Committee recommended to Full Council that:

- i) The revised Operator Licensing Procedures, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, is adopted with effect from 8 April 2019.

10. Reports from Officers

11. Annual Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Bodies (Pages 35 - 38)

12. Minutes of Cabinet and Committee Meetings

To note the following Cabinet and Committee minutes:

- a) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 13 February 2019 of Scrutiny Committee (Pages 39 - 41)
- b) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 27 February 2019 of Development Management Committee (Pages 42 - 44)
- c) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 28 February 2019 of Cabinet (Pages 45 - 48)
- d) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 12 March 2019 of Licensing Committee (Pages 49 - 51)
- e) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 13 March 2019 of Audit and Standards Committee (Pages 52 - 55)
- f) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 19 March 2019 of Scrutiny Committee (to follow)
- g) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 20 March 2019 of Development Management Committee (Pages 56 - 67)
- h) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 28 March 2019 of Cabinet (to follow)

13. Matters of Urgent Business

Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be received as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances to be specified in the minutes.