

MINUTES OF THE CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP HELD ON

15 August 2019

7.30 - 8.05 pm

PRESENT

Overview Working Group Members

Councillor Tony Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Jodi Dunne (Vice-Chair)
Councillor David Carter
Councillor Jean Clark
Councillor Bob Davis
Councillor Michael Garnett
Councillor Shona Johnson

Officers

Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive
Adam Rees, Governance Support Officer

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simon Carter.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) Houses of Multiple Occupation - Question and Answer Session with the Leader and Portfolio Holders

It was agreed that a briefing note would be circulated to the Working Group which would detail progress made on implementing a town-wide Article 4 Direction, Officer capacity for dealing with enforcement matters surrounding HMOs, and updates on the meetings taking place between Officers at London Boroughs and councils in Essex.

5. **CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY - INITIAL REPORT**

The Working Group received an initial report on the work being undertaken by the Council to reduce its environmental impact. The report set out short, medium and longer term actions split into three different work streams.

The Working Group considered the work streams and agreed the following items would be moved from medium term to short term:

- i) Consider the building of new carbon neutral Council housing/retrofitting of existing Council housing stock to be carbon neutral;
- ii) Consider planting of wildflower verges to reduce emissions, promote health and wellbeing and increase biodiversity; and
- iii) Installation of water fountains in public places that reduces the use of single use plastic water bottles.

The Working Group also agreed that an audit of the electric car charging points in Harlow should be conducted, and that Officers would look at how engine idling restrictions worked in other areas.

It was noted that work was underway to install LED street lighting throughout Harlow.

RESOLVED that:

A The following items would be moved from medium term to short term:

- i) Consider the building of new carbon neutral Council housing/retrofitting of existing Council housing stock to be carbon neutral;
- ii) Consider planting of wildflower verges to reduce emissions, promote health and wellbeing and increase biodiversity; and
- iii) Installation of water fountains in public places that reduces the use of single use plastic water bottles.

B An audit is conducted in the short term on electric car charging points in Harlow.

C Officers will look at how other councils are implementing car idling restrictions.

6. **WORK PLAN**

RESOLVED that the Work Plan was noted.

7. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW
WORKING GROUP