



Waltham Forest Town Hall  
Forest Road  
E17 4JF

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## Cabinet

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Minutes of  
13 January 2026 at 2.00 pm

**Present:**

**Chair:**

Councillor Grace Williams      Leader of the Council

**Cabinet Members:**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Councillor Ahsan Khan       | Deputy Leader (Housing and Regeneration)                        |
| Councillor Naheed Asghar    | Portfolio Lead Member - Inclusive Economy                       |
| Councillor Rosalind Doré    | Portfolio Lead Member - Libraries, Culture and Sports & Leisure |
| Councillor Andrew Dixon     | Portfolio Lead Member - Stronger Communities                    |
| Councillor Paul Douglas     | Portfolio Lead Member - Finance and Resources                   |
| Councillor Kizzy Gardiner   | Portfolio Lead Member - Children and Young People               |
| Councillor Khevyne Limbajee | Portfolio Lead Member - Community Safety                        |
| Councillor Louise Mitchell  | Portfolio Lead Member - Adults and Health                       |

**Councillors in Attendance:**

Councillor Vicky Ashworth

**Officers in Attendance:**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Linzi Roberts-Egan | Chief Executive                                    |
| Nicky Crouch       | Strategic Director, Children Services              |
| Marc Gadsby        | Strategic Director, Adult Services                 |
| Joe Garrod         | Strategic Director, Place                          |
| Anthony Jackson    | Democratic Services Officer                        |
| Rob Manning        | Strategic Director, Resources                      |
| Debbie Porter      | Strategic Director, Neighbourhoods and Environment |
| Rianna Terry       | Assistant Director, Leadership and Democracy       |
| Jeremy Walling     | Assistant Director, Commercial Law                 |
| Emily Wood         | Head of Democratic Services                        |

#### **54. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Clyde Loakes.

#### **55. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

#### **56. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 2 December 2026, were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **57. Waltham Forest's Evening and Nighttime Economy Framework**

Councillor Doré introduced the report and, in doing so, highlighted the framework as a crucial missing piece following the Town Centre Framework, Inclusive Growth Strategy, and Cultural Action Plan. She noted the national focus on nighttime activity and the unique opportunities in Waltham Forest, particularly in developing new cultural experiences, employment, and improving community safety. Councillor Doré then cited the existing vibrant activities, including Leytonstone's live music scene, night markets, Greater London Authority (GLA) funding for Francis Road in Leyton, and the positive impact of the opening of Soho Theatre in Walthamstow. She also pointed to progress in the north of the borough, such as the Regal Cinema development and the food scene in North Chingford.

Councillor Khan emphasised the extensive cross-council collaboration in order to bring the framework forward in addition to external partnerships, including Transport for London (TfL), Metropolitan Police, Leyton Town Team and the Blackhorse Collective. He also highlighted the Creative Enterprise Zone in Blackhorse Road as an example of successful planning and licencing collaboration, particularly in the brewery and cultural sectors. Councillor Khan then acknowledged improvements in community safety across London and locally, and thanked Councillor Limbajee and his team for their hard work. In addition, he also gave thanks to the Regeneration team and the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Environment.

#### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) approved the new Evening and Nighttime Economy Framework for the borough; and
- (2) noted the proposed launch of the Framework in February 2026, working in close collaboration with the council's communications team.

## **58. Electric Vehicle Charging Point Strategy 2026-2030**

The Leader introduced the report and, in doing so, pointed to significant progress since the first strategy in 2020, with the number of EV charging points increasing from 93 to 1,716 by December last year. She went on to say that the borough was currently five years ahead of public charging point demand, however, a study indicated a need for nearly 2,700 public sockets by 2030, necessitating continued planning and development. The Leader then thanked Councillor Loakes for his leadership in this area, Debbie Porter and Jane Sherry – Head of Sustainable Transport - and the wider team for their hard work.

### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the outcomes of the 2020-2025 Electric Vehicle Charging Point Strategy;
- (2) reviewed the proposed updates which will be included within the 2026-2030 Electric Vehicle Charging Point Strategy; and
- (3) approved the proposed 2026-2030 Electric Vehicle Charging Point Strategy (Appendix A to the report).

## **59. School Improvement Procurement**

Councillor Gardiner introduced the report and, in doing so, confirmed that the current provider had received positive feedback from schools across the borough. She said that the aim was to ensure schools provided the best possible education and supported the increasing number of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to achieve positive outcomes.

### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) approved the procurement of an external School Improvement Partner via a procurement process;
- (2) noted that the contract should be in place for 5 years (1+1+1+1+1) to align with Annual de-delegation vote from schools; and
- (3) approved that a direct award should be made to the current provider Haringey Education Partnership for the period 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2027 whilst the procurement process is undertaken to allow for continuity of service.

## **60. School Admissions Determined Arrangements 2027/28**

Councillor Gardiner introduced the report and, in doing so, highlighted the fact that there was a high number of children who had received their first choice school in the borough. She then gave thanks to Pauline Smith – Head of Admissions and the wider team for their hard work.

### **Decision**

Cabinet approved the school admissions determined arrangements for 2027/28 for community and voluntary controlled schools at Appendix A to the report.

## **61. Draft Local Funding Formula for Schools 2026-27**

Councillor Gardiner introduced the report and, in doing so, stated that the school funding formula had been developed in conjunction with the Schools Forum. She then gave thanks to the Finance team, particularly Jordan McDougall – Head of Schools Finance, and the Schools Forum, for their hard work.

### **Decision**

Cabinet approved:

- (1) the draft Schools Block Local Funding Formula for 2026/27 for 5- to 16-year-olds at Appendix A of the report;
- (2) using the maximum Minimum Funding Guarantee permitted (+0.0%);
- (3) that, if after running the formula, there are unallocated funds or over allocation of funds, that such amounts are adjusted through adjusting the rates for Basic Entitlement (AWPU) subject to those permitted by the Department for Education; and
- (4) that, if the rates for Basic Entitlement (AWPU) reach the maximum permitted, any further funds will be applied to the Growth Fund.

**The meeting closed at 2.16 pm**

**Chair's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_