



Waltham Forest Town Hall  
Forest Road  
E17 4JF

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## Cabinet

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Minutes of  
14 January 2025 at 2.00 pm

**Present:**

**Chair:** Councillor Grace Williams

**Cabinet Members:**

Councillor Ahsan Khan	Deputy Leader (Housing and Regeneration)
Councillor Clyde Loakes	Deputy Leader (Climate and Air Quality)
Councillor Naheed Asghar	Portfolio Lead Member - Inclusive Economy
Councillor Vicky Ashworth	Portfolio Lead Member - Stronger Communities
Councillor Rosalind Doré	Portfolio Lead Member - Libraries, Culture and Sports & Leisure
Councillor Kizzy Gardiner	Portfolio Lead Member - Children and Young People
Councillor Khevyn Limbajee	Portfolio Lead Member - Community Safety
Councillor Louise Mitchell	Portfolio Lead Member - Adults and Health

**Officers in Attendance:**

Linzi Roberts-Egan	Chief Executive
Temitope Ademosu	Strategic Director, Stronger Communities
Ian Buckle	Head of Electoral and Democratic Services
Nicky Crouch	Strategic Director, Children Services
Marc Gadsby	Strategic Director, Adult Services
Joe Garrod	Acting Strategic Director, Place
Jarlath Griffin	Director of Neighbourhoods
Mark Hynes	Director of Governance and Law
Anthony Jackson	Democratic Services Officer
Rob Manning	Strategic Director, Resources

**65. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received by Councillor Paul Douglas.

**66. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

## **67. Minutes of Cabinet**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 3 December 2024, were approved and signed as a correct record.

## **68. Damp and Mould Policy**

Councillor Khan introduced the report and, in doing so, acknowledged that the Council could have done more in certain instances in relation to damp and mould and stated that the policy took onboard lessons learned over recent times. He added that the policy would strengthen the Council's response to the Government's consultation on Awaab's Law. Councillor Khan gave thanks to Mark Crane – Director of Housing Delivery, Jane Martin – Acting Director of Housing and their teams for their hard work.

The Leader echoed Councillor Khan's words of thanks to officers and also commended him for his leadership.

### **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) approved the Damp and Mould Policy at Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) delegated, to the Strategic Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Member for Housing & Regeneration, and Director of Governance and Law, authority to amend the policy in response to any new legal requirements.

## **69. Sufficiency Strategy - Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2024-2027**

Councillor Gardiner introduced the report and, in doing so, highlighted that a partnership approach to the strategy was necessary. She then gave thanks to relevant officers, foster carers and adoptive parents for their hard work.

The Leader praised the strategy highlighting the importance of children having a loving and safe home. She gave thanks to Councillor Gardiner and relevant officers for their work on the strategy.

### **Decision**

Cabinet approved the Waltham Forest Children's Sufficiency Strategy 2024- 2027.

## **70. School Determined Arrangements 2025/26**

Councillor Gardiner introduced the report and, in doing so, referred to the fact that there were changes to the make-up of the borough, for example, the birth rate was

declining in areas south of the borough whilst there was growth north of the borough. She then referred to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill that was currently making its way through parliament which would strengthen the Council's role in managing school places and would allow the Council to better manage changing demand for schools in the borough.

## **Decision**

Cabinet:

- (1) noted the consultation carried out at Appendix B of the report and reasons for the proposed reduction in PAN set out in paragraph 3 of the report;
- (2) agreed to the proposed Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN) reduction for Chapel End Infants and Edinburgh Schools from 2026/2027; and
- (3) approved the school admissions determined arrangements for 2026/27 for community and voluntary controlled schools at Appendix A of the report.

## **71. Draft Local Funding Formula for Schools 2025/26**

Councillor Gardiner introduced the report and, in doing so, she said that it was important to note that schools had struggled financially over recent years and that officers and schools had undertaken some great work as part of the 'Schools facing financial challenges programme' with the intention of supporting those schools in the greatest difficulty. Councillor Gardiner added that it was good to see that relationships with schools were being prioritised in the Childrens Wellbeing and Schools Bill. She then gave thanks to officers, the Schools' Forum and all schools in the borough.

The Leader highlighted the importance of working in partnership with schools and echoed Councillor Gardiner's words of thanks for their engagement. She also commended Councillor Gardiner for her leadership and officers for their hard work.

## **Decision**

Cabinet approved:

- (1) the draft Schools Block Local Funding Formula for 2025/26 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.

**72. Shareholder Committee Appointments**

Cabinet agreed that Councillor Vicky Ashworth be added to the membership of the Shareholder Committee.

**The meeting closed at 2.13 pm**

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

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