

## Changing the way we work



### Haringey Council Leader Claire Kober explains changes to the council's decision making structure.

*The past few months have seen some big changes at Haringey Council as we adapt to the impact of the government's spending cuts.*

As well as leading to some difficult decisions about the services we provide, the reductions to our funding have also made us look again at the governance of the council – how our decision making process works, how we can reduce costs, and how we can best involve local residents in the process.

As we make changes to how services are provided, it is more important than ever that our democratic arrangements are truly responsive to local needs and concerns, and allow a voice to people across the borough.

I chair the council's Governance Review Delivery Group, which has drawn up a number of changes including:

- Creating Area Committees to enable local decision-making, area priority plans and public forums
- Changes to Overview & Scrutiny to allow the committee to consider how best to focus time and resources on effective scrutiny
- Reducing Full Council meetings to five per year, including Annual Council, Budget-setting and three Haringey Debate meetings
- A reduction in the number of Special Responsibility Allowances paid to councillors
- Combining Planning and Licensing committees and the Miscellaneous Functions sub-committee into a single Regulatory Committee with planning and licensing sub-committees
- Setting up a Corporate Committee which will combine General Purposes, Audit, Pensions and Remuneration

Central to our vision for the future of Haringey is a commitment to enabling you to be better involved. We want residents to help elected councillors make the best possible decisions for the borough and to work with us to meet challenges together.

I hope that the changes we're making will help to bridge the gap between councillors and residents and I hope that as many of you as possible will get involved – in particular through the new Area Committees, which will place local decision making at the heart of life in Haringey.

You can find out more about how the Area Committee will work on page 23.



#### Any questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about council policies, you can email me at [leader@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:leader@haringey.gov.uk) or send a letter to Cllr Claire Kober, Leader of Haringey Council, River Park House, 225 High Road, London N22 8HQ.