

2nd January 2018

Dear Claire,

It is with some regret that I have taken the decision that I can no longer serve as the Cabinet Member for the Environment. This means there are many projects I have initiated and will no longer be able to see through, including Landlord Licensing and our Transport Strategy.

I have worked with many talented and dedicated officers during my time in Cabinet, who are being forced to respond to the Tory government's austerity agenda. I have also been proud to work with residents to improve the environment in Haringey – to ensure our streets are clean, our carriageways and pavements safe and accessible and to keep Haringey green.

I had hoped that by serving in Cabinet I could bring a divergent view and persuade colleagues to take different decisions. However, this has often proved futile with decisions made in advance and brought to Cabinet and Labour Group to be rubber stamped. This top-down style of leadership and failure to collaborate has led to poor decision making on a range of issues.

As you are aware, it is protocol for a sitting Council not to take major decisions in the run up to an election. In Haringey, only 4 out of 10 Cabinet members are standing for election in May. There is simply no mandate for the Cabinet to take these decisions and to dispose of public assets such as Osborne Grove, and there is certainly no mandate to continue with the divisive and rightly criticised Haringey Development Vehicle.

I urge you not to continue to take major decisions in advance of the local elections, which in the words of the Shadow Chancellor, may tie the hands both of the next Labour Group in Haringey and also the next Labour government.

My resignation takes effect immediately and I will be seeing out this current municipal term from the backbenches. This means I will be free to raise my considerable concerns about the Wood Green Area Action Plan and the evident lack of engagement with residents and ward councillors on such an important issue.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as a councillor in Wood Green since 2014 – the area I have lived my whole life and I am delighted to have been re-selected to take my record to the people of Noel Park in May 2018.



Cllr Peray Ahmet