

MINUTES
of a meeting of the Governance Board
17 March 2026
(13:30-15:05)
At St James House

Present:

Anne-Marie Dean, Chairman
Ian Buckmaster, Company Secretary
Ron Wright, Non-Executive Director
Jenny Douglass, Community Support Officer

Carol Dennis, Jenny Gregory, Dawn Ladbrook and Di Old, Members

1 Welcome and apologies

An apology was received for the absence of Val Perry.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

3 Minutes of meeting held 17 February 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2026 were agreed as correct records and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

4 Finance Report

(a) February

The report was submitted.

Expenditure for the month was £7,696, again slightly below the current monthly average, bringing the average monthly spend this year to £7,714.

Bank balances at the end of the month were noted.

The Board noted that the Savings Account (Reserves) had been closed on 2 March following receipt of interest of £106.59. The whole balance was transferred to the current account.

(b) Employment Allowance

The rebate of employer's National Insurance Contributions (NICs) had now been exhausted. Accordingly, tax payments would be due for February and March.

5 Havering Place-based Partnership (HPbP)

As the NHS moved to the new model of being a Neighbourhood Health service, the Partnership Board was being restructured and there were not expected to be any further meetings for some months.

6 NHS North East London/North East London Health and Care Partnership

The ICB continued to be in a state of flux, with a reduction of staff from 855 to 597 (42%) in hand; around 150 staff were leaving voluntarily in the next month or so, with compulsory redundancies to follow.

In future, the ICB would focus on four areas:

- Strategy
- Strategic Commissioning
- Clinical and Quality Commissioning
- Finance and Resources

Financially, the ICB and ICS remained in significant deficit.

7 Havering Contract for provision of Healthwatch Services

The Board held a further, brief confidential discussion of matters relating to the Council's contract for the provision of Healthwatch Services from 1 April 2026.

8 Final meeting

It was noted, with considerable regret, that this was the final meeting of the Governance Board.

On behalf of both the Directors of the Company and all members, the Chairman thanked Carol Dennis, Jenny Gregory, Dawn Ladbrook, Di Old and (in her absence from the meeting) Val Perry for their contributions to both Healthwatch and the Company through their membership of the Board. She added that it would have been impossible for Healthwatch to have worked in the way it had

without their considerable input to its activities, especially the very full Enter & View visits programme.

She expressed best wishes to all Board members for the future.

_____ Chairman