

# GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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Wednesday, 14 September 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

C1, Mulberry Place, 5, Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG

## SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

**This meeting is open to the public to attend.**

**Contact for further enquiries:**

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For further information including the Membership of this body and public information, see the main agenda.

The documents below were tabled at the meeting

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**3 .1 Elections Update**

Copes of tabled presentation material.

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**3 .2 Organisation Structure**

Comments received from UNISON in relation to this item.

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# Briefing for GP Committee

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## EU Referendum – 23 June 2016

Will Tuckley – Chief Executive/Counting Officer  
Louise Stamp – Head of Electoral Services

Agenda Item 3.1

# EU Referendum 2016

- Delivered successfully under immense pressure
- Tower Hamlets Voting Area – RCO for London
- All staff employed were trained – online training for POs/PCs and reserves
- Polling Station Inspectors received dedicated training
- Count staff facilitated training with counting of ballot papers
- High volumes of registration and absent vote applications
- Registration applications from 1 April – 9 June 2016
  - Online – 43,130
  - Duplicates – 7,402 (17.2%)
  - Deletions = 10,557 (24.48)

# Planning and Management

- The planning, management and implementation of two major elections in a seven week period presented a major challenge for the Electoral Services team
- Election plans and contingency/risk registers in place
- Registration – extended registration period due to online system crash affected determination dates
- Postal vote applications – highest number ever, but lowest rejection rate (4.6%)
- Staffing – difficulty finding experienced staff available during holiday period and Ramadan
- No allegations of electoral malpractice or alleged fraud

# Local Practices

- Joint working/planning with Council services, local Police and Met Police
- Local Police Officers present at every polling place from 7am – 10:30pm
- Exclusion Zones marked to avoid intimidation/crowds
- Hourly line marked across the corresponding numbers list to assist police with any allegations of personation
- 6+ electors checks two weeks before the referendum to ensure an up-to-date register is used at polling stations
- Registration days at Idea Stores and regular local newspaper advertisements to promote awareness

## Polling Day – 23 June 2016

- Polling Day: Thursday 23 June 2016 – Floods (am) deployment of emergency contingency plans
- 75 polling places – 104 polling stations across the borough
- Eligible electorate = 167,820 (no European Union citizens)
- Postal Voters – 31,211
- Postal vote return – 77.23%
- Postal vote rejection rate – 4.6%
- Proxy Voters – 1,204
- Overseas electors – 2,027

# Floods ....

 **The King**  
@BowEThree  

[@TowerHamletsNow](#) #Flood in Hamlets Way next to cemetery & new building works. New building Dust = blockage in sewage



4:02 PM - 23 Jun 2016



# Floods ....



The King @BowEThree · Jun 23

@TowerHamletsNow Hamlets Way E3 Completely Flooded as women and children try to get home from school!



# EU Referendum Count

Count code of conduct for candidates, agents and guests

Police presence at count venue

Count held at:

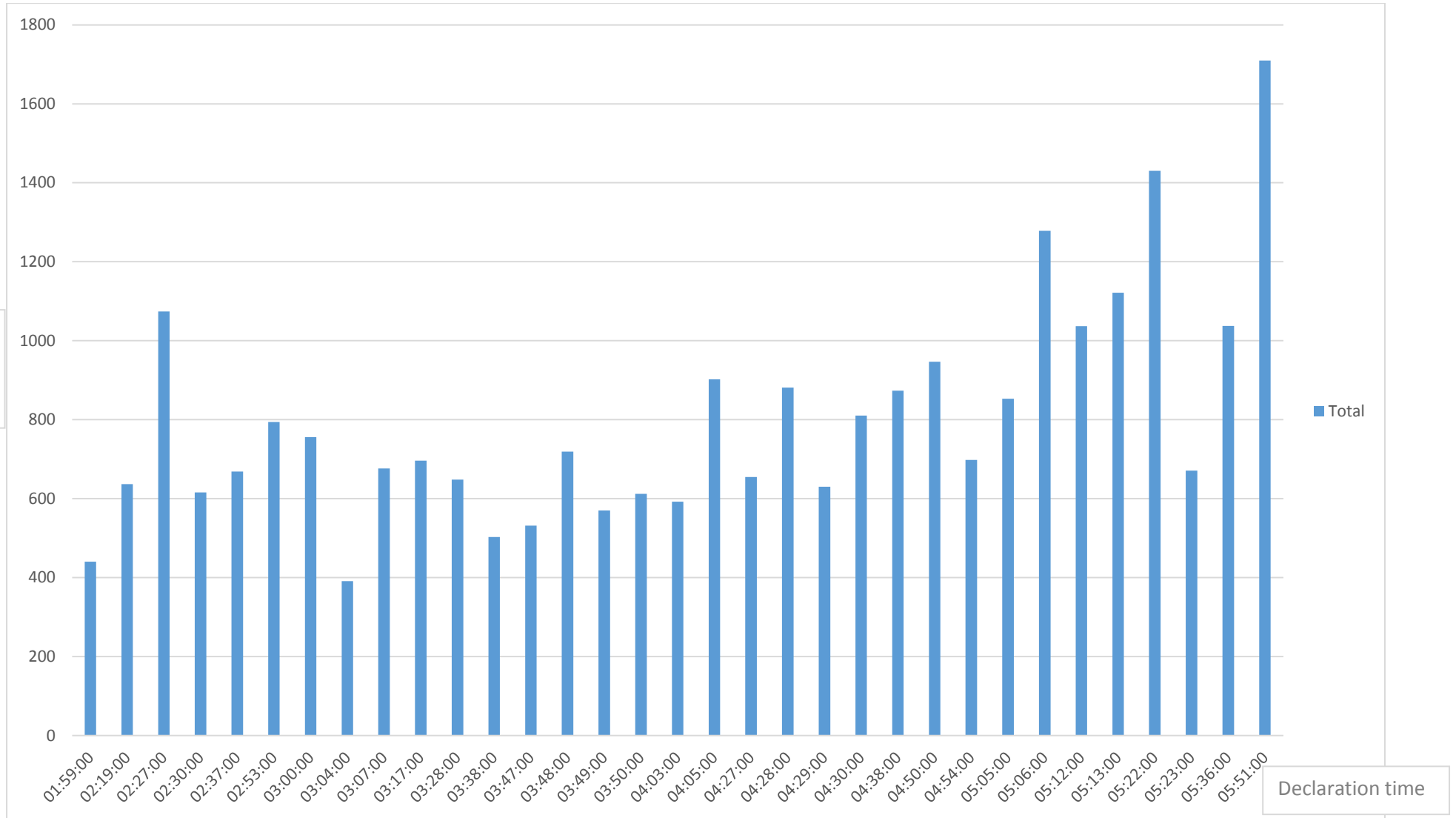
- East Wintergarden, Canary Wharf
  - 120 count assistants and 30 supervisors
  - Turnout – 64.6%
  - Declaration – 04:05am (24 June 2016)
  - Remain – 73,011 votes (67.5%)
  - Leave – 35,224 votes (32.5%)

London results and declaration times (with handout)

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Valid Votes</b>	<b>Leave</b>	<b>Remain</b>	<b>Turnout</b>	<b>Declaration</b>	<b>Count Staff</b>	<b>Votes per CA</b>
City of London	4,399	1,087	3,312	73.60%	01:59:00	10	440
Lambeth	141,924	30,340	111,584	67.40%	02:19:00	223	636
Wandsworth	157,884	39,421	118,463	72%	02:27:00	147	1,074
Barking & Dag.	73,880	46,130	27,750	63.80%	02:30:00	120	616
Ham. & Fulham	80,242	24,054	56,188	69.90%	02:37:00	120	669
Islington	101,600	25,180	76,420	70.40%	02:53:00	128	794
Richmond upon Thames	108,806	33,410	75,396	82.10%	03:00:00	144	756
Westminster	78,196	24,268	53,928	65%	03:04:00	200	391
Merton	100,100	37,097	63,003	73.50%	03:07:00	148	676
Haringey	105,846	25,855	79,991	70.60%	03:17:00	152	696
Ealing	149,041	59,017	90,024	70.10%	03:28:00	230	648
Waltham Forest	108,551	44,395	64,156	66.70%	03:38:00	216	503
Hackney	106,266	22,868	83,398	65.20%	03:47:00	200	531
Hounslow	115,076	56,321	58,755	69.80%	03:48:00	160	719
Kensington and Chelsea	54,739	17,138	37,601	66.00%	03:49:00	96	570
Bexley	128,489	80,886	47,603	75.30%	03:50:00	210	612
Sutton	106,560	57,241	49,319	76.00%	04:03:00	180	592
<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	<b>108,235</b>	<b>35,224</b>	<b>73,011</b>	<b>64.60%</b>	<b>04:05:00</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>902</b>
Newham	104,699	49,371	55,328	59.20%	04:27:00	160	654
Camden	95,133	23,838	71,295	65.50%	04:28:00	108	881
Harrow	117,225	53,183	64,042	72.20%	04:29:00	186	630
Enfield	136,096	60,481	76,425	69.10%	04:30:00	168	810
Croydon	171,134	78,221	92,913	69.80%	04:38:00	196	873
Greenwich	117,365	52,117	65,248	69.50%	04:50:00	124	946
Brent	121,404	48,881	72,523	65.10%	04:54:00	174	698
Kingston upon Thames	85,270	32,737	52,533	78.40%	05:05:00	100	853
Barnet	161,033	60,823	100,210	72.10%	05:06:00	126	1,278
Bromley	182,432	90,034	92,398	78.90%	05:12:00	176	1,037
Havering	139,086	96,885	42,201	76.00%	05:13:00	124	1,122
Hillingdon	133,022	74,982	58,040	69.00%	05:22:00	93	1,430
Southwark	129,502	35,209	94,293	66.20%	05:23:00	193	671
Lewisham	124,473	37,518	86,955	63.10%	05:36:00	120	1,037
Redbridge	128,233	59,020	69,213	67.60%	05:51:00	75	1,710

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Table to show the relationship of votes per count staff to the declaration time



Number of votes per counter

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Declaration time

### **What does the table tell us?**

- The blue bars show the ratio of votes to count staff – the shorter the bar, the fewer votes each counting staff had to count
- The general trend shows that the lower the ratio of votes to counting staff the earlier the declaration time
- If there was a direct relationship the table would show blue bars going continuously upwards
- But it is not a direct relationship – the shortest blue bar does not give the earliest declaration time
- This means there are other factors that influence the declaration time

### **What other factors can influence the declaration time?**

There are a whole range of factors, here's a few:

- Speed of getting the ballot boxes into the count and allocated to a counting team
- The total number of ballot boxes
- The number of count staff allocated to each ballot box
- The method of counting (mini-counts, what size)
- Speed of individual counters
- Number of supervising staff
- Requirements for form filling
- How the results are calculated and checked – the accountants
- Timing of adjudication (e.g during the count or at the end)
- Tolerance / variance
- Layout of the count
- Speed and method of decision making
- Recounts

## GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

*The Branch Secretary, Tower Hamlets UNISON has asked that the Committee be made aware of the following comments on Item 3.2 from tonight's agenda- Organisation Structure.*

### **Unison Comments On Item 3.2 - Organisation Structure**

1. We have had a very short period of time to look at this proposal. Our first concern is the paucity of information. We have asked for, but not been provided with, a copy of the current structure that this will replace. Without this it is not entirely clear where existing posts will be deleted. Our concern on this is not solely or predominantly about the impact on current individual post holders but the implications for the services themselves.
2. It is not clear to us that even at a senior managerial level there has been much scope for input and an initial glance at the proposed structure would raise concerns for example: does locating Ideas Stores under a customer access AD imply a dilution of the critical role they play in learning and cultural activity in favour of a model we see in some other places of a type of One Stop Shop approach which may not suit the needs of Tower Hamlets; do all sports, leisure and culture sit well in Children's or Community Safety in Adults; does such a wide remit as regeneration, housing and economic regeneration provide adequate recognition of the need for high level skills and experience in critical areas with quite distinct needs; does subordinating benefits within a wider revenues role have implications for a function that provides vital support in our local community . Are you being asked to reach potentially quite far reaching decisions on limited information?
3. Also it is not clear whether the Assistant Director level represents a change in management level and pay or a change in nomenclature. It would appear hard to justify any creation of a higher tier of management when staff are being expected to take on wider roles at lower levels of the structure usually without any increase in pay.
4. It is not clear what is being proposed in relation to assimilation other than that interviews may be appropriate and that the process below Chief Officers will be the responsibility of the Chief Executive. We would expect a transparent process where equal criteria apply, recognising that criteria may vary at some levels (for example the requirement for member appointments). For the avoidance of doubt it would seem to us to be potentially automatically unfair if more recently appointed officers were to be given direct assimilation claims but more longstanding officers given no claims or to be required to compete at interview.

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