



Meeting of the

# Tower Hamlets Council

## Agenda

**Wednesday, 15 March 2023 at 7.00 p.m.**

### **VENUE**

Council Chamber,  
Whitechapel Town Hall  
160 Whitechapel Road,  
London E1 1BJ

### **Meeting Webcast**

The meeting is being webcast for viewing through the Council's webcast system.  
<http://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. The press and public are encouraged to watch the meeting on line.

### **Democratic Services Contact:**

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## Chief Executive's Office

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### To the Mayor and Councillors of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL** at **7.00 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 2023**

Stephen Halsey  
Interim Chief Executive



## Public Information

### Viewing Council Meetings

Except where any exempt/restricted documents are being discussed, the public are welcome to view this meeting through the Council's webcast system.

### Meeting Webcast and Public attendance

The meeting is being webcast for viewing through the Council's webcast system. <http://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home> The press and public are encouraged to watch this meeting on line

**Please note:** It is also possible to attend meetings in person. Places in the public gallery are allocated on a first come, first served basis from the reception at the Town Hall on the day of the meeting.

### Electronic agendas reports and minutes.

Copies of agendas, reports and minutes for council meetings can also be found on our website from day of publication.

To access this, click [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee) and search for the relevant committee and meeting date.

Agendas are available on the Modern.Gov, Windows, iPad and Android apps.



QR code for  
smart phone  
users

## **Public Information**

The meeting is being held at the Council's Town Hall.

Full Council is made up of the Mayor and the 45 Councillors. It's responsibilities include: deciding the Council's overall policies and setting the budget for the year. It also appoints the Council's Committees at the Annual Meeting. In addition, the Council provides opportunities to discuss local issues and is a means by which the Mayor and Cabinet can be held to account in public

The agenda for this ordinary Council meetings comprises:

- Apologies for absence from Members
- Declarations of Interests.
- Minutes of the previous meeting.
- Announcements from the Speaker or the Chief Executive of the Council.
- Petitions for presentation (over 30 signatures) or for debate (over 2000 signatures). A maximum of 4 Petitions that meet the criteria may be discussed taken in the order of receipt.
- Mayor's report followed by Opposition Leader's response. Written report (if any) to be published shortly before the meeting.
- Main Motion debates (including any amendments received)
- Reports requiring Full Council approval
- Member Questions (30 minutes). Questions not put to receive a written response.
- Motions from Members received on notice (including any amendments received). Consideration of these subject to time constraints.
- Any Urgent motions from Members.

Further details on the process for considering these items is set out on the covering reports in the agenda.

### **How can I watch the meeting?**

Except when an exempt item is under discussion, the meeting will be broadcast live for public viewing via our Webcasting portal <https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. Details of the broadcasting arrangements will be published on the agenda front sheet.

### **Public Attendance and Conduct at Meetings**

The public may also watch the Council meeting in the public gallery. To attend please collect a ticket from reception at the town hall. We request that you show courtesy to all present and do not interrupt the meeting. The intention is not to specifically webcast members of the public, however, it is possible that you may be filmed in the background. By attending the meeting you are agreeing to this condition.

Please also switch off mobile phones or turn them on silent.

If you are scheduled to present a petition in person at the meeting, please sit in the reserved seating in the front row. You will be called to address the meeting at the appropriate time

If the fire alarm rings please follow the instructions of the Facilities Staff who will direct you to the exits.



### **Procedure at the meeting.**

Just before the start of the meeting, the macebearer will ask everyone to be upstanding for the Speaker. The Speaker of the Council is the Chair of the meeting and is in charge of the debate. Their role is to control the meeting, including the order of speakers, and to ensure that the business is carried out properly. The Speaker will confirm the expected meeting etiquette for Council meeting, including the following:

- The Speaker will determine the order of speakers - usually from a list of speakers.
- That any online participants must mute their microphones when not speaking.
- Such participants should also switch off their cameras when not speaking.
- All Members may contribute to the discussions, but only the Members physically present in the chamber may vote on items requiring a decision.

### **Order of business**

The Speaker may agree to change the order of business at the meeting. In addition, the Speaker may adjourn the meeting for a period of time or agree an extension to the time limit for the meeting (by up to half hour beyond the three-hour limit). To change the order of business, a Member will need to formally move a motion seeking approval for the requested change. Any such motions will be put to the vote.

### **Voting**

The items requiring a decision will normally be determined by a show of hands or an electronic vote (by Members present in the meeting room). If there are an equal number of votes for and against an item of business, the Speaker will have a second or casting vote.

### **Decisions and Minutes**

The decisions will be published on the website 2 days after the meeting. The draft minutes will be published around 10 working days after the meeting.

### **Publication of Agenda papers.**

Electronic copies of the Council agenda will be published on the Council's Website on the relevant Committee pages at least five clear working days before the meeting.

To view meeting papers and to be alerted when agendas have been published visit: [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee). Council documents are also available on 'Mod.Gov' iPad, Android and Windows tablet apps downloadable for free from their respective app stores.

### **Publication of tabled papers**

Any additional documents (such as the Mayor's report, amendments to motions and urgent motions) will normally be published on the Council meeting website either shortly before or during the meeting.



# London Borough of Tower Hamlets

## Council

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

7.00 p.m.

### PAGE NUMBER

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

9 - 10

Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest, identified in the Code of Conduct for Members to determine; whether they have an interest in any agenda item and any action they should take. For further details, see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

Members are also reminded to declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it is the Members' responsibility to identify any interests and also update their register of interests form as required by the Code.

If in doubt as to the nature of an interest, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services.

#### 3. MINUTES

11 - 48

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted and exempt/confidential minutes of the Budget Council meeting on 1 March 2023 - to follow.

#### 4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



<b>5.</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE PETITIONS</b>	<b>49 - 52</b>
	<p>The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of four petitions to be discussed at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.</p> <p>The attached report presents the received petitions to be discussed. Should any additional petitions be received they will be listed to be noted but not discussed.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>MAYOR'S REPORT</b>	
	<p>The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.</p> <p>A maximum of six minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the leaders of the opposition groups to respond for up to two minutes each should they so wish. Following those contributions, the Mayor may reply for up to two minutes.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE</b>	<b>53 - 56</b>
	<p>To debate a Motion submitted by the Administration in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE</b>	<b>57 - 60</b>
	<p>To debate a Motion submitted by the Opposition Group in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES</b>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
<b>10 .1</b>	<b>Members' Allowances Scheme 2023-24</b>	<b>61 - 72</b>
	<p>To consider the report of the Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer on the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2023-24.</p>	
<b>10 .2</b>	<b>Committee Calendar 2023-24</b>	<b>73 - 76</b>
	<p>To consider the report of the Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer setting out the calendar of committee meetings for 2023/24.</p>	



### **10 .3 Agree Exit Payments**

**To Follow**

To consider the report of the Interim Corporate Director, Resources, listing potential exit payments where the overall package is likely to exceed £99,999.

Note that this unrestricted report relates to an exempt/confidential report at agenda item 14.1.

### **11. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**77 - 80**

The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

### **12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**81 - 88**

The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.

### **13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

In view of the contents of the remaining items on the agenda the Committee is recommended to adopt the following motion: "That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the consideration of the Section Two business on the grounds that it contains information defined as Exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972."

#### **EXEMPT SECTION (Pink Papers)**

The Exempt/Confidential (pink) papers for consideration at the meeting will contain information, which is commercially, legally or personally sensitive and should not be divulged to third parties. If you do not wish to retain these papers after the meeting, please hand them to the Democratic Services Officer present or dispose of them in the confidential bins.

### **14. EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **14 .1 Agree Exit Payments**

**To Follow**

To consider the exempt/confidential report of the Interim Corporate Director, Resources, on exit payments where the overall package is likely to exceed £99,999.





# Agenda Item 2

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AT MEETINGS– NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER**

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Code of Conduct for Members at Part C, Section 31 of the Council's Constitution

### **(i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)**

You have a DPI in any item of business on the agenda where it relates to the categories listed in **Appendix A** to this guidance. Please note that a DPI includes: (i) Your own relevant interests; (ii) Those of your spouse or civil partner; (iii) A person with whom the Member is living as husband/wife/civil partners. Other individuals, e.g. Children, siblings and flatmates do not need to be considered. Failure to disclose or register a DPI (within 28 days) is a criminal offence.

Members with a DPI, (unless granted a dispensation) must not seek to improperly influence the decision, must declare the nature of the interest and leave the meeting room (including the public gallery) during the consideration and decision on the item – unless exercising their right to address the Committee.

**DPI Dispensations and Sensitive Interests.** In certain circumstances, Members may make a request to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive.

### **(ii) Non - DPI Interests that the Council has decided should be registered – (Non - DPIs)**

You will have 'Non DPI Interest' in any item on the agenda, where it relates to (i) the offer of gifts or hospitality, (with an estimated value of at least £25) (ii) Council Appointments or nominations to bodies (iii) Membership of any body exercising a function of a public nature, a charitable purpose or aimed at influencing public opinion.

Members must declare the nature of the interest, but may stay in the meeting room and participate in the consideration of the matter and vote on it **unless:**

- A reasonable person would think that your interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair your judgement of the public interest. **If so, you must withdraw and take no part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.**

### **(iii) Declarations of Interests not included in the Register of Members' Interest.**

Occasions may arise where a matter under consideration would, or would be likely to, **affect the wellbeing of you, your family, or close associate(s) more than it would anyone else living in the local area** but which is not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests. In such matters, Members must consider the information set out in paragraph (ii) above regarding Non DPI - interests and apply the test, set out in this paragraph.

### **Guidance on Predetermination and Bias**

Member's attention is drawn to the guidance on predetermination and bias, particularly the need to consider the merits of the case with an open mind, as set out in the Planning and Licensing Codes of Conduct, (Part C, Section 34 and 35 of the Constitution). For further advice on the possibility of bias or predetermination, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting.

### **Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 - Declarations which restrict Members in Council Tax arrears, for at least a two months from voting**

In such circumstances the member may not vote on any reports and motions with respect to the matter.

**Further Advice** contact: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer, Tel: 0207 364 4348.

## APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either—  (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or  (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2023**

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5  
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

**Members Present:**

Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Member)	Councillor Iqbal Hossain (Member)
Councillor Faroque Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Kabir Hussain (Member)
Councillor Kabir Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Kamrul Hussain (Member)
Councillor Leelu Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Shahaveer Shubo Hussain (Member)
Councillor Musthak Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Asma Islam (Member)
Councillor Saied Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Sirajul Islam (Member)
Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Ahmodul Kabir (Member)
Councillor Suluk Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled (Member)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Ahmodur Khan (Member)
Councillor Sabina Akhtar (Member)	Councillor Sabina Khan (Member)
Councillor Amina Ali (Member)	Councillor James King (Member)
Councillor Asma Begum (Member)	Councillor Amy Lee (Member)
Councillor Maisha Begum (Member)	Councillor Abdul Malik (Member)
Councillor Nathalie Bienfait (Member)	Councillor Abdul Mannan (Member)
Councillor Rachel Blake (Member)	Councillor Ana Miah (Member)
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin (Member)	Councillor Ayas Miah (Member)
Councillor Bodrul Choudhury (Member)	Councillor Harun Miah (Member)
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury (Member)	Councillor Amin Rahman (Member)
Councillor Jahed Choudhury (Member)	Councillor Rebaka Sultana (Member)
Councillor Abu Chowdhury (Member)	Councillor Maium Talukdar (Member)
Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury (Member)	Councillor Bellal Uddin (Member)
Councillor Marc Francis (Member)	Councillor Abdal Ullah (Member)
Councillor Peter Golds (Member)	Councillor Abdul Wahid (Member)

**AGENDA ORDER**

During the meeting the Council agreed to vary the order of business by taking Motion 12.4 before Agenda Item 8 (Opposition Motion for Debate). For clarity the minutes are presented in the order the items appeared on the agenda.

**SPEAKERS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Shafi Ahmed in the Chair:**

The Speaker of the Council provided his update to the Council. He welcomed everyone to the last Council meeting in Mulberry Place before the Council's move to the new Town Hall in Whitechapel and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The highlights included:

- Attendance at the victory day and liberation of Bangladesh, human rights & peace-day.
- Attendance at local schools to participate in achievement assemblies and concerts.
- Celebration of the annual Muslim Staff forum gala dinner and 2022 Christmas carols.
- Switching on of Christmas tree lights at Trafalgar Square and Charity Christmas Party.
- The Speaker Charity dinner in aid of the Tower project, with a special thanks to the sponsors and the money raised for the charity.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of:

Councillor Marc Francis and Councillor Rachel Blake.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS**

Following a request from 17 Members of the Council the Monitoring Officer agreed, in line with the Member Code of Conduct, to grant a general dispensation to all Councillors on Agenda Item 8 - Motion on Tower Hamlets Homes as without the dispensation a large number of Members would have to declare a Pecuniary Interest and leave the room for the debate and this would impede the 'transaction of the business'. Members were therefore able to participate in the debate and vote accordingly.

**3. MINUTES****RESOLVED:**

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be approved and signed by the Speaker as a correct record of proceedings, subject to the following amendment:
  - Councillor Peter Golds referred to page 13 of the agenda (page 3 of the minutes) Item 3 and stated he had requested that his name be recorded as not voting for this motion in the minutes. Hence Council noted the amendment in relation to item 8 'Opposition Motion for Debate - Support of small businesses in the face of the energy bill

crisis' that Councillor Golds did not vote in favour of the motion at the Council meeting of 5th October 2022.

- Councillor Nathalie Bienfait stated that Appendix A needed to make clear what the question and response was. She said the Democratic Services team had been notified of this administrative error and would going forth ensure this was clearly shown. Councillor Bienfait continued stating the response to her question at 11.24 had not been fully answered. The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Shafi Ahmed requested Councillor Bienfait to put her query in writing to the relevant Cabinet Member.

#### **4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **Announcements from the Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive, Will Tuckley provided his regular update to the Council meeting, highlighting the following issues:

- Covid and Flu rates were a little lower than the heights they reached over Christmas. However, the NHS and Social Care were under significant pressure to manage the demand for services.
- Work at the New Town Hall was progressing well, with the first teams in phase 1a moving to the Town Hall.
- Mayflower Primary School in Poplar had been named the best primary school in the Country in the Sunday Times Parent Power League Tables 2023.
- Children Services held its Annual Engagement meeting with Ofsted to review performance in respect to both Children's Social Care and Education.
- Feedback from Ofsted was very positive in respect to recent inspections of the Council and schools. This had been due to the self-evaluation and improvement plans.

#### **5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**

##### **5.1 Petition regarding Road Closures**

Mr Sadek Ali on behalf of the petitioners addressed the meeting and stated the road closures were seriously impacting the lives and livelihoods of local residents. He asked Members of the Council to re-open the roads. The petitioner responded to questions from Members. Councillor Kabir Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency responded to the matters raised in the petition. Councillor Kabir Hussain stated that as part of the Aspire manifesto, they were looing to open roads and ensure safety for all.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

## 5.2 Petition regarding Saving Chisenhale School Streets

Daniella Baker, Ruth Herbert and Tamara Barklem together with their children addressed the meeting and asked for the Chisenhale School Street to be reinstated. The Petitioners stated they were asking for a time-limited closure at drop off and pick up times, to improve safety as well as air pollution. The petitioners responded to questions from Members. Councillor Kabir Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency responded to the matters raised in the petition. Councillor Kabir Hussain said the traffic order was a temporary order and whilst he appreciated the school children's concerns about pollution and health & safety, roads needed to be accessible for all, including the elderly and infirm. He said road closures were not effective. The administration was working to make the borough greener for everyone.

### RESOLVED

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

## 6. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Lutfur Rahman presented his report to the Council.

The Opposition Group Leader, Councillor Sirajul Islam then responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

Mayor Rahman provided concluding remarks

## 7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Bodrul Choudhury **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Amina Ali **moved** and Councillor Rebaka Sultana **seconded** the following proposed amendment as set out in the supplementary agenda.

Additions underlined  
Deletions struck through.

### This Council notes:

- ~~The rising levels of crime in Tower Hamlets since 2015. That~~ Community Safety remains a vital issue for residents across Tower Hamlets borough.
- That Tower Hamlets is ranked in the top ten of London's most dangerous Boroughs, ranking third out of a possible thirty-two.

- That, according to 2022 data, serious crimes are on the rise and are much higher than the London average, including Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs, Robberies and Burglaries and violent crime, including periodic explosions in knife crime and murder.
- According to the latest reported statistics from the Metropolitan Police, homophobic hate crime in Tower Hamlets has increased by 39% in the last 8 months. At the Hate Crime Awareness event run in October 2022 by the Council-funded LGBTQI + forum, residents shared their concerns over safety in Tower Hamlets. This fear within the LGBTQI+ community in Tower Hamlets has increased since the horrific and tragic murder of Roy Kankanamalage last year, and further violence against our LGBTQI+ community in Mile End in July, continues to create fear and terror amongst our residents.
- That it is no coincidence that this rise in crime has coincided with the cuts to police and other key public services in London due to the decimation of neighbourhood policing by 13 years of Conservative government austerity where PCSOs have been halved since 2010, destroying the vital community link between residents and the police and the previous administration's indifference and unwillingness to invest in community safety.
- Despite Government inaction, the previous Labour administration did a lot of work with its partners in the Metropolitan Police Service and other local agencies to ensure that residents were protected from the worst effects of Conservative austerity on community safety.
- That the previous Labour administration invested in council-funded police officers, known as the Partnership Task Force (PTF), and since April 2021 the PTF undertook more than 9,000 hours of uniformed patrols, issued nearly 200 anti-social behaviour warnings, conducted 376 stop and searches and made 53 detections for possession of drugs or possession with intent to supply.
- The Council's award-winning Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), funded by the previous Labour administration, offers vital support for victims of domestic abuse and looked to improve women's safety, offering training sessions to encourage male allyship and reporting of abuse, a new contract with Solace Women's Aid to support victims of domestic abuse, and continued to deliver the sanctuary scheme which allowed domestic abuse victims to stay in their own homes.
- That the previous Labour administration also invested in the Council's CCTV Transformation Programme, a £3.1million investment to upgrade the whole CCTV network to new digital technology, which will increase visibility and allow the Council to better support the police and tackle crime.

- That huge volumes of complaints and concerns have been received by the Mayor at his surgeries and to his office from residents concerned by this increase in crime.
- That crime disproportionately impacts members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, ~~and~~ those on the lowest incomes- and members of the LGBTQI community.

**This Council believes:**

- That the residents of Tower Hamlets should be able to walk their streets and live in their homes in the knowledge that they are safe, secure and protected.
- That the fear of crime alone has a corrosive impact on people's day-to-day quality of life.
- That to achieve this sense of security, continued serious investment is required in the Borough's Community Safety services – from Police Officers to Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOS) – to ensure that these numbers can be driven down.
- That investment in key services, such as Youth Services, Community Services and third sector groups formulates an equally important part of any preventative strategy to reduce crime rates in the Borough.
- That the Mayor of London has a strong record in tackling crime across London and should the Council is grateful in his continued assistance ~~assist this Council~~ in providing the resources to recruit additional Police Officers.

**This Council resolves:**

- To support the Mayor and his administration to build on the strong record of the previous Labour administration in investing in Community Safety and procuring additional resources to drive down crime rates in the Borough.
- To continue the work of the previous Labour administration which developed a partnership Violence Reduction Plan, and request task Officers with the formulation of a Crime Reduction Plan that pulls together the relevant agencies and combines prevention, intervention and inter-agency cooperation, subject to due process. build on this plan and continue to work in partnership with the police, the voluntary community sector, probation, schools and other community safety partners.
- To continue to work and partner with the Metropolitan Police in the sharing of information and joint-tasking in tackling crime.
- To continue the strong record on tackling crime from the previous Labour administration and support this Administration to invest



£2.9million in the recruitment of 40 Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs), £1.6million of investment in recruiting 33 new Police Officers over the next three years and £200,000 in CCTV investment.

- To further invest in the Council's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Team, to ensure that action is taken by the administration on this important issue, and look at the expansion of the previous Labour administration's Young Person and VAWG focussed enforcement officers.
- To support the LBTH LGBTQI+ forum to conduct a review of safety concerns for the community in Tower Hamlets, and to resolve to end violence against the LGBTQI+ community in Tower Hamlets to truly become a No Place for Hate borough.
- To support an additional £8.5million of investment on top of the existing £3.4million in youth services through the new Young Tower Hamlets programme, a continued significant investment in Drug Treatment Services and a redesigned and rejuvenated Community Grants programme to help strengthen community cohesion in the Borough, which will be open to all and subject to a fair and transparent allocation system, in turn reducing crime and improving standards of living.
- To work with all housing providers in the Borough to improve the safety of housing and estates in Tower Hamlets, through the assessment of existing planning design and the designing out of crime hotspots and blind spots.

Following debate, the amendment moved by Councillor Amina Ali was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

The motion as moved by Councillor Ohid Ahmed was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

#### **RESOLVED:**

#### **This Council notes:**

- The rising levels of crime in Tower Hamlets since 2015.
- That Tower Hamlets is ranked in the top ten of London's most dangerous Boroughs, ranking third out of a possible thirty-two.
- That, according to 2022 data, serious crimes are on the rise and are much higher than the London average, including Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs, Robberies and Burglaries and violent crime, including periodic explosions in knife crime and murder.
- That it is no coincidence that this rise in crime has coincided with the cuts to police and other key public services in London and the previous

administration's indifference and unwillingness to invest in community safety.

- That huge volumes of complaints and concerns have been received by the Mayor at his surgeries and to his office from residents concerned by this increase in crime.
- That crime disproportionately impacts members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and those on the lowest incomes.

**This Council believes:**

- That the residents of Tower Hamlets should be able to walk their streets and live in their homes in the knowledge that they are safe, secure and protected.
- That the fear of crime alone has a corrosive impact on people's day-to-day quality of life.
- That to achieve this sense of security, serious investment is required in the Borough's Community Safety services – from Police Officers to Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOS) – to ensure that these numbers can be driven down.
- That investment in key services, such as Youth Services, Community Services and third sector groups formulates an equally important part of any preventative strategy to reduce crime rates in the Borough.
- That the Mayor of London should assist this Council in providing the resources to recruit additional Police Officers.

**This Council resolves:**

- To support the Mayor and his administration in investing in Community Safety and procuring additional resources to drive down crime rates in the Borough.
- To task Officers with the formulation of a Crime Reduction Plan that pulls together the relevant agencies and combines prevention, intervention and inter-agency cooperation, subject to due process.
- To work and partner with the Metropolitan Police in the sharing of information and joint-tasking in tackling crime.
- To support this Administration to invest £2.9million in the recruitment of 40 Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs), £1.6million of investment in recruiting 33 new Police Officers over the next three years and £200,000 in CCTV investment.
- To support an additional £8.5million of investment on top of the existing £3.4million in youth services through the new *Young Tower Hamlets* programme, a significant investment in Drug Treatment Services and a

redesigned and rejuvenated Community Grants programme to help strengthen community cohesion in the Borough, in turn reducing crime and improving standards of living.

- To work with all housing providers in the Borough to improve the safety of housing and estates in Tower Hamlets, through the assessment of existing planning design and the designing out of crime hotspots and blind spots.

## 8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE

Councillor Marc Francis **moved** and Councillor Amina Ali **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Kabir Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Harun Miah **seconded** a proposed amendment to the motion as printed in the tabled papers supplement.

Additions underlined

Deletions struck through.

### **This Council believes:**

- ~~Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) has on balance led to a significant improvement in the quality of housing management than was achieved when council housing was last a direct in-house service.~~
- ~~Simply bringing THH back in-house will not deliver the improvements in repairs services and value for money tenants and leaseholders consistently say they want to see.~~
- ~~Stronger direct accountability to council tenants and leaseholders and to elected councillors is an essential component of the alternative governance arrangements.~~
- ~~The current arrangements for the democratic oversight of THH's performance are already inadequate and will be even more so if the service is brought back in-house and councillors no longer serve on its Board.~~
- Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) was established as an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) in 2008 to assist with elevating all Tower Hamlets homes to compliance with the *Decent Homes Standard*.
- That the ALMO model has served its purpose, with Tower Hamlets comprising one of only four London Boroughs who still adhere to the ALMO model.

- That another of these Labour-run Boroughs with the ALMO model (Lewisham) have just voted to conclude their ALMO services and bring housing back in-house.
- That the building of new homes and the tackling of the overcrowding crisis in Tower Hamlets, and the maintenance and improvement of existing stock, was and remains the central pledge of Mayor Lutfur Rahman's transformative *Manifesto*.
- That this is reflected in both the Council's *Strategic* and *Delivery* plans.
- The insourcing of the ALMO would enable the council to deliver services to residents living in social and council housing that meet their needs, and assist in the delivery of this Administration's central pledges around housing.
- That this Administration is confident that the insourcing of Tower Hamlets Homes has overwhelming support from residents.
- That Officers have already begun the necessary processes to instigate a review of housing management functions, that will strengthen accountability and resident and stakeholder engagement with the service if it were to come in-house.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

- ~~To call on the Executive Mayor to commit to instruct THH/LBTH to proactively organise a minimum of four Tenants & Residents Association meetings on each estate/neighbourhood.~~
- ~~To call on the Executive Mayor to instruct officers to begin an open and transparent consultation with stakeholders on the level of performance an in-house service would be expected to achieve over the next three years.~~
- ~~To call on the Executive Mayor to establish and resource either a new Housing Committee of elected councillors to oversee the performance of THH increase the number of meetings of the existing Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-committee to ten each year, with an expanded membership.~~
- To support officers in the process of insourcing Tower Hamlets Homes, should residents vote to return to the Council.
- To regularly update residents and all related stakeholders on the progress of this process.
- To provide reassurances and updates to all Tower Hamlets Homes staff, to ensure that they are aware that their jobs are safe if the service comes in-house.

- To call on the Executive Mayor to re-establish the Borough wide Tenants Federation with resources.

Following debate, the amendment moved by Councillor Kabir Ahmed was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as amended by Councillor Kabir Ahmed was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

**RESOLVED:**

**This Council notes that:**

- Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) was established as an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) in 2008 to assist with elevating all Tower Hamlets homes to compliance with the *Decent Homes Standard*.
- That the ALMO model has served its purpose, with Tower Hamlets comprising one of only four London Boroughs who still adhere to the ALMO model.
- That another of these Labour-run Boroughs with the ALMO model (Lewisham) have just voted to conclude their ALMO services and bring housing back in-house.
- That the building of new homes and the tackling of the overcrowding crisis in Tower Hamlets, and the maintenance and improvement of existing stock, was and remains the central pledge of Mayor Lutfur Rahman's transformative *Manifesto*.
- That this is reflected in both the Council's *Strategic* and *Delivery* plans.
- The insourcing of the ALMO would enable the council to deliver services to residents living in social and council housing that meet their needs, and assist in the delivery of this Administration's central pledges around housing.
- That this Administration is confident that the insourcing of Tower Hamlets Homes has overwhelming support from residents.
- That Officers have already begun the necessary processes to instigate a review of housing management functions, that will strengthen accountability and resident and stakeholder engagement with the service if it were to come in-house.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

- To support officers in the process of insourcing Tower Hamlets Homes, should residents vote to return to the Council.

- To regularly update residents and all related stakeholders on the progress of this process.
- To provide reassurances and updates to all Tower Hamlets Homes staff, to ensure that they are aware that their jobs are safe if the service comes in-house.
- To call on the Executive Mayor to re-establish the Borough wide Tenants Federation with resources.

## 9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

### 9.1 Report of the Executive: Youth Justice Board Annual Report

The Council considered the report of the Executive setting out the annual report and plan of the Youth Justice Board.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. To agree the Youth Justice Plan set out in appendix 1 to the Youth Justice Board report attached to the cover sheet.

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS

### 10.1 Members' Allowances Scheme - 2022-23 Uplift

The Council to review and note the options set out in the report in relation to the members' allowance scheme. Councillor Maium Talukdar **proposed** a recommendation, **seconded** by Councillor Saied Ahmed, that no uplift be provided to the Members Allowances Scheme for 2022-23 and that the Mayor be asked to explore adding a sum equivalent to that saved to the Council's Cost of Living Support Funds.

Following debate, the proposed recommendation was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. To agree that no uplift be added to the Member Allowances Scheme for 2022-23 and that the Mayor be asked to explore adding a sum equivalent to that saved to the Council's Cost of Living Support Funds.

## 11. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following questions and in each case supplementary questions were put (except where indicated) and were responded to by the Mayor or relevant Executive Member:

### 11.1 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman:

Can the lead member update the chamber on where we are with the council's accounts? These accounts have been left unsigned for the past 6 years thanks to the previous administration.

### **Response of Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living**

Councillor Saied Ahmed stated that for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 KPMG had issued draft certificates and these would be signed once Deloitte had completed their audits for subsequent years.

The 2018/19 and 2019/20 audits were ongoing by Deloitte but were nearing completion. The 2020/21 audit had not yet commenced. Deloitte would be commencing this once their 2018/19 and 2019/20 accounts are signed. The 2021/22 accounts will be audited once the 2020/21 audit is completed.

### **11.2 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain.**

It was Small Business Saturday last month. The previous Labour administration invested a huge amount of money into our local small businesses when they were negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Given the uncertainty surrounding Government support for small businesses, will the Mayor commit to the Labour Group's proposals of a Small Business Hardship Fund and much-needed Business Rates relief in these times of crisis?

**Councillor Sabina Akhtar** asked the question on behalf of Councillor Shubo Hussain as Councillor Hussain had left the meeting unwell.

### **Response of Councillor Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member of Jobs, Skills and Growth**

For Small Business Saturday 2023, the Council encouraged residents and visitors to 'shop local' and showcased local businesses via channels including social media and Our East End. Shopping local is something we can all do more; it doesn't require sustained public investment and creates an important economic multiplier effect that generates wealth for our residents. The initiative has been well-received by local businesses and is something that this administration will grow and develop over the coming year.

The money that Councillor Hussain refers to in his question was principally provided by central government as part of HM Treasury's COVID recovery financial package of support for small businesses; rather than funds generated by the previous administration. Whilst that package of financial support ended in 2022; we are working on a new range of support for small businesses that will support them with rising energy costs and the 'cost-of-

doing-business' crisis. We look forward to announcing more about this package of support within the coming month.

This administration has already supported small businesses via the CARF (COVID additional relief fund) grant, which supported a great number of small businesses (859) in the borough to reduce their business rates liability in 2022. This administration will continue to provide Small Business Rate Relief (zero business rates bill for businesses with a rateable value of £12,000 or less) to support small TH businesses to survive during these challenging times.

We'll continue to explore opportunities to support local businesses to trade in the borough, including helping businesses to cope with rising energy costs and the costs of doing business.

Due to the lack of time, Questions 11.3 -11.25 were not put by members. The written responses are attached at **Appendix A**.

## **12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Peter Golds **moved** and Councillor Maium Talukdar **seconded** under Procedural Rule 12.1(c) to change the order of business to take Agenda Item 12.4 (Motion on Greenwich Foot Tunnel) before Agenda Item 8 (Opposition Motion for Debate) the Speaker of the Council agreed to the urgency reasons set out and put the request to the meeting which was **agreed**.

### **12.1 Motion Regarding Greenwich Foot Tunnel**

Councillor Peter Golds **moved** the motion as printed on the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

#### **RESOLVED**

**This Council notes** that the Royal Borough of Greenwich voted to approve changes to the Bye Laws relating to the Greenwich and Woolwich Foot Tunnels which it has administered since 1986. However these have never been implemented as no agreement was reached between the council's of Newham, Tower Hamlets and the Secretary of State.

#### **The Council further notes:**

Much of the controversy has arisen because of an attempt to permit cycling in the tunnel, despite being prohibited for over eighty years.

The report to Greenwich council stated



“No consultation on the proposals has been undertaken, or considered necessary.

The Friends of Greenwich and Woolwich Tunnels are aware of the proposals.”

It continued,

That with regard to Community Safety there are no significant implications arising from this Report.” and:-

“That with regard to Health and Safety there are no significant implications arising from this report.” Concluding:-

“That with regard to Health and Wellbeing there are no significant implications arising from this Report.”

However, the Department of Transport guidance on shared facilities states:

“Converting a footway or footpath to allow use by cyclists should only be done after a rigorous assessment has been carried out. It is vital to ascertain whether it is the best option or not. This can only be done after all on-road solutions have been fully considered and rejected as unsuitable. If so, the conversion must be carefully designed to meet the needs, as far as is practicable, of all its intended users.”

That it is obvious that no assessment, let alone a rigorous assessment, has been undertaken by the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

That the tunnel is designated as a foot tunnel.

That residents of Tower Hamlets are concerned about the safety implications of cyclists riding through the tunnel, which is extremely narrow in places and completely unsuited to joint usage by cyclists and pedestrians.

Over the rent holiday period pedestrians were assaulted by a cyclist speeding in the tunnel, oblivious to families and children.

**The Council under this administration, resolves** to undertake a rigorous and impartial assessment as to Health and Safety before approving any changes to the byelaws relating to cycling in the foot tunnel.

The meeting ended at 10.03 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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### Item 11: Member Questions and Answers

<p><b>11.1</b></p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Amin Rahman</b></p>	<p>Can the lead member update the chamber on where we are with the council's accounts? These accounts have been left unsigned for the past 6 years thanks to the previous administration.</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>For 2016/17 and 2017/18 KPMG have issued draft certificates and these will be signed once Deloitte complete their audits for subsequent years.</p> <p>2018/19 and 2019/20 audits are ongoing by Deloitte and nearing completion.</p> <p>The 2020/21 audit has not yet commenced, and Deloitte will commence this once their 2018/19 and 2019/20 accounts are signed.</p> <p>The 2021/22 accounts will be audited once the 2020/21 audit is completed.</p>
<p><b>11.2</b></p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain</b></p>	<p>It was Small Business Saturday last month. The previous Labour administration invested a huge amount of money into our local small businesses when they were negatively impacted by the pandemic.</p> <p>Given the uncertainty surrounding Government support for small businesses, will the Mayor commit to the Labour Group's proposals of a Small Business Hardship Fund and much-needed Business Rates relief in these times of crisis?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>For Small Business Saturday 2023, the Council encouraged residents and visitors to 'shop local' and showcased local businesses via channels including social media and Our East End. Shopping local is something we can all do more; it doesn't require sustained public investment and creates an important economic multiplier effect that generates wealth for our residents. The initiative has been well-received by local businesses and is something that this administration will grow and develop over the coming year.</p>

		<p>The money that Councillor Hussain refers to in his question was principally provided by central government as part of HM Treasury’s COVID recovery financial package of support for small businesses; rather than funds generated by the previous administration. Whilst that package of financial support ended in 2022; we are working on a new range of support for small businesses that will support them with rising energy costs and the ‘cost-of-doing-business’ crisis. We look forward to announcing more about this package of support within the coming month.</p> <p>This administration has already supported small businesses via the CARF (COVID additional relief fund) grant, which supported a great number of small businesses (859) in the borough to reduce their business rates liability in 2022. This administration will continue to provide Small Business Rate Relief (zero business rates bill for businesses with a rateable value of £12,000 or less) to support small TH businesses to survive during these challenging times.</p> <p>We’ll continue to explore opportunities to support local businesses to trade in the borough, including helping businesses to cope with rising energy costs and the costs of doing business.</p>
11.3	<p><b>Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury</b></p>	<p>The answers to the questions from the last meeting of Full Council indicated that the Lead Member was in conversation with the Chief Executive concerning the acceleration of a Council-wide audit. Could the Mayor provide an update on this process?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Following a motion at Full Council on 27th July – in direct reference to the audit of the Council’s accounts and a HM Inspection probation report regarding Youth Offenders Services, briefings to the Mayor have been delivered providing updates on progress on the independent reviews on the preparation of the Council’s accounts for audit and Youth Justice service, as well as additional information on other areas the Mayor raised on community safety, and overcrowded housing.</p> <p>In relation to the review of the preparation of the Council’s accounts for audit, the council commissioned Worth Technical</p>

		<p>Accounting Solutions to carry out an independent assessment of the Council's accounts preparation and examine progress since the errors arose in 2018/19 and highlight any gaps. This review has been completed, reported to the Mayor, and was reported to the Audit Committee in November 2022.</p> <p>On the Youth Justice service, external auditors will commence their audit by attending the Youth Justice Operational Board on 9th February and will then be completing a week of audits the week commencing 20th February with a view that after a week on site, they will be able to produce a report by 13th March 2023.</p> <p>Regarding community safety, an options paper has been produced for discussion with the Mayor, for establishing a Mayor's Anti-Crime and Disorder Taskforce to provide a response to the rising epidemic of violence, and to deal with extreme anti-social behaviour and problematic behaviour at night.</p> <p>On overcrowding, a set of actions have been agreed which cover delivery of affordable homes and making better use of our existing stock, Corporate directors of Place and Divisional director of Housing will meet periodically with the Mayor and Lead Member to monitor progress on these actions.</p> <p>The council has a comprehensive improvement programme which provides assurance through our performance management framework, audit, and external inspection regime. This includes corporate and public reporting including Audit Committee, Overview and Scrutiny, and a commitment to an LGA Corporate Peer Review this year to continue to drive improvement across all our services.</p>
<p><b>11.4</b></p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin</b></p>	<p>Please could the Mayor and Lead Member explain why they have reversed the decision to grant the Mudchute Association a 99 year lease?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Following the election of a new administration in May 2022, there is currently a review of all transactions that have been agreed but not as yet completed.</p>

		At this stage a formal decision has not been taken, and a report will need to go through the Council's governance processes.
11.5	<b>Question from Councillor Wahid Ali</b>	<p>One of the Mayor's central manifesto pledges was reinvesting in the council's youth services, can he provide an update on this?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The new Strategic Plan sets out the mayor's ambitious direction for the coming years which includes a priority to invest in youth services for Tower Hamlets young people. A comprehensive programme of work to deliver the transformation of the local authority youth service is already underway which is governed by a strategic Youth Service Redesign Executive Group and operational Youth Service Redesign Group. The transformation of the local authority youth service is currently in phase 1 which will see the development of the council delivering open access provision, detached youth work and targeted support for young people as well as their families.</p>
11.6	<b>Question from Councillor Amy Lee</b>	<p>Will the Mayor fully outline his plan for social care in the borough?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>In late 2021, a new Adult Social Care Transformation Programme and Strategy was developed. The Strategy 'Improving Care Together' is for 3-5 years, and seeks to support people to meet their goals, be connected to others and independent as possible. Some of the key aims of this strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• empower people to meet their needs and aspirations,</li> <li>• provide support that improves health, wellbeing, and quality of life.</li> <li>• co-produce services and care with people who use them.</li> <li>• ensure people have the right support to meet their wishes and outcomes.</li> </ul> <p>The Programme consists of the following key areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget and Charging – Improving on securing income, recovering debt, more efficient systems and better budget management</li> <li>• Purchase to Pay – Improving the processes in paying for and</li> </ul>

		<p>providing the care and support people need to make them quicker and more efficient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information, Advice &amp; Early Help – Ensuring everyone has access to the information and advice they need and get support at an early stage.</li> <li>• Housing with Care – Providing an improved model to people where they receive housing and care services.</li> <li>• Homecare – Providing an improved model of care to people in their own homes.</li> <li>• Direct Payments – Giving more people the opportunity to manage their own budget for their care.</li> <li>• Training – Equipping our staff with the learning they need to take a strengths based approach to people’s care and thereby improve the service.</li> <li>• Supervision – Making sure that managers take responsibility for their teams taking a strengths based approach to people’s care and thereby improving the service.</li> <li>• Culture Change – Transforming the culture of our staff and providers so that we take a strengths based approach to people’s care and thereby improve the service.</li> <li>• Technology Enabled Care – Enabling more people to have access to the latest technology to enable them to be more independent and feel more in control.</li> <li>• Data Quality – Ensuring our data is accurate, timely etc, simplifying processes and enabling a data led approach.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to this programme, the Mayor has committed to reintroducing free home care in the borough. This is reflected in the MTFS.</p>
11.7	<p><b>Question from Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled</b></p>	<p>Could the Lead Member provide an update on the Council’s Budget for 2023/24, and what are the key headlines?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>A draft of the budget report was presented to Cabinet on Wednesday 4 January which outlined the Council’s funding position, growth and savings items and latest budget gap. The papers for this item can be accessed on the Council’s website.</p> <p>The next update of the budget report, which will include the capital programme, will be presented to Cabinet on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.</p>

11.8	<p><b>Question from Councillor Marc Francis</b></p>	<p>Can the Mayor and Lead Member let me know what action is being taken to revitalise Roman Road market and the local high street?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The High Streets Team continues to work with local traders, businesses, community groups and residents to develop proposals to improve Globe Town (Roman Road West) high street and Globe Town market square.</p> <p>Projects to date have included: shopfront improvement grants, market square refurbishment, a mural to celebrate local histories and the re-opening of a Network Rail viaduct to better connect 15,000 QMUL staff and students to Globe Town via Meath Gardens.</p> <p>The recently completed shopfront improvements supported five high street businesses plus one vacant council unit. Site works to the market square commenced in October 2022 and are due to complete end of February 2023.</p> <p>The design incorporates the aspiration of traders, businesses, community groups and local residents, and will deliver: planting of native mature, semi-mature and fruit trees, low level planting, seating, bike parking and lighting with traders integrated power supply.</p> <p>The improvements will make the square more appealing for our local communities to shop, sit, meet and play, whilst customers and new traders.</p> <p>We are working with a local community group on the low level planting design, and are planning to host a planting event to relaunch the market square in early Spring 2023.</p> <p>Market Traders at Roman Road (East) have requested better parking provision for their customers. From the 1st February 2023 all visitors to Roman Road will be able to park for one hour for free, and this will create 30 new parking spaces.</p>



11.9	<p><b>Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed</b></p>	<p>Could the Mayor provide an update of where the Council is with the Liveable Streets consultation?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>In the summer of 2022, the council undertook a series of public opinion surveys to gain a better understanding of public opinion on Liveable Streets schemes.</p> <p>We received a very significant number of responses which has helped to shape our thinking going forward.</p> <p>Over 1300 responses were received for the Brick Lane consultation and nearly 7000 for the Bethnal Green consultations.</p> <p>The results of each consultation can be found on the Talk Tower Hamlets Pages.</p> <p>This week we will begin distribution of material for the next stage of consultations for Bethnal Green and Brick Lane for all the addresses in each scheme area. The consultations will launch on Monday 23rd January and will close on Sunday 12th February 2023.</p> <p>A decision on next steps will be made following a careful analysis of the data available to us and the responses we receive as part of the consultation.</p>
11.10	<p><b>Question from Councillor Amina Ali</b></p>	<p>As you will know, the previous Labour administration invested £3.1 million to deliver the Council’s CCTV Transformation Programme.</p> <p>Can the Lead Member please provide an update on this vital work to enhance community safety for our residents?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CCTV Transformation Programme supports the new Mayor’s Manifesto commitments and will:</li> <li>• ‘Maintain our award-winning boroughwide CCTV service, which has been vital in detecting crime and identifying offenders. Work with local landlords and businesses to widen its scope.</li> <li>• ‘Identify crime hotspots and tackle them – for example by</li> </ul>

		<p>improving lighting and street design and using CCTV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Transformation Programme is well advanced:</li> <li>• Upgrading all the equipment for the new CCTV Control Room is completed.</li> <li>• 159 new digital cameras (44% of total) have been installed to replace old analogue cameras – work is ongoing.</li> <li>• Moving and re-designing the upgraded CCTV Control Room from current location to a new site – work is ongoing.</li> <li>• A new CCTV mobile unit has delivered a successful deterrent at crime and ASB hotspots around the Borough.</li> <li>• 15 re-deployable cameras have been purchased to further tackle hotspots and provide a flexible resource.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11.11</b></p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan</b></p>	<p>Can the lead member explain what progress the Youth Justice Management Board has made in addressing each of the Inspectors’ recommendations made in the HMIP inspection the Tower Hamlets &amp; City of London Youth Justice Service (YJS) in April 2022 – and how this progress is being measured?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice and Young Peoples Service has been working at pace to improve outcomes for children and young people. The youth justice service has developed a comprehensive improvement plan to directly respond to the recommendations and requirements identified from the inspection which will have a positive impact on the quality of youth justice services in Tower Hamlets &amp; City of London. The programme of improvement work is well underway which is overseen at a strategic level by the Youth Justice Executive Board and at an operational level with the introduction of a new Youth Justice Operational Board.</p> <p>The youth justice service has commissioned an external organisation to review the governance arrangements that are in place as a measure for the service to receive external scrutiny regarding the impact of improvements made to date. This will take place in the first quarter of 2023 and the findings from this will be reported to the Youth Justice Executive Board</p> <p>Key Points of achievement and development:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Redesign and re-launch of the Youth Justice Services Governance Board. This is ensuring that the right people, at the right level of seniority, are included to engage actively in achieving improved outcomes for children being supported by the youth justice service and wider partnership.</li> <li>- Quality checked the accuracy of data and cleansed what was incorrect.</li> <li>- Redevelopment of the Out-of-Court Offer with the data already showing that the service has diverted more children away from the formal Criminal Justice System in the last 9 months in comparison with the whole of 2021-2022. This positive impact has already been confirmed by the key performance indicator monitoring that the Youth Justice Board completes on Youth Justice Services every quarter which shows that the service is on a positive trajectory. This offer will be increased with recent Turnaround Funding from the Ministry of Justice.</li> <li>- Re-introduction of the High Risk of Harm Panel, a reflective meeting looking at the children the service is most concerned about.</li> <li>- Development of the staff charter.</li> <li>- Creation of a Youth Justice participation group so children are supported in having their voices heard.</li> <li>- Creation and establishing more projects in the community so that children can repair harm to the community.</li> </ul>
11.12	<p><b>Question from Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury</b></p>	<p>Poplar HARCA has stopped issuing parking permit except fully electric car in the Burdett Estate. The residents report that they were not consulted by the Housing Association before making such a big decision. That decision has made a serious negative impact on many residents' lifestyle and employment.</p> <p>Can the Mayor tell me what support he can offer to the affected residents of the Burdett Estate?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>This is a matter for Poplar HARCA to respond on, but of course we have an important role in ensuring that any residents who have concerns are fully heard. As such, we have passed this question on to Poplar Harca and have asked them to respond directly to Cllr Chowdhury and the Mayor's Office.</p>

<p><b>11.13</b></p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Kamrul Hussain</b></p>	<p>Can the Lead Member update Full Council on what measures have been taken since the Mayor announced the Waste Emergency at the last Full Council meeting? What are the current levels of waste across the Borough?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Mayor has met with officers on a regular basis to develop and refine an action plan which will benefit residents, the community, and the waste service itself, including a focus on driving up standards in places where the levels of cleaning and waste fall below the standards the service strives to achieve, especially in areas with high footfall and where there is persistent illegal fly tipping and littering.</p> <p>The action plan was agreed by the Mayor on 11.01.2023.</p> <p>The measures we are planning to take include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reschedule the frequency and timings of cleansing to improve standards and perceptions.</li> <li>• The primary action is to rebalance the works across the collection crews to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure every team has enough time to fully complete their assigned work.</li> <li>○ Maintain enough capacity on vehicles for the next 3-4 years to address future build programmes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Remove all the commercial waste from the current rounds and place them on dedicated commercial collection crews</li> <li>• Review Operational Managers and Environmental Managers supervision schedules</li> <li>• Increase levels of enforcement</li> </ul> <p>As part of this plan we are hoping to create new job opportunities.</p> <p>This work will enable us to have more resources, benefit our residents by way of reducing missed collections and cleaner streets and helping our community during this economic crisis by creating new jobs.</p> <p>The service is working hard to deliver this action plan, and we of course want to make sure we carry out proper due diligence,</p>

		<p>undertake thorough risk assessment and consult with our stakeholders as we undertake this vital work.</p> <p>We are also delivering some immediate interventions, including increasing frequency and changing the timing of street sweeping in high football areas in the west of the borough.</p>
11.14	<p><b>Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar</b></p>	<p>Would the Mayor and Lead Member please provide a date for when the plans for the new school building for George Green's on the Isle of Dogs, will be made available for public consultation?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The council is currently working through the various stages of the planning application for the new school build and, as part of this process, it is expected that initial consultation will begin in late March/early April 2023.</p>
11.15	<p><b>Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan</b></p>	<p>Could the Lead Member inform Full Council on additional measures that the Council have put in place to help residents in the Borough with the Cost-of-Living crisis?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>As a priority both of the Mayor's manifesto and the council's Strategic Plan, tackling the cost-of-living crisis has been a focal point of LBTH's work supporting low-income residents and tackling poverty in the borough.</p> <p>This has meant the delivery of a range of initiatives that were worth more than £6m last year, including a million pounds worth of payments over the summer holidays to low-income families, and direct payments to more than 31,500 residents in groups identified as being placed most at risk by the impacts of the crisis.</p> <p>Our work to mitigate the effects of this crisis is ongoing, and in the coming months LBTH will deliver another round of support for residents by utilising the latest tranche of the Household Support Fund. Plans are yet to be finalised for the full allocation, but it includes funding to be targeted at households with residents on benefits who are yet to receive Cost of Living support from either the Council and the Government and funding for those with high</p>

		<p>electrical use medical equipment. Money will also be made available by application to ensure those who need support but may not have benefited from other measures have access to funds.</p> <p>Almost £2 million of funding was provided to households with children who have benefits eligibility for free school meals before the Christmas holidays, as well as generous contributions from staff and a local charity to organisations supporting households with food. We also opened warm hubs in some of our buildings.</p> <p>This work continues alongside projects designed to tackle poverty in the medium and the long term – including the FOOD Store programme, the Council’s food hub which has benefitted from almost £200,000 of additional funding to increase allocations of food to voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough, the Holiday Activities and Food programme, the Council’s Resident Support Grant scheme, the income maximisation work of the LBTH outreach team, and the ongoing expansion of universal free school meals to all secondary school aged children.</p> <p>In order to help residents to seek help and advice, the cost-of-living campaign was launched near the end of last year with regular communications to residents about a wide range of support they can access.</p>
<p><b>11.16</b></p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam</b></p>	<p>The Frank Dobson Square Improvements Project originated in a 2019 LIF consultation entry to address safety concerns and to enhance residents use of this public space. I understand that as of July 2022 LIF funds have been allocated and a design team allocated, but there has been no progress since then.</p> <p>Can the Lead Member please provide an update on these works?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Following the election of a new administration in May 2022, a comprehensive refresh of the General Fund capital programme is underway.</p> <p>The key purpose of the review is to ensure the programme aligns</p>

		<p>with the council's strategic priorities which are translated from the Mayor's vision and the new administration's manifesto.</p> <p>The refresh will include a review of the existing priorities for the capital programme across the various directorates to ensure clear integration with the current needs of the borough and its residents. Whilst the review is ongoing, timeframes for delivery of individual projects, including Frank Dobson Square, may be extended.</p> <p>At this stage, a formal decision has not been made on any of the LIF programmes or projects, including Frank Dobson Square. If following the wider Capital Programme review, changes are required, a report will need to go through the Council's governance processes.</p>
<p><b>11.17</b></p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Abdul Mailk</b></p>	<p>Could the Lead Member update Full Council on what this Administration is doing to ensure Tower Hamlets becomes a greener Borough?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Mayor's manifesto, and the council's Strategic Plan, have a clear emphasis on making Tower Hamlets a greener borough. In order to deliver on this work and these commitments, we have launched the Mayor's Greener Future for Tower Hamlets programme.</p> <p>The programme has been divided into 4 key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mayor's energy fund,</li> <li>2. climate emergency,</li> <li>3. waste management,</li> <li>4. keeping the borough moving.</li> </ol> <p>To monitor the progress and implementation of these policies, the Mayor will be setting up 3 boards with key stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor's Climate Advisory Board</li> <li>• The Mayor's Waste Management Taskforce</li> <li>• The Mayor's 'Keep our Borough Moving' forum</li> </ul> <p>This will enable us to deliver on our green commitments, and we will continue to keep members and residents updated on this vital</p>

		work as we move forward.
11.18	<b>Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah</b>	<p>What is the Mayor doing to encourage and incentivise businesses into empty shops, such as properties on Wapping Lane?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Council has been in negotiations with a prospective tenant for a considerable period in respect of one of the units in Wapping Lane with several legal queries requiring to be resolved.</p> <p>There is also a further unit which is also in solicitors hands with terms agreed in October last year.</p> <p>Apart from these two units we are not aware of any further council-owned units within Wapping Lane.</p> <p>As a general approach where commercial properties become vacant, they are marketed by external agents, with details placed on the Council's website. We have received strong levels of demand in certain locations, and where this is not forthcoming, the rent will be reassessed to try and incentivise retailers to take units.</p>
11.19	<b>Question from Councillor Bellal Uddin</b>	<p>Can the Lead Member provide Full Council with an update on the progress of the establishment of the Institute for Academic Excellence, as announced at last Full Council?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Officers have been in discussion with the Department for Education and with representatives of school leaders in the secondary sector to explore possible options for establishing an Institute for Academic Excellence. This process is currently at the feasibility stage, which includes looking at similar models of school organisation in other local authorities across the region. The information gathered will be used to prepare a report on the options for consideration, which will be presented to the Mayor in due course.</p>
11.20	<b>Question from</b>	Will the Mayor commit to making scrutiny effective in Tower



	<p><b>Councillor Maisha Begum</b></p>	<p>Hamlets and offer the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to a member of the opposition?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Council already has an effective scrutiny and overview process and this is not something that the Mayor should be involved in. This is a question for the Committee and not the Mayor, as they select the Chair.</p>
<p>11.21</p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Harun Miah</b></p>	<p>Tower Hamlets used to have a thriving voluntary and community sector, can the Lead Member set out his vision and plans to re-establish this?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Tower Hamlets has one of the largest and most diverse voluntary and community sector (VCS) in London that makes a much-valued contribution to the social and economic life of the borough. The VCS plays a key role in the life of Tower Hamlets residents. It is often the first point of contact for many seeking support and access to public services. It is at the forefront of responding to several key policy issues which present a significant challenge to the public, particularly to socially excluded communities, who have a greater level of reliance on VCS services. These policy issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cost-of-living crises</li> <li>• The possibility of an economic recession</li> <li>• The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and unequal impact on Black, Asian &amp; Multi Ethnic Residents</li> <li>• The persistence of racism within society</li> <li>• Digital exclusion, which has been highlighted by the pandemic</li> </ul> <p>The council's new <b><u>Strategic Plan (2022-26)</u></b> sets out priorities for the borough over the next four years. Supporting and working in partnership with the local voluntary and community sector is a key element of delivering the council's Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Our partnership <b><u>VCS Strategy 2020-24</u></b> has a commitment for 'a more resilient and sustainable sector' and our new policy programme will contribute to this priority.</p>

### **Voluntary and community sector in Tower Hamlets**

Tower Hamlets VCS comprises a wide range of organisations, approximately 1,300 in total, delivering a range of services and activities. These organisations include:

- Registered charities
- Faith groups
- Unregistered and informal community groups, including mutual aid groups
- Social enterprises
- Tenants and residents' associations
- Co-operatives
- Community interest companies with charitable elements.

The Council recognises the important contribution the VCS makes to the social fabric of the borough, especially for residents, and to public services. It helps develop relationships between people and communities and provides opportunities for people to cultivate their imagination and interests, allowing them to flourish.

The important role of the VCS in the borough and the strength of the sector was particularly highlighted in its contribution to the response and recovery to the Covid-19 pandemic in the borough. It played a crucial role in delivering services to housebound and socially excluded residents, leading on several prominent initiatives, such as the supply and delivery of food to high risk or self-isolating residents.

The value of the VCS in Tower Hamlets is evident in the investment that the Council has placed with that sector. Between April 2022-March 2023 the Council has funded VCS organisations to deliver a range of activities with grants making up approximately £10.4m and commissioning approximately £41.7million.

### **Development of a new vision for the Voluntary and Community Sector**

The vision for the new VCS policy is to **support and invest in a thriving and diverse VCS to enable it to improve outcomes for Tower Hamlets residents**. The policy will be supported by a

		<p>proposed new corporate grants programme which focuses on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding that supports a wider range of services and groups to ensure all sections of the community benefit from a grants programme and address the challenges facing Tower Hamlets residents</li> <li>• Funding that supports services and activities that are inclusive, promote cohesion and designed and delivered with residents</li> <li>• Long term funding to organisations in return for efficient and effective services</li> <li>• Achieving value for money</li> <li>• Alignment to the Council’s Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Improved partnership working between local VCS organisations.</li> </ul> <p>The proposed grants programme will include a new Mayor’s Community Grant programme that would involve five themes consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Tackling the Cost-of-living crisis:</b> to address poverty in the borough. Examples of the type of activity include social welfare advice services and crisis support services.</li> <li>– <b>Accelerate Education:</b> to improve education attainment and development of children and young people, plus promote digital inclusion. Examples of the types of activity include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Study support</li> <li>□ ESOL</li> <li>□ Community languages</li> <li>□ SEN provision</li> <li>□ Extra circular activities and after school clubs</li> <li>□ Skills for life and digital inclusion</li> <li>□ Lifelong learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>– <b>Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills:</b> to increase employment and skills opportunities for socially excluded residents. Examples of type of include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Support for people not in education, employment or training</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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		<p>(NEETs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Targeted outreach</li> <li>□ Sports activity and promotion</li> <li>□ Entrepreneurial and innovative</li> <li>□ Job brokerage</li> <li>□ Culture and heritage</li> <li>□ Youth provision</li> </ul> <p>– <b>Invest in public services:</b> to improve the physical and mental health of local residents. Examples of type of activity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Support for older and vulnerable people, including luncheon clubs, meals on wheels and pensioner projects</li> <li>□ Health and wellbeing projects</li> <li>□ Community activities such as reducing isolation, intergenerational activities and active lifestyle</li> </ul> <p>– <b>Empower communities and fight crime:</b> to deliver services to address inequalities experienced by people and communities reflecting different equality groups and social economic backgrounds as well as promote and tackle community safety across the borough. Example of types of activity for this theme would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Reducing inequalities</li> <li>□ Community cohesion</li> <li>□ Tackling drugs and alcohol misuse</li> <li>□ Safer communities</li> <li>□ Victim support</li> <li>□ Violence against women</li> <li>□ Ex-offender support</li> <li>□ Gang intervention and prevention</li> </ul>
11.22	<p><b>Question from Councillor Asma Begum</b></p>	<p>Regarding the introduction of one-hour free parking close to markets, Tower Hamlets has some excellent transport links, especially with the introduction of the Elizabeth Line, which makes it easy for those who want to shop and eat here to add to the local economy. This one-hour free parking will only benefit commuters and increase air pollution.</p> <p>Our residents struggle to find parking spaces close to their home.</p>

		<p>Shouldn't these 248 new parking spaces benefit our residents as opposed to commuters?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Mayor's election manifesto included a commitment to provide 'one-hour free parking for customers stopping to shop at our markets' as part of a package of pledges to support our local economy.</p> <p>This commitment is also reflected in the council's new Strategic Plan, which includes an action to introduce one-hour free parking at markets.</p> <p>There will be a benefit to drivers who want to visit the markets, particularly if they are purchasing heavy or bulky items.</p> <p>It is acknowledged the introduction of the Elizabeth Line will support those wishing to travel to Whitechapel Market and the introduction of sixteen new spaces to support shoppers will be a mixture of new Pay by Phone bays and the use of under used business bays within the area, therefore not affecting any local residents. The remainder of 232 bays around the other markets are a mixture of shared use bays and pay by phone bays that are already in situ therefore do not negatively affect residents as they are still able to park as they have always been.</p>
<p><b>11.23</b></p>	<p><b>Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed/Ahmod ul Kabir</b></p>	<p>How many headteacher posts (including the academies) do we have in the borough and how many of them are from ethnic minority backgrounds? Does the council have a strategy to tackle the under-representation of British Bangladeshi teachers in headteacher posts by 2026?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Council does not currently hold this information in respect of all schools in the borough, however work is already underway to collect this data. That action is one part of the Council's Race Inequality Action Plan to drive up the diversity of leadership in our schools, in relation to Headteachers, other Senior Leadership roles in schools, as well as in relation to School Governors.</p>


		<p>However, this Mayor is committed to empowering BAME teachers in leadership positions and will work officers and Teaching organisations to ensure that these imbalances are addressed.</p>
11.24	<p><b>Question from Councillor Peter Golds</b></p>	<p>For many years there has been growing concern regarding illegal cycling in the Greenwich Foot Tunnel which is dangerous pedestrians and the disabled and the erratic provision of lifts. Will the Mayor consult with the Council of Royal Greenwich who are responsible for the lifts and ensuring safety in the tunnel to maintain the safety of pedestrians and ensure improved lift provision.</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The existing byelaws governing use of Greenwich Foot Tunnel date back to 1912 and require updating to reflect modern usage and provide an effective legal framework for enforcement. Officers understand that Greenwich had been leading on proposals to amend the byelaws, subject to agreement from Tower Hamlets Council but have not received any recent correspondence on this issue.</p> <p>With regards to maintenance of the lifts, Greenwich Council advise that they were repaired during the Spring of 2022. Officers at Greenwich Council advise that due to the age of the lifts, sourcing replacement parts is increasingly an issue, and longer term it is likely that both lifts will need to be replaced completely, although this would be dependent on funding.</p> <p>In the meantime, officers continue to liaise regularly with Greenwich Council on a regular basis and raise issues relating to operation and maintenance of the lift tunnels as and when required.</p>
11.25	<p><b>Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait</b></p>	<p>What is the administration doing to hold housing associations to account? I am aware the Mayor and Lead Member recently met senior Clarion representatives. Could you give an indication of what you talked about, and what consequences you would consider imposing on housing associations to ensure high quality living for their residents?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p>

		<p>The Mayor has met with key housing providers in a series of 1:1 meetings to discuss delivery and management issues and continues to meet with Registered Providers (RPs) where performance issues are raised.</p> <p>The Mayor thus far has held a total of 9 meetings with RPs with more scheduled to take place over the coming months. These meetings have been either by way of introduction to discuss current stance, performance, concerns, and business aspirations. As well as focussed meetings with landlords regarding specific causes for concern such as casework, leaseholder charges, to name just a few.</p> <p>The meeting held with Clarion on 11th of October was held primarily to discuss the Cyber-attack upon Clarion's IT infrastructure which occurred on June 18th causing extensive damage to their business IT infrastructure.</p> <p>As a result, residents were left unable to access repairs, escalate, lodge or process complaints, pay rent, and left concerned their personal data had been exposed. Clarion had to work offline for over 12 weeks and gradually restore systems.</p> <p>An update was given around several key areas including progress in reconnecting the customer contact centre, billing of rents/services charges as well as resident engagement.</p> <p>In addition to the cyber-attack other agenda items included the decant and next steps in relation to Clare House, potential development opportunities as well the outcome and next steps following a recent investigation by the Ombudsmen.</p> <p>The Mayor and Lead member will continue discussions with Clarion on this situation, around performance ensuring where necessary improvement plans are in place to take forward priorities to ensure decent living standards for residents.</p> <p>It is imperative we have a positive and collaborative relationship around improvement, one of the ways in which this is implemented is via the Tower Hamlets Housing Forum (THHF). The THHF Executive and sub-groups work on salient projects relevant within the housing sector, as well as support the council</p>
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		<p>to deliver strategic housing targets. Although the council does not retain regulatory authority over RP's, should progress not be forthcoming the council can consider more firmer steps such as considering a referral to the regulator or holding focused meetings to encourage better standards of practice in perpetuity.</p>
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# Agenda Item 5

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Petitions to Council</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## SUMMARY

1. This report sets out details of the valid petitions submitted for presentation and debate at this Council meeting. The text of the petitions received are set out in the attached report.
2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except that petitions for debate (those in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.
  - a. There are two petitions to be heard
    - i. Asking for the removal of road closures
    - ii. Saving of Chisenhale School streets
  - b. There are no petitions to be debated or noted.

## **PETITIONS TO BE HEARD**

3. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
  - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
  - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
  - c. Finally, the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
4. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.
5. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

### **5.1 Petition regarding Recognise Cockney as a community language**

We the undersigned petition the council to ensure Cockney language, identity and its unique cultural heritage related to the East End of London be recognised as a community language and be celebrated annually on 21st February on International Mother Language Day, and for Cockney to be included in any community language provisions by the Council.

### **5.2 Petition regarding Road Safety Measures Urgently Needed on Bow Roundabout connecting the A12, Bow Road and Stratford High Street**

We the undersigned petition the council to engage with Transport for London to urgently implement road safety measures to Bow Roundabout to create a safer environment for pedestrians, including children, parents and carers who use the crossing for school pick up and drop off, and for residents living in the area needing to cross the roundabout for access to transport, shops, places of worship etc. The roundabout is primarily designed for road traffic, it is a very busy crossing and there are regular instances of cars driving through red lights over pedestrian crossings. Overall the roundabout feels unsafe for pedestrian using it and road safety measures are urgently needed to communicate to drivers that the roundabout is also a pedestrian zone. Better crossing would encourage more walking and cycling, and improving links will benefit the local economy and residents moving into new developments.

### **5.3 Petition regarding Redevelopment of Chrisp Street Market and Surrounding area**


We petition to ask why Poplar HARCA and Tower Hamlets Council have failed to keep shopkeepers and market traders informed of what has happened since plans were approved for the redevelopment/gentrification of Chrisp Street Market and surrounding area.

#### **5.4 Petition regarding Fairtrade**

We would like the Council to reaffirm and step up its support for Fairtrade in order to address the imbalance of power between the Global North and Global South. Fairtrade works with 1.9 million farmers in 71 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America & Oceania to build trade justice, climate justice, sustainability and ethical consumerism, The fairtrade standards that farmers, employers of agricultural workers and traders must meet lay down requirements for social, economic and environmental justice and quality. We ask Tower Hamlets Council to reaffirm its support for Fairtrade, to encourage schools, shops and cafes to stock Fairtrade and help increase consumption of, for example, Fairtrade tea, coffee, and cocoa and to build solidarity between producers and consumers as inhabitants of a shared planet. 25% of the standards that farmers must meet relate to the environment and help tackle the Climate Emergency.

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# Agenda Item 7

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>COUNCIL</b>  15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Motion for debate submitted by the Administration</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one specific Motion submitted by the Administration. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. The Administration Motion is submitted by the Aspire Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

## MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

## **ADMINISTRATION MOTION FOR DEBATE – ADMINISTRATION MOTION FOR DEBATE – MOTION ON DELIVERING SOCIAL CARE FOR ALL**

**Proposed by: Cllr Gulam Kibria Choudhury**

**Seconded by: Cllr Maium Miah Talukdar**

### **This Council notes:**

- That social care has always been a key priority to Mayor Lutfur Rahman, throughout his time in public office.
- That understanding the complexities of need, cultural sensitivity and patient priority has been central to all previous policy and legislation historically pursued by the Mayor during his previous administrations.
- That in his last Market Position Statement on Care, published in 2013, the Mayor pledged to pursue the following key criteria to guarantee and safeguard decency, sensitivity and optimal performance for patients and carers:
  - o “All services must be culturally sensitive
  - o “We wish to limit use of block contracts, moving to more flexible contracting arrangements
  - o “We will seek to work with our providers to achieve a balance of value for money and risk that is sustainable for the provider as well as the Council
  - o “We will seek to use our purchasing power to stimulate the local economy and maximise employment opportunities for local people. It is the borough’s highest priority to promote the employment of local residents
  - o “We intend to increase the range of services available, encouraging local, smaller providers
  - o “We would always ask that unless there are good market reasons not to do so, all contractors should pay the London Living Wage. Unless an exception is made contracts will be let with this stipulation
  - o “We will fund independent support for providers in complex procurements”
- That these commitments represented a shift away from the hegemony of three or four large contractors and allowed a democratisation of the market, enabling care services to be tailored to the diverse needs of patients.
- That – according to the 2021 Census – Tower Hamlets has 17,471 of residents over 65, and 22,526 residents classified as disabled under the Disabilities Act. Many of these residents will be require varying levels of care.
- That Officers have warned that demographic pressures in social care represent nationally ‘a growing concern for local authorities’, with over 55,000 residents expected to be over 65, suffering from physical and learning disabilities by 2025.

### **This Council believes:**

- That to address these pressures, a reimagining of and shift in how the Council delivers its care services is required.
- That this will require a refreshed approach to procurement; how care is administered by providers; new Capital Projects to meet these pressures; and a

return to a democratised market where smaller care providers have the opportunity to deliver bespoke care services to the residents of Tower Hamlets.

- That smaller providers should be given the opportunity to deliver services to residents, breaking the monopoly of four or five organisations and enhancing the Council's ability to guarantee tailored, and where necessary, culturally sensitive care to residents.
- That social value must be a priority in the procurement weighting considered before contracts are awarded and services delivered, ensuring that care is considerate and dignified, as well as cost-effective and efficient.
- That – building on the Mayor's previous commitment to guarantee carers the London Living Wage (LLW) – all carers should be now be guaranteed minimum hours, enhancing their ability to provide the best services to their patients and protecting them against the instability and uncertainty of zero-hour contracts.
- That carers should be recognised as trustworthy and invaluable key workers who provide the most important services to our residents.


**This Council resolves:**

- To support the Mayor and Lead member's plans to invest in accessible high-quality social care provision in the borough.
- To support the Mayor and Lead Member's pledge to develop two bespoke care facilities for adults and children, helping to alleviate the demographic pressures warned against by Officers.
- To support the Mayor and Lead Member's plans to guarantee hours for all carers, providing them security and stability while they deliver invaluable services to residents.
- To support the Mayor and Lead Member's pledge to request the prioritisation of 10% social value weighting to all contracts procured through the Council's tendering processes, ensuring that the needs of residents and communities are given fair consideration in the procurement process.
- To support the Mayor and Lead Member in guaranteeing smaller organisations a chance to provide care to the residents of the Borough.

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# Agenda Item 8

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>COUNCIL</b>  15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one Motion submitted by an Opposition Group. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, submission of the Opposition Motion for Debate will alternate in sequence between the opposition groups. This Opposition Motion is submitted by the Labour Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

## MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Sirajul Islam

**Seconded by:** Cllr James King

**This Council notes:**

- The importance of Local Government Officers in Tower Hamlets Council, where officers contribute the vital professional expertise needed to deliver the policy framework agreed by elected Councillors. This enables the Council to deliver the highest standards of service and conduct to residents of Tower Hamlets.
  
- That, with the exception of Political Advisors, officers work to the instructions of their senior officers within the Council framework.
  
- When the previous Labour administration took over from Tower Hamlets First in 2015, the majority of the Corporate Leadership Team were interim, including the Chief Executive, which was not good for the stability of a functioning local government authority, and the Labour administration worked with the Government Commissioners to have these positions filled.
  
- In the first seven months of the Aspire administration, there are now a number of interim roles amongst the Corporate Leadership Team once again. This includes the important roles of Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Finance.
  
- Concern that the main Opposition Group was not notified of the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive or the process until the moment it was published to all Council employees, thereby excluding the Opposition Group from the selection process.

**This Council believes:**


- That Interim appointments for senior Local Government Officer roles are not healthy for a Local Government Authority and should only be used as a last resort, as it threatens the stability and continuity of good governance and provides uncertainty to their Council employees.
  
- That it is good practice to ensure any recruitment of a senior Local Government Officer in Tower Hamlets Council should be done in a fair and transparent way with the inclusion of all elected representative of the Council, including those of the opposing party to the current administration and representatives of the trade unions operating in the Council.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

- To call on the Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets to immediately publish a timeline on the recruitment of the current Interim Local Government Officer positions, including the Chief Executive role.

- To strengthen the process in which senior appointments, such as the Chief Executive, are made where the administration works with Opposition members, an independent body and trade unions to ensure that the recruitment is fair, transparent and includes input from all the major stakeholders.

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Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  Wednesday, 15 March 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Open (Unrestricted)
<b>Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	(All Wards);

### Executive Summary

Part C, Section 39 of the Council's Constitution sets out the Scheme of Members' Allowances. This provides for a Mayor's Allowance to be paid to the Mayor; a Basic Allowance to all Councillors; Special Responsibility Allowances for specified member roles; Dependents' Carers' and Travel/Subsistence Allowances; and an attendance allowance for co-opted members of the Standards Advisory Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Council also operates a Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Sickness Pay policy for Members.

By law the Council must agree the Scheme of Members' Allowances annually, before the start of the year to which it applies. The proposed Scheme of Members Allowances for 2023/24 is attached at Appendix 1.

### Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Adopt the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2023/24 as set out at Appendix 1 to this report.
2. Agree that the Members Allowances Budget be adjusted as necessary to cover the costs following the uprating of the local government pay award as set out at 3.6 of the report.
3. To agree that the General Purposes Committee lead on any required engagement with any London Independent Remuneration Panel, reporting back to Council as required for decision.

**1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The Council is required to agree a Scheme of Members' Allowances annually.

**2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 None

**3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 In accordance with Statutory Instrument (SI 1021/2003) the Council is required to agree a Scheme of Members' Allowances on an annual basis. The Scheme may include an annual index-linked adjustment of allowances, but it must be subject to a full review at least every four years, considering the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.2 The London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel (LCIPR) last issued a report in January 2022 and that was considered when the Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23 was agreed.
- 3.3 The LCIPR recommends levels of basic and special responsibility allowances. In general, allowances at Tower Hamlets are at levels below or equal to the recommendations from the LCIPR.
- 3.4 Beyond allowances themselves the Panel report also recommended that Councils should provide:
- An effective member learning and development programme.
  - Appropriate administrative support.
  - IT equipment.
  - Dependent carer payments.
  - A sickness/maternity/paternity policy.
  - Travel and subsistence allowances for travel outside of the borough.
- 3.5 All of the above are provided by the Council.
- 3.6 Finally, the Panel recommend that the allowances scheme is uprated every year in line with any local government pay settlement. This is also an agreed arrangement with the Council's Member Allowances Scheme. The scheme will therefore be uprated in line with any agreed staff agreement for 2023/24. Note that the scheme was not uprated in 2022/23 due to a specific decision of Council on 18 January 2023 not to accept an uprate for that year.
- 3.7 The Dependents' Carers' Allowance will be increased in line with the current London living wage as required.

- 3.8 A number of amendments were agreed to the scheme during the 2022/23 municipal year, including the removal of certain special responsibility allowances and the clarification of criteria for co-optee allowances. These changes are reflected in the new proposed scheme. Subject to these amendments it is proposed to readopt the existing scheme for 2023-24.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The payment of Members' Allowances helps to ensure that people from all parts of the community within the borough are able to serve as elected members. This promotes effective community leadership and accountability, to the benefit of the whole borough and all its communities.

#### **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

- 5.2 There are no other statutory implications to be considered.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 There is a specific budget for all member allowances and costs will be contained within this budget.
- 6.2 Allowances will be increased in line with the annual pay settlement funded from council's MTFS inflation allocation.

#### **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ('the Regulations') require the Council to on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year make a scheme in accordance with the Regulations. The Scheme must make provision for payment of the basic allowance specifying the amount and also make provision for the following allowances if it intends to make such payments in respect of a year-

- (a) special responsibility allowance;
- (b) dependants' carers' allowance;
- (c) travelling and subsistence allowance; and

- (d) co-optees' allowance.
- 7.2 The proposed Member Allowances Scheme 2023/24 provides for Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Sickness Pay which is established practice in a number of other London boroughs. Whilst there is nothing in the Regulations that provides that the Scheme is to include reference to such, the inclusion of Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Sickness Pay are supported by the Council's general power of competence. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to specified restrictions and limitations imposed by other statutes. The inclusion of Maternity pay is also consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equalities Act 2010.
- 7.3 Regulation 16 of the Regulations places a duty on the Council to publish as soon as reasonably practicable after making any amendments to the current Members' Allowance Scheme a notice in one or more newspapers circulating in its area. The Council must also ensure that copies of the Scheme are available for inspection by members of the public at the principal office of the Authority, at all reasonable hours.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- 16 March 2022 – report to Council which included the latest London Council's Independent Remuneration Panel report.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Members' Allowance Scheme 2023/4

### **Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**

#### **List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report**

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

#### **Officer contact details for documents:**

N/A



## **39 London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Members' Allowances Scheme**

**This Scheme is made by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended.**

1. This Scheme shall be called The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2023 and it shall come into effect on 1 April 2023. The Scheme shall apply to the Mayor, Councillors and Co-opted Members of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

### **Basic Allowance**

2. Subject to paragraph 8, a basic allowance of £11,898 shall be paid to each Councillor for each year. The Basic Allowance shall not be payable to the elected Mayor.
3. The basic allowance of £11,898 shall be payable with effect from 1 April 2023.

### **Special Responsibility Allowance**

4. Subject to paragraphs 5-8, a special responsibility allowance shall be paid for each year to those Members who hold a position of special responsibility as specified in Schedule 1.
5. The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against the respective special responsibility in Schedule 1 and it shall be payable with effect from 1 April 2023.
6. Any special responsibility allowance payable under paragraphs 4 and 5 shall be in addition to the basic allowance payable under paragraph 2 above.
7. Any Member who holds more than one position of special responsibility shall receive only one special responsibility allowance which shall be at the higher level.

### **Part-Year Entitlement**

8. If, in the course of the year, this scheme is amended or a Member's entitlement changes, the relevant basic and/or special responsibility allowance shall be calculated and paid pro-rata during the particular month in which the scheme amendment or entitlement change occurs.

### **Dependants' Carers' Allowance**

9. A maximum of £11.95 per hour shall be paid to those Members who necessarily incur expense in arranging for the care of their children or other dependants to

enable them to undertake any of the activities specified in Schedule 2 to this Scheme.

10. The following conditions shall apply:
- payments shall be claimable for children aged 15 or under or for other dependants where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required;
  - only one weekly payment shall be claimable for the household of each Member, unless the Council's Standards Advisory Committee considers there are special circumstances;
  - the allowance shall be paid as a re-imbusement of incurred expenditure against receipts;
  - the allowance shall not be payable to a member of the claimant's own household;
  - any dispute as to entitlement and any allegation of abuse shall be referred to the Council's Standards Advisory Committee for adjudication.

### **Indexation**

11. The Basic, Special Responsibility, Mayor's and Dependants' Carers' Allowances will be adjusted to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government staff effective 1 April 2023. The Dependents' Carers' Allowance will also be adjusted to, as a minimum, be in line with the London Living Wage.

### **Travel and Subsistence Allowance**

12. An allowance shall be paid to any Member for travelling and subsistence undertaken outside the Borough in connection with any of the duties specified in Schedule 2.
13. An allowance shall be paid to a co-opted member of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council for travelling and subsistence in connection with any of the duties specified in Schedule 2, irrespective of whether the meeting or duty is inside or outside the Borough.
14. The amounts payable shall be the amounts which are for the time being payable to officers of the Council for travelling and subsistence undertaken in the course of their duties.

### **Co-optees' Allowance**

15. Subject to paragraph 16, a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any of its Sub-Committees, may claim a co-optee allowance of £136 and a co-opted member who is appointed as Chair of the Standards Advisory Committee may claim a co-optee allowance of £272, for attendance at any meeting of the Committee

or the Panel or attendance at any conference or mandatory training event, where attendance is on behalf of and authorised by the Council.

16. A claim for co-optees' allowance shall be made in writing within two months from the date of attendance at the meeting, conference or training event.
17. Where a member is suspended or partially suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as a co-opted member under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000, any co-optee's allowance payable to him or her for the period for which he or she is suspended or partially suspended, may be withheld by the Council.

### **Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Sickness Pay**

18. All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity, adoption and sickness leave.
19. Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance in the case of maternity, paternity, adoption and sickness leave in the same way that the Council's employees enjoy such benefits.
20. If a replacement to cover the period of absence is appointed by Council or the Mayor (or in the case of party group position, the party group) the replacement will be entitled to claim a Special Responsibility Allowance.

### **Recovery of Allowances Paid**

21. Any allowance that has been paid to a Member after he or she has ceased to be a member of the Council, or is for some other reason not entitled to receive the allowance for a specified period, may be recovered.

### **Claims and Payments**

22. Payments shall be made for basic and special responsibility allowances in instalments of one-twelfth of the amounts respectively specified in this Scheme, paid on the last working day of each month.
23. Where a payment of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme for a basic or special responsibility allowance will result in the Member receiving more than the amount to which he or she is entitled, the payment shall be restricted to such amount as will ensure that no more is paid than the amount to which he or she is entitled.
24. A claim for travelling and subsistence or dependants' carers' allowance;
  - shall be made in writing within two months from the date of the performance of the duty for which the claim is made;
  - shall be accompanied by receipts and/or any relevant evidence of the costs incurred;

- shall be subject to such validation and accounting procedures as the Council's Corporate Director, Resources may from time to time prescribe.

25. Travelling and subsistence and dependants' carers' allowance shall be paid on the last working day of each month for any claim received not less than 21 days before that date.

### **Pensions**

26. Neither members nor co-opted members of the Council are eligible to join the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Local Government Pension Scheme.

### **Records of Allowances and Publications**

27. The Council shall keep a record of payments made by it under this Scheme, including the name of the recipients of the payment and the amount and nature of each payment.
28. The record of the payments made by the Council under this Scheme shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection at no charge. A copy shall also be supplied to any person who requests it on payment of a reasonable fee.
29. As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the year to which this Scheme relates, the Council shall make arrangements to publish the total sums paid by it to each recipient for each different allowance.
30. A copy of the Scheme shall be supplied to any person who requests it on payment of a reasonable fee.

### **Renunciation**

31. A member may at any time and for any period, by notice in writing given to the Chief Executive, elect to forego any part of their entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

### **Interpretation**

32. In this scheme:
- "Councillor" means an elected member of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets who is a councillor;
  - "Mayor" means the elected Mayor of Tower Hamlets Council;
  - "Member" means any person who is either the Mayor, a Councillor or a co-opted member of Tower Hamlets Council;
  - "Co-opted member" refers to persons who are not Councillors but who sit on a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council. The exact definition to be used in this scheme is that set out in the Member Code of Conduct (Constitution, Part C, Section 31);

- “Year” means the 12 months ending on 31 March in any year.

### **Revocation**

- 33.** The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members’ Allowance Scheme 2022 is hereby revoked and replaced with the Tower Hamlets Members’ Allowances Scheme 2023.

## SCHEDULE 1

### Special Responsibility Allowance

The following are specified as the special responsibilities for which special responsibility allowances are payable and the amounts of those allowances:

	<b>Eff. 1 April 2023</b>
Mayor	£80,579
Deputy Mayors (Maximum of one allowance)	£32,631
Leader of the Majority Group on the Council	£12,291
Leader of the largest Opposition Group (subject to having at least 10% of the Council)	£12,291
Leader of the largest Opposition Group (if the Group has fewer than 10% of the Council)	£5,439
Leader of any Group (subject to having at least 10% of the Council)	£5,439
Cabinet Members	£21,754
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£11,965
Chair of Scrutiny Sub-Committee (Health, Housing or Grants)	£8,702
Lead Member for Scrutiny	£8,702
Chair of Development Committee	£11,965
Chair of Strategic Development Committee	£11,965
Chair of Licensing Committee	£6,526
Chair of General Purposes Committee	£8,702
Chair of Audit Committee	£6,526
Chair of Pensions Committee	£6,526
Speaker of Council	£10,877
Deputy Speaker of Council	£5,439

## SCHEDULE 2


### **Dependants' Carers' and Travelling and Subsistence Allowances**

The duties for which these allowances are payable include:

- the attendance at a meeting of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee of the Council or of any other body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations, or of any committee or sub-committee of such a body;
- the attendance at any other meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the Council, or a committee or sub-committee of the Council, or a joint committee of 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee, provided that –
  - where the Council is divided into two or more political groups it is a meeting to which members of at least two such groups have been invited; or
  - if the Council is not so divided, it is a meeting to which at least two members of the Council have been invited
- the attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the Council is a member;
- the attendance at a meeting of the Cabinet or a meeting of any of its committees, where the Council is operating executive arrangements;
- the performance of any duty in pursuance of any standing order under section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened;
- the performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the Council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Council to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises.
- the performance of any duty in connection with arrangements made by the Council for the attendance of pupils at any school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996 (approval of non-maintained special schools); and
- the carrying out of any other duty approved by the Council, or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Council or any of its committees or sub-committees.

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Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  15 March 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Committee Calendar 2023-24</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services Thomas French, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards

### Executive Summary

This report proposes a calendar of Council, Committee and other meetings for the forthcoming municipal year 2023/24. A period of consultation has taken place with Members and officers and Council are now asked to confirm the proposed meeting dates. The calendar of meetings is presented in Appendix 1 to this report.

### Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1.
2. To delegate to the Monitoring Officer the authority to agree meeting dates for any new Committees or Panels that are set up subsequent to this report being presented to Council, subject to appropriate consultation with Members.

### 1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Approval of the annual calendar of meetings is a Council function. Therefore, each year Elected Members are asked to consider and approve a schedule of meetings that will enable them to deliver the business of the Council.
- 1.2 To enable the Council to be flexible and reactive to new situations and new demands, the Councils' procedure rules provide that the Monitoring Officer may call additional meetings or cancel scheduled meetings. The Monitoring Officer is also able to agree meeting dates for any new Committees or Panels that are set up subsequent to this report being presented to Council, subject to appropriate consultation with Members.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 None are presented although it would be within the powers of Council to vary the proposed Committee meeting dates, times and frequencies as well as to change the overarching Committee structure.

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The draft calendar is presented at Appendix 1 to the report. In general it follows the same pattern of meetings set in previous years in terms of frequency of meetings with the Annual Meeting in May 2023 and all meetings following on from that.
- 3.2 Cabinet and other Executive meetings will continue to take place on Wednesdays. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) will therefore meet on the Monday of the same week as Cabinet. This supports the role of OSC in providing Pre-Scrutiny of Executive decisions by giving OSC Members time to review the Cabinet papers before their own meeting takes place.
- 3.3 Mirroring the arrangements in recent years, an additional Cabinet meeting is scheduled for the beginning of January 2024 to consider the draft budget proposals before submission to the special budget OSC meeting later that month.
- 3.4 As in previous years, efforts have been made to avoid holding meetings during school holidays, with particular reference to August. However, it may be necessary for some meetings to be held especially in relation to regulatory matters. Wherever possible we have also sought to minimise the impact of meetings on Members where these clash with certain religious holidays and party conferences. During Ramadan, officers will work with Committee Chair's to identify a suitable start time for the meeting taking into account the breaking of the fast. It may be necessary in some cases to organise adjournments during meetings to accommodate this.

Physical, virtual and hybrid meetings and Covid restrictions.

- 3.5 At the moment legislation requires that all formal Council meetings take place at a physical location and to be counted as in attendance and to vote Members must also be in that location. The Council is allowing other participants to participate virtually as that is seen as helping increase accessibility to our meetings. Almost all meetings are also now webcast.
- 3.6 No change to the legislation is expected and so the above arrangements will continue.

### Member Training Programme

- 3.7 The committee calendar has been developed in conjunction with the Member Training Programme to try and minimise any clashes between committee meetings and induction seminars.

New Town Hall, Whitechapel

- 3.8 All meetings of the council are now being held within the new Town Hall in Whitechapel.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The calendar has taken into account religious observances and will consult committees on earlier start times for meetings during Ramadan.

#### **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

- 5.2 There are no other statutory implications of the specific proposed committee calendar, although a failure to agree a committee calendar at all would impact on the Council's ability to meet all the above implications.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

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### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Report**

- None.

#### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Calendar of Meeting Dates 2023-24 – to follow

**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**


**List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

**Officer contact details for documents:**

N/A

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  15 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Questions submitted by Members of the Council</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee for this Council meeting.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 10.7 provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

23 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

### **11.1 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman**

Can the lead member update the chamber on progress with the council's accounts? These were left unsigned for the past 6 years under the previous administration

### **11.2 Question from Councillor Asma Begum**

What are the Mayor and Lead Member's plans in respect of the LIF programme of activities which have been identified for local investment by local residents, particularly on the Isle of Dogs which has undergone significant population increase and is in much need of relevant infrastructure?

### **11.3 Question from Councillor Musthak Ahmed**

Can lead member set out the timetable for Council-wide audit which was agreed at full council last summer?

### **11.4 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar**

I understand Capitol funding has been removed from the Oaklands redevelopment. Can the Lead Member explain his rationale for the removal of this vital funding?

### **11.5 Question from Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled**

Could the lead member provide an update on the ongoing work being undertaken by the Interim CEO as outlined at the Budget Full Council

### **11.6 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam**

I understand the new Mayor's Office is currently undergoing construction work in our New Town Hall here in Whitechapel which is significantly larger than originally planned.

Can the Mayor tell me what is the cost of creating this larger office space?

### **11.7 Question from Councillor Bellal Uddin**

The Mayor pledged to address the shortage of affordable housing in the borough. Can the Mayor or lead member set out his delivery plan with numbers?

### **11.8 Question from Councillor Amy Lee**

Can the Mayor outline how he is holding Homecare providers to account, to ensure they are providing high quality care to vulnerable residents, as well as providing value for money for the council?

### **11.9 Question from Councillor Wahid Ali**

The Mayor of London recently announced universal free school meals for Primary School children across London. Can the lead member tell us when this will be implemented, and how much it could save the council as it already provides this service?

### **11.10 Question from Councillor Asma Islam**

Demand for housing means private landlords and letting agents are raising rents with impunity, putting people at risk of being priced out of their homes.

Can the Lead Member detail what he is doing to protect private renters from these rent increases and help residents stay in their homes?

### **11.11 Question from Councillor Kamrul Hussain**

Can the lead member provide feedback on the consultation results in relation to Tower Hamlets Homes coming inhouse?

### **11.12 Question from Councillor Marc Francis**

Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member set out the actions that have been taken since May 2022 to revitalise Roman Road market and businesses on the high street in Bow?

### **11.13 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir**

Could the lead member update Council on additional measures the Council has put in place to help residents in the Borough with the Cost-of-Living crisis?

### **11.14 Question from Councillor James King**

Can the Mayor provide an update on the actions undertaken as a result of his meeting in November last year with residents of Malting & Brewster Houses regarding the structural works in those blocks?

### **11.15 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan**

Can the lead member provide an update of where the Council is with the Liveable Streets consultation?

### **11.16 Question from Councillor Amina Ali**

As you will know, it was LGBT+ History Month in February – a time to celebrate the vital contributions the LGBT+ community has had on Tower Hamlets society and to promote equality and diversity for the benefit of the public. Unfortunately there is the worrying trend of rising hate crime across the borough that we do need to address - what

measures is the Lead Member for Community Safety putting in place to ensure the Council protects our LGBT+ LGBT community in Tower Hamlets?

**11.17 Question from Councillor Harun Main**

One of the Mayor's central manifesto pledges was reinvesting in policing and tackling ASB, can he or the lead member provide an update on this?

**11.18 Question from Councillor Rebekah Sultana**

I understand that LIF funding is being dropped from vital redevelopment projects, including Frank Dobson Square in my ward. Can the Mayor outline how his administration will be improving Frank Dobson Square now that they have removed the plans put in place by the previous Labour administration?

**11.19 Question from Councillor Ana Miah**

Can the lead member explain what Mayor Rahman's Administration is doing to ensure Tower Hamlets becomes a greener Borough?

**11.20 Question from Councillor Sabina Khan**

Our residents have been concerned about the lack of progress on bulk waste collection across the borough. Can the Lead Member provide an update on when our residents will see any improvement on this important issue?

**11.21 Question from Councillor Leelu Ahmed**

The previous Labour administration did a lot of vital and good work to address fire safety across the borough for the protection of our residents. Can the Lead Member detail how the administration is building on this good work?


**11.22 Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait**

Rising sea levels present a flood risk to Tower Hamlets and the rest of London. What is the administration doing to start to plan to mitigate the risk of flooding for the areas of the borough most at risk?

**11.23 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

With the pausing of the redevelopment of George Green's School on the Isle of Dogs, will the Mayor do his utmost to ensure that Northern and Shell sign the agreement to permit the development of the Westferry School site which has planning consent.



Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>COUNCIL</b>  15 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Motions submitted by Members of the Council</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## SUMMARY

1. The following motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11 for debate at the Council meeting.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, the motions alternate between the administration and the other Political Groups.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

## MOTIONS

Set out overleaf is the motions that have been submitted.

## 12.1 Motion on REAFFIRMING FAIRTRADE IN TOWER HAMLETS

**Proposed by: Cllr Abdul Wahid**

**Seconded by: Cllr Nathalie Bienfait**

### **This Council notes:**

- Next year will be the 30th anniversary of the U.K. launch of the Fairtrade Mark, a labelling scheme administered by the Fairtrade Foundation that identifies products grown and processed to Fairtrade Standards, including sustainable social, economic and environmental criteria. Many of the organisations involved are cooperatives of small-scale farmers and workers.
- Tower Hamlets Council passed a unanimous resolution on the 1st of March 2006 to actively support and promote Fairtrade. Council acknowledges in particular, the work of the Teams which have supported Tower Hamlets in its Fairtrade journey: Sustainability, Procurement, Contracts and Communication.
- A Tower Hamlets Fairtrade Borough Steering Group was set up, and on 11th January 2007, it was successful in applying for Fairtrade Borough Status, having satisfied Fairtrade criteria including Council support, Council use of Fairtrade products, availability of Fairtrade products in local shops, catering establishments, workplaces and community organisations, and popular support for Fairtrade campaigning.
- Since 2007, the Council has maintained its support for Fairtrade-related activities, notably through the integration of its support for Fairtrade with its sustainable and ethical procurement policy. Making it a requirement for the supply of bananas and juices to be Fairtrade in the Schools Canteen Contract contributed to Tower Hamlets being awarded the Soil Association Gold Food for Life Award.
- The Tower Hamlets Fairtrade Steering Group has worked with local stores, cinemas, bookshops, cafes and other establishments in Fairtrade-related events and activities. Local residents and workers have contributed to and supported Fairtrade campaigns. This has enabled Tower Hamlets to retain its Fairtrade Borough status since 2007.
- There are now over 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK and more than 2,000 globally. London is the biggest Fairtrade City in the world and Tower Hamlets contributes to that positive story.
- Tower Hamlets is home to a diversity of communities with many having family, cultural ties and roots in farming communities in a multitude of countries worldwide. Many have their own experiences to inform their personal support for Fairtrade.
- Efforts to combat injustice and deprivation, fight climate change and improve social and economic conditions in the borough have established a tradition of community support for social justice, economic reform and global solidarity which aligns with the Fairtrade movement.
- The U.K. Fairtrade market is now one of the world's largest. Globally, Fairtrade sales have generated hundreds of millions of pounds in Fairtrade Premiums which have enabled

farmers in 73 countries to invest in health, education and social welfare measures, as well as attempt to mitigate the devastating impact of climate change, increase sustainable production and bolster global food security.

- Despite this positive news, exploitation remains rampant in global supply chains. More than 40 million people are trapped in modern slavery and 152 million young people in child labour. Hundreds of millions are earning less than a living income or wage. Fairtrade and its supporters in Tower Hamlets have the capacity to influence change in global supply chains, including in the textile industry and garment trade and the cocoa and chocolate sector, as well as in the general areas of child labour and modern slavery.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Fairtrade and the wider Fair Trade movement has a significant contribution to make towards ending exploitation, mitigating the impact of Climate Change and achieving the U N Sustainable Development Goals.
- The recently agreed International Fair Trade Charter should be welcomed, with its vision of transforming trade to work for people and planet.
- The Fairtrade principles of paying minimum prices to protect producers from market volatility, and a 'premium' that is wholly managed by farmers and workers themselves are crucial to systemic change.
- Public bodies, including local authorities, should support ethical procurement policies, using their purchasing power to implement Fairtrade principles and standards and ensure that their supply chains, at home and abroad, are sustainable and free of exploitation, including modern slavery.
- Council suppliers operating through global supply chains should be encouraged to operate sustainably and responsibly. They should ensure that their trading practices uphold human rights and Fairtrade principles such as the payment of living wages and the achievement of living incomes for all.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Renew its commitment to maintaining 'Fairtrade Borough' status, including serving Fairtrade certified tea and coffee in meetings and ensuring that Fairtrade Mark - certified food and drink options are widely available internally in its canteens and vending machines, including at the new Town Hall in Whitechapel.
- Review its procurement policy, including its catering offer, to ensure that Fairtrade produce is chosen wherever possible, and that Fair Trade considerations are included as a preference in any contracts going out to tender.
- Be recognised by the residents and business community of Tower Hamlets, suppliers, employees and other local authorities as a borough that actively supports and promotes Fairtrade.

- Continue to work with the Fairtrade Borough Steering Group, by identifying a lead member to support the work going forward, including increasing awareness and availability of Fairtrade products within Tower Hamlets' cafes, shops, schools, universities, faith groups, workplaces and organisations.

## **12.2 Motion regarding Access to GPs**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Amy Lee

**Seconded by:** Cllr Ayas Miah

### **This Council notes:**

- Primary care is in crisis, with people across Tower Hamlets and the rest of the UK struggling to access GP services and dental treatment.
- The current pressures on hospitals, along with rising ambulance waiting times, is having a huge knock-on effect on our already pressed GP services across the borough.
- New figures from NHS England show that 18% of people in the NHS North East London Integrated Care Board, covering Tower - Hamlets, could not get an appointment to see or speak to a GP or nurse the last time they tried.
- The Government has failed to remain on track to deliver 6000 additional GPs by 2024-25.
- Our doctors and nurses across the NHS in Tower Hamlets work hard for residents while grappling with the biggest staffing crisis in its history in the face of Government inaction.

### **This Council believes:**

- That everyone should be able to get an appointment to see a doctor when they need to and has the right to receive dental treatment when they need it.

### **This Council, therefore, resolves to:**

- Forward a copy of this motion to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and call on him to urgently bring forward a plan to fix the crisis in primary care, to meet the Government's GP target and ensure everyone who needs an NHS dentist can access one.
- Request the local Members of Parliament support this motion and continue to raise this important issue in Parliament.
- Call on the Executive Mayor and the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing to proactively work with the local NHS trust to ensure Tower Hamlets residents have full access to their GP and dentists.

## **12.3 Motion on Local Electricity Bill**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Rachel Blake

**Seconded by:** Cllr Sirajul Islam

### **This Council notes:**

1. The efforts that this council has made under the previous administration to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy, including:
  - i. Declaring a climate emergency in March 2019;
  - ii. Launched the Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Partnership Action Plan in November 2021 to become a net zero carbon council by 2025 and a net zero carbon borough by 2045 or sooner;
  - iii. Planted hundreds of street trees;
  - iv. Approved 400 new electric vehicle charging points across the borough;
  - v. In 2021, Tower Hamlets Council was named the greenest local authority in the country.
2. That very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so.
3. That making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would enable and empower new local businesses, or councils, to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local customers.
4. That revenues received by new local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.

### **This Council resolves to:**

1. To support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by 306 MPs which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply companies and co-operatives by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply operation.
2. Inform the local media of this decision.

3. Instruct the Mayor to write to the borough's Members of Parliament local MPs, asking them to support the Bill.
  
4. Instruct the Mayor to write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, expressing its support.

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