1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Anwara Ali and Louise Alexander.

DECISION

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Please see the minutes

3. MINUTES

DECISION

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th September 2007 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

   a) Leader of the Council Councillor Denise Jones - Bangladesh Cyclone Relief Fund

   b) Councillor Joshua Peck - Single Status Agreement

   c) Councillor Joshua Peck - Tower Hamlets Data Security

   d) Councillor Clair Hawkins – Tower Hamlets’ 4 star rating for Children and Young People’s Services.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS OR DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Petition Requests

   5.2.1 Petition re: Against Crossrail.
Mr Muhammad Haque addressed the meeting expressing his group Khoodeelaar! and others’ opposition to the construction of Crossrail.

DECISION

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director of Development and Renewal for a written response within 28 days.

(Action by Emma Peters, Corporate Director of Development and Renewal)

5.2 Deputations

No deputations were made.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions from members of the public were received for inclusion on the agenda for the meeting.

7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

7.1 Question from Councillor Waiseul Islam to the Lead Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins re: the request for a summary of this year’s education results, outlining the performance of the past 10 years.

7.2 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Sirajul Islam re: the number of local people on the housing waiting list who have been able to buy a home in Tower Hamlets in the last ten years, as well as the number of people who have moved into the area who have bought a home in the borough.

7.3 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah re: a breakdown of the number of reported anti-social behavioural and criminal incidents in the year and the measures being taken to reduce the number of incidents in the Canary Wharf Estate.

7.4 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah re: the number of premises in Tower Hamlets that are affected by the introduction of the workplace smoking ban on July 1st 2007 and how many officers of the council are employed to enforce the new legislation.

7.5 Question from Councillor Ahmed Hussain to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Denise Jones re: promise of a multi faith Cemetery by 2010, and for an alternative date and site to the one proposed.
7.6 Question from Councillor Marc Francis to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah re: the assessment made of the impact of the Good Behaviour Zone on Roman Road during October and November.

7.7 Question from Councillor Shahed Ali to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed re: progress in the regeneration of the Thames Gateway scheme, requesting clarity on measures taken to date to ensure the project does not fall short.

The above questions and oral supplementary questions (where put) were responded to by the relevant lead member.

Due to the lack of time, questions 7.8 to 7.28 were not considered. Copies of the tabled responses will be forwarded to the questioners.

(Action by Service Head: Democratic Services, John Williams).

8. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

8.1 Licensing Act 2003 - Three Year Review of Licensing Policy

The meeting considered the three year review of the licensing policy introduced by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Denise Jones.

DECISION

1. To adopt the revised Licensing Policy attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

8.2 Review of Polling Places and Districts

The meeting considered the review of polling places and districts, introduced by the Chair of the General Purposes Committee, Councillor Shafiqul Haque.

DECISION

1. To note the consultative process and the responses received;
2. That the Returning Officer’s revised proposals as set out in appendix A to the report be adopted and the polling districts and polling places be formally designated.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

9.1 Joint Arrangements

There were no items of business for consideration.

9.2 External Organisations

There were no items of business for consideration.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Appointment of Cabinet Member

DECISION

That Councillor Shafiqul Haque be appointed to serve as a member of the Cabinet for the remainder of the municipal year.

10.2 Change in Political Composition of the Council

DECISION

1. That the review of proportionality as set out at paragraph 6 to the report be noted and the allocation of seats on the committees and panels established by the Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2007/08 be agreed as set out at paragraph 7 to the report.

2. That members and deputy members be appointed to the committees and panels established by the council in accordance with the nominations from the political groups listed in schedule A tabled at the meeting; with the Audit Committees -Conservative nomination Councillor Rupert Eckhardt (Deputy Councillor Timothy Archer).

3. That the membership of the standards Committee be increased with immediate effect to 11 Members (5 Councillors and 6 Independent Members); and with effect from the Annual Council 2008 to 15 Members, and the assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) be authorised to commence the recruitment process for the additional Independent members.
4. That in accordance with the previous decision of Full Council to provide political advisors for the three largest political groups in the council in line with the principle of proportionality, the hours of the Respect and Conservative Party political advisors be set at 17.5 hours per week. Also that any additional resource available following this change be redirected to provide general support to members.

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Rania Khan regarding the Environment and Climate Change

DECISION

The amendment proposed by Councillor Abdal Ullah was CARRIED.

The motion as amended was CARRIED.

11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Fozol Miah regarding Anti-Racism and Community Cohesion

DECISION

The amendment proposed by Councillor Sirajul Islam was CARRIED.

The motion as amended was CARRIED.

11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding Accommodating Diversity

DECISION

The amendment proposed by Councillor Ohid Ahmed was CARRIED.

The Motion as amended was CARRIED.

11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding Community Centre for Tarling Estate

The motion was moved by Councillor Mahmun Rashid and seconded by Councillor Harun Miah. However, due to the lack of time the debate was not concluded and no vote was taken on the motion.

Motions 11.5 to 11.13 were not considered due to a lack of time.
11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Lutfa Begum regarding the National Health Service

11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Shahed Ali regarding pro-active access to council committee meetings

11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding Employment of Council Staff

11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Oliur Rahman regarding Council-owned Buildings and Sites

11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding the East London Line

11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Philip Briscoe regarding Special Constables

11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding Support for the Co-operative Movement

11.12 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim O'Flaherty regarding the closure of post offices

11.13 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding action against possible flooding

The meeting ended at 10.33 p.m

The Mayor,
Council