

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2008**

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

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ohid Ahmed, Shahed Ali, Fazlul Haque, Alex Heslop, Sirajul Islam and Oliur Rahman.

**DECISION**

That the apologies for absence be noted.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Please see minutes.

**3. MINUTES**

**DECISION**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 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**

Please see minutes.

**5. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS**

**DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations at this meeting.

**PETITIONS**

The meeting agreed to suspend Procedure Rule 19.1 to allow for an additional petition, on the same matter as one of the petitions listed on the agenda, to be heard at the meeting. This additional petition was taken at item 5.2.4 below.

**5.2.1 Petition re: Land south of Rainhill Way**

Ms. Clare O’Riordan addressed the meeting in support of the petition.

**DECISION**

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Paul Evans, Interim Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)

**5.2.2 Petition re: Crossrail**

Mr. Muhammed Haque addressed the meeting in support of the petition.

**DECISION**

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Paul Evans, Interim Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)

**5.2.3 Petition re: 73 Bishops Way, E2**

Mr. Shanur Miah addressed the meeting in support of the petition.

**DECISION**

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director Development & Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Paul Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development & Renewal)

**5.2.4 Petition re: 73 Bishops Way, E2**

Mr. Mohammed Shah addressed the meeting in support of the petition.

**DECISION**

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director Development & Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Paul Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development & Renewal)

**6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**6.1** Question from Ms. Johanna Kaschke to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah re: funding for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

The above question and an oral supplementary question were put by Ms Kaschke and responded to by the Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener

(Action by: Stephen Halsey, Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture)

### **Urgent Motion – Woolworths**

Councillor Abjol Miah moved, Councillor Dulal Uddin seconded and the meeting **agreed** the suspension of Procedure Rule 13.1 to enable an urgent motion on the above matter to be considered at the meeting.

Councillor Abjol Miah then moved and Councillor Dulal Uddin seconded under Procedure Rule 14.1.3, to vary the order of business to enable the urgent motion in respect of Woolworths to be discussed as the next item. This procedural motion was lost and the urgent motion was placed as motion 11.13 on the agenda.

## **7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Tim Archer moved, Councillor Peter Golds seconded and the meeting **agreed** to suspend Procedure Rule 12.3 to enable an urgent question regarding Housing Associations to be put to the Lead Member for Housing and Development.

Councillor Tim Archer further moved and Councillor Peter Golds seconded, under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 to vary the order of business to enable the urgent question regarding Housing Associations to be asked as the first question. This procedural motion was lost and the urgent question was placed at item 7.28 on the agenda.

- 7.1** Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah re: anti-social behaviour in the Mile End East ward.
- 7.2** Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis re: recruitment of senior officers for Tower Hamlets Homes.
- 7.3** Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman re: the Olympics.
- 7.4** Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah re: Police stop and search activity.
- 7.5** Question from Councillor Rania Khan to the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali re: the telecare scheme.

- 7.6** Question from Councillor David Snowdon to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck re: pay rates for contractors and temporary staff.

The above questions, and oral supplementary questions where put, were responded to by the relevant Lead Members.

Due to lack of time, questions 7 – 28 were not put. Written responses will be forwarded to the questioners.

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

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

### **8.1 Report of the Cabinet of 5th November 2008 - Response to Scrutiny Review on the Licensing of Strip Clubs**

#### **DECISION**

That the Council notes the report of the Scrutiny Working Group on the Licensing of Strip Clubs and the action plan approved by the Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

(Action by: Lutfur Ali, Assistant Chief Executive/Stephen Halsey, Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture)

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

### **9.1 Joint Arrangements**

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

### **9.2 External Organisations**

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **10.1 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council**

#### **DECISION**

It was agreed to:

- (a) note the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 of the report; and

- (b) note that no change is required to the allocation of seats on committees and panels made at the last Council meeting and set out at paragraph 4 of the report.

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

## 11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

### **Change to order of business**

The meeting agreed under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 to vary the order of business within agenda item 11 as follows:-

- (i) Motion 11.6 re: the London Living Wage to be taken first
- (ii) Motion 11.3 re: ending child poverty to be taken second
- (iii) The remaining motions to be taken in order as listed in the agenda including the additional motion 11.13 accepted onto the agenda earlier in the meeting.

### **11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Lutfur Rahman regarding the London Living Wage**

An amendment moved by Councillor Ahmed Hussain and seconded by Councillor Dr Emma Jones was **defeated**.

The motion as moved by Councillor Lutfur Rahman and seconded by Councillor Rachael Saunders was **agreed** as follows:-

### **DECISION**

This Council:

- supports the establishment of the London Living Wage, set at a level calculated by the Living Wage Unit to avoid poverty wages being paid in the capital;
- abhors the fact that around 400,000 Londoners continue to fall into a 'working poverty trap' because their families are paid less than required to fund the basic costs of living in London;
- calls on the Leader to review Tower Hamlets Council's procurement, contract and best value policies to ensure that, as far as possible within UK and EU law, the London Living Wage, at the level set by the GLA's Living Wage Unit, is the minimum paid by Tower Hamlets Council and by its contractors and that all temporary workers employed by the council are paid at least £7.45 an hour by their agency;
- calls on the Leader to seek commitments from Tower Hamlets' partners in the Local Strategic Partnership to pay no less than the London Living Wage; and

- calls on the Leader to ensure that the Council's commitment to the London Living Wage is clearly displayed on Council headed paper, the Council website and other appropriate locations.

### **11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Clair Hawkins regarding ending child poverty in Tower Hamlets**

An amendment moved by Councillor Peter Golds and seconded by Councillor Tim Archer was **defeated**.

The motion as moved by Councillor Clair Hawkins and seconded by Councillor Lutfur Rahman was **agreed** as follows:-

#### **DECISION**

This Council notes:

- That research by the End Child Poverty campaign shows that there are 42,000 children living in poverty in Tower Hamlets;
- That child poverty doubled during 18 years of Tory misrule from 1979 to 1997;
- The historic commitment by the Labour Government to halve Child Poverty by 2010 and the fact that the goal of ending child poverty by 2020 was enshrined in law in the Queen's Speech this month;
- The raft of measures announced in November's pre-budget report that will help to lessen the burden on the most vulnerable people in society as the recession takes hold;
- Regret at the failure of the Conservative Party to support many legislative measures that are necessary to end child poverty by 2020;
- That the End Child Poverty campaign has praised Tower Hamlets achievements in education;
- The Council's commitment and actions to date to address child poverty have been recognised by being short-listed for a Beacon award for Preventing and Tackling Child Poverty;
- Reducing Child Poverty is a priority in the Tower Hamlets Local Area Agreement with suitably challenging and ambitious targets; and
- That the causes of child poverty are many and complex and that eradicating child poverty will require strong partnership working with central government, the Mayor of London, the third sector and other partners.

This Council believes:

- That preventing and tackling child poverty must continue to be a Council priority;
- That this Council continues to support the ongoing work to develop an integrated child poverty strategy;
- That eradicating child poverty will only be achieved through multi-agency partnership working;
- That the current Scrutiny review into child poverty will inform the work around our strategy; and
- That Child Poverty must be a theme that runs through the new three year Children and Young People's Plan

This Council resolves:

- To sign up to and deliver on the London Child Poverty Pledge
- To accelerate the development of its Child Poverty Strategy to prevent and tackle child poverty with key partners working to address four priority areas:
  - (i) removing barriers to work which includes offering parents childcare options that allow them to go to work, and also supporting them in their search for employment;
  - (ii) developing pathways to work, through investment in long term training options in the basic skills that lead to employment;
  - (iii) breaking the cycle of poverty, which includes the council's continued focus on improving education, improving careers advice and guidance and preventing young people from becoming NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training); and
  - (iv) mitigating the effects of poverty, including making sure local young people have access to cultural, leisure and sporting activities and developing extended services.

### **Extension of time for the meeting**

The Council agreed under Procedure Rule 9.1 to extend the time period for the meeting to 11.00 p.m.

**Change to order of business**

The meeting agreed under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 to vary the order of the remaining business to take motion 11.2 re: community cohesion and ID cards as the next item.

**11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding community cohesion and ID cards**

The motion as moved by Councillor Stephanie Eaton and seconded by Councillor Carli Harper-Penman was **agreed** as follows:-

**DECISION**

This Council notes:

1. That Parliament has created identity card legislation.
2. This legislation will have an impact on all residents within Tower Hamlets.

This Council believes:

1. That the proposed scheme will impose substantial and disproportionate costs on the Council.
2. That the cost of ID cards would be better spent on employing crime prevention measures such as more police officers, and target hardening.
3. ID cards have the potential to have a negative impact on social cohesion and notes the concerns of the Metropolitan Police Service to that effect:

*'The scheme could become compulsory prematurely for those disadvantaged members of society, because they would have to have an ID Card in order to access Social Security Benefits, etc. It should also be noted that many of the visible ethnic minorities are over-represented in this socio-economically deprived group. We have severe reservations that the scheme could add to tensions at a time when the police service is investing greatly in gaining confidence across all communities'*

This Council will:

1. Make it a policy of the Council to ensure that national identity cards would not be required to access council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by Act of Parliament.
2. Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards.



3. Only co-operate with the national identity card scheme where to do otherwise would be unlawful.
4. Affiliate to the NO2ID campaign whose supporters already include MPs and Peers of all parties, Borough, County and District Councils, and unions (including UNISON, the largest union in the UK with 1.3 million members).

Motions 11.1, 11.4, 11.5 and 11.7 – 11.13 as listed below were not considered due to lack of time, the meeting having closed in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 (Duration of meeting).

- 11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding parking**
- 11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding the future of homeowners and the local economy in Tower Hamlets**
- 11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding pensions**
- 11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Fozol Miah regarding the Olympics**
- 11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the co-operative and social enterprise sector**
- 11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Mohammed Abdul Munim regarding postal votes**
- 11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Salim Ullah regarding homophobia and prejudice**
- 11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding Council Tax and services**
- 11.12 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding police representation**
- 11.13 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding Woolworths (urgent motion)**

The meeting ended at 11.00 p.m.