



Meeting of the

# TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

---

Monday, 9 February 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

---

## A G E N D A

---

### VENUE

Council Chamber, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,  
5 Clove Crescent,  
London E14 2BG

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

John S Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services  
Tel: 020 7364 4204, E-mail: [johns.williams@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:johns.williams@towerhamlets.gov.uk)



Chief Executive's  
Directorate

Democratic Services  
Tower Hamlets Town Hall  
Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent  
London E14 2BG

Tel      **020 7364 4204**  
Fax      **020 7364 3232**

[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)

**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 **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.30 p.m.** on **MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2009**

Martin Smith  
**Chief Executive**

# LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## COUNCIL

MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2009

7.30 p.m.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Chief Executive.

**3. MINUTES**

**PAGE  
NUMBER  
3 - 28**

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008

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

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

**29 - 34**

The deputations and petitions received for presentation to the Council Meeting are set out in the attached agenda item 5.

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

**35 - 38**

**(Maximum of 30 minutes allowed)**

The questions which have been received are set out in agenda item 6.

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

**39 - 44**

**(Maximum of 30 minutes allowed)**

The questions which have been received are set out in agenda item 7.

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

**8.1 Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2007/08**

Report by Mr. Patrick O'Connor, Independent Chair of the Standards Committee.

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

No business under this heading to be considered.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

No business under this heading to be considered.

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

**45 - 58**

The motions submitted by Members of the Council for debate at this Council Meeting are set out in agenda item 11.

# Agenda Item 2

## DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This note is guidance only. Members should consult the Council's Code of Conduct for further details. Note: Only Members can decide if they have an interest therefore they must make their own decision. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending at a meeting.

### Declaration of interests for Members

Where Members have a personal interest in any business of the authority as described in paragraph 4 of the Council's Code of Conduct (contained in part 5 of the Council's Constitution) then s/he must disclose this personal interest as in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Code. Members must disclose the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting and certainly no later than the commencement of the item or where the interest becomes apparent.

You have a **personal interest** in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- (a) An interest that you must **register**
- (b) An interest that is not on the register, but where the well-being or financial position of you, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association, is likely to be affected by the business of your authority more than it would affect the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision.

Where a personal interest is declared a Member may stay and take part in the debate and decision on that item.

**What constitutes a prejudicial interest?** - Please refer to paragraph 6 of the adopted Code of Conduct.

**Your personal interest will also be a prejudicial interest in a matter if (a), (b) and either (c) or (d) below apply:-**

- (a) A member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think that your personal interests are so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interests; AND
- (b) The matter does not fall within one of the exempt categories of decision listed in paragraph 6.2 of the Code; AND EITHER
- (c) The matter affects your financial position or the financial interest of a body with which you are associated; or
- (d) The matter relates to the determination of a licensing or regulatory application

The key points to remember if you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting:-

- i. You must declare that you have a prejudicial interest, and the nature of that interest, as soon as that interest becomes apparent to you; and
- ii. You must leave the room for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision unless (iv) below applies; and

- iii. You must not seek to improperly influence a decision in which you have a prejudicial interest.
- iv. If Members of the public are allowed to speak or make representations at the meeting, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, by statutory right or otherwise (e.g. planning or licensing committees), you can declare your prejudicial interest but make representations. However, you must immediately leave the room once you have finished your representations and answered questions (if any). You cannot remain in the meeting or in the public gallery during the debate or decision on the matter.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES 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**

**Members Present:**

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Abdul Munim
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Clair Hawkins	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Waiseul Islam	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Ann Jackson	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Denise Jones	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Dr. Emma Jones	

The meeting opened at 7.34 p.m.

**The Mayor, Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique, in the Chair**

**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.

**RESOLVED**

That the apologies for absence be noted.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest in items included on the agenda as follows:

Councillor	Item	Type of interest	Reason
Helal Abbas	5.2.2	Personal	Ward member of Spitalfields & Banglatown
Helal Abbas	11.1	Personal	Permit holder
Helal Abbas	11.3	Personal	Works within the organisation of Poverty Campaign
Helal Abbas	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder
Helal Abbas	11.6	Personal	Employer involved
Helal Abbas	11.8	Personal	Member of a Co-operative
Rajib Ahmed	11.1	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Rajib Ahmed	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder
Rofique Ahmed U.	11.1	Personal	Holds Council issued parking permit for estate parking
Rofique Ahmed U.	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder and paying a mortgage
Rofique Ahmed U.	11.7	Personal	Board Member of ODA Planning Committee
Mohammed Shahid Ali	11.1	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Abdul Asad	11.8	Personal	Member of Co-operative Party
Lutfu Begum	7.8	Personal	Employed by NHS
Lutfu Begum	7.10	Personal	Employed by NHS
Stephanie Eaton	5.2.3 and 5.2.4	Personal	Petition relates to a premises in the Councillor's ward which



			she visited during Ramadan.
Carli Harper-Penman	11.8	Personal	Member of Co-operative Party
Shafiqul Haque	11.1	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Shafiqul Haque	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder
Ahmed Hussain	7.8	Personal	Employed by PCT
Ahmed Hussain	7.10	Personal	Employed by PCT
Waiseul Islam	11.1	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Waiseul Islam	11.4	Personal	Mortgaged property owner
Ann Jackson	11.3	Personal	Member of an affiliated organisation (Oxfam)
Ann Jackson	11.4	Personal	I have a mortgaged property in the borough
Ann Jackson	11.6	Personal	Union Member
Denise Jones	7.2	Personal	Board Member of Tower Hamlets Homes
Denise Jones	7.8	Personal	Non executive member of THPCT
Denise Jones	7.19	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Homes and End End Homes
Azizur R. Khan	5.2.3 and 5.2.4	Personal	Petition relates to a premises in the Councillor's ward which he visited during Ramadan.
Azizur R. Khan	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder
Rania Khan	5.2.1	Personal	Ward Councillor
Rania Khan	8.1	Personal	Has campaigned against strip clubs

Rania Khan	11.6	Personal	Has campaigned for Living Wage
Abjol Miah	5.2.3 and 5.2.4	Personal	Referee for one of the organisations presenting a petition
Fozol Miah	5.2.2	Personal	Ward Councillor
Harun Miah	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder
Abdul Munim	5.2	Personal	Ward Councillor
Joshua Peck	11.7	Personal	Employee of a company that has a contract with LOCOG and the ODA
Lutfur Rahman	5.2.2	Personal	Ward Councillor
Lutfur Rahman	11.1	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Lutfur Rahman	11.4	Personal	Mortgaged property
Lutfur Rahman	11.7	Personal	Member of Olympic 5 Borough Committee
Muhammad Abdullah Salique	5.2.3 and 5.2.4	Personal	Ward Councillor, Bethnal Green North
Muhammad Abdullah Salique	11.1	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Muhammad Abdullah Salique	11.4	Personal	Home owner
A. A. Sardar	5.2.1	Personal	Ward Councillor
A. A. Sardar	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder
A. A. Sardar	11.5	Personal	Eligible for Winter Fuel Allowance
Rachael Saunders	8.1	Personal	Involvement in campaigns to reclassify strip clubs as Sex Encounter Establishments

Rachael Saunders	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder
Rachael Saunders	11.6	Personal	Employed by UNISON, who have campaigned for a London Living Wage
Bill Turner	8.1	Personal	Appeared in TV programme designed to advance campaign for regulation of strip clubs
Bill Turner	11.3	Personal	Member of two organisations affiliated to the End Child Poverty Campaign
Bill Turner	11.6	Personal	Attended meeting in support of Living Wage
Bill Turner	11.8	Personal	Member of the Co-operative Party
Bill Turner	11.12	Personal	Deal with the Met. Police on a professional basis
Abdal Ullah	5.2.2	Personal	Ward member of St. Dunstan's and Stepney Green
Abdal Ullah	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder
Abdal Ullah	11.5	Personal	Father eligible for Winter Fuel Allowance
Salim Ullah	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.1	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.4	Personal	Leaseholder
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.5	Personal	Mother eligible for winter fuel allowance

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

That subject to correction of the spelling of Councillor Clair Hawkins' name at minute 4 (iii), 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****(i) Cllr Rachael Saunders**

Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Leader of the Council, welcomed Councillor Rachael Saunders to her first Council meeting since she was elected in a by-election as a Councillor for Mile End East ward.

**(ii) Women Councillors of the Future Programme**

The Mayor was pleased to welcome to the meeting a group of aspiring members from the Women Councillors of the Future programme. He expressed the hope that they would find the meeting interesting and enjoyable and would return to the Chamber in the future.

**(iii) Lead Member, Children's Services**

Councillor Clair Hawkins, Lead Member, Children's Services, addressed the Council concerning the tragic death in a neighbouring borough of a child (Child 'H') who had for a short period been resident in Tower Hamlets.

On behalf of all Members, Councillor Hawkins shared Redbridge Council's deep sense of sadness and regret about Child H's death and extended her heartfelt sympathy to the child's family and friends. Child H had spent most of her tragically short life outside of Tower Hamlets and the Serious Case Review undertaken by the Redbridge Local Safeguarding Children Board had made only one recommendation about this borough and had stated that it did not require immediate attention. However, the Council is always deeply concerned if any service becomes involved, directly or indirectly, in such a tragic case and had therefore implemented the recommendation willingly, fully and immediately.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton and Councillor Peter Golds addressed the meeting in turn. They each echoed Councillor Hawkins' shock and sadness at the case and expressed concern at some shortcomings described in the Serious Case Review; but welcomed the measures that had been taken and briefing that the group leaders had received on the matter.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Leader of the Council also expressed his sympathy and horror at the death of Child H. He agreed that any delays to the assessment process were of concern and welcomed the speedy implementation of the Board's recommendation and response of the Council's Children's Services department in this regard.

## 5. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

### DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations at this meeting.

### PETITIONS

Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Leader of the Council, **MOVED** and Councillor Stephanie Eaton **SECONDED** - "That under Procedure Rule 14.1.4, the Council agree to suspend Rule 19.1 to enable an additional petition on 73 Bishops Way to be heard."

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. The additional petition was taken at item 5.2.4.

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

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms. Clare O'Riordan addressed the meeting in support of the petition concerning land south of Rainhill Way. She re-iterated the points raised in the written petition and asked when the land would be returned to its previous condition before the planning breach was made.

Ms. O'Riordan responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development responded to the matters raised in Ms. O'Riordan's petition. As part of the regeneration of the estate, Swan Housing Association would be converting the site into usable open space for the benefit of the community. Councillor Francis had been assured by senior officers at Swan Housing that there was no intention on the Housing Association's part to avoid its obligations. However in view of the points raised in the petition, Councillor Francis undertook to contact the petitioners and arrange to visit the site.

### RESOLVED

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

### **5.2.2 Petition re: Crossrail**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Muhammed Haque addressed the meeting in support of the petition from the Khoodeelaar! Campaign regarding Crossrail. He re-iterated the points raised in the written petition.

Mr. Haque responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, the Lead Member for Housing and Development, responded to matters raised in the petition. Tower Hamlets had played an active role in the scrutiny of the Crossrail Act which became law on 22 July 2008, and had kept the local community informed of developments throughout. The Council had consistently supported the principle of Crossrail because of the economic and transport benefits it would bring to the borough but this support was always subject to the construction of stations at the Isle of Dogs and Whitechapel, and to minimising the environmental and any other adverse impacts of the construction work. Councillor Francis outlined a number of the significant achievements in this regard including Crossrail's review of its tunnelling strategy.

### **RESOLVED**

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

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

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Shanur Miah addressed the meeting in support of the petition from the London Muslim Heritage Centre regarding 73 Bishops Way, E2.

Mr. Miah responded to questions by Members of the Council.

It was **AGREED** that the additional petition 5.2.4 would be heard before the Lead Member replied.

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

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Mohammed Shah addressed the meeting in support of the petition from Bethnal Green North Community Focus regarding 73 Bishops Way, E2.

Mr. Shah responded to questions raised by Members of the Council.

Councillor Joshua Peck, Lead Member for Resources and Performance, responded to the matters raised in both petitions regarding 73 Bishops Way. Councillor Peck thanked each of the organisations for their petition and commented on the valuable work that they had outlined for the benefit of the community. The Council was currently exploring options for the future use of

the building in question and a report would come to the Cabinet for a decision at the appropriate time.

## **RESOLVED**

That the petitions 5.2.3 and 5.2.4 each be referred to the Corporate Director Development & Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

## **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**

“When I recently enquired about funding I was told that the Council does not support Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. I believe that Neighbourhood Watch Schemes provide an essential communications tool between the community and the Police and help both sides to work toward a reduction in crime. Not even 17 extra Police officers can function efficiently without the co-operation of residents, where Neighbourhood Watch Schemes play a necessary role to further relations with the Police. Why doesn't the Council support Neighbourhood Watch Schemes?”

#### **Response of the Lead Member:**

The Partnership Serious Acquisitive Crime sub group has supported and funded the launch of the new Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators group at Oxford House on 13 November. Tower Hamlets Police and the Local Authority see Neighbourhood Watches as a crucial element in preventing crime and engaging local communities. Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be looking to increase the current 40 Watches in the New Year and this will include promoting them in the media as well as erecting local signs in Watch areas.

#### **Summary of supplementary question from Ms. Kaschke:**

I was present at the launch on 25<sup>th</sup> November where the Metropolitan Police and the Deputy Mayor of London supported Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. The decline in schemes is due to lack of funding. What will the Council do to actually provide funds to support Neighbourhood Watch Schemes?

#### **Summary of Lead Member's response:**

I was also at the launch. It is not just a question of funding it also about working with partners in the LAPs and effective communication. I hope that you will wish to play a role in this and I invite you to participate and champion the scheme.

At this point (9.01 pm), the meeting was adjourned to enable a number of members of the public to leave the gallery.

The meeting resumed at 9.12 pm and the Service Head, Democratic Services informed Members that the revised projected end time for the meeting was now 10.45 pm.

**Urgent Motion – Woolworths (tabled)**

Councillor Abjol Miah **MOVED** and Councillor Dulal Uddin **SECONDED** “That under Procedural rule 14.1.4, rule 13.1 be suspended to enable the following urgent motion on Woolworths to be considered at the meeting:-

This Council notes:

- a) The imminent closure of Woolworths with the loss of 30,000 jobs, the biggest single loss of jobs so far in the credit crunch, and the loss of 815 high street stores supplying cheap and useful goods to people on low incomes;
- b) That Woolworths has been made bankrupt by the credit crunch which saw banks refusing to roll over loans and insurers refusing to insure Woolworths debts;
- c) That there are three Woolworths stores in Tower Hamlets, one in the Bethnal Green Road, one in Roman Road and one in Vesey Path near Crisp Street, Poplar;
- d) That the closure of Woolworths stores in Tower Hamlets will not only put more than 100 people out of work probably before Christmas but that it will also have an adverse effect on other shops and on market stalls in the Bethnal Green Road, Roman Road and Crisp Street areas;
- e) That the closure of Woolworths in the Roman Road is a particularly severe blow for this area which has already suffered the loss of the Safeways supermarket;
- f) That the Government has moved with extraordinary alacrity to bail out the banks but has remained absolutely motionless with regard to Woolworths which provides real jobs providing a real service;
- g) That Woolworths is on sale for just £1;
- h) That George Galloway, MP for Bethnal Green and Bow has raised a petition which is now posted on the No. 10 website and an Early Day Motion 250 calling on the Government to save Woolworths and turn it into a People’s Woolies;
- i) That George Galloway has asked for an urgent meeting with Business Secretary Lord Mandelson to demand that Woolworths be added to the list of



companies Lord Mandelson has drawn up to save in the face of the worsening recession.

This Council supports all the initiatives that are being taken to demand the Government take action to save Woolies.

This Council believes the Leader of the Council should also seek an urgent meeting with the Business Secretary to urge Government intervention to save Woolworths.

This Council calls on the Government to intervene as a matter of urgency to save Woolworths, the 815 high street stores and 30,000 jobs.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Councillor Abjol Miah then **MOVED** and Councillor Dulal Uddin **SECONDED**, “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.3, the order of business be varied to enable the urgent motion in respect of Woolworths to be discussed as the next item of business.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**. The motion on Woolworths was therefore placed as motion 11.13 on the agenda.

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

Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED** and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED** “That Procedural Rule 12.3 be suspended to enable the following urgent question which is a matter of public policy involving the Council to be put to the Lead Member for Housing and Development:-

Peter Marsh, the Chief Executive of the Tenant Services Authority, the housing association regulator, has disclosed to Parliament and reported in the Guardian today that six medium to large housing associations were now in serious financial difficulty. Would the Lead Member please inform the Council if any of the Housing Associations in this borough are affected?”

The procedural motion was put to the meeting and was **agreed**.

Councillor Tim Archer further **MOVED** and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED** “That under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to enable the urgent question regarding Housing Associations to be asked as the first question.”

The procedural motion was put to the meeting was **defeated**. The additional question was therefore placed at item 7.28 on the agenda. The Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis, stated that he would be happy to provide a written response to the question following the meeting.

**7.1 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

What measures is the Lead Member taking to deal with anti-social behaviour in Mile End East ward?

**Response of the Lead Member:**

A Reduction of ASB is a key priority for police Safer Neighbourhood teams working in partnership with Borough council teams.

The current Public Set Priorities are;

Eric Street Estate - ASB and drugs. The police have now completed their baseline survey and have started work, concentrating around Eric St, Hamlets Way and Mossford Street. Gangs of youths are the main concern along with drug dealing in and around the area. A drug warrant has recently been executed at a local address.

Leopold Est - ASB, drugs. This has been running for about 6 months and is due for a review.

Adopt a block system is in place.

The e3 night club is situated at the corner of Burdett Road and Bow Road. It was historically a major source of excessive noise nuisance and attracted a considerable amount of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the surrounding area late at night and in the early hours at weekends. The area is covered by CCTV cameras. Recently the cameras were instrumental in ensuring the closure of this night club. Following the closure of the club a resident's satisfaction survey was carried out to assess the response of residents to the levels of ASB in the ward. The overwhelming response from residents to this survey was that the ASB has significantly reduced in the area. The cameras are also used to monitor the activity of groups of youths that congregate in Mile End Park by the bridge over Mile End Road. Mile End East Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is contacted if there are any incidents of ASB. Community Safety Services work in close partnership with the SNT and the ASB Investigation Officer is co-located with them in Bow police station. This arrangement provides an effective local service for dealing with emerging trends in ASB in the ward.

**Summary of oral supplementary question from Councillor Rachael Saunders:**

I am grateful for the Lead Member's answer and proud of the progress made on Safer Neighbourhood Teams and 17 new Police officers. Can the Lead Member say more about how the Council will empower local people to deal with the challenge on anti-social behaviour?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

There will in fact be 19 new Police officers and in addition, the THEO's will also deal with low level incidents. Tower Hamlets has a no nonsense approach to anti-social behaviour. I would also draw your attention to the Community Safety Awards which are taking place on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**7.2 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

Will the Lead Member outline the recruitment strategy and approach to recruiting senior officers for the Tower Hamlets ALMO - Tower Hamlets Homes?

**Response of the Lead Member:**

Responsibility for recruitment to senior posts within Tower Hamlets Homes rests with the THH Board and decisions regarding the strategy and approach, and indeed the appointments, were made by the Board.

The Board chose to be supported throughout the process by the Joint Director of Human Resources (LBTH and THPCT), who advised on relevant issues and participated fully in the processes.

A search and selection consultancy from the Council's Approved List was appointed to assist, following a short competitive exercise.

5 appointments were made, the Chief Executive and 4 Directors.

The Chief Executive was appointed first so that the new appointee could then participate in the process of appointing their management team.

All 4 Director posts were recruited to on the same timescale and appointments were made over two days on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

The process for all appointments included an external advertisement and executive search.

A long list of candidates was drawn up for each post; each long listed candidate was then interviewed and tested against technical criteria.

Following this process a shortlist was agreed by the members of the Board delegated to do so.

Short listed candidates gave a presentation to and were interviewed by panels made up of THH Board members, advised as set out above.

**Summary of oral supplementary question from Councillor Archer:**

Given that the new Director of Strategy and two Board members worked for Hackney Homes, a failing one star Housing Association, what assurances can the Lead Member give that Tower Hamlets will not also suffer losses and poor management?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

I am disappointed that members opposite are smearing an officer before he has even started the job. However, I am not surprised as even before I gave my answer, they have circulated a leaflet to constituents making allegations about the officer's appointment. The most outrageous aspect of all this, is that they themselves were offered the opportunity to take a position on the Board of Tower Hamlets Homes and thereby a role in this recruitment process.

For the record, let me make it clear that the appointment was purely on merit and merit alone. The officer brings enormous experience to the role of Director of Strategy – experience gained from more than ten years working on housing issues in Hackney and across London. As with the other members of the Senior Management Team of THH, we have full confidence in the appointment.

**7.3 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

Would the Leader of the Council agree that it is a scandal that the Games Plan, a 250 page report on the likely economic and sporting effects of the Olympics commissioned by the government and produced and signed off by Tony Blair in 2002, has remained largely secret until now, that its assessment that there would be no economic or sporting benefits from the Olympics is very worrying, that the fact that £550 million of lottery money which would have gone to grassroots sport has been siphoned off to pay for the two week Olympic event is a matter of grave concern as this is now adversely affecting grassroots sport in Tower Hamlets and would he seek an urgent meeting with Tessa Jowell, the Olympics Minister, about these matters, following up a series of meetings that George Galloway has arranged with her and her office?

**Response of the Leader of the Council**

The report you cite, it states that:

“By staging the games in this part of the city the most enduring legacy of the Olympics will be the regeneration of an entire community for the direct benefit of everyone who lives there.”

To me this does not read as an admission that there will be no positive outcomes from the Olympics.

In a time of increasing economic uncertainty, the Olympics is providing jobs and training for our residents – especially in areas like construction, which are hardest hit by the recession. Cllr Alibor Choudhury can fill you in on some of the excellent work being done.

I am personally meeting with the leaders of the other four Olympic boroughs on a regular basis – the last meeting was less than two weeks ago – to help secure the Olympic legacy through a Multi Area Agreement which is allowing us to use Olympic money and Olympic opportunities to challenge housing, public realm and worklessness issues together.

To give just one example, the Thames Gateway Development Corporation has committed £9m to the High Street 2012 regeneration project and Design for London a further £4.5 million for public realm improvements and other interventions.

As for the accusation that money is being siphoned away from sports in the borough, I would invite you to read our plan for increasing young people's participation in sport, which includes provision for:

- more and better borough-wide competitive events with an Olympic theme
- girls and women only swimming sessions
- Training staff to equip them to meet the needs of disabled young people
- creating one or more borough-wide annual disabled sports day

Or better still, I would invite you to look at the £3.3 million we are investing in rebuilding the popular but dilapidated Osmani Youth Centre and our bid for millions in lottery cash to turn the Haileybury Youth Centre into a world class facility with sports, education and outreach programmes to benefit the entire community.

**Summary of oral supplementary question from Councillor Abjol Miah:**

Can the Leader provide us with the evidence of the legacy and in relation to housing what percentage of the properties from the Olympics this borough will receive and what will be given to other boroughs and what assurances can he give that the borough will not receive “the crumbs”?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

By definition the legacy will come after the Games. I am fully committed to obtaining the maximum benefits for this borough in housing, jobs and public realm, across the three themes of the multi-agency agreement entered into by the 5 boroughs with the Government.

**7.4 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

Could the Lead Member comment on the recent increase in the number of people in the Borough stopped and searched under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994) which are permitted only where an officer believes that serious violence may take place or that persons are carrying dangerous instruments or offensive weapons without good reason?

**Response of the Lead Member**

The use of this power is only granted by officers of the rank of Superintendent or above, or as a result of urgent operational need by an Inspector – All cases are based on intelligence that give grounds for an authority.

Operation Blunt (knife crime) has been the main driver in the use of stop and search to remove knives from the streets, and to arrest offenders.

The high number of young people being murdered in London as a result of knife crime demanded an appropriate response.

The Metropolitan Police introduced a rapid response task force in the summer. This team can be called upon by boroughs across London to tackle youth violence and use stop and search as a tactic. The team have worked in this borough.

So far this year, youth violence is currently down by 20% and knife crime is down by 12% in Tower Hamlets.

**Summary of oral supplementary question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton:**

Asian people are three times more likely to be stopped and searched in this borough than white people. Yet in 90% of cases no action is taken. Does the Lead Member think that this is proportionate?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

I have personally chaired a Task Group and I am aware that intelligence lead policing has prevented deaths. Searches must always be carried out in a professional, courteous and dignified manner and I believe this has been the case.

**7.5 Question from Councillor Rania Khan to the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali**

How many people have taken advantage of the telecare scheme since charges for use were abolished in September 2008?

**Response by the Lead Member**

In the first two months since the free service was introduced on 1 October 2008 (October – November), 211 telecare installations were completed. This compares to a total of 198 installations in the previous six months.

No supplementary question was asked.

**7.6 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

Could the Lead Member please outline what steps are taken to ensure that pay rates agreed with contractors and temporary staff through individual negotiations – as per his written answer to my question at the last Council meeting – represent good value for money?

**Response of the Lead Member**

The steps which have been taken to ensure value for money in respect of temporary staff engaged through agencies have been:

- A corporate contract for a managed service was established in 2006. Under this contract, all assignments are processed through the service provider, who manages the supply chain of staffing agencies.
- On establishment of the contract, the service provider immediately decreased the charge rate by a minimum of 2% across the board on existing assignments.
- At the start of the contract, and on an ongoing basis since then, the service provider has run agreed pay rates for specified posts, which is based on a comparison of every pay rate with other London Borough rates to ensure that they are sufficiently attractive to candidates, and also offer value for money for the Council.
- The pay rates for defined roles are usually based on the permanent equivalent salary.
- There are some specialist roles for which it is not possible to use established posts as a reference point, and in these cases, the hourly or daily payment must be based upon a rate agreed between the relevant manager and the candidate concerned.
- Corporate Management Team monitors expenditure on temporary staff on a quarterly basis, and Corporate Directors are responsible for reducing the numbers of temps in their Directorates. This typically involves scrutiny at Directorate Management Teams.

**Summary of oral supplementary question from Councillor David Snowdon:**

Does the Lead Member consider that the information about hourly rates paid to agency staff contained in a letter that I have received from the

Joint Director of Human Resources, showing rates of up to £130 per hour equivalent over £211,000 per annum, represent good value?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

Without the full details, I cannot comment on individual cases but these are not normal rates of pay. The Council have a target to reduce the number of agency staff used and I would be happy to look into the figures mentioned if provided with a copy of the letter.

In accordance with Rule 12.10 (expiry of time limit), questions 7.7 to 7.28 were not put. Written responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

**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**

The meeting considered the report of the Cabinet meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in relation to the above item.

Councillor Abdal Ullah **MOVED** and Councillor Abdul Asad **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener introduced the report. He welcomed the valuable contribution that the Scrutiny Working Group members had made and considered that this was an example of effective joint working.

Councillor Rania Khan addressed the meeting on the work that the Scrutiny Working Group had undertaken. She welcomed the change in the law which she considered had come about as a result of pressure from local communities and authorities such as Tower Hamlets.

Other Members commented on the report and welcomed the information and action plan set out therein.

After discussion, the recommendations were put to the meeting and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

**RESOLVED**

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.



## 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

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report.

After discussion, Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED** and Councillor Carli Harper-Penman **SECONDED** "That the question be now put."

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The recommendations as moved by Councillor Lutfur Rahman and seconded by Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali were then put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

#### **RESOLVED**

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

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

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

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** "That under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business within agenda item 11 be varied to allow (i) Motion 11.6 on the London Living Wage to be taken first (ii); Motion 11.3 on ending child poverty to be taken second; and (iii) the remaining motions then to be taken in order as listed in the agenda including the additional motion 11.13 accepted onto the agenda earlier in the meeting."

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

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

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Rachael Saunders **SECONDED** the motion 11.6 as set out in the agenda.

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

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Rachael Saunders **SECONDED** "That under Procedure Rule 9.1 the meeting be extended until 11.00pm."

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

After discussion of motion 11.6, an amendment was **MOVED** by Councillor Ahmed Hussain and **SECONDED** by Councillor Dr Emma Jones as follows:-

"That after bullet point 4, the following bullet points be added before the last bullet point:

- That the Council through its joint Director of Human Resources will ensure that the Tower Hamlets PCT will also take on board the GLA's living wage unit and ensure that all its sub contractors and partners are taking this on through their procurement process;
- That the standards agency of the Council will enforce the living wage throughout the borough with all the existing and new establishments in the borough over a targeted time limit"

After further discussion the amendment **MOVED** by Councillor Ahmed Hussain and **SECONDED** by Councillor Dr. Emma Jones was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

#### **RESOLVED**

That 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**

Councillor Clair Hawkins **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** the motion 11.3 as set out in the agenda.

After discussion an amendment was **MOVED** by Councillor Peter Golds and **SECONDED** by Councillor Tim Archer as follows:-

"Delete points 2 and 5 and insert new point 2 'All parties represented on Tower Hamlets Council are committed to ending all forms of child poverty within the Borough.'"

Following discussion the amendment was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

### **RESOLVED**

That 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.

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

Councillor Stephanie Eaton **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** "That under Procedural Rule 14.1.3 the order of the remaining business be varied to take motion 11.2 on Community Cohesion and ID cards as the next item."

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

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

Councillor Stephanie Eaton **MOVED** and Councillor Carli Harper-Penman **SECONDED** the motion 11.2 as set out in the agenda.

The motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

### **RESOLVED**

That 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.

Mayor,  
Tower Hamlets Council

This page is intentionally left blank





## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

**DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

### **SUMMARY**

1. The Council's constitution provides that a maximum of three deputations and three petitions are received at any meeting. These are taken in the order of receipt. This report sets out the deputations and petitions submitted by members of the public for presentation at Council on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
2. The deadline for receipt of deputations and petitions is noon on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. However, Members will note that the attached report already includes the maximum three petitions and three deputations for the meeting.
3. In each case the members of the deputation/petitioners may address the meeting for no more than five minutes. Members may then question the deputation/petitioners for a further five minutes. The relevant Lead Member or Chair of Committee may then respond to the deputation or petition for up to three minutes.
4. Any outstanding issues will be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will respond to those outstanding issues in writing within 28 days.
5. Members should confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

## 5.1 DEPUTATIONS

Three deputations have been received as set out below:-

### 5.1.1 Deputation from Ms. Claire Palmer and others regarding the effect of the economic downturn on residents:

“The latest reports on the state of the economy confirm that we are in the worst economic situation for 50 years and that all other financial downturns pale into insignificance in relation to the situation we find ourselves in. Although the British economy has been relatively robust so far, there is no doubt it will see a severe slowdown, with growth expected to decelerate from 3% last year to just 1.7% next year by the best forecasts.

This has begun to have an affect on the average family with second quarter repossession up by 71% on last year's figures. Alongside this we have seen a rise in unemployment with more that 40,000 extra people signing on for unemployment benefit in November and a projected rise of the unemployment figures to 3.3 million by 2010. Significantly for Tower Hamlets, we have also seen a sharp decline in the number of new homes being built so that 2008 will be the worst year for house building since 1957. Since so many of the Government's and Council plans, including the pledge by Labour Councillors at the last election to see £300 million new housing in the borough, depend on the private sector's robust building plans this will have an effect on the provision of affordable housing for residents.

Tower Hamlets is the 4<sup>th</sup> most deprived borough in London with only half its population economically active and therefore heavily susceptible to a downturn of this kind. Based on the Council's own data from its local resident survey 2008 around 20% of the population was concerned about a lack of jobs within the area while the supply of affordable housing was considered a concern to most residents. Areas of high prosperity in the borough depend on the economic health of Canary Wharf while large parts of the borough look to the retail sector. Both of these areas will be hit hard by any down turn in spending with a subsequent rise in residents concerns over lack of employment and housing.

#### We ask the Council to Note

- That the economic downturn is going to have a large effect on the borough's residents and a proportionality higher effect on those who are less financially well off;
- That residents are going to need all of the money that they can get their hands on in the months ahead;
- That shops and businesses in the area depend on people spending money to stay in business and to provide employment to people in the area;
- That the Council can have both a positive and negative affect on the lives of residents depending on the decisions it takes.

### We Residents Believe

- That the current economic situation poses a grave risk to the lives and businesses of residents to this borough;
- That it is the role of the Council to provide as much assistance as is possible, within the limits placed upon it by financial restraint and Government control to residents of this borough;
- That costs levied by the Council in the form of Council Tax, service charges, fees and administration costs are a strain on hard pressed families at this time and should be limited as far as possible;
- That business rates should be set at a level that reflects the hardship that many local businesses are facing.

### We call upon the Council and the Leader of the Council to ensure

- That Council services for 2008/09 are 2009/10 are capable of delivering the services that people of this borough will need at this time;
- That the Council's elderly and child services are aware that more elderly residents and children in the borough will suffer as a result of increased costs and declining income;
- That the Council ensures that all residents are made fully aware of Council and Governmental schemes available to them to help alleviate the worst effects of this downturn;
- That the Council does all it can to ensure that business rates are lowered to allow local shops to better compete better in the months ahead;
- That Council Tax and service charges are capped at their present level for the next two years;
- That the council should use all its influence on the local RSLs to cap their service charges."

#### **5.1.2 Deputation from Mr. Dave Coker and residents of the Exmouth Estate about the decline in living standards on the Exmouth Estate since the transfer to Swan Housing:**

"We the undersigned are residents of the Exmouth Estate. We protest the decline in living standards on the Exmouth Estate since the transfer to Swan Housing.

Since this transfer we have noted a significant decline in living standards on the Exmouth Estate. Day to day maintenance is not done in a timely manner, if at all. Significant quality of life issues such as broken security locks simply are not addressed.

Indeed, due to our landlord's inaction, entire blocks have been rendered accessible to non residents. The Metropolitan Police now have to focus

special patrols on the Exmouth Estate due to our landlord's poor management.

When the estate was transferred, Swan Housing made several promises to Exmouth Estate residents in a formal offer document dated October 28<sup>th</sup> 2005. The promises included:

- *"maintain buildings in a good condition"* Swan Housing have violated this agreement
- *"respecting and protecting the rights of leaseholders"* Swan Housing have violated this agreement
- Swan Housing originally proposed two alternatives for Brayford Square. However without consulting all residents of the estate, our landlord is now pursuing a third course of action, partial redevelopment of the block. This unilateral decision violates the spirit, if not the letter of the offer document.

Due to our landlord's poor management of the Exmouth Estate our property values have been negatively impacted. Quality of life for large numbers of residents has sharply declined. Many of us are no longer proud of living conditions on our estate.

We urgently request the Tower Hamlets Council to urgently review agreements in force between Swan Housing and LBTH. We urgently request the Tower Hamlets Council to demand an explanation from, and hold our landlord accountable for these actions.

### **5.1.3 Deputation from Latham House residents in support of the motion regarding Latham House submitted by Councillor Md. Mamun Rashid (see agenda item 11.11)**

This Council wishes to express its concern over the continuing uncertainty over the future of Latham House and the limitations on tenancy rights of its residents.

This Council notes the dissatisfaction of the residents of Latham House with the Housing Associations which lease the building and of which they are the tenants.

This Council believes that the Council should take Latham House back into Council ownership at the earliest possible opportunity and that the residents of Latham House should also be given secure tenancies at the earliest possible opportunity.

This Council also believes the future of Latham House must be resolved at the earliest opportunities to remove the uncertainty currently blighting the lives of its residents.

## **5.2 PETITIONS**

Three petitions have been received as set out below:-

### **5.2.1 Petition from residents of the British Estate and others regarding the establishment of a Tesco Express Supermarket on Bow Road**

“We, the undersigned residents of British Estate/Bede Estate/Eric Estate/Malmesbury Estate and the surrounding area oppose the establishment of a Tesco Express Supermarket on Bow Road for the following reasons:

1. It will seriously affect local business with the prospect of 15 local shops now being put out of business, especially in the current economic climate;
2. It will deprive the area of choice and create a monopoly on goods available to local residents;
3. It will lead to an increase in unemployment in the area as a result of the loss of shops;
4. It will represent a betrayal of East End Homes’ original proposals in their offer document which proposed that shops would be relocated from their present position to be on Bow Road.

We urge the Council to endorse our views expressed above and to do all in its power to get this decision changed.”

### **5.2.2 Petition from Mr. Terrence Austin and the Four Estates Group regarding Island Homes**

“We, the Residents of Island Homes, demand that One Housing Group (and Island Homes) restore the proper constitution and intention of Island Homes as contained in the original offer document, for which we voted, particularly with respect to Island Homes being Local, Responsive and Resident Led.

We further call on the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the Housing Corporation to fulfil their roles as overseers by (a) investigating the actions and failings of both the Managing Director of Island Homes and of the “Parent”, and (b) instigating a process of mediation between One Housing Group/Island Homes and the Residents’ Groups mentioned in the Offer Document (Estate Management Organisations).”

### **5.2.3 Petition from Mr. Tazul Islam and residents of Devon's Estate regarding the anti social behaviour on the estate**

"We, the undersigned residents of Devon's Road Estate, are fed up by the continuous antisocial behaviour on our estate. Cars are regularly being vandalised and youth are seen speeding up and down Bruce Road until early hours of the morning causing both noise nuisance and danger to pedestrians and houses. We the residents demand for a CCTV camera to be installed so the culprits could either be caught or deterred. We also request for more patrolling in the area. Women, men and children are feeling vulnerable living here on this estate."

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

## **SUMMARY**

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the appropriate Lead Member at Council on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
2. The Council's Constitution provides a maximum time limit of thirty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the thirty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Mayor decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration to the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

## QUESTIONS

Four questions have been submitted as set out below:-

**1. Question from Mr. Philip Whittington to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

“I moved to the borough earlier this year and my housemate and I duly tried to establish a direct debit mandate with the Council for the payment of Council Tax. We later received a ‘reminder’ so I made arrangements to set up payments again. After a period where we heard nothing, we then received a summons to a magistrates’ court for non-payment dated 9<sup>th</sup> July (which we received on 12<sup>th</sup>). When I came to the Town Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> July to explain the situation, the Council had my bank account details already (complete with a scanned copy of my signed debit mandate) in the first place but had neglected to set up the payment process. I would like to know:-

- a) How many people across the borough experienced this problem?
- b) How many of those people fitted any of the Council’s definitions of ‘vulnerable’ or ‘living in vulnerable circumstances’ (whom we would expect to experience severe distress in this situation)?
- c) How many older people received summons to magistrates’ courts due to this administrative error?
- d) What measures have been put in place to avoid innocent residents in future being intimidated by government (albeit unintentionally) in this way?”

**2. Question from Ms. Johanna Kaschke to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

“I pay my rent per Standing Order each Tuesday without fail. Countless times I have received non payment reminders despite the money leaving my account each week on the same day. It was admitted that internal cash-flow admin problems prevent the monies from showing as paid in the Council’s records.

On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2009 I received a complaint that rent paid on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 has still not been received when it was paid via my Standing Order. These reminders are costly and why doesn’t the Council instead query non payments internally or with the bank first instead of writing costly letters to tenants?”



**3. Question from Mr. Len Aldis on behalf of Tower Hamlets Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

“Will the Council agree to affiliate to the international organisation “Mayors for Peace”, and have as its representative the Mayor of Tower Hamlets?”

Information has been circulated to Councillors giving the aims and principles of this organisation that Tower Hamlets CND considers worthy of support from all peace loving people.

In December Mayors for Peace gained 99 new member cities bringing the total for 2008 to 515 and a grand total of 2,635 member cities in 134 countries.

We are also pleased that following his election as Mayor of London, Boris Johnson agreed to continue his support for Mayors for Peace.”

**4. Question from Mr. Terry McGreenera to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

“Will any provision be made in the budget to encourage the introduction of the living wage in Tower Hamlets as announced in the Council’s Employment Policy?”

This page is intentionally left blank

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

## **SUMMARY**

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by Members of the Executive at the Council meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
2. 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.
3. Oral responses are time limited to two minutes. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to two minutes each.
4. There is a time limit of thirty minutes for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any question not answered within this time will be dealt with by way of a written response. The Mayor will decide the time allocated to each question.
5. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

## QUESTIONS

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

**7.1 Question from Councillor Fazlul Haque to the Lead Member for Employment and Skills, Councillor Alibor Choudhury**

Can the Lead Member for Employment and Skills elaborate on the work being done to improve jobs and skills in the community?

**7.2 Question from Councillor Shirley Houghton to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Sirajul Islam**

Will the Deputy Leader confirm that under the constitution it is a legal requirement for Council Members to be formally trained before taking part in and making decisions on the regulatory licensing and planning committees? Will the Deputy Leader explain the consequences to the Council if members take part and make decisions at regulatory committees who have not undertaken the required training?

**7.3 Question from Councillor Harun Miah to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that we are facing a very severe recession and possibly a depression, that in these circumstances it would be madness to raise the Council Tax and council charges and that it would be far better if the Council Tax and charges were reduced, that we cannot afford to cut services or the workforce and that the incomes of the workforce must also not be cut and would he therefore also agree that the budget should be set within these parameters and that the relevant lead member and council officers should begin immediate negotiations with the Government to ensure any funding gap is met out of Government grant?

**7.4 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

Does the Lead Member agree with me that it is vital for the effectiveness of community policing that our Safer Neighbourhood Teams get to know local residents and have a detailed knowledge of the neighbourhood which they police?

**7.5 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins**

Can the Lead Member for Children's Services give an indication of how the Government's new Play Pathfinder will be implemented in the borough?

**7.6 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

Will the Lead Member for Housing provide an up to date report on the situation regarding Blackwall Reach and Robin Hood Gardens?

**7.7 Question from Councillor Dulal Uddin to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

In the light of the decision by English Heritage to give the green light to the redevelopment of Robin Hood Gardens, would the lead member give the following guarantees to the residents of Robin Hood Gardens, that every resident will be offered like for like alternative accommodation in the decant, that every resident will preserve their current secure tenancies in any decant, that residents will be granted a like for like return to the estate once it is redeveloped and that the community centre and other community facilities for the estate will be maintained and enhanced in any redevelopment?

**7.8 Question from Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins**

Could the Lead Member advise me what percentage of the Borough's Schools have playgrounds or sporting facilities open to the community at weekends?

**7.9 Question from Councillor Carli Harper-Penman to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

Would the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener like to comment on the recent crime figures in the Borough?

**7.10 Question from Councillor Philip Briscoe to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

A recent survey highlighted employment trends of local authorities in the face of the economic recession. Are there plans to reduce (or increase) the number of workers employed by Tower Hamlets Council and what are the numbers involved in any changes?

**7.11 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Lead Member for Culture, Councillor Rofique Ahmed**

Would the Lead Member agree with me that martial arts provides young people in Tower Hamlets with an important means of keeping fit, enhancing their self-discipline and other benefits, that it is important for the Council to support the martial arts to improve accessibility and affordability and to secure proper facilities on a regular basis for martial arts to be practised, that martial arts should be promoted by a Council sponsored festival and that this should form part of the Council's Olympic strategy?

**7.12 Question from Councillor Abdul Matin to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

Could the Lead Member advise me how many times the Council has been prosecuted under the Health and Safety at Work Act in the past year, the fines and the costs payable as a result of any conviction? If there has been any conviction, could I be advised of any actions taken to prevent similar incidents?

**7.13 Question from Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

Can the Leader of the Council inform us as to whether anything is being done to increase the number of goods and services that are being procured locally by Canary Wharf and the City of London?

**7.14 Question from Councillor David Snowden to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

Can the Lead Member for Housing please outline the work he has undertaken with regard to ensuring that resident and leaseholder concerns over the suspension of the Island Homes board are addressed?

**7.15 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that the gagging orders included in contracts from the Olympic Development Authority, as reported on BBC London, represent an outrageous infringement of civil liberties and in particular will prevent whistle blowing on matters of the utmost importance relating to costs, the environment and health and safety and that these gagging orders are entirely contrary to the spirit of transparency that should inform everything to do with the Olympics as articulated by Olympics Minister Tessa Jowell when she criticised the Chinese authorities for not being fully transparent

**7.16 Question from Councillor Tim O’Flaherty to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

Could I be advised whether the residents of Charles Dickens House will be compensated for the inconvenience and distress caused by the recent fire and electrical failure, and will the Borough be compensated by THCH for the costs of accommodation and other expenses incurred by the Borough as a result of the emergency?

**7.17 Question from Councillor Rania Khan to the Lead Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins**

Can the Lead Member for Children’s Services let us know whether there are plans to enlarge or improve any of the schools in Bromley-by-Bow ward?

**7.18 Question from Councillor Rupert Eckhardt to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

Tower Hamlets Homes is running a Cash Incentive Scheme to encourage tenants to give up their tenancy and buy their own home. This has existed for many years, and before the transfer of homes on the Isle of Dogs to Island Homes. Island Homes does not now offer such a scheme, but Tower Hamlets Homes continues to do so. This clearly represents a loss of rights for Island Homes residents. It is my understanding that all rights should have been protected for Island Homes Residents. Could the Lead Member please comment on this?

**7.19 Question from Councillor Mamun Rashid to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck**

Would the Lead Member agree with me that pensioners in Tower Hamlets should be afforded day trips out over the summer holidays to enable them to enjoy the seaside and other places of interest, that some pensioners are benefiting from such trips due to the fantastic work being done by voluntary and other organisations, but that LAPs must carry out an investigation of pensioner facilities to ensure no-one is falling between the gaps and then ensure adequate funding and other support to voluntary and other organisations to ensure that every pensioner has the option on going on day trips over the summer period?

**7.20 Question from Councillor Alex Heslop to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

Parking is a serious concern for residents and shoppers in the Roman Road area. Can the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener let us know if there are any plans to improve parking provision?

**7.21 Question from Councillor Dr. Emma Jones to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

What action is the Council taking to enforce the weight restriction of lorries passing through Wapping High Street?

**7.22 Question from Councillor Md. Abdul Munim to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that London, and in particular Tower Hamlets, is facing a particularly difficult time in terms of employment prospects now that the financial services sector, which provided the primary growth in jobs in recent years, is facing a long-term decline and that, for all that the Government and the Council may fund retraining and other employment enhancement programmes, it is not immediately obvious where the new areas of employment growth might come from and would he therefore agree that the Council must enter urgent discussions with the Mayor and above all the Government to map out a strategy for employment growth in Tower Hamlets in the very new circumstances we now find ourselves in?

**7.23 Question from Councillor Ahmed Hussain to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

Will the Lead Member for Housing indicate what discussions he has had to secure a final date for the upgrading of the British Estate?

**7.24 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Lead Member for Performance & Resources, Councillor Joshua Peck**

During the budgetary process, what consideration has been given to:

- Reducing spending on the Council's PR budget
- Reducing hospitality expenditure
- Cutting agency staff
- Closing East End Life
- Reducing Executive Members' allowances?



**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

## **SUMMARY**

1. Twelve motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for the Council meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
2. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008, the order in which the motions are listed is by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) not reached at the previous meeting.
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 unless notice of 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 are the motions that have been submitted.

## **11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding support for the Palestinians in Gaza**

**Proposed: Councillor Abjol Miah**  
**Seconded: Councillor Harun Miah**

This Council deplores

- a) the three week assault on Gaza by Israel which has led to the deaths of more than 1,300 people, many of them women and children;
- b) the New Labour Government's failure to take strong actions against Israel for this assault;
- c) the New Labour Government's decision to send the Royal Navy to assist the Israeli blockade of Gaza; and
- d) the decision by the BBC and Sky not to show the Gaza appeal from the Disaster Emergencies Committee

This Council believes

- a) Israel has committed a number of war crimes during the assault on Gaza; and
- b) the actions of the Israeli Government and the failure of the British Government to take strong measures against Israel could fuel extremist reactions to the Israeli outrages, which in turn might endanger Tower Hamlets residents

This Council demands that the Government:

- a) expels the Israeli ambassador and withdraws the British ambassador in Tel Aviv;
- b) ends arms sales to Israel, currently worth £18 million per year;
- c) recognises Hamas as the democratically elected government of Palestine;
- d) abandons the planned blockade of Gaza by the Royal Navy on behalf of the Israeli Government; and
- e) imposes sanctions on Israel

This Council supports

- a) a boycott of all Israeli products;
- b) a day of support for the Palestinians in Gaza with collections across the borough and in the Council itself;
- c) the aid convoy being organised to travel from London to Gaza through the Viva Palestina organisation led by George Galloway MP; and

- d) an education programme in citizenship classes in our schools to provide factual information on the plight of the people of Palestine and about the distinction between opposing Zionism and anti-Semitism

This Council requests that the Cabinet

- a) asks officers to ensure that the Council does not buy Israeli goods nor have any other links to this rogue regime;
- b) lobbies the Government to permit local authorities to exercise moral, ethical and human rights considerations in the procurement, commissioning or otherwise sourcing of any products, goods or services from countries which continuously flout international laws and UN resolutions;
- c) lobbies the Government to get the European Union to break its ties with Israel which have been strengthened recently and to lift its sanctions on Gaza; and
- d) draws up plans to twin with the town of Jenin in Palestine as a matter of urgency

## **11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Archer on waste incentives/bin taxes**

**Proposed: Councillor Tim Archer**  
**Seconded: Councillor Peter Golds**

This Council notes that:

1. The Government is moving ahead with plans to introduce new local bin taxes, through so-called 'waste incentive pilot schemes', which will subsequently be rolled out to two in three homes according to Whitehall estimates;
2. Even the Government's own optimistic Impact Assessment admits that the poorest families will pay £72.31 a year more, and the Treasury has stated the new 'waste incentives' are officially classified as a tax;
3. Bin taxes will lead to a surge in fly-tipping and backyard burning, and in the Republic of Ireland, bin taxes have led to 4 in 10 households now burning their rubbish, and such burning of now causes 73% of all dioxin emissions; and
4. The Government is not properly compensating local authorities for the new burdens imposed through landfill taxes and the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, increasing pressure on council tax.

This Council resolves to:

1. Oppose Government plans for new bin taxes;

2. Write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs rejecting the Government's invitation to participate in these new charges for the collection of household waste; and
3. Call on the Secretary of State to ensure local authorities are properly compensated for new burdens imposed by central government, instead of introducing new taxes.

### **11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Salim Ullah regarding condemning homophobia and prejudice**

**Proposed: Councillor Salim Ullah**  
**Seconded: Councillor Sirajul Islam**

This Council:

Condemns the recent attack on a man in Shoreditch, which the police are treating as homophobic;

Recognises that homophobia is a major issue in Tower Hamlets, as in the rest of London and the UK;

Recognises that other prejudices and hatred can lead to violence and intimidation;

Restates its opposition to prejudice, and its commitment to campaigning for equality, specifically to campaigning for equality for groups that often suffer discrimination, such as women, ethnic minorities, disabled people and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; and

Supports legislation passed by the Labour government prohibiting religious hatred, and continues to assert the importance of respecting the beliefs of those of all faiths and none.

This Council resolves to:

Adopt a zero tolerance approach to all forms of hate crime;

Encourage the Local MPs and GLA member to work with the Council to compile information on crimes that relate to prejudice and discrimination, such as:

- hate crimes that relate to all equality strands including age - violence, name calling, insults, threats of attack and other hate crimes;
- other crimes that relate to discrimination and inequality, such as domestic violence;

Encourage the Local MPs and GLA member to work with the Council to gather information on evidence of discrimination that does not relate to crime, such as pay

gaps promulgated by local employers, or evidence of harassment, name calling or other such incidents that may not be reported to the police but are still important in understanding issues around discrimination and prejudice;

Ensure that all Council funded bodies uphold the values of tolerance and mutual respect amongst our whole community, including respecting different values and ways of life;

Review work going on locally that addresses discrimination and community cohesion, and to use the public sector equality duties to ensure that all public bodies are fully delivering on their obligations and help these organisations to develop and implement equality policies if they have not already done so; and

Campaign to raise awareness of the issue of hate crime, in particular homophobic hate crime.

#### **11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding eliminating excessive punishment for minor parking offences**

**Proposed: Councillor Stephanie Eaton**

**Seconded: Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan**

This Council notes:

1. That parking controls are necessary to ensure the availability of parking for entitled residents and their visitors, business people, traders and others;
2. That parking management and the promotion of public transport is essential to control traffic flow, avoid climate change and improve air quality; and
3. That many residents value the use of a car, and that vehicle use is often essential for e.g. businesses, families, and to enable people with disabilities to participate in all aspects of community life.

This Council believes:

1. That breaches of parking regulations should be enforced fairly and rigorously;
2. That the fines for breaches of parking regulations are a necessary deterrent to ensure parking space is available to those who need it and are entitled to use it;
3. That where a vehicle is parked dangerously, or in a disabled bay or other area that blocks access for a particular purpose, immediate action to remove a vehicle is necessary and reasonable;
4. That the initial punishment for a breach of a non-serious parking offence (one that attracts a *lower* penalty charge notice) initially should be a penalty charge notice and no other action;

5. That where a lower penalty charge notice has been issued but a vehicle is parked safely, immediate action should *not* be taken to clamp that vehicle or remove that vehicle to the pound;
6. That where a lower penalty charge notice has been issued but the vehicle is parked safely there should be a minimum period of 6 hours between the issue of the penalty charge notice and any clamping of the vehicle or the removal of a vehicle parked safely to enable the owner of that vehicle to remove the vehicle to a location where it is not in breach of any parking regulations; and
7. That where a safely parked vehicle is in breach of a minor parking regulation the rapid removal of the vehicle to the pound and the costs and inconvenience incurred by the owner of the vehicle amounts to disproportionate 'punishment'.

This Council requests that:

1. Officers undertake a review of the parking enforcement policy and engage in consultation with residents with the intention of eliminating cases where a minor breach of a parking regulation (which would attract a penalty charge notice currently £120 reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days) results in a payment by the resident of this £60 fine plus £200 for release of the vehicle from the pound; and
2. Officers provide a report to Cabinet by June 2009 which recommends measures to eliminate disproportionate and excessive 'punishment' in relation to penalties for parking offences.

#### **11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding freezing charges and taxes and maintaining services**

**Proposed: Councillor Harun Miah**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

This Council notes

- a) the dire warnings coming from City fund managers and others that we are heading not just for a severe recession but a 1930s-style depression;
- b) the failure of the Government's policies so far to get the banks lending again and to arrest the downward spiral of the economy, despite the fact hundreds of billions of pounds of taxpayers money has been thrown at the banks who caused this mess in the first place; and
- c) the failure of the Government to save Woolworths costing a loss of 30,000 jobs and that many other companies have announced redundancies since.

This Council believes

- a) unless drastic action is taken urgently by the Government the gloomiest predictions are more and more likely to become true; and
- b) there should be no rise in taxes at this time on those on middle and low incomes as this will further reduce spending in the economy but that instead middle and low incomes need to be raised.

This Council calls on the Government

- a) to use its de facto nationalisation of the banks to order the banks to start lending at low interest rates;
- b) to bring forward a programme of massive public works, including a council house building programme, to boost the economy as well as benefit those in need;
- c) to take the Bank of England back into public ownership and control and draw up an ambitious programme of further nationalisations to save the economy; and
- d) to move to cut interest rates drastically in the bond markets by the technique of quantitative easing, ie printing money, by ordering the Bank of England to buy government securities

This Council will

- a) make no increase in Council taxes and charges in the forthcoming budget, no cuts in incomes or the size of the workforce; and
- b) request that senior officers seek immediate talks with the Government to secure the necessary grant increases to ensure there is no shortfall in the Council budget as a result of refusing to raise Council taxes and charges and not cutting jobs and wages.

#### **11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Golds regarding the future of homeowners and the local economy in Tower Hamlets**

**Proposed: Councillor Peter Golds**

**Seconded: Councillor Ahmed Hussain**

The current credit crunch that has hit the country has left the residents of this borough in a very vulnerable financial position that could well have grave consequences for hard pressed families. The Government has predicted that there will be more job losses and property repossessions before the economy gets any better and this is bound to hit an area like Tower Hamlets harder than more affluent parts of the country. It is an unfortunate consequence of this that the children of this borough, who already live in higher than average poverty, will be harder hit.

The presence of Canary Wharf and the subsequent presence of a large number of financial institutions is an added dimension that most parts of the country will not have to deal with. Many of the workers on the Canary Wharf estate are residents of Tower Hamlets and any slow down in the economic growth of this key area will affect all sections of our community. This Council should be committed to ensuring all our residents are not affected by this crisis and therefore:

The Council notes:

- That at least 25% of the borough's homeowners will be effected by this down turn and may face repossessions of their homes this year alone;
- That the residents of Tower Hamlets should be protected as far as is possible from the worst affects of this economic downturn;
- That many of the poorest families in this Borough will be affected to a proportionally greater degree then residents of other London Boroughs;
- That the Council's elected members and officers have the duty to ensure that the electorate are safeguarded and financially helped within the limit of the resources available to the authority;

This Council believes:

- That it exists to help and assist the residents of Tower Hamlets in all aspects of their lives;
- That it understand the financial stability and well being of its residents are key in creating a prosperous and just society;
- That in order to safeguard and help the residents of Tower Hamlets it would intervene as and when necessary to provide assistance for hard pressed families;

This Council calls on those responsible to ensure:

- All services provided by the Council take into account the worsening financial situation of our residents;
- That Children's Services does all that it can to ensure children are protected from the worst aspects of this situation;
- That the current Council Tax will be capped at its current rate for the fiscal year 2009/10 and 2010/11;
- That the service charges will be capped to the current rate for the fiscal year 2009/10 and 2010/11;
- That the Council will influence all the RSLs to cap their service charges;
- That the Council call on the Government to clarify their latest mortgage assistance proposals so that as many of our residents can benefit as possible.



## **11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the co-operative and social enterprise sector**

**Proposed: Councillor Alex Heslop**

**Seconded: Councillor Denise Jones**

This Council recognises that there is a diverse and healthy co-operative sector in Tower Hamlets with a combined turnover of approximately £50 million and also appreciates the important role that co-operatives and other social enterprises can play in community and economic regeneration initiatives. Although there are many successful co-operative enterprises operating in Tower Hamlets such as Tower Hamlets Community Credit Union, Tower Hamlets CDA and Greenwich Leisure (effectively a workers co-op), as well as several food co-ops and housing co-operatives, there is not a single Council officer with a specific remit or indeed expertise for working with the co-operative & social enterprise sectors.

This Council resolves to do the following:

- Allocate responsibility for supporting the co-operative & social enterprise sectors to the Lead Member for Regeneration as well as a designated Council officer who will promote and support new mutual models for the provision of community services, including housing, pre-school childcare, residential and home care, recycling and leisure. Made possible through service reviews, externalising, or re-contracting services and procurement procedures.
- Organise an annual event to celebrate International Co-operatives Day in partnership with the local Co-operative Movement; this could also involve the Tower Hamlets Partnership and its Creating and Sharing Prosperity Community Plan Action Group.
- Develop procurement strategies that make a direct link between the Community Plan and other strategic objectives and contract specifications ensuring that community benefits can be fully integrated into the procurement process.
- Work with the Co-operative Sector and London Development Agency to improve access to finance and support for socially and mutually owned businesses.
- Work with staff and unions on a partnership basis in the creation of new cooperative services

### **11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding boosting Council Housing**

**Proposed: Councillor Dulal Uddin**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

This Council notes:

- a) residents of Council housing in Tower Hamlets have been conned into transferring to Housing Associations with promises of better services, investment, etc.;
- b) the widespread dissatisfaction with the performance of Housing Associations by the residents of these Housing associations; and
- c) the severe financial difficulties a number of Housing Associations are now in as a result of the economic crisis.

This Council welcomes the decision by the Council to abandon any further attempts to transfer Council housing stock to Housing Associations.

This Council believes there needs to be a crash Council house building programme, not only to address the problems of the 23,000 people on the Council's waiting list, the massive overcrowding in Tower Hamlets and the poor condition of some housing, but also to boost the construction industry which is in meltdown and to boost the economy more generally.

This Council calls on the Government

- a) to bring the Council housing stock that has been transferred to housing associations back into Council ownership; and
- b) to resume the process of direct investment in Council housing, particularly here in Tower Hamlets, where a fraction of the taxpayers money thrown at the banks will resolve much of the housing crisis in Tower Hamlets and beyond

### **11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Lutfur Rahman regarding the Sustainable Communities Act**

**Proposed: Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

**Seconded: Councillor Sirajul Islam**

That Tower Hamlets Council:

- (i) supports the bottom-up process in the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the help that central government gives in reversing community decline and promoting thriving, sustainable communities;

- (ii) notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to
  - make proposals to government on the action and assistance government must take or give to promote sustainable communities, and that
  - those proposals can be for a transfer of public money and function from central to local control;
- (iii) notes that the Act defines sustainable communities broadly, that definition having the 4 aspects of
  - the improvement of the local economy;
  - protection of the environment;
  - promotion of social inclusion; and
  - participation in civic and political activity;
- (iv) notes that reasons for a local authority choosing to use the Act include gaining new assistance from government, determining that assistance, being able to argue for transfers of public monies from central to local control and involving citizens in democracy; and
- (v) further resolves to
  - inform the local media of this decision; and
  - write to local MPs, informing them of this decision.

#### **11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Fozol Miah regarding support for Lifelong Learning**

**Proposed: Councillor Fozol Miah**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

This Council supports the Early Day Motion number 533 Alliance for Lifelong Learning introduced by Labour MP Gordon Marsden in the House of Commons, which says:

“That this House welcomes the launch of the Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning (CALL) in September 2008; shares its concern that over 1.4 million places have been lost in the last two years in English adult education due to cuts and fee rises; notes that over 150 organisations are CALL supporters; believes that particularly at this time of recession, affordable access to the life-changing opportunities provided by education is the hallmark of a civilised society; considers that adult learning needs to be simultaneously expanded, resourced and promoted alongside work-based skills training in the Children, Skills and Learning Bill; and calls for immediate action to ensure a full range of learning opportunities for adults to adjust the Personal and Community Development Learning budget to increase with inflation, and redirect any underspend on the Train to Gain programme to meet individual learner demand.”

This Council supports the lobby of parliament called for 25<sup>th</sup> February by CALL over this issue

This Council believes that the principles being promoted by CALL are very important for the residents of Tower Hamlets and their lifelong learning opportunities and calls on Jim Fitzpatrick MP and George Galloway MP to sign the EDM.

#### **11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Md. Mamun Rashid regarding the plight of Latham House**

**Proposed: Councillor Md. Mamun Rashid**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

This Council wishes to express its concern over the continuing uncertainty over the future of Latham House and the limitations on tenancy rights of its residents.

This Council notes the dissatisfaction of the residents of Latham House with the Housing Associations which lease the building and of which they are the tenants

This Council believes that the Council should take Latham House back into Council ownership at the earliest possible opportunity and that the residents of Latham House should also be given secure tenancies at the earliest possible opportunity

This Council also believes the future of Latham House must be resolved at the earliest opportunities to remove the uncertainty currently blighting the lives of its residents

#### **11.12 Motion submitted by Councillor Md. Abdul Munim regarding 'parking tyranny'**

**Proposed: Councillor Md. Abdul Munim**

**Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah**

- 1) This Council notes
  - a) that the Council received almost £5 million from motorists in Penalty Charge Notices and tow aways for the tax year 2007/2008;
  - b) that for many families car use is essential both for their transport and for the acquisition of vital provisions including the bulk-buying of foodstuffs;
  - c) that residents parking permit charging is discriminating against large family car owners;
  - d) that car ownership in the borough remains relatively low;

- e) that so-called “parking free” new developments particularly discriminate against those dependent for their transport on car use;
  - f) that there is very widespread anger over the application of parking enforcement rules in an unreasonable way, causing huge and unaffordable cost particularly to those less well-off;
  - g) that many people believe that the parking enforcement policy has little to do with reasonable parking and traffic control and everything to do with raising money for the council through a regressive stealth tax on car owners; and
  - h) that parking policy is inhibiting visitors to the borough using the markets of Tower Hamlets and therefore adversely affecting business in the borough
- 2) This Council calls on the Cabinet to carry out an urgent and thorough review of parking policy which will
- a) introduce some common sense and flexibility into parking enforcement so that it is no longer ticket and tow away first, ask questions after;
  - b) review parking permit charges so that they do not discriminate against large family car owners, whilst at the same time they do reflect pro-economy, anti-gas guzzling car ownership;
  - c) review parking access to the principal markets in Tower Hamlets and seek to make more parking available during the hours of those markets; and
  - d) seek to get changes in government policy so that Section 106 restrictions on parking permissions around new developments no longer discriminate against those dependent on car use.

This page is intentionally left blank