



ANNUAL MEETING OF TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 20 May 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

**VENUE
Council Chamber, 1st 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:

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**TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

You are summoned to attend the Annual 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 **WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2009**

Martin Smith
Chief Executive

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2009

7.30 p.m.

1. TO ELECT A MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN 2010

(Note: Section 8 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1972 provide that the election of Mayor shall be the first item of business transacted at the Annual Meeting of the Council and that in the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall give a casting vote in addition to any other s/he may have.)

2. TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN 2010

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. 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.

5. MINUTES

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To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 22nd April 2009.

6. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

7. TO ELECT THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

8. TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE CABINET

To follow.

9.	APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE	33 - 36
	Report of the Service Head, Democratic Services attached.	
10.	REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES/PANELS OF THE COUNCIL	37 - 40
	Report of the Service Head, Democratic Services attached.	
11.	APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES/PANELS OF THE COUNCIL	
	To follow.	
12.	APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES AND FORUMS	41 - 44
	Report of the Service Head, Democratic Services attached.	

Agenda Item 4

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, 22 APRIL 2009

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

Members Present:

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

The Mayor, Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique in the Chair

The meeting opened at 7.37 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Philip Briscoe, Alex Heslop, Shirley Houghton and Adbul Matin.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be noted.

[Note from clerk: Councillor Shirley Houghton wished it recorded that she had been advised not to attend the meeting following possible exposure to contagious illness.]

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	8.1	Personal	Trust Keen Students
Helal Abbas	11.6	Personal	Employment provides support to TELCO
Helal Abbas	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Helal Abbas	11.10	Personal	Member of the Tower Hamlets Credit Union
Ohid Ahmed	5.1.2	Personal	Ward Councillor for East India and Lansbury
Ohid Ahmed	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Ohid Ahmed	11.13	Personal	Ward Councillor for East India and Lansbury
Ohid Ahmed	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder of RSL property and member on Tower Hamlets Homes Board
Rajib Ahmed	5.1.3	Personal	Ward Councillor
Rajib Ahmed	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Rajib Ahmed	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder and member of THCH
Rofique Ahmed	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Rofique Ahmed	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder of Council property and I sit on the board of Ocean Regeneration Trust (ORT Board)
Anwara Ali	11.7	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Mohammed Shahid Ali	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Shahed Ali	11.4	Personal	Involved in previous campaigns on this matter
Shahed Ali	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit

Abdul Asad	8.1	Personal	Works for a Youth Service provider
Abdul Asad	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Abdul Asad	11.10	Personal	Member of Co-operative Party
Abdul Asad	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder
Lutfu Begum	5.1.2	Personal	Ward Councillor Limehouse
Lutfu Begum	11.9	Personal	Employed by NHS
Phil Briscoe	5.1.2	Personal	Ward Councillor for Blackwall and Cubitt Town
Phil Briscoe	5.2.2	Personal	Ward Councillor for Blackwall and Cubitt Town
Phil Briscoe	11.9	Personal and Prejudicial	Director of a company with a professional relationship with Atos Origin
Alibor Choudhury	5.2.3	Personal	Ward Councillor For St. Dunstan's and Stepney Green
Stephanie Eaton	5.1.3 & 11.5	Personal	Live in Copenhagen Place adjacent to Brickfield Gardens
Fazlul Haque	10.2	Personal	Member of the Constitution Working Party
Fazlul Haque	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Fazlul Haque	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder
Shafiqul Haque	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Shafiqul Haque	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder; Council representative on Board of Tower Hamlets Homes; and member of THCH
Carli Harper-Penman	11.2	Personal	Ward Councillor for Bethnal Green South
Carli Harper-Penman	11.7 & 11.18	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Carli Harper-Penman	11.10	Personal	Member of the Co-operative Party
Clair Hawkins	5.1.1 & 11.15	Personal	Member of UCU
Cllr Shirley Houghton	5.2.1	Personal	Ward Councillor for Millwall

Cllr Shirley Houghton	11.9	Personal and Prejudicial	Officer of a company with a professional relationship with Atos Origin
Sirajul Islam	11.2	Personal	Ward Councillor
Sirajul Islam	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Sirajul Islam	11.14	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Waiseul Islam	11.7	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Waiseul Islam	11.14	Personal	Member of Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Ann Jackson	11.2	Personal	Support of charity during Mayoral year
Denise Jones	7.3	Personal	Owner of business in Brick Lane
Denise Jones	8.1	Personal	PCT Non-Executive Board Member and Governor, Mulberry School
Denise Jones	11.7	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Denise Jones	11.14	Personal	Council nominee to the Boards of Tower Hamlets Homes and East End Homes
Azizur Rahman Khan	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder
Rania Khan	11.4	Personal	Member of Campaign against sex encounter establishments.
Rania Khan	11.14	Personal	Poplar Harca Board Member
Rania Khan	11.15	Personal	Teacher/NUT member
Shiria Khatun	5.1.2	Personal	Ward Councillor East India and Lansbury
Shiria Khatun	11.14	Personal	Tenant of Poplar Harca and a Council nominee for the Poplar Harca Board
Abjol Miah	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Fozol Miah	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Harun Miah	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Harun Miah	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder

Mohammed Abdul Munim	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Ahmed Omer	8.1	Personal	Employed by organisations involved in delivering the Children & Young People's Plan (other than the Council)
Ahmed Omer	11.2	Personal	Affiliated with the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster Memorial Campaign
Ahmed Omer	11.4	Personal	I live within 100 metres of a sex encounter venue
Ahmed Omer	11.14	Personal	Resident of RSL
Lutfur Rahman	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Oliur Rahman	5.1.1	Personal	Supporter of Lifelong Learning campaign
Oliur Rahman	5.2.3	Personal	Ward Councillor St. Dunstan's and Stepney Green and has supported Tenants Group
Oliur Rahman	11.4	Personal	Involved in group campaigning against sex encounter establishments
Oliur Rahman	11.14	Personal	RSL tenant (Toynbee)
Oliur Rahman	11.15	Personal	Supporter of Lifelong Learning campaign group
Mohammed Mamun Rashid	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Muhammad Abdullah Salique	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
A. A. Sardar	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
A. A. Sardar	11.14	Personal	Board member of Poplar Harca and leaseholder
Rachael Saunders	11.4	Personal	Has been involved in OBJECT/Fawcett campaigning on strip clubs, and a signatory to published letters on the subject
Bill Turner	11.2	Personal	Donated money to the Bethnal Green Tube memorial, attended services and advocated on their behalf
Bill Turner	11.4	Personal	Appeared on TV against sex encounter establishments

Bill Turner	11.6	Personal	Attended TELCO meetings in the past
Bill Turner	11.10	Personal	Member of the Co-operative Party
Bill Turner	11.15	Personal	Member of affiliated organisation (UNISON)
Dulal Uddin	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Abdal Ullah	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Abdal Ullah	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder
Salim Ullah	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.7 & 11.8	Personal	Holder of Council issued parking permit
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.14	Personal	Leaseholder and member on RSL Board nominated by the Council

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 9th February and Wednesday 4th March 2009 be confirmed as correct records 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) Councillor Abdul Matin

The Leader of the Council stated that Members were aware that Councillor Abdul Matin had recently been seriously assaulted. Councillor Rahman expressed his shock at the attack and stated that Member and officers were working closely with the Police to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

Councillors from each of the political groups had visited Councillor Matin and a number of Members spoke to support the Leader's comments, to offer their best wishes for Councillor Matin's speedy recovery and their condemnation of the perpetrators. Councillors paid tribute to Councillor Matin's contribution to the Council and the community over many years.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton responded on behalf of Councillor Matin and stated that she would pass on to him the Council's comments and good wishes.

(ii) Bow Gurdwara Fire

The Leader of the Council referred to the serious fire that had occurred recently at the Gurdwara in Bow resulting in the tragic loss of a place of worship and scriptures sacred to the Sikh community in east London.

Councillor Rahman expressed his shock at the fire and offered his heartfelt sympathy to the Sikh community. One of the key factors defining Tower Hamlets was the respect shown by local people to each others' religious beliefs and he deplored anything that could hamper this.

Following the fire, Council officers had worked closely with the Police, the Gurdwara Management Committee and the Interfaith Forum to discuss both the investigation into the cause of the fire and to address the need for alternative facilities in the short term. The Council would continue to offer any assistance that was possible.

(iii) Parking charges at markets/Crime figures

Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, wished all present both a Happy St. George's Day and best wishes for the Bengali New Year. He went on to announce that in order to enable the borough's street markets to flourish the Council had introduced free parking on Saturdays in the vicinity of certain markets and would now also be freezing market fees and charges.

Councillor Ullah also reported that recently published crime figures showed that overall crime in the borough had fallen by almost 17%. The Council would continue to prioritise community safety and had secured an additional 20 Police officers to ensure the borough continued to be a safer place to live, work and visit.

(iv) Portrait of the Head of State

Councillor Tim Archer announced that he made a personal donation of a portrait of the Queen which had been placed on the wall of the Chamber and he hoped that it would be replaced by a more permanent portrait.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS**DEPUTATIONS****5.1.1 Deputation re: Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Robert Foth addressed the meeting in support of the deputation. He brought to Members' attention the fees that some students were having to pay and the effect he felt this would have on lifelong learning in the borough.

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

Councillor Clair Hawkins, Lead Member for Children's Services, responded to the matters raised by Mr. Foth and in doing so declared an interest as she was a former ESOL tutor and a member of the same union. Tower Hamlets has a proud record and strong support for adult education and remains committed to continuing that support. For Further Education Colleges, the fees policy is agreed by the College Board. A Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) ESOL for Work programme would be giving over 600 individuals the opportunity to access ESOL at entry level.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Children's Services for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.1.2 Deputation re: establishment of a Tesco Metro store in Poplar

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Ajai Kapoor addressed the meeting in support of the deputation concerning the establishment of a Tesco Metro store in Poplar which he felt would adversely affect a lot of small businesses in the area.

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

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development, responded to the matters raised by Mr. Kapoor. He said that it was understandable that people have concerns about small businesses being adversely affected in these difficult economic times. However, a review of Tesco's land holdings in the borough showed that it had nine stores across Tower Hamlets and Councillor Francis felt it was difficult to sustain a view that there is an unacceptable proliferation of Tesco Metro and Express stores across the borough. In addition, competition between retailers was not a valid planning consideration.

Nevertheless, officers were working hard on the emerging Core Strategy LDF seeking to develop policies to ensure that retail provision within the borough's town centres produced a mix of retail uses to suit all tastes, needs and wallets. Councillor Francis said that he would work with the officers and Mr. Kapoor to explore ways in which local small businesses could be supported.

RESOLVED

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

At this point (8.20pm) the Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow those Members who needed to observe prayers to do so.

The meeting resumed at 8.37pm.

5.1.3 Deputation re: lighting to be installed in Brickfield Gardens, E14

At the invitation of the Mayor, Messrs. Craig Aston and Graham Collins addressed the meeting in support of the deputation, Mrs. Valerie Lashmar being unable to attend. Messrs. Aston and Collins said that the gardens were attracting people from other areas who were carrying out anti-social behaviour after dark, and asked that lighting be installed as soon as possible.

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

Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener responded to the matters raised by the deputation. He said that this area had not been identified as a hot spot for crime or anti-social behaviour but the Council was aware that concerns had been raised by residents about young people gathering in the centre of Brickfield Gardens and it had been considering the best way to address these concerns, including through the provision of lighting.

The cost of purchasing and installing lighting had been estimated at £27,000 but there was currently no budget for the scheme and sources for funding were being explored, including the possibility of Section 106 contributions. The Council would continue to seek funding and would implement a lighting scheme as soon as it was able.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

PETITIONS

5.2.1 Petition re: Arnhem Wharf Primary School

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms. Nazel Onder addressed the meeting in support of the petition which opposed the expansion of Arnhem Wharf Primary School and called for a further investigation to be made into the management of the school. Ms. Onder also said that she had passed the petition signed by 47 parents to Councillor Snowdon.

Ms. Onder responded to questions from Members of the Council. Councillor David Snowdon then made a personal explanation about the conversations he had had with Ms. Onder and the action that he had taken in relation to the petition.

Councillor Clair Hawkins, Lead Member for Children's Services, responded to the matters raised by Ms. Onder by explaining that the expansion proposals had been subject to extensive consultation with parents, pupils and staff from

7th May 2008 to February 2009. Only 23 responses had been received by parents from the Local Authority's consultation paper of which 19 were in favour, 3 against and 1 unsure. The Local Authority had consulted widely on the expansion proposals and had followed the procedures specified by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The expansion had been designed to meet the rising need for school places in Tower Hamlets.

Councillor Hawkins further reported that the bus stop mentioned in the petition would not be moved and London Buses had also agreed to provide a bus shelter. In addition, more space would be made available in the dining area to accommodate additional students.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Children's Services for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.2.2 Petition re: Millwall Park rugby pitch

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. James Eason addressed the meeting in support of the petition, Mr Mike Costin being unable to attend. Mr Eason gave a background to the history of the club and the benefits of playing matches on the Millwall Park rugby pitch for both the men's and women's teams.

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

Councillor Rofique Ahmed, Leader Member for Culture and Leisure said that a review was under way of the potential impact of the use requested on other pitches and users and a meeting would be arranged with the club once this was complete.

RESOLVED

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

5.2.3 Petition re: vandalism and management of the Exmouth Estate

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Dave Coker addressed the meeting in support of the petition. He highlighted the concerns of the residents on the Exmouth Estate regarding the high level of vandalism, which Mr Coker felt illustrated the poor management of the estate by Swan Housing.

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

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development, thanked Mr. Coker for his presentation and reported that since the last Council meeting had received a petition on a related issue, he had visited the

estate a further three times. Very few of the security doors were operational and Councillor Francis felt this failure to deliver was not good enough. He had therefore raised the matter himself with Swan's Regional Manager. A revised schedule had been provided but Councillor Francis could not have full confidence that this would be achieved, so the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal would meet with the Chief Executive of Swan Housing, Mr. John Sinnett, at the earliest opportunity. Councillor Francis would update Members and representatives of the Exmouth Leaseholders Group again following that meeting.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and 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. Dinah Glover to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed

"The 'Get Active' scheme launched for LAP1 residents to use York Hall gym facilities funded by Government money allows any resident (16 - 74 years) who is not currently a member of the Wellness gyms to pay a one off payment of £2.70 plus £1 per session.

Monthly membership of the gym is £27.95 (£335.40 pa). Under the 'Get Active' scheme you can use the gym 3 x 52 weeks of the year and the total cost is £158.70.

The Government money was meant to target people that are inactive. This scheme mainly subsidises anyone who was a member of a different gym or has recently moved into the area. Why was this money not targeted at inactive people who need the encouragement and secondly why allow a situation that current gym members have a double whammy of both paying more and subsidising their neighbours who may be wealthier than them?"

Response of the Lead Member

There is no evidence that those who have signed up cancelled membership at other gyms to join the scheme. On the launch day when the scheme began in October those who were signing up were local residents who undertook no, or very little, exercise. The scheme was targeted at LAP1 residents as this is the area in Tower Hamlets with the lowest participation rates for physical activity (Active People Survey 2007). Current members are not subsidising those on the scheme as it is funded by an external grant from Sport England.

The Get Active Programme is for one year at York Hall Leisure Centre only and gives subsidised use for four types of activity including the Gym. GLL Membership, however, gives use of all the leisure centres

in the borough, with a greater variety of activity as well as other benefits including access to courses, crèche, discount on other bookings and members only activities which are not available under the Get Active Scheme.

Summary of supplementary question from Ms Glover:

What is the value of the grant from Sport England? How much of the grant has been spent so far and what are the spending plans for the next 2 years of the 3 year programme? How will you be monitoring the scheme's success and ensuring that it meets its targets and criteria? Do you think that this non-targetted, capture all, spray gun approach is the best method of ensuring that this lottery funded money reaches the target group it's meant to?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

I do not have all of this information to hand but will write to you with a full response.

7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

7.1 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Can the Lead Member please tell us how many people took part in the Council's participatory budget process?

Response of the Lead Member:

Below are a number of tables with the initial breakdown from all the events combined. Further detail is available upon request.

It should be noted that many of the people we registered did not provide equalities information either because they did not want to or because they registered themselves via e-mail or through an organisation. Despite our best efforts this makes some of the information incomplete.

Attendees: 815

Pre-registered: 540

Non pre-registered: 275

Note: A total of over 1,200 people registered to attend... What is captured above is those who both registered and attended.

Note 2: Some people who attended left before the voting. This was especially apparent at the event in LAP 2.

Per LAP

LAP 1	91
LAP 2	105
LAP 3	95
LAP 4	100
LAP 5	83
LAP 6	99
LAP 7	137
LAP 8	105

Ethnicity

Argentinian	1
Asian	
Bangladeshi	171
Asian Pakistani	2
Asian	
Vietnamese	1
Black	
Caribbean	1
Somali	15
White	
European	8
Irish	5
British White	70
North African	2
Other	2
No Comment	66
No	
response/not	
asked	470

Religion

Agnostic	2
Atheist	2
Buddhist	2
Christian	57
Jewish	3
Muslim	187
None	21
Prefer not to say	43
Other	3
No response/not	
asked	495

Gender	
Female	134
Male	206
No reponse/not asked	475

Sexuality	
Bisexual	3
Gay man/woman	6
Heterosexual	257
Prefer not to say	64

Disabled?	
Disabled	19
Not Disabled	227
Prefer not to say	22
No response/not asked	547

Age	
12-19	84
20-25	26
26-34	58
35-43	61
44-52	46
53-59	22
60-64	13
65+	36
No response/Not asked	469

At this point, Councillor Tim Archer under Rule 15.13 made a personal explanation about attendance at his LAP meeting.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Shiria Khatun:

I am glad that Councillor Ahmed has pointed out that LAP 7 had the highest number of people that attended the finance session.

Sometimes LAP meetings lack attendance by young people and women. Could he tell me how many young people and women attended this session?

Summary of Lead Members' response:

Overall at least 171 Bengali residents attended the sessions along with 70 white British residents and 75 Somalians. I do not have the full figures with me for the LAP 7 session or how many young people and women attended but I will provide these.

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

Can the Lead Member provide details of the current performance of Tower Hamlets Homes and the RSLs in plural in the Borough at managing void periods?

Response of the Lead Member:

Void periods are measured through internal performance indicators such as BVPI 68 - Average time taken to re-let property.

This forms part of Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) monthly PI report to the council.

A table sent to the Member shows the current target and direction of travel.

THH have not met their target, reporting some disruption brought about by their going live mid 2008, July results were 44.06 days and August 40.36 days.

There was also a further lengthy period in January 2009 40.45 days.

However, THH have introduced a new void management process that is already showing improvement in the service.

The figure in February was 20 days and that in March was 23 days.

Clearly, the direction of travel is positive.

Across the year, the average was around 32 days against a target of 28 days.

I am confident that THH will meet its target on Void turnarounds for 2009/10.

At the moment, local RSLs generally perform better than THH on Void turnarounds.

In my written response to this question I will table a full breakdown of RSL performance against this indicator in the past 12 months.

But for information, Tower Hamlets Community Housing, East End Homes, Poplar HARCA and Swan Housing all tend to turn around voids within three weeks.

We pay tribute to those organisations on this success in this respect and recognise that this is as a result of both their strong leadership and a culture of consistent and effective performance management - something that THH is now beginning to emulate.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Tim Archer:

Can I draw the Lead Member's attention to a 3 bedroom family property under East End Homes that has been vacant since 2006. There are many more examples. Does the Lead Member consider that this is evidence of success?

Summary of Lead Members' reply:

If this had been drawn to my attention before this evening, East End Homes could have been contacted and asked about the case. Of more general concern is the fact that the Mayor of London is sitting on hundreds of millions of pounds of funding that should be released to Tower Hamlets and other boroughs for social housing.

Councillor Tim Archer, under Rule 15.13, gave a personal explanation about the vacant properties and the action he had taken.

7.3 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Would the Lead Member confirm that there has been a change of policy and enforcement strategy with regard to businesses operating in Brick Lane and the area adjacent to Brick Lane on the Bethnal Green Road, and would he confirm what these changes involve and would he agree with me that the Brick Lane area is a vibrant and economically vital part of Tower Hamlets and that the attempts to shut businesses earlier than they have been licensed to open, under planning laws, is likely to have a disastrous effect on businesses and may lead to closures and would he agree that the decision to require restaurants, bars and pubs to remove street furniture either completely or unless they pay exorbitant charges is again adversely affecting the atmosphere and business prospects in the area and would he agree that, although residents concerns must be taken into account, residents moving into Brick Lane and its immediate vicinity ought to be made aware that this area has a vibrant late night-life and would he also agree with me that it is a matter of concern that council officers,

apparently seeking to clamp down on technical breaches of planning law, etc, have taken what business people in the area regard as an overly aggressive attitude that has caused considerable anger in the business community?

Response of the Lead Member:

The reason it has been necessary to take planning enforcement action is because a number of businesses within the Brick Lane and Bethnal Green Road area are in breach of their planning permissions and in particular in relation to conditions concerning their operating hours. In order to stay within the constraints of their planning permission, businesses need to adhere to the conditions set out in their permission.

1. Planning and Enforcement Policies in Brick Lane

I can confirm that there have been no changes to the Council's Planning and Enforcement policies in this area. The Council has set planning policies regarding operating hours of bars and restaurants in Brick Lane. These policies are in place to safeguard resident's amenity. I note in particular the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Brick Lane Restaurant and Retail uses. One of the principle objectives of the SPG is to achieve a balance between protecting local residents from noise and disturbance from restaurants and associated uses, whilst encouraging regeneration.

The Council planning policy does not permit the bars and restaurant on Brick Lane to open beyond 1:00am as the area is of a mixed use with a large adjacent residential population. Night time activities need to be balanced with the needs of residents to have a period of peace and quiet and hence the 1:00am restriction. The Council has received several complaints going back a number of years from residents in the Brick Lane area regarding noise and disturbance, and this is part of a concerted effort to ensure that many of the bars and restaurants operate within their approved hours. The Council has taken enforcement action as a result of these complaints against a number of businesses within Brick Lane.

We accept that Brick Lane performs an important function in supporting a thriving night time economy. However, this should not be at the expense of the local residents' right to reasonable living conditions. The breaches of opening hours are serious, and are more than just "technical breaches", as unregulated late night uses have a significant detrimental impact on the quality of life of the local residents. There has to be a balance struck between the needs of residents who reasonably expect a level of "quiet" late into the evening and businesses operating late into the night. Many of the residents are long standing and have not moved into the area. Also, failure to take action recently where such action is a statutory duty would leave the Council exposed to an Ombudsman complaint and possible legal action. The Council's position on this has been supported by the Secretary of State on a number of appeals in and

around the Brick Lane area against the Council's decision to refuse later opening hours.

2. Street Furniture

In order for businesses to place furniture on the public highway they are required by law to apply for street licensing and planning permission. Charges for street licensing and planning permission are in accordance with neighbouring boroughs and national legislation.

3. Council Officers

I would like to stress that the Council's Enforcement Officers adhere to Tower Hamlets Council's customer service promises and always act in a professional and courteous manner at all times. We have recently improved our enforcement team growing it by 50% and are now able to tackle problem areas such as illegal hoardings and unauthorised clubs. This is beginning to have an effect on the ground in ensuring that planning decisions are adhered to and this is considered to be a proactive approach rather than an "aggressive" stance.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Abjol Miah:

Would you agree with me that the local business representatives are very upset with this and would you come down to Brick Lane and provide the information you have just given to them face to face?

Summary of Lead Members' response:

I regularly visit Brick Lane and know the area well. The Council has taken many measures to help local businesses including introducing free parking at Brick Lane to assist shop owners and market traders with attracting custom.

7.4 Question from Councillor Tim O'Flaherty to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Can the Lead Member confirm that Bethnal Green is a safe place to walk, after the incident involving a Councillor in Derbyshire St, because Elected Members have the obligation of representing Ward matters whenever they occur, regardless of the time of day?

Response of the Lead Member:

As Lead Member for Cleaner Safer Greener I would like to express my sincere regret over this appalling incident. I visited the member the next day and Councillor Eaton had made contact with me to ask that I did all that I could. I understand that the police are currently investigating this case and therefore they cannot divulge any details of the investigation at this time.

To ensure the safety of all people walking through Bethnal Green the local SNT have increased their patrols of the area and the CCTV control centre are vigilantly monitoring the area through the local cameras. The community safety services are keeping close contact with the police throughout the investigation and are endeavouring to assist with the identification of the perpetrators to bring them to justice.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Tim O’Flaherty:

Bethnal Green is not the only place where people do not feel safe. Residents do not believe what the Lead Member has said about reducing crime in the borough as they do not feel safe in their homes and on the street. What actions have you taken on the high turnover of Safer Neighbourhood Officers in Bethnal Green?

Summary of Lead Members’ response:

Enhanced safety and the confidence of local residents in this regard is a key priority for the Council. Indeed, we have secured twenty new police officers to address these issues. Figures released yesterday showed an 18% reduction in London crime overall with 17% of this from within Tower Hamlets. The Council will however not become complacent and more will be done such as THEOs and extended CCTV and wifi. I will be happy to show Members where the new cameras will be located.

7.5 Question from Councillor Rajib Ahmed to the Lead Member for Children’s Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins

Could the Lead Member provide us with figures that show how much it would cost to send looked-after children to boarding school rather than having the Council care for them?

Response

In arranging placements and schooling for our looked-after children their individual needs must come first. Whenever possible, children are placed with families and in schools within the borough. Where however there is a need for a specialist school placement fees can range from approximately £90,000 to £200,000 a year depending on the needs of the child. The placements are all carefully considered to ensure the needs of the children, which can be extremely complex, are met and are agreed following presentation to the Joint Commissioning Panel, which is made up from representatives from, Children's Social Care, Special Educational Needs (SEN) section, Children Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and child psychology service.

No supplementary question was asked.

7.6 Question from Councillor Rupert Eckhardt to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins

In light of the recent planning meeting to allow a fried chicken outlet to be set up within 500m of 6 schools, a mixture of primary and secondary, can the Lead Member clarify the Council position on healthy eating and show how this is being translated into policies that are being implemented to improve the health of children of the Borough?

Response of the Lead Member:

Planning has a limited control in restricting particular types of hot food take-way (A5) uses in any particular location. However, there are a number of controls currently in place, such as protecting amenity and limiting nuisance. These controls ensure that these types of uses limit the impact on the wider environment.

In addition there are a number of other initiatives in place to improve the health of children in the borough. These include:

1) promoting health eating for children through a comprehensive education programme lead by Children's Services;

The Health through Education team work with schools in the authority to address issues of school policy and practice around the promotion of healthy eating and physical activity amongst children and young people. All schools are involved in the Healthy Schools programme, which includes Healthy Eating and Physical Activity as one of its four strands, and 72% (62) of our schools have achieved National Healthy School Status (NHSS). A further 5 schools will be accredited for their work in this area within this next month leaving us well placed to exceed the national target of 75% (69) of schools with NHSS by December 2009.

To support schools with this work, the Health through Education team is currently drafting local authority guidance on both Healthy Eating and Physical Activity which is due to be launched by July 2009. The guidance will cover school policy issues as well as practical help with resources and best practice ideas.

Schools also access specialist children's public health support from the Community Dietitian team within Barts and the London NHS Trust.

Extended Services work closely with the Primary Care Trust on the promotion of healthy eating through the Healthy Weight Healthy Lives strategy. Through this partnership 35 schools have received funding and advisory support to extend and quality assure breakfast club and out of school hour learning provision which promotes healthy eating and physical activity. To date in the current school year some 1288 children and young people and 53 parents and carers have benefited from this

additional provision. Schools have also been encouraged to actively involve their children and young people in the promotion of healthy eating within their school community through student-led projects. Through this scheme, pupils from 24 schools will be championing a range of projects, from healthy tuck shops to a photography/sculpture project utilising fruits and vegetable.

2) considering possible restrictions on this type of activity within Council owned premises in proximity to schools.

3) Tackling childhood obesity is one of the priorities in our Local Area Agreement and new three year Children and Young People's Plan. We have also attracted significant additional funding to implement our 'Healthy Borough' programme with the PCT. The additional government funding of £4.68 million is matched by local funding of over £5 million for the period December 2008 to March 2011.

The 'Healthy Borough' programme includes actions to improve healthy eating amongst our children, young people and families such as:

- Encouraging fast-food outlets to offer healthier choices through a Food for Health Award scheme
- Improving education and information for children and their families on healthy eating through schools, children's centres and parenting programmes
- Working with schools and pupils to increase the take up of school meals
- Exploring what regulatory levers are available that could be used to limit locations at which fast food outlets can open
- Expanding and building on our targeted and specialist provision to support children and families with identified weight management needs, including a new early intervention service for families where one or both parents is overweight or obese
- Increased opportunities for children, young people and their families for regular physical activity through Healthy Schools and community initiatives.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Ruper Eckhardt:

Will the Council continue to approve fast food outlets despite having the fifth highest obesity levels among reception class children in London?

Summary of Lead Members' response:

The Council will continue to use its planning powers to the benefit of local people and the environment but a much wider range of levers are available, and will be used, to address this priority issue as I have described.

In accordance with Rule 12.10 (expiry of time limit), questions 7 – 24 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 Meeting of 11th March 2009

Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12

The meeting considered the report of the Cabinet meeting on 11th March 2009 in relation to the above item.

Councillor Clair Hawkins **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Clair Hawkins, Lead Member for Children's Services introduced the report. She said that this Plan was more focused on working together, open and honest and looking at areas that needed improvement. It focused on child obesity, child poverty, engaging the community, sexual health needs, children with disabilities and general wellbeing.

Other Members commented on the report and welcomed the information and plan set out therein. After discussion, the recommendations were put to the meeting and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12 be approved as attached at appendix A to the report of the Cabinet; and
- (2) That the proposed name change of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Group (CYPSPG) to the Children and Families Trust be noted.

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 Programme of meetings 2009/10

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman noted that since 2006 the Council had increased the number of Council meetings annually by two, introducing a dedicated budget meeting and an additional ordinary meeting in March/April each year.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton thanked officers for their work in preparing the draft calendar, and the members of the public and representatives of partner organisations who attended the Council's meetings for their valued contribution.

On being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

That the proposed programme of meetings for the municipal year 2009/10 as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

10.2 Review of the Constitution

Councillor Marc Francis **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report. Councillor Francis outlined the proposed changes to be made to the Constitution.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Salim Ullah **SECONDED** an amendment to the recommendations as follows:-

"That the proposed changes to the Constitution as set out in the report be agreed, subject to the following amendments to the proposals in relation to the Scheme of Members' Allowances:-

Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs):

That the SRA payable to the Leader of the Council be subject to a 25% reduction in 2009/2010.

That the indexation of allowances in line with the local government pay settlement be not applied to the SRAs for Cabinet Members in 2009/2010.

That the proposed SRA for the Council's representative to the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority be not implemented."

Councillor Rahman stated that the above amendment would result in a reduction of approximately £14,000 in the cost of the increased SRAs.

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

The substantive recommendations as amended were then put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That subject to (2) below, the amendments to the Council's Constitution, including the Scheme of Members' Allowances, be agreed as set out in the schedule attached to the report, to take effect from the Annual Council on 20th May 2009.
- (2) That the proposed changes to the Scheme of Members' Allowances, as set out in the schedule be agreed with the following amendments:

Special Responsibility Allowances:
 - (a) That the SRA payable to the Leader of the Council be subject to a 25% reduction in 2009/2010;
 - (b) That the indexation of allowances in line with the local government pay settlement be not applied to the SRAs for Cabinet Members in 2009/2010; and
 - (c) That the proposed SRA for the Council's representative to the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority be not implemented.
- (3) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) be authorised to make detailed drafting changes to the Constitution as necessary to put into effect the agreed amendments.

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Abjol Miah **MOVED** and Councillor Stephanie Eaton **SECONDED** –
“That under Rule 14.1.13 the meeting be extended for a further half an hour as provided for in Rule 9.”

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **defeated**.

Change to order of business

Councillor Fozol Miah **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** –
“That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.11 to be considered as the next item of business”

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Fozol Miah regarding Bow Gurdwara fire

The motion as printed in the agenda was moved by Councillor Fozol Miah and seconded by Councillor Abjol Miah.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** an amendment as follows:-

“Add to the end of the original motion –

‘This Council resolves to continue to offer whatever support is possible to the congregation of the Bow Gurdwara in finding alternative venues until such time as the permanent replacement can be found/constructed; and

This Council resolves to do whatever it can to help in the reconstruction of the building or the conversion of an alternative site.’”

The amendment was **accepted** by the mover and seconder of the original motion who, with the consent of the meeting, altered their motion accordingly.

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

RESOLVED

This Council notes

- a) the terrible fire which destroyed the Gurdwara Sikh Sangat, Harley Grove, Bow on 16th March 2009
- b) the anguish, upset and anger this has caused in the Sikh community
- c) the efforts of Council officers to ensure that facilities are found for the members of the Gurdwara to continue their worship
- d) that the Police are giving the investigation of the causes of the fire and the identification of any perpetrator a very high priority
- e) that the concerns for and sympathy with the Bow Gurdwara members and the Sikh Community extends across people of all faiths and none in Tower Hamlets

This Council urges

- a) anyone who knows anything about the fire to contact the police and to co-operate fully in their investigation

b) the police and other authorities including the Council to continue to give this issue a very high priority and to provide all the help and support they can to the members of the Bow Gurdwara

This Council expresses the utmost sympathy and solidarity with the members of the Gurdwara Sikh Sangat and the wider Sikh community for this terrible fire which has destroyed a holy place revered across all faith communities and residents of Tower Hamlets.

This Council resolves to continue to offer whatever support is possible to the congregation of the Bow Gurdwara in finding alternative venues until such time as the permanent replacement can be found/constructed.

This Council resolves to do whatever it can to help in the reconstruction of the building or the conversion of an alternative site.

Change to order of business

Councillor Abjol Mial **MOVED** and Councillor Dulal Uddin **SECONDED** "That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.4 to be considered as the next item."

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding control over sex encounter venues

The motion as printed in the agenda was moved by Councillor Abjol Miah and seconded by Councillor Harun Miah.

Councillor Rachael Saunders **MOVED** and Councillor Rania Khan **SECONDED**, an amendment as follows:-

"Delete all and insert:-

'That this Council recognizes that the government has responded to the campaign led by Object and supported by Tower Hamlets to tighten up regulation on strip clubs, but is concerned that loopholes are being written into legislation.

Two issues are:

1. Venues providing lap dancing less than once per month will be exempt from the legislation. This will create a loophole for a growing number of venues that fall precisely into that category.
2. The legislation is adoptive. The result will be local residents face a postcode lottery over whether they have a say in lap dancing

club license applications. While London local authorities are clearly leading the way in terms of working to gain greater control over lap dancing clubs, not all local authorities in England and Wales are similarly concerned and may choose not to adopt the legislation. In which case local people in those areas would continue to be denied a voice, and there would be an uneven licensing regime.

This Council supports the Fawcett Society and Object campaign to close these loopholes, and resolves to write to the Secretary of State accordingly.

This Council also resolves to provide more educational programmes to raise awareness of the impact of the objectification of women on young girl's self-esteem, body image and sexual bullying.”

The amendment was **accepted** by the mover and seconder of the original motion who, with the consent of the meeting, altered their motion accordingly.

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

RESOLVED

This Council recognizes that the government has responded to the campaign led by Object and supported by Tower Hamlets to tighten up regulation on strip clubs, but is concerned that loopholes are being written into legislation.

Two issues are:

1. Venues providing lap dancing less than once per month will be exempt from the legislation. This will create a loophole for a growing number of venues that fall precisely into that category.
2. The legislation is adoptive. The result will be local residents face a postcode lottery over whether they have a say in lap dancing club license applications. While London local authorities are clearly leading the way in terms of working to gain greater control over lap dancing clubs, not all local authorities in England and Wales are similarly concerned and may choose not to adopt the legislation. In which case local people in those areas would continue to be denied a voice, and there would be an uneven licensing regime.

This Council supports the Fawcett Society and Object campaign to close these loopholes, and resolves to write to the Secretary of State accordingly.

This Council also resolves to provide more educational programmes to raise awareness of the impact of the objectification of women on young girl's self-esteem, body image and sexual bullying.

Urgent Motion

Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED** and Councillor Ahmed Hussain **SECONDED** that Rule 13.2 be suspended to allow a motion on Towing Company ELV and a recent incident on Rainhill Way to be put as a matter of urgency.

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

The Mayor then closed the meeting in accordance with Rule 9 (duration of meeting). Motions 11.1 – 11.3, 11.5 – 11.10 and 11.12 – 11.15 as listed below were not considered due to lack of time:-

- 11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Archer regarding local bin taxes/Waste Incentive Pilot Schemes**
- 11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Lutfur Rahman regarding the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster Memorial**
- 11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding future provision of a Multi-Faith burial ground**
- 11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Golds regarding lighting in Brickfield Gardens**
- 11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Marc Francis regarding Strangers into Citizens campaign**
- 11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim O'Flaherty regarding eliminating excessive punishment for minor parking offences**
- 11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding market charges and parking**
- 11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding local pharmacies throughout the borough**
- 11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the co-operative and social enterprise sector**
- 11.12 Motion submitted by Councillor Sirajul Islam regarding condemning homophobia and prejudice**
- 11.13 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding proliferation of Tesco's**

11.14 Motion submitted by Councillor Abdul Munim regarding housing crisis

11.15 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding support for Lifelong Learning

The meeting ended at 10.55 p.m.

The Mayor,
Chair, Council

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 2009

**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

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

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends the appointment of four persons as Independent Members of the Council's Standards Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the following persons be appointed as Independent Members of the Standards Committee, each to serve a three year term of office expiring on 20th May 2012, subject to annual confirmation by the Council:-

- Ms Salina Bagum;
- Mr Richard Hopkins;
- Mr Barry Lowe; and
- Mr Matthew Rowe

3. Background

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement that local authority standards committees must include Independent Members who are neither Members nor officers of the Council or of another relevant authority. The Standards Board for England recognises that Independent Members are important in helping to increase public confidence in local government and provide a clear signal that the Standards Committee acts fairly and impartially. They also bring a wider perspective from their outside experience.
- 3.2 Independent Members must form at least 25% of the Committee's membership but beyond this the Council may decide how many to appoint and how long they should serve for. An Independent Member must chair the Committee.
- 3.3 Tower Hamlets Council has decided there shall be a majority of Independent Members on the Standards Committee. The membership of the Committee was increased from May 2008 following the introduction of the local assessment of complaints and now includes five Councillors and

nine Independent Members. The Independent Members each serve a three year term and retire by rotation to ensure continuity of knowledge and experience. A retiring Independent Member may apply to serve an additional term or terms. Persons appointed undergo training on the Code of Conduct and other matters before taking up their place.

4. Existing Independent Members

4.1 Recruitment of Independent Members has taken place at regular intervals as vacancies have occurred either as a result of retirements or the expansion of the Committee's membership. From May 2008 the Council increased the number of Independent Members to nine, in recognition of the likely demands of the new process for local assessment of complaints. An advertisement in early 2008 resulted in 2 appointments and during the municipal year 2008/09 seven Independent Members have served on the Committee as follows:-

- Mr Barry O'Connor (Chair) (term of office to May 2010);
- Mr Ibrahim Ali (to May 2011);
- Mr Satnam Bains (to May 2009);
- Ms Suzette Barry (to May 2010);
- Sister Christine Frost (to May 2009);
- Mr Eric Pemberton (to May 2011); and
- Mr Muhammad Habibur Rahman (to May 2010)

4.2 The remaining two positions were unfilled. In addition, as set out above two of the current members – Mr Satnam Bains and Sister Christine Frost – have now reached the end of their term of office and each has indicated that they will not be applying to serve a further term. Both Mr Bains and Sister Christine have served on the Standards Committee since 2002 and the Committee has placed on record their thanks and appreciation for the significant contribution that both have made to the work of the Committee during that period.

5. Proposed appointments

5.1 There are therefore now four vacant positions and a recruitment process has been held to identify suitable persons for appointment.

5.2 Statutory rules apply to the appointment of Independent Members and the Standards Board for England has also issued guidance to ensure that appointees are chosen in a fair and open way. The position(s) must be advertised publicly and no one may be appointed unless they have applied for the appointment. The following may not be appointed as an Independent Member of the Council's Standards Committee:-

- Someone who has been a Member or employee of the Council within 5 years before the date of the appointment;
- A Member or officer of the Council or another relevant authority; or
- A close friend or relative of a Member or employee of the Council.

- 5.3 The Standards Board for England has set out the following skills and competences that Independent Members should demonstrate:
- A keen interest in standards in public life;
 - A wish to serve the local community and uphold local democracy;
 - High standards of personal integrity;
 - The ability to be objective, independent and impartial;
 - Sound decision making skills;
 - Questioning skills;
 - Leadership qualities, particularly in respect of exercising sound judgement; and
 - The ability to act as a chair of an assessment or review sub-committee or a determination hearing.
- 5.4 As far as possible the Council would wish to achieve a diversity of representation amongst the Independent Members in relation to gender and ethnicity; and has previously sought to recruit persons with experience in a range of different sectors i.e. academic/public, business and community.
- 5.5 To this end the Council has gone beyond the statutory requirement to advertise the positions in a newspaper distributed in the area and has sought to access commercial, community and other networks. For the current recruitment a variety of media were utilised including East End Life and the Council's website; publicity via the LAPs, partner agencies and voluntary organisations; advertisements in One-Stop Shops, the Register Office, Idea stores and other public places and direct mailings to groups of people who have previously expressed an interest in this or other relevant roles. The Communications Team has also sought to publicise the work of the Committee leading to local media editorial coverage of the recruitment process.
- 5.6 The closing date for applications was 6th February 2009. Following assessment of candidates against the agreed selection criteria and interview by a panel including the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee, the following persons are recommended for appointment:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Experience/Background</u>
Ms Salina Bagum	Employability Tutor/Senior Case Worker. Background in advice work and in the public and voluntary sectors. Active in the community.
Mr Richard Hopkins	Education consultant and external verifier/moderator for awarding bodies. Background in Quality Assurance.
Mr Barry Lowe	University lecturer. Active in the community and charity sector including cultural projects. Director of Centre for Conflict Resolution Journalism.

Mr Matthew Rowe Background in compliance operations for Charity Commission/Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre. Active in third sector governance. Education Appeals Panel member for Newham and Tower Hamlets.

5.7 It is necessary for the appointment of Independent Members to be agreed by a majority of the total number of Members of the Council.

6. Observations of the Chief Financial Officer

6.1 The Council's Scheme of Members Allowances provides for an Independent Member of the Standards Committee to claim a co-optee's allowance of £117 for attendance at any meeting of the Committee or a conference or training event where attendance is on behalf of and authorised by the Council. An Independent Member may also claim travel and subsistence allowance under the scheme.

6.2 Any payments made under 6.1 above will be met from within the existing budget provision for Members' Allowances held by Democratic Services.

7. Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)

7.1 The legal implications are included in the main body of this report.

8. Implications for One Tower Hamlets

8.1 The Independent members of the Standards Committee are drawn from a range of communities represented within the borough.

9. Anti-Poverty Implications

9.1 There are no anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

10. Risk Management Implications

10.1 The Standards Committee plays a key role in ensuring the adequacy of the Council's Governance arrangements and ethical and assurance framework.

11. Sustainable Action for a Greener Environment

11.1 There are no SAGE implications arising from this report.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Brief description of "background paper"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection
None.	

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20th MAY, 2009

**REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF
COMMITTEES/PANELS OF THE COUNCIL**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report reviews proportionality as required by section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('The 1989 Act'), recommends the establishment of committees and panels in accordance with the Constitution and sets out the allocation of places on those committees and panels between the political groups represented on the Council.
- 1.2 The nominations from the political groups for membership of the committees and panels in accordance with this allocation of places; and other bodies not covered by the proportionality rules, will follow at agenda item 11.
- 1.3 Part 4 of the Constitution states that the Annual Council Meeting will establish an Overview & Scrutiny Committee, a Standards Committee and such other committees/panels as it considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor executive functions. Other bodies appointed by the Council are listed at Part 3 of the Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the review of proportionality be noted
- 2.2 That committees and panels be established for the Municipal Year 2009/10, and places be allocated on those committees and panels, as set out at paragraph 3.3 overleaf.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Section 15(1) of the 1989 Act requires the Council at or as soon as practicable after the Annual Meeting to carry out a review to determine the allocation to the political groups of seats on the committees/panels of the Council. The principles which must be adopted are:

- (i) that all seats are not allocated to the same political group;
- (ii) that the majority of seats go to the political group with the majority on the Council;
- (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees/panels of the authority allocated to each group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council; and
- (iv) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary committee/panel of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.

3.2 The political composition of the Council is currently as follows:

Group	seats	%
Labour	33	64.71
Conservative	8	15.69
Respect	6	11.76
Liberal Democrat	4	7.84
Total	51	100.00

3.3 It is recommended that the Council establish the committees and panels listed below for the municipal year 2009/10. The principles at paragraph 3.1 above have been applied as closely as is reasonably practicable in arriving at the proposed allocation of places on those committees and panels covered by the requirement for proportionality:

(a) Committees/panels covered by the requirement for proportionality:

Committee	Total	Labour	Conservative	Respect	Liberal Democrat
Development	9	6	1	1	1
Strategic Development	9	5	2	1	1
General Purposes	7	5	1	1	-
Human Resources	7	5	1	1	-
Appeals	9	6	1	1	1
Pensions	9	6	1	1	1
Audit	7	4	1	1	1
Overview & Scrutiny (plus 5 co-optees)	9	6	1	1	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	1	1	1
Licensing	15	9	3	2	1

(b) Committee not covered by the requirement for proportionality:

Committee	Total	Labour	Conserv- ative	Respect	Liberal Democrat
Standards (plus 9 independent members)	5	2	1	1	1

**4. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
(LEGAL)**

4.1 The legal position is set out in the main body of the report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"

Name and telephone number

of holder and address where open to inspection

None.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 2009

**APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO
LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES
AND FORUMS**

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

SUMMARY

1. This report requests the Council to consider making nominations to a number of London Councils Member bodies. London Councils have requested that the Council submit its nominations by 1st June, 2009 at the latest which precludes consideration by the General Purposes Committee, which does not meet until 17th June.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Council is recommended to agree to appoint Members to London Councils committees and forums as listed in Appendix A to this report.

BACKGROUND

3. London Councils plays a unique role in London Government. It is part think-tank and part lobbying organisation and has also established a number of key pan-London bodies and cross-borough partnerships which contribute to the overall governance of London.
4. London Councils also works with and funds more than 400 voluntary groups across London providing grants to organisations to tackle a wide range of problems, including economic and social disadvantage and the promotion of social inclusion, as well as improving the lives of people who live, work in and visit London.
5. In addition London Councils delivers a range of transport-related services on behalf of London's boroughs, including the Freedom Pass and the Taxi Card Schemes; provides a specialist housing advice and

research analysis service on behalf of subscribing boroughs; and acts as the employers' organisation for the 32 London boroughs.

6. London Councils' main policy committee is the Leaders' Committee, which comprises Leaders drawn from all London boroughs including Tower Hamlets. To aid its work the organisation has also established a number of committees and forums covering specific policy and service areas. Each committee/forum reflects the overall political balance of London Councils. The London Councils Executive is not directly appointed by the boroughs but nominations to it come from the party groups. The arrangements for appointment to the London Councils member structures this year remain largely unchanged from 2008/09.

NOMINATIONS

7. Appointment of representatives to external bodies such as London Councils falls within the remit of the Council's General Purposes Committee. However, London Councils has asked for nominations by 1st June, 2009 and the General Purposes Committee is not scheduled to meet until 17th June, 2009. Accordingly this report has been prepared for consideration by full Council.
8. Any nominations received for the positions listed in Appendix A will be circulated to the Council Meeting.

APPENDIX A

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

NOMINATIONS TO LONDON COUNCILS COMMITTEES/FORUMS 2009/10

Committees	Nominations sought and any guidance provided by London Councils
Leaders Committee (s101 Joint Committee)	One voting member (usually but not necessarily the Leader) and up to two named deputies.
Transport and Environment Committee (Associated Joint Committee)	One voting member (usually the lead member for transport and/or environmental issues) and up to four named deputies.
Grants Committee (Associated Joint Committee)	One voting member (preferably the member with responsibility for partnerships and the voluntary sector) and up to four named deputies. NB: Both the voting member and all of the deputies must be members of the Council's Executive.
Greater London Provincial Council	(GLPC Employers' Side now comprises 15 members nominated from the combined membership of the Leaders' Committee and the Greater London Employment Forum)
Forums	(Nominees will usually be the lead member in the relevant area. Appointment of officer positions are made by the Leaders' Committee)
Health and Adult Services Forum	One member (usually the lead member for health/social services) and one deputy
Housing Forum	One member (usually the lead member for housing) and one deputy
Culture, Tourism and 2012 Forum	One member (usually the lead member for culture, sport or 2012) and one deputy
Crime and Public Protection Forum	One member (usually the lead member for community safety) and one deputy

Economic Development Forum	One member (usually the lead member for regeneration/economic development) and one deputy
Children and Young People Forum	One member and one deputy (Note – meetings of this Forum are open to any member with an interest in Children’s Services and authorities will be able to send additional members to their voting member).
Greater London Employment Forum	One member (normally the member responsible for human resources issues) and one deputy
BME Councillors’ Network	A forum to enable London’s Black, Asian & minority ethnic councillors to discuss issues of common concern. Open to all BM&E councillors.
Women Councillors’ Network	A network for London’s women councillors to discuss issues of common concern. Open to all women councillors.
London Irish Councillors’ Network	A forum for all London councillors of Irish origin or background.
Lead Members	Lead Members for Equalities, Improvement and Sustainability are appointed by the Leaders’ Committee. These are not nominated directly by boroughs but appointed at the AGM from candidates put forward by the party groups.