

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.44 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2008

**COMMITTEE ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships)
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	(Lead Member, Culture and Leisure)
Councillor Anwara Ali	(Lead Member, Health & Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Lead Member, Employment and Skills)
Councillor Marc Francis	(Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Clair Hawkins	(Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Joshua Peck	(Lead Member, Resources and Performance)
Councillor Lutfur Rahman	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Abdal Ullah	(Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor M. Shahid Ali	
Councillor Abdul Asad	
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	(Leader Liberal Democrat Group and Scrutiny Lead Member: A Healthy Community)
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	
Councillor Denise Jones	
Councillor Abjol Miah	(Leader of the Respect Group)
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Leader of the Respect Unity Coalition Group)
Councillor Salim Ullah	

Others Present:

Officers Present:

Isobel Cattermole – (Service Head, Resources, Childrens' Services)

Lara Cerroni	– (Communications Officer, Communications, Chief Executive's)
Kevan Collins	– (Corporate Director, Children's Services)
Paul Evans	– (Interim Corporate Director Development & Renewal)
Alan Finch	– (Service Head Corporate Finance, Resources)
Julian Francis	– (Political Adviser to the Conservative Group, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Isabella Freeman	– (Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services] and Monitoring Officer)
John Goldup	– (Corporate Director, Adults Health and Wellbeing)
Dean Grant	–
Stephen Halsey	– (Corporate Director, Communities, Localities & Culture)
Stephen Hartley	– Cabinet Executive Assistant, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Chris Holme	– (Service Head, Resources, Development and Renewal)
Afazul Hoque	– (Acting Scrutiny Policy Manager, Scrutiny and Equalities, Chief Executive's)
Michael Keating	– (Acting Assistant Chief Executive)
Maureen McEleney	– (Director of Housing Management)
Chris Naylor	– (Corporate Director, Resources)
Jackie Odunoye	– (Interim Service Head, Housing Strategy and Development, Development and Renewal)
Jamie Ounan	– (Strategic Planning Manager, Development and Renewal)
Martin Smith	– (Chief Executive)
Alan Steward	– (Interim Service Head, Strategy and Performance)
Angus Taylor	– (Executive Team Leader, Democratic Services)
Paul Ward	– (Democratic Services)

ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIR

At 5.44pm, the Clerk informed those present that the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive were delayed in another meeting and had requested that consideration of the substantive business on the agenda did not commence until they were present. However in accordance with the requirements of the Authority's Constitution (Part 4 – Rules of Procedure, Section 4.1 Council Procedure Rules, Rule 8.1, he was required to open the meeting as there were a sufficient number of Cabinet members present to form a quorum. Accordingly the clerk sought nominations from those Cabinet members present for a temporary Chair of the Cabinet.

Councillor M. Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, nominated Councillor C. Hawkins, Lead Member Children's Services, as Temporary Chair of the Cabinet. Councillor J. Peck, Lead Member Resources and Performance, seconded the nomination.

There being no other nominations it was: -

Resolved

That Councillor C. Hawkins be elected Temporary Chair of the Cabinet.

COUNCILLOR C. HAWKINS IN THE CHAIR

ADJOURNMENT ONE

The Chair informed those members of the Cabinet present that, to effect the wishes expressed by the Councillor L. Rahman, Leader of the Council and Mr M. Smith, Chief Executive, that consideration of the substantive business on the agenda did not commence until they were present, having taken the advice of the Clerk, she considered it appropriate that the meeting adjourn for a period of 20 minutes. Accordingly the Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, and it was: -

Resolved

That the Cabinet adjourn for a period of 20 minutes, at 5.45pm, and that the meeting reconvene at 6.05pm.

**The meeting adjourned at 5.45pm
The meeting reconvened at 6.05pm**

ADJOURNMENT TWO

The Chair informed those members of the Cabinet present that, Councillor L. Rahman, Leader of the Council and Mr M. Smith, Chief Executive, had been further delayed and she therefore considered it appropriate that the meeting adjourn for a further period of 10 minutes. Accordingly the Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, and it was: -

Resolved

That the Cabinet adjourn for a period of 10 minutes, at 6.05pm, and that the meeting reconvene at 6.15pm.

**The meeting adjourned at 6.05pm
The meeting reconvened at 6.15pm**

ADJOURNMENT THREE

The Chair informed those members of the Cabinet present that, Councillor L. Rahman, Leader of the Council and Mr M. Smith, Chief Executive, had been further delayed and she therefore considered it appropriate that the meeting

adjourn for a further period of 10 minutes. Accordingly the Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, and it was: -

Resolved

That the Cabinet adjourn for a period of 10 minutes, at 6.15pm, and that the meeting reconvene at 6.25pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6.15pm

The meeting reconvened at 6.25pm

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2008/ 2009

Councillor C. Hawkins the temporary chair of the Cabinet, sought nominations for the Chair of the Cabinet for the Municipal Year 2008-2009.

Councillor S. Islam, Deputy Leader of the Council, nominated Councillor L. Rahman, Leader of the Council, as Chair of the Cabinet for the Municipal Year 2008-2009. Councillor A. Ali, Lead Member Health and Wellbeing, seconded the nomination.

There being no other nominations it was: -

Resolved

That Councillor L. Rahman be elected Chair of the Cabinet for the Municipal Year 2008 – 2009.

COUNCILLOR L. RAHMAN IN THE CHAIR

At this juncture the Chair apologised to all those present for the delay in commencement of the substantive business.

2. ELECTION OF VICE- CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2008/ 2009

The Chair, nominated Councillor S. Islam, Deputy Leader of the Council, as Vice-Chair of the Cabinet for the Municipal Year 2008-2009. Councillor A. Ali, Lead Member Health and Wellbeing, seconded the nomination.

There being no other nominations it was: -

Resolved

That Councillor S. Islam be elected Vice-Chair of the Cabinet for the Municipal Year 2008 – 2009.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R. U. Ahmed declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9.1 "Housing Investment Programme 2008/09 to 2012/2013". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to regeneration of the Ocean NDC area and Councillor Ahmed was a resident in the Ocean NDC area and the report made reference to this property.

Councillor M Francis declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9.1 "Housing Investment Programme 2008/09 to 2012/2013". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to housing investment and Councillor Francis was an independent member of the governing body of Old Ford Housing Association.

Councillor O Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9.1 "Housing Investment Programme 2008/09 to 2012/2013". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to Tower Hamlets Homes Shadow Board and Councillor Ahmed was a representative of the Authority on Tower Hamlets Homes Shadow Board.

Councillor J Peck declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9.1 "Housing Investment Programme 2008/09 to 2012/2013". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to housing investment and Councillor Peck was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of the Gateway Housing Association.

Councillor O. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.1 "Draft City Fringe Opportunity Area Planning Framework Response to Public Consultation". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the City Fringe and Councillor Ahmed was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of the City Fringe Partnership.

Councillor A Ali declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.1 "Draft City Fringe Opportunity Area Planning Framework Response to Public Consultation". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the area in which a General Practice employing Councillor Ali was located.

Councillor L Rahman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.1 "Draft City Fringe Opportunity Area Planning Framework Response to Public Consultation". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Spitalfields and Banglatown area and Councillor Rahman was a Ward member for Spitalfields and Banglatown.

Councillor R. U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 11.3 "Children's Services Capital Programme". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to funding for primary schools and Councillor Ahmed's daughter attended Ben Jonson primary school.

Councillor S Islam declared a personal interest in Agenda item 11.3 "Children's Services Capital Programme". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to funding for primary schools and Councillor Islam was a school governor at John Scurr primary school.

Councillor R Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.1 "Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the 2012 Olympic Games and Councillor Ahmed was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of the Olympic Delivery Authority.

Councillor J Peck declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.2 "Strategic Plan, Annual Report and Best Value Performance Plan". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to a potential application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Councillor Peck was an employee of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Noted

5. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cabinet held on 7th May 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair, as a correct record of the proceedings.

6. DEPUTATIONS & PETITIONS

The clerk advised that the Acting Assistant Chief Executive had received no requests for deputations or petitions in respect of the business contained in the agenda.

7. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7.1 Chair's advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Unrestricted Business to be considered

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that Councillor Asad, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, had **Tabled**

- A sheet of questions/ comments arising from the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 10th June 2008, in respect of the unrestricted business contained in the agenda for consideration.
- A sheet of advice/ comments arising from the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 10th June 2008, in respect of Budget and Policy Framework reports contained in the agenda for consideration.

copies of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

Councillor Asad, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, addressed members of the Cabinet:

- Thanking several Cabinet members for attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous evening commenting that their views had been helpful to the deliberations of the Committee.
- **Key Issues or Questions (Pre Scrutiny)**
Informing members of the Cabinet that he had nothing to add to the questions/ comments raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the tabled paper regarding: -
 - Agenda item 9.1 "Housing Investment Programme 2008/09 to 2012/13" (CAB 001/089)
 - Agenda item 12.4 "Award of Chillers for Anchorage House Contract" (CAB 009/089)
- **Budget and Policy Framework matters**
Reporting and expanding as appropriate upon the comments/ advice of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set out in the tabled papers regarding: -
 - Agenda item 12.1 "Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement" (CAB 006/089)
 - Agenda item 12.2 " Strategic Plan, Annual Report, and Best Value Performance Plan" (CAB 007/089)
 - Agenda item 11.2 "Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Review and 2007 Update"

The Chair thanked Councillor Asad for presenting the contribution of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and then **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved

That the questions/ comments/ advice of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted, and that these be given consideration during the Cabinet deliberation of the items of business to which the questions/ comments/ advice related.

7.2 Any Unrestricted Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Clerk advised that no provisional decisions made by the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 7th May 2008, had been referred back to Cabinet, by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for further consideration.

8. A BETTER PLACE FOR LIVING SAFELY

The Clerk advised that there were no business to be considered under this section of the agenda.

9. A BETTER PLACE FOR LIVING WELL

9.1 Housing Investment Programme 2008/09 to 2012/2013 (CAB 001/089)

Councillors M. Francis and R. U. Ahmed having declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 9.1 "Housing Investment Programme 2008/09 to 2012/13" withdrew from the proceedings at the commencement of consideration of this item of business, being 6.35pm.

Mr Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 10th June 2008, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheet of questions and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings.

Mr Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, and Ms McEleney, Director of Housing Management, at the request of the Chair, responded to requests for clarification/ assurance, in relation to a number of matters including:-

- With reference to principles in the current Housing Investment Strategy consideration that provision of social housing was more relevant for residents of Tower Hamlets than the expansion of low cost home ownership, as for many the latter was not an option and further Member level discussion of this was needed. Also that examination of initiatives to increase the provision of family size units was required in order to reduce current levels of overcrowding.
- With reference to paragraph 3.6 quantification of the stated intended outcome of increased supply of social housing or the issuing of Disabled Facility Grants. Mr Evans undertook to provide members of the Cabinet with a written response in relation to the latter.
- Whether Officers were confident that the £200 million resource gap referred to in paragraph 6.17, would be secured through the achievement of a 2 star Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO). Also what other funding sources were being explored.
- Rationale for the differentials in the proposed cash incentives set out in Table 8, paragraph 7.4.
- Consideration that whilst the proposed levels of cash incentives were comparable with neighbouring authorities they did not reflect the

demographics of Tower Hamlets and would not influence resident decisions regarding buying a property.

- Consideration that, in relation to the Cash Incentive Scheme, the upper threshold on property purchases of approximately £250,000 was a barrier for resident property purchase in Tower Hamlets, given market prices, and increasing cash incentives as proposed would not ease this constraint.
- With reference to paragraph 7.6.1 and the intention to explore cash incentive grants for residents wishing to move to a shared ownership property concern that such grants should focus on low cost home ownership; and other options should be explored before this such as equity schemes and community land trusts.
- Whether sufficient investment was being made in housing stock to:
 - Address the conditions and financial hardship caused by poor ventilation such as damp and condensation.
 - To mitigate the impact on vulnerable elements of the community of lift breakdowns and whether the approach was strategic in this regard.
- With reference to paragraph 4.2 the Registered Social Landlord to provide social housing on the Ocean Estate. The absence of reference to the Ocean Regeneration Trust in this context. Also with reference to paragraph 6.8t he linkage between the Ocean Regeneration and Blackwall Reach housing regeneration schemes.
- Consideration that the recommendations proposed a continuation of the current Housing Investment Programme(HIP) and its underlying principles, methodology and funding outcomes, but that a new more innovative approach was required to achieve the required investment to deliver decent homes for all local residents. This in the context that the ALMO, whilst a route to securing substantial new investment in local housing stock would not necessarily provide sufficient resources to universally achieve the Government Decent Homes Standard. Whilst acknowledging that the Authority's capital investment in housing must be underpinned by an objective principles and methodology and it would be inappropriate to redesign the HIP to accommodate individual requests, concern was expressed regarding the underlying process that had led to the proposals for funding housing capital work, as set out in the HIP. In particular concern was expressed that the issue of the windows, and more specifically the panels beneath, admitting damp on the Malmesbury Estate and Sheffield Square in particular; with both the attendant fuel poverty, in the context of rapidly rising prices, and the environmental need for a renewed focus on thermal efficiency, had been raised by both Cabinet and Ward Members several times previously, and yet this scheme had moved back in the programme's timeline not forward. Accordingly a re-examination of the case for progressing the Malmesbury Esate/ Sheffield Square windows scheme was requested.

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved:

1. That the five-year Housing Investment Programme 2008/2009 to 2012/2013, as set out in Appendices A and B to the report (CAB 001/089), be approved;
2. That capital estimates (Total Estimated Cost Column) for all schemes set out in Appendix A and B to the report (CAB 001/089), be adopted;
3. That the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, be authorised to tender the schemes set out in the programme, determine the outcomes of procurement competitions and enter into contracts as resources allow over the programme period; and
4. That the revised grant levels for the Cash Incentive Scheme, as set out in Table 8 of the report (CAB 001/089), be approved.

Councillors M. Francis and R. U. Ahmed re-entered the proceedings following the conclusion of the Cabinet deliberations in respect of this item, being 7.00pm.

10. A BETTER PLACE FOR CREATING AND SHARING PROSPERITY

10.1 Draft City Fringe Opportunity Area Planning Framework Response to Public Consultation (CAB 002/089)

Mr Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report summarised the salient points contained therein.

A comprehensive discussion followed, during which the Authority's proposed response to formal consultation by the Mayor of London in relation to the City Fringe Opportunity Area Planning Framework (CF OAPF) was broadly welcomed, but which also identified areas where the response should be strengthened including:-

- Further emphasis on mixed use policy, achieving the right mix of social housing, affordable housing and other land usage in the context of protecting the distinct heritage and commercial character of the City Fringe from the impact of "city creep".
- Greater focus on the key priority of improved provision of the social infrastructure to meet demands associated with residential growth.
- Reflection of the Authority's policy relating to town centres and place shaping.
- Ensuring a strategic approach which maximised opportunities for local residents.
- The need for protection of heritage to feature much more strongly in the policy direction of the document; and for this to be supported with specific local examples of thinking such as the Hawkesmoor Church in Spitalfields.

- The need for further work to be undertaken around the greening of links between open spaces to build on the positive ideas set out for such linkage.
- Further emphasis that the location of tall buildings in the vicinity of high value historical architecture is not complimentary appropriate, and in particular with reference to Broadgate and Spitalfields.
- The need for congruence between the CF OAPF and the Authority's policies on housing: provision of social rented housing as well as affordable housing and the provision of family sized housing.
- With reference to page 9 of the report re examination of the Authority's commitment of resources to the further development of the CF OAPF.
- Stronger emphasis on improving transport infrastructure to meet demand associated with residential and employment growth and also a stronger focus on waste management and recycling infrastructure in this context.

Mr Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, at the request of the Chair, responded to requests for clarification/ assurance, in relation to a number of matters including:-

- Given that the Greater London Authority was leading on the development of the City Fringe OAPF, and it was proposed that Tower Hamlets engaged in joint working with other London boroughs and a collaborative exercise with the Mayor and GLA to further develop the document how would they ensure that the final document reflected the aspirations and addressed the priorities of the residents of Tower Hamlets.
- Inclusion of detailed references in the CF OAPF to the usage of Section 106 planning gain resources.
- With reference to page 16 of the report the absence of reference to community and voluntary sector groups in relation to creative and cultural industries in the area.
- The development of an employment and enterprise strategy including an action plan to support small businesses to remain in the City Fringe area given the threat of big business.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendation set out in the report subject to amendment thereof, and the addition of a further recommendation, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, as follows:

- That the words "subject to necessary and appropriate amendments to ensure that the response is coherent and reflect the views of Members" be inserted at the end of the recommendation set out in the report.
- That the following additional recommendation be agreed "That the Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, after consultation with the appropriate Lead Member, be authorised to make any appropriate and necessary amendments, arising from the amendment set out above, before submission to the Mayor of London.

and it was: -

Resolved:

1. That Appendix 2 to the report (CAB 002/078) be approved as Tower Hamlets formal response to the draft City Fringe Opportunity Area Planning Framework, subject to necessary and appropriate amendments to ensure that the response is coherent and reflect the views of Members.
2. That the Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, after consultation with the appropriate Lead Member, be authorised to make any appropriate and necessary amendments, arising from resolution 2. above, before submission to the Mayor of London.

11. A BETTER PLACE FOR LEARNING, ACHIEVEMENT AND LEISURE

11.1 Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme (CAB 003/089)

Mr Collins, Corporate Director Children's Services, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report summarised the salient points contained therein.

A discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed, but which also identified some areas where the Primary Strategy for Change could be strengthened including:-

- Consideration that improving the physical infrastructure of primary schools was welcome, but that this should be accompanied by greater emphasis on the action to be taken to invest in the next generation of teachers and in particular support the development of the current cohort of young teachers and prepare them for leadership/ headship.
- The need for a much stronger emphasis grounds around schools and recognition that they were multi-faceted assets not just for fitness but also for learning and the benefits of school services also required emphasis.
- With reference to Appendix A, paragraph 4.8.1 consideration that the reference to the rich heritage of Victorian school buildings required more positive emphasis. Victorian buildings were flexible and well designed and could meet 21st Century needs provided this was factored in sufficiently early to any refurbishment process. These buildings were not just a capital asset but also an educational asset, connecting young people to their history through learning in that environment. This concept needed to be reflected more widely in the strategy.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations set out in the report subject to the amendment of recommendation 2.2, and the addition of a further recommendation, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, as follows:

- That the words "subject to necessary and appropriate amendments to ensure that the response is coherent and reflect the views of Members" be inserted at the end of the recommendation 2.2.

- That the Corporate Director Children's Services, after consultation with the appropriate Lead Member, be authorised to make any appropriate and necessary amendments, arising from the amendment above before submission to the Department for Children, Schools & Families.

and it was:-

Resolved:

1. That the contents of the report (CAB 003/089) be noted;
2. That the draft Primary Strategy for Change, attached at Appendix A to the report (CAB 003/089), be approved for submission to the Department for Children, Schools & Families, subject to necessary and appropriate amendments to ensure that the plans are accurate, coherent and reflect the views of Members; and
3. That the Corporate Director Children's Services, after consultation with the appropriate Lead Member, be authorised to make any appropriate and necessary amendments, arising from resolution 2. above, before submission to the Department for Children, Schools & Families.

11.2 Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Review and 2007 Update (CAB 004/089)

Mr Collins, Corporate Director Children's Services, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 10th June 2008, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheet of questions and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings.

Mr Collins also advised members of the Cabinet that he had, on behalf of the Authority, recently used its powers under the Education Act 2006 to issue a notice to improve at St Paul's Way School, the issuance of which was a statutory duty. Officers were not satisfied with the progress made at the school and mitigating action to achieve this. All stakeholders including the Leader of the Council had been briefed. This step demonstrated that the Authority had a robust ambition to raise educational standards and a determination to move the school forwards. Officers would work with the school and the Department of Children Schools and Family to achieve this.

The Chair endorsed the action taken on behalf of the Authority, in relation to St Paul's Way School, by Mr Collins, commenting that all children had a right to equal opportunities for life chances and it was right to take action to assure this.

A discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed, but which also identified some areas where the Children and Young People's Plan could be strengthened including:-

- With reference to Appendix A (table at page 15) to the report, consideration that greater emphasis should be placed on the important contribution of the voluntary, community and private sector to delivering the desired outcomes for young people.
- With reference to the baseline targets detailed at Appendix A (table at page 24/25) to the report, consideration that the targets relating to the reduction of child obesity and chlamydia screening were insufficiently ambitious and the Corporate Director should work in partnership with the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust to address this.
- With reference to Appendix A (page 22) to the report, relating to proposed action in the next 12 months to ensure prompt access to treatment and support for young people who misuse (drugs and alcohol) consideration that the target of 3% needed to be stretched to achieve satisfactory outcomes.

Mr Collins, Corporate Director Children's Services, and Mr Halsey, Corporate Director Communities Localities and Culture, at the request of the Chair, responded to requests for clarification/ assurance, in relation to a number of matters including:-

- The social impact of child poverty and inadequate employment opportunities.
- The need to provide sufficient school places in the right location thereby obviating the need to bus children from the same family to different schools across the Borough.
- The practical implications of the issuance of a statutory notice to improve on St Paul's Way School.
- Action proposed for enforcement in relation to under age drinking.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations set out in the report subject to amendment thereof, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, as follows:

- 2.1 That the assessment of the second year's progress against the CYPP be noted.
- 2.2 That the updated strategic objectives, activities and targets be noted and approved, subject to appropriate amendments to ensure that these reflect the views of Members.
- 2.3 That the review of the CYPP 2008 be endorsed.
- 2.4 Extension of the authorisation of the Corporate Director to make amendments to the CYPP to include those to ensure the CYPP reflects the views of Members.

and it was:-

Resolved:

1. That the assessment of the second year's progress against the Children and Young People's Plan be noted;

2. That the updated strategic objectives, activities and targets be noted and approved subject to appropriate amendments to ensure that these reflect the views of Members;
3. That the Children and Young People's Plan 2008 review be endorsed; and
4. That the Corporate Director Children's Services be authorised to make adjustments following the June 2008 Cabinet that are consistent with the spirit of the Children and Young People's Plan to respond to new performance data and information which becomes available between now and submission of the report to Ofsted in June 2008 and also to ensure the CYPP reflects the views of Members.

11.3 Children's Services Capital Programme (CAB 005/089)

Ms Cattermole, Service Head Resources Children's Services, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report briefly summarised the salient points contained therein.

Councillor Peck, Lead Member Resources and Performance, in referring to Appendix A "Children's Services Capital Outturn 2007/08" to the report:

- Noted that Thomas Buxton School (Bishops Square) had received £100, 000 of Section 106 planning gain monies for capital works which was a positive benefit for the local community linked to development in the locality.
- Commented that Local Priorities Programme funding had been allocated on a two year basis and such funding which was not utilised at that point would be clawed back

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved:

1. That the contents of the report (CAB 005/089) be noted;
2. That the overall funding provision and expenditure in 2007/08, as set out in Appendix A to the report (CAB 005/089), be noted;
3. That the adoption of revised capital estimates for the schools condition programme for relevant schemes, as shown in Appendix B to the report (CAB 005/089), be approved and expenditure authorised;
4. That the projects/global sums identified in this report together with the respective matching resources, as set out in Appendix C to the report (CAB 005/089), be noted;

5. That the adoption of a revised capital estimate of £5,800,000 for the Marnier School expansion scheme be approved and expenditure authorised, as set out in paragraph 5.6 of the report (CAB 005/089);
6. That the adoption of a revised capital estimate of £5,100,000 for the Manorfield School extension scheme be approved, acceptance of tender in respect of temporary accommodation approved and expenditure authorised, as set out in paragraph 5.11 of the report (CAB 005/089);
7. That the adoption of a preliminary capital estimate of £4,400,000 for the Arnhem Wharf School expansion scheme be approved and expenditure authorised, as set out in paragraph 5.14 of the report (CAB 005/089);
8. That the adoption of a preliminary capital estimate of £3,500,000 for the Ben Jonson School expansion scheme be approved and expenditure authorised, as set out in paragraph 5.17 of the report (CAB 005/089);
9. That the adoption of a full capital estimate of £589,448 for the 14-19 Diploma Project be approved and expenditure authorised, as set out in paragraph 5.22 of the report (CAB 005/089);
10. That the adoption of a capital estimate of £1,570,496 for global minor works provision in respect of the Early Years Capital Programme (Minor Works) 2008/9 be approved, as set out in paragraph 5.25 of the report (CAB 005/089);
11. That the adoption of a capital estimate of £605,726 for global minor works provision in respect of the Extended Schools Programme (Minor Works) 2008/9 be approved, as set out in paragraph 5.28 of the report (CAB 005/089);
12. That the adoption of a capital estimate of £419,541 for global minor works provision in respect of the Schools Access Initiative Programme (Minor Works) 2008/9 be approved, as set out in paragraph 5.32 of the report (CAB 005/089);
13. That the adoption of a capital estimate of £150,000 for global minor works provision in respect of the Kitchens Improvement Programme (Minor Works) 2008/9 be approved as set out in paragraph 5.34 of the report (CAB 005/089);
14. That the adoption of a preliminary capital estimate of £100,000 to cover the costs of undertaking feasibility studies/survey for schemes being considered for inclusion in the capital programme be approved and expenditure authorised as set out in paragraph 5.35 of the report (CAB 005/089);

15. That the adoption of a preliminary capital estimate of £100,000 to cover the costs of undertaking Asbestos Survey Updates and Fire Risk Assessments be approved and expenditure authorised as set out in paragraph 5.36 of the report (CAB 005/089);
16. That, in respect of all proposed tenders referred to in this report, in the event of the lowest tender for any scheme exceeding the permitted tolerance allowed in financial regulations, the Corporate Director Children's Services be authorised to prepare and carry out a Bill of Reductions where relevant to ensure expenditure is contained with the agreed costs.

12. A BETTER PLACE FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICES

Variation of Order of Business

At this juncture the Chair informed members of the Cabinet that he considered it appropriate because of the linkage between the Community Plan 2020/LAA and the Strategic Plan/ Best Value Performance Plan together with the composite comments/ advice from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to these reports, presented earlier in the proceedings, that both reports should be considered in conjunction. Accordingly the Chair **Moved** the following motion for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, and it was: -

Resolved

That the order of business be varied to allow for Agenda items 12.1 "Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement" and Agenda item 12.2 "Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan, Annual report, and Best Value Performance Plan" to be considered in conjunction.

12.1 Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement (CAB 006/089) - To Follow

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that the special circumstances and reasons for urgency associated with the report had been tabled and a copy of this sheet would be interleaved with the minutes. The Cabinet subsequently agreed the special circumstances and reasons for urgency as tabled and as set out below:

- The report was unavailable for public inspection within the standard timescales set out in this Authority's Constitution, because of the continuation of negotiations with Government Office for London over the indicators and targets to be included within this Council's Local Area Agreement which it had been anticipated would be completed in time for publication of the agenda before us.
- The Local Area Agreement is the recognised delivery vehicle for the Community Plan and the principal target setting mechanism between central and local government. It was vital that the Community Plan and Local Area Agreement were consistent and aligned to allow proper consideration of the report by members of the Authority.

The Chair commented that he had attended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous evening and had found the debate relating to both the Community Plan 2020/ LAA and the Strategic Plan/ BVPP very constructive. Accordingly the Chair requested that the final draft of these documents, to be presented to Council, reflect the advice and comments arising from these deliberations, as he considered this would strengthen the aspirations contained therein.

Mr Steward, Interim Service Head Strategy and Performance, at the request of our Chair, responded to the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 10th June 2008, in his introduction of the report. Mr Steward in particular

- Outlined the chronology and methodology associated with the development of the Community Plan 2020/ LAA, and the themes and priorities that had emerged.
- Set out the next steps including strengthening these documents in the areas indicated by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and in particular with reference to the support of affordable housing and social for rent housing provision, prior to submission to Council on 25th June 2008.
- Advised members of the Cabinet that once the LAA had been agreed with Government, the targets would be included in the Community Plan with those for the first 3 years being explicit to facilitate accountability.
- Assured members of the Cabinet that although only 35 indicators had been selected for the LAA from the national basket of 198, on the basis of partnership response and an evaluation of their contribution to the theme One Tower Hamlets, the Authority's performance would continue to be measured against all 198 indicators.
- Informed members of the Cabinet that as many of the indicators in the LAA were new a review would be undertaken at the end of the first year of the agreement to establish if the targets were sufficiently robust and stretching.

A detailed discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed and thanks were extended to Councillor Jones, former Leader of the Council, Councillor Asad, former Lead Member Employment and Skills, and the Partnership Management Group and the Officer team for their contribution to the development of the Plan and Agreement, and which focused on the following:

- The need for further Member level discussion around the setting of targets relating to provision of social for rent housing, units of accommodation of 3 or more bedrooms and homelessness. Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, commented that Government had recognised the Authority's good performance in relation to the latter 2 areas, but considered that, in partnership with the voluntary and community sectors, performance could be stretched to improve outcomes still further. Councillor Francis requested that members of the Cabinet be provided with figures for targets not included in the draft LAA prior to its consideration at Council.

- The relevance of indicator NI 154 "Net Additional Homes" to the Borough and instead a greater focus on indicator NI155 "Affordable Homes delivered".
- The inclusion of a more ambitious target relating to indicator NI 158 "Decent Homes" once funding from Government was secured as a result of the achievement of a 2 star Arms Length Management Organisation.
- Consideration that inclusion of indicator NI 160 "Local authority tenants' satisfaction with landlord services" amongst the 35 indicators of the LAA would have been a positive step for the Authority, but understanding the reasons why it had not been included, it was requested that it be used as a local indicator for the time being.
- Strengthening the emphasis on provision of affordable housing and family housing.
- Consideration that further work was needed to embed the Community Plan theme "One Tower Hamlets" across the other 4 themes. Also with reference to page 14 of Appendix 1 "Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020", to the report, consideration that the section setting out how to achieve "One Tower Hamlets" should be made more distinct from the previous section and required greater clarity as to responsibility for delivery.
- Consideration that an even more accessible version of the Community Plan 2020/ LAA should be made available for young people with a view to usage as a citizenship tool in schools.
- Consideration that overall the sense of poverty and ill health in Tower Hamlets was underplayed in the draft Community Plan 2020/ LAA and the inclusion of further statistical and narrative detail was required in parts of the document relating to health and housing.
- The need to ensure that the Community Plan theme "A Healthy Community" was cross referenced to and congruent with the Public Health Strategy.
- The need to communicate the priorities and objectives relating to the Community Plan theme "One Tower Hamlets" to staff at all levels of the Authority, and that to help embed reflection upon the meaning of these to individuals that consideration be given to the addition of a paragraph to all committee reports entitled "One Tower Hamlets Implications".

Mr Steward, Interim Service Head Strategy and Performance, and Mr Smith, Chief Executive, responded to requests for clarification/ assurance, in relation to a number of matters including:-

- The furnishing of Members with the targets for inclusion in the Community Plan 2020/LAA, to be derived from the LAA agreed with Government, as soon as practically possible.
- With reference to page 30 of Appendix 1 "Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020", to the report, the absence of detail relating to the new structure of the Tower Hamlets Partnership.
- With reference to page 5 of Appendix 3 "Tower Hamlets LAA Targets", to the report, the deferral of target setting relating to the indicator NI7 "Environment for a thriving third sector" and the timescales envisaged for the setting thereof.

Councillor Rofique Ahmed, Lead Member Culture and Leisure, considered it appropriate, that the Chief Executive should also consult the Lead Member Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, prior to making any amendments to the Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-11 prior to final publication. Councillor Ahmed therefore proposed, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, that the recommendation contained in paragraph 2.2 of the report be amended accordingly.

Councillor Peck, Lead Member Resources and Performance, considered that targets pertaining to the Priority "Support vibrant town centres and a cleaner, safer public realm" and the Indicator NI195 "Improved street and environmental cleanliness" detailed in Appendix 3 "Tower Hamlets LAA Targets", to the report, were not sufficiently ambitious; and accordingly proposed an amendment to the recommendation set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, as follows:-

"That the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (Appendix 3) be endorsed subject to amendment of the provisional target for NI195 "Improved Street and Environmental Cleanliness" as follows:

- Detritus
 - 2008/09 - 13%
 - 2009/10 - 11%
 - 2010/11 - 10%
- Fly Posting
 - 2008/09 - 3%
 - 2009/10 - 2%
 - 2010/11 - 2%.

The Chair then **Moved** the recommendations as contained in the report, taking account of the amendments proposed by Councillors R. U. Ahmed and J. Peck, and it was:-

Resolved:

1. That the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020, attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 006/089), and Local Area Agreement 2008-2011, attached at Appendix 3 to the report, be endorsed and that full Council be recommended to approve the Plan and LAA, subject to any appropriate amendments to ensure that they are accurate and reflect the views of Members;
2. That the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, (and Chair of the Partnership), the appropriate Lead Member and the Vice-Chair of the Partnership, be authorised to make appropriate amendments to the Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and LAA 2008-11 in advance of final publication;
3. That the provisional target for NI195 "Improved Street and Environmental Cleanliness", "Detritus", within the Tower Hamlets LAA Targets (Appendix 3), be amended to:

- 2008/09 - 13%
 - 2009/10 - 11%
 - 2010/11 - 10%
4. That the provisional target for NI195 “Improved Street and Environmental Cleanliness”, “Fly Posting”, within the Tower Hamlets LAA Targets (Appendix 3), be amended to:
- 2008/09 - 3%
 - 2009/10 - 2%
 - 2010/11 - 2%.

12.2 Strategic Plan, Annual Report and Best Value Performance Plan (CAB 007/089) - To Follow

Please note that the order of business was varied by resolution of the Cabinet earlier in the proceedings to allow this item to be considered in conjunction with agenda item 12.1 “Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2020 and Local Area Agreement”. The deliberations of the Cabinet are however detailed below in the order detailed in the agenda for ease of reference.

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that the special circumstances and reasons for urgency associated with the report had been tabled and a copy of this sheet would be interleaved with the minutes. The Cabinet subsequently agreed the special circumstances and reasons for urgency as tabled and as set out below:

- The report was unavailable for public inspection within the standard timescales set out in this Authority’s Constitution, because of the continuation of negotiations with Government Office for London over the indicators and targets to be included within this Council’s Local Area Agreement which it had been anticipated would be completed in time for publication of the agenda before us.
- The Local Area Agreement is the recognised delivery vehicle for the Community Plan and the principle target setting mechanism between central and local government. The Strategic Plan sets out the Council’s contribution to delivering both the Community Plan and the Local Area Agreement. It was vital that the Community Plan, Local Area Agreement and Strategic Plan were consistent and aligned to allow proper consideration of the report by members of the authority.

Mr Steward, Interim Service Head Strategy and Performance, at the request of the Chair, responded to the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 10th June 2008, in his introduction of the report.

A discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed, and with reference to Appendix 1 “Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan 2008/2009”, Section 5 “Key Initiatives Year 1: April 2008 – April 2009” – “One Tower Hamlets” the following point was also made:-

- Targets for Performance Indicator SI3 “A workforce to reflect the community: percentage of top 5% earners that are disabled” were not sufficiently ambitious.

Mr Steward, Interim Service Head Strategy and Performance, responded to requests for clarification/ assurance, in relation to a number of matters including:-

- With reference to Appendix 1 “Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan 2008/2009”, Section 5 “Key Initiatives Year 1: April 2008 – April 2009” – “One Tower Hamlets”
 - The targets for the next 3 years in relation to Performance Indicator SI2 “A workforce to reflect the community: percentage of top 5% earners that are women” were less ambitious than that for the current year.
 - The absence of targets for Performance Indicator SI6 “Percentage of Stage 1 complaints completed in time”.

Councillor Rofique Ahmed, Lead Member Culture and Leisure, considered it appropriate, that the Chief Executive should also consult the appropriate Lead Member prior to making any amendments to the Strategic Plan 2008/09 and Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) prior to final publication. Councillor Ahmed therefore proposed, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, that the recommendation contained in paragraph 2.2 of the report be amended accordingly.

Councillor Peck, Lead Member Resources and Performance, considered that targets pertaining to the performance Indicator SI7 “Percentage of residents agreeing that the Council provides value for money for the Council Tax I pay” set out in Appendix 1 “Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan 2008/2009”, Section 5 “Key Initiatives Year 1: April 2008 – April 2009” – “One Tower Hamlets”, in the report, were not sufficiently ambitious; and accordingly proposed an amendment to the recommendation set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet as follows:-

“That the Council’s Strategic Plan 2008/09 (Appendix 1) be endorsed subject to amendment of the provisional target for Performance Indicator SI7 “Percentage of residents agreeing that the Council provides value for money for the Council Tax I pay” set out in Section 5 “Key Initiatives Year 1: April 2008 – April 2009” – “One Tower Hamlets” as follows:

- 2007/08 - 41%
- 2008/9 - 46%
- 2009/10 - 51%.

The Chair then **Moved** the recommendations as contained in the report, taking account of the amendments proposed by Councillors R. U. Ahmed and J. Peck, and it was:-

Resolved:

1. That the Council's Strategic Plan 2008/09, end of year monitoring, Best Value Performance Plan and Annual Report be endorsed and that full Council be recommended to approve these Plans, attached at Appendix 1 and 3 to the report (CAB 007/089) respectively, subject to necessary and appropriate amendments to ensure that the plans are accurate, coherent and reflect the views of Members; and
2. That the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make appropriate and necessary amendments to the Strategic Plan 2008/09 and BVPP (2007/2008) in advance of final publication.
3. That the target for SI7 "Percentage of Residents Agreeing that the Council Provides Value for Money for the Council Tax I Pay", set out in Section 5 "Key Initiatives Year 1: April 2008 – April 2009" – "One Tower Hamlets", be amended to:-
 - 2007/08 - 41%
 - 2008/9 - 46%
 - 2009/10 - 51%.

12.3 Energy Supply Contracts (CAB 008/089)

Mr Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, and Ms Pipe, Energy Contracts Manager, at the request of the Chair, responded to requests for clarification/ assurance, in relation to the following:-

- The potential for the Authority to extend the number of sites that used green electricity.
- Examination of options for the installation of solar panels and use of bio fuels in relation to the Authority's housing stock.

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved:

1. That the procurement procedure, as set out in Section 7 of the report, (CAB 008/089) be approved; and
2. That the Head of Property Services [Development and Renewal] after consultation with the Interim Corporate Director of Development & Renewal be authorised to determine the energy supply contract providing best value for the Authority and to agree the Authority's entry into that contract.

12.4 Award of Chillers for Anchorage House Contract (CAB 009/089)

Mr Naylor, Corporate Director Resources, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 10th June 2008, in relation to the report; as set

out in the tabled sheet of questions and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings.

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved:

1. That in consequence of the extreme urgency pursuant to Procurement Procedures paragraph 2.1.1 (b) an exception to the general provisions of paragraphs 2.5.1 (requirement for 6 tenders) and 2.5.2 (requirement for public notice) of the Procedures be authorised in respect of the procurement process for this contract; and
2. That the contract for the replacement chillers and IT suite improvements be awarded to Allen Hubbard Services in accordance with their tender dated 14th of April 2008 returned on the 2nd of May 2008.

12.5 Cabinet Sub Bodies 2008/2009 Terms of Reference and Membership (CAB 010/089)

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that he had **Tabled a Motion** for their consideration, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

The Chair then formally **Moved** the motion as tabled, subject to the following amendment, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet:

“That Councillor Peck be appointed as a member of the Grants Appeals Panel for the Municipal Year 2008/09 and that Councillor Islam be appointed as a substitute for Members appointed to the membership of the Grants Panel in the Municipal Year 2008/09. “

and it was:-

Resolved

1. That the establishment of the Sub-Bodies listed at (a) and (b) below, to discharge functions on behalf of the Cabinet, with Terms of Reference, Membership and Quorum as set out in paragraphs 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 of the report (CAB 011/078), be agreed:
 - (a) Grants Panel
 - (b) Grants Appeals Panel
- 2) That the appointments to the Grants Panel and Grants Appeals Panel for the Municipal Year 2008/2009, as set out below, be agreed: -

Grants Panel	
<i>Members</i>	<i>Substitutes</i>

Councillor M. Francis	Councillor S. Islam
Councillor C. Hawkins	Councillor A. Ali
Councillor A. Ullah	
Councillor O. Ahmed	
Councillor A. Choudhury	

Grants Appeals Panel	
<i>Members</i>	<i>Substitutes</i>
Councillor J. Peck	<i>Councillor L. Rahman</i>
Councillor R. U. Ahmed	

13. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

13.1 Exercise of Corporate Director Discretions (CAB 011/089)

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved:

That the exercise of Corporate Directors' discretions, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report CAB 011/089), be noted.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the consideration of the Section Two business on the grounds that it contained information defined as exempt or confidential in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government, Act 1972.

15. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Minutes of Cabinet held on 7th May 2008 approved.

16. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16.1 Chair's advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Exempt / Confidential Business to be considered.

Nil items.

16.2 Any Exempt / Confidential Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nil items.

17. A BETTER PLACE FOR LIVING SAFELY

Nil items.

18. A BETTER PLACE FOR LIVING WELL

Nil items.

19. A BETTER PLACE FOR CREATING AND SHARING PROSPERITY

Nil items.

20. A BETTER PLACE FOR LEARNING, ACHIEVEMENT AND LEISURE

Nil items.

21. A BETTER PLACE FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICES

Nil items.

22. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

Chair,
Cabinet