

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.37 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 29 JULY 2009

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

Councillor Lutfur Rahman (Chair)	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Lead Member, Resources and Performance)
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	(Lead Member, Culture and Leisure)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Marc Francis	(Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Rania Khan	(Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships)
Councillor Joshua Peck (Vice-Chair)	(Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Lead Member, Employment and Skills)
Councillor Abdal Ullah	(Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor M. Shahid Ali	
Councillor Tim Archer	(Scrutiny Lead Member: A Healthy Community)
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Denise Jones	(Scrutiny Lead Member: A Safe and Supportive Community)
Councillor David Snowdon	

**Others Present:****Officers Present:**

Andy Algar	– (Service Head Asset Strategy, Capital Delivery, Property Services, Development & Renewal)
Lutfur Ali	– (Assistant Chief Executive)
Robin Beattie	– (Acting Head, Strategy & Resources Communities, Localities and Culture)
Isobel Cattermole	– (Service Head Resources, Children Schools & Families)

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| Barry Clark      | – (Administrative Support Officer Scrutiny & Equalities, Chief Executive's)  |
| Eloise Clark     | – (Communications Officer, Corporate Communications, Chief Executive's)  |
| Laraine Clay     | – (East End Life Editor, Corporate Communications, Chief Executive's)  |
| Kevan Collins    | – (Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director Children Schools & Families)                                      |
| Colin Cormack    | – (Head of Homeless and Housing Advice Services, Older People & Homelessness, Adults Health & Wellbeing)           |
| Luke Cully       | – (Finance Manager, Communities, Localities & Culture)   |
| Jim Elliott      | – (Lettings Policy Advisor, Development & Renewal)   |
| Alan Finch       | – (Service Head, Corporate Finance, Resources)   |
| Isabella Freeman | – (Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services])   |
| John Goldup      | – (Corporate Director, Adults Health & Wellbeing)  |
| Dean Grant       | – (Acting Leader's Executive Assistant, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)                                    |
| Stephen Halsey   | – (Corporate Director, Communities, Localities & Culture)  |
| Peter Hamilton   | – (Head of Building Control, Development & Renewal)  |
| Chris Holme      | – (Service Head, Resources, Development & Renewal)   |
| Afazul Hoque     | – (Acting Scrutiny Policy Manager, Scrutiny & Equalities, Chief Executive's)                                       |
| Rafiqul Hoque    | – (Lettings Services Manager, Development & Renewal)   |
| Judith St John   | – (Head of Ideas Stores, Communities Localities & Culture)   |
| Bryan Jones      | – (Service Head, Environmental Control, Communities, Localities & Culture)   |
| Carmel Littleton | – (Service Head, Young People & Learning, Children Schools & Families)   |
| Chris Naylor     | – (Corporate Director, Resources)  |
| Frank O'Neil     | – (Head of Finance, Adults Health & Wellbeing)   |
| Louise Russell   | – (Service Head Strategy & Performance, Chief Executive's)   |
| Andrew Shirras   | – (Service Manager Business Support and Programme Management, Commissioning & Strategy, Adults Health & Wellbeing) |
| Nick Smales      | – (Service Head 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games, Development & Renewal)   |
| Helen Taylor     | – (Service Head, Commissioning & Strategy, Adults Health & Wellbeing)  |
| Owen Whalley     | – (Service Head, Major Project Development, Development & Renewal)   |
| Angus Taylor     | – (Executive Team Leader, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)  |

John Williams

– (Service Head, Democratic Services)

**COUNCILLOR L. RAHMAN (CHAIR) IN THE CHAIR****1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor A. Ali, Lead Member Health and Wellbeing.
- Mr A. Dalvi, Corporate Director Development and Renewal for whom Mr O. Whalley, Service Head Major Project Development, Development and Renewal, was deputising.
- Ms I. Cattermole, Service Head Resources, Children Schools and Families, was deputising for Mr K. Collins in his capacity as Corporate Director Children Schools and Families.

**Noted.**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.1 “Ideas Store Strategy” (CAB 018/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to Bancroft Library which was located in Mile End and Globe Town Ward and Councillor Ahmed was one of the Ward Councillors for Mile End and Globe Town Ward.

**Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.2 “Council’s Lettings Policy” (CAB 019/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Authority’s Lettings Policy (which determines nominations from the Common Housing Register for properties in the ownership of the Authority (managed by Tower Hamlets Homes]) and Councillor Ahmed was a resident on the Ocean Estate managed by Tower Hamlets Homes was also a member of the governing body of the Ocean Regeneration Trust.

**Councillor S. Islam** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.2 “Council’s Lettings Policy” (CAB 019/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Authority’s Lettings Policy (which determines nominations from the Common Housing Register for properties in the ownership of the Authority (managed by Tower Hamlets Homes]) and Councillor Islam was a tenant of Tower Hamlets

Homes and also on the Common Housing Register (also known as the Housing Waiting List).

**Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.3 "Housing Investment Programme 2009/10-2013/14" (CAB 020/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to resource allocation for housing regeneration on the Ocean Estate and Councillor Ahmed was a Leaseholder on the Ocean Estate managed by Tower Hamlets Homes and was also a member of the governing body of the Ocean Regeneration Trust.

**Councillor Oliur Rahman** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 "Future Jobs Fund" (CAB 024/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations which made reference to the Department for Work and Pensions and Councillor Rahman was an employee of Job Centre Plus which was part of the Department for Work and Pensions.

**Councillor A. Asad** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.2 "Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Review 2008/09" (CAB 025/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Youth Service and Councillor Asad currently received remuneration from Bishop Challoner School in relation to its Youth Service provision.

**Councillor Rania Khan** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.3 "Establishing a National Challenge Trust School at St Paul's Way Community School" (CAB 026/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to St Paul's Way School and in particular the Interim Executive Board of St Paul's Way School and Councillor Khan was a member of the Interim Executive Board of St Paul's Way School.

**Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.2 "Annual Report 2008/09" (CAB 030/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Councillor Ahmed was a Board Member - Olympic Delivery Authority - Planning Decision Team.

**Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.4 "Five Boroughs Olympic Joint Committee" (CAB 032/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Councillor Ahmed was a Board Member - Olympic Delivery Authority - Planning Decision Team.

**Noted.**

### **3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

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

## **Resolved**

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cabinet held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair, as a correct record of the proceedings.

### **4. DEPUTATIONS & PETITIONS**

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

### **5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

#### **5.1 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 Islam, 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 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, in respect of the unrestricted business contained in the agenda for consideration (pre-scrutiny questions).
- A sheet of advice/ comments arising from the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, in respect of Budget and Policy Framework reports contained in the agenda for consideration.

copies of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

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

- *Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project Call-In*
  - Informing members of the Cabinet that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had:
    - Given consideration to a "Call-In" of the Cabinet's decision of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 in respect of the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project.
    - Received two deputations in relation to the "Call-In", one supporting the proposals and one requesting reconsideration of the proposals set out in the report considered by the Cabinet, which had contributed greatly to the Committee's understanding of the views of residents regarding this issue.
    - Following deliberation, endorsed the Cabinet decision, but also requested that it consider and that the Lead Member Housing and Development/ Corporate Director Development and Renewal respond to some of the concerns raised:

- ❖ Consideration that despite the on-going consultation and involvement of residents there appeared to be confusion amongst local residents about the proposals, and Cabinet was therefore requested to ensure that residents are clearly informed about the proposed regeneration and how they can get involved.
- ❖ Consideration that the Authority should endeavour to provide residents with similar sized properties to those they are vacating.
- ❖ Consideration that it was greatly unfair for leaseholders and freeholders who may want to buy back properties to pay additional money to come back to the estate, and that the Authority should consider looking at how it could help these residents secure alternative accommodation or support them in coming back to the estate.
- ❖ Requested that Cabinet endeavour to ensure that the Authority had a clear contractual agreement with any proposed developer to ensure that it did not face some of the issues residents have raised about some of the Registered Social Landlords.
- Thanking Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, for attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous evening and in particular his comprehensive response to the “Call In” of the provisional decision of the Cabinet.
- *Scrutiny Spotlight*
  - Thanking Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member Resources and Performance, for attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous evening for the “Scrutiny Spotlight” and outlining the key issues on which this discussion focused including:
    - Workforce to reflect the community particularly relating to BME, women and disabled staff
    - Customer Services at One Stop Shop
    - Use of agency staff.
- *Budget and Policy Framework matters*
  - Informing members of the Cabinet that he had nothing to add to the comments/advice of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the tabled paper regarding Agenda item 10.1 “Resource Allocation and Budget Review 2010/11 - 2012/13”.
  - Thanking Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member Resources and Performance, for attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to present the report.
- *Other Business Considered*
  - Reporting consideration of the Annual Report 2008/09 in respect of the Authority’s budget out-turn and performance against indicators, and thanking Councillor Ahmed for attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to present the report.

- Reporting consideration of the Corporate Complaints and Social Care Complaints – Annual Report.
  - Requesting Cabinet to consider the overarching themes highlighted by the report, in particular around housing repair and parking, and feedback to the Committee regarding work undertaken to address these issues.
  - Informing Cabinet that the Deputy Leader had been requested to look at the Authority’s compensation policy as the Ombudsman report appeared to highlight a number of cases of where the compensation offer and the actual agreement differed significantly.
  - Thanking Councillor Peck, Deputy Leader of the Council, for attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for this item.
- Reporting consideration and agreement of the Committee’s work programme and also agreement of a pilot proposal for implementation of the “Councillor Call for Action” including proposals to improve analysis of issues raised by residents.
- Reporting establishment of an Inner North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the proposals from the review of health services in North East London; and the appointment of the Authority’s representatives to the Joint 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: -
  - Item 6.1 “Ideas Store Strategy”
  - Item 6.2 “Council's Lettings Policy”
  - Item 6.4 “Adoption of Street and Building Naming and Numbering Policy, Regulations and Guidelines”
  - Item 6.5 “Proposed Acquisition of Leasehold Interest at 585-593 Commercial Road, E1 and Temporary Relocation of Leven Road Car Pound”
  - Item 6.6 “Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2009/10”
  - Item 7.3 “Establishing a National Challenge Trust School at St Paul's Way Community School”
  - Item 10.4 “Five Boroughs Olympic Joint Committee”

The Chair thanked Councillor Islam 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.

## **5.2 Any Unrestricted Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

The Clerk advised that no provisional decisions taken by the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009, had been referred back to Cabinet, by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for further consideration.

## **6. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE**

### **6.1 Ideas Store Strategy (CAB 018/090)**

**Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.1 "Ideas Store Strategy" (CAB 018/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to Bancroft Library which was located in Mile End and Globe Town Ward and Councillor Ahmed was one of the Ward Councillors for Mile End and Globe Town Ward.

Mr Halsey, Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report:

- Summarised salient points contained therein, commenting as follows: -
  - The report presented the findings of a review of the Idea Store Strategy undertaken by the Communities, Localities and Culture Directorate and a consequent refresh of the Idea Store Strategy adopted by the Authority in 1999. The intention had been to update the strategy and consider the options for delivery of a high performance service.
  - The current ISS had proven to be successful with Tower Hamlet ranked third in London and fourth in England in terms of visitor numbers with the total number of visits being approximately 2 million in 2007/08. Satisfaction amongst users was also high with 88 per cent of users rating the service as good or excellent. This was the basis for taking the refreshed strategy forward.
  - The report set out a strategy that provided a framework for decision making to take the ISS forward. It included no commitments to build new facilities or close existing facilities, but outlined the process where any proposals developed within the strategy framework would need to be supported by a business case that would subsequently be presented to Cabinet for consideration before any decisions were taken.
  - The report contained proposals for three or four Idea Store Locals and also an offer to include Life Long Learning and advice on healthy living and employability within the new service provision.



- The Year 1 and 2 Action Plan set out within Section 7 of the ISS attached at Appendix 1 to the report detailed how the Ideas Store Programme would be implemented, should Cabinet agree the strategy. Section 6 set out the methodology used for consultation in developing the proposals for a refreshed ISS and Appendix 1 to the Action Plan presented the detailed outcome of consultation in a series of graphs.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 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.

A discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- It was clear from the percentage of the local population visiting Ideas Stores, with Tower Hamlets ranked fourth in England that the ISS had been a trail blazing concept and strategy, which had become a best practice model leading the development of libraries and lifelong learning services both in the United Kingdom and internationally, and was an achievement that the Council could be justly proud of. The development of Ideas Stores had been made hand in hand with schools, teachers and parents and Opposition comments that they were glorified internet cafes were scandalous.
- It was right for the Council to examine the next stage of development for Ideas Stores and the extension of access to them to all local residents right across the Borough was a sound and positive objective. Future development of Idea Stores hand in hand with education and life long learning provision was also welcomed.
- Noting that the proposals were open to misrepresentation it was considered important to clarify what the report was and was not proposing.
  - It was noted that the location of future Ideas Stores had yet to be determined and this matter would be the subject of future consultation. However with regard to the options for location on the Isle of Dogs being either Crossharbour at the ASDA Store or Wood Wharf, it was considered that Crossharbour was the better option: bringing residents at the southern part of the Isle of Dogs within easy reach, being close to George Green School, being within easy walking distance of Canary Wharf and also in proximity to good public transport links. Councillor Peck, Deputy Leader of the Council, considered that this that this should be the Council's preferred option subject to consultation, and accordingly proposed an amendment to the recommendations set out in the report, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet.
  - It was noted that some libraries may not have a viable ongoing future for provision of library services, but also that the Authority remained committed to their ongoing use by the Community where possible, as part of its Asset Management Strategy. It was considered that sale of such sites only be considered in circumstances where neither use by the Council nor a partner

organisation was a viable ongoing option. It was also stated that because of its position and heritage value, public access would be a pre-requisite of any future use of Bethnal Green Library. Councillor Peck, Deputy Leader of the Council, considered that this that this approach should be clear reflected in any Cabinet decision to agree the ISS and accordingly proposed an amendment to the recommendations set out in the report, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet.

- Ideas Stores were well used in the Borough and the concept of Idea Store Locals (IS Locals) was a good one. This was a clear demonstration of the Council's aspiration for and commitment to learning. However it was requested that the Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture, ensure that Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) were engaged before any proposals were made in relation to the location and setting up of the IS Locals.
- Consideration that going forward Watney Market and Bromley by Bow in proximity to the Tesco supermarket, once the latter area was redeveloped, had strong merits for the location of an Ideas Store Local.
- Consideration on the part of a Minority Group Member, speaking with the consent of the Cabinet, that with a minimal amount of investment Cubitt Town Library, which was efficient and well loved, but under-utilised, could be transformed and the upper storey converted to use as an Ideas Store Local. In this context a site visit to this Library with the Lead Member Culture would be welcome. Councillor Rofique Ahmed, Lead Member Culture subsequently indicated that he would be happy to attend a site visit with any Members.
- Commented that although sceptical about the concept of Ideas Stores prior to becoming a Councillor, with views shaped by usage of libraries in earlier years, one member of the Cabinet had since observed the good work undertaken in them. Also commented that there was much evidence supporting the view that a key part of the Ideas Store Strategy had improved educational outcomes for young people in Tower Hamlets. The inclusion of young people within the ISS was a tribute to past and present Leaders of the Council and contrasted with the approach of the local Conservative Party.
- Commented that significant investment of resources in Ideas Stores had been made previously at a point when this was rightly a political priority. The Ideas Stores remained important and the proposal for Idea Store Locals was welcomed. However in shaping the next stage of the development for Idea Stores it was important to note that although great progress had been made in respect of user satisfaction, further progress was needed. Confidence was expressed that the refreshed ISS would deliver the required progress.
- Cost per visitor was a key performance indicator both nationwide and London-wide and although a valuable measure of performance recognition that the role of Ideas Stores was wider than that of a traditional library was also needed. It was also noted that in terms of cost per book issued traditional libraries provided good value for money.

- Renewed focus on reaching users from segment of the Community comprising older people was also welcomed.
- Clarification/assurance was sought and given that Cubitt Town Library would remain open until such time as any replacement Ideas Store was ready for use in order to ensure continuity of library provision.
- Noting that unfounded speculation was taking place in relation to the future of existing Ideas Stores and Libraries Councillor Ahmed, Lead Member Resource and Performance, gave an assurance that Cubitt Town Library was not on the Authority's current list of assets for potential disposal.
- Contrasting views were expressed regarding the decline of borrower numbers.

The Chair, in **Moving** the recommendations set out in the report (taking account of the amendments proposed by the Deputy Leader of the Council):

- Commented that Ideas Stores had brought a revolution in the culture of learning in Tower Hamlets, bringing together library learning and lifelong learning in a way that had proven to work well. He also welcomed the continued emphasis within the refreshed Ideas Stores Strategy on the continued offer of adult and lifelong learning within Ideas Stores.
- Noted that options for the future of these services would be the subject of ongoing review and accordingly requested that the Acting Corporate Director Children, Schools and Families, and the Corporate Director Communities Localities and Culture, explore how the Ideas Stores and Lifelong learning Services could be brought closer together and wider joined-up working enhanced.

And it was:-

**Resolved:**

1. That the analysis and strategic objectives identified in the Idea Store Strategy, be noted; and
2. That, subject to (a), (b) and (c) below, the Idea Store Strategy and the associated Action Plan in Appendix 1 of the report (CAB 018/090), be agreed.
  - (a) Noting that the location of future Ideas Stores had yet to be determined and this matter would be the subject of future consultation, it be agreed that the Authority's preferred location for an Ideas Store on the Isle of Dogs would be at Crossharbour at the ASDA Store.
  - (b) Noting that some libraries may not have a viable ongoing future for provision of library services, but also that the Authority remained committed to their ongoing use by the Community where possible, as part of its Asset Management Strategy, it be agreed that sale of such sites only be considered in

circumstances where neither use by the Council nor a partner organisation was a viable ongoing option.

- (c) It was also noted that, because of its position and heritage value, public access would be a pre-requisite of any future use of Bethnal Green Library.

## 6.2 Council's Lettings Policy(CAB 019/090)

**Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.2 "Council's Lettings Policy" (CAB 019/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Authority's Lettings Policy (which determines nominations from the Common Housing Register for properties in the ownership of the Authority (managed by Tower Hamlets Homes]) and Councillor Ahmed was a resident on the Ocean Estate managed by Tower Hamlets Homes was also a member of the governing body of the Ocean Regeneration Trust.

**Councillor S. Islam** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.2 "Council's Lettings Policy" (CAB 019/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Authority's Lettings Policy (which determines nominations from the Common Housing Register for properties in the ownership of the Authority (managed by Tower Hamlets Homes]) and Councillor Islam was a tenant of Tower Hamlets Homes and also on the Common Housing Register (also known as the Housing Waiting List).

Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report:

- Commented that:
  - The Cabinet had received a report in May 2009 which updated them on the direction of travel in respect of the ongoing review of the Authority's Choice Based Lettings Scheme.
  - There were in excess of 23,000 households on the housing waiting list with many of these living in overcrowded conditions which was widely acknowledged to damage life chances and health.
  - The Mayor of London's proposal that 5,000 households be rehoused by 2012 was a totally inadequate response to the problem. Tower Hamlets Council, in the knowledge that urgent action was needed, was proactively addressing the issue investing both its own resources, provided under the current Leadership, and those from Government.
  - The Council was also changing the way in which households were prioritised on the waiting list, with the proposed method being based on waiting time. This was transparent, easier to administer, more readily understandable to all, and would enable people to plan their lives.

- The Council would continue to protect homeless households and improve the quality of temporary accommodation. However being unintentionally homeless would not necessarily place people at the front of the queue for housing.
- Although the proposals included a new provision providing greater opportunities in general for sons and daughters of Common Housing Register partner tenants they would not automatically be prioritised.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 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 Elliot, Lettings Policy Advisor, summarised the salient points contained in the report as follows:-:

- The report principally responded to the short comings of the Authority's existing Lettings Policy in which there had been a significant loss of public trust, confidence and a perception that the existing scheme was not operated fairly.
- It had been concluded that a new banding structure, comprising of 5 bands, was the most appropriate model for a new allocations scheme determining priority for housing. This position had been reached after considering and testing various options in a series of meetings with a sub group of Common Housing Register (CHR) Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners, taking into account feedback from a seminar for Cabinet members, views of the Council Lettings team staff, and a visit to Newham Council to examine practice elsewhere. This had now been agreed with the Authority's CHR RSL partners and Cabinet authority was being sought for public consultation on the proposals.
- The key changes contained in the proposals included:
  - Expanding the number of bands to simplify categories within the bands.
  - Retaining high priority for those in the greatest need.
  - Two levels of prioritisation of decants for regeneration schemes.
  - Use of date order in virtually all bands to determine priority.
  - Removing the incentive to apply for housing as homeless thus reducing demand.
  - Using a quota of annual lettings to provide opportunities for like for like transfers, applications for which currently stood little chance.
  - A new provision, going beyond the existing sons & daughters quota, providing greater opportunities for sons and daughters of existing CHR tenants.
  - An under occupation policy in relation to households with "adult children".
  - A restriction on bidding to an applicant's bed size (or one below their needs) and on the number of bids per advertising cycle.
- Should the recommendations in the report be agreed by Cabinet the revised Lettings Policy would be submitted for public consultation to be conducted robustly with the support of the Partnership and

Engagement Unit. The litmus test for the proposals would be their reception from the public.

- Following consultation a further report would be submitted to the Cabinet including the final proposals for a revised Lettings Policy and the results of the Equality Impact Assessment.

A lengthy discussion followed, during which the proposals were universally welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- Considered that the proposals had been long overdue, would greatly help overcrowded families in the Borough, and demonstrated that this Government and this Administration were committed helping those most in need.
- Welcomed the comparative information, relating to the existing allocations scheme and the proposed banding model, presented in the tables within paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of the report for its clear message as to how the Council would work in future to help the poorest and most in need in the Borough.
- Considered that although the proposed policy would not create more housing, it would facilitate mobility. It was clear and understandable giving hope to applicants and enabling them to make a judgement as to whether the pursuit of alternatives was worthwhile.
- Considered that the policy was fair and transparent with those most in need served first.
- Welcomed prioritisation by date order, not least because it was frustrating for Councillors to be unable to give applicants for housing an indication of timescale for securing it, and clearly frustrating for the applicants themselves, particularly those who must move backward to move forward.
- Welcomed that the perverse incentive for people to declare themselves homeless was to be removed.
- Welcomed restriction on bidding that currently made it possible to bid for all types of property, regardless of need, which raised expectations unrealistically.
- Considered that the proposal to limit the number of bids permitted per cycle was sensible. Also welcomed the proposed provision that where a new development was coming on stream and applicants wished to be considered for any vacancy suited to their needs it would be possible to submit one bid rather than a bid for each unit.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given in relation to the consideration given to transition arrangements, so that in moving from one policy to another no one was seriously disadvantaged.
- Noted that consultation methods were innovative for example use of road shows and social networking websites.
- Suggested that a progress report be submitted after the new policy had been in operation for six months.
- Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, the Corporate Director Development and Renewal and his Officer team were formally thanked for their contribution in bringing these proposals forward.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report, and it was: -

**Resolved:**

1. That that the proposed new banding structure and policy proposals set out in the report (CAB 019/090) should be submitted to full partner, stakeholder and public consultation;
2. That paragraph 2.2.2 of the Lettings Policy (Community Group 2) be amended as follows: *“to include persons who are statutorily homeless and who have an assessed priority need and are accepted as unintentionally homeless.”*;
3. That paragraph 2.2.3 of the Lettings Policy (Community Group 3) be amended as follows: *“to include persons who are statutorily homeless and who do not have an assessed priority need, and all other housing applicants who do not fall within groups 1,2 or 4; and*
4. That paragraph 2.3 of the Lettings Policy be amended as follows: *“Group 3 If you are not included in any of these other groups or have been assessed as homeless but are not in priority need, your application will normally be placed in Group 3”*.

### **6.3 Housing Investment Programme 2009/10 to 2013/14 (CAB 020/090)**

**Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.3 “Housing Investment Programme 2009/10-2013/14” (CAB 020/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to resource allocation for housing regeneration on the Ocean Estate and Councillor Ahmed was a Leaseholder on the Ocean Estate managed by Tower Hamlets Homes and was also a member of the governing body of the Ocean Regeneration Trust.

Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report, summarised the salient points contained therein, commenting as follows:

- The Housing Investment Programme (HIP) contained good news for the tenants of Tower Hamlets as it detailed a £53 million programme of investment in social housing in Tower Hamlets.
- The primary element of the programme was investment in the repair, refurbishment and maintenance of estates, which included strengthening of security, replacement of windows and replacement of old lifts and roofing. However there were also significant elements focused on the mitigation of overcrowding, the regeneration of the Ocean Estate and Blackwall Reach, and also grants for the provision of disabled facilities.
- The HIP also contained a package of funding for a pilot scheme for the Decent Homes programme to be managed by Tower Hamlets Homes (also known as the ALMO). This included schemes for eight blocks:

- Donegal, Sovereign, Lister, Treves, Mayo, Wexford, Trinidad and Grenada to bring accommodation up to the Decent Homes standard.
- Similar works would be undertaken on 160 tenanted units on the Ocean Estate in Stepney and St Dunstan's and Mile End and Globe Town wards, which would result in new kitchens and bathrooms for the tenants.
  - The Labour Administration recognised that the HIP went some way to improving housing conditions, but more action was needed and he therefore considered appropriate that up to £3 million of additional resources were invested in the coming year to take this forward. This together with £25 million from the HIP and £3 million on the Ocean Estate would result in approximately £30 million being invested in the repair and refurbishment of housing stock in 2009/10, including schemes to strengthen security, install door entry and improve the environment on estates.
  - Accordingly Councillor Francis proposed the following additional recommendations to those set out in the report, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet.
    - That a further £3 million of schemes be brought forward from the 2010/11 Housing Investment Programme to 2009/10 subject to those schemes not exceeding the total resources available from 2009/10 to 2010/11.
    - That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be authorised, after consultation with the Lead Member Housing and Development and Leader of the Council, to approve and progress the schemes to be brought forward, to avoid delays to the Housing Investment Programme.
    - That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be requested to review the 2010 to 2015 Housing Investment Programme by March 2010.

A discussion followed, during which the proposals were universally welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- Commented that the proposals were fantastic and would go a long way to addressing poor housing conditions suffered by residents on the Council's estates and in particular the Ocean Estate. This was a clear demonstration of the commitment of the Labour Administration, under the current Leadership, to delivering for the people of Tower Hamlets.
- A Cabinet member and Ward Councillor for Bow West Ward commented that for a long period he had lobbied the Housing Department to address several issues relating to the fabric of the Malmesbury Estate, where poor windows had rotted through and lifts and door entry systems needed replacement. He welcomed the replacement of a lift on the estate the previous year and the new door entry system at Alfred block this year. However he considered that the scheduling of works for later years within the HIP meant little to current residents, and it was important to recognise the hardship that issues such as those on the Malmesbury Estate brought for residents. He therefore welcomed the investment of £3 million worth of additional resources in 2009/10, as proposed by Councillor Francis, and indicated



that he would have suggestions as to where some of the additional resources might be best invested.

- Welcomed the scheme for refurbishment of Wessex House on the Sidney Estate and the door entry scheme for the Berner Estate which would be important in alleviating anti-social behaviour which had generated numerous Members enquiries. Also welcomed investment on the Collingwood Estate at Donegal House.
- Commented that the HIP primarily focussed on investment in the Council's estates, managed by Tower Hamlets Homes, and it was appropriate that the Cabinet examine work undertaken by RSL's to improve housing on estates that had transferred to them under Housing Choice and that this be the subject of a future report to the Cabinet..
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given with regard to the current position on investment in Ashington House.
- The strength of lobbying from Councillors Asad, Peck, Salim Ullah, and Harper-Penman for investment in housing on estates in their wards (Whitechapel, Bow West, Bethnal Green South) was acknowledged.
- Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, was formally thanked for bringing these proposals forward.

The Chair in **Moving** the recommendations contained in the report (taking account of the proposed amendments from Councillor Francis) commented that the huge investment, including the provision of additional resources, in improving housing stock and the environment in which people lived. demonstrated the commitment of the Labour Administration to improving the quality of life of the Borough's residents.

And it was:-

**Resolved:**

1. That the five year Housing Investment Programme 2009/10-2013/14 as set out in paragraph 5 of the report (CAB 020/090), be approved;
2. That capital estimates for the 2009/10 financial year be adopted for all schemes set out in Appendix A to the report (CAB 020/090, and officers be authorised to progress those schemes;
3. That capital estimates for those schemes to be funded by the Regional Housing Pot Targeted Funding Stream, as set out in Section 7 of the report (CAB 020/090), be adopted;
4. That two bedroom units should be included in the leasehold repurchase programme, as outlined in Section 8 of the report (CAB 020/090);
5. That the Authority and Tower Hamlets Homes commence the procurement process of the Decent Homes Programme as set out in Section 9 of the report (CAB 020/090);

6. That a further £3 million of schemes be brought forward from the 2010/11 Housing Investment Programme to 2009/10 subject to those schemes not exceeding the total resources available from 2009/10 to 2010/11;
7. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be authorised, after consultation with the Lead Member Housing and Development and Leader of the Council, to approve and progress the schemes to be brought forward, to avoid delays to the Housing Investment Programme; and
8. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be requested to review the 2010 to 2015 Housing Investment Programme by March 2010.

#### **6.4 Adoption of Street and Building Naming and Numbering Policy, Regulations and Guidelines (CAB 021/090)**

Mr Hamilton, Head of Building Control, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report:

- Summarised the salient points contained therein.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 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** the recommendations as set out in the report, and it was: -

#### **Resolved:**

1. That the policy and guidelines detailed in Appendices A and B to the report (CAB 021/090), be approved;
2. That regulations be made under Section 9 of the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act, 1939, as shown in Appendix C to the report (CAB 021/090), in relation to the setting up of street nameplates;
3. That regulations be made under Section 12 of the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act, 1939, as shown in Appendix D to the report (CAB 021/090), in relation to the marking of names and numbers on buildings; and
4. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be authorised to vary the guidelines as referred to in the introduction to Appendix B to the report (CAB 021/090) and also to modify the application of Regulations in Appendices C and D.

## 6.5 Proposed Acquisition of Leasehold Interest at 585-593 Commercial Road, E1 and Temporary Relocation of Leven Road Car Pound (CAB 022/090)

Mr Algar, Service Head Asset Strategy, Corporate Delivery and Property Services, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report:

- Summarised the salient points contained therein commenting as follows:
  - The Council's existing car pound was located at Leven Road which was considered to be a poor location for the facility. The site would require significant reconfiguration if the car pound remained here and due to a break clause in the lease there would be little security for the Authority.
  - Relocation of the Car Pound to Commercial Road would bring the Authority longer term strategic control over the facility and service provision from it.
  - The proposals were cost neutral
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 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.

A brief discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- Consideration that it was important for the Council's car pound to be more accessible, the current location being very difficult to reach and ironically almost requiring a car to do so.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, as to whether an Environmental Impact Assessment had been undertaken in relation to the proposals to relocate the Car Pound to Commercial Road and in particular the impact on traffic in the area, given the context that approximately 200 journeys per day were associated with the Car Pound and Commercial Road was a residential area, whereas the Leven Road site was not.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, regarding the operational implications for Tower Hamlets of the future loss of the current revenue stream arising from the use of the Council's Car Pound by the London Borough of Hackney.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report, and it was: -

### **Resolved:**

1. That the proposal to acquire the leasehold interest in the site at 585 – 593 Commercial Road, E1, as identified on the plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 022/090), for a consideration set out in the exempt part of the report (CAB 033/090) in full and final settlement, be approved;
2. That the temporary relocation of the Authority's current car pound from Leven Road, E14, as identified on the plan attached at Appendix 2 to

the report (CAB 022/090), to 585-593 Commercial Road, E1 at a cost specified in the exempt part of the report (CAB 033/090), be agreed;

3. That the Corporate Director Communities Localities and Culture be authorised to finalise and agree any necessary terms to ensure the Authority is able to successfully vacate the current car pound at Leven Road and relocate the Service to Commercial Road;
4. That the capital estimate for acquiring the leasehold interest in the site to which it is proposed that the car pound be temporarily relocated, for the amount referred to in the exempt part of the report (CAB 033/090), be adopted; and
5. That Prudential Borrowing be used to fund the acquisition, referred to in Resolution 4. above and the associated costs.

## 6.6 Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2009/10 (CAB 023/090)

Mr Halsey, Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report:

- Highlighted in particular the Authority's improved level of performance in relation to NI184 referenced in paragraph 4.2 of the report.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 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.

A brief discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- Noted that given the large Muslim community in Tower Hamlets the Lead Member Cleaner, Safer, Greener whose faith required the provision of halal meat, had requested that Officers engage nationally with counterparts and the Food Standards Agency to identify ways to ensure that claims of halal provision were accurate and legitimate.
- Welcomed the "Scores on the Doors" initiative, but consideration that a good communications strategy was required to run alongside it.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report, and it was: -

### **Resolved**

That the Tower Hamlets Food Law Enforcement Plan 2009/2010 attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 023/090), be approved.

## 7. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

### 7.1 Future Jobs Fund (CAB 024/090)

**Councillor Oliur Rahman** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 "Future Jobs Fund" (CAB 024/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations which made reference to the Department for Work and Pensions and Councillor Rahman was an employee of Job Centre Plus which was part of the Department for Work and Pensions.

Councillor Rahman, Lead Member Employment and Skills, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report, summarised the salient points contained therein, commenting as follows:

- Government had recently announced a Future Jobs Fund initiative focused on job creation for long term unemployed young people, particularly in unemployment hotspots. The five host boroughs for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games had submitted a joint bid for approximately £4 million of the available funding, to create just over 600 jobs, and it was hoped that Tower Hamlets would secure £650,000 for 100 jobs.
- The initiative was significant in such a difficult economic period and the Council had not only been proactive in developing the bid, but would play its part by allocating approximately £275,000 of match funding. This highlighted the commitment of the Labour Administration to support local people in securing employment.

A discussion followed, during which the proposals were welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- Welcomed the participation of Tower Hamlets in the very proactive Government and Council Future Jobs Fund initiative, demonstrating the belief of the Labour Government, both nationally and locally, that in difficult times people should not be left unsupported in experiencing the full force of the recession, but that it was possible to take steps towards wealth creation and job creation and support people in securing good quality jobs over the longer term.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought regarding the number of people from Tower Hamlets registering as volunteers for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and consideration that if these were available they would be appropriately publicised. The Service Head 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games indicated that he would endeavour to obtain the information from the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG).
- Consideration that continued efforts were needed to encourage local residents to engage with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and noted that Members would receive a report regarding initiatives in the near future.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report, and it was: -

### **Resolved**

1. That, subject to a successful bid being made to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for £650,000, the allocation of £273,000

from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund to the Future Jobs Fund initiative within Tower Hamlets, be agreed;

2. That subject to securing the DWP funding, a further report be submitted on the progress of the Tower Hamlets Future Jobs Fund initiative with consideration given to the merits / demerits of extending the length of participant stay on the programme from 26 weeks to 39 weeks.

## **7.2 Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Review 2008/09 (CAB 025/090)**

**Councillor A. Asad** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.2 "Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) Review 2008/09" (CAB 025/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Youth Service and Councillor Asad currently received remuneration from Bishop Challoner School in relation to its Youth Service provision.

Councillor Asad, Lead Member Children's Services, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report, summarised the salient points contained therein highlighting in particular that the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) specifically addressed how equalities would be promoted in BME communities and how outcomes would be improved for all groups of children and young people at risk of social exclusion including

- Children from BME communities
- Children and young people in public care
- Children with disabilities
- Children with mental health problems
- Teenage parents

The Chair in **Moving** the recommendations as set out in the report, welcomed the progress made in the final year of the first three year CYPP and the development of a new three year Plan; and it was: -

### **Resolved**

That the assessment of the third year's progress against the first Children and Young People's Plan 2006–2009, of the Authority and its partners, be noted.

## **7.3 Establishing a National Challenge Trust School at St Paul's Way Community School (CAB 026/090)**

**Councillor Rania Khan** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.3 "Establishing a National Challenge Trust School at St Paul's Way Community School" (CAB 026/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to St Paul's Way School and in particular the Interim Executive Board of St Paul's Way School and

Councillor Khan was a member of the Interim Executive Board of St Paul's Way School.

Ms Cattermole, Service Head Resources Children's Services, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report:

- Summarised the salient points contained therein, commenting as follows:
  - There had been concerns in the past with the performance and governance of St Paul's Way School and the identified way forward was to put in place a robust management panel to improve outcomes for the school, one which took responsibility away from the governing body and place it with an Interim Executive Board (IEB). It was normal for such an interim arrangement to be short term, and consequently necessary to examine options for the long term. The National Challenge Trust (NCT) model had therefore been examined and following agreement with the IEB initial progress had been made towards establishing the NCT.
  - The prospective partners for the NCT were Kings College, the University of East London and the Institute of Education.
  - The next step was stakeholder consultation on the proposals.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 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:

A discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- Commented that the proposals for innovation and change at St Paul's Way School were fantastically exciting and contained enormous potential to deliver for the parents and children.
- Commented that the physical rebuilding of the school, through the Building Schools for the Future capital programme would prove crucial to the provision of an improved learning and out of hours environment for the young people of St Paul's Way.
- Considered that the proposals would address the core issue of unsatisfactory management and poor performance, that had existed at St Paul's Way, and that they formed a clear road map to the school becoming one of the best in the country. Confidence was expressed that in a couple of years parents would be fighting to gain entry to the school for their children.
- Commented that the pupils and parents of St Paul's Way had suffered for a considerable length of time and it was the Council's responsibility to ensure that the best support and educational provision was available to them.
- Commented that Kings College, the University of East London and Institute of Education were prestigious institutions and their partnership in the establishment of the NCT would drive change and improved

standards. The aspiration also expressed that parents and children would take full advantage of the facilities this partnership would bring.

- Welcomed the proposal to consult with stakeholders on the establishment of a National Challenge Trust.
- Commented that the proposals were however open to misrepresentation and it was important to note that it was not proposed that St Paul's Way be an academy and did not amount to the privatisation of education as the NCT would remain part of the collective of schools in Tower Hamlets. The proposals were instead about driving change and improvement and should be heralded.
- Noted that there were misconceptions in the Community regarding the nature of the NCT and it was not an academy but a new innovative model of educational provision only being taken forward by one other local authority.
- Considered, with reference to paragraph 4.3 of the report, that it was important that further consideration should be given to how appropriate Member level and Community representation on the governing body of the NCT was to be successfully achieved.
- Commented that education had been a priority for the Council since 1990 and would remain so.

The Chair in **Moving** the recommendations contained in the report, welcomed the exciting transformation taking place for the Community in relation to St Paul's Way, the proposal to undertake consultation on the establishment of a National Challenge Trust and in particular that prestigious external organisations were taking a great interest in the education of children in Tower Hamlets.

And it was:-

**Resolved:**

1. That progress towards setting up a National Challenge Trust at St Paul's Way Community School be noted;
2. That the proposal that the Interim Executive Board (IEB) of St Paul's Way school moves to the consultation phase with key stakeholders starting in September 2009, as set out in paragraphs 4.4 to 4.6 of the report (CAB 026/090) be endorsed and the IEB be recommended accordingly; and
3. That it be noted that a report will be submitted to Cabinet in November 2009, outlining the feedback from the consultation, referred to in resolution 2. above, and setting out formal proposals for next steps.

## **8. A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY**

### **8.1 A "Temporary to Permanent" Scheme for Homeless Accommodation (CAB 027/090)**



Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report commented that:

- In examining options for a "Temporary to Permanent" Scheme consideration had been given to how to best use and channel housing subsidy into social for rent accommodation on a secure tenancy basis, and not put money into the pockets of private landlords.
- The detail of the scheme had been examined in depth and it had become apparent that it would require grant funding to the prejudice of other HCA grant funded schemes. Accordingly whilst the innovative approach of the scheme was welcome, it was not viable in light of finite grant resources. This was not a reflection on the Registered Social Landlord Local Space, or how it managed homeless accommodation, and the Council would continue to explore with them how they might provide temporary accommodation to the homeless of the Borough.
- The report recommended that a "Temporary to Permanent" Scheme was no longer be pursued, and that the Council continue to examine ways to improve the quality of temporary accommodation for homeless households.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report, and it was: -

### **Resolved**

That in light of recent changes in grant funding arrangements a Temporary to Permanent Scheme be no longer pursued.

## **8.2 The Centre for Independent Living and the Community Learning and Disability Service (CAB 028/090)**

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that the special circumstances and reasons for urgency associated with the proposals were detailed on the front page of the report. The Cabinet subsequently agreed the special circumstances and reasons for urgency as set out on the front page of the report and also set out below:

- The report recommended that Members agree to the submission of an Outline Business Case requesting LIFT PFI Credits from the Department of Health at the end of July 2009 by the Corporate Director (Adults Health and Wellbeing) acting under delegated authority. The Credits would support the development and maintenance of two new facilities for use by Adult Social Care services users. The first is a Centre for Independent Living for people with a physical disability and the second a Community Learning Disability Service.
- The report was unavailable for public inspection within the stated timescales set out in the Authority's constitution, because the complex financial modelling required by a scheme of this kind was not completed. The financial modelling has now been completed and the result is set out in the report.

- The bid to the Department of Health must be submitted by the end of July 2009 and therefore the 29th July Cabinet is the only date available.

Mr Goldup, Corporate Director Adults Health and Wellbeing, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report, summarised the salient points contained therein, commenting as follows:

- The report provided an update on the progression of a Cabinet decision, made in 2006, to create a Centre for Independent Living for adults with a physical disability and the Community Learning Disability Service, essentially an initiative to replace a number of services currently provided for the disabled from obsolete buildings with independent living services from brand new high quality buildings.
- The initiative had reached a key stage, but not the final one, with the submission of an outline business case to the Department of Health required by the end of July 2009. Further negotiations would take place with the East London LIFT Company but prior to financial close a further report would be submitted for Cabinet consideration in order that it could make a fully informed decision as to whether to proceed with the scheme.
- The proposals were an exciting part of the transformation of adult social care to increase the choice, control and independence available to service users.

A discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given that the Cabinet would have a further opportunity to examine the details and weigh the positives and negatives of the scheme, once the business case had been developed, and until then could reserve its position on whether to give final approval.
- Expression of “in principle” support for the proposals and objectives thereof. These had the potential to deliver very good centres for the disabled and those with learning difficulties. Also that in delivering the transformation of adult social care, improvement for this group, which in the past had not received the level of attention nor services that it so greatly needed, should be championed. The progression of a bid for resources from an under-privileged group of people was to be welcomed.
- Consideration that although there was a narrowing window of opportunity to secure the funding stream for the proposals, that the financial model for the scheme needed closer examination.
- Consideration that the development of the Centre for Independent Living should be led by disabled people as it was important to ensure that it worked for them. There was therefore an expectation that the final report submitted to Cabinet would contain much evidence of consultation with disabled people and an analysis of the scheme by them.
- Mr Goldup, Corporate Director Adults Health and Wellbeing, and his Officer Team was formally thanked for the enormous amount of work

undertaken in developing the proposals to date and explaining this complex technical scheme to Members.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report, and it was: -

**Resolved**

1. That the development of a Centre for Independent Living on the Council site at 2 Jubilee Street and the development of a Community Learning Disability Service on the Council site at 35 Ronald Street using the NHS LIFT approach to fund the design, development and maintenance of the two facilities by the East London LIFT Co, be pursued;
2. That an Outline Business Case be submitted to the Department of Health at the end of July 2009 by the Corporate Director Adults Health and Wellbeing acting under delegated authority;
3. That the Corporate Director Adults Health and Wellbeing be instructed to bring a further report to Cabinet prior to reaching financial close with East London LIFT Co, in order that Cabinet can make a final decision at that point on whether to proceed with the scheme; and,
4. That 2 Jubilee Street site be appropriated for Social Care purposes.

**9. A HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

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

**10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS**

**10.1 Resource Allocation and Budget Review 2010/11- 2012/13 (CAB 029/090)**

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that Councillor Ahmed, Lead Member: Resources and Performance, had **Tabled a Motion** in relation to the recommendations set out in the report, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

Councillor Ahmed, Lead Member Resources and Performance, in introducing the report and **proposing** the tabled motion: -

- Commented that the report began the annual budget process for 2010/11, the last year of the three year Budget agreed by Cabinet in 2008. That three year Budget, assisted by the Government's three year settlement, had enabled the Council to plan its use of financial resources and deliver significant benefits for the people of Tower Hamlets without the need for service cuts.
- In the 2009/10 Budget, the Council:

- Allocated more money, on an ongoing basis, for better youth services and street safety and enforcement.
- Allocated money to make sure that all temporary staff used by the Council could be paid the London Living Wage.
- Made £2.4million available for Local Area Partnership budgets to spend in accordance with a participatory budgeting exercise.
- Helped street markets in Tower Hamlets in a period of recession by introducing free parking at weekends in the vicinity of markets.
- Allocated capital resources to tackle overcrowding, invest in parks and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and to improve the environment along “High Street 2012”.
- Resources were getting tighter, which is an inevitable outcome of the economic downturn and the public spending deficit, but once again prudent financial management at Tower Hamlets had provided flexibility in the budget process which would allow investment in local services and ensure that local people would be helped through the economic downturn. The Council’s financial position remained strong and it was well prepared for the period ahead.

Mr Naylor, Corporate Director Resources, and Mr Goldup, Corporate Director Adults Health and Wellbeing, at the request of the Chair, addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheet of questions/ comments/ advice presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings.

A brief discussion followed which focused on the following points:-

- The great amount of hard work required to bring the 2010/11 budget process to the point of commencement was noted, and thanks formally extended to the Lead Member Resources and Performance, Corporate Director Resources and his Officer team for their contribution in this regard.
- Speaking with the consent of the Cabinet, a minority group Member, commented upon the risks to Formula Grant and Area Based Grant, as a result of the economic downturn. The Member, in referring to paragraph 2.6 of the motion tabled by the Lead Member Resources and Performance, also considered that the proposal not to include funding for inflation on non-staffing budgets within the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2010/11 would place the Authority in a vulnerable position, on the basis that although costs could be negotiated downwards price inflation remained outside its control, and it was requested that the Cabinet re-examine this proposal.
- Cabinet Members responded:
  - Commenting that there was an enormous risk to Formula Grant and Area Based Grant were a Conservative Government to be elected at the next General Election and work had already begun on how such a risk might be managed.
  - Seeking clarification as to whether, if savings were not to be found by not funding inflation, the minority group Member was suggesting that the savings be made in front line services.

- Commenting that the point regarding inflation had been misunderstood, and that this was to be managed across budgets with efficiencies driven out so inflation could be absorbed. Also commenting that this Administration had not cut front line services in the last three years and an assurance could be given that cuts would not be made in the forthcoming year.

The Chair formally **Seconded** the motion as tabled, and it was:-

**Resolved:**

1. That the financial outlook and medium term projection set out in the report (CAB 029/090), be noted;
2. That the advice of Officers on revenue budget inflation, be noted;
3. That the outcome of the review of the budget forecast for 2010/11 and Officers advice on the risks of additional costs falling in 2010/11 which may not be covered by mitigating measures to be undertaken, be noted; and that the risks relating to the specific grant funding for 2010/11, set out in paragraph 4.8 of the report (CAB 029/090) and charges between the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, set out in paragraph 4.3. to 4.12 of the report also be noted;
4. That the availability of one-off funding as set out in the report (CAB 029/090), be noted;
5. That, in relation to the General Fund, efficiency savings of £4.0m should be identified in order to ensure that risks identified in the review of the 2010/11 budget forecast are funded and to provide flexibility for either additional service improvement or a reduced level of Council Tax if possible, to be determined once the funding position for 2010/11 becomes clear;
6. That funding for inflation on non-staffing budgets should not be included in the General Fund revenue budget for 2010/11, thus providing £3.3m towards the efficiency savings target;
7. That Corporate Directors be asked to identify the remaining £0.7m in efficiency savings on a pro-rata basis;
8. That the Cabinet's budget priorities for 2010/11 are:
  - Reducing overcrowding
  - Raising GCSE results to be the best in the country
  - Reducing youth unemployment
  - Tackling anti-social behaviour and crime
  - Improving cleanliness and improving the quality of the public realm
  - Older people

9. That Corporate Directors be requested to identify revenue and capital proposals for Service Improvement Growth/ Local Priorities Capital Programme in 2009/10 and 2010/11 in relation to the one-off funding available in accordance with the budget priorities;
10. That the position in relation to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) be noted and that the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be requested to undertake a detailed "stock take" of spending in the HRA to inform the budget process.
11. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be requested to identify £0.5m in efficiency savings in the HRA for 2010/11, consulting with the Board of Tower Hamlets Homes as necessary; and
12. That the forward projections of the Medium Term Plan in relation to both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account and the challenges presented by these forecasts be noted; and Chief Officers be requested to continue to seek efficiency proposals to meet the anticipated savings targets in 2011/12 and 2012/13.

## 10.2 Annual Report 2008/09 (CAB 030/090)

**Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.2 "Annual Report 2008/09" (CAB 030/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Councillor Ahmed was a Board Member - Olympic Delivery Authority - Planning Decision Team.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report, and it was: -

### **Resolved:**

1. That the further action requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
2. That progress detailed in the report (CAB 030/090) and the appendices attached thereto, be noted;
3. That the Council's end year performance, including areas where further work is needed to ensure we deliver improved outcomes, be noted;
4. That the Residents Summary in Appendix 3 to the report (CAB 030/090) be approved and the Assistant Chief Executive be authorised to make changes to the Residents Summary following consultation with the lead member;
5. That the Council's financial outturn for 2008-09 as set out in section 5 of the report (CAB 030/090) and at Appendix 4, be noted; and

6. That the transfers to and from earmarked reserves, as set out in the report (CAB 030/090) and at Appendix 5, be approved.

### 10.3 New Executive Arrangements - Consultation (CAB 031/090)

Councillor Peck, Deputy Leader of the Council, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report, briefly summarised the salient points contained therein:

- Highlighting in particular that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 had amended the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, and all local authorities in England with a population of over 85,000 were now required to adopt one of two models of governance: either a Leader and Cabinet with a stronger role for the Leader, who would be elected by the Council for four years and would appoint other members of the Cabinet; or a directly elected Mayor and Cabinet. Also that the report set out the revised Leader and Cabinet model as the Authority's preferred option.
- Informing members of the Cabinet that public consultation would be undertaken in respect of the adoption of a model of governance and in particular the Authority's preference, and it was hoped local residents would express a clear view on this. The process and timetable for this were set out in Section 5 and 6 of the report.
- Commenting that in his view the Leader and Cabinet was a good model of governance:
  - Having the advantage of including in the Council's Leadership a broad range of people with a consequent range of skills and attributes.
  - Through the Members comprising the Cabinet there was a direct linkage between those governing the Authority and the people and localities in the range of Wards they represented.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report, and it was: -

#### **Resolved:**

1. That the requirements of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 in relation to Executive Arrangements be noted;
2. That a revised 'Leader and Cabinet' model be the Council's preferred option for the purpose of public consultation; and
3. That the proposed action plan and timetable set out at paragraph 6.1; of the report (CAB 031/090) and the consultation proposal at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

### 10.4 Five Boroughs Olympic Joint Committee (CAB 032/090)

#### 10.4A Five Boroughs Olympic Joint Committee – Addendum (CAB 035/090)

**Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.4 “Five Boroughs Olympic Joint Committee” (CAB 032/090). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Councillor Ahmed was a Board Member - Olympic Delivery Authority - Planning Decision Team.

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that an Addendum (CAB 035/090) to the report previously circulated in the agenda (CAB 032/090), which contained supplementary information, had been **Tabled**, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

Ms Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)/ Monitoring Officer, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report and addendum thereto:

- Summarised the salient points contained therein, commenting as follows:
  - In 2006 the five Olympic Boroughs had entered into an inter-authority agreement to work together on activities and issues of common interest arising from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, with a view to optimising benefits and securing a sustainable legacy for the geographical areas of the five boroughs. The Chief Executives and also the Leaders/ Mayors of the five Olympic Boroughs had met regularly, but the meetings had not been formalised nor any of the functions of the constituent authorities exercised.
  - Arrangements within the Boroughs and with external organisations such as the Olympic Development Authority, London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, London Councils and the Department for Culture Media and Sports had now become established, and the five borough collective the focal point for issues arising from the Games. It was considered that the efficiency and effectiveness of the collective arrangements would now be greatly enhanced by formalisation and a joint committee established to exercise specific executive functions in relation to the Games.
  - General legal requirements contained in the Local Government Act 1972, relating to meetings and proceedings of local authorities, stipulated that decisions of such a joint committee must be taken by majority vote and therefore unanimous decisions could not be required. Consequently the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the joint committee contained agenda management provisions, including a requirement that an item might only be added to the agenda for the consideration of the joint committee or its sub-committees with the agreement of each of the five borough chief executives. Effectively this provided an “opt out” if an authority did not wish to join with others in their approach to any issue.
  - It was also important to note that decisions affecting any particular Boroughs could not be taken without that Borough being represented at the meeting and consequently the quorum



- for meetings of the joint committee was as least one member from each Borough.
- The functions to be exercised by the joint committee were set out at Section 19 of the Memorandum of Understanding and the appendix thereto and were limited to Executive matters that related to joint activities or areas of common interest in relation to the Games and its venues. Approval of the arrangements, delegation of the functions to be discharged by the joint committee, and the appointment of members to it, could therefore be effected by the executive of each authority.
  - Notice of meetings of the joint committee must be published in advance and additional dates required the agreement of the other Boroughs.
  - In the event that any of the five host boroughs decide they are not satisfied with the operation of the joint committee their Executive might opt out of the joint arrangements by rescinding the delegation of functions to the joint committee ie ending the agreement.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 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:

A short discussion followed during which the proposals were broadly welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)/ Monitoring Officer was formally thanked for the work she had undertaken with the other five borough authorities in honing the proposals to a point where they could now be considered.
- The Chair, in referring to paragraph 3.3 of the Addendum report, sought and was given specific clarification/ assurance that, through the agenda management provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the joint committee, the Council's position was protected because it could exercise control over the business on the agenda for consideration by the joint committee. However the Chair considered it appropriate that the Chief Executives of the five Olympic Boroughs should consult their respective Leader of the Council or Mayor before agreeing business for the agenda of the joint committee, and accordingly proposed an amendment to the recommendation set out in paragraph 2.2 of the original report, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, as follows:-

“That the Memorandum of Understanding for the Five Boroughs Olympic Joint Committee be agreed, subject to revision of its agenda management provisions so that there be a requirement that an item may only be included on the agenda for the Joint Committee (or any sub-committee established by it) with the agreement of each of the five borough Chief Executives after consultation with their respective Leader of the Council or Mayor”.
- Commented that earlier drafts of the Memorandum of Understanding for the joint committee had not been satisfactory, but this had now been addressed. It was now clear that the Authority had the ability to

opt out if it did not wish to participate in the approach of the other Olympic Boroughs to a particular issue, or opt out of the agreement altogether.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations contained in the original report (CAB 032/090) subject to the amendment he had already proposed to the recommendation contained in paragraph 2.2; and it was:-

**Resolved:**

1. That the establishment of a joint committee of the Five Host Boroughs for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games as more particularly described in the Memorandum of Understanding, attached at Appendix A to the report (CAB 032/090), with effect from the date that the last of each of the Five Host Boroughs have agreed to participate, be approved;
2. That subject to (a) below the Memorandum of Understanding be agreed and the Chief Executive be authorised to give effect to any matter necessary to achieve its objectives including agreement of a revised Inter-Authority Agreement:
  - (a) The agenda management provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding to be revised so that there be a requirement that an item may only be included on the agenda for the Joint Committee (or any sub-committee established by it) with the agreement of each of the five borough Chief Executives after consultation with their respective Leader of the Council or Mayor.
3. That the terms of reference specified in Appendix 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding be agreed and that the delegation of executive functions be discharged by the joint committee;
4. That two members be nominated to be the Authority's representatives on the Joint Committee for the municipal year 2009/10; and
5. That two members be nominated to be the Authority's substitute representatives on the Joint Committee for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

**11. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

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

**12. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

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

**13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**Resolved:**

That pursuant to regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting:

- (a) As it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted in Section Two of the agenda, that if members of the public were present during consideration of this business there would be disclosure of exempt information.
- Exempt information is defined in section 100I and, by reference, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the 1972 Act”). To be exempt, information must fall within one of the categories listed in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Schedule 12A, must not fall within one of the excluded categories in paragraphs 8 and 9 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption must outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.
    - Agenda item 14. “Exempt/ Confidential Minutes” contained information pertaining to a commercial transaction between an individual and the Authority.
    - Agenda item 15.2(i) “Report ‘Called In’ - Consideration of individual case for severance” (CAB 034/090) contained information pertaining to a commercial transaction between an individual and the Authority.
    - Agenda item 16.1 “Proposed Acquisition of Leasehold Interest at 585-593 Commercial Road, E1 and Temporary Relocation of Leven Road Car Pound” (CAB 033/090) contained information relating to the financial affairs of the Authority.
- (b) As although there is a public interest favouring public access to local authority meetings, in this case the Cabinet concluded that given the information contained in:
- Agenda Item 14. Exempt/ Confidential Minutes (of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009) pertaining to a commercial transaction between an individual and the Authority and the associated recommendations, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption on the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it. “
  - Agenda Item 15.2(i) “Report ‘Called In’ - Consideration of individual case for severance” (CAB 034/090) pertaining to a commercial transaction between an individual and the Authority and the associated recommendations, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption on the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it. “

- Agenda Item 16.1 “Proposed Acquisition of Leasehold Interest at 585-593 Commercial Road, E1 and Temporary Relocation of Leven Road Car Pound” (CAB 033/090) relating to the financial affairs of the Authority and the associated recommendations, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption on the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it. “

**14. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

Minutes of Cabinet meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 **Tabled** and agreed.

**15. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

Nil items.

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

Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009 **Tabled**.

Motion from Chair agreed.

**16. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE**

**16.1 Proposed Acquisition of Leasehold Interest at 585-593 Commercial Road, E1 and Temporary Relocation of Leven Road Car Pound (CAB 033/090)**

Recommendations Agreed.

**17. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY**

Nil Items.

**18. A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY**

Nil Items.

**19. A HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

Nil Items.

**20. ONE TOWER HAMLETS**

Nil Items.

**21. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

Nil Items.

**22. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

Nil Items.

The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Lutfur Rahman  
Cabinet