

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 14 JULY 2010**

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

**NB: The order of business was varied during the course of the meeting but for ease of reference, the decision sheet is in the same order as the agenda.**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Rajib Ahmed, Rofique Ahmed, Ann Jackson, Dr. Emma Jones, Ahmed Omer and Oliur Rahman.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Please see minutes.

**3. MINUTES**

**DECISION**

That the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

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

Please see minutes.

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

**PETITIONS**

**5.1.1 Petition re: Mayoral Election**

Mr. Terry McGrenera addressed the meeting in support of the petition. Members asked questions of the petitioner and the Lead Member then responded to the issues raised.

## **DECISION**

That the petition be referred to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services])

### **5.1.2 Petition re: Devons Estate Blocks**

Petition withdrawn.

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

6.1 Question from Mr. Terry McGreenera to the Lead Member for Housing, Heritage and Planning, Councillor Marc Francis re: affordable housing

The above question and an oral supplementary question were put and were responded to by the Lead Member.

6.2 Question from Ms. Kate Gould to the Lead Member for Housing, Heritage and Planning, Councillor Marc Francis re: redevelopment of former Safeway site, Bow

This question was not put at the meeting as the questioner did not attend. Written response to be sent.

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

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

7.1 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed to the Lead Member for Resources, Councillor David Edgar re: reductions in public sector spending

7.2 Question from Councillor Zara Davis to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Shiria Khatun re: bullying in schools

7.3 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Helal Abbas re: English Defence League and United East End

7.4 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Culture and Creative Industries, Councillor Denise Jones re: the future of Poplar Baths

7.5 Question from Councillor Carli Harper-Penman to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Shiria Khatun re: activities during the summer school holidays

- 7.6 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Helal Abbas re: the Tower Hamlets Partnership
- 7.7 Question from Councillor Shafiqul Haque to the Lead Member for Environment, Councillor Shahed Ali re: parking and CCTV issues in Whitechapel
- 7.8 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Lead Member for Regeneration and Employment, Councillor Sirajul Islam re: jobs on the Olympic site
- 7.9 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs to the Lead Member for Culture and Creative Industries, Councillor Denise Jones re: the free swimming initiative
- 7.10 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel to the Lead Member for Community Safety, Councillor Abdal Ullah re: incidents in the vicinity of Blackwall and East India DLR stations

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

Due to lack of time, questions 7.11 – 7.32 were not put. Written responses to be forwarded to the questioners.

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

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

### **8.1 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Sirajul Islam addressed the meeting on the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2009/10.

#### **DECISIONS**

1. That the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2009-10 be noted.
2. That the number of positions for Parent Governor representative co-optees to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be increased from two to three; and the Committee's terms of reference at Part 3.3.2 of the Council's Constitution and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules at Part 4.5 of the Constitution be amended accordingly.

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

**8.2 Members' Allowances Scheme: Changes to Special Responsibility Allowances**

Additional agenda item. Reasons for urgency given and agreed.

Councillor David Snowdon moved and Councillor Tim Archer seconded an amendment to the recommendations. The amendment was put to the vote and was defeated.

**DECISION**

That all Special Responsibility Allowances payable under the Members' Allowances Scheme to Members of this Authority be reduced by 5% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010.

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

**9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)**

There was no business under this heading.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS****10.1 Petition Scheme**

An addendum report was tabled at the meeting, setting out a revised draft Petition Scheme incorporating comments raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet.

**DECISION**

1. That the duty to respond to petitions included in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and the consequent requirement on the Council to agree a Petition Scheme be noted; and
2. That the comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet be noted and the draft petition scheme as set out at Appendix 'B' to the tabled addendum report be adopted.

(Action: Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services])

**10.2 Draft Statement of Accounts 2009-2010**

**DECISION**

1. That the draft final Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 be approved.
2. That it be noted that the accounts will now be submitted for audit.
3. That the progress made towards meeting the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) be noted.

(Action by: Chris Naylor, Corporate Director, Resources)

**10.3 Appointment of Independent Members of the Standards Committee**

**DECISION**

That the following persons be appointed as Independent Members of the Standards Committee, each to serve a three year term of office expiring on the date of the Annual Council meeting in May 2013, subject to annual confirmation by the Council:-

- Ms. Sue Rossiter (new appointment); and
- Mr. Patrick (Barry) O'Connor (re-appointment)

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

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

**11.1 Motion proposed by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding youth offenders**

Councillor Shiria Khatun moved, and Councillor Sirajul Islam seconded, an amendment to the motion to add additional text under "This Council notes" and under "This Council resolves". This was agreed and the substantive motion as amended was then agreed as follows:-

**DECISION**

This Council notes:

1. 60-80 young people come off criminal justice orders every quarter in Tower Hamlets, of which 30-40 young people are of school age.
2. That a reduction in re-offending is closely linked to successful settlement into work.

3. There are often difficulties placing young ex-offenders into work placements and other forms of employment or training as employers are cautious about employing ex-offenders, and the young people often require support in the workplace.
4. There is a tendency for employers to view the recruitment of young offenders as a corporate social responsibility when a solid business case could be developed to give employers confidence and justify employing young ex-offenders.
5. Many employers outsource roles which might be appropriate to young people leaving the criminal justice system, however, the outsourced companies have stringent screening processes which inhibit young offenders from recruitment.
6. KPMG and Freshfields have delivered successful employment programmes targeted at the homeless and these programmes may provide models for employment of young ex-offenders. Such programmes have been successful because both employers and employees are offered support such as an employer's helpline.
7. The opportunities provided for the small number of young ex-offenders in the Borough would benefit other young people through a reduction in victimisation; the development of positive role models; and the demonstration of the longer term benefits of work and training.
8. That this Labour Council's Youth Offending Team (YOT) have made good progress in ensuring that 85% of the young offenders they have assisted in the last year are either in education training or employment at the end of their youth justice orders.
9. That the Tower Hamlets YOT has a series of successful partnerships with voluntary sector agencies as well as trainers that aim to place young people into training and work which lead to successful placements and positive outcomes for young offenders.

This Council resolves:

1. To develop an effective training into work model which reduces the risk associated with employing young ex-offenders, and which can be used to support firms to employ young ex-offenders.
2. To ensure the Youth Justice Board is working with organisations such as Community Links and East Potential to ensure there is a smooth transition into employment and training after criminal justice orders are concluded.
3. To work with partners such as Community Links and East Potential to develop a training programme for motivated ex-offenders who wish to become self-employed.

4. To investigate the potential for employment opportunities for young ex-offenders among the Council's larger contractors e.g. Veolia, and larger employers in the borough e.g. Tesco to discuss with them their attitude to employment of ex-offenders.

5. That the East London Business Alliance undertakes a project to investigate the business case, costs and opportunities for employing young ex-offenders based on their potential contribution to a company.

6. To fully assess the cost implications before commissioning projects or developing new services for Young Offenders in light of the current financial circumstances.

(Action by: Isobel Cattermole, Acting Corporate Director, Children Schools and Families)

The meeting ended at 9.28 p.m.