

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2010

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Shafiqul Haque, Harun Miah and Joshua Peck.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Please see minutes.

3. MINUTES

DECISION

That the minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held on 14th July 2010 be confirmed and signed 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: Closure of Inside Out Health & Wellbeing Ltd.

Ms. Sapna Begum and Mr. Duncan Victorin addressed the meeting in support of the petition. Members asked questions of the petitioners and the Lead Member then responded to the issues raised.

DECISION

That the petition be referred to the Acting Corporate Director, Adult Health & Wellbeing for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Helen Taylor, Acting Corporate Director, Adult Health & Wellbeing)

5.1.2 Petition re: transfer of property at 63a Sewardstone Road, E2

Ms. Ruth Allan 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 Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

(Action by: Aman Dalvi, Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)

DEPUTATIONS**5.2.1 Deputation re: publication of Council expenditure**

Mr. Neil King addressed the meeting on behalf of the deputation. Members asked questions of the deputation and the Lead Member then responded to the issues raised.

DECISION

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

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

5.2.2 Deputation re: Tower Hamlets Core Strategy

Ms. Lucy Rogers and Mr. Mark Taylor addressed the meeting on behalf of the deputation. Members asked questions of the deputation and the Lead Member then responded to the issues raised.

DECISION

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

(Action by: Aman Dalvi, Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- 6.1 Question from Mr. Ian Godfrey to the Lead Member for Housing, Heritage and Planning, Councillor Marc Francis re: parking at Roman Road Market, Bow

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

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

7. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- 7.1 Question from Councillor Judith Gardiner to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Shiria Khatun re: GCSE results
- 7.2 Question from Councillor Zara Davis to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Shiria Khatun re: GCSE results
- 7.3 Question from Councillor Kosru Uddin to the Lead Member for Environment, Councillor Shahed Ali re: recycling
- 7.4 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel to the Lead Member for Housing, Heritage and Planning, Councillor Marc Francis re: new lettings policy
- 7.5 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan to the Lead Member for Community Safety, Councillor Abdal Ullah re: community safety initiatives and CCTV in Whitechapel
- 7.6 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Joshua Peck re: CCTV facility in the Council Chamber (Councillor David Edgar, Lead Member for Resources, responded to this question in Cllr Peck's absence)
- 7.7 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock to the Lead Member for Housing, Heritage and Planning, Councillor Marc Francis re: the likely effects of cuts to Housing Benefit and ending of lifetime tenancies
- 7.8 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to the Lead Member for Culture & Creative Industries, Councillor Denise Jones re: library services on the Isle of Dogs
- 7.9 Question from Councillor Alibor Choudhury to the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Rachael Saunders re: steps to tackle childhood obesity in the borough

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

Due to the lack of time, questions 7.10 – 7.19 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 LDF Core Strategy: Adoption of the Plan**

Councillor Marc Francis moved and Councillor Helal Abbas seconded the recommendations in the report circulated with the agenda. The report of the Cabinet meeting held on 8th September was tabled.

DECISION

1. That the Council note the Inspector's Report and Annexes and the tabled report of the Cabinet meeting held on 8th September; and
2. That the Local Development Framework Core Strategy (including the Inspector's required amendments) be adopted to be a part of the borough's Development Plan.

(Action by: Aman Dalvi, Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)

8.2 Review of the Constitution: Recommendations of the Constitution Working Party**DECISION**

That the report of the Constitution Working Party be withdrawn for further work and consultation to be carried out prior to re-submission to the Council meeting to be held on 27th October 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 London Local Authorities (Travel Concessions) Bill****DECISION**

That the Council adjourn the consideration of the report until the next meeting on 27th October 2010.

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

10.2 Local Government Ombudsman findings against the Council**DECISION**

1. That the report and the findings of maladministration against the Authority by the Local Government Ombudsman in respect of the investigation attached to the report to the Strategic Development Committee of the 10th November 2009 be noted.
2. That the Authority accepts the recommendations in full and instructs officers to make the relevant payments of compensation to the complainant and to instruct independent valuers to carry out the comparative valuation set out in the Ombudsman's report.

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

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**11.1 Motion proposed by Councillor Tim Archer regarding the Henry Moore sculpture**

Councillor Denise Jones moved, and Councillor Anwar Khan seconded, a tabled amendment to the motion. This was agreed and the substantive motion as amended was then agreed as follows:

DECISION

This Council notes that:

- The original Henry Moore sculpture entitled Draped Seated Woman that was gifted to the borough on the demise of the GLC is currently housed in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Wakefield, a 400 mile round trip from Tower Hamlets. Due to development of the site where it was situated in the borough it was loaned to the Sculpture Park who restored it from graffiti, paint and scratches and insured it at their cost. It has remained on display in the Yorkshire since that time.

This Council believes that:

- Local residents should be able to enjoy and benefit from our cultural heritage and the sculpture should not be sold.

This Council resolves:

- To ask officers to:
- explore options and the costs for safely relocating the Henry Moore sculpture back in Tower Hamlets, including consulting with Canary Wharf Group about the possibility of temporarily relocating the sculpture to the Canary Wharf estate on loan where it could be put on

public display, and finding possible sites in other parts of the borough including Victoria Park or Mile End Park where it could be relocated at a later date.

- To ensure that the Council does not bear any of the immediate or long term costs involved with a potential relocation, including moving the sculpture, maintenance, insurance and security and that all other potential funding options are explored.
- ask English Heritage to list the sculpture.

(Action by: Stephen Halsey, Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture)

11.2 Motion proposed by Councillor Zara Davis regarding publication of Council expenditure

Councillor David Edgar moved, and Councillor Helal Abbas seconded, an amendment to the motion to add additional text under “Council notes” and replace the first bullet point under “Council resolves”. This was agreed and the substantive motion as amended was then agreed as follows:

DECISION

This Council notes:

- The Government will soon require all councils to publish expenditure above £500;
- Many councils across London including Islington, Wandsworth, Hammersmith & Fulham and Richmond Councils are already publishing all payments over £500.
- The Government set out its intention in the summer to issue a draft Code of Practice on payments over £500 in September for consultation followed by a final Code of Practice in November so that councils are able to publish this information in January 2011.
- Draft Local Spending Data Guidance on publishing this data was issued on 10 September and this guidance is expected to be revised in six month’s time. Councils are expected to publish data to the minimum standards within six months of the publication of the guidance.

This Council believes:

- That residents have a right to know how the Council is spending taxpayers’ money and to be able to access this information quickly and easily;
- That in this time of financial restraint, residents can play a key role as armchair auditors helping the Council to find savings;

- That publishing our expenditure as soon as possible will ensure maximum openness, enable savings to be found now and improve our accountability to residents in Tower Hamlets.

This Council resolves:

- To publish details of all Council expenditure above £500 on the Tower Hamlets website from January 2011
- To update this data on the website every month.

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

The meeting ended at 9.32 p.m.