

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.35 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 9 MAY 2012

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

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Mayor)	(Mayor)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed (Deputy Mayor)	(Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	(Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills)
Councillor Rabina Khan	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Rania Khan	(Cabinet Member for Culture)
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Cabinet Member for Children's Services)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Executive Advisor to the Mayor and Cabinet)
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Ann Jackson	(Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Md. Maium Miah	(Advisor to the Mayor and Cabinet on Third Sector and Community Engagement)
Councillor John Pierce	
Councillor Gulam Robbani	(Executive Advisor to the Mayor and Cabinet on Adult Social Care)

Others Present:

Officers Present:

Ross Archer	– (Political Adviser to the Conservative Group)
Sarah Barr	– (Senior Strategy Policy and Performance Officer, One Tower Hamlets, Chief Executive's)
Michael Bell	– (Strategic Planning Manager, Strategic Planning, Planning & Building Control, Development & Renewal)
Heather Bonfield	– (Interim Service Head Culture, Learning & ...)

	Leisure Services , Communities Localities & Culture)
Isobel Cattermole	– (Acting Corporate Director, Children, Schools & Families)
Stephen Cody	– (Interim Corporate Director Adults Health & Wellbeing)
Aman Dalvi	– (Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)
Isabella Freeman	– (Assistant Chief Executive - Legal Services, Chief Executive's)
Stephen Halsey	– (Corporate Director Communities, Localities & Culture)
Numan Hussain	– (Political Advisor to the Mayor, Executive Mayor's Office, Chief Executive's))
Kevin Kewin	– (Service Manager, Strategy & Performance, Chief Executive's)
Ellie Kuper-Thomas	– (Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer - Executive Mayor's Office, One Tower Hamlets, Chief Executive's)
Chris Naylor	– (Corporate Director Resources)
Jackie Odunoye	– (Service Head, Strategy, Regeneration & Sustainability)
Navida Quadi	– (Graduate Management Trainee, Executive Mayor's Office, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Hugh Sharkey	– (Interim Service Head Procurement & Corporate Programmes, Resources)
Takki Sulaiman	– (Service Head Communications, Chief Executive's)
Simone Williams	– (Planning Officer, Plan Making Team, Planning & Building Control, Development & Renewal)
Angus Taylor	– (Interim Committee Services Manager (Operational), Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)

MR L. RAHMAN (MAYOR) IN THE CHAIR

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment.

Noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Oliur Rahman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 “Cayley and Smithy Street Primary Schools - proposed expansion” (CAB 114/112). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to primary schools located in St Dunstan’s and Stepney Green Ward, and Councillor Oliur Rahman was a Ward Councillor for that Ward.

Noted.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th April 2012 had been circulated for information (Agenda – 9th May 2012).

4. PETITIONS

The clerk advised that the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) had received no requests for petitions in respect of the business contained in the agenda.

Variation of Order of Business

At this juncture the Mayor informed members of the Cabinet and others present that:

- A request had been received from the public to address the Mayor/ Cabinet in relation to King Edward Memorial Park (KEMP) and a local campaign in support of the designation of KEMP as a Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee Field in Trust.
- Given the importance of this matter to the Community he considered it appropriate on this occasion to allow the public an opportunity to address the Mayor/ Cabinet; and accordingly he intended to invoke his discretionary powers under the constitutional provisions of Council Procedure Rule 7.2 to permit this.

Accordingly the **Mayor agreed** the following:

Decision

That the order of business be varied as follows:

- To allow for receipt of a deputation from from SaveKEMP campaign group, in relation to the status of King Edward Memorial Park (KEMP), as the next business.
- Thereafter to return to the order of business detailed in the agenda.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS CABINET (DEPUTATION)

SaveKEMP campaign group in relation to the status of King Edward Memorial Park.

At this juncture the Mayor informed members of the Cabinet and others present that a statement and update to it had been **Tabled** by the SaveKEMP campaign group, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

Following receipt of the deputation and response from Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture, the Mayor thanked the deputation for coming to address the Mayor/ Cabinet. Subsequently the **Mayor agreed** the following:

Decision

1. That the deputation from Ms Emma Dunsire (Vice-Chair and Campaign Co-ordinator SaveKEMP), regarding the status of King Edward Memorial Park, be formally received and noted; and
2. That the issues raised by the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director Communities Localities and Culture for attention and response in writing within 28 days, in accordance with former constitutional provisions.

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Councillor Jackson, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), addressed the Mayor and members of the Cabinet:

- Outlining the key issues on which discussion focused during the Scrutiny Spotlight on the Executive Mayor including the supportive commitment from the Mayor to the role of the OSC.
- Thanking the Mayor for meeting her the previous day and reporting a constructive dialogue around improved future working between the OSC and Mayor/Cabinet, particularly in relation to "call in"s.
- Noting suggestions from the Mayor as to policy areas where scrutiny work would be useful for consideration in developing the OSC work programme for the coming Council year.

The **Mayor** thanked Councillor Jackson for presenting the contribution of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and her role as Chair of the OSC over the past year. He commented that he supported and valued the role of the OSC both in providing a check and balance on the powers of the Executive, and in reviewing and subsequently giving advice on areas of service/ policy which would benefit the wider community in Tower Hamlets. He had encouraged Cabinet members to attend the OSC as the subject of scrutiny and had been pleased to do so himself; and he desired a continued positive working relationship with the OSC.

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

The Clerk advised that no requests had been received by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) to “call in” for further consideration, by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, any provisional decisions taken by the Mayor in Cabinet, at the Cabinet meeting held on 4th April 2012.

6. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

6.1 Bromley-by-Bow Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (CAB 113/112)

Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing, at the request of the Mayor, in introducing the report, summarised the key points contained therein, emphasising that the Bromley-by-Bow Masterplan had already been the subject of consultation and re-iterating the key objectives of the masterplan set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report.

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

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor, commented that clear articulation of the Mayor/ Administration’s commitment to the building of more affordable homes, with new developments to comprise at least 35% affordable housing, appeared to be absent from the Masterplan, and he strongly considered that this commitment should be reflected in the final document to be approved for adoption. Accordingly **an alternative option** in relation to recommended decisions was **proposed** for the Mayor’s consideration [see Decision 3(a) below].

Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture, expressed concern regarding a lack of consultation with stakeholders in relation to planning applications for new shop frontages for shops in Stroudley Walk, commenting that residents and shopkeepers were concerned at the impact of this on existing local shops. Similarly they were concerned regarding the regeneration plans for Bromley-by-Bow, contained within the Masterplan, and the potential impact of these on existing local shops. There was likely to be a small supermarket and many existing shop owners, including some in business for over 30 years, could be priced out of business; and this would be unfair and counter-productive for regeneration. It was requested that the Corporate Director Development and Renewal look into this matter. Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded that she and the Mayor had discussed the issues at Stroudley Walk in detail and gave an assurance that they both shared the concerns raised and were working to address them.

Councillor Rofique Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, sought clarification from the Cabinet Member for Housing as to whether figures were available on rejections of housing offers where the units were open plan. He commented that local residents waiting to be housed by the Authority had

made it clear to him that they did not want houses with an open plan kitchen/ living room; and given this context questioned why the Authority was still allowing new developments to include affordable homes that were open plan, rather than ensuring housing was built which met the needs of the community. He strongly considered that the Authority should address this issue urgently and also that it be reflected in the final Masterplan to be approved for adoption. Accordingly an **alternative option** in relation to recommended decisions was **proposed** for the Mayor's consideration [see Decision 3(c) below].

The Mayor concurred, commenting that during the recent election campaigning for the Mayor of London and Weavers Ward by-election criticism from residents had focused on two issues: overcrowding and the unsuitable nature of open plan housing for families with children. It had become apparent that families were being allocated housing but then rejecting the offer because the home included open plan kitchen/ dining room/ living room. He and Councillor Rabina Khan had encountered a horrific situation where a child had been horribly burned in an open plan home, and he empathised because he felt it was impossible for a mother to keep an eye on her children 24 hours/ 7 days, and such an environment was therefore dangerous for the children. Consequently he had made it absolutely clear to Council officers that the affordable social housing element of any new developments must not be open plan. The approach of private developers was not within his control but any development where the Council was engaged with partners in creating affordable housing would now adhere to this directive. He emphasised that he did not want a situation to continue whereby a large section of the community was disenfranchised in respect of social housing allocations and instructed Ms Odunoye, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal to take all necessary steps to effect his directive.

Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills, commented that although the Masterplan incorporated the objective of delivering up to 2500 new affordable homes, which accorded with the Mayor's priorities, it was insufficiently explicit in articulating the Mayor/ Administration's commitment to an increased proportion of family sized homes in new developments, and he considered that this commitment should be reflected in the final document to be approved for adoption. Accordingly an **alternative option** in relation to recommended decisions was **proposed** for the Mayor's consideration [see Decision 3(b) below].

Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, commented that recent media reports had highlighted how the Mayor/ Administration had successfully negotiated the securing of over 1000 jobs at the 2012 Olympic Games site for local people. He considered it equally important that mechanisms be examined to ensure that local people benefited from future employment opportunities in the Bromley-by-Bow area, and this should be reflected in the final Masterplan to be approved for adoption. Accordingly an **alternative option** in relation to recommended decisions was **proposed** for the Mayor's consideration [see Decision 3(e) below].

Councillor Ann Jackson, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, commented that it was widely acknowledged that the community in the Bromley-by-Bow area had long been divided by the physical and psychological barrier of the A12 trunk road, and current subway connectivity was totally inadequate/ unsatisfactory. Additionally the area had been neglected historically and as a result was badly depressed and in need of regeneration. Although there were funding constraints, Councillor Jackson considered it important that officers review the Masterplan to ensure that everything possible would be done to meet the needs of the community in the Bromley-by-Bow area. Accordingly **an alternative option** in relation to recommended decisions was **proposed** for the Mayor's consideration with a view to this [part of this alternative option is seen at Decision 3(d) below].

The **Mayor** subsequently agreed the recommended decisions set out in the report, taking account of:

- The proposed amendments to the options being considered from Councillors Ohid Ahmed, Rofique Ahmed/ himself, Shafiqul Haque, Abdul Asad.
- The aspects of the amendment to the options being considered from Councillor Jackson relating to connectivity and the A12.
- The following amendment in relation to recommended decision 2.1: "That the representations received during the consultation on the draft Bromley-by-Bow Masterplan SPD, be noted."

and considering that it would be appropriate to adjust the decisions accordingly; consequently **agreed** the following:

Decision

1. That the representations received during the consultation on the draft Bromley-by-Bow Masterplan SPD, attached at Appendix 3 to the report (CAB 113/112), be noted;
2. That the summary of the main representations and the proposed responses to these representations, as contained in Appendix 3 to the report (CAB 113/112), be agreed; also that subsequent necessary amendments to the Bromley-by-Bow Masterplan SPD be approved;
3. That, subject to the Corporate Director Development and Renewal ensuring reflection of (a) to (e) below, the final Bromley-by-Bow Masterplan SPD be approved for adoption and officers be authorised to prepare and publish an adoption statement:
 - (a) The Mayor's objective of 35% affordable housing in new developments.
 - (b) The Mayor's objective of an increased proportion of family sized homes in new developments.
 - (c) The Mayor's request that the affordable housing element of developments should preclude open plan design (Kitchen/ Dining Room/ Living Room).
 - (d) The Mayor's request that the Masterplan optimises connectivity of the community with particular reference to the divide of the A12.

- (e) That mechanisms be examined to ensure that local people benefit from future employment opportunities in the area; and
4. That the Corporate Director of Development and Renewal be authorised to make any necessary factual or minor editing changes prior to publishing the final Bromley-by-Bow Masterplan SPD.

Reasons for Decisions

These are detailed in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.2 of the report (CAB 113/112).

Alternative Options Considered

These are detailed in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of the report (CAB 113/112).

7. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

7.1 Cayley and Smithy Street Primary Schools - proposed expansion (CAB 114/112)

Councillor Oliur Rahman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 “Cayley and Smithy Street Primary Schools - proposed expansion” (CAB 114/112). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to primary schools located in St Dunstan’s and Stepney Green Ward, and Councillor Oliur Rahman was a Ward Councillor for that Ward.

Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report, summarised the key points contained therein, emphasising that the governing bodies of both schools were supportive of the expansion proposals and there had been a positive response from parents during the consultation process.

The **Mayor agreed** the recommended decisions as set out in the report.

Decision

1. That the contents of the report (CAB 114/112) be noted;
2. That it be agreed that statutory proposals should be published for the enlargement of Cayley Primary School to admit 90 pupils in each year from September 2013; and
3. That it be agreed that statutory proposals should be published for the enlargement of Smithy Street Primary School to admit 60 pupils in each year from September 2013.

Reasons for Decisions

These are detailed in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.2 of the report (CAB 114/112).

Alternative Options Considered

These are detailed in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.2 of the report (CAB 114/112).

8. A SAFE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY

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

9. A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

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

10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS**10.1 Strategic Plan 2012/13 (CAB 115/112)**

The **Mayor:**

- Commented that the Strategic Plan set out the key priorities for the Council over the coming year and incorporated the Single Equality Framework which comprised the Council's plan for tackling inequality and promoting cohesion. It presented the vision of his Mayoralty and represented a clear commitment improve the quality of life for the people of Tower Hamlets.
- Accordingly **agreed** the recommended decisions as set out in the report.

Decision

1. That the Strategic Plan, attached at appendices 1 and 2 to the report (CAB 115/112), be approved; and
2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any appropriate and necessary amendments prior to publication.

Reasons for Decisions

These are detailed in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.2 of the report (CAB 115/112).

Alternative Options Considered

These are detailed in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.2 of the report (CAB 115/112).

10.2 Contracts Forward Plan (CAB 116/112)

The **Mayor** stated that he did not consider any of the contracts, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, required further specific reports prior to award of contract by Officers. Accordingly he **agreed** the recommended decisions as set out in the report with an amendment in relation to recommendation 2.1 as set out at Decision 1 below.

Decision

1. That the contract summary at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 116/112) be noted, with no contracts identified as requiring specific reports for the consideration of the Mayor/ Cabinet Member for Resources prior to contract award by the appropriate Chief Officer for the service area; and
2. That the relevant Corporate Director who holds the budget for the service area be authorised to award the contract or contracts and, following consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services), to arrange for the execution of all necessary contract documents.

Reasons for Decisions

These are detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report (CAB 116/112).

Alternative Options Considered

These are detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report (CAB 116/112).

11. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

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

12. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

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

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The **Mayor agreed** the following:

Decision

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” (of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 4th April 2012) contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). In particular information relating to the financial affairs or business of particular persons namely the bidders and the Council.
- (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 4th April 2012) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). In particular information relating to the financial affairs or business of particular persons namely the bidders and the Council.

that the public interest in maintaining the exemption on the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

SUMMARY OF EXEMPT PROCEEDINGS

14. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Minutes circulated for information.

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

Nil items.

16. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Nil items.

17. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

Nil items.

18. A SAFE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY

Nil items.

19. A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE 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 6.14 p.m.

Chair, Mayor Lutfur Rahman
Cabinet