



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 19 September 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

Council Chamber, 1st Floor,
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

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**TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.30 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Stephen Halsey
Acting Head of Paid Service

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2012

7.30 p.m.

PAGE NUMBER

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

1 - 4

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

3. MINUTES

5 - 50

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 11th July 2012; and the ordinary meeting of the Council also held on 11th July 2012.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS

51 - 54

The Council Procedure Rules provide for petitions to be presented at each ordinary meeting of the Council. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this Council meeting is noon on Thursday 13th September 2012. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions for the meeting had already been received.

The petitions for presentation to this meeting, including one petition that was submitted for the 11th July Council meeting but was not presented at that meeting due to time factors, are set out in the attached report.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC **55 - 56**

The questions which have been received from members of the public for this Council meeting are set out in the attached report.

A maximum period of 20 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.

A maximum of five minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the respective political group leaders to respond for up to one minute each if they wish.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL **57 - 62**

The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report.

A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

9.1 Local Development Framework: Fish Island Area Action Plan Adoption **63 - 80**

To adopt the Fish Island Area Action Plan (AAP) as a Development Plan Document (DPD).

Following full Council approval in May 2012, the Fish Island AAP submission version was submitted to the Secretary of State to undertake an Examination in Public (EiP). The Secretary of State appointed an Independent Inspector to undertake the EiP from 18th to 25th July 2012.

Following the EiP it is anticipated that the Inspector will conclude that the AAP provides an appropriate basis for the planning of Fish Island until 2025; and that subject to a number of minor modifications to meet legal and statutory requirements (including modifications that the Council consulted on following the EiP) the AAP is 'sound'.

The report of the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, including the schedule of proposed minor amendments, is attached and the Inspector's Decision Statement, which is expected to be received imminently, will be circulated to members ahead of the Council meeting.

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

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11 .1 Appointment of Chief Executive - update

To follow. The Appointments Sub-Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday 17th September 2012.

11 .2 Information report on Executive decision(s) precluded from 'call-in' on grounds of urgency **81 - 82**

To note a report (attached) on any Executive decisions precluded from 'call-in' on grounds of urgency since the last Council meeting, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules at Part 4.5 of the Council's constitution.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL **83 - 102**

The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting, including eight motions deferred from the 11th July Council meeting due to time factors, are set out in the attached report.

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In view of the content of the remaining items on the agenda, the Council is recommended to adopt the following motion: "That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted contains information defined as Exempt in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972."

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL SECTION (PINK)

The Exempt/Confidential (pink) papers for consideration at the meeting will contain information which is commercially, legally or personally sensitive and should not be divulged to third parties. If you do not wish to retain these papers after the meeting please hand them to the Committee Officer present.

14. EXEMPT MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the exempt (restricted) minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 11th July 2012.

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Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services), 020 7364 4801; or
John Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services, 020 7364 4204

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (EXTRAORDINARY MEETING)

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 11 JULY 2012

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

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Mohammed Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Mizan Chaudhury	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Zara Davis	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Gulam Robbani
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Judith Gardiner	Councillor Gloria Thienel
Councillor Carlo Gibbs	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ann Jackson	Councillor Amy Whitelock
Councillor Denise Jones	

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Rajib Ahmed, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Lesley Pavitt.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**RESOLVED**

That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted contains information defined as Exempt in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) introduced her report and advised the meeting on the matters that they were required to consider.

Following debate, the Council resolved to note the advice contained in the report and accordingly to consider afresh the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) previously submitted to the Council meeting on 16th May 2012.

The recommendations contained in the report of 16th May 2012 were then put to the vote and were **defeated**.

[Note from clerk: The effect of the above decision is that no appointment was made to the post of Chief Executive.]

5. APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE) - FURTHER REPORT

The Council considered a further report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) in relation to the above matter.

Councillor Peter Golds **MOVED**, and Councillor David Snowdon **SECONDED**, a tabled amendment to the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, a further tabled amendment to the recommendations in the report.

Councillors Golds and Snowdon then withdrew their tabled amendment.

Following debate, the amendment moved by Councillors Peck and Uz-Zaman was put to the vote and was agreed. The substantive motion as amended

was also put to the vote and was agreed. Accordingly the Council resolved (inter alia):-

- That the appointment of the Chief Executive will be on a fixed term as an employee and invites the HR Committee to consider and to recommend to full council the appropriate end date of the contract.
- That the HR Committee will appoint a new Appointments Sub Committee to conduct the appointment process in accordance with advice of officers. The Appointments sub committee will be proportionate.
- To continue to have a Chief Executive.
- To appoint Stephen Halsey as Head of Paid Service subject to his agreement to undertake the position until 31 October or until such a time as the Chief Executive starts work, whichever is sooner, to work alongside the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, and ask the CMT to continue to jointly lead the Council.
- To immediately start the process of recruiting a professional interim to the post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service).
- That the Human Resources Committee be instructed to convene an Appointments Sub-Committee to undertake a recruitment process with a view to appointing to the post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) on a fixed term basis.

Procedural motion

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, a procedural motion that Procedure Rule 13.1 be suspended to allow an urgent motion to be considered on the subject of the process for recruiting a chief executive.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Urgent motion: Process for recruiting a Chief Executive

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, an urgent motion on the above matter.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (ORDINARY MEETING)

HELD AT 10.00 P.M.* ON WEDNESDAY, 11 JULY 2012

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

[* Note: This meeting was scheduled to commence at 7.30 p.m. or at the rise of the Extraordinary Council Meeting which started at 7.00 p.m., if later.]

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Fozol Miah
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Councillor Judith Gardiner	Councillor Gloria Thienel
Councillor Carlo Gibbs	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ann Jackson	Councillor Amy Whitelock
Councillor Denise Jones	

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Rajib Ahmed, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Lesley Pavitt.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared interests in items included on the agenda for the meeting as follows:-

Councillor	Item	Type of interest	Reason
Cllr Rajib Ahmed	5.1	Personal	Langdon Park School is in my ward.
Cllr Kabir Ahmed	5.3	Personal	I have signed the SRE petition
Cllr Khales Uddin Ahmed	5.4	Personal	I am a board member of Poplar Harca.
Cllr Abdul Asad	9.1	Personal	Community Safety Plan
Cllr Abdul Asad	5.4	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest – Cllr Asad left the meeting during consideration of this item	I am employed by a Youth Service Provider for LAP 4 (Bishop Challoner School)
Cllr Rania Khan	8.4	Personal	Supporter of the Women's Library
Cllr Rachael Saunders	5.4	Personal	I am on the board of the Bromley-by-Bow Centre which has contractual links with Poplar Harca, a Youth Service provider.
Cllr Helal Uddin	5.4	Personal	My employer is connected with one of the Youth Service Providers, Poplar Harca. I am also a board member of Poplar Harca.
Cllr Helal Uddin	9.2	Personal	I am a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3. MINUTES

Councillor Stephanie Eaton referred to the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 18th June 2012. Councillor Eaton stated that she had submitted her apologies for absence prior to the meeting and the draft minutes should be amended to record this.

RESOLVED

1. That, subject to the above amendment, the unrestricted minutes of the following meetings of the Council be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly:

- Ordinary Meeting, 25th January 2012
- Budget Meeting, 22nd February 2012
- Annual Meeting, 16th May 2012
- Ordinary Meeting, 16th May 2012
- Extraordinary Meeting, 18th June 2012

2. That the Part 2 (restricted) minutes of the 16th May Ordinary Meeting and the 18th June Extraordinary Meeting be also confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly (agenda item 14 below refers).

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

No announcements were made at the meeting.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS

5.1 Petition from Nahida Rashid, Mrs H Ali, Tajul Islam and Shamsul Hoque and signed by 89 persons regarding 'Attack on Bengali as a mother tongue teaching-learning at Langdon Park Secondary School':

This petition was not heard as the petitioners were not present owing to the late start of the meeting.

The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the meeting that officers would contact the petitioners and offer them the opportunity to present the petition at the next meeting if they wished.

5.2 Petition from Emily Sawyer and signed by 47 persons plus others online regarding the 'Residents Solidarity Campaign':

Petition withdrawn.

5.3 Petition from Mr A S Alom and signed by 39 persons regarding 'Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)':

This petition was not heard as the petitioners were not present owing to the late start of the meeting.

The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the meeting that officers would contact the petitioners and offer them the opportunity to present the petition at the next meeting if they wished.

5.4 Petition Debate: Youth Service Changes

The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the Council that a petition containing 2,403 signatures regarding Youth Service Delivery Proposals had been brought to the Council for debate under the provisions of the Petition Scheme. The text of the petition was set out in the report circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

Mr Helal Ahmed addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and the Council then debated the matters raised by the petition.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Rachael Saunders **MOVED**, and Councillor Helal Uddin **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedure Rule 14.1.14, Rule 13.1 be suspended to allow an urgent motion regarding the youth service to be debated.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Councillor Rachael Saunders then **MOVED**, and Councillor Helal Uddin **SECONDED**, the urgent motion [text of motion as set out in the resolution below].

Following debate, the urgent motion as tabled was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

That the executive Mayor has decided to bring youth services in house.

That the reasons given for this decision included assertions that money would be saved if the council staff rather than the third sector organisations and schools managed the provider contracts.

That no evidence has been given for this, and no numbers given.

That the decision is not in line with the principles set out in the current Tower Hamlets Children and Young People’s Plan.

That the current providers add significant value to the contracts they hold through supporting services within their own HR and IT and through running additional youth services with their own resources.

That youth services across Tower Hamlets have improved significantly since they were first contracted out, through effective partnership working.

That a significant number of local people have signed a petition to oppose bringing the youth service in house.

This Council believes:

That in tough times it is right to work with partners to seek savings and efficiencies, and wrong to undermine relationships and act unilaterally.

That localism means local power to make decisions, not local talking shops.

That the best youth services support educational attainment and equip our young people to lead their communities. Youth services are there to support excellence not just tackle ASB.

That resources should reflect need, with the greatest resources for areas with the greatest youth population.

That effective hyper local partnerships have been developed between youth services, schools, health services, employers and others through locally based management of services.

That currently our young people are able to shape and lead their own services. This must be strengthened, not weakened, in any future model.

That the targets that the contractors currently report against should continue to be publicly reported against if the service is taken in house.

That the youth service should continue to run at least as great a range of services as it does now.

That it is vital that our youth service includes people from across the whole of Tower Hamlets, young women and men, from all ethnic backgrounds.

This Council resolves:

To oppose bringing the youth service in house.

To call on the Mayor to seek efficiencies working with local community organisations, in a transparent way, not behind closed doors in Mulberry Place.

To call on the Mayor to listen to local people, young people and their families and communities, before making any changes to their youth services.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- 6.1 **Question from Mr Steve Walker regarding the incidence of tuberculosis in the Borough and the introduction of a by-law to ban spitting in public.**

The questioner was not in attendance. The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the meeting that a written response would be provided to the questioner.

- 6.2 **Question from Mr Stuart Madewell regarding the representation of residents and councillors on Housing Association Boards.**

The questioner was not in attendance owing to the late start of the meeting. The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the meeting that a written response would be provided to the questioner.

- 6.3 **Question from Ms Christine Whaite, Spitalfields Open Space; Chair, The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields regarding lack of open space in the Borough and the potential loss of open space at Christ Church.**

Does the Mayor agree that there is a lack of public open space in the borough, and please will he tell us what positive action he is taking to increase it for residents?

Specifically, is the Mayor aware that besides 350 letters to the planning department last year, the current petition requesting that the churchyard at Spitalfields be returned to public green open space has 600 signatures local, national and international, including those with expert knowledge? Is the Mayor willing to work alongside local people to find alternatives to meet educational needs **and** at the same time protect public open space and the historic environment; and what IMMEDIATE action is the Mayor taking to stop the terrible and unnecessary loss of this 2,500 sqm public open space, the setting of Hawksmoor's finest work, Christ Church Spitalfields, in the most densely populated area of his borough?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you for this question. The Mayor shares your concerns, but everyone must remember what is being built is a nursery and a community building, both of which are much needed in the borough.

A key task for the Council is to establish local standards for open space provision. We want to do this through planning policies which ensure that large scale developments maintain and enhance public open spaces.

As for the grant of planning permission for development at Spitalfields, these developments were supported by residents in the borough. 176 residents wrote letters in support as opposed to only 48 residents wrote letters to object. There will not be a loss of 2,500sqm. The new nursery and community building measures only 75sqm bigger than the existing building.

Christchurch gardens itself remains exactly the same size - 960sqm. Most immediately there is a separate agreement between Christ Church and the Council's parks department to open up the community gardens, up to the line of the new school building, which would increase the public open space by an additional 970sqm. There is £50,000 of s106 funding from the Bishops Square development to undertake these works and there is the intention to open up the gardens and re-landscape them.

Summary of supplementary question from Ms Christine Whaite

The minimum garden should be 3,000 sq mtrs and the statistics are quite misleading. This will be the subject of a public meeting in Spitalfields. Everyone agrees that the school is a good thing but they do not have to build on this land south of the church. There are alternatives that give everyone what they need.

It has become clear that English Heritage and the Council's Planning Department have addressed the wrong brief and were unaware of the lack of underlying legal permissions. This is not a commercial development, it is for the public good. What Tower Hamlets needs is a solution that respects everyone's needs for public open space and respects our cultural and national environmental heritage. Christ Church is an architectural jewel, an iconic building and needs to be seen in its proper setting.

Will the Council invite the Diocese to come to the table to find a better solution for Spitalfields as a whole?

Summary of Councillor Shahed Ali's response to the supplementary question

Yes I agree with your sentiments entirely. In terms of the planning process, you will be aware that this is the responsibility of a separate, quasi-judicial committee which assessed the merits of this application and made a decision based on that.

As an administration we welcome further discussions with anyone who has concerns that they feel have not been addressed and I invite you to raise these with me.

6.4 Question from Mr S Mohammed regarding allegations of threats against a female councillor.

The questioner was not in attendance owing to the late start of the meeting. The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the meeting that a written response would be provided to the questioner.

6.5 Question from Mr Amirul Islam regarding steps to be taken to tackle fuel poverty.

The questioner was not in attendance owing to the late start of the meeting. The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the meeting that a written response would be provided to the questioner.

6.6 Question from Mr Iqbal Hussain regarding the coalition's moves to reform the welfare state.

The questioner was not in attendance owing to the late start of the meeting. The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the meeting that a written response would be provided to the questioner.

6.7 Question from Ms Kathy McTasney regarding the promotion of "a workforce to reflect the community".

The questioner was not in attendance owing to the late start of the meeting. The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the meeting that a written response would be provided to the questioner.

[NOTE: The questions that were not put at the meeting, together with written responses subsequently provided, are attached as Appendix A to these minutes.]

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council meeting. He commented that the last few weeks had revealed shocking information about the banking system and called for a full judicial inquiry.

The Mayor stated that deeply-felt concerns had been raised concerning the teaching of sex education in primary schools and a 9,000-signature petition had been delivered to his office that day. Discussions inclusive of parents were needed to decide what should be taught and how the subject should be addressed. He added that he was committed to working with parents to address the issue.

The Olympics would commence in a few weeks and this would showcase the East End to the world. Undoubtedly there would be some traffic congestion but the Mayor had brought pressure to bear on Transport for London to minimise this; and had developed contingency measures for services.

The Leader of the Majority Group and Leaders of the Minority Groups each responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Procedural Motion

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED** a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.9 the Council proceed to next business.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The questions (8.1 – 8.27) that had been submitted by Members were therefore not put at the meeting. The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the meeting that written responses would be provided to the questioners and published as an appendix to the minutes. (See Appendix B)

9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

9.1 Community Safety Plan 2012/13

The Council considered the report of the Mayor in Cabinet dated 4th July 2012 as circulated with the supplemental agenda pack for the meeting. The report set out the Executive's proposals for the Council's Community Safety Plan 2012/13.

The Service Head, Democratic Services advised the meeting that the Council on 18th June 2012 had agreed a number of amendments that it wished to make to the Mayor's draft plan and in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules had referred these back to the Mayor and Executive for consideration. At the Cabinet meeting on 4th July 2012 the Mayor and Executive decided to resubmit the draft plan to the Council unamended for the reasons set out in the circulated report.

Following debate, Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED** and Councillor Uz-Zaman **SECONDED** – “That the Community Safety Plan 2012/13 be amended in line with the amendments previously agreed by the Council.”

On being put to the vote there were declared 33 votes for and 17 votes against. The amendment therefore did not achieve the support of two-thirds of the Members present and voting and in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules was **defeated**, and the draft Community Safety Plan adopted as set out in the Mayor's proposals.

RESOLVED

That the Community Safety Plan 2012/13 be adopted as attached at Appendix A to the report of the Cabinet meeting on 4th July 2012 (CAB 015/123).

9.2 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Council considered the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12.

Councillor Ann Jackson, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, presented the annual report.

RESOLVED

That the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12 be noted.

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

There was no business under this heading.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, proposing a review of the allocation of members' places on Committees and other bodies governed by the proportionality requirements of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989. The review was required owing to changes in the political composition of the Council that occurred on 25th June 2012.

Procedural motion

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Craig Aston **SECONDED**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.” The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The report recommendation was put to the vote and was **agreed** and, accordingly, the Council:-

RESOLVED

- (1) That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 in the circulated report be noted and the allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2012/13 be agreed as set out at paragraph 4.2.
- (2) That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on those committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services).

- (3) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) be authorised to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

12.1 Electoral concerns in Tower Hamlets

Councillor Peter Golds **MOVED**, and Councillor Timothy Archer **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

The motion as printed in the agenda was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was :-

RESOLVED

This Council notes that:

Following concerns raised by residents, the media, local Members of Parliament and the political parties, the police announced that they would be investigating voting concerns in the borough following the Spitalfields and Banglatown by election on April 19th.

That the election in Spitalfields and Banglatown was decided by 43 votes and that local residents complained of postal votes being collected from their homes by supporters of a particular candidate.

That in one case a householder repeatedly stated that there were just three residents in their property, whilst eight names were registered and all had postal votes.

That in the by election some 14% of postal votes returned to the town hall were rejected because of issues relating to dates of birth and signatures, yet in the May GLA election this figure of rejections fell to 7.66% of postal votes rejected on return.

That the following data concerning the April by election and the May GLA elections from five small areas gives rise to concern:

Brune House, E1

Flats: **92**

Electors: **231**

Registered postal voters: **69**

Postal votes cast April 19th 2012: **55**

Postal Votes Cast May 3rd 2012: **25**

Votes cast in person at polling station on April 19th: **60**

Votes cast in person at polling station on May 3rd 2012: **54**

Herbert House House, E1

Flats: **43**

Electors: **108**

Registered postal voters: **38**

Postal votes cast April 19th 2012: **29**

Postal Votes Cast May 3rd 2012: **19**

Votes cast in person at polling station on April 19th: **27**

Votes cast in person at polling station on May 3rd 2012: **21**

Chicksand House, E1

Flats: **70**

Electors: **194**

Registered postal voters: **46**

Postal votes cast April 19th 2012: **39**

Postal Votes Cast May 3rd 2012: **24**

Votes cast in person at polling station on April 19th: **31**

Votes cast in person at polling station on May 3rd 2012: **32**

8-24 Chicksand Street, E1

Residential properties: **25**

Electors: **67**

Registered postal voters: **38**

Postal votes cast April 19th 2012: **16**

Postal Votes Cast May 3rd 2012: **7**

Votes cast in person at polling station on April 19th: **16**

Votes cast in person at polling station on May 3rd 2012: **11**

14 Brick Lane, E1

Flats: **18**

Electors: **44**

Registered postal voters: **16**

Postal votes cast April 19th 2012: **12**

Postal Votes Cast May 3rd 2012: **4**

Votes cast in person at polling station on April 19th: **0**

Votes cast in person at polling station on May 3rd 2012: **4**

Total votes cast by post from these addresses on April 19th : 151

Total votes cast by post from these addresses on May 3rd: 79

That overall the turnout in Spitalfields and Banglatown in the May 3rd GLA elections increased from that two weeks earlier, yet there is this wide discrepancy in voting as exemplified above and in other areas of the ward.

This Council believes:

That this research coupled with other information, indicates the need for a thorough investigation by the police.

This Council resolves:

To call upon the police to investigate all evidence regarding electoral malpractice in the borough and interview residents, councillors, political activists and journalists to ascertain evidence.

To call upon the Police and the CPS to pursue malpractice through the courts to ensure that everybody has confidence in the electoral process in Tower Hamlets and that it is not bought into further disrepute in this borough.

12.2 New Family Migration Rules

Motion withdrawn.

12.3 Serious violent and acquisitive crime

Councillor Abdal Ullah **MOVED**, and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

The motion as printed in the agenda was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- The increase in incidents of serious violent crime and serious acquisitive crime over the past year.
- That there were 19 more incidents of serious violent crimes this year than there were last year; that this is 47 more than the Mayor's target; and that this is a 4.4% increase year on year.
- That there were 353 more incidents of serious acquisitive crime this year than there were last year; that this is 423 more incidents than the Mayor's target; and that this is a 6.6% increase year on year.
- There has been a 4% increase in public concern over vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage in the past year.

- There continues to be serious public concern about the rising levels of crime in Tower Hamlets.

This Council Further Notes:

- Labour's decision to introduce Safer Neighbourhood Teams in every ward led to year on year falls which followed this initiative.
- Labour's introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Teams not only reduced crime in Tower Hamlets but also increased public confidence in the police.
- The decrease in the levels of police community engagement and the loss of many local ward panels.
- The lack of a designated member with responsibility for crime and community safety.

This Council believes:

- The rise in serious violent and serious acquisitive crime over the last year is of significant public importance and should be regarded a priority issue by the executive.
- With serious acquisitive and violent crime increasing the Mayor must do everything he can to protect local communities and reduce rates of criminality.
- That the Conservative-led Government's 20% cuts to policing budgets nationally are putting local communities at risk by cutting the numbers of front line police officers.
- That the Conservative Mayor of London has failed to protect London from these destabilising cuts to the police even in the face of last year's riots and the upcoming Olympic Games.
- The Mayor's administration has been ineffective at protecting community policing from government and GLA police cuts.
- The plans for police counter closures and sharing of Safer Neighbourhood Team sergeants should be reversed to ensure a reassuring police presence in our communities.
- There is a clear need for better community based policing including local engagement through ward panels.
- That not having an executive member dedicated solely to crime and community safety sends the wrong message.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Call on the Mayor to adopt a strong policy of community based policing; advocating the retention of local ward panels.
- Request the Council produce an assessment of the impact of sharing SNT sergeants between wards.
- To request the Mayor makes a biannual statement to Council on steps taken to combat crime and reduce anti-social behaviour.

12.4 History Teaching And The English Baccaureate

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, a procedural motion that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

That consideration of the motion as printed in the agenda be deferred until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

12.5 Defending the Welfare State

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, a procedural motion that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

That consideration of the motion as printed in the agenda be deferred until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

12.6 Urgent summit to avert a severe housing crisis

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **MOVED**, and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **SECONDED**, a procedural motion that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

Councillor John Pierce **MOVED**, and Councillor Sirajul Islam **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

The motion as printed in the agenda was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- London is suffering from a housing crisis. High housing costs are blighting lives in London.
- Social housing is under attack from David Cameron, Nick Clegg and the Tory-led Coalition government.
- The average house price in London is now double that for the country as a whole and prices in London continue to rise, despite falls elsewhere. Moreover, since 2008 private sector rents have risen 30%.
- Far too many workers cannot afford to buy or rent a decent home on the open market, and the social rented sector is struggling to cope with the severe demands placed on it.
- Overcrowding, homelessness and social housing waiting lists are all increasing – sure signs of the strain on people's finances and lives.
- The average house price in London in 2010 was £408,384, 15.1 times the median London income of £27,128, and easily the highest ratio of prices to incomes in the country.
- In 2010, there were 22,707 household on the council's housing waiting list.
- The gross income needed for a mortgage, based on 75% at 3.5 times, was £74,111.

This Council further notes:

- The Mayor of Tower Hamlets recently blogged that "We are committed to building over a thousand new homes each year – which is far more than any other local authority".
- Based on HCA figures, from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012, a derisory 200 affordable homes were started, with only 31 social rented, 124 affordable rent, 14 intermediate and 31 affordable home ownership.

This Council resolves:

- The Mayor has broken his pledge to build 1,000 homes a year. In the first full year of the mayoralty, he has only achieved 1/5 of what he had promised during April 2011 to March 2012.
- This failure to build affordable housing will exacerbate the severe housing crisis in the borough.
- That the Mayor should urgently call a summit of social landlords and housing developers working in our borough to devise a strategy to avert this severe housing crisis caused by his administration's lack of leadership on house building.
- To call upon the Mayor to be honest with the electorate about house building and his ability to deliver new homes for the borough.

12.7 Social Landlords

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, a procedural motion that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

That consideration of the motion as printed in the agenda be deferred until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

12.8 Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations

Councillor Alibor Choudhury **MOVED**, and Councillor Rabina Khan **SECONDED**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

The motion as printed in the agenda was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That Tower Hamlets Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs) has produced a Residents Charter
- That the Residents Charter sets out some basic standards which residents believe that social landlords in the borough should adopt

This Council welcomes:

- The fact that TRAs are working together to give residents a voice in the important task of securing improvements in service standards of social landlords.

This Council believes:

- That all social landlords should sign up to the Residents Charter

This Council resolves:

- To endorse the Residents Charter which the Federation has produced
- To request the Mayor to ask social landlords in the borough to commit to meeting the standards set out in the Charter.

12.9 High Earners and Council Housing

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman **SECONDED**, a procedural motion that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

That consideration of the motion as printed in the agenda be deferred until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

12.10 Threats of violence

Motion withdrawn.

12.11 Housing Benefit Reform

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Oliur Rahman **SECONDED**, a procedural motion that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

That consideration of the motion as printed in the agenda be deferred until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

Procedural Motion

At this point, Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED**, and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **SECONDED**, a procedural motion that consideration of all further motions on the agenda be deferred to the next meeting.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

That consideration of all further motions as printed in the agenda be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Council, namely:

- **12.12 Recorded Votes**
- **12.13 Dignity Code for nurses and care workers for the elderly**
- **12.14 Recession**

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

[Note: The resolution to exclude the press and public did not need to be adopted as the Part 2 (restricted) minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 16th May 2012 and 18th June 2012 had been agreed at item 3 above, and there was no further restricted business.]

14. EXEMPT MINUTES

[Note: The Council resolved during the unrestricted part of the meeting (see item 3 above), as follows:- “That the exempt minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on 16th May 2012 and the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 18th June 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.”]

The meeting ended at 11.10 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

APPENDIX A**WRITTEN RESPONSES PROVIDED AFTER THE MEETING TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS****6.1 Question from Mr Steve Walker:**

Given the high incidence of Tuberculosis in this borough, could the council take the necessary steps to introduce a by-law that would ban spitting in public?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you for your question.

The Council recognises the potential health risks associated with the act of spitting in the street. At this time the council is not considering the introduction of a by-law as an enforcement tool to deal with this specific issue.

We monitor what our community report and complain about and if this became a serious ASB issue in the Borough then we would review the position. In the meantime Council officers continue to liaise with Health Authority practitioners to promote awareness of risks to health.

6.2 Question from Mr Stuart Madewell:

Following the recent Weavers by-election when the Mayor supported the Respect candidate Abjol Miah can the Mayor please clarify what his views are in relation to Resident Social Landlords.

Does he agree that residents and councillors should be residents should be represented on the boards of Housing Associations or does he agree with Respect that Housing Associations are a form of privatisation that we should have nothing to do with?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Thank you for your question

The Mayor and his Cabinet have always supported the provision of council housing, provided and managed by the Council. However successive governments, through stock transfer, funding arrangements and deregulation, have changed the provision of social housing and introduced housing providers and other registered providers.

One of the most important achievements of the Mayor has been to deliver 2023 affordable homes in the borough. We know that due to the changing

funding arrangements we can only deliver housing in partnership with Registered Providers.

The Mayor will continue to work in partnership with the Registered Providers in order to achieve the best housing outcomes possible for residents in the Borough.

The Mayor and I also strongly believe that local accountability is important, which is why we work so closely with the Tenants and Residents Federation and other TRAs. Residents and Councillors should be able to scrutinise and challenge the performance of Registered Providers who operate in the Borough. Therefore we both support residents and Councillors who wish to take positions on Registered Providers boards, as this provides a good forum through which the needs of residents can be communicated to the Landlords.

6.4 Question from Mr S Mohammed:

Last month I read a shocking article on the front page of the Evening Standard alleging threats of violence against a female councillor. Why has the council failed to suspend this councillor who has clearly brought this authority into disrepute?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your question. It is wholly unacceptable for any Councillor to threaten another Councillor. Councillors must treat each other with respect and follow the Code of Conduct which was adopted at the last Council.

So far as we are aware the Labour party has not taken any steps to sanction Councillor Kosru Uddin from within their group nor has any apology been forthcoming. Given that they have criticised other councillors regarding poor behaviour on many occasions, when councillors have been accused of far less shocking actions, and called for their suspension, why have they not taken any disciplinary action in group?

It seems like a clear case of double standards to me. Perhaps they're just worried about losing their 2/3 majority.

It is this kind of behaviour that brings our council into disrepute.

6.5 Question from Mr Amirul Islam:

We the residents are struggling with rising prices for gas and electricity. Living in a cold home is a huge health risk, particularly to the very young, the very old and other vulnerable groups. What is Mayor Rahman doing to tackle fuel poverty?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question. For many years, fuel prices have continued to increase whilst the income for most residents in this borough has remained static or has fallen. And with just under one third of our residents indicating that they are concerned about paying their fuel bills it is time we take action.

On the 6th June 2012 The Mayor launched the Tower Hamlets Energy co-operative '*T.H.E Community Power*' which looks to provide cheaper energy to council tenants and all residents living the borough. By harnessing the collective buying power of many the co-operative will be able to deliver cut price energy to the community.

Schemes like this have seen impressive reductions in Energy Bills. Which's Big Switch saved customers on average £123 on their bills. Schemes in Europe have seen customers saving 20% on their bills. At a time when my residents are feeling rising living costs, a freeze in wages and reductions in benefits, this scheme couldn't be any more timely or important for residents.

In addition to providing cheaper energy '*T.H.E Community Power*' will provide energy efficiency advice through qualified advisors, Ending Fuel Poverty Advice through income maximisation and benefit entitlement checks, Access to Affordable Warmth Grants and Renewable Energy Advice.

In this United Nations Year of the Co-operative, Tower Hamlets is leading the way in bringing residents together with an innovative solution to end fuel poverty.

Roadshows are now taking place throughout the summer where residents can find out more about the Tower Hamlets Energy Co-operative and also sign up becomes members.

I would urge all residents to visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/energy to sign up! In addition, as part of the Decent Homes Programme I am also targeting insulation measures alongside new boilers and replacement windows wherever these are needed, all of which will help reduce the dangers of living in cold damp houses.

6.6 Question from Mr Iqbal Hussain:

What does the Mayor think about the coalition's recent moves to reform the welfare state?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question. I am very concerned about the government cuts to the welfare state. The scale of these cuts are driving more and more people into poverty and despair. I was horrified to read the media reports

about the man in Birmingham who set himself alight at his job centre in protest at their plans to remove more of his benefits. With the government planning another £10 billion of welfare cuts, on top of the £18 billion it has already in motion, the impact of the poor will simply be devastating.

But these welfare cuts are not just effecting those not in work. According to a recent report in the Guardian newspaper almost 7 million working-age adults are just one bill away from being in extreme financial stress. These are not the unemployed. These are the working poor. These are people who need benefits and tax credits to top up their low wages.

The government new reforms will reduce a range of benefits including housing benefit available to for tenants who rent from Private landlords and the amount of childcare support included within Working Tax Credit. I fear that these reforms will drive more and more people deeper into poverty.

6.7 Question from Ms Kathy McTasney:

Since 1998 Tower Hamlets has had a policy to promote a "workforce to reflect the community" What has the Council done to promote this?

In view of the Councils support for this policy, why when opportunity arose to appoint the first black CE did the Council make such a fuss?

Many of the workforce have been waiting for years for equality to be shown in this council however are we still living in the 1960's.

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question. The Council has had a variety of initiatives and development programmes to promote its workforce to reflect the community.

We set ourselves a target of ensuring 49% of the workforce are from BME backgrounds. We have met and surpassed that target. 51.6% of staff are from BME communities.

But we continue to fall far short of our target of 30% for senior staff who are at head of service level and above. We have only achieved 11%. This is shameful.

The Mayor welcomed the opportunity to appoint a CEO that was the best person for the job would best serve the community AND also would be BME. Appointing the first black muslim CEO would have shown that if you work hard excel at what you do there is no door shut no glass ceiling on account of your colour, race, or religion. That could have been a very powerful message to all our residents no matter what their race or religion. It would have encouraged future generations of what they can achieve with hard work and dedication to public service.

The Mayor does not know why there was so much fuss over the appointment of the first BME CEO for Tower Hamlets. That question must be asked of all those individual Councillors who preferred to have no CEO rather than the best person for the job.

APPENDIX B**WRITTEN RESPONSES PROVIDED AFTER THE MEETING TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS****8.1 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman**

Does the Mayor agree with me that the Baishaki Mela should be a celebration of all that is good about Tower Hamlets and that representatives of the Mela should at all times be respectful and courteous to all involved including representatives of the media?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

Yes.

8.2 Question from Councillor Tim Archer

Will the Mayor inform the council as to who the current occupiers of the old Poplar Town Hall, 117 Poplar High Street, are?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question. 117 Poplar High Street is currently unoccupied.

8.3 Question from Councillor John Pierce

What plans does the Mayor have to support active and representative resident groups to take over the running of unused buildings in Tower Hamlets such as the Dorset Library in Weavers Ward?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question. Our Assets Team work with the Third Sector Team to market surplus assets identified for community use to community user groups.

The Dorset Library premises were advertised on the Council's website and in East End Life and the East London Advertiser between 9 April to 4 May. Only third sector organisations could apply to become tenants of the premises.

Three applications were received by the deadline and were assessed in accordance with the Allocation process. The Council is currently negotiating a five year lease with Dorset Community Association, which submitted the strongest bid.

These are tough times for local government. We have a Tory government intent on punishing public services by way of deep and crippling cuts. Disposal of surplus assets is a vital part of mitigating the impact of these vicious cuts on our front-line services, and I am proud that where possible these disposals can be to community organisations rather than corporate developments.

8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah

Is the Mayor aware of the threat posed to the future of the Women's library in Aldgate and would he agree with me that this is an invaluable resource and asset to the people of Tower Hamlets and beyond who believe in the equality of women and their struggle for their basic human rights and would he agree to contact the library management and seek to work with them to do everything possible to secure its future?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

Thank you for your question. Yes, myself and the Mayor are aware of and extremely concerned by the threat posed to the future of the Women's Library. I have always been proud that this borough hosts the Women's library and its wonderful collection of artefacts, testimonials and literature. As a feminist, I have been inspired by Britain's feminist history and it is wonderful that we can visit such a thorough archive of everything from the suffragette Emily Davis' return train ticket, to women's magazines, to a first edition of Mary Wollstonecraft's A Vindication of the Rights of Women.

As a teacher, I understand the importance of this collection in helping education future generations of the struggles women have faced, and won, and to gain inspiration for struggles still to be won.

I would very much like to ensure that the collection, if possible could be kept in the borough, possibly through one of our other excellent universities. I will work with the Mayor to discuss how the Council can support the campaign to keep the collection in the borough and if not possible, to keep the collection together and open for all to enjoy and study in.

8.5 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan

Recent statistics have shown that there are now almost 15 people chasing every job in Tower Hamlets. These figures are significantly worse than most other East London boroughs.

When will the Mayor produce a coherent plan to tackle joblessness?

Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills

In the last year the council has adopted the Employment and Enterprise strategies. These are comprehensive documents which have looked at how we can influence the local labour market and better prepare local people who are looking for work. The strategy objectives demonstrate the key areas of work we will take forward to offer local residents the best chance of achieving success in what is the most competitive labour market for decades.

With the country's economy still affected by recession and a lack of growth, Tower Hamlets is not alone in seeing higher unemployment. Inner city areas are being hit the hardest. Hackney, Waltham Forest and Haringey all suffer even worse rates than we have.

We have a plan to help local people and it is disappointing that there is little response from Government in promoting economic growth especially in places like Tower Hamlets.

8.6 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor inform the council in light of the third censure for political imbalance by Ofcom as to his and his staffs' relationship with Channel S?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Our staff have the usual relationship that local authority communications' departments and local councillors have with local media.

8.7 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

What is the Mayor doing to support the regeneration of Town centres in the borough?

Response by Councillor Rofique Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Thank you for your question. The regeneration of town centres is one the Mayor's priorities and is incorporated into the Council's Core Strategy, Town Centre Spatial Strategy and Community Plan.

This has set our strategic objectives for our town centres to be active, well-used and safe during day and night; for them to promote mixed-use and multi-purpose town centres with a mix of unit sizes and types (including smaller unit sizes); and for them to assist creation of vibrant centres that meet the needs of communities and facilitate and promote the cultural and leisure sector in our town centres.

The Council plans and delivers projects in accordance with its policies, working with residents, businesses and partner organisations to improve our borough's diverse and vibrant town centres.

Some significant town centre related initiatives include:

- Development management to protect and enhance town centres
- Shopfront and historic façade improvements
- Public realm improvements
- Support and advice to small businesses

8.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Would the Mayor agree with me that there are many in Tower Hamlets and beyond who believe there has been little benefit from the Olympics in terms of sustainable employment or long-term regeneration, that there will be huge inconvenience and loss of security, that the Olympics is now completely dominated by multinational corporate interests and that such people should have the right to make their voices heard during the Olympics and would he also therefore agree to instruct officers to give permission for a peaceful demonstration to take place on the first Saturday of the Olympics, providing the police are also happy to allow it, processing from Mile End to end in Victoria Park?

Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills

Thank you for your question. The Olympics have already delivered substantive investment in the transport infrastructure of East London and specifically in Tower Hamlets, that will benefit the Local Economy in the years to come.

The Olympic Park Legacy Company is responsible with most of the physical regeneration. I call upon them to do us justice, and will hold them to account if it appears that they are less than assiduous in their work.

Council officers are currently liaising with the Police and protest organisers concerning the proposed march.

8.9 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

Can the Mayor confirm the total cost of the 400 Olympic tickets purchased by the Council and clarify where this funding came from?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

Thank you for your question. As I have recently reported to Full Council, the total value of Olympic and Paralympic event tickets ordered is £35,125 (+VAT).

All of these tickets are being offered to residents as part of my commitment to ensure that as many local Tower Hamlets residents as possible get an opportunity to see Olympics events. The short term purchase of these tickets was secured through corporate budgets but will be recovered from resources related to the proceeds of crime seizures.

8.10 Question from Councillor David Snowdon

Will the Mayor explain why despite ongoing public concern he continues to use the Borough's parks as a financial resource?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you for your question. Parks are a resource that can and should be used for a variety of social functions and these include events. The income received from commercial events is re-invested into the parks each year to benefit local people. The income also enables us to put on free community events, whilst local businesses get a boost during festivals due to increased customers.

The parks are first and foremost for the local residents and all appropriate safeguards are put in place to reduce the impact on residents who live closest to the limited number of event sites.

Without the income generated:-

- services would need to be cut;
- the HLF business plan for Victoria Park would be undermined;
- free community events would have to be cancelled; and
- the local economy would suffer.

8.11 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

In his position as the Chair of the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board what is the Mayor doing to tackle increased cancer waiting times for the people of Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

Thank you for your question. As Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Mayor has a strategic overview of health and wellbeing in the borough. We currently monitor targets as set out in the Community Plan, one of which relates to cancer waiting times for treatment.

The Mayor and I were shocked and disappointed to see that Barts Health is under target both for breast cancer treatment and the 62 day referral. Early diagnosis and treatment of cancer is vital for fast and full recovery and I made it extremely clear that the missing of these targets was not acceptable.

Local Health Services have reassured myself and the Mayor that they are doing all they can to improve this figure. I particularly note that the Chair of the new Clinical Commissioning Group is meeting with Barts Health monthly to discuss the action plan and trajectories. They have also appointed a new Cancer General Manager to make improvements to the service.

The Mayor and I will continue to monitor this target and ensure that it is improving.

8.12 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed

Members from the Labour group have developed a reputation for bringing the Council into disrepute. Following his suspension, the last Leader of the Council refused to apologise for his conduct towards a Council staff; and most recently another allegedly threatens a fellow female member in the Council Chamber. Does the Mayor agree with me that the Leader of the Labour group has failed to take any action against his Members and has therefore lost control of his group?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for this question on this sensitive topic. No one in this chamber should feel fear in asking questions on sensitive topics this question is welcomed.

There have been a number of incidents of bad conduct on the part of councillors in the Labour Group and it is not clear as to what action the Leader of the Group has taken. It is not clear therefore whether the Leader of the Labour Group condemns or condones such conduct.

It should be clear to all the residents we represent that none of us particularly those of us who hold leadership roles condone bad conduct on the part of any councillor.

I ask the Leader of the Labour Group to take action and make his position clear to us but particularly our residents.

8.13 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

What plans he has to extend the mandatory licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation to smaller HMOs or introduce select licensing for all private rented sector properties?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Thank you for this question Councillor Francis. We're aware of Newham's recent experiment in requiring licensing of all private rented properties.

As you know, our own policy for mandatory licensing currently focuses on the highest risk i.e. larger properties. However, we're reviewing our Housing Strategy and will be producing a Private Sector Strategy which will draw on the evidence from our recent Private Sector Stock Condition Survey. This will enable there to be a more detailed and informed opportunity to consider any additional controls needed and all options will be on the table in the aim to raise standards in this sector.

It's our objective to uphold the highest of standards for rented properties. Residents should be able to expect the same high standards from private sector landlords as we uphold in the stock that the Council owns or manages.

8.14 Question from Councillor Zara Davis

During the Olympic period, there are a number of activities taking place in the borough, including the Live Site in Victoria Park and the German National Pavilion at the Museum of London Docklands. These activities will inevitably cause additional disruption to local residents, in particular noise disturbance.

What is the Mayor doing to ensure that its Noise Nuisance team has sufficient capacity to meet the additional demands that residents are likely to be placing on this service during the Games?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you for your question. I understand and share resident concerns about noise disturbance during the Olympic period.

That's why we have identified the Noise Nuisance team as being a critical service for the purposes of Olympic Planning.

Leave is restricted during the Olympics and the service has been required to develop detailed operational arrangements in readiness for the Games. Shift patterns and back office working arrangements have been reviewed and adapted.

We have also invested in 34 additional police officers and have expanded the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officer Programme.

We have further been advised that there will be a net gain in Police Officers to the Borough during Games time and that normal policing levels for borough police duties will be maintained.

All of this will help deal with anti social behaviour during the Olympic Period and our existing joint tasking processes with the Police will be used to ensure that our resources are deployed as flexibly and effectively as possible.

In relation to the Live Site I can assure residents the Live Site has a detailed noise management plan and robust noise monitoring arrangements based on comprehensive technical analysis.

8.15 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun

What impact does the Mayor expect the introduction of charging for bulk rubbish collection to have on levels of street cleanliness?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you for your question. Charges for bulk waste collections were introduced on the 6th of June 2012. Since then there has been no increase in fly tipping or any deterioration of the standard of street cleanliness.

8.16 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton

What progress is being made on having a workforce that reflects the community?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question Councillor Eaton. The Council has had a variety of initiatives and development programmes to promote its workforce to reflect the community. We set ourselves a target of ensuring 49% of the workforce are from BME backgrounds. We have met and surpassed that target. 51.6% of staff are from BME communities.

But we continue to fall far short of our target of 30% for senior staff who are at head of service level and above. We have only achieved 11%. This is shameful.

The Mayor welcomed the opportunity to appoint a CEO that was the best person for the job would best serve the community AND also would be BME. Appointing the first black muslim CEO would have shown that if you work hard excel at what you do there is no door shut no glass ceiling on account of your colour, race, or religion. That could have been a very powerful message to all our residents no matter what their race or religion. It would have encouraged future generations of what they can achieve with hard work and dedication to public service.

The Mayor does not know why there was so much fuss over the appointment of the first BME CEO for Tower Hamlets. That question must be asked of all those individual Councillors who preferred to have no CEO rather than the best person for the job.

8.17 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Does the Mayor agree with me that the Government's Welfare Reforms scheduled over the coming year are the single most significant risk faced by the council? If so, can he outline exactly how much the council has set aside across all departments in order to meet the potential cost of these changes?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question. Central Government, over the last two years, has increased the level of risk to the Council significantly!

The welfare reforms are certainly a significant risk, but not the only one. Reduced funding by the Government coupled with increasing population in the midst of a continuing recession is in itself an enormous challenge.

Welfare reform is especially difficult due to the level of uncertainty surrounding it. We know the number of residents who will be affected and the amount of benefit they will lose by these appalling cuts. However we do not know how residents and landlords will react. The government believes that landlords will reduce rents and residents will find jobs. However in an area of huge demand for housing, with demand being pushed up by young professionals who cannot afford to buy housing, it is unlikely rents will fall. And in the middle of a recession finding jobs has never been more difficult.

We also do not know the knock on effect of this on other council services, including vulnerable adult support services, children's services and advice services as residents struggle to cope. The Mayor and I are extremely aware of these risks and we will be monitoring them. Through this year's budget process we will be developing our contingency response to this risk.

However I would like to reassure Councillor Gibbs that the Council has made financial provision for dealing with uncertainty through our reserves. Within that sum there is £2.9m earmarked to the Homelessness service to help fund homelessness prevention measures in the lead-up to welfare reform. We also have over a £5m contingency within the General Fund budget and over £20m in General Reserves which are there to deal with unforeseen costs, among which are the implications of welfare reform.

Local authorities have recently been criticised for holding onto high levels of reserves. The level of uncertainty created by economic conditions and Government policy to transfer funding risk to local government requires Tower Hamlets, as a responsible authority, to be reasonably cautious.

8.18 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel

Will the Mayor account as to how he justifies an Olympics' All Areas road pass when the Meals on Wheels Service can't get to Wapping & other vulnerable people in our borough who will be suffering whilst the Mayor is driven around in his tax payer funded car?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

Thank you for your question. The member is clearly misinformed. The Mayor does not have access to such a pass.

And I'm proud to say that we have personally intervened to guarantee a normal Meals on Wheels service to all of our residents during the Games, including those from Wapping.

This has meant putting in place contingencies such as increasing the number of daily rounds from 6-12 and the number of kitchens used from 1-3. It will be business as usual: all service users will continue to get the hot meals they are used to.

8.19 Question from Councillor Mohammed Mukit

What measures is the Mayor taking to reduce anti-social behaviour, public urination and late night nuisance noise in the Brick Lane and Shoreditch area of Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your question. We recognise that the growth of the night-time economy has resulted in additional challenges which need to be resolved. But it is vital that we seek to encourage an environment in which visitors can enjoy the cultural and social interests Brick Lane and Shoreditch have to offer.

We are continuing to work in partnership with the Police and the community to ensure that our local residents' concerns are addressed.

We have accordingly recently invested in additional police officers to support the existing Safer Neighbourhood Teams so there is a visible reassuring presence of bobbies on the beat.

The Mayor has also launched an additional 14 enforcement officers last Wednesday. The hours of patrol of Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) have also recently extended to ensure officers are present late into the night across weekends.

The Council's licensing team are working with the police and the licensing trade to develop proposals to improve the management and enforcement of licensed premises.

The introduction of the Responsible Drinking Borough has provided the police and civil enforcement officers with specific powers to take enforcement action against those who are committing alcohol related ASB in the street.

Finally, to date the THEOs have made 3109 alcohol seizures for DCZ enforcement and reported 454 cases of street urination for prosecution.

8.20 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

At a time when families are feeling the pinch due to the failing economic policies of this government; what is the Mayor doing to recover the £850,000 loan from public funds to bankroll the Rich Mix Centre?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

Thank you for your question. The funding of Rich Mix is a complex matter and the Council was party to an agreement between the Arts Council and the Lottery Fund to develop the site.

The matter of the loan which was forward funding which it was agreed would be repaid by Rich Mix themselves is being pursued with Rich Mix. The Council has been obliged to issue proceedings to protect its position.

In the meantime it is hoped that there will be discussions with Rich Mix to try to resolve the matter out of Court if they are amenable to do this.

8.21 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

How many visits to one stop shops in the last year were for visitors' scratch cards?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question. The parking system (Chipside) does not make a distinction between parking permit visits and scratch card visits – they are not counted separately.

In the last 12 months the number of permit related visits were 37,539.

8.22 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones

What percentage of pupils in Tower Hamlets schools sit science A-Levels?

Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Thank you for your question. Based on the latest pupil level data released for 2011 KS5 exam cohort, out of 664 pupils on roll in our schools (exc. TH College), 127 were sitting at least one science A-Level (i.e. biology, chemistry or physics) therefore the percentage was 19.1%)

The Mayor is funding £800,000 of programmes around one-to-one tuition. We want more and more of our children to be taking science A-levels.

8.23 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock

Given the Mayor's recent support for the Time to Change pledge on mental health run by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness, what steps is the council taking in relation to both awareness raising and service provision to reflect the commitment to this pledge?

Response by Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

Thank you for your question. The Mayor's administration is highly committed to improving the experience of residents with mental health problems.

Tower Hamlets is now one of the few councils nationally which has publically committed to reducing stigma and discrimination against people with mental health problems.

We know that Tower Hamlets has amongst the highest levels of mental health need in the country. That is why the shadow Health and Well-Being Board, under my leadership, has very recently identified mental health as one of its five priorities for improvement. We want to ensure that mental health is thought about as equally important as physical health.

We are also working on identifying ways in which we can promote positive mental health within the Council. This is likely to involve an internal communications campaign, developed to coincide with World Mental Health Day on 10th October.

8.24 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

What measures has the Mayor taken to ensure that our parks are not permanently damaged as a result of events that are taking place?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you for your question.

Local residents are given a hotline to call to report any concerns. During the

festivals in Victoria Park the event organisers deploy teams to patrol the area to ensure there is not a build-up of litter during the events. Events like Lovebox and the forthcoming London Live event are confined to a specific, fenced-off area. They take up 16.5 acres out of the 86 acres of park land available, leaving 80 per cent of the park for general use.

I am not complacent. The state of the park after Lovebox was not good enough. This was compounded by adverse weather conditions last month. I will always hold festival organisers to account, and demand that they treat our park with care. When there is damage or mess, I will as always require promoters to pay to restore the site to its original condition, including damage to the grass areas – and indeed they have to commit to this before we allow them the use of our parks.

Our parks are jewels in the Tower Hamlets crown. Whilst the festivals are enjoyed by thousands of people every year, and showcase our borough at its best to the wider world, the park is first and foremost for the benefit of our local residents, and they will always be my priority.

8.25 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Will the Mayor give the cost incurred in developing the wildflower meadow in Victoria Park and the timescale for it being revealed to the public?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you for your question.

The cost of provision of the wild flower meadows in Victoria Park East covering an area of 7,018 sq metres is £7,776.

The cost of provision of wild flower meadows in Victoria Park West covering and area of 2,200 sq metres is £3,210.

This was part of the bio diversity action plan that was demanded by and signed off by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the refurbishment of the park.

The visual impact of the wildflower areas has been much appreciated by many park visitors during April and May and photographs of the meadows are available.

8.26 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum

We are delighted with a once in lifetime opportunity to host the Olympic Games. Will the Mayor reassure residents that Tower Hamlets will not become gridlocked and grotty during the Games?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

Thank you for your question. Whilst I am very much looking forward to the Games, I'm afraid I can't promise there won't be gridlock – and this isn't something that any local council can ultimately prevent.

TfL and LOCOG are responsible for the city-wide Transport Strategy during the Games, and like everyone else we must trust that their traffic modelling and planning assumptions are adequate.

We've actively challenged those assumptions in the planning stages when we felt they were not adequate, and have sought to reduce the impact of their Olympic management plans on local residents and businesses.

Increased footfall naturally suggests increased litter, so we've developed an enhanced waste and cleansing strategy to keep our streets as clean as possible.

However it should again be noted that the total additional costs of managing the Olympic cleansing and waste risks to the Borough is £1.7m and the total value of impact uplift cost support from government for all impacts across all service areas was only £1.1m.

I am confident that we have done a robust job of planning in very challenging financial circumstances.

8.27 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

Crime and community safety is a key concern for many residents; what is the Mayor doing to reassure local people that Tower Hamlets remains a safe and cohesive borough?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thank you for your question. We have recently contributed to a number of Safer Neighbourhood Public Meetings, where local people were able to hear from THEOs and community safety officers, as well as Police, about action being taken by the Police and the Council in their local area to keep them safe.

The Mayor has also launched an additional 14 enforcement officers last Wednesday.

We have held two public meetings in the last month where residents were able to hear about action being taken on crime and anti-social behaviour across the borough by the Police and the Council.

We also have a page in the Police Safer Neighbourhood newsletters. As well as this there has also been a number of "You Said We Did" leaflets delivered to specific streets and estates, where residents in those localities reported an

issue, in order to inform them of the action taken by Police and Council in response.

We regularly publicise Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Premises Closures when these are secured in court. Depending on the case, this can include leaflets, newsletters, press releases and posters.

Finally, letters are sent to Councillors on a fortnightly basis, informing them about activity of the Council funded Police Partnership Taskforce in their ward. These letters specifically encourage Councillors to share this information with constituents and others in their ward and we know that this information can often be reassuring to residents.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2012

PETITIONS

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be received at each Council Meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 19th September 2012.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 13th September. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. A further petition is included that was submitted for the 11th July Council meeting but not presented at that meeting due to time factors.
4. In each case the petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the petitioners for a further four minutes. Finally, the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair of Committee may respond to the petition for up to three minutes.
5. Any outstanding issues will be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will respond to those outstanding issues in writing within 28 days.
6. Members should confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

5.1 Petition regarding 'Attack on Bengali as a mother tongue teaching-learning at Langdon Park Secondary School' (Petition from Ms Nahida Rahid, Ms Hayley Ali and others) – petition deferred from the Council Meeting on 11th July 2012.

Text of petition: "We would like to draw your attention to our serious concern on the issue of our children's Bengali language learning at Langdon Park Secondary School. With regret we find that the school administration has been trying to marginalise Bengali learning by discouraging the children to choose Bengali as an MFL subject of learning. The time-table of the school has been one of the factors for children to opt-out for subjects other than Bengali. The permanent Bengali teacher has been marginalised and put in a situation so that she goes for early retirement. The entire scenario has become one that can be considered as an institutional attack on Bengali as a mother tongue teaching.

You know as well as we know that the teaching of Bengali should be made available at any cost in a school where 90% children come from families where home-language is Bengali. Opportunity for learning our mother tongue Bengali is not only our right and entitlement but also an instrument for our socio-cultural emancipation. We cannot keep quiet when such a plot has been matured through the direct support of the head teacher of the school.

May we therefore request you to please intervene into the situation and order for a independent investigation so that teaching-learning of Bengali at Langdon Park Secondary School can be resumed in full sewing in the interest of safeguarding the entitlement of our children to learn their mother tongue and achieve higher in the future career.

We look forward to your kind action and hearing from you soon."

5.2 Petition against a waste transfer station in Ailsa Street, Poplar (Petition from Mr John Baker and signed by approximately 1,000 persons)

Text of petition: "A Single 'Waste Transfer Station in Poplar' for the whole of Tower Hamlets.

Tower Hamlets wants to put a 'Waste Transfer Station' on a prime riverside site in Poplar. The aim is to deal with up to 300,000 tonnes of rubbish every year which will require 200 lorries a day travelling through Poplar. We think there is a better use for this prime riverside site. If you agree:-

SAY NO to dumping on Poplar

SAY YES to looking at an alternative more appropriate use for this riverside site and a better approach to waste management."

5.3 Petition regarding the Boishaki Mela (Petition from Mr Golam Mohammed Chowdhury, Betar Bangla and others)

Text of petition: “We, the undersigned people of Tower Hamlets, individually and collectively want you to look into the matter of the recent Boishaki Mela. The mela has attracted negative publicity due to various controversies in local, national and international press and electronic media. We therefore ask you to take the necessary steps so that confidence is restored in the local community for next year’s mela:-

- The organiser of the Boishaki mela has to date not opened the account for public scrutiny. As taxpayers and stakeholders, the expenditure and earnings of the mela must be transparent and open to public scrutiny
- The fraudulent human trafficking from Bangladesh must be stopped. We believe this involves the exploitation of vulnerable people who invest their income to unscrupulous agents to come to the UK under false pretensions
- The Boishaki mela is an important event for the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets and beyond. We believe that the mela will be further enriched with the participation of local artists and performers.”

5.4 Petition regarding Millwall Park (petition from Ms Kathy McTasney and others)

Text of petition: “We, the undersigned, would like to draw the Mayor’s attention to the current risks of anti-social behaviour after dark around Millwall Park and the surrounding area.

We believe that this area currently poses a hazard to local residents at night, and that this problem could be alleviated by the installation of targeted lighting or similar crime prevention initiatives.

We call on the Mayor to take this up as a matter of urgency.”

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2012

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the Mayor or appropriate Cabinet Member or committee chair at the Council Meeting on 19th September 2012.
2. The Council's Constitution sets a maximum time limit of twenty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the twenty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Speaker of Council decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration by the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

QUESTIONS

Six questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Mr Akther Zaman

I read in this week's Private Eye that the Labour group leader had claimed on his time sheet for a party-political stunt, cleaning the streets. Is this true?

6.2 Question from Mr Salah Uddin Salam

Is it true that last year, the council's chair of the pensions committee was paid nearly £6,000 for two meetings that lasted less than two hours?

6.3 Question from Mr Scott Stuart

The Olympics were a once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase Tower Hamlets to the world, bringing their celebration and economic benefits to residents. Instead we were stripped of the marathon and there has been little other than the underperforming Live Sites in the borough. Why has the Mayor failed to stand up for residents and let this Olympic opportunity pass us by?

6.4 Question from Mr Afzalur Rahman

Earlier this year the Mayor declared Brick Lane to be the Country's Curry Capital and promised that businesses would reap great rewards from the Olympics. It was reported that £120,000 had been allocated to promote Brick Lane as part of London 2012, yet many restaurants saw massive drops in trade despite being urged to take on extra staff for the Olympics. What happened to the publicity budget and why did the Mayor not deliver for Brick lane businesses?

6.5 Question from Ms Shumi Shabiha

Why did the Labour and Tory group leaders not turn up to the armed forces parade in Wapping garden?

6.6 Question from Junyied Ahmed Sundor

Can the Mayor explain why he put a submission to the Boundary Commission to reduce the number of councillors from 51 to 45? Why does he think Tower Hamlets needs less Councillors?

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Executive at the Council meeting on Wednesday 19th September 2012.
2. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted.
3. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. There is a time limit of thirty minutes for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any question not answered within this time will be dealt with by way of a written response. The Speaker will decide the time allocated to each question.
5. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

23 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

8.1 Question from Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

What steps did the Mayor take to promote Curry Capital during the Olympics? What was the total budget allocated to promoting Curry Capital and Brick Lane and will the Mayor provide a breakdown of what this budget was spent on?

8.2 Question from Councillor David Snowdon

Regarding the borough's mobile phone 'App' entitled 'Paths To Gold', seemingly produced by an outfit called Captive Minds on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council, may I please be informed:

A) Whether this application was in fact written by Tower Hamlets, and if so, who authorised expenditure on it?

B) How much was spent on this 'App'? Please detail both in house and out of house costs, and who the contractors were.

C) What was the rationale for developing it?

D) What benefits are expected to accrue to Tower Hamlets Council or the Borough more widely?

E) Was this 'App' linked to a payment of £54,000 by the Communications Team for Software to Captive Minds Communications Group in May 2012, as published on the Tower Hamlets website: [http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lqsl/800001-800100/800043 transparency/payments to suppliers-1.aspx](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lqsl/800001-800100/800043%20transparency/payments%20to%20suppliers-1.aspx) If this payment is not linked to this 'App', what was it for?

8.3 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs

How does the Mayor plan to fill the budget deficit in the medium term financial plan, with tax rises or service cuts? When will he outline these plans?

8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah

Would the Mayor agree with me that the decision by the UKBA to preemptorily withdraw the licence for London Metropolitan University, a university at which many Tower Hamlets residents have received and continue to receive higher education, to register international students places in jeopardy thousands of bona fide international students who have paid tens of thousands of pounds for their education here and jeopardises the very future of London Met which has specialised

in broadening access to higher education for those from less privileged backgrounds and that the government should reverse this decision and would he agree to write to the Education Secretary and the Prime Minister urgently to convey the profound concern here in Tower Hamlets over this decision by UKBA?

8.5 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

What was the average cost per home for the Decent Homes work undertaken in the borough each year between 2008 and 2012?

8.6 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

At the last Council Meeting a question was asked regarding the current occupiers of the old Poplar Town Hall, 117 Poplar High Street. The response was that the building was unoccupied. Will the Mayor explain his relationship to the so called Barbican College who were and are occupiers of the old Poplar Town Hall?

8.7 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock

Can the Mayor/lead member advise on what action the council is taking to tackle child sexual exploitation in the borough? What systems are in place to monitor the number of young people at risk of sexual exploitation, and what support is available to children who suffer this horrific abuse?

8.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Would the Mayor agree with me that the current process of interviewing for the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) by employees of ATOS places those suffering mental health conditions at a very substantial disadvantage and that this is adversely affecting a significant number of Tower Hamlets residents and would he agree to write to the relevant ministers urgently to ask them to instruct or legislate to require independent medical evidence to be sought at an early stage in the WCA process?

8.9 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson

What is the current situation with One Housing? The Mayor's decision was made urgently on this issue which came to cabinet on 25th July and thus disallowing a call-in to Overview and Scrutiny.

Have the Mayor and Director now verified these reasons with one housing, primarily that the bank foreclosure on major loans was imminent and forced the finalisation by Tower Hamlets of assignment of pension rights by the 31st July?

8.10 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Would the Mayor provide details to the Council of the dates and times of the invitations that were sent out regarding the thanks to the Armed Forces event on Sunday 13 August?

8.11 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

How many flower beds in the borough have been grassed over due to budget cuts and how much is this estimated to have saved?

8.12 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

How will the mayor ensure that the legacy from the Olympic Games continues to benefit Tower Hamlets for years to come?

8.13 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

We have been told that youth service provision will not change once services are taken out of community management and into Mulberry Place. Please itemise all youth services sessions and activities that have been run over the last year, where they were run, (venue, ward and LAP) and how many young people attended, broken down by race and gender. Please itemise all qualifications achieved, broken down by contractor, LAP, race, gender. Please also publish data covering the last 5 years. Please circulate in advance of the meeting due to detail required?

8.14 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel

Can the Cherie please tell us if he is looking forward to his Duke by the electorate in 2014?

8.15 Question from Councillor Md Abdul Mukit

What specific steps has the Mayor taken to reduce the excessive noise, anti-social behaviour and public urination which takes place outside bars on and around Brick Lane. This anti-social behaviour is a significant concern to residents who live in the area and one we have raised with the Mayor many times before. When will he act?

8.16 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

Can the Mayor update us how successful Live Site was during the Olympics and his plans for the post Olympics clean up?

8.17 Question from Councillor John Pierce

How many Tower Hamlets Homes Board meetings has Cllr Rania Khan attended since being appointed in December 2011?

8.18 Question from Councillor Tim Archer

How many library books are currently over one month overdue. How many were borrowed by someone living outside the Borough. How many books are so overdue that they have been "written off" over the past year? How many were borrowed by someone living outside the Borough?

8.19 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum

Why was there lower than expected footfall for local traders during the Olympic Games?

8.20 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones

Do this year's GCSE results in Tower Hamlets show improvements in science subjects?

8.21 Question from Councillor Zara Davis

In the light of the significant volume of incidents during the Olympics that were dealt with by the Council's Noise Nuisance team, would the Mayor consider permanently reverting to a seven day a week Noise Nuisance service?

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER, 2012

**LDF: FISH ISLAND AREA ACTION PLAN
ADOPTION**

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND
RENEWAL, AMAN DALVI**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Fish Island is an area in transition and there is a need to ensure that the area is effectively managed to maximise its regeneration potential within the wider context of the Olympic Legacy through an effective policy framework.
- 1.2 The preparation of the Fish Island Area Action Plan (FI AAP) commenced subsequently to the adoption of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy in September 2010. The FI AAP has been through an extensive preparation process, including evidence base collection, issues and options testing, public consultation and independent examination.
- 1.3 Following Full Council approval on 16 May 2012, the FI AAP submission version was submitted to the Secretary of State on 18 May 2012, to undertake an Examination in Public (EiP). This was in accordance with regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 1.4 Upon Submission, the Secretary of State appointed an Independent Inspector to undertake the EiP on the FI AAP, from 18 July to 25 July 2012. The EiP comprised seven hearing sessions to test the soundness of the FI AAP.
- 1.5 The Inspector's Decision Statement will be received after the publication of this report, and will be published ahead of the full Council meeting. A supplementary note will be presented to full Council with this report. It is anticipated that the Statement will conclude that the FI AAP provides an appropriate basis for the planning of Fish Island until 2025. The Inspector is likely to recommend that a number of minor modifications are required to meet legal and statutory requirements and subject to these modifications, the FI AAP is 'sound'. These minor modifications will include those that the Council consulted on following the EiP (Appendix 1).

- 1.6 It is now necessary to adopt the FI AAP as a Development Plan Document (DPD) to ensure that development proposals benefit from up to date local planning policy and also benefit the local community in context of the newly established London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC). From the 1 October 2012 the LLDC will become both the decision making and plan making local planning authority for Fish Island.

2. DECISION REQUIRED

Council is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Agree the Inspector's Decision Statement including his recommendations relating to the FI AAP, presented as a supplementary note to this report.
- 2.2 Adopt the FI AAP, including the changes recommended by the Inspector and the minor modifications, as a Development Plan Document which forms part of the Council's LDF.
- 2.3 Authorise officers to prepare and publish an Adoption Statement as set out in regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 There is a need to adopt the FI AAP to provide a coordinated approach to regenerating the area which is consistent with the vision and objectives set out in the Council's Community Plan and LDF Core Strategy to 2025. The adopted FI AAP will provide updated and detailed policies and guidance to determine planning applications and manage development in the area.
- 3.2 On receipt of the Inspector's Decision Statement, the Council must consider whether to adopt the FI AAP, in which case it becomes part of the LDF. If the Council decides to adopt the FI AAP then they must accept the Inspector's recommendations if the plan is to be deemed 'sound' and have full weight as a Development Plan Document.
- 3.3 The LLDC will have plan making and decision making powers from 1 October 2012 for the Fish Island area. If the FI AAP is adopted by the Council before 1 October 2012, the FI AAP will remain in place as the adopted development plan until such time as the LLDC has adopted its own Local Plan.
- 3.4 If the FI AAP is not adopted by the Council before the inception of LLDC planning powers, the LLDC may only choose to have regard to the submission version of the FI AAP as a material consideration and it will not have the same weight as an adopted Development Plan Document. As a result, the Council's vision and objectives established in the FI AAP will not be realised through an effective policy framework.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 An alternative option would be to rely on the adopted Core Strategy, London Plan (2011), Olympic Legacy Supplementary Planning Guidance (OLSPG) (2012) and the Council's existing planning guidance contained within the 1998 Unitary Development Plan and the 2007 'Interim Planning Guidance'.
- 4.2 In absence of an up to date detailed policy framework for the area, this more general planning guidance may not be able to provide an effective, coordinated and managed release of previous industrial land. This would mean that the Council and the LLDC would not be able to respond to development pressures in a way that maximises the regeneration opportunities arising from the Olympic Legacy until the LLDC adopt their own Local Plan, which is not envisaged until April 2014 at the earliest.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The LDF Core Strategy was adopted by Full Council in September 2010 and provides an overall spatial vision for the development of Tower Hamlets over the next 15 years. In order for this vision to be delivered, it is necessary to adopt more detailed guidance coming forward in a Development Plan Document (DPD). Following the adoption of the Core Strategy the Council has been progressing work on two DPDs:

- § Managing Development – Development Plan Document (MD DPD); and
- § Fish Island Area Action Plan (FI AAP).

- 5.2 A summary of the key aims and objectives of the FI AAP is included below:

- § to provide detailed planning guidance for the regeneration of Fish Island, managing the release of industrial land for other uses such as housing and modern employment opportunities;
- § to deliver 2500 new homes including a substantial provision of affordable and family housing;
- § to provide new connections across the A12 and into the Olympic Park, improvements to Hackney Wick Station and introduction of new bus routes;
- § to promote a new neighbourhood centre with local shops and services at Hackney Wick; and
- § to identify sites for key infrastructure requirements such as a new primary school and new public open space.

- 5.3 The Managing Development DPD will be subject to a separate EiP in September 2012 and if found sound by an Independent Inspector, the MD DPD will sit alongside the FI AAP under the Core Strategy as part of the borough's LDF and have the same status in terms of the determination of planning applications.

6. BODY OF REPORT

- 6.1 The FI AAP was prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)

(England) Regulations 2012. The associated regulations requires the FI AAP to be:

- § consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2012) and the new London Plan (July 2011)/Revised Early Minor Alterations (June 2012);
- § underpinned by relevant and proportionate evidence base to inform the policies;
- § supported by issues, options and vision testing to explore alternative scenarios and implications of different interventions or policies to achieve the FI AAP objectives;
- § informed by a consultation and engagement process with the community and key stakeholders, including appraising the issues and options of draft policies and interventions;
- § supported by a Sustainability Appraisal to review the policies and interventions in the FI AAP; and
- § examined in public by an Independent Inspector.

6.2 The EiP is the final milestone to determine the soundness of the document prior to being formally adopted by the Council.

6.3 The Council must then make the document available to the public and publish an Adoption Statement alongside the FI AAP and supporting evidence base, in accordance with Regulations 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

6.4 The process for the preparation of the FI AAP is set out in the Council's latest Local Development Scheme, approved by Cabinet in December 2010. The process to date is summarised below.

DPD process

6.5 Work commenced on the FI AAP shortly after the adoption of LDF Core Strategy in September 2010. The preparation of the FI AAP has been carried out during a time of extensive planning reform with the publication of the NPPF and evolving planning proposals and guidance for the Olympic Legacy. The FI AAP has been developed to be in conformity with the relevant national and regional legislation and policy to ensure the soundness of the FI AAP.

Consultation

6.6 The Council in preparing the FI AAP has a duty to cooperate as set out in s33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and to this end the Council has engaged constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with the relevant bodies in the process of preparing the FI AAP. The Council has also undertaken extensive consultation and engagement with the community

in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and national legislation.

- 6.7 Previous reports considered by Cabinet in December 2011 and Full Council in May 2012 outline the extensive consultation and engagement process undertaken. The key stages are listed below.

- § Call for sites – 22 March to April 2010
- § Informal consultation – November 2010
- § Engagement stage – 3 May to 9 June 2011
- § Call for Representations - 23 January and 9 March 2012

- 6.8 The consultation and engagement process has shaped and informed the development of the FI AAP. The FI AAP represents a collaborative approach and vision for the area between the Council and key external stakeholders (including statutory agencies, landowners and residents).

Submission

- 6.9 The FI AAP submission version was reported to Full Council on 16 May 2012 for approval to submit to the Secretary of State. In accordance with regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the Council submitted the FI AAP including supporting evidence base to the Secretary of State on 18 May 2012, to undertake an independent examination into the soundness of the FI AAP.

Examination

- 6.10 The Secretary of State appointed an Independent Inspector to undertake the EiP. In accordance with regulation 24 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) regulations 2012, the Council gave public notification on the date, time and location for the EiP.
- 6.11 The Inspector held seven hearings from Wednesday 18 July to Wednesday 25 July 2012. The structure of the hearings focused on specific topics that were determined by the Inspector for further examination. The hearings were attended by key representors, including landowners, GLA, English Heritage and representatives of the local community. Lead Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan, introduced the first hearing, and hearings were also attended by a number of senior managers and specialist officers from the Council to support the FI AAP examination process.
- 6.12 Following the EiP, the Council consulted on a number of proposed modifications to the FI AAP (Appendix 1). These minor modifications were in response to the Statements of Common Ground, Position Statements, the EiP hearings, and also include other minor amendments suggested by the Council.

- 6.13 During the 6 week consultation period, the Council welcomed comments relating directly to the proposed minor modifications. These were sent to the Inspector for consideration ahead of the Inspector issuing the Decision Statement.

Inspectors Decision Statement

- 6.14 The Council will receive the Decision Statement from the Inspector prior to the Full Council meeting. It is anticipated that the Inspector will conclude that the document is 'sound' subject to minor modifications. The Decision Statement will be published ahead of the Full Council meeting and is anticipated to include:

- § details of the hearing sessions;
- § confirmation that requirements of an examination under S20(5) of the 2004 Act having been fulfilled; and,
- § conclusion from the Inspector on soundness of the FI AAP, alongside his recommendations

Next Steps

- 6.15 Subject to Full Council adopting the FI AAP, it will be finalised and published on the Council's web site and made available in the Borough's Idea Stores, libraries and planning reception at Mulberry Place.
- 6.16 The Council will need to prepare an Adoption Statement to accompany the FI AAP in accordance with regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Adoption Statement sets out:
- date which the FI AAP was adopted;
 - modifications following the submission version (May 2012); and
 - notice that any person aggrieved by the process can make an application to the High Court within 6 weeks from the date of adoption.
- 6.17 Following the 6 weeks adoption period and subject to no legal challenges, the FI AAP can then be used as a DPD to determine planning applications in the area.
- 6.18 From 1 October 2012, the LLDC will take over planning powers and the adopted FI AAP will form part of its statutory Development Plan until the LLDC prepares its own Local Plan for the area.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 Following the completion of the statutory consultation process and the independent inspection undertaken on behalf of the Secretary of State, this report seeks approval from Council to adopt the amended Fish Island Area

Action Plan as a Development Plan Document within the Council's Local Development Framework.

- 7.2 Whilst there are no specific financial consequences arising directly from the recommendations in the report, ultimately the Local Development Framework and its constituent elements will underpin key decisions in relation to the allocation of the limited resources available within the Borough, and will influence the shaping of the Council's Capital Strategy.
- 7.3 The documents within the Council's LDF set out some of the challenges that the Authority and its partners may face over coming years as a result of demographic and economic growth. Individual infrastructure developments will need to be subject to detailed planning at the appropriate time, including consideration of the financial impact on both partner organisations and on the Council.
- 7.4 The main costs associated with the production of the Local Development Framework are staffing related and have historically been part supported through Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. The Area Action Plan included within this report has been the subject of on-going consultation processes which incurred costs on items such as advertising, printing, hiring venues and facilitating public meetings. Although the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant regime ended in 2009-10, resources had been earmarked to fund this expenditure. The final stage of the LDF process is an 'inspection in public' for which the Authority must incur all costs, including those of the appointed inspectors. Resources have previously been set aside as part of the budget process to contribute towards the funding of these costs.

8. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 8.1. The Local Development Framework (LDF) consists of a suite of documents which set out planning policy. As the report notes, the Council has already adopted its principal DPD, being the Core Strategy, which establishes the general spatial vision and planning objectives for the borough. Approval is now being sought to adopt the Fish Island AAP following examination in public and receipt of the Inspector's report.
- 8.2 The Fish Island AAP is adopted by the Council under section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Council may only adopt the Fish Island AAP if they accept the modifications to the AAP suggested by the Inspector to this report. This report confirms this legal requirement.
- 8.2 Full Council is requested to adopt the Fish Island AAP as pursuant to section 9D(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 and regulation 4 and Schedule 3 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, the adoption of a DPD is a function that is not to be the responsibility of a local authority's executive.

- 8.3 As set out at paragraph 6.16 of the report, an adoption statement must be prepared and published as soon as reasonably possible following adoption of the FI AAP in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 8.4 In carrying out the function of preparing and adopting a DPD, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. The report indicates that an equality analysis has been carried out and no negative equality impacts arise.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 An Equalities Assessment has been undertaken in support of the FI AAP. The EqA assesses issues relating to the diversity of the borough including, race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation faith and deprivation. The EiP did not disclose any impacts that required re-assessment of the equalities analysis. The EqA Report is included as part of the evidence base and is available upon request.
- 9.2 It should also be noted that the FI AAP supports the delivery of the Council's LDF Core Strategy, which was itself subject to EqA.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1 A detailed Sustainability Appraisal has informed the preparation of the FI AAP. The Sustainability Appraisal Report is included as part of the evidence base and is available upon request.
- 10.2 In accordance with the LDF Core Strategy, the FI AAP will help ensure a greener environment in a number of ways, including: helping improve existing areas of open space and secure new areas of open space; promoting biodiversity; promoting sustainable transport options; and ensuring new buildings meet the highest environmental standards.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 An LDF Board was established in May 2010, chaired by the Corporate Director of Development & Renewal, to lead on the preparation of future planning documents within the LDF. Risk Management and mitigation is a standard item at monthly LDF Board meetings. As part of the Borough's LDF, the FI AAP has been subject to this risk management process.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The FI AAP has specific policies to improve the safety and security of new developments and the surrounding public realm. These policies will contribute to ensuring that communities feel safe and secure.

13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

13.1 The FI AAP has been prepared in the context of the LDF Core Strategy and other relevant Council Strategies, such as the IDEA Store Strategy, Employment Strategy and Leisure Strategy. This means the FI AAP closely reflects Council priorities and the Council's capital planning process and fully compliments the Core Strategy vision of ensuring the timely provision of necessary social and physical infrastructure to support the growth in population and jobs in the Borough over the next 15 years.

13.2 The FI AAP will also ensure the Council has a fully up-to-date suite of planning documents which responds to the identified needs of the Borough and provides a more efficient basis for the determination of planning applications.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Table of Modifications to the Fish Island AAP

**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)
List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of "background papers"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
N/A	

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Proposed Minor Amendments following the Fish Island AAP Examination in Public

Page	Section	Proposed Change	Agreed in
Forward	Forward	Amend wording “up to 2500 new homes” to “2500 new homes are deliverable”	EiP
6	How will the AAP relate to other plans or policies?	<p>Insert a new policy FI 1 titled “ Sustainable Development” to read:</p> <p>“When considering development proposals the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.</p> <p>Planning applications that accord with the policies in the Local Development Framework will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.</p> <p>Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise - taking into account whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or - Specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted.” 	EiP
7	Para 1.28	Amend first sentence to read “The ODA has a granted planning application to set the framework for phased development on sites around the main stadium and sports facilities...”	LBTH suggested amendment to update on the planning application.
24	Para 2.2	Replace para. 2.2 with the following text. “The AAP estimates that 2,500 new homes are deliverable in Fish Island. There may be potential for additional homes (including in the Local Industrial Location), though this will be subject to detailed consideration of individual development proposals and ensuring appropriate infrastructure provision, and will be monitored through the lifetime of the AAP. The AAP also estimates that there is the potential for 175,000sq.m. of new or revitalised employment floor space, creating around 3,500 new jobs.”	EiP

25	Fig 2.1	The boundary of the Bow Midland West Rail Yard will be amended to show the full extent of the Bow Midland West Rail Yard, and will be referenced on the key as “Safeguarded Rail Site – Bow Midland West”.	Agreed in SoCG 4 with London Concrete and Aggregate Industries
25	Fig 2.1	Amend Figure 2.1 to identify the area north of the Greenway within the LIL as employment-led regeneration to ensure consistency with policy FI4.2.	Locksbridge Ltd Position Statement 3 EIP
25	Fig 2.2	Amend Key from “Potential location for primary school” to read “Location for primary school” in relation to Fish Island Mid	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
25	Fig 2.2	Amend key to read ‘Potential location for primary or secondary school’ in relation to Fish Island East	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
25	Fig 2.2	Amend key from “Potential location for open space” to read “ Local open space”	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
35 / 39	Fig 3.2 / Fig 3.3	Produce consolidated connections plan, which clearly identifies existing connections and proposed connections in the area.	EiP
37	F I3.3	Remove Part 5 of FI 3.3 regarding modifying the lock on the Hertford Union Canal, as is now deemed to be technically unfeasible.	Agreed in SoCG 2 with British Waterways
37	New para 3.16	Amend the supporting text for policy FI3.3 to add a new paragraph: “3.16 The upgrading and/or replacement of existing and/or additional bridges across the Hertford Union Canal are also needed to support connectivity. Specifically with regard to the connections shown as 4a, 4b and 3 in table 3.1 and figure 3.3”	Agreed in SoCG 2 with British Waterways
37	FI 3.3	Amend the supporting text for policy FI3.3 to state: “3.17 New connections will be expected to meet the highest standards in relation to design, management safety with minimal impact on towpath/waterway users and ecology as stated in relevant guidance”	Agreed in SoCG 2 with British Waterways
39	Table 3.1	Option 4b, amend to read “Hertford Union Crossing (east) - new”	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
39	Table 3.1	Option 13 Rail Yard Bridge” to include “(subject to release of safeguarded railway land in LB Newham)”.	EiP

45	Fig 4.1	Amend Key from “Potential location for primary school” to read “Location for primary school” in relation to Fish Island Mid	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
45	Fig 4.1	Amend key to read “Potential location for primary or secondary school” in relation to Fish Island East	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
45	Fig 4.1	Amend key: “Potential location for open space” to read “Local open space”	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
45	Fig 4.1	Amend Figure: “Waterfront character predominantly residential character” to extend to the LIL waterfront boundary.	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
45	Fig 4.1	Include “Local open space” locations as per figure 2.1	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
45	Fig 4.1	The boundary of the Bow Midland West Rail Yard will be amended to show the full extent of the Bow Midland West Rail Yard, and will be referenced on the key as “Safeguarded Rail Site – Bow Midland West”.	Agreed in SoCG 4 with London Concrete and Aggregate Industries
45	Fig 4.1	Amend figure 4.1 to identify the area north of the Greenway, within the LIL, as employment-led regeneration to ensure consistency with policy FI4.2.	Locksbridge Ltd Position Statement EIP
45	Fig 4.1	Remove the LIL designation that covers the Greenway	EiP
47	FI 4.1	FI 4.1 will be amended to confirm that the Bow Midland West Rail Yard is safeguarded for rail related uses including aggregate distribution. The following wording will be added to the policy: “The Bow Midland West Rail site will be safeguarded for uses which make effective use of the railhead, including for existing, planned or potential use of the railhead for aggregate distribution. The boundary of the Bow Midland West Rail site is shown on Figure 4.2.”	Agreed in SoCG 4 with London Concrete and Aggregate Industries
48	FI 4.2, part 2.	Amend part 2 of FI 4.2 from “The redevelopment of sites with existing industrial (class B1 (b & c))” to read “The redevelopment of sites with existing industrial (class B1 (b & c), B2 and B8).”	EiP
48	Para 4.14	Paragraph 4.14, first sentence, replace word “Smeed Road” with “Dace Road” to reflect the boundary of the LIL.	LBTH suggested amendment for accuracy.

49	Fig 4.2	The boundary of the Bow Midland West Rail Yard will be amended to show the full extent of the Bow Midland West Rail Yard, and will be referenced on the key as “Safeguarded Rail Site – Bow Midland West”.	Agreed in SoCG 4 with London Concrete and Aggregate Industries
49	Fig 4.2	Remove the LIL designation that covers the Greenway	EiP
50	FI 4.3	The following wording will be added to paragraph 4.18. “Development within the mixed use area will be expected to provide a balance of residential, commercial, and other supporting uses to create a vibrant and diverse community. Residential-led development will be expected to provide predominately residential which can be complemented by other uses such as community and commercial.”	Neptune Wharf Position Statement 1
52	Para 4.27	Amend “new development could deliver up to 2,800 new homes” to “2,500 new homes are deliverable”.	EiP
53		New paragraph and heading following 4.35 “Fish Island East” “HOUSING IN THE LIL As set out in the FI 4.2 and DM17, the LIL in Fish Island will protect and safeguard industrial land. If a mixed use development is suitable within the LIL, redevelopment would need to ensure that industrial land and its future function is not jeopardised by reverse sensitivity issues. Through effective high quality design, layout and management, LIL could potentially provide residential alongside an industrial employment led-scheme. “	EiP
54	Fig. 4.4	In the Character area column, amend “Mid Fish Island” to “Mid Fish Island excluding the LIL area”.	EiP
55	FI 4.5	Part 2, amend reference to PPS3 with “National Planning Policy Framework”	LBTH suggested amendment to update National Policy reference.
64	5.16	New paragraph and heading following 5.16 “Local Shops Outside the Hub” “The Hub will provide for local retail needs, contributing to the character and function of the area. To protect the vitality and viability of the Hub, retail uses outside of the Hub should only be purely ancillary to development will be need to comply with DM2 of the Development Management DPD. “	EiP

65	5.21	Amend last sentence to read “A heritage-led renewal approach would support and enhance the proposed Conservation Area, buildings of “local importance” and the Hub”	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
66	FI 5.1	Policy amended to reference Lee Valley Regional Park. “6. New developments to be well integrated into the Hub and its surroundings, enhancing routes to, from and within the Hub to the wider Fish Island Hackney Wick area and to the Lee Valley Regional Park and future Queen Elizabeth Park.”	Lower Lee Valley Position Statement 5
71	FI 6.1	Further wording is to be added to FI 6.1, part 5 to “proposals above 6 stories within Fish Island North will be subject to detailed assessment against the criteria in the Managing Development DPD (Submission Version) building heights policy (DM26) and English Heritage/CABE guidance for tall buildings and the proposed White Post Lane Conservation Area.”	Agreed in SoCG 3 with HDG Group
71	FI 6.1	Part 6, reference to the “Managing Development tall building policy” to read “Managing Development building heights policy”.	LBTH suggested amendment for accuracy reference to Managing Development - Development Plan Document.
75	FI 6.3	Policy FI 6.3, part 2 will be amended to include the following wording: “Regard will be had to the existing industrial character of Fish Island South and the need to ensure that future development at Bow Midland West Rail Yard for rail related uses and aggregate distribution is not prejudiced.”	Agreed in SoCG 4 with London Concrete and Aggregate Industries
82	FI 6.6	Include within FI 6.6 an additional bullet stating: “protecting or enhancing active uses on the waterways, such as recreation or leisure uses”	Agreed in SoCG 2 with British Waterways, and in SoCG 5 with The Anderson Group
82	FI 6.6	Policy FI 6.6 will be amended and the following wording added: “Within Fish Island South SIL, and particularly within the safeguarded Bow Midland West Rail site, regard will be had in the application of these design principles to the existing industrial character of the area and the need to ensure that future development at Bow Midland West for rail	Agreed in SoCG 4 with London Concrete and Aggregate Industries

		related uses and aggregate distribution is not prejudiced.”	
82	Photo	Include a photo to illustrate active uses.	Agreed in SoCG 2 with British Waterways, and in SoCG 5 with The Anderson Group
83	Fig. 6.3	To remove from Figure 6.3 the “enhanced towpath” reference along the eastern side of Fish Island East	Agreed in SoCG 2 with British Waterways
83	Fig. 6.3	Carpenter’s Lock, Bridge F06, and Bridge E39 should be shown as existing bridges on Figure 6.3 (see British Waterways Legacy Plan for location of bridges)	Agreed in SoCG 2 with British Waterways
83	Fig. 6.3	Key - amend “Potential Open space” to read “ Open space”	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
83	Fig. 6.3	“Waterfront character predominantly residential character” to extend to the LIL waterfront boundary.	LBTH suggested amendment for clarity.
93	FI 7.2	Amend reference to PPS25 with National Planning Policy Framework	LBTH suggested amendment to update National Policy reference.
94	Delivering the AAP	A new para 7.15 to read . “The Council will take a proactive approach toward development when delivering the AAP such that it reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy FI 1. The Council will seek to balance the need for encouraging and promoting redevelopment in Fish Island with the requirement for contributions towards its priorities, as defined by the policies in the AAP and the Implementation Plan in Appendix 2”.	Agreed in SoCG 6 with Aston Matthews, in SoCG 3 with HDG Ltd., in SoCG 5 with The Anderson Group, and in SoCG 6 with Aston Matthews
96	Para 7.27	Amend “The following sections describe how the key AAP principles could be applied to the opportunity sites” to “The following sections describe how the key AAP principles should be applied to the opportunity sites”.	EiP

96	Fig. 7.2	Extend the boundary of OS 4 to include the whole of the Aston Matthews site, so the southern boundary extends to Dace Road	Agreed in SoCG 6 with Aston Matthews
97	OS 1 - White Post Lane	Amend size of site from "(Approx 0.5Ha)" to "(Approx 0.5ha (0.1Ha of which is in Tower Hamlets))"	LBTH suggested amendment for accuracy.
97	OS 1 - White Post Lane	Amend "Opportunity for mixed use development, to come forward" to "Mixed use development should come forward".	EiP
98	OS 2 - McGrath Waste Transfer Site	Amend 2nd bullet from "Opportunity for mixed use development to "Mixed use development"	EiP
98	OS 2 - McGrath Waste Transfer Site	Amend final bullet from "Form of development needs to be considered jointly with the Neptune Wharf site opposite" to "Form, connectivity and phased delivery of development needs to be considered with the Neptune Wharf site opposite."	EiP
99	OS 3 - Neptune Wharf	Amend 1st bullet from "Opportunity for mixed use development" to "Mixed use development"	EiP
99	OS 3 - Neptune Wharf	Amend 3rd bullet from "Opportunity to safeguard land for a future primary school (c. 0.5Ha)" to "Development should safeguard land for a future primary school (c. 0.5Ha)"	EiP
99	OS 3 - Neptune Wharf	Amend final bullet from "Form and phased delivery of development needs to be considered jointly with the McGrath site opposite" to read "Form, connectivity and phased delivery of development needs to be considered with the McGrath site opposite."	EiP
100	OS 4 - Former Warehouses, Bream Street	Former Warehouses Bream Street (Approx 0.7Ha) -Amend first bullet to read "Mixed used development including employment, residential, affordable housing and galleries to come forward in a comprehensive manner." -2nd bullet: "Development should respond to the waterfront character where the site adjoins the Lea Navigation and enhance the local setting of Old Ford Locks" -3rd bullet: "The site should provide for public access to and views across the water space." -Additional bullet point to read, "Development should improve and enhance the setting of the Conservation Area and provide a high quality frontage to improve the local views along Dace Road"	LBTH amendment - error in submission version

100	OS 4 - Former Warehouses, Bream Street	Extend the boundary of OS 4 to include the whole of the Aston Matthews site, so the southern boundary extends to Dace Road	SoCG with Aston Matthews
101	OS 5 - Site at 415 Wick Lane	<p>Site at 415 Wick Lane to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Employment-led mixed use development, including small scale community and retail facilities to provide a transition between Fish Island SIL and the mixed use character in Fish Island Mid; - Residential may be appropriate subject to policy FI 4.2 in the AAP and DM17 in the MD DPD - Development should provide a high quality frontage to improve the local views along Wick Lane from Crown Close; - Development should relate positively to the Greenway and enhance natural surveillance; - Opportunity to provide a new public open space adjacent to 417 Wick Lane providing an improved outlook for the existing ground floor business units in this development; - Opportunity to provide a new direct and accessible link from Wick Lane to the Greenway, the location of which is to be determined through the development management process - Development should improve the setting of the cluster of heritage buildings on Crown Close.” 	LBTH amendment - error in submission version
109	Appendix 2: Implementation Table	Amend reference to the timescale of the Primary School from “Medium / Long” to “Medium”.	EiP

Information Report on Executive Decisions Precluded from “Call in” on Grounds of Urgency

The Authority's Constitution (Part 4 - Rules of Procedure, Section 4.5 - Overview and Scrutiny Rules of Procedure, Rule 17.1) provides that its call-in procedure set out at Rule 16 shall not apply where the decision being taken by the Executive is urgent. A decision is defined as urgent in Rule 17.1 if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interests.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or in his/her absence the Speaker of the Council) must agree both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.

Rule 17.4 requires the reporting to the next available meeting of the Council of decisions taken by the Executive as a matter of urgency together with the reasons for urgency. Accordingly, decision(s) taken by the Executive where the above mentioned Constitutional provision has been invoked since the last ordinary meeting of the Council are set out below:-

Cabinet 25 July 2012: Agenda Item 6.3 (unrestricted) and 16.1 (exempt) ONE HOUSING (CAB 0020/123)

Decision

1. To agree 'in principle' to assign the contractual rights and obligations of Island Homes Limited contained within the Stock Transfer Agreement dated 5th December made between the Council and Toynbee Island Homes Limited to One Housing Group Limited, subject to being satisfied on further investigation by the Director of Development and Renewal into the funding issues surrounding loan covenants set out in the report that these issues are confirmed and, in addition, subject to the agreement of One Housing Group to an action plan to be monitored by the Council to improve the services.
2. Subject to 1 above being agreed as set out, to agree to novate the Pension Agreement of Island Homes Limited to One Housing Group Limited and authorise the Corporate Director of Development & Renewal in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) to agree the terms of the deed of novation.

Reason for Urgency

One Housing Group has advised that the assignment (transfer) must be completed before 1 September 2012. Given the consequences to Island Homes of not being able to renew their loan agreements and crystalizing the liabilities under the Pension Agreement it is urgent that a decision is made in order to ensure the financial stability of Island Homes.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Eleven motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 19th September 2012.
2. In addition, eight motions were deferred from the previous (11th July 2012) Council Meeting due to time constraints.
3. The deferred motions are listed overleaf in the order in which they appeared on the agenda for the 11th July meeting. They are followed by the new motions which, in accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, are listed by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) not reached at the previous meeting.
4. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
5. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 History Teaching And The English Baccalaureate

Proposer: Councillor David Snowdon

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes:

- Only 11.7% of Tower Hamlets school children passes GCSE History at grades A*-C. This is the fifth lowest number in England, ahead of only Knowsley, Newham, Kingston-Upon-Hull and Manchester.
- Over three times more school children achieve A*-C GCSE History in the top performing council in the country, Hammersmith and Fulham.
- That the new gold standard of English secondary education, the English Baccalaureate, requires school children to have A*-C passes in Maths, English, two sciences, a modern language and history or geography. Only 5.9% of children achieved this, in part due to the low number of history GCSEs entered.
- Tower Hamlets has the ninth lowest number of children passing A-Level History in England.

This Council believes:

- That the study of history allows our school children to develop high level analytical skills, and helps them to more fully appreciate the world around them. This in turn promotes civic and community engagement.
- That in order to increase the number of Tower Hamlets school children achieving the English-Baccalaureate we need to increase the provision of History teaching in our schools. Not achieving this standard threatens to limit the educational opportunities available to our school children.

This Council resolves:

- To instruct officers to write to all head teachers of schools within the Borough to make them aware of the Council's support for a higher provision of History teaching.
- To instruct officers to contact schools to see what barriers exist to a higher level of provision of history teaching, and report back to full council within six months.
- To ask the Mayor to champion the case of history teaching in Tower Hamlets, and investigate what he can do to promote this objective.

12.2 Defending the Welfare State

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconder: Councillor Fozol Miah

This Council notes:

- a) the Condem government is planning an extra £18 billion welfare cuts, on top the £18 billion already in train
- b) this will condemn more families to poverty and undermine progress made in reducing child poverty in Tower Hamlets and nationally.
- c) Government attempts to depict these cuts as largely affecting the long term unemployed or disabled are misleading
- d) most of those drawing benefits are the working poor like cleaners, carers and caterers who are working hard yet need benefits to survive because of their very low pay.
- e) Britain's low wage economy and lack of jobs are driving up our benefits bill, as is our failing housing market
- f) 95% of the recent £1 billion rise in housing benefit is paid to those in work.

This Council agrees:

- a) the defence of the welfare state from Tory driven attempts to dismantle it is a political priority for the people of Tower Hamlets
- b) that Government austerity is self-defeating
- c) instead of creating growth and jobs these policies are shrinking the economy, strangling growth, increasing unemployment, and driving the country deeper into recession.
- d) that we urgently need a programme of job creation, housing building, and measures to ensure people are paid a real living wage and have access to decent, affordable and secure housing.

12.3 Social Landlords

Proposer: Councillor Gloria Thienel

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council Notes:

- That the Minister for Housing and Local Government has praised social landlords such as Viridian and Home Group for their plans to publish expenditure over £500.
- That the Housing Minister calls on social landlords to follow Viridian and Home Group's example and become more transparent.
- That the government is committed to a consultation with social landlords on whether to expand the scope of the Freedom of Information Act to apply to them.

This Council Believes:

- That the example shown by Viridian and Home Group is a step in the right direction and all social landlords should consider following their lead.
- That the government should extend the Freedom of Information Act to apply to social landlords and all Housing Associations; so they will publish spending over £500.

This Council Resolves:

- To support the Government in its consultation.
- To encourage and support Housing Associations/Social landlords in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to publish all spending over £500.

12.4 High Earners and Council Housing

Proposer: Councillor Tim Archer

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council Notes:

- There are some 6,000 Council houses across the UK that have tenants earning more than £100,000 a year living in them.
- That it has been reported that there are 15,000 tenants in social housing earning more than £80,000 a year.
- That there are a number of such tenants resident in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, including key supporters of the Mayor and his administration, who fall into this category.
- The wish by the Spitalfields Housing Association for the introduction of new measures which will enable them to re-let a Town House in Wapping to tenants more serving then the current resident.
- That the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Grant Shapps MP has brought forward plans that would give social landlords new powers to increase rents for high-income tenants.

This Council Believes:

- That these new powers social landlords will be granted in the proposals by the Department for Communities and Local Government will help solve this problem, and return much needed social housing to those in need.

This Council Resolves:

- To support the Department for Communities and Local Government in putting in place these new powers.
- To encourage all social landlords in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to not subsidise rents for those high earners earning over £80,000 a year.

12.5 Housing Benefit Reform

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council notes that:

- Some London councils are seeking to 'export' council tenants saying they can no longer afford to house residents owing to rising rents in the capital and the impact of housing benefit reforms.
- In Tower Hamlets, the changes to Local Housing Allowance (LHA) means that 77% of LHA recipients will see a reduction in income.
- Despite Grant Shapps' comments that there is a National Discretionary Housing Payments Fund of £91m, Tower Hamlets has received only £490,000.
- Residents in the borough are now receiving collectively £3.2m less than before April 2011 in benefits.
- On 28th February 2012, the Mayor and key partners in Tower Hamlets signed a Welfare Reform Pledge, which committed the Council and its partners to limiting the impact of Central Government's reforms on Tower Hamlets' Residents.

This Council believes that:

- Grant Shapps MP's defence of Housing Benefit Reforms was disingenuous and ignored the unique circumstances faced by inner London boroughs.
- These Central Government reforms will have a disproportionate impact on Tower Hamlet's residents, as it limits the level of housing benefits to large families and in areas of high rents.
- This is a deliberate attempt by the coalition government at social engineering.
- Inner London should remain somewhere people on all incomes can live.

This Council resolves:

- To continue to work with all partners to develop solutions which will help residents to stay in the borough.
- To support the lobby for a larger Discretionary Housing Payments Fund for London Boroughs.
- To support the lobby for a living rent.
- To offer support and guidance to any families who find themselves in financial difficulties due to these changes.

12.6 Recorded Votes

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Shafique Hoque

This Council notes:

1. That Council's constitution includes a provision for 'Recorded Votes'.
2. That this provision is designed to allow for maximum accountability.
3. That until 25 January 2012 the threshold of members required to trigger a Recorded Vote in Full Council was 10.
4. That on 25 January 2012 a motion was carried by a majority in Full Council increasing the threshold from 10 members to 20.
5. That this threshold is unreasonably high without precedent in Tower Hamlets and elsewhere.
6. That in Camden, the threshold is 7 members, in Barnet it is 10 members, in Newham it is 6 members, in Westminster it is 10 members, and in Greenwich it is 5 members.

This Council believes:

1. That the 'Recorded Vote' thresholds are generally low so that a minority can make their views known when votes go against them, to communicate to the public that whilst something they did not support may be Council policy, it is not unanimous and the minority opposed it.
2. That having a threshold of 20 members defeats the object of this provision, since (assuming whipping) recorded votes can only go ahead if the majority group is in favour.
3. That raising the threshold from 10 to 20 members was a backward step as regards the health of local democracy, and a grave mistake.
4. That having the highest threshold in the land, particularly when compared to the other aforementioned London boroughs, is deeply embarrassing for this authority.

This Council resolves:

1. To lower the threshold of support required to trigger a recorded vote from 20 members to 7 members.

12.7 Dignity Code for nurses and care workers for the elderly

Proposer: Councillor Gulam Robbani

Seconder: Councillor Abdul Asad

This Council notes that:

1. Recent exposes of shocking abuse of elderly and vulnerable patients in Care Homes for the elderly.
2. The calls from public figures, politicians and charities that Nurses and care workers should sign a Dignity Code guaranteeing that elderly patients are treated with respect.
3. The comments of Jeremy Hughes, chief executive of the Alzheimer's Society, that the care system in the UK is at further risk due to underfunding.

This Council believes that:

1. The care of elderly and vulnerable residents is one of the most important responsibilities of local government.
2. All residents of care homes have the right to the highest quality of care, as well as the right to live in dignity and be treated with respect.

This Council resolves:

1. To condemn all forms of abuse in care homes.
2. To call on the Government to improve the national inspection of Care Homes and protect funding for care homes.
3. To improve our own systems of reporting and investigating abuse to ensure that all vulnerable people in our care receive the highest standards of care.
4. To support the national call for Nurses and care workers to sign up to a Dignity Code.

12.8 Recession

Proposer: Councillor Rania Khan
Seconder: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

This Council notes:

1. Tory driven austerity measures are not working; unlike the United States, UK economic output has yet to return to the levels before the recession began four years ago.
2. This economic picture is set to worsen; national debt is expected to continue rising, from 67.3% of GDP this year, to peak at 76.3% of GDP in 2014/15, contrary to George Osborne's claims that his cuts would reduce the debt.

This Council agrees:

1. To support calls for a Plan B for the economy, outlined by over one hundred leading economists last year (Guardian Saturday 29 October 2011) which would include 'reversing cuts to protect jobs in the public sector, directing quantitative easing to a green new deal to create thousands of new jobs, increasing benefits to put money into the pockets of those on lower and middle incomes and thus increase aggregate demand. This could in part be paid for by the introduction of a financial transactions tax.'
2. To support the call for 'Robin Hood' taxes on the financial sector. A tiny tax on short-term, casino-style trading, which employs a small number of highly paid bankers in London, not the tens of thousands employed in high street financial services, would raise an estimated £20 billion. Research by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) shows that the sector can comfortably afford paying another £20 billion in tax.
3. That the priority for this council will be to follow policies that seek to protect residents, and their quality of life, from the impact recession by maintaining frontline services, protecting lower waged staff, reducing housing waiting lists and overcrowding by meeting the Mayor's affordable homes pledge, reducing energy bills via the setting up of new borough-wide energy co-op, and campaigning for a programme of public investment to create jobs and improve infrastructure.
4. That in light of the fact that the financial sector is responsible for the current economic crisis, and that they have received huge handouts from the public purse, the bankers have a moral responsibility to get their industry in order and repay their debt to the British people.

12.9 London Metropolitan University

Proposer: Councillor Fozol Miah

Seconder: Councillor Harun Miah

This council notes

- The decision, announced by the UK Borders Agency (UKBA) on 29 August to rescind the licence of London Metropolitan University to teach students from outside the European Union
- That such students currently number 2,600, that they are now facing the prospect of deportation unless they cannot arrange alternative means of completing their education at a different higher education institution in Britain and that many of these students have already paid thousands of pounds in fees for their studies and may have nothing to show for their considerable personal investment
- The large number of students that attend London Metropolitan University who grew up in and reside in Tower Hamlets.
- The considerable social and economic contribution that international students make to the national economy and in particular the contribution of London Metropolitan's international students to the life and prosperity of East London
- The UKBA decision now seriously jeopardises the financial stability and future of the University as a whole.
- That this University more than most has tried to broaden the availability of higher education to those from less privileged backgrounds
- That the loss of London Met would be a massive blow to the young people of Tower Hamlets and all those who are employed by the University and benefit from its presence in our community

This council believes

- This decision by the UKBA will give the UK an ill-deserved reputation as an unwelcoming and inhospitable destination for international students
- The Government's failure so far to intervene to end this crisis must be placed in a context of the Coalition's wider education policies, including the abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance and the Building Schools for the Future investment programme

This council asks the mayor

- To write to the Home Office expressing our condemnation of the UKBA decision and asking the Government to intervene to reverse the decision
- To write to the National Union of Students expressing this Council's support for their efforts to defend the rights of international students to study at London Metropolitan University
- To write to London Met Unison and UCU to support them in their initiatives to reverse the decision
- To seek information on the number of Tower Hamlets residents who will be directly affected by the decision and offer all necessary and appropriate assistance to them

12.10 Mayoral apology to the Honourable Syed Ashraful Islam MP

Proposer: Councillor Khaless Uddin Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

This Council notes:

- That the Mayor personally intervened to block an event on the 9th August with the Honourable Syed Ashraful Islam MP from taking place in the Council Chamber.
- That following the Mayor's decision the Council was forced to offer to hire an outside venue for the Speaker's official function which would have come at significant tax-payer cost.
- That the Honourable Syed Ashraful Islam MP is an elected representative of a Commonwealth country and had been formally welcomed in other London boroughs.
- The high level of community interest in Mr Islam's visit and the many people who wanted to attend the event.

This Council believes:

- That the Mayor did intentionally abuse his position to attempt to block the Speaker of the Council from carrying out his constitutional duties.
- The Speaker of the Council is a prestigious role steeped in a history which should be respected and that the office holder should be supported to carry out their civic duty to serve and represent the entire borough.
- The Mayor failed to meet the standards expected of him by residents and tarnished the reputation of the borough with his petty actions.
- The Mayor should make a public apology to all of the Speaker's guests, including the Honourable Syed Ashraful Islam MP, for any offence he caused.

This Council resolves:

- That use of the Council Chamber should not be a matter for the Executive or subject to Executive decisions and that all councillors should have access and use of the Council Chamber for the purposes of carrying out their roles as elected representatives

12.11 Access to Information Regulations

Proposer: Councillor Tim Archer

Seconder: Councillor David Snowdon

This Council Notes:

- The implementation on September 10 of “The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012”.

This Council Further Notes:

- That the chair and members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will now be entitled to any document which is in possession or under the control of the executive of the local authority, and contains material relating to any items that has been carried at a decision-making meeting of the authority, any decision made by a member of the executive within the accordance of the executive arrangements, and any decision by an officer within accordance of the executive arrangements.
- That it is now law that if a member of O&S requests such a document the executive must provide that document as soon as possible and no later than 10 clear days after the request is received.
- That a document can only be refused by the executive if it contains exempt or confidential information or part of the document and this is more clearly defined than previously, which will prevent information being described as Private and Confidential, solely to surpass debate and public discussion.

This Council Believes:

- These regulations enable access to council documents for the media, including local bloggers and give members additional rights to view executive documents in advance of decisions being made. In future the council will not be able to exclude members and the public on grounds of "political advice" or on the claim that there isn't a "key decision

This Council Resolves:

- To call upon a report to be brought forward on the implementation of these regulations and this to be considered by the Constitutional Working Party as soon as possible to ensure that the authority works in accordance with current law.

12.12 Rohingya Community Persecution

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconder: Councillor Fozol Miah

This council notes

- That a number of Tower Hamlets residents originate from the Rohingya community in Myanmar
- That many Tower Hamlets residents have connections to the Rohingya community because the community lives close to the Burmese border with Bangladesh
- The United Nations has designated this community one of the most persecuted in the world
- That there has been a rise in sectarian violence focussed on the Rohingya community over the last few months including rapings and killings
- That the Myanmar authorities have failed to intervene to stop this persecution
- That the Bangladesh government is limiting the number of Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution

This council asks the mayor

- To write to the Foreign Secretary asking him to make urgent representations to the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh to stop the persecution and assist members of the Rohingya community facing persecution

12.13 Mattress Recycling in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Shiria Khatun

Seconder: Councillor Joshua Peck

This Council notes:

- That across the borough unwanted mattresses are frequently fly-tipped in streets and public places at the detriment of the natural environment and local residents.
- The Mayor's introduction of a £15 charge for bulk waste collection in Tower Hamlets.
- That a number of other London Councils have in place schemes offering free mattress collection and recycling. Labour run Lewisham council for example recycles over 9000 mattresses each year resulting in 307 tonnes saved from landfill last year.
- 10 million mattresses are landfilled every year in the UK and the annual contribution of mattresses to the nation's waste stream is estimated to rise from 160,000 ton to 245,000 ton by the year 2016.
- That the Council incurs significant cost collecting and landfilling fly-tipped mattresses in the borough.

This Council Believes:

- That where possible recycling is a preferable alternative to landfill as it helps to protect the environment, creates jobs and saves money on landfill.
- With its dense urban population mattresses are regularly to be found dumped and fly-tipped in Tower Hamlets.
- Lewisham's scheme of mattress recycling is a progressive and innovative scheme which has received significant uptake throughout the borough.
- A similar scheme in Tower Hamlets would allow the council to increase the amount of waste it recycles, reduce fly-tipping and better meet resident's needs.

This Council resolves:

- To call upon the Mayor to conduct a feasibility study into introducing in Tower Hamlets a mattress recycling scheme similar to that operated in Lewisham.
- To call on the Mayor report back to Full Council on the outcome of the study and to include the scheme in his next budget.

12.14 Youth Employment

Proposer: Councillor Craig Aston

Seconder: Councillor David Snowdon

This Council Notes:

- That the Employment Minister and the Mayor of London Boris Johnson have launched a new pilot scheme across 16 London Boroughs to help young Londoners into work
- The pilot will help 6,000 Londoners who have little or no experience of work gain that invaluable experience
- The Mayor of London has pledged to create 200,000 jobs over the next four years
- 10% (3,430) of 16 - 24 year olds in Tower Hamlets are classified as NEETS

This Council Believes:

- That the Minister for Employment is getting to get to grips with youth unemployment
- That the Mayor of London has the right plans and policies to help create jobs across London and in Tower Hamlets

This Council Resolves:

- To support the Mayor of London in his plans to create 200, 000 new jobs in four years
- To support this new pilot and encourage the Mayor of London and the Employment Minister to extend the pilot to include the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- To do everything it can to get young people in the borough into employment

12.15 Bullying and Intimidating Council Officers and Members

Proposer: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

Seconder: Councillor Rania Khan

This Council notes:

- The judgement by the Local Government Standards Tribunal in England to uphold the decision of this council's Standards Committee to suspend a Labour member for disclosing confidential staff information.
- The report from the Evening Standard newspaper on 17 May 2012, where a Labour member allegedly threatened a female council member in the council chamber.
- The council has a code of conduct which governs the way members engage with officers and other members.

This Council believes:

- Members and officers and have a right to work in a safe and secure environment without threat of abuse and intimidation.
- Public servants, in discharging their duties, should provide impartial advice without fear or favour, and this is true from central government to local authorities.
- Councillors are expected to uphold the highest standards in public life.
- The use of council staff as 'political footballs' to undermine the work of the mayor impacts on the delivery of council services to local residents.
- Targeting of council officers for political purposes is unacceptable and warrants immediate disciplinary action.
- That abuse of position not only brings the council into disrepute but damages the reputation of elected office.
- Procedures to address grievances against members must be reviewed to ensure council officers are protected from politically motivated bullying and intimidation.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the mayor to instruct council's monitoring officer to write to all party leaders reminding them of their responsibilities to council staff and fellow members.
- To call on the mayor to instruct council's head of paid service to write to senior officers to reassure council staff and encourage the reporting any breaches of member/officer protocol.
- To call on the mayor to support an independent investigation by the Standard Committee, leading to sanctions for any member, who is found guilty of bullying or intimidating council officers.
- To seek advice from the district auditor, Local Government Association, London Councils, Trade Unions and the Department of Communities and Local Government on bullying and intimidation of council officers by members.

12.16 Social Fund – Coalition Reforms

Proposer: Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Seconder: Councillor Marc Francis

This Council Notes

- The Social Fund was set up in 1988 to provide financial assistance predominantly to people on low incomes;
- It includes a regulated element, comprising Winter Fuel Payments, Cold Weather Payments, Funeral Payments and Sure Start Maternity Grants.
- The conditions for receiving these payments and grants are set down in regulations.
- It also includes a discretionary element, comprising Community Care Grants, Crisis Loans and Budgeting Loans, where awards are made at the discretion of Job Centre Plus;
- Social Fund Community Care Grants (CCGs) are available to homeless people, care leavers, ex-offenders leaving custody and others with an institutionalised background to help them with the costs of setting up home;
- Funding for CCGs was increased by around £10 million a year between 2002/03 and 2006/07, but has remained at a total of £141 million since then;
- The Coalition Government's proposal to reform to Social Fund, including the replacement of the CCG and Crisis Loans with locally-based provision;
- Ministers have refused to commit to ring-fence funding for this local provision or issue guidance to those authorities to ensure vulnerable people are helped;
- While there were many problems with the discretionary Social Fund, particularly as a result of its cash-limited nature, no organisation has called for it to be abolished;
- The de-ring fencing of Supporting People funding for vulnerable homeless people and others requiring housing support has resulted in cutbacks to those services in many authorities.

This Council Believes

- These reforms undermine the principles of the Welfare State and leave vulnerable people at the mercy of a postcode lottery of local authority provision;
- The Labour Government's previously published plans to modernise the Social Fund within the same basic structure as exists at present would provide for a much stronger safety-net for vulnerable people.

This Council Resolves

- To call on the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to voice opposition to these changes and give a commitment to ring-fence any funding received for the purposes of replacing CCGs with locally administered grants/loans for those same purposes.
- To call on the Mayor to prioritise developing a new system to replace CCGs in order to allow full scrutiny before its introduction in April 2013.

12.17 The Government's failed economic policies

Proposer: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council notes:

- That the only growth this government is creating in Britain today is in the rate of poverty.
- That government austerity has ensured that the numbers of children living in poverty is growing; home repossessions are growing; transport, energy and food bills are growing; numbers of food banks are growing; and the national debt is growing.
- That despite government assurances that cuts would reduce the national debt and stimulate economic growth, the opposite is the case. In July, the government borrowed £600m over the month to bridge the gap between what was coming in and what was going out. National debt is expected to continue rising, from 67.3% of GDP this year, to peak at 76.3% of GDP in 2014/15.
- That the economic cost of government policy threatens to be a 'lost decade' of growth. The human cost threatens to be a 'lost generation'; for the first time since World War II, the next generation will have a worse lot in life than those before them.

This Council resolves:

- To support calls for a Plan B for the economy, outlined by over one hundred leading economists last year, which would include protecting public sector jobs and services and intervening in the economy to stimulate demand and growth.
- To support calls for a 'Robin Hood' taxes on the financial sector. Research by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) shows that the sector can comfortably afford paying another £20 billion in tax. The Robin Hood tax is tiny tax on short-term, casino-style trading, which employs a small number of highly paid bankers in London, not the tens of thousands employed in high street financial services.

12.18 Review of the Contract for the BaishakhiMela

Proposer: Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

Secunder: Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

This Council notes:

- The significant concern within the community at the way the 2012 BaishakhiMela was conducted, specifically over the process used to allocate stalls.
- The media reports that 19 people were arrested for attempted visa fraud relating to the Mela.
- The 2012 BaishakhiMela was the first under a 9 year contract awarded to the BoishakhiMela Trust.

This Council Believes:

- The BaishakhiMela is a great cultural addition to Tower Hamlets offering a wide range of cultural experiences and economic benefits to the borough.
- The BaishakhiMela should be an event open to be enjoyed by all and organised in the best interests of all in the community.
- The reputation of both the borough and the Mela is damaged by reports of fraud and that the Council should do all it can to protect its reputation and support organisers to prevent such attempts.
- Awarding the contract to run the Mela to an outside organisation bought with it significant risks and challenges and as such the running of the BaishakhiMela should be an issue of on-going independent monitoring.

This Council resolves:

- To call upon the Mayor to undertake a full independent review of the 2012 BaishakhiMela to ensure that it met all of its contractual obligations and provided a service which best served the community.
- To call upon the Mayor to make public the findings and report of the independent review in to the 2012 BaishakhiMela and to report back to Full Council on 23rd January 2013 on the findings.

12.19 Paralympic Games

Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad

Seconder: Councillor Rania Khan

This Council Notes:

- That East London played host to the Paralympic Games between 29 August and 9 September 2012.
- That whilst Tower Hamlets figures for participation in sport among disabled people are better than London and England averages, there remain 69.6% of the borough's disabled residents that do not take part in moderate sporting or physical activity for 30 minutes per week.
- The Council's Sport and Physical Activity Team has invested, developed and championed disability sport in the borough for many years to address the low levels of disability sports participation.
- That as part of the Paralympic Legacy for Tower Hamlets, the Sports Team has contributed to a consortium funding application to Sport England lead by the London Legacy Development Corporation to fund disability sport activity in Tower Hamlets for the next three years.

This Council Believes:

- That the Paralympic Games have served as a brilliant showcase of disabled people's sporting talent.
- That the Paralympians have served as an inspiration to us all: not cowed but driven by their limiting disabilities, determined to triumph through adversity.
- That sports and physical activity should be championed for all, both for enjoyment and as a basic necessity for health; and that we have a duty to make opportunities available for disabled residents in Tower Hamlets to take part in sporting activity.

This Council Resolves:

- To congratulate Team GB on their stunning achievements in the Paralympic Games at London 2012.
- To continue to champion sports and physical activity for all, including disabled people in Tower Hamlets.
- To continue to offer sports provision specifically for disabled people, such as swimming, disability athletics, judo, and wheelchair basketball.
- To call on Sport England to uphold Tower Hamlets' consortium bid so that the Council is able to build on the excellent provision currently on offer in the years to come, in the aim of increasing the proportion of disabled residents that take part in regular physical activity.