

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2014**

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

**Members Present:**

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Clare Harrison
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Mahbub Alam	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Andrew Cregan	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Julia Dockerill	Councillor Gulam Robbani
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Andrew Wood

**The Speaker of the Council, Councillor M. A. Mukit, MBE, in the Chair**

The meeting commenced at 10.32 p.m.

**NOTE - AGENDA ORDER**

During the meeting the Council agreed to vary the order of business. To aid clarity, the Minutes are presented in the order that the items originally appeared on the agenda. Urgent motions, moved with the agreement of the Council, without notice, are listed at Item 15. The order the business was taken at the meeting was as follows:

- Item 1 – Apologies for absence
- Item 2 – Declarations of Disclosable pecuniary interests

- Item 3 – Minutes (including item 14 – Exempt Minutes)
- Item 4 – Announcements
- Item 5 – Petitions
- Item 12.5 – Motion regarding Vic Johnson House
- Item 6 – Public Questions
- Item 7 – Mayor’s Report
- Item 12.8 – Motion regarding Chief Executive recruitment
- Item 15.1 – Urgent Motion regarding the judicial review of the Best Value inspection
- Item 8 – Members’ Questions
- Item 11.1 – 2013-14 Treasury Management Outturn Report
- Item 12.1 – Motion regarding primary school performance
- Item 12.2 – Motion regarding the Council’s budget

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Councillor Helal Uddin declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12.5 ‘Motion regarding Vic Johnson House – proposed redevelopment of sheltered housing’ as his wife worked for the housing association and so he would not take part in the discussion and would leave the chamber for the duration of that item.

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the unrestricted and exempt/confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 July 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

**4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL**

There were no announcements.

**5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**

**5.1 Petition for Road Hump in Carr Street, E14**

The petitioners were not present and so the petition was not heard.

### **5.2 Petition to stop the building of a new school in the Burdett Estate**

Mr Junayd Miah addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development then responded to the matters raised in the petition. She expressed concern with the plans and the level of consultation to date and recommended that, should a planning application be submitted, the petitioners should ensure their concerns were presented to the Development Committee that would consider them.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Education, Social Care and Wellbeing, for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

### **5.3 Petition regarding Vic Johnson House**

Mr Marcus Cook addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development responded to the matters raised in the petition. She welcomed the petition and stated that she and officers had already expressed their disappointment to Gateway Housing that they had not met the expected standards. She stated that they would work to try and ensure these plans did not go ahead.

#### **RESOLVED**

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

#### **Procedural Motion**

Councillor Marc Francis then **moved** and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded**, a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that Motion 12.5 “Motion regarding Vic Johnson House – proposed redevelopment of sheltered housing” be taken as the next item of business. The motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

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

The following questions and in each case (except where indicated) a supplementary question were put and were responded to by the relevant Executive Member.

**6.1 Question from Mr Michael James:**

How will this council deal with unjust private landlords and protect victimised tenants from eviction?

**Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development**

Thank you and my sympathies to you and your courage in notifying environmental health officers and as you know now we have a schedule of work in place and we have served notice to the landlord to ensure those works take place.

But actually your question is a far reaching question in asking how we protect the private rented sector.

It is very important and deals with the private rented sector not just in Tower Hamlets but it has an impact on the rest of London and the country. The Mayor made a promise to deliver the Landlords Registration Scheme. Now the issue of tenants being victimized in the private rented sector is an important one because when Thatcher introduced right to buy she also abolished the rights of tenants. They were abolished on 15 January 1989 as part of the Rent Act. Whilst regulated tenancies offer some protection there are fewer rights for private rented sector tenants.

In April 2014 Cabinet agreed the Fairness Commission recommendations. Recommendation 16 of the commission clearly sets out that we must improve the private rented sector and tenants must be better protected from a landlord licensing scheme in Tower Hamlets.

A licensing scheme would enable the council to apply legal requirements in designated areas requiring landlords to register, apply for a license for each property they rent out and comply with the specific conditions.

Last week Cabinet agreed the consultation process to begin for the first stage of developing this Landlord Registration Scheme.

As part of the consultation we have a duty to consult with private rented sector landlords, tenants and other interested parties who have a say in this.

Regardless of how unfair this must be to you it is a national crisis as well and the most important thing in the future for any political party to campaign on this is for changes in the current legislation to ensure that tenants are protected far more.

**Supplementary question from Mr James**

Regarding the Council's new scheme we call upon the Mayor to contact landlords directly this winter who are evicting tenants unjustly to warn them.

**Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the supplementary question**

Your comments are very important and I will ensure that as part of the consultation that is done.

**6.2 Question from Mr Glyn Robbins:**

Can Councillor Khan please confirm if the Council will be represented at 'Le marché international des professionnels de l'immobilier' - the MIPIM conference - to be held at London Olympia, 15 - 17 October 2014?

**Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development**

Thank you for your question. For people who do not know what the MIPIM conference is, it is a trade fair for the property industry. It takes place in Cannes and it tells you something that it is the first UK conference to be held at Olympia and it will be held between 15 – 17 October.

It is for the big players, the people who want to invest in property and the people who want to take land and develop it and sell it.

You are right to say that when we live in a country that probably in the future generations of our young people will never be able to buy our properties. In fact they will be probably in their late thirties or early forties if they are ever to buy a property.

I sympathise with those critics of the conference who say that the conference is too heavily weighted in favour of speculators and it is true that people come here and see whether or not they can get a very good deal and possibly they will look at Tower Hamlets.

Boris Johnson will be making the keynote speech but that is in the interests of the Tory Party.

Too much of our property market is skewed by developers seeking to make fortunes by carving up the property market and getting their hands on the 13 million acres of under used public land at a knockdown price and that will be happening at the conference and no, Tower Hamlets will not be represented there.

(No supplementary question was put.)

**7. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor made his report to the Council meeting, extending a warm welcome to all present.

When the Mayor had completed his report, at the invitation of the Speaker the

Leaders of the other political groups each then responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

### **Procedural Motions**

At the conclusion of her response to the Mayor's report, Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Shiria Khatun **seconded** a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that Motion 12.8 "Motion regarding Chief Executive recruitment" be taken as the next item of business. The motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

At the conclusion of his response to the Mayor's report, Councillor Peter Golds, **moved**, and Councillor Craig Aston **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.5, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion regarding Tower Hamlets Council's judicial review on the Best Value Inspection to be considered". The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Under Procedure Rule 17.6, the following Councillors requested that their votes against the procedural motion moved by Councillor Golds be recorded:

Councillor Ohid Ahmed  
Councillor Suluk Ahmed  
Councillor Mahbub Alam  
Councillor Shah Alam  
Councillor Shahed Ali  
Councillor Abdul Asad  
Councillor Alibor Choudhury  
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury  
Councillor Shafiqul Haque  
Councillor Aminur Khan  
Councillor Rabina Khan  
Councillor Abjol Miah  
Councillor Harun Miah  
Councillor Md Maium Miah  
Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah  
Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim  
Councillor Oliur Rahman  
Councillor Gulam Robbani

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

The following questions and in each case (except where indicated) a supplementary question were put and were responded to by the relevant Executive Member:-

### **8.1 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell**

Given the issues raised by the inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, what steps has this administration taken to ensure that procedures and services are robust in safeguarding young people here in Tower Hamlets?

#### **Response by Councillor Gulam Robbani, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services**

Thank you Mr Hassell, Councillor Hassell for your question.

This is a very important issue, a very sensitive one, and recent revelation around Rotherham is rather shocking and sad.

In terms of our administration, we place safeguarding children as our top priority and on that end Mayor earlier on he said Mayor and I have commissioned an independent investigation, independent review of our safeguarding process and also we asked for officers to carry out an extensive audit of our safeguarding process and procedure.

We are committed to provide the best service in terms of safeguarding and therefore I would recommend all our Councillors to attend a future safeguarding meeting coming up some time in October and therefore I could assure the Chamber is that we have a very robust safeguarding board in place and we have an independent Chair who chairs this safeguarding board and we have a very good record on safeguarding children in this authority.

#### **Supplementary question from Councillor Danny Hassell**

I thank the Lead Member for his response and am sure we all welcome the review that he's mentioned. I understand the review will be looking at the arrangements, the procedures and processes for dealing with child sexual exploitation.

I wonder if in addition I could ask the Lead Member to request that there is an independent audit of some of the previous cases that have been dealt with by the Council and partners so that we can identify direct lessons from these to be implemented for the future.

#### **Councillor Gulam Robbani's response to the supplementary question**

In terms of I say that we also asked for an extensive audit of safeguarding process and safeguarding cases and am happy to ensure any lesson to be learned from Rotherham experience we will do so.

### **8.2 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam**

Will the Council join me in congratulating Cllr Rabina Khan in being nominated for the 'Hero of the Year' award in the 2014 European Diversity Awards and also wish her the best of luck?

**Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Deputy Mayor**

Thank you Mr Speaker it gives me great pleasure to respond to this question. Well done to Councillor Rabina for being shortlisted for 2014 European Diversity awards which celebrates individuals, organisation and businesses excellence and promoting equality and diversity across Europe.

Councillor Khan is a fantastic asset to this Council.

She has rightly has been shortlisted for her engagement in local community, wider society through her writing directing and producing work.

Her support in delivering government regeneration initiatives such as Bethnal Green City Challenge and management of education and empowerment project for the local women and young girls from ethnic minority communities were particularly praised, especially round challenging perception of muslim women and advocating integration of muslim women in mainstream society across Europe. So I do join Councillor Alam congratulating Councillor Rabina Khan for this nomination and I think she may be able to teach one or two Councillors in this Chamber about some of the diversity that they should be following when it comes to serving residents of this borough.

(No supplementary question was put)

**8.3 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood**

The Mayor has stated repeatedly that Tower Hamlets has some of the best urban schools in the world, can he explain why over the last five years the number of children attending primary schools rated by OSTED as Outstanding in the Bethnal Green & Bow area has declined so sharply; and why the percentage of children attending LA primary schools in the borough rated as Inadequate by OFSTED is twice as high as any neighbouring borough?

**Response by Councillor Gulam Robbani, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services**

Yes thank you Councillor Wood I know am not sure you asked question or you made a lot of statements.

I know some of you would like to say negative things about our children and our education of our schools. You would know that our borough has been increasing the result year on year, every year. You have compared some of the stats you are trying to confuse people.

In 2009 you talk about our results. In 2009 we had 75% of our schools either outstanding or good and now we have 86%, therefore there is increase or



improvement of 11% and also level 4 children on day when they leave primary school it has risen by 6% therefore our school performance is improving and by all the administration, the current administration, the last administration had invested on education and this we are currently investing on education particularly on our free school meal just recently started and also the Mayor's education allowance, the higher education allowance, lots of things happening in this Borough.

Therefore it is a surprise that you want to paint a misleading picture for this Borough. You talked about Mayor talking about the world class education and that is not just Mayor it is the Department for Education and we have some of the best urban schools in the world.

### **Supplementary question from Councillor Andrew Wood**

All I can suggest is that when you are next on the internet go to Ofsted Data View. Do the analysis for yourself, you can see basically what the numbers look like. It is very clear that there are some outstanding schools in Tower Hamlets as I said earlier. But there are not enough of them.

Again I did not get an answer earlier so I repeat the question, what has changed in the last five years which has basically resulted in outstanding schools becoming good and good schools becoming inadequate.

What has happened? This is really important issue ok it is not a political issue. It is about the future of our children and I expect a better answer than that to be honest. Thank you.

### **Councillor Gulam Robbani's response to the supplementary question**

Yes Councillor it is your party it is Michael Gove who moved the goalpost. In the past we didn't have this inadequate, it was we had a different system so he changed the goalpost because too many people are performing. Therefore also it is the Tory Party who has shamelessly cut budget and funding for lots of schools so it's not just Tower Hamlets right because nationally some of these performance gone down not because people are not performing, it's because the way Tory has moved the goalposts.

## **8.4 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders**

Please could the Mayor make a statement about the Leaving Care service following the details of failure in the service in UNISON's Tower Power publication?

### **Response by Councillor Gulam Robbani, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services**

Again misleading Councillor Saunders nothing surprise me, I read the Tower Power articles nothing nowhere says failure, it does however talk about individual concern, individual victim of bullying victimisation and

therefore I share their concern in terms of our staff who are victim of victimisation and bullying and therefore as I understand Officer has assured me that we have carried out a thorough independent investigation of those allegation and therefore appropriate action has been taken.

In terms of our young people you would know, or you may not know, that if you care to know that most recent Ofsted inspection so to labelled us as a good authority and good rating. Particularly they praised, commended our children and care and also they said our model best practice therefore these are the good things, we are committed and I am committed and we will continue to provide best service for our care leavers.

#### **Supplementary question from Councillor Rachael Saunders**

As Councillors we are corporate parents and if had a child and what was happening in an institution that where my child was in care was what happened as set out in the UNISON publication I would be furious and I would go and you know I would fight really hard to try and make sure things were sorted out. I was really surprised when I read the account of what happened in Tower Power that I heard nothing more from the Council because we are all corporate parents and all of us should be asking those questions to make sure those children are looked after in the best possible way.

I am glad to hear now that there was an independent investigation. I would be grateful if that investigation should be published because all of us as corporate parents need to take on that responsibility.

#### **Councillor Gulam Robbani's response to the supplementary question**

Just to reiterate Mr Speaker that a report has been carried out. These are personal HR issues therefore that cannot be published. There is something called confidentiality and we will continue to provide best service for this authority and I am as a Corporate parent we are doing a fantastic job and we commend our staff as hardworking.

#### **8.5 Question from Councillor Shah Alam**

Will the Mayor join with me in calling on the Prime Minister to grant asylum to the Christian and other religious minorities suffering persecution at the hands of Islamic State in Northern Iraq?

#### **Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Deputy Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Alam for your question.

I echo everything the Mayor has said in his statement and call on Prime Minister the call which has also been supported by a number of bishops and I also want to say that those people who also beheading the journalists we condemn that in the strongest term and those people who use their name Islam and religion for that purpose I want to say absolutely clear these people

do not represent any law abiding decent muslim, they do not represent Islam as a religion and they are nothing to do with the religion whatsoever and far as I am concerned and I would go as far as saying that are not even classed as Muslim and we will continue to stand and oppose such a horrendous act against any religion and against any human being we may disagree and we not agree to something that does not mean you take the weapon and start attacking innocent people, children, men and women right across the world wherever they may be.

(No supplementary question was put)

### **Procedural Motion**

At the conclusion of question 8.5, Councillor Alibor Choudhury **moved**, and Councillor Oliur Rahman **seconded** a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that Motion 12.9 “Motion regarding the humanitarian crisis in Iraq and persecution of religious minorities” be taken as the next item of business. The motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

### **8.6 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman**

Will the Mayor tell us what steps have been taken to address the issues raised in my supplementary question at the last full council meeting, regarding One Housing’s recent track record?

### **Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development**

Thank you Mr Speaker, this issue that you have raised Councillor Chapman have been raised with One Housing. They have assured us that the under floor garages have been cleared of all waste and that the area has been further secured in order to deter people from entering the premises and starting fires. This work has been done in co-operation with the Fire Brigade.

Further detail on the other three matters is still awaited and I have asked Officers to report to you directly on that matter. However, whilst One Housing may have reported to us that they have carried out the work we will still continue to monitor that they are doing so.

### **Supplementary question from Councillor Chris Chapman**

Thank you for that answer.

In response to my supplementary question on this topic at the last full council meeting the Cabinet Member referenced the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, I thank you for that as I know that the Mayor is a great admirer of the Secretary of State.

Does the Mayor feel that we could take a leaf out of the Secretary's book in terms of how we deal with these issues in relation to One Housing? Particularly as Mick Sweeney the Chief Executive of One Housing decided not to accept a request to appear before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss One Housing's extremely poor record of late.

I have had numerous residents contact me in relation to the immediate demands for large sums of money relating to major works, in some cases upwards of £6,000 after years of paying manageable monthly sums and it is indeed heartwrenching to listen to a resident just this week cry down the telephone because they now face the prospect of losing their home due to this wholly disproportionate request.

You mentioned the disused car park under Headley House has now been discovered to contain anti-social behaviour.

My question is will the Mayor therefore follow the excellent example set by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in terms of his approach to dealing with rot both figuratively and in this case quite literally and ensure that One Housing are dealt with directly and urgently?

#### **Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the supplementary question**

Actually I would like to thank the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny for requesting One Housing in an attempt to bring the RP to task. However One Housing did not attend because RPs are not compelled to attend O & S.

During my time I and the Mayor have continuously endeavoured to hold various RPs to account. One Housing is included. I have stated earlier that we have sought to use our EH powers to bring RPs and rogue landlords to account.

The Council prosecuted One Housing in 2011 and the case was heard at the Thames Magistrates Court, September 16<sup>th</sup> 2011. District Judge Ashwell found out that One Housing did not do enough to comply with the Council's Housing Act notices and ordered them to pay fines of seven hundred pounds and the Council's cost of £2,000 so we have actually worked really hard to bring One Housing to account.

But the bigger question is why the Tory led government took away tenants' rights, changed registered social landlords actual term and turned it into registered providers and abolished the tenants' services authority giving free reign to housing providers.

Then you Councillor Chapman have the audacity to ask me what I do about when it is your own party that has put us in this place in the first place.

**8.7 Question from Councillor Clare Harrison**

Recent reports have shown that Government cuts mean domestic violence refuge provision is at a crisis point. What is the mayor doing specifically to ensure that shelters in the Borough stay open and that services for victims of domestic violence are protected?

**Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

Thank you Councillor Clare Harrison for your question.

It is very very important point that we are going to face of course huge cuts in this borough you know probably next two years we have to find 70 million pounds worth of savings so we are in very much in trouble but we are just trying to save our complaints services particularly this kind of services which is going to affect our vulnerable women and the refugee.

So we are as a Council we are very much committed to serve this kind of services. We specifically fund organisations for domestic violence in this Borough so we are contract with Jacita Housing who deliver the domestic abuse services in this Borough.

In last financial year 146 women and 184 children access to this service and although is committed to retain its position and to make sure that this service continue and we are committed to continue this service.

Thank you for your question.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Clare Harrison**

Yes and I think this is a little bit sad that this hasn't been given this its full attention and we kind of had a bit of a petty squabble. I think it's such a key issue and I think my supplementary is basically whether the Mayor can give a personal guarantee that he won't see any refuges closed in the borough and that everyone leaving violent homes will have full access to things like the social fund and other council resources in order to kind of enable a smooth transition.

Thank you.

**Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the supplementary question**

Thank you for your supplementary question item. I think you should be speaking to a colleague not to support the blue bench sitting behind us.

This is what I think needs to happen in this chamber. We should be working together to make sure that our people, particularly residents in this Borough are represented well.

As I said before I cannot add anything more but we are committed. We have to find 70 million pounds worth of savings at the same time we are very much committed to save our frontline services particularly services like this and will continue to retain this kind of service.

This is our commitment and as I said it many times before you became a Councillor we are here to represent our people and we will do in our best ability and will make sure that this kind of service continues. Thank you.

### **8.8 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed**

I am sure many have been saddened to hear of film-actor Robin Williams' tragic death last month, as the result of suicide. Considering the large numbers of middle-aged men who commit suicide, can the council tell us what they are doing to promote the destigmatization of mental health issues, and our most recent progress with the Time to Change plan?

### **Response by Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services**

Thank you Councillor Suluk Ahmed.

The world has been saddened and shocked at the recent death of Robin Williams and his suicide highlights how depression affects the people from all walks of life.

This is why the initiatives like Time to Change which tackled the stigma of mental health are very important and in order to help and support the suffering with our staff concerned they might be aware that they are introducing a new mental health policy for staff in this Council which includes the parachute scheme to help manage mental health at work, Mental Health First.

First Aiders are being trained and HR staff are also trained in mental health awareness in October as part of the Time to Change the plan.

A detailed action plan is being pursued which involves Time to Change auditing the Council's arrangement once they are fully implemented.

I also would like to add that this is why the Executive Mayor Lutfur Rahman in person signed the pledge Time to Change and you can be rest assured that this Council will provide the best service to resolve the problem of people with mental health. At the same time like yourself you are a very graceful campaigner. We have seen your campaign through progressive youth organization (PYO) and so on and will continue to campaign in the community to give awareness of the people how it affects the people with mental health. Thank you.

(No supplementary question was put)

**8.9 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill**

Will the Mayor provide details of the change in annual costs of dealing with fly tipping since 2011, and the revenue generated each year through his £15 bulky waste collection charge introduced in 2012?

**Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Clean and Green**

Thank you for your question Councillor Dockerill.

We talked, this Chamber talked a lot about, we heard a lot about being corporate parents and that takes responsibility on all services that we provide here in the Council but unfortunately judging by the performance of some Members opposite me this evening, I just hope you know where they chose to move to the vote with that debate I just hope that my kids don't ask me to move to the vote when I try to apprehend them for any wrong doings that they may have done.

Anyhow moving to the subject charging for bulky waste is not new, it happens in other Boroughs including your friends in Croydon who also choose to charge for bulky waste collections. The Council in Westminster also charges for bulky waste collections. The Council actually spent only £2,183.00 dealing with fly tipping in the year 11/12. Slightly increased to £3,365.00 in the year 12/13 and actually reduced this year in the current year 13/14 to only £1,362.00 so overall that's created a saving and we have seen that pattern increasing over the last three years.

You will be pleased to know, everyone will be pleased to know in this Chamber that as a result of introducing the services we have actually generated already some £120,000 of income and I am sure everybody will appreciate in this chamber that that income can go towards other projects that we strive to provide in this borough in the face of the Tory cuts that we've been facing over the last three or four years in particular.

Many community services such as the Work 100 programme for example which the Mayor introduced and is striving to get 100 women in this borough into full-time employment.

Also you will be pleased to know that around the corner from yourselves the Watts Grove facility has also increased in its collection of bulky items that people wish to go and dispose of personally there and that's also helped us increase our recycling rates by some 70% so I would say that the bulky waste collection service that we started certainly working the facts and figures speak for themselves.

We haven't received many complaints, any complaints really about the service and I hope that the collection rates and the income that we generate from that service will continue to grow. Thank you.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Julia Dockerill**

Thank you very much for that answer.

I don't have a problem with the notion of charging for items but it doesn't seem to be working in Tower Hamlets.

I think everybody, probably every candidate here tweeted pictures of themselves next to huge piles of mattresses, dumped televisions, particularly on our council estates and the one near me, Doughty Court has a real problem. My concern really is if the cost of the fly tipping costs have gone down maybe its because people aren't actually collecting the items from the Council and so I would just like to know whether the Council would consider reviewing this policy because it doesn't really seem to be working from the anecdotal evidence that Councillors provide from their twitter accounts and elsewhere.

**Councillor Shahed Ali's response to the supplementary question**

Yes very briefly yes I too use Twitter myself and I'm sure that the majority of the public and the nation and round the world also choose to use Twitter.

But the facts that I've illustrated to you earlier I think to be fair they speak for themselves.

We've seen, I've explained to you that we have seen the reduction in the costs its costing us the Council to deal with the fly tipping, which is an illegal activity by the way, to counter that and obviously by introducing the charge of only £15.00 we have managed to generate an income that is much needed to provide the services that we have had to cut as a result of Tory cuts.

But I will finish by saying both to yourselves your colleagues and the colleagues opposite, especially Councillor Saunders and Khatun who are having a different conversation, obviously not interested in bulky waste at this moment in time. But please please please I encourage you all to please call up the Council if you see any of your neighbours, any of your friends and families disposing of waste illegally, the mattresses and so forth please call us up tell us to move it that way we can ensure that there's less rubbish and bulky waste left on our streets so please do that. Don't worry if I discover its someone that you know I won't dob you in I won't ring them up and tell you that your cousin rang up and told me that you got mattresses lying around don't worry about that I can assure you discretion. Thank you.

**8.11 Question from Councillor Muhammed Ansar Mustaqim**

Will the Mayor join with me in offering his best wishes to the delegation of trade unionists and local community activists who are embarking on a fact finding visit to Bangladesh to meet the victims of the Rana Plaza disaster and explore how we in the UK can support them and promote safer working conditions?



**Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Deputy Mayor**

Thank you Mr Speaker as a Trade Unionist myself I fully support and I was in Bangladesh during the disaster and I seen it for first hand the scene and I also visited the victims before and after and also when I went to see the scene afterwards there was many blankets, clothes was stacked in the mud where people have lost their lives and it didn't only affect the individual but it also affected the families, the livelihoods and I want to say the number of multi million pounds worth of companies that are based in this country that some of us go to shop they actually use the workers in Bangladesh, pay peanuts have an extremely, extremely poor working conditions their wages don't get paid for months after months and I think we as a human being if not anything else we have a moral duty to at least raise our voice, raise our concern in support of those people and bearing in mind Bangladesh along with many other countries in the world is one of the poorest countries in the world and nobody deserve to be treated like this and I don't believe if people were to be treated like this in this country any of us would be keeping quiet.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Muhammed Ansar Mustaqim**

Thank you for this answer.

I would like to know that this house wants to know what kind of relationship with the Bangladesh and the government industry in Bangladesh to protect to you know to having this sort of disaster again.

**Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the supplementary question**

Obviously is responsibility of government of Bangladesh and I know that many politicians from whichever party when they do visit they do raise this issue, the Mayor met with the delegation this afternoon I've also said that I would also meet them along with my colleagues from my union to support and I know that Unite one of the largest union in the country is also going to support the Trade unionists in Bangladesh to put mechanism in place so that they can support their workers and make sure that they have a decent standard of employment and contract and so on and so forth.

Question 8.10 was withdrawn. Questions 8.12 to 8.20 were not put due to lack of time. The Service Head, Democratic Services stated that written responses would be provided. [Note: The written responses are included in Appendix A to these minutes.]

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

There was no business to transact under this agenda item.

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

There was no business to transact under this agenda item.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS****11.1 2013-14 Treasury Management Outturn Report**

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director of Resources on treasury management.

**RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

**12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL****12.1 Motion regarding Primary School Performance**

Councillor Andrew Wood **moved**, and Councillor Chris Chapman **seconded** the motion as printed on the agenda.

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

**RESOLVED**

This Council notes:

- That in the Bethnal Green & Bow area of the borough, the percentage of primary school children attending a Local Authority school rated as Outstanding by OFSTED has dropped from 29% five years ago, prior the current administration coming in to office, to 8% this year.
- That in the same area the percentage of pupils attending a primary school rated as Inadequate has gone from 0% five years ago to 7% this year.
- That across the whole borough the percentage of children attending a primary school rated as Inadequate (4%) is twice as high as any neighbouring borough.
- That the percentage of primary school children attending a school rated as Outstanding in Tower Hamlets (15%) would put it towards the bottom of a local league table of schools.
- That this is despite Tower Hamlets receiving approximately the third highest funding per pupil in London.

This Council therefore asks that the Overview & Scrutiny committee investigate the causes for this decline and report back to full Council as soon as possible.

### **12.2 Motion regarding the Council's Budget**

Councillor Shiria Khatun **moved**, and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded**, the motion as printed on the agenda.

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

### **RESOLVED**

This Council notes:

1. The Tower Hamlets Council Cabinet paper of July 2013, which set out the budget cuts imposed by Government which will mean that this Council needs to make £28.4m of cuts in 2015/16 and a further £39m in 2016/17.
2. The failure of previous budget consultation processes, with few people engaging before concrete proposals were published.

This Council believes:

1. That there is significant increase in local need for services the Council provides, for example in school places and in social care.
2. That the Conservative led government is attacking deprived communities, including Tower Hamlets to pursue their ideological cuts agenda.
3. That it is vital that the decision making process for the budget is fair, and is seen to be fair.
4. That all candidates for the election of Mayor of Tower Hamlets stood in the full knowledge of the difficult decisions they were going to have to make.
5. That in a place as diverse as Tower Hamlets, with real need across the whole of our community, transparency is vital to maintaining trust.
6. That the Council being open about the tough decisions it needs to make will help local partners including other public sector organisations and local voluntary sector and social enterprises consider where they can collaborate to make shared savings.
7. That Labour councils across the UK have invested in partnerships and infrastructure to increase resilience in the face of cuts.

This Council resolves:

1. To campaign to challenge the Conservative led government's austerity agenda, and to make clear to local people that the cuts are imposed on us from Government.
2. To call on the Mayor to set out as soon as possible how he intends to protect the services local people rely on.
3. To call on the Mayor to start a dialogue across all political groups represented on the Council, to ensure all perspectives are heard before decisions are made.
4. To call for transparency in decision making, and to oppose cuts being made without accountability, whether through tightening criteria for access to social care or allowing service provision to wither through not replacing officers who leave.

### **12.5 Motion regarding Vic Johnson House – proposed redevelopment of sheltered housing**

Councillor Marc Francis **moved**, and Councillor Amina Ali **seconded**, the motion as printed on the agenda.

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

### **RESOLVED**

This Council notes:

- In 2005, Tower Hamlets Council's sheltered blocks - Appian Court, Hugh Platt House, John Bond House, John Tucker House, Lawrence Close, Mandela House, Rochester Court, Vic Johnson House and William Guy Gardens - were transferred to Bethnal Green & Victoria Park Housing Association (BGVPHA) following a ballot of tenants;
- BGVPHA subsequently merged with Labo Housing Association to form Gateway Housing Association;
- New kitchens and bathrooms were fitted in all 240 of the sheltered flats and some improvements were made to communal areas and facilities in those blocks;
- However, one block, John Bond House, was demolished and replaced with general needs housing / shared ownership homes and a second block, William Guy Gardens, was also partially demolished, with a number of elderly residents being decanted into Appian Court and Vic Johnson House in each case;

- Gateway HA has now notified a dozen elderly residents in Vic Johnson House of its intention to decant them so it can partially demolish that block to build additional housing;
- Residents are overwhelmingly against this proposal and have asked councillors for support in their campaign.

This Council believes:

- The demolition of Vic Johnson House is unnecessary and will result in serious upheaval for at least a dozen elderly and vulnerable residents and disruption to the lives of those left living amidst a building site while construction work is carried out;
- This proposal is at odds with the promises made to residents as no mention was made of demolition in Gateway's "Offer Document".

This Council resolves:

- To call on the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to notify Gateway HA that LBTH does not support its proposal and will challenge any attempt to pursue it.

### **12.8 Motion regarding Chief Executive recruitment**

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Shiria Khatun **seconded**, the motion and tabled an amended version.

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

### **RESOLVED**

Council Notes:

This Council is taking the lead on putting our own house in order, to rebuild the reputation of this borough.

This Council regrets the negative impact on local people of the press coverage of how this council is being led and managed.

The Council is committed to maintaining excellent quality of services for our residents, and recognizes that in order to do this it needs to have strong and stable leadership to support the excellent work of the council staff.

This Council recognizes the work that has been done to date with interim arrangements following the council's previous failure to appoint a chief executive.

This Council confirms its view, as stated verbally by a number of councillors at the 30th July 2014 meeting, that a clear and transparent process for

appointing a permanent chief executive to work with the Elected Mayor and councillors to deliver the quality of services for which Tower Hamlets has been known in the past should be put in place.

That to tackle negative publicity and rebuild trust, this council needs a chief executive that can be held to account by all councillors and the Mayor for the implementation of decision making, and can be open about the basis on which executive and council decisions are made.

Council recognizes that it is likely to be necessary to seek the advice of external search consultants to help find the right candidate for this important and challenging job.

This Council recognizes that in order to achieve the appointment of a candidate who is acceptable to the whole council, as required by the council's constitution, that whilst the Human resources committee should be charged with responsibility for overseeing process and an Appointments Sub Committee will carry out interviews, the outcome of those interviews should be reported in sufficient detail to full council to allow the decision about appointment to be made by full council and not to be made on the recommendation of a single candidate from an Appointments Sub Committee, except to the extent that the recommendation may indicate there is only one suitable candidate.

That because accountability and transparency are important, the appointments sub committee for the appointment of the Chief Executive should have the same membership as the HR committee, with political groups making substitutions if they choose, and with the same expectation of transparency, including publishing minutes with appropriate redactions to align with rules on confidentiality.

This council would welcome the participation of the executive Mayor in all parts of the recruitment process, including those HR committee is responsible for. Cllr Saunders emailed the Mayor and others on the 27th August to seek a conversation about how this process can best work in collaboration between councillors and the Mayor.

Council commits to the outline timetable below, on the basis that the HR committee is empowered to adjust this timetable if necessary, but that the appointment of a chief executive should be made by April 2015 at the very latest:

- A. Agree overall process – Council – 10 September 2014
- B. Progress report to HR committee on 15th September 2014
- C. Procurement of search consultancy by 7 October 2014
- D. Brief for appointment and job description to be agreed by HR committee on 22 October 2014 together with criteria for establishment of an Appointments Sub Committee.
- E. Advert and search to be public by 7 November 2014
- F. Closing date for advert to be 15 December 2014
- G. Sift for long list to be agreed by 7 January 2015

- H. Long list report back from search consultants to be done by 31 January 2015
- I. Appointments Sub Committee to agree shortlist – February 2015
- J. Appointments Sub-committee to conduct interviews of shortlisted candidates by 24 February 2015
- K. Report on outcomes including recommendations of the Appointments Sub Committee to be presented to each member of the executive, requesting that the Mayor notify any objection to the appointment of any of the shortlisted candidates by 5 March 2015.
- L. Report on outcomes including recommendations of the Appointments Sub Committee and any objection made on behalf of the executive to be considered by full council on 5 March 2015 where a decision on an appointment can be made.

Motions 12.3, 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.9 – 12.11 were not debated due to lack of time.

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

No motion to exclude the press and public was passed.

### **14. EXEMPT MINUTES**

[Considered at the same time as Item 3 – Unrestricted Minutes]

#### **RESOLVED**

That the exempt/confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 July 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

### **15. URGENT MOTIONS**

The Council agreed to suspend Procedure Rule 13.1 to enable the following urgent motion to be debated without notice:

#### **15.1 Motion regarding Tower Hamlets Council's judicial review on the Best Value Inspection**

Councillor Peter Golds **moved**, and Councillor Craig Aston **seconded**, a tabled motion on the above matter.

The Interim Monitoring Officer advised the Council on legal matters in relation to the tabled motion.

Councillor Peter Golds then **moved**, and Councillor Craig Aston **seconded**, an amended version of the tabled motion.

Following debate, Councillor Joshua Peck **moved** an amendment to the tabled motion, to replace in bullet point two “the Chair and Vice-Chair of Overview and Scrutiny” with “The Overview and Scrutiny Committee”. Councillors Golds and Aston indicated that they accepted this amendment and altered their motion accordingly.

### **Adjournments**

During the debate of this motion the Speaker agreed two adjournments to allow officer advice to be procured. The first adjournment began at 20:45 and the meeting reconvened at 20:58. The second adjournment began at 21:02 and ended at 21:04.

### **Procedural Motion**

After the first adjournment, the Speaker, Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE, **moved**, and Councillor Khalis Uddin Ahmed **seconded**, a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.16 Councillor Md. Maium Miah be not further heard” due to misconduct. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Following further debate, the amended motion was put to the vote and was **agreed** as below. Accordingly it was:-

### **RESOLVED**

That this Council instructs:-

- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the process whereby the decision to seek a Judicial Review was implemented.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee , in conjunction with the Head of Paid Service, engage a completely Independent legal advisor to provide assistance to the Committee when this is considered
- That a report by Overview and Scrutiny be prepared and presented to the full Council for consideration.

Under Procedure Rule 17.6, the following Councillors requested that it be recorded that they had not voted on the above motion, having left the chamber during discussion of the motion in light of the advice of the Interim Monitoring Officer:

Councillor Ohid Ahmed  
Councillor Suluk Ahmed  
Councillor Mahbub Alam  
Councillor Shah Alam  
Councillor Shahed Ali  
Councillor Abdul Asad  
Councillor Alibor Choudhury



Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury  
Councillor Shafiqul Haque  
Councillor Aminur Khan  
Councillor Rabina Khan  
Councillor Abjol Miah  
Councillor Harun Miah  
Councillor Md Maium Miah  
Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah  
Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim  
Councillor Oliur Rahman  
Councillor Gulam Robbani

The meeting ended at 10.48 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

**APPENDIX A – WRITTEN RESPONSES TO THOSE QUESTIONS FROM  
COUNCILLORS THAT WERE NOT PUT AT THE MEETING**

**8.12 Question from Councillor Craig Aston**

Will the Deputy Mayor give an update on the recent outbreak of anti-social behaviour around Narrow Street, Ropemakers Field and Limehouse Basin?

**Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

Thank you Councillor Aston

The areas you mention were all discussed at our tasking meeting with partners on the 1st September 2014 following complaints from local residents reporting incidents.

Since our meeting, we have arranged for additional THEO patrols in the concerned areas between 2000 hours and 0600 hours Thursday to Sunday, as well as additional Neighbourhood Policing Team patrols at all other times. This should help us to identify individuals being anti-social and to tackle the behaviour head-on.

As individuals are identified, partners will work together to consider all appropriate enforcement options to moderate their behaviour to acceptable levels. Furthermore, these additional resources will be reviewed every 2 weeks.

Partners are also working with the Limehouse Basin Security Forum to raise awareness of residents on how to report any incidents and specific locations and times for the additional patrols to target. Thank you

**8.13 Question from Councillor Denise Jones**

Why hasn't the Mayor agreed to sign up to Source London Electric Vehicle charging scheme with other partners in Tower Hamlets that 27 other London Boroughs and 38 private partners have already signed up to? Some residents in the borough own electric cars and most drivers prefer to charge their vehicles near their homes. Does the Mayor agree that if there were more accessible charging points residents might be encouraged to buy electric cars which would reduce carbon emissions in the borough?

**Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Clean and Green**

Thank you for your question.

The Mayor has not signed up to the TfL Source London agreement because so far there appears to be limited demand for charging spaces.

As you are aware, we face considerable demand for on street parking and we want to ensure residents are able to park near their homes. Keeping dedicated empty spaces would I'm sure cause considerable concern amongst residents.

The Council does however have a policy of encouraging the provision of electric charging points in off-street parking areas and particularly in private residential car parks within new developments, as it is the home destination where most drivers would seek to charge their vehicle.

A charge point was secured in the Tesco's car park at Bromley-by-Bow but Tesco's staff have commented that demand is extremely low.

In addition, the E Car club (<http://www.e-carclub.org>) has installed 4 off-street electric car club vehicles in Chrisp Street.

The Council will monitor the situation to evaluate when a sufficient critical mass of electric cars might make it more feasible to provide dedicated charging spaces.

#### **8.14 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah**

It was great to see a new outdoor gym being opened in Leven Road in August, just a month after the new football pitch in Stepney in July. Please can the council let us know the other initiatives that the council run to help keep people fit and healthy for free in our borough?

#### **Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Culture**

Thank you Councillor Abjol for your question.

The Council's Sport & Physical Activity Team organises and supports a wide programme of free activities, events and courses for residents to keep active and healthy.

A programme of 10 sport & play festivals were organised at various parks across the borough over the Summer period, which was attended by approximately 8,000 people.

Amongst many schemes such as Fit4Sport, a partnership project with the Idea Stores, that offers adult residents in the Poplar and Lansbury area the opportunity to participate in 10 different sports ranging from cricket to boxing and women only Zumba classes, the Idea Stores also offer a wealth of free resources including self-help publications, an on-line directory, book groups and well-being events to support local residents to keep active and healthy.

A new fitness initiative called "Our Parks" started in August in the following Parks:

- Victoria Park

- Mile End Park
- Millwall Park
- Bethnal Green Gardens,
- Stepney Green Park and
- King Edward Memorial Park

Sessions under 'Our Parks' include Hula hoop fitness, pilates, dance fit, skip fit, box fit and yoga.

We also hold a term-time, a swimming and multi-sport programme for people with disabilities takes place weekly at Mile End Park Leisure Centre.

### **8.15 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

Will the Mayor provide the details as to the disposal of the land, 111-113 Mellish Street, E14?

### **Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources**

Thank you for your question Councillor Golds.

There is a 3 year lease which was granted to Docklands Community Organisation after being advertised for two weeks in the East London Advertiser and the East End. They were the highest of 3 bids. They work with the elderly and disabled in the Docklands area.

### **8.16 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake**

How many empty shops has the council brought back into use on Roman Road through its Town Centre funding?

### **Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development**

Thank you for your question.

The Council's Enterprise Team, in 2013, have commenced a pilot project called "Enterprising Town Centres Initiative" (ETCI) to bring back vacant shop premises into use concentrating on small enterprise development. The pilot project was concentrated on Roman Road, and it was anticipated that, following the pilot, the initiative could be extended to other town centres in the borough. It is through this initiative that efforts have been made to identify suitable vacant premises in Roman Road.

The agreed basis for the project is that tenancies of identified premises should be secured at a less-than-market rent whilst also being mindful that we do not distort the market value of the properties involved through overpayment.

The Enterprise Team is currently in negotiation with a landlord in Roman Road to agree terms for a property on this basis. At the same time a review of the ETCI pilot is underway to examine how to overcome barriers to bringing vacant private landlord properties back into use.

### **8.17 Question from Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah**

Please could the Cabinet Member for Housing update us on what work the Council is currently undertaking with the GLA to secure more affordable homes in Tower Hamlets?

### **Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development**

Thank you for your question Councillor Miah.

The Council has a very close working relationship with the GLA and together with RP partners we have delivered the most affordable housing in the Country for the last 5 years. Despite being only 1.3% of London's land, we are providing 10% of the Mayor for London's Housing growth.

We are successfully working with the GLA on large and ambitious estate regeneration schemes such as Blackwall Reach and the Ocean Estate.

The results of bids for the GLA 15-18 grant programme were announced on 24th July 2014. Most of the bids in Tower Hamlets were successful and the grant programme will deliver almost 1,600 new affordable units by March 2018.

The Council has also secured funding from the GLA to help deliver 460 new Council homes. The GLA is looking to create 20 Housing Zones within London. Tower Hamlets has been selected as a 'front-runner' in the bidding process for the Tower Hamlets Poplar Riverside Housing Zone.

This zone will produce over 8000 new homes during the next decade and our ambition is that 50% of these homes will be affordable.

### **8.18 Question from Councillor Amina Ali**

How many times have the THEOs patrolled Grove Hall Park in the last 12 months?

### **Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

Thank you for your question Councillor Ali.

Patrol records for Grove Hall Park are only available for the last 6 months, as formal recording covers Tasked Areas – which Grove Hall Park has only

recently become. The area is now a Tasked Area due to it being subject to a dispersal order.

Therefore, I can give you figures for the last 6 months only. THEOs have patrolled the area 4 times per week over that 6-month period making around 96 patrols overall.

This is in addition to around 120 patrols carried out by the Neighbourhood and Partnership Task Force policing teams over the same period.

### **8.19 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed**

Can the Lead Member confirm whether the tower blocks on Rainhill Way – Priestman, Hackworth and Mallard Points – are covered by car free legal agreement?

### **Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development**

Thank you for your question Councillor Ahmed.

The situation is complex. Following the redevelopment of these blocks, which were granted planning permission in 2005, the new homes are covered by a Car Free Agreement.

This means that new residents are not able to apply for a parking permit. However any residents who were decanted from the original development (prior to refurbishment) were able to retain their permits. In addition of course the car free arrangements do not apply to holders of Disabled Persons Parking Permits not to residents who successfully applied through the Permit Transfer Scheme.

### **8.20 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck**

How many complaints were received about this year's Lovebox festival and what is your view of the success or otherwise of this year's event?

### **Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Culture**

Thank you for your question Councillor Peck.

There has been a very significant drop of complaints from 2013 with a total of **35 complaints** despite the fact that this year saw larger numbers of festival goers on the Friday and Saturday. The figure has gone down just over 72% since last year. I am particularly pleased that new measures put in place around the management of noise have proved to be very effective with no complaints on the Saturday about noise.