



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 10th September 2014 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

Democratic Services Contact:

John S Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services

Tel: 020 7364 4204, E-mail: johns.williams@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Directorate of Law, Probity and
Governance

Democratic Services
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London E14 2BG

Tel **020 7364 4204**
Fax **020 7364 3232**

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

**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, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

Stephen Halsey
Head of Paid Service

Public Information

Attendance at meetings.

The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council. However seating is limited and offered on a first come first served basis and meetings tend to reach full capacity.

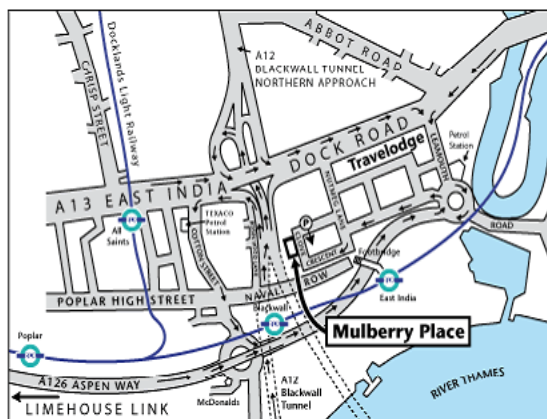
Audio/Visual recording of meetings.

No photography or recording without advanced permission.

Mobile telephones

Please switch your mobile telephone on to silent mode whilst in the meeting.

Access information for the Town Hall, Mulberry Place.



Bus: Routes: 15, 277, 108, D6, D7, D8 all stop near the Town Hall.

Docklands Light Railway: Nearest stations are East India: Head across the bridge and then through the complex to the Town Hall, Mulberry Place
Blackwall station: Across the bus station then turn right to the back of the Town Hall complex, through the gates and archway to the Town Hall.

Tube: The closest tube stations are Canning Town and Canary Wharf

Car Parking: There is limited visitor pay and

display parking at the Town Hall (free from 6pm)

If you are viewing this on line:(http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/content_pages/contact_us.aspx)

Meeting access/special requirements.

The Town Hall is accessible to people with special needs. There are accessible toilets, lifts to venues. Disabled parking bays and an induction loop system for people with hearing difficulties are available. Documents can be made available in large print, Braille or audio version. For further information, contact the Officers shown on the front of the agenda



Fire alarm

If the fire alarm sounds please leave the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit without deviating to collect belongings. Fire wardens will direct you to the exits and to the fire assembly point. If you are unable to use the stairs, a member of staff will direct you to a safe area. The meeting will reconvene if it is safe to do so, otherwise it will stand adjourned.

Electronic agendas reports and minutes.

Copies of agendas, reports and minutes for council meetings can also be found on our website from day of publication.

To access this, click www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee and search for the relevant committee and meeting date.

Agendas are available at the Town Hall, Libraries, Idea Centres and One Stop Shops and on the Mod.Gov, iPad and Android apps.



QR code for smart phone users

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2014

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 - 42

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 30th July 2014. The draft minutes are attached.

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

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

43 - 46

The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of three petitions to be presented at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The deadline for receipt of petitions for this Council meeting is noon on Thursday 4th September. However at the time of agenda despatch, the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out in the attached report.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC **47 - 48**

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 **49 - 52**

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

There is no business to be transacted under this agenda item.

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

There is no business to be transacted under this agenda item.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11 .1 2013-14 Treasury Management Outturn Report **53 - 66**

To note the treasury management activity for the financial year ended 31st March 2014, as required under the Local Government Act 2003.

The report of the Acting Corporate Director of Resources is attached.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

67 - 80

The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting 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 Ordinary Council Meeting held on 30th July 2014. The draft exempt minutes are attached for Members of the Council.

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:-

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>

This page is intentionally left blank

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 30 JULY 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 Khaless Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Clare Harrison
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Suluk 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 Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Andrew Cregan	Councillor Gulam Robbani
Councillor Julia Dockerill	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	Councillor Andrew Wood
Councillor Peter Golds	

The meeting opened at 7.36 p.m.

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

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:

After opening the meeting the Speaker invited the Council to observe a minute's silence in memory of the innocent men, women and children who had been killed by hate in a number of continuing conflicts around the world.

The minute's silence was followed by two urgent motions (15.1 and 15.2 on the situation in Gaza). The agenda was then taken in the order listed on the agenda (Items 1 to 14).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harun Miah.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were made.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the unrestricted minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 11 June 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

Investors in People (IiP) Silver Award

The Speaker was proud to inform Members that the Council had been awarded the Investors in People Silver Award. At the Speaker's invitation the Acting Corporate Director of Resources introduced Shelna Sinite and Marie O'Sullivan of Grant Thornton (sponsors of IiP) and Matthew Filbee (IiP Assessor). Ms Sinite addressed the meeting and presented the IiP Silver Award to the Mayor.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition regarding Saturation Zone Policy in the Brick Lane area

Mr Jon Shapiro addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He reported that many residents had complained about issues in this area and that, whilst the night time economy was important, good controls were required. He was confident the new

Licensing Committee were aware of the policy but he was happy to consider training if that proved necessary.

RESOLVED

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

5.2 Petition regarding Tenants' Rights

The petitioners addressed the meeting 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 highlighted the work the Council undertook to support residents in line with their manifesto commitment to protect the vulnerable. As an example she reported that the Council had not evicted anyone due to the Bedroom Tax.

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 Rabina Khan then **moved**, and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that Motion 12.10 "Motion Calling on Landlords to Engage with Tenants" be taken as the next item of business. The motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

5.3 Petition regarding protection of Lincoln Estate and surrounding residents and traders from violence and abuse

Ms Syeda Choudhury addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He reported that he visited the site of the recent incident and that he was working with the police, partners and Ward Councillors on the concerns raised. He highlighted actions that had been taken including the issuing of ten anti-social behaviour orders to the courts and the additional police and enforcement officer patrols now taking place.

RESOLVED

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

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 Muhammad Haque:

What motivated candidates at 22 May 2014 to seek election to Tower Hamlets and what are the ethical, democratic, accountable actions that current councillors on Tower Hamlets Council are more content about and what actions they are not content about and what are the councillors doing to make all their actions accountable, ethical, transparent and relevant to and representative of the daily lives, needs, expectations of ordinary people of ALL BACKGROUNDS in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Deputy Mayor

Thank you Mr Haque. Before I move to my answer, may I take a couple of seconds to say a few words? I have seen you actually when I was growing up, living in Brick Lane, the work that you have done for the community and on behalf of the community, some of the campaigns that you have led, and I'm very pleased even now that you are still determined to do just for the residents of Tower Hamlets and I am sure that you have certainly motivated many young generations in the past and I'm sure you will motivate many young generations in the future with your work and the commitment that you show for the communities in Tower Hamlets, regardless of their race, religion or whatever background that they come from. So I want to pay my gratitude and thanks to you for the work that you do.

Can I now move to your question and answer as best as I can, obviously within the time limit. I can't speak for everyone here but I am confident their motivations for being a councillor are the same as mine and Mayor Lutfur Rahman's - we want to make Tower Hamlets a better place to live and work and we want to ensure residents from all backgrounds have the strongest voice and representation in this council and outside.

Supplementary question from Mr Haque

I would exchange the sense of mutual recognition for the selfless work that people have been doing in the community, whether they are listed or not. Most of the proceedings in this kind of situation are limited to time and procedures so the spirit should be to extend our support to the whole

community and that is where I would leave this for the future and the coming years for the Council.

Councillor Oliur Rahman's response to the supplementary question

Mr Haque, I fully agree with you and I am hoping also that the public will hold their councillors to account for the work they do and the reasons they get elected, and also to demonstrate that in this Council you saw that we were presented with an award for the work that the Council does and I want to make this very clear – this does not happen by accident, it happens by good political leadership.

6.2 Question from Mr John Wright:

All developments have to put to council a Construction Management Plan (CMP). The CMP sets out the rules that protect existing residents against the damaging effects of the development construction. The former council failed to consult with residents regarding the CMP for the large Telfords development on the Glamis Estate. This has caused great distress to residents, resulting in the site being closed down twice already, without a brick being laid. It is perfectly obvious that Telfords have absolutely no regard for the welfare of residents. Apparently Telfords have now entered to council a new CMP. Will our new council carefully monitor and enforce all CMPs to protect its residents and also that this council protects the residents already of as previously – the developers?

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

Thank you John. I did visit the site on 19th February and that's because you informed me straight away and there were a number of other people as well. You are quite right to criticise East End Homes and their abhorrent behavior towards councillors and to residents as well, and what happened last week was appalling behavior for an RP, but I have to tell you I have criticised a number of RPs including East End Homes, One Housing and Old Ford as well.

But it is this current Government which has given a great deal more freedom to RPs and less stringent constraints on them. But I can assure you that we will still continue to work with you, and when you say about who holds the power, who holds them to account too, the RPs – it is the residents of this borough, the tenants, the leaseholders. It is only when we work together as a collective, and we did do something very similar three years ago and it is something that I hope to do again and to bring them, and if necessary we will also write to the HCA.

Supplementary question from Mr Wright

Rabina Khan has been our councillor on the Glamis Estate. I've lived there a very long time and she is the only councillor of whatever party who has ever bothered with the residents of the Glamis Estate.

6.3 Question from Mr Raihan Islam:

The parking transfer scheme has many strings attached with the idea of car free zones and confuses many of the locals. In some cases even the officers from the One Stop parking shop have given misleading advice, perhaps because there are strings attached to the car free zones which creates confusion. Can the council make clear if residents who have three bedrooms and over are allowed permits in car free zones. Also to minus any conditions attached to it?

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

Thank you for your question Raihan and firstly I want to apologise for any confusion caused.

First of all, I want to be clear – Car-Free Developments is not a policy of this Council. It is in fact a policy of the London Mayor, Mayor Johnson, which we have to follow.

However in recognition of the importance for families to have access to residential car parking we sought legal advice on how we could help families who were prevented from moving due to car-free conditions and that is why the PTS was introduced.

I do apologise on behalf of the Mayor and this administration if there has been any misleading information from staff. I would hope that you would approach the relevant councilors and myself as Cabinet member to seek further clarification. I would ask for you to consider however that the law only allowed us to issue permits in very specific circumstances, especially to help prevent overcrowding. There was a very fine line, and the Mayor has further requested a further review into the PTS so that we can get more and more families to bid for car-free zones.

(No supplementary question was put)

6.4 Question from Mr Ashok Kumar:

Can the Council provide an update on the Erik Pickles-instigated government inspection?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you Mr Kumar. Many people are aware that the audit by Price Waterhouse Coopers was ordered by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles. The same Eric Pickles that spent £76,000 of your money on tea and biscuits for his department per year. £76,000 of your money, while he takes hundreds of millions of pounds from local government every year, putting people out on the streets and making people go without. This is the same hypocrite that has ordered this audit.

I can confirm that the audit is ongoing, it hasn't concluded yet and we are fully co-operating with its requirements. We will update you as and when things have concluded.

Supplementary question from Mr Kumar

Every election cycle this Council has the dubious distinction of having each cycle be followed up by a bombardment of false claims by the same political operatives, by the same councillors sitting before you. These claims have consequences – those consequences aren't for the councillors sitting around making claims to win cheap political points, those consequences are for the residents. Because this Council spends tens of thousands – the media reported over six figures – on false claims, fallacious accusations and claims without merit, and my question is that if next time the same faces for political opportunism come forward and make the same claims that have no merit, will they be required to pay for it rather than us?

Councillor Alibor Choudhury's response to the supplementary question

You're absolutely right Mr Kumar, this audit will cost you up to a million pounds by the time it is finished. I can say that this audit was precipitated by the Panorama programme which had involvement from members across the benches in the Labour group, and these are the same people that cost the Council hundreds of thousands of pounds in court costs, lost regeneration money and other costs incurred by the taxpayer for no good reason. So I totally agree with you, hopefully in future we will see an end to this and if not, we'll have to show this lot the door.

6.5 Question from Mr Gary Reddin:

What is the Mayor doing to save our Doctors surgeries?

Response by Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Adult Services

I was also at the rally at Altab Ali Park when we marched in solidarity with our angry residents, practitioners and residents who want to protect the NHS, because we too are concerned for our surgeries and the excellent services that they provide. But we know that being angry alone is not enough.

The Mayor has also applied personal pressure on the Secretary of State – with an open letter expressing serious concerns over the removal of context-dependent funding based on deprivation. Along with the hard work of the Jubilee Street Practice we know this has resulted in a temporary reprieve of the removal of funding for one year for at least one of our surgeries, and we will be doing all we can to push to make this a universal offer for surgeries in the borough.

Therefore, the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, have also agreed to send a letter signed by partners to the Secretary of State for Health requesting a fair allocation of resources to practices disproportionately affected by the funding changes.

It has been so upsetting to see the way that changes to national funding formula are affecting our brilliant practices in Tower Hamlets. Despite the borough having some of the highest deprivation indicators in the country, changes to the NHS will mean that funding will no longer take into account the level of deprivation when deciding funding.

Supplementary question from Mr Reddin

The NHS is a national treasure which needs to be protected. The attack on our vital local NHS services by the Tory government opens up our health service to private providers. They will put profit before our health care. Will the Mayor do all he can to prevent this from happening?

Councillor Abdul Asad's response to the supplementary question

As I earlier said, with the Mayor and the ruling group of this Council we have a number of energetic councillors here who are also campaigners and I have also noticed that councillors from the whole spectrum also joined the march to protest against the cuts. But the Government's cut is very drastic, very fast indeed and it does not make sense in terms of the service delivery.

On the other hand, the former Labour government built up the debt. We know that the book is balanced, but not like that. So the NHS is not safe in my view either with the Tories or the Labour. It is with the people of this country, and this side of the Council is committed to continue to campaign with the residents of this borough under the leadership of the Executive Mayor.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Abdul Asad then **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 12.2 "Motion Regarding Save Our Surgeries" be taken as the next item of business. The motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

Question 6.7 was withdrawn by the Questioner and would be submitted to the next Ordinary Council Meeting.

Questions 6.6 and 6.8 were not put at the meeting due to lack of time. The Service Head, Democratic Services confirmed that written answers would be provided. [Note: The written answers are included in Appendix A to these minutes.]

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council meeting, extending a welcome to all present. During his report he echoed the Speaker's welcome to the three newly elected Councillors for Blackwall and Cubitt Town Ward.

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.

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 Member:-

8.1 Question from Councillor John Pierce

Why has the Mayor of Tower Hamlets not continued funding for the ASB dog patrols in Weavers Ward after the successful pilot which led to a reduction of unwelcome guests in blocks heavily affected by anti-social behaviour?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Councillor Pierce, I would like to know where did you get this information that we are stopping this funding? The funding has not been discontinued. I can assure you that there will be twelve ASB dog patrols over the next two weeks, two of which are to be in your ward.

Also you need to understand we had a successful pilot in your ward. When we do something right, I think that Councillor Peck should praise us rather than when we did a pilot project in my ward he just criticised that my street is cleaner than his street. We are doing something. In my ward – put the right word. When we do the right thing you should praise us because we put a pilot project in Weavers ward because there is a need for it in Weavers and this is going to continue, I assure you of that.

Supplementary question from Councillor John Pierce

Well it's nice to hear that there will be two extra patrols but actually, as we discussed earlier tonight, the high levels of anti-social behaviour in the Brick

Lane and Shoreditch Fringe mean that actually you will need a lot more patrols than the two that are going to happen to deal with this issue and I would like to see the funding that was initially given for the pilot to continue, particularly in Weavers ward and extra funding, which we would have delivered, to ensure that the programme is rolled out across the borough, because I have to say it has been massively successful. Put your money into this scheme because residents deserve this kind of action.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the supplementary question

Thank you very much. Yes, I totally agree with your last part but also I want people, particularly the councilors, to understand the policy. The policy basically is to drive away this kind of problem. 20% of the anti-social behavior derives in Brick Lane and the surrounding area, and unfortunately your ward is very near to Brick Lane. And people who sit on the Licensing Committee, I keep saying they need to follow the policy and they need to vote on the merits of the application rather than just party politics.

8.2 Question from Councillor Mufti Miah

Tower Hamlets has been named by the department for education among the top 10 boroughs in the country for the proportion of students who go to university. Will the Mayor join me in congratulating our young people for their remarkable achievement?

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

Councillor Mufti Miah, can I thank you for asking this question. Yes, can I publicly congratulate and thank all the students, the young people, their parents, teachers, governors and the staff who worked hard to achieve this result. This is a remarkable and achievement for our borough. Especially this hasn't happened by accident, this has happened because for many years this borough invested in education – including Mr Haque, who is still in the audience, he will remember that he created an organisation called BENTH, and many of my councilors here will know what BENTH stands for, maybe they could ask Mr Haque to explain. This demonstrates a history of campaigning for education and you Mr Speaker, I think that you were involved as well in the establishment of BENTH.

And I think this borough invested, including the current Mayor, Mayor Lutfur Rahman, invested via the Mayor's Education Allowance, the university bursary and free school meals. So all this fruition came because of the efforts made by the previous predecessor and the current administration. Yes, I would be happy to congratulate all the parents and students.

Supplementary question from Councillor Mufti Miah

I am also a parent governor of two local schools. I would just like to say thank you very much, keep up the good work and keep funding, thank you.

Councillor Gulam Robbani's response to the supplementary question

That's fine, we will continue. As a new lead member for education, I am committed to this borough and I am committed to continue the work that has been done by my predecessor Oliur Rahman.

8.3 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

Will the Mayor inform the council as to when he last met officials of One Housing?

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

The Mayor last met with One Housing on 18th March 2014.

Supplementary question from Councillor Chris Chapman

I am a little disappointed that the Mayor has not met with officials more recently, particularly as their failures continue to mount and these include:-

- The three fires that have occurred in the underfloor garages on the Samuda Estate, caused by One Housing's failure to properly secure waste they had dumped there;
- The increase in damp suffered by residents on the St John's Estate after the completion of the major works programme which I can only imagine was designed to make things better rather than worse;
- The leaseholders who are continually receiving threatening letters from One Housing, something which is causing many of them deep distress;
- I've also got a road on the St John's Estate which has got no street lighting because One Housing are arguing with the Council and a third party as to who is responsible for it.

This is only a very brief summary of two estates in my ward. I fear that the picture across the borough is indeed far worse. Isn't it about time that this administration hold One Housing to account for these failures?

Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the supplementary question

Well, well, Councillor Chapman, you've been very busy. I must remind you that the full council voted on three separate occasions to support the residents of One Housing in their campaign to make One Housing uphold the promises in the offer document. Support was received from all parties represented on the council and no councillor has ever voted against a resolution of support, although I think some actually abstained for technical reasons.

I must refer to a letter though, dated 2nd August 2012 which Councillor Peter Golds sent to Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. I actually welcome Councillor Golds' letter, along with the letter that was enclosed from the TRA Chairs, which was also sent to the Secretary of State, which was attempting to stop One Housing from dissolving Island Homes.

Unfortunately there was no response from Mr Pickles. It is sad though that Mr Pickles will intervene in Tower Hamlets on the strength of some allegations made on TV but will not intervene when residents and councillors of this borough appeal to him to use his power to do so.

8.4 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin

I assume the administration is aware of the recent congregation of youths around the Devons Road area. Can the Lead Member brief us on what action is being taken by the council to prevent further incidents?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Thank you Councillor Helal for your question. I don't want to go through the long list I went through before. I said 20 things we have done in your area. As Syeda Choudhury mentioned earlier, there were two murders before – in 2001 and 2008. It's a historical problem in this area and we are trying to tackle the problem permanently.

You are the local councillor, of course you have a role to play and we need to work together to make sure it doesn't happen again and we are completely adamant that we will resolve this problem once and for all.

Supplementary question from Councillor Helal Uddin

I was expecting to have some concrete answer in terms of action, in terms of mechanisms preventing the incidents, such as engaging youth, taking some initiatives to working with the local community, working with the local councillors, working with the RP itself. So maybe the lead member, I am happy to wait for a detailed response in the coming weeks and months and if he wants to meet up with me I am happy to meet up with him.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the supplementary question

I am quite happy to meet any councillor if they want to meet me as lead member, I don't have any problem with that, and as I mentioned before I can only reiterate two points:- We have issued 10 court orders; and as I mentioned before our Rapid Action Team is still active in this area.

We have set up community groups and our THEOs are active and police officers are active in this area. We have the Dispersal Zone in place also. So

we are doing everything we can to make sure that our community is safe and I am happy to meet you if you have any further suggestions.

8.5 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Can the Lead Member provide an update on progress with protecting our GP surgeries that are under threat from the Tory government's cuts?

Response by Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Adult Services

Thank you Councillor Mahbub for your question. You and me have been working with the GP practices for the last six months at least.

There have been many questions about this today. I just want to reassure that we are doing everything we can: We have marched together; we applied personal and public pressure on the Secretary of State for Health.

We are now using his temporary reprieve for one of our surgeries to make the case for more of our surgeries at risk now and, whilst the issue is ultimately out of our control, I have hopes that the Secretary of State will make the same considerations for our other surgeries as he has done for the Jubilee Street Practice.

We are also putting additional pressure on NHS England to open more GP Surgeries in the borough and I hope that will help to ease the pressure of this situation and reassure residents.

Supplementary question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Yes, I do agree that we have been working together to comfort the worried residents – and they are very worried. Like you have done in the past we had small meetings with the residents and with the Director of Health, just to give them the assurance that we are working to find a solution to help them in the tough time they are going through. Will you be willing to do the same small meetings with the residents to give them some comfort in this difficult time, especially the elderly people who are seriously worried?

Councillor Abdul Asad's response to the supplementary question

Yes I know you led a delegation to this council to meet me and the Mayor about the concerns of GP surgeries and so on. We can go further, we can continue to campaign against the cuts and austerity, particularly on the health service and we will continue to do that. And I know that the people of this borough, they are all in favour to keep the NHS under state control, and we are with them. We are doing it for the public need, not for the private greed.

8.6 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Will the Mayor update the council as to what steps will be taken to implement the Openness of Local Bodies Regulations 2014 when they come into law, and will he follow local best practice on press access in copying Hackney,

Newham, Lewisham & Greenwich Boroughs in providing a permanent table for the press?

Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Deputy Mayor

Thank you Councillor Wood for your question. The Openness of Local Bodies Regulations 2014 will make provision to allow members of the public to report and commentate on public meetings of local government bodies in England.

The Mayor fully supports openness and transparency. The Monitoring Officer is updating the relevant sections of the Constitution to reflect the changes in the law.

In relation to facilities for the press at the Council meeting, the Head of Communications is looking at how this can be achieved in the space available and as you can see, this has already been provided and my good friend Ted is very happy today.

Supplementary question from Councillor Andrew Wood

I welcome the reintroduction of a permanent table and permanent seating for journalists, I think it's really good. I'm grateful that the Mayor is recognising the important work done by local journalists to keep the wider community informed about what is happening in this Council Chamber.

The Openness of Local Bodies Regulation Act also talks about filming of Council meetings by the public. I would like to ask the Mayor on his views about public filming of meetings and what he thinks is appropriate?

Councillor Oliur Rahman's response to the supplementary question

Thank you Mr Speaker. Councillor Wood, as you would know we have filming in place which is conducted by the Council, and this is the only filming that is currently allowed in this Council Chamber.

8.7 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

Does the Mayor intend to press ahead with the sale of Old Flo despite LB Bromley's contest of ownership and if so when does he expect this to go ahead?

Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Culture

Thank you Councillor Jones for your interest on the matter. Let me confirm to you that this administration always works and takes decisions for the best interests of the residents of the borough. You are right that LB Bromley are contesting the ownership of Old Flo. The matter has been referred to the Court for a legal determination. Our legal advice is that our case for ownership is clear, and we will make a decision following the court's determination.

Supplementary question from Councillor Denise Jones

Could you just confirm, I think you just said that's now going to court. Can you just confirm the timetable for that, and if Bromley is found to be the owner, and I believe that they are not suggesting that that they are going to claim the sculpture but that they are minding it for the whole of London and are keen for it to be put outside the museum in Docklands so that all of London can actually visit it, would you still want to go ahead to sell it?

Councillor Shafiqul Haque's response to the supplementary question

Thanks Councillor Jones for your interest. I know your interest in in arts and culture. What I can tell you, subject to the determination of the court on the ownership of Old Flo, we will make a decision for the best interests of the residents of the borough. I cannot give you a definite timetable, this is up to the court to make a timetable and make a decision on this one. I hope that answers your question Councillor Jones.

8.8 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Will the Speaker of the Council outline his principal engagements for the coming month?

Response by Councillor Abdul Chunu Mukit, Speaker of the Council

Thank you Councillor Miah. I would like to once again start by thanking my colleagues for this tremendous honour.

In less than two months I have already carried out 25 civic engagements, which includes taking part in celebrations with members of our community and recognising their achievements, welcoming a French ship and her commanding officer to our docks, representing Tower Hamlets at City Hall, the London Youth Games and a service in St. Paul's Cathedral alongside my civic colleagues from other London Boroughs.

I have had the honour of welcoming Prince Edward to Tower Hamlets on a recent royal visit and taken part in the traditional 'rent' ceremony at Billingsgate Market with the Lord Mayor of London, as well as supporting Tower Hamlets staff at the annual 5K your way event.

I am planning a busy year promoting Tower Hamlets everywhere I go and raising as much money as possible for the Tower Hamlets Foodbank.

At present I have several events planned for August including the dedication & unveiling of a memorial to honour the 23 officers of the metropolitan police who died during the great war, and the annual 'Love where you live' event

I will also be spending a morning with my chosen charity, the Tower Hamlets Foodbank, to see the wonderful work that they do as well as attending several community events with partners like THCH, and local organisations.

I have received many other invitations which I hope to attend, however due to limited resources the civic role does not have a full time driver so the engagements I can accept are limited to those on Tuesday, Thursday, weekends and evenings. Despite this I will endeavour to support as many events as I can, and if necessary where acceptable to the organisers attend in my capacity as an elected member without the civic insignia.

(No supplementary question was put)

8.9 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

On 13 June a young gay couple were subject to a violent attack on Whitechapel Road, only moments away from Altab Ali Park, a public space which symbolises this borough's unity and determination to stamp out any intolerance and violence shown towards our neighbours. I welcome the Mayor of Tower Hamlets' wholehearted condemnation of this homophobic attack and statement that 'we take a zero-tolerance approach to homophobia'. Can he please reiterate these sentiments in this Chamber; update us on the work of the Hate Incidents Panel following the referral of this case to them; and advise us on the work he is doing to promote tolerance towards people of every sexuality within our community?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Thank you very much for your question. In relation to your specific case, the victims were referred to the Council-funded Victim Support Team and they received confidential support and advice. Two suspects were arrested and they are in bail condition now. The Council discussed this incident at the Hate Incident Panels.

In relation to your second part, I think I just want to ensure that this Council works very closely with Hate Incident Panels. Also, this Council works very closely with Rainbow Hamlets and attend the Hate Incident Panels' meeting. Also we work very closely with Positive East, who are the third party responsible for responding to crimes against LGBT people. So we are doing everything we can as a council.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

Thank you for those words. As the Mayor is here I think it would be really nice if he showed leadership and personally stated that view again so that everyone in the chamber can hear it.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

Again, thank you for your question and your comments. The Mayor's word is my word is the Executive's word is the Mayor's word so of course you can take it is his word. Thank you, I can't say anything more.

8.10 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake

Following the motion passed by the Council in April last year, will the Mayor update us on what progress he has made to formally investigate the conditions attached to the sale agreement of the old bath houses by Tower Hamlets Council and to recognise the Women's Library as a community asset for women's and community use?

Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Culture

Thanks Councillor Blake for the question. I can assure you that progress has been made, and the Old Bath Houses have been registered as an Asset of Community Value. Furthermore, any proposed disposal of it would therefore be delayed while an opportunity is available for transfer to a community based organisation.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Rachel Blake

Thanks, the reason they are a Community Asset is because the Friends of the Women's Library, which I am part of, registered them as a Community Asset. What has the Mayor done about the conditions that the Council place on this asset being a Community Asset for women of the Council? That is the Mayor and the Mayor's officers, not me and the Friends of the Women's Library and it being a Community Asset? Thanks.

Councillor Shafiqul Haque's response to the Supplementary Question

Thanks Councillor Blake, I think in that case you have an interest in this agenda item. Come on Councillor Saunders, you are the Leader of the Opposition now. Certainly as mentioned earlier Councillor Blake, I can confirm that at the time of disposal any women's organisation or project's bid for it will be considered subject to them meeting the criteria for the bid. Thank you.

8.11 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah

Will the Cabinet Member for Development outline the timetable and progress with the Whitechapel Vision?

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

Thank you for your question Councillor Miah. The launch of the Masterplan in March 2014 has already led to a high level of developer interest in the Vision area.

The Council is in pre application discussions with a number of these developers and the first planning application is anticipated in September 2014.

Those proposed developments will secure both private sector investment into the area, which will provide around 3,000 new dwellings, include significant levels of affordable housing which is much needed in this borough, and help to deliver the key transformations in the vision.

To ensure these developments meet the vision's aspirations and to better co-ordinate the delivery of a Strategic Partnership will be established between the Council, the GLA/TfL, Barts NHS Health Trust, Queen Mary University, key landowners and the local businesses and traders.

It is proposed that the first meeting of this Partnership will be chaired by the Mayor, to take place in Autumn of this year.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Abjol Miah

What guarantees are there that the existing local traders, who have been working very hard to build up their business, will not be priced out or designed out in any form or shape?

Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

It is a very important question that you ask and at the heart of the vision is the traders and businesses and residents of Whitechapel. They will be included as part of that partnership and that process of delivery. An example of that is when the consultation first went out we had residents who were not very keen on some of the developments around Durward Street and we took that on board and changed the plans as well.

May I also remind everyone that when Canary Wharf was first being built it was under Michael Hestletine's regeneration programme. During that time, that particular government failed to listen to residents and decisions were made behind closed doors. In this Vision we want to include everyone and we want to make sure that the residents who need to benefit, like the businesses, like the traders and the residents, do so.

8.12 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

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

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

With pleasure, Mr Speaker.

Councillor Golds, how can we take you seriously? You are a compulsive liar. Today you lied about the Mayor trying to jump into bed with the Conservative Party, and you have no evidence to substantiate that at all.

I think Councillor Golds, you should sort yourself out and answer questions that we put to you. Can you update the chamber on what happened to your Tory, your Conservative candidate for Mile End, as he was arrested for voter fraud? Can you update the chamber please?

(No supplementary question was put)

Procedural Motion

Following the above question, Councillor Peter Golds **moved** and Councillor Chris Chapman **seconded** a procedural motion that under Procedure Rule 14.1.16 Councillor Alibor Choudhury be not heard further due to his conduct at the meeting. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

8.13 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

The council will be aware that the drug Khat has recently been made illegal. What has the Mayor done to link up with health professionals and police to support people coming off Khat?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Thank you Councillor Ali for your question. When the Home Office first announced their intention in 2013 to classify Khat as a class C substance, the Council's Drug and Alcohol Action Team set up a seminar to gather local responses.

I helped develop in conjunction with Representative from the Local Police, Home Office, local communities, NHS and treatment agencies.

An action plan was prepared which was implemented this year ensuring that local treatment agencies, NHS and Police are able to assist people in understanding the health and legal impacts of this use of Khat.

So we as a council are doing everything we can to make sure that people, particularly from the Somali community, are completely aware of using Khat and the consequences. We had seminars, we had workshops and a lot of Somali people attended. I was there and I think this shows as a council we are doing our best to make sure that people are fully aware.

Supplementary question from Councillor Amina Ali

You said that you've done seminars and you've met with the Somali community. I want to make sure that the Somali community are being made

aware so we can stop any criminalisation of young Somalis who might not be aware.

My main concern is the 'stop and search' procedures some of the police in London use and that they might be using those kinds of excuses to stop young Somalis on the pretence they might be carrying Khat. I think it is very serious that we do take this issue quite seriously and I'd like this council to take that seriously.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

These are helpful suggestions, we do take it very very seriously. I had a meeting with the Borough Commander and he is fully aware of this. These are very sensitive things and we must do everything to ensure that this doesn't happen in our borough.

Questions 8.14 to 8.24 were not put at the meeting due to lack of time. The Service Head, Democratic Services confirmed that written responses would be provided. [Note: The written responses are included in Appendix A to these minutes.]

Procedural Motion

Following the above question, Councillor Oliur Rahman **moved** and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **seconded** a procedural motion that under Procedure Rule 14.1.16 Councillor Peter Golds be not heard further due to his conduct at the meeting. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

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 Appointment of a Co-opted Member to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services on the appointment of a co-opted member to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Joshua Peck **moved**, and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded** a tabled amendment to the recommendations in the report. Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**. The recommendations as amended were then duly approved. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the Council approve the appointment of Mr Shaynul Khan as a non-voting co-opted member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee representing the Muslim Community in the borough, for the remainder of the administration (until May 2018), subject to confirmation of the acceptability of the appointment by the Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques.
2. That in future the principal consultation when filling this post will be the Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques.

11.2 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services on the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in Local Government and Housing Act 1989 following the delayed election in Blackwall and Cubitt Town Ward held on 3 July 2014.

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Khaled Ahmed **seconded** a tabled amendment. The amendment replaced the table on page 31 of the report with that set out below, the figures in brackets being the only changes from the original report to Council:

Committee/panel	Total	Labour	Tower Hamlets First	Conservative
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	3	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	2	1
Appeals Committee	9	4 (-1)	4 (+1)	1
Audit Committee	7	3	3	1
Development Committee	7	3	3	1
Strategic Development Committee	9	5 (+1)	3 (-1)	1
General Purposes Committee	7	3	3	1
Human Resources Committee	7	4 (+1)	2 (-1)	1
Licensing Committee	15	7 (-1)	7 (+1)	1
Pensions Committee	7	4	3	-

Standards Committee (plus 7 co- optees)	Advisory (plus 7 co- optees)	7	3	3	1
TOTAL			45	36	10

At the request of a number of Members the Speaker agreed that the meeting would adjourn briefly to allow Members to consider the tabled amendment.

The meeting **adjourned** at 9.51 p.m.

The meeting **reconvened** at 10.04 p.m.

The Interim Monitoring Officer advised the meeting that the tabled amendment was in order and could lawfully be considered by the Council. Following debate the amendment moved by Councillor Rachael Saunders was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Councillor Oliur Rahman the **moved**, and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **seconded** a further tabled amendment as follows:-

“That overall seats are increased by 1 from 91 to 92.

This will enable a tweaking of the number of seats on the few committees in which Labour’s proposal wishes to adjust but in a way that ensures proportionality overall and proportionality in the committees.

The amendments are:

Increase Strategic Development Committee seats by 1 – THF seats increase by 1 to 3.

Increase HR Committee seats by 1 – THF seats increase by 1 to 3

Decrease Licensing Committee seats by 1 – THF seats decrease by 1 to 6

Labour as required by proportionality will continue to have the majority on all committees.”

The Interim Monitoring Officer advised the meeting that the tabled amendment was in order and could lawfully be considered by the Council. Following debate the amendment moved by Councillor Oliur Rahman was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

The recommendations, as amended, were then put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the review of proportionality be noted and the Council approve the above amended table showing the allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2014/15.
2. That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Service Head, Democratic Services.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**12.1 Motion regarding Space for Cycling Campaign**

Councillor Rachel Blake **moved**, and Councillor Amy Whitelock-Gibbs **seconded** the motion as printed on the agenda.

Procedural Motion

During debate, Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved** and Councillor Shiria Khatun **seconded** a procedural motion that under Procedure Rule 14.1.16 Councillor Alibor Choudhury be not heard further due to his conduct at the meeting. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

That Councillor Alibor Choudhury be not heard further.

Following debate, the motion regarding Space for Cycling Campaign was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- That 40 of the 42 councillors elected on 22nd May had signed up to support the London Cycling Campaign's 'Space for Cycling' initiative.
- That the 'Space for Cycling' campaign called upon candidates to commit to supporting a number of local measures if they were elected.
- That the measures, identified by local residents and promoted by the Space for Cycling campaign listed by ward are:
 - **Bethnal Green:** Protected Space for cycling on Mile End Road
 - **Weavers:** Make Columbia Road Market a Liveable Town centre with cycle and pedestrian access to, and through the area
 - **Spitalfields:** Allow two way cycling on Brick Lane

- **St Peter's:** Protected space for cycling on Cambridge Heath road with a safe junction at Bethnal Green
 - **Bow West:** Protected Space for cycling on Bow Road
 - **Bow East:** Remove through traffic from Tredegar Road and the surrounding area
 - **Whitechapel:** Remove through motor traffic from Vallance Road, New Road and Cannon Street Road
 - **Stepney Green:** Safe cycle access to Sir John Cass Redcoat School and Stepney City Farm
 - **St Dunstons:** Safe cycle access to schools around Ben Jonson Road
 - **Shadwell:** Protected Space for Cycling on Cable Street
 - **St Katherine's and Wapping:** Allow 24-hour access on the Greenway through King Edwards Park
 - **Limehouse:** Protected Space for cycling on Horseferry Road (E14)
 - **Mile End:** Protected space for cycling on Burdett Road
 - **Bromley North:** Protected Space for cycling at Bow Roundabout
 - **Bromley South:** Install protected space for cyclists along both Devons Road and Devas Street
 - **Lansbury:** Safe and convenient route from all of Lansbury ward to Lea River Park
 - **Poplar:** Provide a safe, inviting and clear route for Cycle superhighway S3 in Bromley South centre
 - **Canary Wharf:** Reinstall the riverside path at West Ferry Circus and create a cycle crossing across South Dock.
 - **Blackwall and Cubitt Town:** Protected Space for cycling on Manchester Road and Preston's Road
 - **Island Gardens:** Protected Space for cycling on Manchester Road and Preston's Road
- The motion previously passed by Council on the LCC Safer Lorries campaign included and ask that the Council “strongly encourage contractors used by the Council to meet its Safer Lorries conditions”.

This Council believes:

- That all of the councillors who signed up to the Space for Cycling Campaign should now work with the campaigners to further develop the feasibility of the commitments and then deliver the changes needed to make cycling in the borough safer.
- That while the pledges are an incredibly welcome development some will be more challenging than others and there is potential for officers, councillors and cyclists to develop the plans and, in some limited cases, propose alternative actions which would achieve the aims in a different, potentially more effective manner.
- That the number of councillors who made these commitments, and the support the electorate gave them, shows a clear mandate for action to improve cycling infrastructure.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To call on the Mayor and relevant Cabinet Member, following consultation with ward councillors, to bring a plan to the September Council meeting detailing the budget feasibility and impact of each of the specific ward based asks set out above and that this plan should include potential options for implementation.
- Following the aforementioned report from the Mayor, that councillors should consult with residents and cycling campaigners in their wards to prioritise and agree a course of action to best deliver the strategic aims of each pledge.
- To welcome the Labour GLA campaign to improve the safety of the Cycle Superhighways and in particular their lobbying work on the Bow Roundabout.
- To call on Boris Johnson to immediately look at further steps to protect cyclists using CS2 along the full length of Mile End Road and Bow Road, and the Bow Roundabout.

Motions 12.2 to 12.10 were not debated due to lack of time.

13. 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.

14. HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The report of the Service Head, Human Resources and Workforce Development regarding the statutory position of Head of Paid Service was considered by the meeting. The Council agreed the reasons for urgency as set out in the report.

Following debate the Council agreed one of the options set out in the report.

15. URGENT MOTIONS

[Note: The Urgent Motions were debated in Part One of the meeting (public session)].

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

15.1 Motion on violence in Gaza

Councillor Shiria Khatun **moved**, and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded** the motion as tabled.

During debate an amendment was moved that was accepted by Councillors Khatun and Saunders, who altered their motion accordingly. The revised motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- The latest escalation of violence in Gaza, which is part of an on going conflict.
- The humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the appalling standards of living faced by the people of Gaza, prior to this latest escalation of violence.
- The rapidly rising death count of hundreds killed in recent weeks and thousands who have been displaced.
- The calls by local MPs, Rushanara Ali and Jim Fitzpatrick, on the British Government to show leadership in working to end this conflict.
- Condemnation by Ed Miliband and other leading politicians of the Israeli incursion into Gaza.
- The gesture of solidarity with the people of Gaza by Tower Hamlets Council in raising the Palestine flag at Tower Hamlets Town Hall.
- The unity of Councillors and the Mayor in condemnation of the conflict.

This Council believes:

- The UK now must urgently take a lead role in bringing together the international community to ensure humanitarian law is upheld.
- The Prime Minister needs to show international leadership, working with the EU and the USA and help bring an end to the conflict.
- The horrendous images of innocent civilian casualties from Gaza over the past weeks show the profound urgency of the situation.

This Council resolves:

- To condemn the violence in which innocent civilians are being killed and displaced.
- To call on our MPs to continue to place pressure on our Government to take action to end the humanitarian crisis, secure a ceasefire and set upon the path to peace.

15.2 Motion on the situation in Gaza

Councillor Oliur Rahman **moved**, and Councillor Maium Miah **seconded** the motion as tabled.

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

RESOLVED

This meeting notes:

- Since Israel commenced military operations in Gaza on July 8 some 1,200 Palestinians and 55 Israelis have been killed in the conflict.
- Most of the Palestinian deaths have been civilians, a large number women and children.
- In the last 24 hours over 100 Palestinians have been killed. These include 15 people who died as a result of an Israeli attack on a UN-run school, housing refugees. The UN stated they informed the Israeli's in advance there were civilians in the building.
- A delegation of Tower Hamlets Councillors recently visited the Occupied Territories as part of the Tower Hamlets Jenin Friendship Association. Tower Hamlets Council has also agreed to a request from Unison to facilitate a collection among staff for the charity Medical Aid to Palestine.

This meeting agrees:

- To support the Prime Minister's call for an immediate ceasefire.
- The killing of innocent civilians, Palestinian and Israeli, deepens hatred on both sides and makes conflict resolution more difficult to attain.
- The experience of conflict resolution in Northern Ireland and South Africa demonstrates that any lasting solution must entail negotiations with all partners to the conflict.

- That the Prime Minister should use his influence, and the UK's experience of engagement in the peace process in Northern Ireland, to aid a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- To write to the Prime Minister expressing the above concerns.
- To encourage residents to support humanitarian aid relief for all victims of the conflict.

The meeting ended at 10.49 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

APPENDIX A – WRITTEN ANSWERS TO PUBLIC AND MEMBERS' QUESTIONS NOT PUT AT THE COUNCIL MEETING**6.6 Question from Ms Jackie Applebee, GP:**

What steps are being taken by the council to ensure the survival of vital GP services in Tower Hamlets? Could they determine from NHS England, or if necessary the Secretary of State, what is being done in detail to support GP practices in Tower Hamlets that have identified themselves as being at risk of closure or severe service reduction due to cuts in funding either through the withdrawal of MPIG from GMS practices or the withdrawal of monies to PMS and APMS practices?

Response by Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Adult Services

Thank you for submitting your question Dr Applebee. We have been working closely with GPs in the borough and are doing all we can to prevent these vital sources of funding from being taken away. So far, the Mayor has drafted a letter to the Secretary of State for Health, Mr Jeremy Hunt. I know that this, along with the hard work of staff at the Jubilee Street Practice has resulted in one year's temporary reprieve of this removal of funding. Whilst this is in some ways a success, I am aware that it is only a temporary measure which ultimately, if not extended, will still result in difficulties at some point.

Therefore, our Health and Wellbeing Board is currently working with local GPs on drawing up a fairer formula for the allocation of funds, which will incorporate healthy life expectancy – a very blunt indicator of need – instead of just age. As a result of this work, we are in the process of drafting an additional letter to Jeremy Hunt, requesting the use of this formula, which will ensure funding will remain context-driven in this borough.

I would be happy to work with you and of your other colleagues or surgeries in the borough to make this ambition a reality, and to take your advice on how to move forward on this issue. Thank you.

6.8 Question from Mr. Glenn McMahon, Tower Hamlets Renters Group:

Can the Council please update us on what action is being taken to enforce better conditions in the private rented sector? We are particularly concerned about the reports of serious disrepair and threats of retaliatory evictions at Chapman House, Bigland Street, E1.

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

Thank you for your question. That's why the Mayor gave a commitment during the election to create a landlord registration scheme.

The issue of tenants being exploited or victimised in our private rented sector is an important one.

This sector is the fastest growing housing tenure in the borough. There are now more privately rented homes in Tower Hamlets than owner occupied homes with between 35 - 40,000 private rented homes across the borough.

The Council has a team of environmental protection officers who take action to enforce standards in rented housing but we know that sometimes landlords take retaliatory action against tenants who complain.

Harassment and unlawful eviction are dealt with by the Housing Options Service whose officers enforce laws protecting tenants. However if a landlord acts lawfully we are unable to prevent lawful evictions

The Housing Options Service also runs an accreditation scheme which provides a quality mark for private landlords. Landlords who work with the Council to provide temporary accommodation and homes under its Private Sector Access Scheme must also be registered and undergo checks to ensure they are fit and proper persons.

However, we do need to look at what way we can better protect private tenants. Officers are working on that scheme at the moment and a paper will be coming to Cabinet before the end of the year.

8.14 Question from Councillor Ansar Mustaqim

Will the Mayor continue to support families through the Temporary Accommodation Fund even though the current government is cutting benefits for the most vulnerable in our society?

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

The Mayor allocated £2.2million in 2013/14 to provide support to homeless households affected by the Benefit Cap living in temporary accommodation. This is in addition to the £2.9m Discretionary Housing Payments fund which is also used to support residents. This fund has been used to ensure these residents can remain in their homes and will continue to be used.

However we do face the risk that the government will reduce the amount of funding available for discretionary housing payments. This is why we are continuing to work with these families to help them access training and support into employment as well as to explore different housing options.

8.15 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Will the Mayor give details as to the disposal of the Limehouse Library site at 638 Commercial Road?

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

Thank you for your question. Limehouse Library was declared surplus to Council requirement by Cabinet on 12 January 2011 and officers were given authority to dispose of the property via a 199 year lease in the open market.

In 2011 the selling agents, BNP Paribas, estimated the value of the Limehouse Library at between £400,000 and £950,000 depending primarily on the costs of repair. There were 2 marketing processes, which were undertaken by BNP Paribas on council's instructions.

The first marketing period commenced on 9 May 2011 and best and final bids ranging from £500,000 to £1,500,000 were received on 17 June 2011. The sale was aborted when the preferred bidder did not perform by not meeting the agreed deadlines. There was no appropriate second bidder so marketing was undertaken again. The property was re-marketed on 16 January 2012 and best and final bids were received on 24 February 2012. The preferred bidder, Hazev Limited, was selected on 14 March 2012 and the 199 year lease was completed on 12 April 2012. The price paid was £945,000.

8.16 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

How many pensioners and disabled residents have had their homes redecorated under the council's Tenant Decoration Scheme in a) 2013/14 and b) 2014/15?

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

Thank you for your question. The Council place huge importance on looking after the elderly and disabled residents.

For example, we are the only borough to continue with free elderly homecare.

Through the Councils Tenant Decoration Scheme pensioners and disabled residents can have their homes redecorated for them.

In 2013/14, 215 residents from that group had their homes decorated, and for this year there has been 51 homes decorated to date.

8.17 Question from Councillor Shah Alam

What is the council's plan for centenary commemoration of WW1 in the borough?

Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Culture

The 4th of August 2014 marks the Centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

The Council have put together a commemorative programme of well over 50 cultural events, including exhibitions, workshops, walking tours, talks, archive film screenings and poetry readings, to remember and reflect on this moment.

All events are free and no booking is required. The aim in part is to reflect the impact WW1 had on the borough and its residents, the personal stories and sacrifices made and what lessons we may still learn from it today.

8.18 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

What is the vacancy rate in each of the borough's district and local town centres and how does the lead member intend to reduce these?

Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Economic Development (Jobs, Skills and Enterprise)

Thank you Councillor Peck for your question. The overall vacancy rate for district centres in the borough, at 9.9%, compares favourably with the average rates for London, at 11%, and nationally at 14.1%.

The Council does not currently record vacancy rates in local town centres.

The most recent data available on vacancies in the borough's district town centre is published in the 2012/13 Annual Monitoring Report, based on surveys conducted in August 2013. Vacancy rates were as follows:

DISTRICT TOWN CENTRE	VACANCY RATE
Bethnal Green	5.4%
Chrisp Street	6.3%
Roman Road East	15.0%
Roman Road West	8.9%
Whitechapel	5.5%
Brick Lane	11.1%
Watney Market	11.9%
ALL LBTH DISTRICT CENTRES	9.9%
LONDON AVERAGE	11.0%
NATIONAL AVERAGE	14.1%

8.19 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

A few weeks ago the Mayor attended the People's Assembly March against Austerity to protest at this Tory-led government's attack on the poor and the most vulnerable in our community. What are being done to protect our residents from the brunt of these vicious cuts?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

We are deeply concerned about the impact of government austerity. As the motion points out the latest and most comprehensive research on poverty shows that poverty is hitting twice as many British households as 30 years ago.

The government would have us believe that many of those people are benefit scroungers and benefit fraud is at the source of our problems. It's simply not true. The majority in receipt of benefits are from working families.

Low wages, the growth of part time work and the rising cost of living are forcing more people into poverty. And the amount lost to the exchequer through benefit fraud is a mere fraction of that lost to illegal tax evasion carried out by the wealthiest in our society.

I am proud of the measures we have introduced to protect residents. The extension of free school meals, the Mayor's Education Award and University grant scheme, our Energy Co-op and free Homecare are all making a huge difference to some of the poorest in our borough.

With worse spending cuts to come we are going to have to brace ourselves for the coming storm government cuts will bring and redouble our efforts to try protect the most vulnerable from their impact.

And with the general election only a year away we need to ensure that this coalition government is kicked out of power.

8.20 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock-Gibbs

What assessment has the Lead Member made of road safety in the borough and how regularly is this reviewed for each ward? Is the Lead Member satisfied that current measures – such as speed limits, traffic calming and enforcement of speeding – are sufficient to protect residents, cyclists and drivers from accidents?

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

Thank you for your question. We regularly monitor safety statistics across the borough, based on feedback from members and individuals, the police and from our Find it Fix it Love it app.

In addition to this we have our annual monitoring through the Local Implementation Plan which allows officers to plot all accidents across the borough on a geographical basis and to identify hotspots. This is not currently done on a ward by ward basis as it needs to be responsive to the needs of the borough and the trends in accidents.

8.21 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury

The Tour de France cycling ride through our borough was an amazing spectacle that brought back memories of the London Olympics. How is the Mayor supporting cyclists and budding athletes in the borough?

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

Thank you for your question. The Mayor supports athletics and cycling through a range of initiatives. For example, we provide many athletics coaching courses, particularly for young people and these include nationally recognised qualifications to train people as athletics coaches.

We also provide athletics competitions in the borough such as the London Min-marathon) and provide funding contributions, for example towards a Run England Activator, which facilitates running groups in non-traditional settings in the borough

To encourage more cycling the Council provides 4 levels of cycle training for children, with 2500 pupils having achieved 5000 passes in the year 2013-14.

This takes children from the basics of learning to balance on a bike through to being competent to cycle on busy roads. Additionally nearly 2,000 hours of adult cycle training are provided to residents in the borough.

Such training, equips children and adults with the skills to enjoy safe cycling and the Council's infrastructure programmes help to support them in making that activity a part of their daily lives.

These include: the extension of the Cycle Hire Scheme which the Council secured by March 2012 gave residents improved access to bicycles; the on-going improvement of cycle routes on quieter borough roads helps to provide more permeability through local networks; the TfL Cycle Superhighways provide more direct commuter cycle routes which the Council is lobbying TfL to make safer for all road users.

8.22 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell

What is the current wait for an Occupational Therapy assessment ahead of Decent Homes work?

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

Thank you for your question. From 2013/14 to date, a total of 694 properties have progressed from screening tool to OT Assessment, and the time for OT assessment ahead of Decent Homes has averaged one hundred and three days.

Once the assessments are complete, works commence within 27 days, and are complete in circa 8 days.

A plan is being put in place to ensure OT resources are allocated according to need, on a contract-by-contract basis resulting in appropriate numbers of senior OT assessors available to handle the caseload.

8.23 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Tower Hamlets has become one of the first councils in London to be an accredited London Living Wage employer, how will this benefit our residents and staff?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Thank you for your question. The benefits of the London Living Wage are increasingly being recognised and this policy has a valuable impact on both staff and residents to ensure high quality services are provided.

The Living Wage Foundation, which issues accreditation for London Living Wage employers have made the following statement in respect of the benefits of paying the LLW. The benefits identified are applicable to Tower Hamlets. What are the benefits?

Good for Business

An independent study examining the business benefits of implementing a Living Wage policy in London found that more than 80% of employers believe that the Living Wage had enhanced the quality of the work of their staff, while absenteeism had fallen by approximately 25%.

Two thirds of employers reported a significant impact on recruitment and retention within their organisation. 70% of employers felt that the Living Wage had increased consumer awareness of their organisation's commitment to be an ethical employer.

Following the adoption of the Living Wage PwC found turnover of contractors fell from 4% to 1%.

Good for Families

The Living Wage affords people the opportunity to provide for themselves and their families.

75% of employees reported increases in work quality as a result of receiving the Living Wage.

50% of employees felt that the Living Wage had made them more willing to implement changes in their working practices; enabled them to require fewer concessions to effect change; and made them more likely to adopt changes more quickly.

Good for Society

The Living Wage campaign was launched in 2001 by parents in East London, who were frustrated that working two minimum wage jobs left no time for family life.

The causes of poverty are complex and in order to improve lives there should be a package of solutions across policy areas. The Living Wage can be part of the solution.

Finally, London Mayor Boris Johnson has stated that "Paying the London Living Wage is not only morally right, but makes good business sense too. What may appear to be an unaffordable cost in a highly competitive market should more often be viewed as a sound investment decision. I believe that paying decent wages reduces staff turnover and produces a more motivated and productive workforce."

8.24 Question from Councillor Asma Begum

Is the Lead Member for Housing happy with the current performance of Registered Housing Providers in the borough?

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

As I am sure you are aware I take an extremely robust approach to performance managing the services provided by our registered social landlords.

Over 50 Registered Providers operate in the Borough managing nearly 30,000 tenancies and several thousand leasehold properties.

This means there are hugely differing standards of management and service and we have to make sure they work in the interest of their residents and the wider community. This is made more difficult as unfortunately the Council does not have a regulatory role.

However we do regularly monitor standards through the Performance Management Framework and here performance does not meet the standards required or if specific issues are brought to my attention through case work and complaints I will take up the matter immediately with the provider to make improvements.

I am currently deeply disappointed with the overall performance of three of the Registered Providers in the borough where there has been a steady number of complaints and disputes relating to poor performance and poor customer care. I am working with officers and the organisations concerned to resolve these issues although we have limited powers as the Council does not have a regulatory role.

If you have any concerns over a specific RSL I always welcome members informing me so that my officers and I can address the problem as soon as possible.

This page is intentionally left blank

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2014

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 10th September 2014.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 4th September. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. The texts of the petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report. 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.
4. 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.
5. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.

5.1 Petition for Road Hump in Carr Street, E14 (Petition from Mr Muhammad Shamim and others)

“For the last few years in our street which is Carr Street E14, we had youths driving cars dangerously and racing up and down during the day and night time through Carr Street towards Ben Johnson Road E1. Residents cannot sleep and during the night time and during the day no one is safe specially the children. For the last year we had a few meagre accident happened few of them when through the gate of the roundabout and other collided with another vehicles. And last week we had another accident during the day time just after school, where this time this youth was driving about 50 to 60 mph and hit one of the parked car before collided with another car, thank god no one got killed this time police did attended. If nothing has been done then one day they will kill a child or a resident. We are the resident had enough of this nightmare and we do not want to see any child or resident been killed. Therefore we are requesting for few reasonable road hump to put in place to stop this youths joyriding through our road. Currently we do have a hump which is useless because it is such a low that anyone can speed as much they want it does not serve its purpose.”

5.2 Petition to stop the building of a new school in the Burdett Estate (Petition from Mr Junayd Miah on behalf of Burdett Independent Community Welfare Organisation (BICWO))

“We hereby submit these petitions and forms in opposition to the proposed development of the new primary school in our estate. Our opposition is based on the following:-

1. To have a major development such as this in our estate should be in consultation with the wider community and not with a select few. Harca’s communication with the estate board has been at best amateurish, and at worst, a sinister ploy to pursue its interest over the interests of the community. We have lost all confidence and trust in this board and Harca!
2. The school is too close to the existing primary school (which is being currently expanded at the cost of our historic football pitch). The estate will become too congested, noisy and closed off. This is just poor design and a total disregard for the welfare of the greater community!
3. The expansion of the current primary school and the proposed development of the new school will mean there are no more football or any other play areas for children within the estate. This is just not right, especially as the estate has a very high number of children per household. This is just common sense, surely Harca is aware of this reality and the importance of having safe play areas for the well being of the children and their families.
4. The proposed development will result in the last bit of premium open green space, used as the community congregation area by children, teenagers and the elderly, being taken away from the community. What is astounding is that all modern development in the inner cities incorporate a communal green

space, for us it is the opposite, it is being taken away! We have no choice but to question Harca's commitment to the welfare of our community.

5. Harca has proposed a new Mosque, which is very well thought out and nicely designed. It would have been wonderful if they had paid the same amount of attention to rest of the development. Two floors for the Mosque isn't sufficient for the growing number of worshippers. The younger generation are naturally choosing to actively practice their religion. Our estate has a very high number of children and within a few years the two floors will not be sufficient. Currently we have access to the green space (facilitates same number of worshippers as the proposed new second floor) adjacent to the Mosque, and it can't cater for the Friday or Ramadan worshippers.
6. We as a community have serious concerns the impact the development will have for the shift in gentrification. We are seeing this happen all around us and we want safeguards in place.

In summary, we believe this development is not in the interest of the community and we want Harca and all the active decision makers to rethink the proposed development with the concerns mentioned above. If our concerns are addressed adequately, we are more than happy to work with Harca or anyone else to help improve the welfare of the community."

5.3 Petition regarding Vic Johnson House (Petition from Mr Mehmet Djafer and others)

"We the undersigned are opposed to Gateway Housing Association's plans to demolish part of Vic Johnson House, decant a dozen or more residents out of their homes and build new flats at either end of the homes of the remaining residents.

If it is allowed to go ahead this will cause massive disruption to the lives of the elderly and vulnerable residents of Vic Johnson House, some of whom have already been decanted out of John Bond House and William Guy Gardens when Gateway demolished those blocks.

We believe this proposal is not in keeping with the promises made to tenants by Bethnal Green and Victoria Park HA (Gateway HA) before the ballot on stock transfer and call on the Mayor and the Councillors in Tower Hamlets to block these plans."

This page is intentionally left blank

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2014

**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 at the Council Meeting on 10th September 2014.
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

Two public questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Mr Michael James:

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

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?

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2014

**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 Speaker, the Mayor or the relevant Committee/Sub-Committee Chair at the Council meeting on Wednesday 10th September 2014.
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

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

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

8.10 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Can the Lead Member please set out LBTH's position on Gateway Housing's proposal to redevelop Vic Johnson House?

8.11 Question from Councillor Muhammed Ansar **Mustaquim**

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

8.18 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

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

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?

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?

Agenda Item 11.1

COMMITTEE: Council	DATE: 10 September 2014	CLASSIFICATION: Unrestricted	REPORT NO.	AGENDA NO.
REPORT OF: Chris Holme, Acting Corporate Director of Resources ORIGINATING OFFICER(S): Bola Tobun, Investment & Treasury Manager		TITLE: 2013-14 Treasury Management Outturn Report Ward(s) affected: N/A		

Lead Member	Cllr Alibor Choudhury – Resources
Community Plan Theme	All
Strategic Priority	One Tower Hamlets

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises Full Council of treasury management activity for the financial year ended 31 March 2014 as required under the Local Government Act 2003.
- 1.2 The report details the treasury management outturn position based on the credit criteria adopted by the Corporate Director of Resources, the investment strategy for the financial year as approved by Council and the investment returns.
- 1.3 The Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury management indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparators are also addressed in this report.
- 1.4 The Acting Corporate Director, Resources confirms that borrowing was only undertaken for a capital purpose and the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) was not breached.
- 1.5 The CIPFA codes of practice require that a committee scrutinises the investment strategy, mid-year and outturn treasury management reports and that they are reported to the full Council. Updates on treasury management activities were also reported to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.

2. DECISIONS REQUIRED

- 2.1 Members are recommended to note the contents of this report.

3. REASONS FOR DECISIONS

- 3.1 This Council is required by Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury report reviewing treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2013/14. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).
- 3.2 The minimum reporting requirements stipulated by the Code are that Full Council should receive the following reports:
 - an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year(Council;27 February 2013)

- a mid-year treasury update report (Council; 27 November 2013)
- an annual report following the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report)

3.3 In addition, the Audit Committee received treasury management activity update reports on 25 June 2013, 26 September 2013, 17 December 2013 and 18 March 2014.

3.4 The Code requires Members to review and scrutinise treasury management policy and activities. This report is important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.

3.5 The annual report on treasury management should assist Members in scrutinising officer decisions and checking that the investment strategy was implemented as approved by the Full Council.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 The Council is bound by legislation to have regard to the Treasury Management (TM) Code. The Code requires that the Council should receive an annual report on treasury management activities.

4.2 If the Council were to deviate from those requirements, there would need to be some good reason for doing so. It is not considered that there is any such reason, having regard to the need to ensure that Members are kept informed about treasury management activities and to ensure that these activities are in line with the investment strategy approved by the Council.

5 BACKGROUND

5.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 require local authorities to have regard to the Treasury Management Code. The Treasury Management code requires that the Council or a sub-committee of the Council should receive an annual report on treasury management activities.

5.2 The Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy Statement on 27 February 2013, which included the Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision and prudential indicators for 2013/14. These reports set out the parameters within which Treasury Management officers should operate when executing their roles. In line with the requirement of the Code, this report should assist Members in discharging their responsibilities relating to the review and scrutiny of Treasury Management policies and activities in 2013/14.

5.3 This report summarises:

- Capital activity during the year;
- Impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness (the Capital Financing Requirement);
- Reporting of the required prudential and treasury indicators;
- Overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
- Debt activity;
- Summary of interest rate movements in the year; and
- Investment activity.

6. SCRUTINY OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- 6.1 The Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements in 2013/14 and was not in breach of any of the prudential and treasury management indicators. The table below summarises the key indicators relating to capital expenditure activities in the year. A more detailed report of the indicators is attached as Appendix 1.
- 6.2 The Acting Corporate Director of Resources also confirms that the Council did not undertake any external borrowing during the year, thus operating within the Authorised borrowing limit in the financial year.

7. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING 2013-14

- 7.1 The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:
- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
 - If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply available resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.
- 7.2 The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

£m	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Estimate	2013/14 Actual
Non-HRA capital expenditure	110.254	107.212	82.653
HRA capital expenditure	39.045	78.481	50.255
Total Capital Expenditure	149.299	185.693	132.908
Resources			
Capital Grants	116.010	126.629	87.391
Direct Revenue Financing	3.658	5.586	10.258
Major Repairs Allowance	11.375	17.930	11.799
Developers Contributions	6.263	7.741	7.740
Capital Receipts	11.193	12.993	14.701
Capital Expenditure (Financed from borrowing)	(0.800)	(10.000)	(1.000)

- 7.3 Actual capital expenditure was less than the estimated figure of £180.548m by £47.64m. This is not an underspent against the total programme; any resources not used in this reporting year will be used in future years of the programme. This year slippage was mainly due to Decent Homes Backlog, Ocean New deal for Communities, Regional Housing Pot and Non Decent homes schemes.

8. OVERALL BORROWING NEED

- 8.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's debt position. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and what resources have been used to pay for the capital spend. This represents the 2013/14 unfinanced capital expenditure as set out in the above table, and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
- 8.2 Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure sufficient cash is available to

meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies such as the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) or the money markets, or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

- 8.3 The Council's non-Housing Revenue Accounts (HRA) underlying borrowing need is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non-HRA borrowing need (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR).
- 8.4 The Council's 2013/14 MRP Policy was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2013/14 on 27 February 2013.
- 8.5 The Council's CFR for the year is shown below, and represents a key prudential indicator. This includes PFI and leasing schemes on the balance sheet, which increase the Council's borrowing need although no borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included in the contract.

General Fund CFR (£m)	31-Mar-13 Actual	31-Mar-14 Estimate	31-Mar-14 Actual
Opening balance	162.060	156.174	156.174
Add unfinanced capital expenditure	0.800	10.000	1.019
Add PFI adjustment	40.299	40.299	39.410
Less MRP	(6.686)	(6.372)	(6.145)
Less PFI Adjustment	(40.299)	(40.299)	(39.410)
Closing balance	156.174	159.802	151.045

HRA CFR (£m)	31-Mar-14 Actual	31-Mar-14 Estimate	31-Mar-14 Actual
Opening balance	69.675	69.675	69.675
Add unfinanced capital expenditure	0.000	0.000	0.000
Closing balance	69.675	69.675	69.675

- 8.6. **Net Borrowing and the CFR** - in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term, the Council's external borrowing net of investments, must only be for a capital purpose. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. Net borrowing should not therefore, except in the short term, have exceeded the sum of CFR for 2013/14 plus the expected changes to the CFR in 2014/15 and 2015/16. This indicator allows the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2013/14.

- 8.7 A summary of opening and closing CFR balances are also set out in table below.

£m	31-Mar-13 Actual	31-Mar-14 Original	31-Mar-14 Actual
Non HRA CFR	156.174	159.802	151.045
HRA CFR	69.675	69.675	69.675
CFR (Total)	225.849	229.477	220.720

- 8.8 **The Authorised Limit** - the authorised limit is the "affordable borrowing limit" required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council does not have the power to

borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2013/14 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

- 8.9 **Maximum Gross Borrowing** – this is the maximum outstanding debt owed by the Council at any time during the financial year.
- 8.10 **The Operational Boundary** – the operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary is acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.
- 8.11 **Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream-** this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

£m	2013/14
Authorised limit	265.720
Gross borrowing position	89.564
Operational boundary	245.720
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream (Non-HRA)	2.40%
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream (HRA)	3.67%

9. **TREASURY POSITION as at 31 March 2014**

- 9.1 The Council's debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through Member reporting as detailed in section 3 of this report, and through officer activity as detailed in the Council's Treasury Management Practices Schedule. The treasury position at the start and end of 2013/14 was as follows:

Debt £m	31 March 2013 Principal	Rate/ Return	31 March 2014 Principal	Rate/ Return
Fixed Rate Funding:				
-PWLB	12.909	7.55%	12.064	7.37%
-Market	13.000	4.37%	13.000	4.37%
Total Fixed Rate Funding	25.909	5.95%	25.064	5.81%
Variable Rate Funding:				
-PWLB	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
-Market	64.500	4.32%	64.500	4.32%
Total Variable Rate Funding	64.500	4.32%	64.500	4.32%
Total debt	90.409	4.79%	89.564	4.73%
CFR	225.849		220.720	
Over/ (under) borrowing	(135.440)		(131.156)	

Investments: £m				
In house	244.000	1.24%	292.450	0.82%
External managers	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total investments	244.000	1.24%	292.450	0.82%

9.2 The under-borrowed amount represents the element of the programme that is currently being funded from internally held resources. Although this reduces the need to borrow from external sources, it does not allow for additional borrowing over and above the CFR. The Council also repaid £0.8m of maturing PWLB loans, thereby reducing the overall debt outstanding from £90.4m to £89.6m as at 31 March 2014.

9.3 The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

	31 March 2013 Actual £m	2013/14 Original Limits %	31 March 2014 Actual £m	31 March 2014 Actual %
Under 12 months	0.845	10%	0.671	0.7%
12 months and within 24 months	0.671	30%	1.068	1.2%
24 months and within 5 years	3.927	40%	4.532	5.1%
5 years and within 10 years	6.256	80%	4.584	5.1%
10 years and above	78.710	100%	78.709	87.9%

9.4 The maturity structure for the investment portfolio was as follows:

10.	31 March 2013 Actual £m	2013/14 Original Limits	31 March 2014 Actual £m
Under 1 year	229.00	100%	277.45
More than 1 year	15.00	25%	15.00
Total	244.00		292.45

10.1 The An

Strategy.

10.2 The interest rate outlook for 2013/14, prepared in conjunction with Capita, the Council's Treasury Adviser, was that the base rate would remain unchanged, throughout 2013/14; the base rate remained at 0.5%.

10.2 For the fifth consecutive year, Bank of England base rate remained at a historic low of 0.5% throughout the year. The MPC have also indicated their concerns that an earlier increase in Bank Rate could help them later with implementing a slower pace of increases in Bank Rate and keeping Bank Rate lower, than if there was a later timing for the first increase. Many forecasters have, therefore, brought forward their forecast for the first increase in Bank Rate to take account of the various comments that have been made by the MPC and Carney.

10.3 The Council has continued with its conservative approach of prioritising security and liquidity over yield, Investments would therefore continue to be dominated by low counterparty risk considerations though, this results in a high cost of carry as investment returns are relatively low compared to borrowing rates.

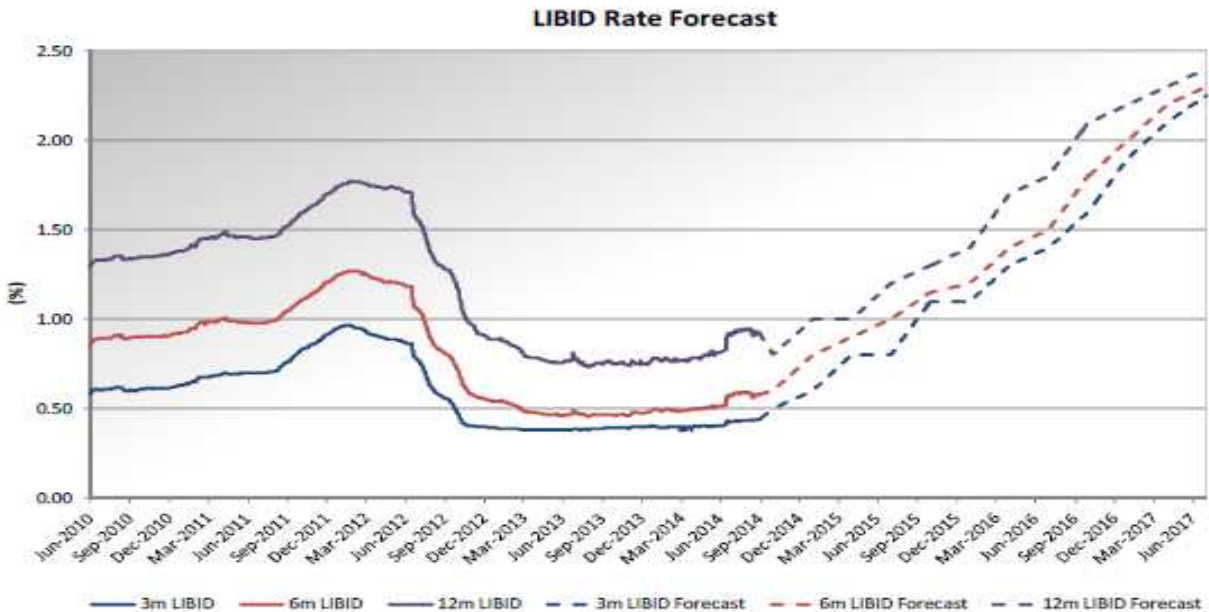
11. BORROWING OUTTURN

11.1 The Council did not undertake any external borrowing in 2013/14. Capital financing needs were met either from existing debt or internal borrowing.

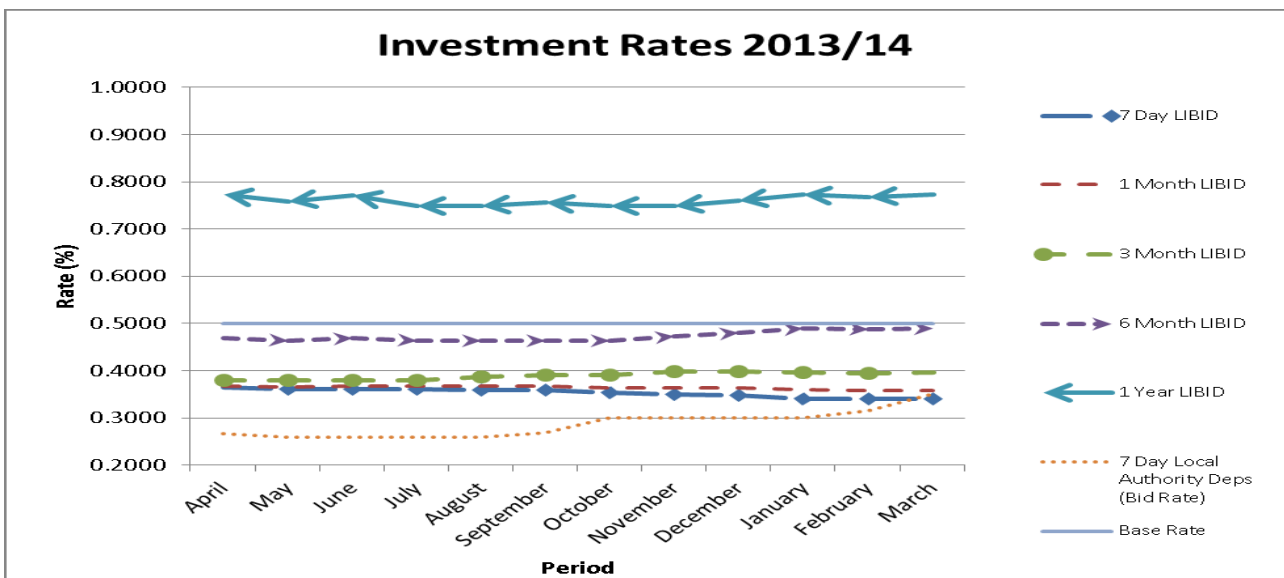
12. INVESTMENT RATES

12.1 After strong UK GDP growth of 0.7%, 0.8% and 0.7% in quarters 2, 3 and 4 respectively in 2013, and 0.8% in Q1 2014, it appears very likely that strong growth will continue into 2014 as forward surveys are very encouraging. There are also positive indications that recovery is starting to broaden away from reliance on

consumer spending and the housing market into construction, manufacturing, business investment and exporting. This strong growth has resulted in unemployment falling much faster through the threshold of 7%, set by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) last August, before it said it would consider any increases in Bank Rate. The MPC has, therefore, now broadened its forward guidance by adopting five qualitative principles and looking at a much wider range of about eighteen indicators in order to form a view on how much slack there is in the economy and how quickly slack is being used up. Accordingly, markets are expecting a first increase around the end of 2014.



12.2 The graph below illustrates that investment rates remained at historically low levels over the course of the financial year 2013/14.



13. INVESTMENT OUTTURN

13.1 The Council's investment policy is governed by CLG guidance, which was implemented in line with the annual investment strategy approved by Full Council on 26 February 2013 and the revised investment strategy approved by Full Council on 26 November 2013. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is

based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies supplemented with additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.)

- 13.2 The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.
- 13.3 The Council held an outstanding balance of £292.45m as at 31 March 2014, and maintained an average balance of £278.8m of internally managed funds which earned an average rate of return of 0.82%. This compared favourably against the 7-day LIBID benchmark of 0.35%.

14. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 14.1. The comments of the Acting Corporate Director Resources have been incorporated into the report of which he is the author.

15 LEGAL COMMENTS

- 15.1 The Local Government Act 2003 provides a framework for the capital finance of local authorities. It provides a power to borrow and imposes a duty on local authorities to determine an affordable borrowing limit. It provides a power to invest. Fundamental to the operation of the scheme is an understanding that authorities will have regard to proper accounting practices recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in carrying out capital finance functions.
- 15.2 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 require the Council to have regard to the CIPFA publication "Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes" ("the Treasury Management Code") in carrying out capital finance functions under the Local Government Act 2003. If after having regard to the Treasury Management Code the Council wished not to follow it, there would need to be some good reason for such deviation.
- 15.3 It is a key principle of the Treasury Management Code that an authority should put in place "comprehensive objectives, policies and practices, strategies and reporting arrangements for the effective management and control of their treasury management activities". Treasury management activities cover the management of the Council's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. It is consistent with the key principles expressed in the Treasury Management Code for the Council to review performance against the strategies and policies it has adopted.
- 15.4 The Treasury Management Code requires as a minimum that there be a practice of regular reporting on treasury management activities and risks to the responsible committee and that these should be scrutinised by that committee. Under the Council's Constitution, the audit committee has the functions of monitoring the Council's risk management arrangements and making arrangements for the proper administration of the Council's affairs and for the proper stewardship of public funds.
- 15.5 When discharging its treasury management functions, 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. Information is contained in section 15 of the report relevant to these considerations.

16. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 16.1 Interest on the Council's cash flow has historically contributed significantly towards the budget. This Council's ability to deliver its various functions, to meet its Community

Plan targets and to do so in accordance with its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 may thus be enhanced by sound treasury management.

17. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

17.1 There are no Sustainable Actions for A Greener Environment implications.

18. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

18.1 Any form of investment inevitably involves a degree of risk. To minimise risk the investment strategy has restricted exposure of council cash balances to UK backed banks or institutions with the highest short term rating or strong long term rating.

19. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATION

19.1 There are no crime and disorder reduction implications arising from this report.

20. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

20.1 Monitoring and reporting of treasury management activities ensures the Council optimises the use of its monetary resources within the constraints placed on the Council by statute, appropriate management of risk and operational requirements.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 100D

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*

Investment Reports; Sector Treasury Advisory Services

*Bola Tobun Ext. 4733
Mulberry Place, 3rd Floor.*

Appendix 1: Prudential and Treasury Indicators

Prudential indicators	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Extract from budget and rent setting reports	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Expenditure					
Non – HRA	110.254	82.653	107.212	26.525	30.980
HRA	39.045	50.255	78.481	76.590	39.000
TOTAL	149.299	132.908	185.693	103.115	69.980
Ratio of Financing Costs To Net Revenue Stream					
Non – HRA	2.51%	2.40%	2.89%	3.05%	3.55%
HRA	3.98%	3.67%	4.04%	3.87%	4.66%
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Gross Debt and Capital Financing Requirement					
Gross Debt	90.409	89.564	99.564	113.965	128.897
Capital Financing Requirement	225.848	220.720	159.802	238.628	268.409
Over/(Under) Borrowing	(135.439)	(131.156)	(60.238)	(124.663)	(139.512)
In Year Capital Financing Requirement					
Non – HRA	(5.887)	(5.128)	3.628	(6.146)	(6.219)
HRA	0.000	0.000	0.000	15.072	36.000
TOTAL	(5.887)	(5.128)	3.628	8.926	29.781
Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March					
Non - HRA	156.173	151.045	159.802	153.881	147.662
HRA	69.675	69.675	69.675	84.747	120.747
HRA Settlement	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	225.848	220.720	229.477	238.628	268.409
Incremental Impact of Financing Costs (£)					
Increase in Council Tax (band D) per annum	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Increase in average housing rent per week	5.305	0.000	0.059	1.080	1.451

Treasury Management Indicators	2012/13	2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Authorised Limit For External Debt:					
Borrowing & Other long term liabilities	250.848	245.720	254.477	263.628	293.409
Headroom	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000	20.000
TOTAL	270.848	265.720	274.477	283.628	313.409
Operational Boundary For External Debt:					
Borrowing	250.848	245.720	254.477	263.628	277.409
Other long term liabilities	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	16.000
TOTAL	250.848	245.720	254.477	263.628	293.409
Gross Borrowing	90.409	89.564	99.564	113.965	128.897
HRA Debt Limit*	184.381	184.381	184.381	184.381	184.381
Upper Limit For Fixed Interest Rate Exposure					
Net principal re fixed rate borrowing / investments	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Upper Limit For Variable Rate Exposure					
Net interest payable on variable rate borrowing / investments	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days (per maturity date)	£25m	£25m	£25m	£25m	£25m

Maturity structure of new fixed rate borrowing for 2013/14	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	10%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	30%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	80%	0%
10 years and above	100%	0%

Appendix 2: Definition of Credit Ratings

Support Ratings

Rating	
1	A bank for which there is an extremely high probability of external support. The potential provider of support is very highly rated in its own right and has a very high propensity to support the bank in question. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-term rating floor of 'A-'.
2	A bank for which there is a high probability of external support. The potential provider of support is highly rated in its own right and has a high propensity to provide support to the bank in question. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-term rating floor of 'BBB-'.
3	A bank for which there is a moderate probability of support because of uncertainties about the ability or propensity of the potential provider of support to do so. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-term rating floor of 'BB-'.
4	A bank for which there is a limited probability of support because of significant uncertainties about the ability or propensity of any possible provider of support to do so. This probability of support indicates a minimum Long-term rating floor of 'B'.
5	A bank for which external support, although possible, cannot be relied upon. This may be due to a lack of propensity to provide support or to very weak financial ability to do so. This probability of support indicates a Long-term rating floor no higher than 'B-' and in many cases no floor at all.

Short-term Ratings

Rating	
F1	Highest credit quality. Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.
F2	Good credit quality. A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.
F3	Fair credit quality. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate; however, near-term adverse changes could result in a reduction to non-investment grade.

Long-term Ratings

Rating	Current Definition (August 2003)
AAA	Highest credit quality. 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
AA	Very high credit quality. 'AA' ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
A	High credit quality. 'A' ratings denote a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
BBB	Good credit quality. 'BBB' ratings indicate that there is currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions is more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment-grade category

Individual Ratings

Rating	
A	A very strong bank. Characteristics may include outstanding profitability and balance sheet integrity, franchise, management, operating environment or prospects.
B	A strong bank. There are no major concerns regarding the bank. Characteristics may include strong profitability and balance sheet integrity, franchise, management, operating environment or prospects
C	An adequate bank, which, however, possesses one or more troublesome aspects. There may be some concerns regarding its profitability and balance sheet integrity, franchise, management, operating environment or prospects.
D	A bank, which has weaknesses of internal and/or external origin. There are concerns regarding its profitability, substance and resilience, balance sheet integrity, franchise, management, operating environment or prospects. Banks in emerging markets are necessarily faced with a greater number of potential deficiencies of external origin.
E	A bank with very serious problems, which either requires or is likely to require external support.

This page is intentionally left blank

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2014

**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 10th September 2014.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the motions are listed by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) whose motion(s) were not reached at the previous meeting.
3. 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.
4. 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 Motion regarding primary school performance

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood

Seconder: Councillor Chris Chapman

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

Proposer: Councillor Shiria Khatun

Seconder: Councillor Rachael Saunders

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.

12.3 Motion regarding High Court challenge against Jeremy Hunt

Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council notes:

- The Secretary of State's decision to remove MPIG funding, which has put 5 surgeries in our borough at risk
- That Tower Hamlets is not the only borough suffering, with potential closure of at least 22 surgeries in similarly deprived areas such as Hackney and Newham and a potential 98 surgeries overall in the UK
- The brave High Court challenge by Danny Currie, a disabled resident in the borough which relies on these GP surgeries
- That despite rallies, the Mayor writing two letters to the Secretary of State around the loss of MPIG funding, and a funding formula having been created by the CCG to more fairly allocate resources, that Jeremy Hunt continues to ignore our case

This Council believes

- That this funding is vital in areas like Tower Hamlets where there is high deprivation and some of the highest health needs in the country
- That these cuts are unfairly penalising some of our brilliant surgeries – such as the Jubilee Street Practice which has been awarded the Royal College award for excellence in training and for the quality of its care – and our patients
- That Danny Currie's case quite rightly points out how GP surgeries act as a vital lifeline for those with complex medical needs – making it even more important that these surgeries retain their funding
- That the inevitable result of the closure of surgeries will be an increased pressure on hospital services, especially A&E if surgeries.

This Council agrees:

- To call on the Department of Health and NHS England to ensure that no GP surgeries are forced to close as a result of the MPIG changes.
- That the Mayor continues to work with the Save Our Surgeries Campaign, local GP practices, health workers and patients to lobby NHS England and the Secretary of State to provide long term appropriate and sufficient funding for surgeries.

12.4 Motion regarding election count

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Seconder: Councillor Chris Chapman

This Council notes the unprecedented report by the Electoral Commission into the delays at the verification and count for the May 2014 elections in Tower Hamlets.

This Council notes that the Commission has made observations and recommendations as to:

- The overall planning and management approach
- The size and suitability of count venues
- The transparency of the verification and count process
- The behaviour and management of attendees at the count

The Council further notes that:

- The Returning Officer has been requested to bring forward plans for the management of the count for the May 2015 General Election no later than the beginning of December 2014.
- Votes were counted in the Mile End Leisure Centre for 2009 European elections; the 2010 combined general and local elections; and the 2014 European election - and that in each case there were severe delays.
- The outcome was Tower Hamlets holding up the declaration of a result for the London region in 2009; that the parliamentary results in 2010 were amongst the last to be declared in the country; and finally in 2014 the resulting delay was so long that the President of the European Parliament commented unfavourably on the delay.
- In the aftermath of the 2009 and 2010 elections, concern was expressed by candidates and agents about the continued use of the Mile End Leisure Centre for the purpose of counting votes.

The Council calls upon the Returning Officer to ensure that this venue is not used again and, following the recommendations of the Electoral Commission, considers a wide range of options for count venues in May 2015. Additionally, the Council requests that the Returning Officer present the overall plan for the management of the 2015 count to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and comment at the earliest opportunity.

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

Proposer: Councillor Marc Francis

Seconded: Councillor Amina Ali

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.

12.6 Motion regarding solidarity with Bangladeshi garment workers and victims of Rana Plaza disaster

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconder: Councillor Shahed Ali

The Council notes:

- The collapse of the Rana Plaza factory building in the Bangladesh capital, Dhaka, on 24 April 2013, killed more than 1,130 garment workers. Over 2,500 people were rescued from the building alive, many with terrible injuries.
- Over 80% of workers in the garment industry are women. The vast majority of those killed and injured in the disaster were women.
- The disaster highlighted the dangerous working conditions prevalent in the garment industry. It also sparked international response about the moral responsibility of Western producers and consumers to ensure they are not the beneficiaries of clothing produced in exploitative and unsafe working conditions.
- A delegation comprising senior trade union officials from Unite the Union and representatives from Tower Hamlets Unite Community are visiting Bangladesh on the week beginning Sept 27th 2014 as part of a fact finding mission. They will be meeting with representatives of the International Labour Organisation, the Bangladeshi government, employers' organisations and the British High Commission, in addition to meeting local trade unionists, victims of the Rana Plaza disaster.
- On their return the delegation will be embarking on a national and local speaking tour, highlighting the conditions of garments workers in Bangladesh and what can be done from the UK to support them.

The Council agrees:

- To offer our support to visit, publicise and promote the delegation's findings and report back meeting in the borough, help highlight what actions residents can take here to show solidarity with the victims of the Rana Plaza disaster, help promote the rights of garment workers to safe and decent working conditions.

12.7 Motion regarding bulk waste collection

Proposer: Councillor Julia Dockerill

Secunder: Councillor Craig Aston

This Council notes that in June 2012, Tower Hamlets introduced fees for the collection of larger items of waste such as furniture and beds.

This Council believes:

- That the new service for bulk waste collection is not working well enough and is leading to increased fly tipping across the borough with dumped mattresses, furniture, building materials, electronics and other large items now regularly clogging up our estates, roads and pavements.
- Dumped bulky items are unsightly and create the impression of an unloved, poorly-managed borough.
- There may be insufficient awareness among residents of how the bulky waste service operates.
- That there appears to be an excessive time lag between collection requests being made and items being removed, and that can encourage others to dump items nearby.
- The cost of collecting dumped waste may well outweigh the amount of revenue generated by bulky waste charges.

This Council resolves:

- To conduct a full and proper review into bulky item collection services to ascertain whether the problem is one of cost, time delay between items being reported and collected, or both.
- That a formal report be presented at the next full Council meeting outlining the findings of that review.
- To rethink the bulky items charge if it is found that the cost of collecting dumped items outweighs the revenue generated by those residents paying the charge.
- To improve awareness of bulk collection services.
- To consider implementing a designated 'collection day' in each ward in order to simplify the process.
- To take concerted action to deter and penalise fly-tippers.

12.8 Motion regarding Chief Executive recruitment

Proposer: Councillor Rachael Saunders

Seconder: Councillor Shiria Khatun

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 councilors 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 councilors 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 of carrying out interviews, the outcome of those interviews should be reported in their totality 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 the Human Resources Committee process.

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 councilors 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 over all process – Council – 10 September 2014

- B) Progress report to HR committee on 15 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
- 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) HR committee to agree shortlist – February 2015
- J) Human Resources Committee to conduct interviews of shortlisted candidates by 24 February 2015
- K) Report on outcomes to be presented to Council on 25 February 2015 where a decision on an appointment can be made.

12.9 Motion regarding the humanitarian crisis in Iraq and persecution of religious minorities

Proposer: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

Seconder: Councillor Mahbub Alam

The Council notes:

- The UN has declared a humanitarian crisis in Northern Iraq following the advances by Islamic State (IS) militants and their persecution of Christian and other religious minorities and all those who do not comply with their brand of religious extremism.

The Council agrees:

- To condemn the persecution of Christian and other religious minorities, and all those suffering at the hands of IS (Islamic State).
- To call on the government to allow the religious persecuted to receive asylum in the UK and increase humanitarian aid to the refugees in Northern Iraq and elsewhere.
- To further promote our No Place for Hate policy to tackle hateful, religiously sectarian and all bigoted views and actions that threaten community cohesion in our borough.

12.10 Motion regarding Robin Hood Tax

Proposer: Councillor John Pierce

Seconded: Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

Council notes that:

- Unemployment in this authority is currently unacceptably high, as a result of the economic crisis;
- Local government will see real term cuts in central grant of 28% over the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review period, meaning a cut of £6bn in annual grant by 2015;
- Extending the current FTT on shares to other asset classes such as bonds and derivatives could raise £20bn of additional revenue in the UK a year; and
- At least 11 European nations including France, Germany, Italy and Spain are moving ahead with FTTs on shares, bonds and derivatives estimated to raise £30bn a year.

Council believes that:

- Revenues from the FTT could help repair the damage caused by cuts in public services since 2010;
- Local government deserves to receive a significant proportion of FTT revenues, making an important contribution to both capital and revenue expenditure such as reversing cuts to council tax benefits; and that
- Whilst an FTT might have a negligible effect on jobs in the City of London, investing FTT revenues in a smart and progressive way would see a significant increase in employment levels in other sectors.

Council resolves that:

- The UK government should extend the current FTT on shares to other asset classes, such as bonds and derivatives.

Council further resolves to:

- Write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Chancellor and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government stating this council's support for extending FTTs; and
- Write to all local MPs outlining the Council's position.

12.11 Motion regarding Government cuts increasing poverty and destroying public services

Proposer: Councillor Abjol Miah

Seconder: Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah

This Council notes:

- That the People's Assembly against Austerity demonstration on June 21 in London attracted over 50,000 people and was addressed by a range of speakers including MP's Diane Abbott, Caroline Lucas and Jeremy Corbyn, Mayor Lutfur Rahman, journalist Owen Jones and comedian Russell Brand.
- That Government cuts are driving greater numbers of people into poverty. Latest research shows record levels of poverty with 1 in 3 Britons are going without three or more "basic necessities of life", such as being able to adequately feed and clothe themselves and their children, and to heat and insure their homes.
- That the Government exaggerates the size of the welfare bill and extent of benefit fraud. Benefit spending in 2011-12 accounted for 10.4% of GDP, lower than in the mid-1980s (11%) and mid -1990s (12%). In 2011/12 just 0.7% or £1bn of the benefit bill was overpaid due to fraud – compared to £70 billion lost through illegal tax evasion.
- That according to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the majority of those in receipt of benefits are from working families. Low wages, the growth of part time work and the rising cost of living are forcing more people into poverty.
- The warnings of the Local Government Association that councils in England face a funding gap of £5.8 billion between March 2014 and March 2016, putting frontline public services under threat of having their funding cut.
- The Mayor's commitment to protecting residents from the impact of austerity by fighting welfare changes via policies such as the extension of free school meals, Mayor's Education Award and University grant scheme, Energy Co-op and free Homecare.
- That measures the Council has implemented to tackle child poverty are facing huge pressure as a result of the continued austerity.

This Council agrees:

- It is wrong that the poorest in our society and the public sector have been the scapegoated for an economic crisis which is the sole responsibility of bankers, the politicians in thrall to them, and a deregulated financial industry.

This Council resolves:

- To reiterate our commitment to oppose government spending cuts to local government and support the People's Assembly campaign against austerity.
- To make a commitment to fight all welfare changes that contributes to poverty.
- To ensure that our residents affected by welfare reforms have specialist support available.

This page is intentionally left blank