

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.35 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2015

**C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance)
Councillor Shiria Khatun	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety)
Councillor Rachael Saunders	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services)
Councillor Rachel Blake	(Cabinet Member for Strategic Development)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Cabinet Member for Culture)
Councillor David Edgar	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Ayas Miah	(Cabinet Member for Environment)
Councillor Joshua Peck	(Cabinet Member for Work & Economic Growth)
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	(Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Services)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor John Pierce	

Officers Present:

Luke Addams	(Interim Director of Adult's Services)
Andy Bamber	(Service Head Safer Communities, Crime Reduction Services, Communities, Localities and Culture)
Aman Dalvi	(Corporate Director, Development & Renewal)
Stephen Halsey	(Head of Paid Service and Corporate Director Communities, Localities & Culture)
Ellie Kuper-Thomas	(Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer - Executive Mayor's Office, One Tower Hamlets, DLPG)
Mark Norman	(Legal Advisor)
Jackie Odunoye	(Service Head, Strategy, Regeneration & Sustainability, Development and Renewal)
Louise Russell	(Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equality, Law Probity & Governance)
Barry Scarr	(Interim Service Head, Finance & Procurement)
Kelly Powell	(Acting Head of Communications)
Karen Sugars	(Programme Manager Health & Care Reforms, Adult Services)

Matthew Mannion

(Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services, LPG)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Zena Cooke (Corporate Director, Resources) for whom Barry Scarr (Interim Service Head, Finance and Procurement) was deputising.
- Robin Beattie (Service Head, Resources, CLC) for whom Andy Bamber (Service Head, Community Service) was deputising.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

DECISION

1. That the Unrestricted Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 28 July 2015 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

4. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

5. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Community Plan

DECISION

1. To note the process followed for refreshing the Community Plan;
2. To approve the Community Plan; and
3. To authorise the Service Head for Corporate Strategy and Equality to make any minor amendments to the Community Plan prior to publication following consultation with the Mayor.

Action by:**SERVICE HEAD, CORPORATE STRATEGY AND EQUALITY (L. RUSSELL)**

(Corporate Strategy and Equality Officers (M. Cairns))

Reasons for the decision

The Community Plan provides the long-term vision for the borough, articulating local aspirations, needs and priorities. As the high-level partnership strategy, it informs all other strategies and delivery plans of the Tower Hamlets Partnership, including the Council's Strategic Plan.

It outlines how the Partnership will work together to improve the lives of all those who live and work in the borough. The Plan continues the existing focus on tackling poverty and social exclusion in Tower Hamlets, as well as the overarching theme of One Tower Hamlets, emphasising equality, cohesion and community leadership. However, this Community Plan also incorporates a new set of high level and cross-cutting priorities, which will galvanise and motivate partners to focus their efforts jointly on some of our biggest challenges, with the aim of making a real difference in these areas over the lifetime of the Plan.

The Council's Policy Framework, referred to in Article 4 of the Council's Constitution currently contains an entry for "Sustainable Community Strategy, Section 4 Local Government Act 2000". The deletion of section 4 from the Local Government Act 2000 with effect from May this year means that the Community Plan (the name given to Tower Hamlets' sustainable community strategy) ceased to be part of the Policy Framework, and with it the requirement for approval by Full Council. Approval of the Plan is therefore an executive decision for the Mayor in Cabinet.

Alternative options

Cabinet may decide not to approve the proposed Community Plan, in which case elements of the refresh process may need to be repeated.

Cabinet may also decide to make any amendments to the Plan as it sees fit.

5.2 Early Years Capital Project**DECISION**

1. To approve the adoption of a revised capital estimate of £470,000 for the extension of the Whitehorse One O'clock Club.
2. To approve the adoption of a capital estimate of £285,000 for the conversion of the Bethnal Green Rangers' office to provide a new nursery facility.
3. To agree that Council-approved Frameworks be used, where appropriate, to deliver the projects;

4. To authorise the Corporate Director of Children's Services, in respect of all proposed tenders referred to in this report, to agree tenders for projects within the approved programmes and capital estimate;
5. To authorise the Corporate Director of Children's Services to prepare and carry out a Bill of Reductions if a scheme exceeds the approved budget, where relevant to ensure expenditure is contained within the agreed costs

Action by:

INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SERVICES (D. JONES)
(Head of Building Development (P. Watson))

Reasons for the decision

From September 2013, free early education became a statutory entitlement for eligible disadvantaged two year olds, with local authorities having a duty to secure provision. The government has set targets for each local authority and Tower Hamlets has a target of 2,145 places by September 2015.

There are insufficient childcare places in Tower Hamlets for the Local Authority to meet this duty. Therefore it has a capital programme to increase provision across the borough. At present, 747 two year olds are in placements. These two schemes, in association with the linked proposal for the Commodore Street site, will provide up to an additional 200 places (full and part time) in areas which are priorities for creation of two year old places.

Alternative options

These proposed projects are part of a wider programme to provide the places.

The Early Years' Service is working closely with other childcare providers to identify potential capital development projects that fit the strategic aims of the funding. A funding application process has been introduced which follows a grant based model with consideration of a range of factors and criteria. The overall programme, including the projects proposed below, takes into account provision by childcare providers, their location and impact on other childcare settings within the local area.

5.3 Planning for School Places - 2015/16 Review**DECISION**

1. To note the contents of this report and the progress made in meeting the need for additional places
2. To note that proposals for specific schemes will be subject to separate consultation procedures and Cabinet decisions.

Action by:**INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SERVICES (D. JONES)**

(Head of Building Development (P. Watson))

Reasons for the decision

The Council has a statutory duty to provide and plan for school places. The report sets out the 2015 projections of need and proposals to meet the need.

Planning for school places has to be kept under review to ensure there are proposals to meet the projected need which can be implemented in time to meet the need. The rising trend of need continues although with variations from year to year.

The Council (also referred to in the report as the local authority or "LA") has proposals in place to meet the need and these can require long term planning to implement. Decisions are required in time so that the programme of providing places can continue and have certainty to meet the need. Where decisions are not made in time, there may be a need for additional short term measures to ensure children can be offered a school place. These measures, such as bulge classes, can be difficult to implement and are not a sustainable approach to providing places. Such measures can be used for primary places but will not be suitable for secondary schools.

Alternative options

The Council has to comply with its duty to provide school places. Some of the need for places is being met by the establishment of free schools which are decided by the Secretary of State. However, the majority of proposals for new places will be initiated by the Council. This report includes options for the programme of meeting need for places.

Where the Council has not made sufficient plans to ensure permanent places are available when needed, short term proposals may be needed which may be less cost-effective by reliance on temporary buildings.

5.4 Exercise of Corporate Directors' Discretions**DECISION**

1. To note the exercise of Corporate Directors' discretions as set out in Appendix 1.

Action by:**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (Z. COOKE)**

(Accountant, Financial Planning (A. Kadir))

Reasons for the decision

Financial Regulations require that regular reports be submitted to Cabinet setting out financial decisions taken under Financial Regulation B10.

The regular reporting of Corporate Director's Discretions should assist in ensuring that Members are able to scrutinise officer decisions.

Alternative options

The Council is bound by its Financial Regulations (which have been approved by Council) to report to Cabinet setting out financial decisions taken under Financial Regulation B10.

If the Council were to deviate from those requirements, there would need to be a 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 decisions made under the delegated authority threshold and to ensure that these activities are in accordance with Financial Regulations.

6. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil items.

8. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items.

9. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**9.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Exempt / Confidential Business**

Nil items.

9.2 Any Exempt / Confidential Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nil items.

10. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 6.10 p.m.

John S Williams
SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES