

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**MINUTES 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)

AGENDA ORDER

Note that during the meeting the **Mayor** agreed to vary the order of business such that the item of 'Any Other Urgent Business' (Submission from TUSH petitioners) was taken at the start of the meeting. The minutes present the items in the order they appeared on the agenda.

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

RESOLVED

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 subject to the inclusion of Councillor Danny Hassell in the list of attendees.

4. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions

Councillor John Pierce, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) provided the Cabinet with an update on their meeting held the previous evening.

He reported that the main item of business had been to hear a number of submissions of evidence in relation to the OSC Transparency Commission. The Committee had heard from a local journalist about his experience of transparency at the Council, the Mayor on his thoughts and then heard from officers on topics such as use of S106 funds, Community engagement, democratic engagement and whistleblowing. Finally Ed Hammond from the Centre for Public Scrutiny had provided his view. The OSC Members were collating the information they were receiving and looking to present a report for agreement later in the year with the aim of improving the scrutiny and transparency of the Council and its decision making.

The Chair also reported that the Committee had heard from TUSH Housing petitioners in relation to the petition they had presented to Council on 22 July

2015. Finally, in reference to the report listed on the Cabinet agenda, it was noted that the OSC were looking to hold a mini scrutiny spotlight session on planning for school places at its next meeting.

The **Mayor** thanked Councillor John Pierce for his update. In particular he highlighted his own interest in improving transparency and reported he was looking to bring forward a new protocol for consideration at Cabinet.

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

Nil items.

5. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Community Plan

The **Mayor** introduced the report. He highlighted that the Community Plan had been adjusted from the version agreed by the previous administration but that it was likely to require more work. Although it was not compulsory to have a Community Plan he explained that he thought it was a useful document for setting out the Council's aims and priorities.

Louise Russell, Service Head, Corporate Strategy and Equality, reported to Cabinet on the consultations that had taken place and especially how it was important to agree priorities with partner organisations to ensure the greatest impact.

During discussion of the report, Councillor Peter Golds, Leader of the Conservative Group, highlighted the work he would be undertaking on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to examining Localism Options and in particular localised decision making in communities and with ward councillors. The Mayor stated he would be interested in developing proposals along those lines.

Cabinet Members also discussed the report in particular Councillor Amy Whitelock-Gibbs, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services, welcomed the proactive approach to healthier lives and Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources, welcomed the work on affordable housing and landlord licensing.

The **Mayor agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

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.

5.2 Early Years Capital Project

Councillor Rachael Saunders, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, introduced the report. She highlighted that this was only one part of the Council's work to respond to the challenges posed by the increasing numbers of children in the Borough but that Early Years provision was a vital part of this.

During discussion, officers reported that provision of 30 hours of free childcare for 2 to 5 year olds was going to be a challenge but that they were working to deal with that.

After seeking assurance that the places would be taken up, the **Mayor agreed** the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

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

5.3 Planning for School Places - 2015/16 Review

Councillor Rachael Saunders, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, introduced the report. She highlighted the enormous future demand for school places that was expected and explained that the report set out the actions the Council was taking to meet that demand.

Further reports would be presented in relation to commissioning specific school sites and there would be a focus on the need in areas with significant property development.

Councillor Peter Golds, Leader of the Conservative Group, highlighted the needs of the Isle of Dogs and called for the Council to encourage all necessary schools and not to restrict themselves to particular types of schools.

Councillor Joshua Peck, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth, highlighted the need to expand provision for those on the Autistic spectrum.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and noted that a number of schemes were in the pipeline to help meet the shortfall in school places. He also highlighted the need for schools to work together and with the local authority to ensure the best outcome for the Borough's children. He **agreed** the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

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.

5.4 Exercise of Corporate Directors' Discretions

Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources, introduced the report.

The **Mayor agreed** the recommendation as set out.

RESOLVED

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

6. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

The Cabinet heard a brief presentation from the petitioners who had presented a petition on the TUSH Housing Co-operative at Council on 22 July 2015 asking the Mayor to consider their request for support.

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