

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.04 P.M. ON MONDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2016

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

During the meeting the Council agreed to vary the order of business. To aid clarity, the Decision Sheet is presented in the order that the items originally appeared on the agenda.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed
- Councillor Gulam Robbani
- Councillor Rachel Blake
- Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs
- Councillor Suluk Ahmed

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

3. MINUTES

Councillor Oliur Rahman **moved** and Councillor Muhammad Mustaqim **seconded** an amendment to the minutes to record the Independent Group's walk out from the Council meeting and to agree that a statement be attached to the minutes to explain their reasons for this.

The amendment was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

DECISION:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

(**Action by:** Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services)

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

Please see the minutes.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**5.1 Petition relating to air quality**

Anisur Rahman Anis addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Mayor John Biggs then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION:

That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, for a written response within 28 days.

(**Action by:** Will Tuckley, Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture).

5.2 Petition relating to Cuts to Early Years Budget

Christine Trumper addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Rachael Saunders, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION:

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director Children's Services, for a written response within 28 days.

(**Action by:** Debbie Jones Corporate Director, Children's Services)

5.3 Petition relating to Mopeds in Tom Thumb Arch

Ben Haigh addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Ayas Miah Cabinet Member for Environment then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION:

That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, for a written response within 28 days.

(**Action by:** Will Tuckley, Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture).

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

- 6.1 Question from Nick Garland regarding investment in local health services. (No supplementary question was put).
- 6.3 Question from Matthew Dickinson about the costs of a legal case.
- 6.4 Question from Abukor Essa about housing in the Borough.
- 6.5 Question from Dipa Baidya about air quality in the Borough. (No supplementary question was put).
- 6.6 Question from Muhammad Sulaman Alipir about the Bethnal Green One Stop Shop.

Questions 6.2 and 6.7 were not put due to the absence of the questioners. Written responses would be provided to the questions.

(Action by:—Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services to arrange written response)

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor presented his tabled report to the Council. The Leaders of the respective political groups 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 supplementary questions were put (except where indicated) and were responded to by the Mayor, relevant Executive Member or Councillor:-

- 8.1 Question from Councillor M. Abdul Mukit about the regeneration of Brick Lane.
- 8.2 Question from Councillor Maium Miah about the Bow School. (No supplemental question was put).
- 8.3 Question from Councillor Amina Ali about the Landlord Licensing scheme.
- 8.4 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman about Member allowances and Council Tax arrears.
- 8.5 Question from Councillor Marc Francis about the fly-tipping of industrial waste.

- 8.6 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman about the Council's communications policy.
- 8.7 Question from Councillor Clare Harrisson about the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan for North East London.
- 8.8 Question from Andrew Wood about the Isle of Dogs & South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework (No supplemental question was put).
- 8.9 Question from John Pierce about the final legal costs of a housing fraud case.
- 8.10 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed about recent budget cuts.
- 8.11 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin about the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. (No supplemental question was put).
- 8.12 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill about police funding
- 8.13 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell about the Somali Task Force

Questions 8.14- 8.18 were not put due to lack of time. Written responses would be provided to the questions.

(Action by:– Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services to arrange written response)

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

9.1 Report from Cabinet: Gambling Policy 2016-19

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, proposing the adoption of a Gambling Policy for 2016/19.

DECISION

1. That the revised Gambling Policy be adopted.

(Action by: Will Tuckley, Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture).

9.2 Report from Cabinet: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 Year 4 (2016/17)

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture, requesting that Council approve the Year 4 Plan (2016/17) of the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16.

DECISION:

1. That the Community Safety Plan 2013-16: Year 4 (2016/17) Plan be adopted.

(**Action by:** Will Tuckley, Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture).

9.3 Report from Cabinet: Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2019

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture proposing the adoption of a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for 2016-19.

DECISION:

1. That the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy be adopted.

(**Action by:** Will Tuckley, Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture).

9.4 Report from Cabinet: Housing Strategy 2016 - 2021

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, proposing the adoption of the Housing Strategy.

DECISION:

1. That the draft Housing Strategy and attached appendices be adopted.

(**Action by:** Aman Dalvi, Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)

9.5 Report from Audit Committee: Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2016/17

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Resources providing the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2016/17.

DECISION:

That the Council note:

1. The treasury management activities and performance against targets for the six months to 30 September 2016.
2. The Council's investment balance of £406.85m as at 30 September 2016 of which £131.62m was invested with money market funds (MMF) and £105m invested with UK Banks and Building Societies as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

3. The Council's position on prudential indicators as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

(Action by: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director, Resources)

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 Revised Code of Conduct for Members and Revised Arrangements for Dealing with Alleged Breaches of the Code

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance, in relation to proposed revisions to the Member Code of Conduct.

DECISION:

1. That the revised Code of Conduct for Members and the revised arrangements for dealing with alleged breach of the Code as set out in Annex B to the report be approved and adopted.

(Action by: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Law Probity and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

11.2 Licensing Code of Conduct

The Council the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance updating the Licensing Code of Conduct.

DECISION:

1. That the revised Licensing Code of Conduct be adopted.

(Action by: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Law Probity and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

11.3 Notification of Amendment to the Executive Scheme of Delegation in respect of Grants

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance in relation to amendments made to the Executive Scheme of Delegation in respect of Grants decision making.

DECISION:

That the Council note:

1. That the Mayor has updated his Executive Scheme of Delegation, namely paragraph 6.2 to note that the Mayor has appointed a Grants Determination Sub-Committee and the Mayor has delegated the functions of this Sub-Committee to be carried out by the Sub-Committee collectively;
2. As the Executive Scheme of Delegation is included at Rule 3 of these Executive Procedure Rules contained with Part 4.4 of the Constitution, that the amended Executive Procedure Rules as contained in Appendix 1 will be added to the Constitution.
3. As there is now a Grants Determination Sub-Committee, the Mayor has also provided Terms of Reference for the Grants Determination Sub-Committee and which will be added to part 3.4 of the Constitution, i.e. The Executive, as contained in Appendix 2 and which will also be added to the Constitution.

That the Council agree:

4. That the Constitution be amended by the addition of the new Executive Scheme of Delegation at Appendix 1 and the new part 3.4 of the Constitution at Appendix 2 of the report.

(Action by: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Law Probity and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

11.4 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council 2016/17

The Council considered the tabled report of the Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance reviewing the Council's proportionality and allocation of places on committees following the Whitechapel By-Election and other recent political group changes.

DECISION:

1. That the review of proportionality as at section 3 of the report be noted and the allocation of seats on committees and panels be agreed for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/17 as set out at paragraph 4.2 of the report.

2. To note the committees and panels established for the municipal year 2016/17 as listed in paragraph 4.2 of report as agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 18 May 2016.
3. That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on those committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance.
4. The Acting Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance be authorised to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council.
5. That the draft Council seating plan as set out in Appendix 1 be noted.

(Action by: Graham White, Acting Corporate Director, Law Probity and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

12.3 Motion regarding Bow School.

Mayor John Biggs **moved** and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Oliur Rahman **moved** and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **seconded** a friendly amendment to the motion as set out below:

‘Add the following sentences at the end of second paragraph:

Council further notes the support the family has received from friends, community groups and other councillors, including Cllr Ohid Ahmed, who was at the hospital with the family when Nasar sadly passed away. Cllr Ohid Ahmed has met the family many times and continues to do everything he can to support them.

Add the following paragraph at the end of the current motion, after the sixth paragraph ending with ‘difficult time’:

Tower Hamlets Council has contacted of all its maintained schools in regards to the policies and procedures ‘pertaining to children with a pre-existing medical condition and/or falling ill at school’ in order to provide an unequivocal formal assurance to the constituents and concerned parents that all Tower Hamlet schools are aware of their duties.

Mayor John Biggs and Councillor Rachael Saunders indicated that they accepted the amendment

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

DECISION:

This Council notes the tragic death of Nasar Ahmed who passed away at the Royal London Hospital.

Council notes that Mayor Biggs and Tower Hamlets Council have offered their full support to the police, Bow School and other agencies as the circumstances of his death are thoroughly investigated. Council notes that Mayor Biggs has met the family twice and has committed himself to doing everything he can to support the family. Council further notes the support the family has received from friends, community groups and other councillors, including Cllr Ohid Ahmed, who was at the hospital with the family when Nasar sadly passed away. Cllr Ohid Ahmed has met the family many times and continues to do everything he can to support them.

It is important is that the police, working on behalf of the Coroner's Service, gather the facts quickly and that we learn all the lessons we can from this incident so we can prevent anything similar from ever happening again.

Council further notes that the police have consulted the Health and Safety Executive and agreed to take the lead on an independent investigation. A Metropolitan Police central investigation team will be conducting this investigation as they have the resources and capability to carry out a complex and lengthy enquiry.

This Council resolves to fully support the police, Bow School and other agencies as the circumstances of Nasar Ahmed's' death are investigated.

Tower Hamlets Council resolves to offer all the support it can to Nasar's family, friends and fellow pupils during this extremely difficult time.

Tower Hamlets Council has contacted of all its maintained schools in regards to the policies and procedures 'pertaining to children with a pre-existing medical condition and/or falling ill at school' in order to provide an unequivocal formal assurance to the constituents and concerned parents that all Tower Hamlet schools are aware of their duties.

(Action by: Debbie Jones, Corporate Director, Children's Services)

12.4 Motion on Tackling Air Pollution in Tower Hamlets

Councillor Denise Jones **moved** and Councillor Ayas Miah **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

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

DECISION:

This Council notes:

1. Poor air quality is a significant problem in Tower Hamlets and we exceed EU limits for air pollution across the whole borough
2. Figures from the British Lung Foundation show people in Tower Hamlets are twice as likely to die from lung cancer and other lung diseases than people in London's most well off boroughs like Westminster or Kensington & Chelsea
3. Emerging research shows the impact of air pollution on children is particularly devastating, reducing their lung capacity permanently which can lead to a range of health problems
4. Pollution in London is a public health priority, and over 9,400 Londoners – including almost 200 Tower Hamlets residents – die early every year due to air pollution.

This Council welcomes:

1. Strong leadership from the Labour Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, on tackling London's air pollution, including proposals to bring forward and expand implementation of the Ultra Low Emission Zone and to introduce green buses on London's worst polluted routes from next year
2. Local Mayor John Biggs' public commitment to make improving our air quality a priority for the whole council, working with partners within and beyond the borough, giving a much-needed new local focus to this vital issue
3. Support from our local MPs Jim Fitzpatrick and Rushanara Ali in campaigning on this issue along with residents and raising the issue in Parliament
4. Work already being done by the council with local schools such as Marnier Primary and Cubitt Town Junior schools to raise awareness of air pollution and encourage children and families to minimise their exposure and adopt less polluting behaviours.

This Council believes:

1. Tackling air pollution is a matter of social justice – it is unacceptable that people are twice as likely to die from lung diseases if they live in deprived areas like Tower Hamlets compared to more affluent areas of London
2. Improving air quality is an urgent public health priority, given the damaging impacts of pollution particularly on children and vulnerable adults
3. While we are not in full control of air pollution within the borough, there are actions the council can take in relation to planning and development, parking and traffic policies, public health awareness and campaigning, cleaning up our own and partners' fleets, incentivising active travel and use of cleaner vehicles, and greening our public spaces and streets.

This Council resolves:

1. For all councillors to pledge to champion air quality and lead by example by using cleaner travel options as far as possible
2. For all councillors to support the National Park City campaign, which aims to make London a greener, healthier and fairer place to live
3. To call on Mayor Biggs to:
 - a. Ensure the forthcoming Air Quality Action Plan is ambitious in its commitments to improve our air quality locally
 - b. Consider how to roll out the positive partnership working with local schools to more schools across the borough
 - c. Explore investment through the budget process in proven measures and public health campaigns to raise awareness of air pollution in the local community
 - d. Explore through the Draft Local Plan (currently out for consultation) all possible measures to improve Air Quality through the planning process.

(Action by: Will Tuckley Chief Executive and Acting Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture)

Motions 12.1,12.2 and 12.5 were not debated due to lack of time.

The meeting ended at 10.13 p.m.