

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS****MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL****HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2017****THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5  
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG****Members Present:**

Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Clare Harrison
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Shafi Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Mahbub Alam	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaquim
Councillor Andrew Cregan	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Andrew Wood

**The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed in the Chair**

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. The order the business was taken in at the meeting was as follows:

- Item 1 - Apologies for absence.
- Item 2 – Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- Item 3 – Minutes.
- Item 4 – Announcements.
- Item 5.1 – 5.3 – Petitions
- Item 5.4 – Petition Debate – Save our Nurseries from Privatisation.
- Item 6 – Public Questions.
- Item 7 – Mayor’s Report.

- Item 8 – Members Questions (8.1)
- Item 12.7 - Motion regarding School Funding
- Item 8 – Members Questions (8.2-8.4, 8.6-8.11)
- Item 9 – Reports from the Executive and the Council's Committees.
- Item 9.1 - Report of the General Purposes Committee: Localism Act 2011 - Pay Policy Statement 2017/18
- Item 9.2 - Report of the General Purposes Committee: Revision of the Council' Constitution - Parts 1 to 3
- Item 10 –Reports and Questions on Joint Arrangements/External Organisations
- Item 11 – Other Business
- Item 11.1 - Members' Allowance Scheme
- Item 11.2 - Committee Calendar 2017/18

With great regret, the Speaker of the Council referred to the tragic events that took place earlier in the day in Westminster. He stated that it was important that the Council showed solidarity at this time and that the Council's thoughts were with those affected. The Statutory Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sirajul Islam and the Leaders of the Opposition Groups echoed these points and paid tribute to the work of the emergency services and those that had provided assistance to the victims. Support was also expressed for a joint statement on behalf of the Council.

The Council rose to observe a minutes silence in memory of the victims

The Speaker was also sorry to report that Mayor John Biggs was unable to attend the meeting as his mother sadly passed away on Monday at the age of 96. Mayor Biggs had therefore asked that his apologies be given for this meeting and had requested that the Statutory Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sirajul Islam deputise for him at this meeting. The Council sent their deepest condolences and sympathies to the Mayor for his loss.

The Speaker also welcomed to the meeting the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Leslie Morgan OBE.

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Mayor John Biggs
- Councillor M. Abdul Mukit
- Councillor Amina Ali
- Councillor Joshua Peck
- Councillor Gulam Robbani
- Councillor Abdul Asad
- Councillor Julia Dockerill
- Councillor Craig Aston

Apologies for lateness was received on behalf of Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs.

### **Procedural Motion**

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Mahbub Alam **seconded**, a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.14, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion regarding Personal Independence Payments to be considered”. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

### **Procedural Motion**

Councillor Rabina Khan **moved** and Councillor Shafi Ahmed **seconded**, a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.14, Rule 19 be suspended to enable an urgent petition regarding Save our Nurseries from Privatisation to be considered”. The procedural motion was put to the vote and it was **agreed** that the petition be heard following the consideration of the petitions listed on the agenda.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were made.

Councillor Helal Uddin declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 12.6 Motion regarding Poplar HARCA Auction of 50 Social Dwellings as his employers had a working relationship with Poplar HARCA

Councillor Denise Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8.3, Members Question regarding business rates, as she had a small business.

## **3. MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 18 January 2017 be agreed as a correct record of proceedings.
2. That the minutes of the Budget Council meeting held on Wednesday 22 February 2017 be agreed as a correct record of proceedings.
3. That the supplementary note (attached in the agenda as Appendix A to the minutes of that meeting) be agreed as an addition to the minutes of and a variation to the decision of the Budget Council meeting of Wednesday 22 February 2017

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

The Chief Executive provided an update on the recruitment of a Corporate Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer.

He reported that the position had been awarded to Asmat Hussain of the London Borough of Enfield. The Council looked forward to working with her in the future.

**5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS****5.1 Petition relating to Compensation for no heating and hot water in Killick Way, Ocean Estate Tower Hamlets**

Sofijur Rahman addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Sirajul Islam, Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He sympathised with the petitioners and the residents' concerns. He also explained that whilst responsibility for responding to the issues rested with East Thames Homes, both the Housing provider and the Council had provided support to the tenants to alleviate the issues. He also reported that the issues were referred to the housing regulator, but it was found that there had been no breach of procedures.

He added that the Mayor would continue to work with the housing provider and the residents to implement their action plans and achieve the outcomes they deserved.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

**5.2 Petition relating to Tower Hamlets Nursery Schools**

Chris Lewis, Becky Dolomore, and Bridget Cass addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Rachael Saunders, Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services then responded to the matters raised in the petition. She expressed concern about the impact government's changing policy on service. She also reported that the Council had been permitted a one year disapplication in implementing the plans which they would reapply for each year. They would use this period to identify an appropriate solution to protect early years services.

**RESOLVED:**

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

### 5.3 Petition relating to Construction/building work in Aston Street E14

Adm Azim Khan Chowdhury addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Rachel Blake, Cabinet Member for Strategic Development, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. She advised that she took seriously the issues. She reported that she visited the site earlier today to learn more about the problems and that she would be raising Members' Enquiries about aspects of the work with the appropriate Officers. Environmental Health and Trading Standards were aware of the issues and the Council would be following the issues up with them and also the housing provider to ensure that the construction management plan for the development was implemented.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

#### **Procedural Motion**

Councillor Aminur Khan **moved** and Councillor Shah Alam, **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that item 12.6 Motion regarding Poplar HARCA Auction of 50 Social Dwelling be taken as the next item of business". The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

### 5.4 Petition Debate – Save our Nurseries from Privatisation.

[The text of the petition and the procedure for considering petitions for debate were circulated].

Nouruja Rahman, Shahanara Zaman, and Alicja Son addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and the Council then debated the matters raised by the petition. Councillor Rachael Saunders, Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services responded to the issues raised. She provided reassurance about the plans for the children's services and the nature of the changes. She considered that the review should be parent led and there would be plenty more opportunities, particularly over the summer, for nurseries and parents to have their say given the decision making timescale. She urged parents to get involved in the forthcoming consultation process and to contact her directly. She also reassured the petitioners that the John Smith Children's Centre would not be affected by this review

#### **RESOLVED:**

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

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

The following question followed by a supplementary question was put and was responded to by the relevant Executive Member:-

**6.1 Question from Abu Talha Chowdhury:**

Can the Mayor outline under what circumstances and in which areas, together with relevant Acts, could the local authority intervene in the schools maintained by the authority - and separately how it differs from a school run by a trust or as a free school?

**Response of Councillor Rachael Saunders, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services:**

To our frustration the ability of the Local Authority to have a leadership role over education is reducing but it remains something that is hugely important to us. Local Authorities may only intervene when the education of the pupils in any individual school is at risk. This includes issues relating to standards, safeguarding, and finances, including pay and conditions. Local Authorities can only intervene in Local Authority maintained schools. Academies and free schools come under the purview of the Regional School Commissioner (RSC) who has the same powers but for all schools including maintained schools. So we can only intervene in maintained schools, the Regional Commissioner can intervene in all schools.

We are in regular contact and have regular discussions with the Regional School Commissioner as you would expect. Where a school is considered at risk of failing, the Local Authority has the power to issue a formal warning notice. We would usually do this alongside the RSC. There are three forms of intervention: schools that have been judged inadequate by Ofsted, schools that are coasting and schools that have failed to comply with a warning notice.

**Supplementary question from Abu Talha Chowdhury:**

Can you provide updates on the two motions relating to schools; the death of Nasar Ahmed, Bow School and the results of the investigation at Ian Mikado school. In relation to the Ian Mikado motion, can you confirm that the first Chair of Governors made serious objections to this appointment and said that 'some crimes should discount individuals from working in schools' but he was pushed out and eventually left. This quoted evidence collaborates with the member of the governing body of Ian Mikado school, Lisa Stepanovic who came here at this very Council on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016, and said that children told me that they were not allowed to challenge this, I was told that I could not challenge it.

In order to be transparent, could the Deputy Mayor inform who were the two Councillors that were involved in the decision making process of this appointment at Ian Mikado school, and have the recommendations arising out of the review been now fully implemented by the Council and school, if so, what actual changes have taken place?

The Lead Member talked about safeguarding, so my question was which two Councillors were involved in the decision making of safeguarding the children at Ian Mikado school.

**Councillor Rachael Saunders's, response to supplementary question:**

The issues you raised are really important both in terms of Ian Mikado and Bow School. A number of investigations have been undertaken in both cases in terms of the statutory issues and the work of the Council. A number of complaints have been investigated. I don't think it's responsible for me without receiving notice of your question to freelance and give an update on the safeguarding issues but I would be happy to write to you or to meet if you find that easier.

**7. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance, made his report to the Council on behalf of Mayor John Biggs summarising key events, engagements and meetings since the last Council meeting.

When Councillor Islam had completed his report and at the invitation of the Speaker, the Leaders of the Opposition Groups then responded briefly to the 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 Sabina Akhtar:**

The National Audit Office recently published a report highlighting the major cost pressures that schools face. What assessment has been made of the savings required by schools in Tower Hamlets, including the changes to the school funding formula?

**Response of Councillor Rachael Saunders, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services:**

There are two issues here. One is the additional costs that the government is forcing schools to pay, so that leads to costs pressures of around 8% which includes increases in National Insurance contributions, pension contribution, pay awards and the apprenticeship levy. The real adjustment of this is that if you are a maintained school, you have to pay the apprenticeship levy. If you are an Academy, you don't, so the way in which the government racks up punishment against schools who are just choosing the way in which they want to be governed. There are also inflationary pressures. We have heard that inflation is going up due to the government's mismanagement and the

pressures on the economy caused by Brexit. In addition to that, the government's proposed new national funding formula will see our funding cut by 7.6%. This is equivalent to £551 per pupil. The combination of the additional pressure that the government are choosing to put on school's budgets plus cuts to school funding, if you add it together it is over a £1000 per pupil. Which is terrifying considering how absolutely vital both strong leadership, management, governance and support from parents, and the efforts of children and also good funding has been to the excellent results of schools in Tower Hamlets.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar:**

Do you agree that the new funding formula is an attack on social mobility?

**Councillor Rachael Saunders's, response to supplementary question:**

The government's idea of making school funding 'fair' is to take money away from the poorer areas and give it to wealthier areas. Schools across London will have to cut £360m which is the equivalent of nearly 13,000 qualified teachers. Losing £551 per pupil, as I described in addition to the huge budgetary pressures that the government is imposing on our schools really does put the progress our schools have made at serious risk.

**Procedural Motion**

Councillor Danny Hassell **moved** and Councillor Rachael Saunders, **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that item 12.7 Motion regarding School Funding be taken as the next item of business". The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Following consideration of the motion, the Speaker adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm. The meeting was reconvened at 9.25pm

**8.2 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman:**

In response to my previous council question at 18 January 2017 meeting about vulnerable Syrian refugee children, the Mayor said that he is committed to resettling 3 to 5 households and has allocated funding the council need - will he update us on exactly how many vulnerable Syrians children does his commitment translate into, and how many have now been settled?

**Response of Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance**

Since the Mayor's response to your question from January we have now procured a specialist provider to deliver an 'Integration Support Service' to assist the families that we will host through the SVPRS scheme. I'm pleased to say that Refugee Action won this contract. They are an experienced independent provider who will help our new families settle and make new lives here in our borough.



We are now working with Genesis Housing Association to identify three suitable properties for the families to occupy. The Mayor and I share members frustration that this has taken so long, but this is the final piece of the jigsaw for us. Once we can supply the details of these properties to the Home Office they will identify families in Syria, and within six weeks we should be able to welcome them to the Tower Hamlets

It is important to note that the Council does not wholly determine the make-up of the households it receives, as this is done by the Home Office through its own 'matching' process. Although it is likely that children will form part of the households brought to Tower Hamlets, it is not possible to put exact figures on this number at the current time.

SVPRS should not be confused with the programmes for resettling Unaccompanied Child Asylum Seekers (UASC) from Europe. This Council played an outstanding role in assisting the resettlement of vulnerable children from the Calais 'jungle', when over 20 such children from a variety of national backgrounds were resettled in the UK via our Rest Centre. We ourselves continue to support five of these children, one of whom is Syrian.

The resettlement of UASC has recently been restricted by the Government, which has decided not to fulfil its previous commitment made under the 'Dubs Amendment' to bring 3,000 UASC to the UK. It will instead limit the number to 350. This is deeply disappointing as Councils across the country have stated they stand ready to help achieve the original target.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Oliur Rahman:**

Out of the 173 refugees that came to London by the end of last year, Newham rehoused 26, Southwark Council officially announced its intention to help 25 families of Syrian refugees working with the Salvation Army. Somerset has taken 8 families this year, with a public pledge of 30. This question has been on the table for a very long time, and I think that Mayor John Biggs has had ample opportunity to address this issue. Even he himself admitted that this is an embarrassing record for him and now you are saying that you have appointed somebody. I wonder how much that person is costing to do the research to help. They can simply pick up the phone and ask the Mayor of Newham how he did it. You don't need a consultant to tell you how to take the families from Syria

**Councillor Sirajul Islam response to supplementary question:**

As I said in my response, the Mayor is frustrated by this but I think that the owner of this is the Home Office. We are having a lot of issues with getting families. We want to help families. But it is up to the Home Office to help us to do that. I think the other issue is the cost of housing, if you compare Newham to Tower Hamlets. There are constraints but we do want them to resettle here and if those constraints can be rectified, then of course.

**8.3 Question from Councillor Denise Jones**

What action has the Mayor taken to challenge the Government's damaging business rate increase?

**Response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources:**

Clearly everyone in this room will recognise the importance of small businesses to the economy and the impact that the huge increase in business rates that the government has imposed will have on those business and on the streets of the borough. We campaigned as a Council with Hackney and the East End Trades Guild, and a petition was delivered to Downing Street, by Mayor John Biggs and his counterpart at Hackney and the East End Trades Guild. We asked the government in that petition to think again and to hold any rises until they have had time to sort out a fairer system of relief for small and medium sized businesses. That petition was one that was signed by over 10,000 residents plus business owners. So the rate of relief the government is giving Tower Hamlets over 4 years is £8 m but that hardly compares with the £160m that businesses in Tower Hamlets will have to pay in addition. I think it's important that the Chancellor does more to recognise the impact of his cuts. We do need the government to do much more than it has done so far to think about the impact that these increases are having on small and medium sized businesses.

No supplementary question was asked.

**8.4 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood**

Given the imminent closure of Marsh Wall & Eastferry road for gas works for five weeks starting the 27th March what has the Mayor done to ensure that construction sites in the area have adapted their plans, that people dependent on the 135 & D6 buses can still access transport and that disruption is minimised. Also given that this is the 2nd major utility related digging up of Marsh Wall in the last 8 months what assurances do we have that this will not happen again next year?

**Response of Councillor Rachel Blake, Cabinet Member for Strategic Development:**

We are really disappointed that we only became aware of these issues from a letter from the National Grid. We totally recognise the importance of Marsh Wall. We have instructed the Chief Executive to coordinate officers on this issue.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Andrew Wood:**

I would like to thank the Mayor for our email exchanges on this. I know he shares our frustrations on this. I realised today that Marsh Wall west now has one lane closed as well for works, so the eastern end is completely shut and the western end is 50% shut and this just happened today so there is going to

be complete chaos. So is the Council aware of that additional road closure or not?

**Councillor Rachel Blake response to supplementary question:**

I was planning to visit the area today but had to do some enforcement in respect of cement trucks on Aston Street while I was dealing with the other issues. I will look into the issue you raise. You will have probably noticed in the budget that we have set aside £151,000 for additional planning enforcement officers. We know that if we are to achieve the level of homes and jobs that we want to in Tower Hamlets we need to take these issues very seriously and we are setting aside resources in order to coordinate some of those issues.

**8.6 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan:**

Can the Mayor ensure that leaseholders and freeholders will secure a like for like property in the future regenerated scheme of what is known as "Project Stone"?

**Response of Councillor Rachel Blake, Cabinet Member for Strategic Development:**

The Mayor has made it clear that any redevelopment plans on the Isle of Dogs should have residents at the heart of it. We have been enabling residents to bring forward what they believe will be like for like and the Mayor has made clear that the scheme should be a resident led process.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Rabina Khan:**

Can the Mayor ensure through his JV meeting with One Housing and Argent that the leaseholders and freeholders will get a similar scheme to the Robin Hood Gardens regeneration as the bare minimum with a seven year full ownership deal?

**Councillor Rachel Blake's, response to supplementary question:**

I am not aware of any JV meetings that have taken place. The Mayor, unlike yourself who as far as I can see did very little to hold Argent and One Housing Group to account when they were putting forward Project Stone, has been really clear that any development that takes place on the Isle of Dogs would have to be resident led. We have moved from a position where the Housing Association was bringing forward Project Stone without any communication with residents to a situation where residents have been helped by the Council in order to bring forward what they considered to be a like for like offer. [inaudible sentence]. I am not aware of any JV meetings but we have tried to work in a way that holds One Housing and Argent to account.

**8.7 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell:**

Can the lead member please update me on what work is being undertaken by the council and its partners to improve safety along Cantrell Road (the

pedestrian path running alongside Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park between Knapp Road and Bow Common Lane) and what specific actions will be taken to improve safety here?

**Response of Councillor Ayas Miah, Cabinet Member for Environment:**

A survey of the area has been carried out, which looked at lighting, vegetation and general appearance of the area. This was done through three separate visits at different times of the day. Some issues were identified that would make the area more open and accessible, and give feeling of a safer environment. The survey made three recommendations:

Recommendation 1: About three quarters of the way through the route there is a hawthorn, or berry bush by a telegraph pole. Trimming bushes along the route to allow end to end vision. Currently the through vision is only part way through the walkway.

Recommendation 2: Changing the parking control restrictions on this section would reduce parking and also allow dumped cars to be removed quicker. There are no residential properties or users that park in this area, it would not affect or reduce resident parking.

Recommendation 3: Crime tends to happen in the eastern end of the cemetery exit near to the work units and dumped cars. We are considering additional LED pads.

I will be speaking to officers about progressing these works quickly, to ensure that safety is improved as soon as possible.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Danny Hassell:**

Can I thank the Lead Member and Officers for their thorough analysis and report. One thing that I don't think has been explored as well as it might have been is around CCTV provision in the area. Now I am not one to say that we need CCTV everywhere. I don't think it is necessarily always effective. But I do think it should be considered here where there is not a lot of natural surveillance, especially as there has been a number of very serious issues reported here by residents. CCTV is something that could really be considered to improve the safety and the sense of security of residents. So will the Lead Member please commit to exploring this as an option?

**Councillor Ayas Miah's response to supplementary question**

Yes I will discuss this proposal with Officers.

**8.8 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed:**

Will the Mayor provide official crime rate figures (overall) for each year since 2010 until present (2017) for the Borough? And will the Mayor confirm that Anti-Social Behaviour is a priority for him which is backed up by his utmost focus and required leadership?

**Response of Councillor Shiria Khatun, Cabinet Member for Community Safety:**

Tackling anti-social behaviour is absolutely a key priority for the Mayor and it is a key priority for the year ahead in his letter to the Chief Executive. It forms an important part of our refreshed Strategic Plan.

An ASB review is in progress and we will develop an ASB partnership strategy to review existing services, learn from best practice and to continue to develop and improve on the ASB support and services for the borough.

I won't read out the official crime rates since 2010 but they will be included in the official minutes. I can confirm that overall crimes increased from 2010 to 2012, fell slightly for two years, and then rose again in 2014 and 2015. For the current year, up to January 2017, there have been 26,005 reported crimes in our borough

Tackling ASB is one of the Community Safety Partnership's four priorities for 2017-20 and a Local Police Priority with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.

The Mayor's recent budget takes a robust approach to tackling anti-social behaviour, including dog fouling and littering, by ensuring our Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers focus their time on areas with the greatest need.

We are also investing in increasing enforcement and prosecution against landlords who do not comply with the requirements of the Council's landlord licencing scheme.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed:**

The reality is different from your answer. The Overview and Scrutiny report, presented this month on 1 March 2017, stated that there has been a significant delay in progressing the scrutiny review recommendations. In fact residents and Members would be interested to know that the Mayor and Cabinet have made no progress on the recommendations of the ASB scrutiny review carried out by the Council in 2015. [inaudible sentence]. One simple supplementary question, how do you compare our borough with neighbouring boroughs?

**Councillor Shiria Khatun's response to supplementary question:**

Once again let me reiterate that tackling ASB is a very key priority for the Mayor and his administration. With regards to statistics and comparisons to other boroughs, we do have an issue with ASB in Tower Hamlets which was highlighted in the ASB review that you were part of two years ago and was presented at the scrutiny meeting that I attended. You do realise that from that meeting it has to follow a process before it gets to Cabinet. So from O&S, it can't just be adopted as a Council policy. It has to go through all the processes and mechanisms that we have at this Council. Once again, I want

to reiterate that I know you were in power at a time when crime statistics in Tower Hamlets did rise, they then fell again and have risen since. So we have this pattern in Tower Hamlets. However with the review taking place which is looking at a partnership approach, the issue of what we can do better internally and how we can work with our partner externally, it should actually provide us with a coordinated service to deal with not just ASB but different forms of ASB and the perception of ASB that we have.

### **8.9 Question from Candida Ronald:**

What assessment has the Council made of the Government's Budget, as announced on 8<sup>th</sup> March, and its impact on Tower Hamlets?

### **Response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources:**

As you noticed, there was a rather embarrassing U-turn the Chancellor had to make on his increase in National Insurance contributions. This is something that would have had an impact on self employed people in the borough. I look forward to some more U-turns. The budget did announce some extra funding for social care, but nowhere near the amounts that are needed. There was a significant investment in free schools and grammar schools which we have already discussed, where they are not needed, rather than in new places where they are needed. We still have the promise of further cuts across public expenditure in 2019/20 with no details of where the axe will fall.

### **Supplementary question from Councillor Candida Ronald:**

You talked about some of the ways which those cuts are likely to impact on us. Does it feel to you that these are political decisions and have actually nothing to do with the state of the economy?

### **Councillor David Edgar's response to supplementary question:**

They have announced some small relief for business rates and as said earlier that relief is not anywhere near enough when compared to the costs to the businesses. We still don't know what the shape of the consultation will include. That consultation is going on now. I hope that the government will take the opportunity of the consultation to think again on that issue. They gave us some additional money for social care that goes nowhere near to meeting the scale of the crisis facing this country. It won't plug the gap and we still won't know the details of how it will work out. So overall, it was not a good announcement and the details are not going to take us very far.

### **8.10 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman:**

The Labour controlled Manchester City Council is ceasing the 20mph limit that was implemented in some areas of the City. The reason being that it made almost no difference to speeds. Manchester Road, Tower Hamlets is increasingly dangerous because of the unenforced and indeed almost unenforceable 20mph speed limit. Will the Mayor bring Manchester Road in line with Manchester and scrap this scheme?

**Response of Councillor Dave Chesterton:**

I appreciate that Councillor Chapman may think he is being clever with his question. There are quite some significant differences between Manchester and the Isle of Dogs. The Council's review of the first year of operation of the experimental 20mph speed limit was presented to Cabinet in September 2016 to inform the decision on whether to make it permanent or not. Its early days but borough wide it is showing a reduction in 46% of killed and seriously injured in collisions, but we are not complacent. The 20mph is one part of our strategy to calm traffic and make out streets safer. The Mayor is happy to look at specific areas in the borough where there remain problems. Indeed a commitment was given to review traffic calming road design on Manchester Road, to reinforce the speed limit and encourage lower speeds. Whilst we will not blindly follow Manchester Council in scrapping the 20mph limit, there is one area where I think they have got it right and I hope Tower Hamlets can follow this. Despite having 96 Councillors, the good people of Manchester have decided not to elect a single Tory.

**Supplementary question from Councillor Chris Chapman:**

Do you not feel that we should follow the guidance laid down by Manchester City Council, who wasted a significant sum of money in their roll out of the scheme.

We do note that the area where they are proposing to withdraw the scheme happens to coincide with the borders of a constituency where there is a by – election due to take place but we won't dwell on that.

Will, in the context of air pollution, you not recognise that toxic fumes generated by vehicles travelling 20mph are in fact 50% higher than those travelling at 30mph. As someone who represents the Isle of Dogs you will know the huge pollution implications of forthcoming development. Do you not feel that repealing this will cut pollution and improve safety? Many Members of this Council Chamber will have witnessed the very dangerous driving practices including the accident in my colleague's ward last week caused by people observing the 20mph speed limit.

**Councillor Dave Chesterton's response to supplementary question**

The reduction in 46%in killed and seriously injured across the borough speaks volumes. I think that the campaign that you appear to have got yourself involved in on the island which would suggest that traffic problems on isle of dogs can be resolved by people driving even faster on Manchester Road is a mistake. I do think we need to stick to the speed limit. But I do think, as the Mayor said, that we do need to continue to review the traffic calming road design and that is exactly what is happening on Manchester Road.

**8.11 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin:**

The London Food Board has named Tower Hamlets as a leading borough in tackling food poverty issues, and the GLA has awarded the Council £5,000 to develop a food poverty action plan to build on this work. Can members be updated about this plan?

**Response of Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs, Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Services:**

I am very pleased to update colleagues on this important recognition of our work on food poverty. It's really a crucial issue. As you know we have got hugely and stubbornly high levels of child poverty and also high levels of obesity amongst children and that is something that I and colleagues on the Health and Wellbeing Board have made a big priority for the Board and the Council for the future. Regarding food poverty, we have been named the leading borough and some areas of good practice are particular noted. The fact we have universal free school meals, something that Labour campaigned for and that Mayor Biggs has confirmed funding for in the budget for the next few years. Other steps included: the delivery of a subsidised 'Meals-on-Wheels' service for older people and work to improve the uptake of 'Healthy Start' vouchers which provided free milk, fruit and vegetables for eligible families in receipt of certain benefits for each child under four. So there is already a lot of work going on. There is also work that Councillor Ayas Miah and I jointly oversee to improve the quality of the local food environment. I have seen first-hand businesses offering healthier chicken and chips for example.

No supplementary question was asked.

Question 8.5 was not put due to the absence of the questioner. Questions 8.12 - 28 were not put due to lack of time. Written responses would be provided to the questions.

**9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES****9.1 Report of the General Purposes Committee: Localism Act 2011 - Pay Policy Statement 2017/18**

The Council considered the report of the General Purposes Committee recommending Full Council adopt the Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18.

Following debate, the recommendations were put to the vote and were unanimously **agreed**. Accordingly it was

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Pay Policy Statement 2017/18 be agreed.



## 9.2 Report of the General Purposes Committee: Revision of the Council' Constitution - Parts 1 to 3

The Council considered the report of the General Purposes Committee proposing revisions to Parts 1 to 3 of the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Oliur Rahman tabled comments from the Independent Group on the draft changes, it was agreed with the Acting Corporate Director, Governance and Interim Monitoring Officer that the paper would be considered when the Constitution Working Party next met.

Following debate, the recommendations were put to the vote and were unanimously **agreed**. Accordingly it was

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the spreadsheet in Appendix 1 of the report setting out the revisions and the reasons be noted;
2. That the revised Part 1 Summary and Explanation of the Constitution in Appendix 2 with the revisions shown as tracked changes be approved;
3. That the revised Part 2 Articles of the Tower Hamlets Constitution in Appendix 3 with the revisions shown as tracked changes be approved; and
4. That the revised Part 3 Responsibility for Functions of the Tower Hamlets Constitution in Appendix 4 to 12 with the revisions shown as tracked changes be approved.

## 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 Members' Allowance Scheme

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Governance and Interim Monitoring Officer proposing the adoption of the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2017/18.

Following debate, the recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2017 be adopted as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report

## 11.2 Committee Calendar 2017/18

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Governance and Interim Monitoring Officer proposing a Committee Calendar for 2017/18.

A proposed minor amendment to the calendar was noted as set out in resolution 1 below.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

### RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2017/18 be approved as set out in Appendix A to the report subject to the following changes:
  - The Pensions Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November be moved to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7pm
  - The Pensions Board meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November be moved to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 10am
  - The Employee Appeals Sub Committee meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November be moved to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 6.30pm
2. That the Corporate Director for Governance be delegated the authority to agree meeting dates for any new Committees or Panels that are set up subsequent to this report being presented to Council, subject to appropriate consultation with Members.

## 12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

### 12.7 Motion regarding School Funding

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved** and Councillor Danny Hassell **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Rachael Saunders proposed the following amendment to the motion in respect of sentences 3, 4, and 5 under 'This Council notes that':

3. Delete '£18.8m by 2018/19', a 7.6% cut and replace with ' £32.5m by 2020 – the equivalent of 873 teachers, according to analysis by the NUT'
4. Delete '£511 per pupil by 2018/19' and replace with '£905 per pupil by 2020'.

5. Delete '£360m by 2018/19' and replace with '£657m' and delete '12,857' and replace with '17,638' and add (NUT analysis) to the end of the sentence.

Councillor Rachael Saunders and Councillor Danny Hassell altered their motion accordingly:

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

Under This Council believes, add the following:

This Government proposal puts at risk the great strides made in Tower Hamlets by successive administrations. For example, an independent report in December 2013 "Transforming Education for All : the Tower Hamlets Story" concluded that Tower Hamlets has some of the best urban schools in the world.

Under Council Resolves, add the following (bold emphasis part) in point 1

To call on Mayor Biggs to write '**on a cross-party basis**' to the Department for Education.....

Councillor Rachael Saunders and Councillor Danny Hassell indicated that they accepted the amendment and altered their motion accordingly.

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

This Council notes that:

1. Tower Hamlets is a place of huge diversity, and deprivation, and over the last 20 years families, schools, young people and the Council have come together to drive up standards through collaboration and through a determination to achieve excellence – backed by a Labour government which funded us appropriately. This is now at risk from Tory cuts.
2. The Government has proposed a new school funding formula, which will take money from poorer areas and reallocate it to wealthier areas.
3. The impact of the changes, included with other cost pressures, mean that schools in Tower Hamlets will have to save ' £32.5m by 2020 – the equivalent of 873 teachers, according to analysis by the NUT
4. Schools in Tower Hamlets will lose £905 per pupil by 2020, making the borough the hardest hit in London.

5. Cumulatively schools across London will need to save £657M under the new system – equivalent to 17,638 qualified teachers (NUT analysis).
6. The Government's Budget 2017 included £360m for new free schools and grammar schools, but ignored the financial crisis that our existing schools face.

This Council believes:

1. The new funding formula won't bring about fairer school funding across the country. Instead, it will further cut funding from schools already struggling with education cuts.
2. The new formula will put the progress made by our schools in jeopardy by punishing pupils from the poorest areas and harming social mobility.
3. That schools in Tower Hamlets deserve to be fairly and properly funded.
4. This Government proposal puts at risk the great strides made in Tower Hamlets by successive administrations. For example, an independent report in December 2013 "Transforming Education for All : the Tower Hamlets Story" concluded that Tower Hamlets has some of the best urban schools in the world.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on Mayor Biggs to write on a cross-party basis to the Department for Education, highlighting the threat to progress that the school funding changes represent.
2. To support the Mayor's campaign to challenge these unfair and deeply damaging cuts to schools in Tower Hamlets.

Motions 12.1 – 12.6 and 12.8 - 9 were not debated due to lack of time.

The meeting ended at 10.12 p.m.

Speaker of the Council