

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET**

**HELD AT 5.31 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2016**

**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 Joshua Peck	(Cabinet Member for Work & Economic Growth)
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	(Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Services)

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor Amina Ali	
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor John Pierce	
Councillor Andrew Wood	

**Others Present:**

Christabel Shawcross	(Safeguarding Adults Board Chair LBTH)
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**Officers Present:**

Mark Baigent	(Interim Head of Strategy, Regeneration, Sustainability and Housing Options)
Hong Chen	(CIL Projects Officer)
Zena Cooke	(Corporate Director, Resources)
Aman Dalvi	(Corporate Director, Development & Renewal)
Rafiqul Hoque	(Lettings Services Manager, Housing Options Service, Development & Renewal)
Debbie Jones	(Corporate Director, Children's Services)
Martin Ling	Housing Policy Manager
Adele Maher	(Strategic Planning Manager, Development and Renewal)
Roy Ormsby	(Service Head, Public Realm, Communities Localities and Culture)
Denise Radley	(Director of Adults' Services)
Peter Robbins	(Head of Mayor's office)

Boris Rupnik	(Youth Participation Worker, Young People & Learning)
Ann Sutcliffe	(Service Head Corporate Property and Capital Delivery, Development and Renewal)
Will Tuckley	(Chief Executive)
Owen Whalley	Head of Planning and Building Control
Graham White	(Interim Service Head, Legal Services, Law, Probity and Governance)
Matthew Mannion	(Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services, Law, Probity and Governance)
Nadir Ahmed	(Business Support Manager, Development and Renewal)

### **AGENDA ORDER**

During the meeting the Mayor agreed to alter the order of business. For clarity the Decisions are presented in the order they appear on the agenda.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Ayas Miah, Cabinet Member for Environment.

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

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

#### **3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

##### **DECISION**

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 4 October 2016 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 Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16**

**DECISION**

1. To note the annual report from the Local Safeguarding Children Board for 2015/16.

**Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SERVICES (D. JONES)**

(Children's Safeguarding Strategy and Governance Manager (M. Bakht))

**Reasons for the decision**

The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding arrangements and promoting the welfare of children its locality and ensure the annual report is available within the professional and public domain. The LSCB annual report, which fulfils this responsibility, is appended to this paper.

**Alternative options**

There are no alternative options, as it is a statutory requirement for this report to be reported to the Mayor.

**5.2 Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board annual report 2015-16**

**DECISION**

1. To note the annual report for the local Safeguarding Adults Board for 2015/16.

**Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, ADULTS' SERVICES (D. RADLEY)**

(Interim Strategic Manager for Adult Safeguarding (P. Davis))

**Reasons for the decision**

The local Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) is required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of adult safeguarding arrangements and promoting the welfare of adults in its locality and ensure the annual report is available within the professional and public domain. The SAB annual report, which fulfils this responsibility, is appended to this briefing paper.

**Alternative options**

There are no alternative options, as it is a statutory requirement for this report to be reported to the Mayor.

### 5.3 Housing Strategy 2016 - 2021

Note – as a Budget and Policy Framework item, Paragraph 16.4.6 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules exclude this item from the Call-In Process.

The recommendation was altered as the date of the Council meeting was likely to change.

#### **DECISION**

1. To approve the draft Housing Strategy and attached appendices for consideration by the next Full Council meeting.

#### **Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL (A. DALVI)**  
(Housing Strategy Manager (M. Ling))

#### **Reasons for the decision**

To take forward the development of the Housing Strategy for approval by Full Council.

#### **Alternative options**

The Mayor could decide not to take forward a Housing Strategy for approval by Full Council but produce statutory documents and other stand alone housing policies.

### 5.4 Common Housing Register Allocation Scheme

The recommendations were amended and then agreed.

#### **DECISION**

1. To note the changes to the Allocations Scheme regarding the new Right to Move for employment reasons as required by changes in government regulations.
2. To agree to a new sub band in Band 2 of the Allocations Scheme to avoid the risk of legal challenge to present policy on applicants in housing need who do not meet the 3 year residence requirement.
3. To agree to restrict existing policy that allows applicants to bid for 1 bed smaller than their assessed bedroom need and allow room sharing only where children of opposite sexes are both under 10 years old.
4. To defer agreement to amend the quota for Band 3 lets from 10% of one, two and three bed properties to 5% of 1 bed & studios per annum to allow further consideration.

5. To authorise the use of some social housing general needs stock as non – secure tenancies for temporary accommodation up to a maximum of 100 units per annum.
6. To agree the Lettings Plan for 2016/17 and extend it to 2017/18.
7. To agree to add social worker to the professions that qualify for key workers status set out in the Allocations scheme.
8. Re-instate power to discharge the housing duty by making a Private Rental Sector Offer.

**Action by:****CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL (A. DALVI)**

(Interim Service Head, Housing Strategy, Regeneration, Sustainability and Housing Options (M. Baigent)

**Reasons for the decision**

Members are asked to agree to amendments in the Allocations Scheme in response to changes in government regulations requiring the local authority to comply and in relation to legal advice on the 3 year residence requirement to qualify to go onto the Housing Register.

Members are asked to agree to further amendments to the Allocations Scheme to respond to increasing homeless demand and the need for more affordable temporary accommodation in the borough.

The Lettings Plan has been updated for 2016/17 and 2017/18 and is set out in paragraph 3.80 of this report for decision by Cabinet. Members are also asked to amend the criteria for key workers in the Scheme to include social workers.

**Alternative options**

The Council is required to implement the new Right to Move in accordance with government regulation and no alternative has been identified.

The alternative to introducing a new sub band would be to assess each case on its individual merits. This would require administrative resources to carry out detailed casework on what could be a substantial number of new applicants.

The alternative is to continue with the existing policy that does not allow sharing a bedroom for children of different sex, regardless of age.

Alternative options are to maintain the existing quota of 10% of lettings up to 3 bedroom size property or reduce it to 5% of lettings up to 3 bedroom size.

Alternative options are to not agree to the proposal, or agree to a different annual target of properties for the purpose of temporary accommodation.

Members may wish to amend the targets in the Lettings Plan for any of the Priority Target Groups.

Members may decide not to include social workers in the professions that qualify for key worker status in the Allocations Scheme.

## **5.5 Our Borough, Our Plan: A New Local Plan Consultation Document (Regulation 18)**

### **DECISION**

1. To approve the publication of the *Tower Hamlets Draft Local Plan 2031: Managing Growth and Sharing Benefits* (Appendix 1 to the report) for public consultation from 11 November 2016 to 2 January 2017;
2. To approve the publication of the final *Tower Hamlets Draft Local Plan 2031: Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)* and other supplementary information, including draft evidence base studies (as Table 1 in the report) on the Council's website alongside the *Tower Hamlets Draft Local Plan 2031: Managing the Growth and Sharing the Benefits*.
3. To approve amendments to the documents in advance of public consultation, to be made through the delegated authority of the Corporate Director for Development and Renewal in consultation with the Mayor.
4. To note for information that an update to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will be published for public consultation from 11 November 2016 to 2 January 2017, to run alongside consultation on the Draft Local Plan. Following consultation the SCI will be amended and will return to Cabinet in 2017 for decision for approval.

### **Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL (A. DALVI)**  
(Strategic Planning Manager (A. Maher))

### **Reasons for the decision**

The preparation of a new Local Plan must follow nationally set legal and procedural requirements that include a public consultation. Cabinet is therefore being asked to approve the commencement of this statutory public consultation exercise.

As well as meeting statutory requirements, a public consultation exercise is also required to meet with the Council's own expectations of good governance and transparent decision making by ensuring that local residents are able to help shape the Council's Local Plan.

**Alternative options****ALTERNATIVE OPTION A: NO CHANGE TO EXISTING LOCAL PLAN**

The Council could decide not to prepare a new Local Plan. However, for the reasons outlined below this option is not advisable. Should the Council delay its process of updating the current Local Plan documents there is a high risk that the Borough may not be able to fully plan properly for the additional new homes, jobs and infrastructure such as schools, parks, health facilities and transport needed to meet the extra demand from a rapidly growing population and to respond to the increased development targets for the Borough as set in the London Plan 2015. As a result the Council may not be able to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits for our residents from development and to adequately support growth through infrastructure.

Furthermore, the preparation of a new Local Plan provides an opportunity to ensure the Borough's Local Plan policies best respond to updates and changes to national and regional guidance and legislation. Furthermore, the more up-to-date Local Plan could help in positively influencing the outcome of appeals against the refusal of planning permission. These opportunities could be missed without the preparation of a new Local Plan.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTION B: PARTIAL REVIEW OF EXISTING LOCAL PLAN**

The Council is required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to ensure the Local Plan is up-to-date and in accordance with national and regional guidance and policies. The Council considers that the existing Local Plan (Core Strategy and Managing Development Document) satisfies this requirement. However, the rate of change and concentrated amount of development that has been coming forward in the Borough since 2010 is more rapid than what was anticipated as set out in the Core Strategy (2010) ; future population projection for the Borough is much higher than anticipated following the 2011 Census; and the London Plan has also updated the borough's development targets in 2015.

Taking these changes in combination, the Council could choose to respond by review of only those policies in the current Local Plan that relate to development targets and the location of growth.

This option is not recommended for a number of reasons. Firstly, the vision contained in the Core Strategy (2010) no longer accurately reflects the future challenges, opportunities and aspirations of the Council and local community, as articulated in the Tower Hamlets Partnership Community Plan 2015. As a result it makes sense that a new vision for the Local Plan is prepared. Secondly, the policies in the Local Plan should be read as a whole and should be considered together, as part of any review. It will be difficult to separate the policies out and argue that they are disconnected and have not, in some way, been affected by changes to population and new government legislation and guidance. Lastly, the Core Strategy was adopted more than five years ago and much of the evidence base to support its policies was prepared before 2010. The Borough and national planning legislation have changed

considerably since then and it is advisable to do a whole review, to ensure the Local Plan policies function as effectively as possible.

## 5.6 Community Buildings Report

### DECISION

1. To agree that a network of community hub buildings be established throughout the borough;
2. To agree the key terms for leases as set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report;
3. To agree that where community groups are to remain in existing accommodation, that this occupation will be on the basis of a formal lease with a community rent;
4. To agree that in some cases, THH-recognised TRAs, who can demonstrate intensive use of the property, may be issued with a lease based on a peppercorn rent for their TRA activities;
5. To agree the community benefit rent reduction policy, which affords eligible organisations a subsidy of 80% of their market rent, as set out in section 13;
6. To agree the proposed criteria, independent assessment tools and process and the monitoring and reporting arrangements for the community benefit rent reduction policy as set out in paragraphs 13.8 to 13.24;
7. To agree the proposed plan and approach for implementing the community benefit rent reduction policy, working with THCVS to support the voluntary and community sector organisations; and
8. To note that the additional capital and revenue resourcing required for the delivery of the community buildings policy will be considered as part of the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

#### Action by:

#### **CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL (A. DALVI)**

(Service Head, Corporate Property and Capital Delivery (A. Sutcliffe)

(Head of Benefits Service (S. Hill)

#### Reasons for the decision

The voluntary and community sector is an important part of the fabric of life in Tower Hamlets and plays a unique and crucial role in the delivery of services to residents of the borough. The broad range of voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough also contribute towards building social capital and fostering community cohesion.



The recommendations in this report support the objectives set out in the Council's Voluntary and Community Sector strategy that was approved in May 2016.

The recommendations in this report establish the foundations of how the council will improve and enhance the council's community buildings offer; by increasing the availability of high-quality space in a more cost effective way that supports the borough's thriving voluntary and community sector while also satisfying the council's statutory duties.

It will ensure voluntary and community groups are treated fairly and consistently, in a transparent and accountable manner when bidding for or occupying community buildings.

The recommendations in this report will also ensure the portfolio of community buildings is fit for purpose and in a tenable state while recovering some of the expenditure the council incurs in owning, managing and maintaining this portfolio of buildings.

The recommendations will also ensure there are formal agreements in place providing greater clarity in the different roles and responsibilities of the landlord and tenant.

The adoption of these proposals feature in the Best Value Improvement Plan, which was produced by the council following the issuing of directions by the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government.

### **Alternative options**

The Mayor in Cabinet could choose not to adopt the principles set out in this report. This is not recommended as the adoption of the policy forms part of the council's Best Value Improvement Plan. In addition, having a policy will give certainty to the voluntary and community sector, which will enable them to better plan for the future in relation to their property and general resourcing needs.

The Mayor in Cabinet could choose a different set of principles. Any changes would have to undergo assessment and a further report will be brought back to Cabinet for the Mayor's consideration

## 5.7 Somali Task Force

### DECISION

1. To agree the Task Group's report.
2. To agree draft Action Plan, including additional budget requirements to be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan.
3. To agree the monitoring arrangements as set out in paragraph 3.19 of the report.

### Action by:

**ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, LAW, PROBITY AND GOVERNANCE  
(G. WHITE)**

(Service Head, Corporate Strategy and Equality (S. Godman))

### Reasons for the decision

Outcomes for Somali residents are poorer than other groups across key areas of health and wellbeing, housing and employment. Despite a number of engagement and research projects to investigate and improve outcomes in the past, there remains a sense of frustration at a lack of progress and action to address the challenges amongst Somali residents.

The Mayor and Cabinet in Tower Hamlets identified a need to better understand the challenges in narrowing the gap in outcomes for Somali residents. In September 2015 the Mayor established the Somali Task Force to engage Somali residents and review areas of persistently poor outcomes.

The council is also facing the most significant financial reductions in modern history. A key approach to date has been to identify savings by rationalising and mainstreaming services whilst taking into account the impact on key equality groups and mitigating any adverse impacts; meaning that future provision should include the capacity and flexibility to meet diverse needs. This will be a key area of monitoring as savings continue to be realised. The Task Force provides a further opportunity to test issues relating to mainstreaming services for community groups who are often most in need and can face access barriers.

### Alternative options

The Mayor in Cabinet could choose not to agree the recommendations and action plan set out in this report. This is not recommended as the terms of reference for the Task Force were agreed as a Cabinet Commission to review and engage the Somali community to identify areas of improvement across local services to better meet community needs. The Task Force also fulfils a key manifesto commitment by the Mayor.

## 5.8 Fish Island CPZ Review and Recommendations

### DECISION

1. To note the Council's published proposal to make an Order under sections 6 and 45 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in relation to Fish Island Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) experimental Order. The current Fish Island CPZ operational hours are currently Monday to Saturday 8.30am to 7.30pm.
2. To note the objections received in response to the Notice set out and the responses to the consultation exercises set out in this report.
3. To review and consult on an additional requirement for controls being Monday to Friday 8:30am – 9pm, Saturday – Sunday 11am – 9pm. To ensure full protection from the new London Stadium.

### Action by:

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR,  
COMMUNITIES, LOCALITIES AND CULTURE (W. TUCKLEY)**  
(Head of Parking, Mobility and Transport (M. Bakalovic))

### Reasons for the decision

Since the Olympics on street parking pressure has substantially increased in this area of the Borough, being the last part of the Borough which is not designated a controlled parking zone (CPZ). As the London Stadium is now the permanent home of West Ham Football Club since August 2016. Parking controls are now needed within this area to ensure availability of on street parking for local residents and business within the area, to maintain the free flow of traffic and to manage road safety.

The neighbouring London borough of Newham has introduced parking controls to better manage parking generated by the area within their borough, directly after 6 months of the Olympics. There is now an additional and significant risk of parking displacement into Fish Island area (as surveyed on 7/8/2016 first West Ham home game) if it remains free of parking controls. Also Hackney Council is to monitor parking issues on their CPZs especially when there are events at the Stadium.

Additional strategic benefits of introducing these controls include the promotion of more sustainable travel options by the travelling public such as Hackney Wick Station and subsequent benefits to air quality.

### Alternative options

Make permanent the current parking scheme. The combined pressures of displacement into Fish Island from surrounding boroughs implementing car parking controls, growing density of residential development in the area, the impact of major events and stadium football in the Queen Elizabeth Park and park and ride behaviour from people living elsewhere are likely to place severe pressure on the availability of 'on street' parking resulting in dangerous parking practices, damage to local business, frustration for local residents,

adverse impacts for carers and looked after people and increased traffic congestion.

Consult on additional operational hours CPZ (including Sundays and extended hours). This would remove the problems of displacement from neighbouring boroughs or the impact of London Stadium and development on that part of Fish Island that was not controlled. The proposed operational hours Monday to Friday 8:30am – 9pm Sat –Sun 11am – 9pm.

Special Event parking restrictions can be considered alike to that of Emirates Stadium, and recently introduced in LB Newham. However, the operational and maintenance cost of a Special Event Day parking scheme is much more costly than a standard CPZ scheme. This proposal can be considered as part of the operational review of the scheme.

**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 7.10 p.m.

Mayor John Biggs