



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 21 March 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

Council Chamber, 1st Floor,
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG

Democratic Services Contact:

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**TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.00 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2018**

Will Tuckley
Chief Executive

Public Information

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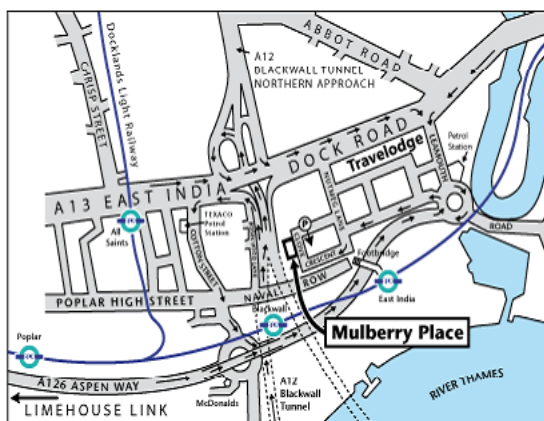
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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2018

7.00 p.m.

	PAGE NUMBER
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
To receive any apologies for absence.	
2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS	7 - 10
To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Monitoring Officer.	
3. MINUTES	11 - 58
To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2018.• Budget Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21 February 2018.	
4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS	59 - 68
The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of four petitions to be presented at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.	
Any further petitions received by the deadline for the meeting are listed for information and to be noted.	
6. MAYOR'S REPORT	
The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.	
A maximum of six minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the respective political group leaders to respond for up to two minutes each if they wish.	

7.	ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE	69 - 72
	To debate a Motion submitted by the Administration in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.	
8.	OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE	73 - 76
	To debate a Motion submitted by one of the Opposition Groups in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.	
9.	TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL	77 - 82
	The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.	
10.	REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES	
10 .1	Report of the General Purposes Committee, Pay Policy Statement	83 - 100
	mTo consider the report of the General Purposes Committee on the Pay Policy Statement 2018-19.	
11.	OTHER BUSINESS	
11 .1	Annual Report to Council by the Independent Person	101 - 106
	To receive the Annual Report of the Independent Person appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.	
11 .2	Members' Allowance Scheme 2018/19	107 - 118
	To consider the report of the Corporate Director, Governance proposing the adoption of the Members' Allowance Scheme for 2018/19.	
11 .3	Committee Calendar 2018/19	119 - 128
	To consider the report of the Corporate Director, Governance proposing a Calendar of Meetings for 2018/19.	
12.	TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL	129 - 170
	The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.	

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Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer, 020 7364 4800

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2018

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

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Khaled 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 Ayas Miah
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Andrew Cregan	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	Councillor Andrew Wood
Councillor Peter Golds	

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Sabina Akhtar in the Chair

The Speaker of the Council brought the Council up to date with some of her activities since the previous Council meeting. She reported that she had carried out a variety of engagements and supported a number of events. These ranged from: celebrations for the Victory Day of Bangladesh, Tower Hamlets in Bloom, cultural and sporting events, citizenship ceremonies and carol services to fundraise for her chosen charities.

In addition, the Speaker reported that she had visited a local school, attended a local Air Squadron Awards night, supported the fundraising efforts of Dementia Friends and held her Charity Ball to raise money for her charities.

The Speaker also reported that she had the honour of visiting Bangladesh when the Council was closed for Christmas where she met local dignitaries. This provided her with the opportunity to promote Tower Hamlets and explain

how well the community worked together. She was pleased that the visit as a whole went very well.

The Speaker concluded that she was now looking ahead to the other events she was planning to hold this year which include fundraisers and the Civic Awards.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Shiria Khatun
- Councillor Abjol Miah
- Councillor Gulam Robbani

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The Monitoring Officer advised that she had granted two dispensations in respect of Agenda Items 7, Administration Motion regarding Housing in Tower Hamlets and 12.16 Motion regarding Fire Safety in Tower Hamlets for Residents. As a result of this, Councillors with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in these items did not need to declare this and would be able to stay in the meeting room, participate in the discussion and vote on these items.

The Monitoring Officer had also received notification from Councillor Rabina Khan that she had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following agenda items:

- 9.7, Member Question relating to new and small businesses.
- 9.31, Member Question relating to the Council Tax Reduction scheme and the self - employed.
- 12.2, Motion regarding stop the cut to the Council Tax Reduction scheme.
- 12.7, Motion regarding the Council Tax Reduction scheme.

Councillors Mahbub Alam, Shah Alam, Ohid Ahmed, Shafi Ahmed, Aminur Khan, Peter Golds and Denise Jones declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following agenda Items:

- 9.7, Member Question relating to new and small businesses.
- 9.31, Member Question relating to the Council Tax Reduction scheme and the self - employed.
- 12.2, Motion regarding Stop the cut to the Council Tax reduction scheme.
- 12.7, Motion regarding the Council Tax Reduction scheme.

Councillor Ayas Miah declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following agenda Items:

- 7, Administration Motion regarding Housing in Tower Hamlets.
- 9.7, Member Question relating to new and small businesses.

- 9.31, Member Question relating to the Council Tax Reduction scheme and the self - employed.
- 12.2, Motion regarding stop the cut to the Council Tax Reduction scheme.
- 12.7, Motion regarding the Council Tax Reduction scheme.
- 12.16, Motion regarding Fire Safety in Tower Hamlets for Residents.

Councillor Rajib Ahmed declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following agenda items:

- 9.16, Member Question relating to the Council Tax Reduction scheme and mini cab drivers.
- 12.2, Motion regarding stop the cut to the Council Tax Reduction scheme.

Councillors Dave Chesterton and Helal Uddin declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in the following agenda Items:

- 7, Administration Motion regarding Housing in Tower Hamlets
- 12.16 Motion regarding Fire Safety in Tower Hamlets for Residents

Councillor Helal Uddin also declared a non - disclosable interest in agenda item 12.16.

Councillor John Pierce declared a non - disclosable interest in agenda item 5.2, Petition regarding Galleon House fire safety.

Councillor Oliur Rahman declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 12.18, Motion regarding the Public Sector Pay Cap – including Tower Hamlets staff and emergency workers

Councillor Harun Miah declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following agenda items:

- 9.20, Member Question relating to traffic and road safety measures
- 7, Administration Motion regarding Housing in Tower Hamlets
- 12.16, Motion regarding Fire Safety in Tower Hamlets for Residents

Members declaring Disclosable Pecuniary Interests would be required to leave the room for the duration of the relevant agenda items with the exception of those Members who had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer in respect of items agenda 7 and 12.16.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 22 November 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

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

With regret the Speaker reported that George Desmond, who was a Mayor of Tower Hamlets in 1973-74 and former Councillor John Rowe, of St Katherine's Ward had sadly passed away. It was also reported that Eric Moonman, who was the last leader of Stepney Council and the first Leader of Tower Hamlets Council had sadly passed away recently.

The Speaker paid tribute to their contribution to the Borough and on behalf of the Council, passed on her deepest condolences to their families and friends at this difficult time.

The Chief Executive updated the Council on a number Senior Staff positions. He advised that:

- Vicky Clark had joined as Divisional Director, Growth & Economic Development;
- Roy Ormsby, Divisional Director of Public Realm had retired and
- Robin Payne had been appointed as the interim Divisional Director of Public Realm.

He also advised that:

- Heather Daley, Divisional Director for Human Resources and Transformation would be leaving at Easter;
- Robert Curtis had joined as Head of Electoral Services and
- Louise Stamp had retired from the post of Head of Electoral Services.

In relation to other matters, he advised that there had been a further visit from Ofsted and their letter was to be published shortly. He also reported that the Council was in the process of being reassessed for the Investors in People accreditation and had been short listed for five LGC awards. .

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition regarding Latham House fire safety

Councillor Oliur Rahman addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Mayor John Biggs then responded to the matters raised in the petition. The Mayor reported that the Council had commissioned fire risk assessments of its housing stock prior to the Grenfell Tower fire. He also reported that Tower Hamlets Homes had agreed a programme of works to address fire safety issues including measures to help address the issues identified at Latham House that had been assessed as at medium risk. He also advised whilst the initial testing of the cladding indicated that it was not at risk, samples would be sent off for further testing.

In addition, the Mayor reported that the Council had developed an Anti - Social Behaviour strategy to address the issues regarding community safety

and that he would be consulting on measures to improve the street layout around the Troxy on Commercial Road to minimise disturbance from events.

RESOLVED:

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

5.2 Petition regarding Galleon House fire safety

Nasim Ahmed addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Sirajul Islam, Cabinet Member for Housing then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He reported that the Council worked closely with housing associations including East End Homes in respect of fire safety matters.

He also advised that after receiving the petition, he had sought and received a statement from East End Homes regarding the matters raised in the petition. This provided reassurances about a number of matters including: their risk assessments of buildings; their investigation of the recent fire at the block; and the further steps they intended to take to address the issues raised in the petition.

He stated that both himself and East End Homes were happy to meet with the residents to discuss their concerns further.

RESOLVED:

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

5.3 Petition regarding for water sprinklers at Anglia House, Salmon Lane E14

Dipu Jagirdar and others addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Sirajul Islam, Cabinet Member for Housing then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He reported that the Council would continue to monitor fire safety and that all of the fire risk assessments of its housing blocks were up to date. Furthermore, the Council had committed funding for fire safety works.

He also advised that Anglia House had been identified as at moderate risk and the Council and THH had approved works to improve the fire safety rating. They would consult with residents throughout this process.

On the issue of sprinklers, he advised that the requirements only applied to buildings built after 2007 over a certain height. All of the Council's high rise housing blocks were built before this date. Nevertheless, they should be protected by their design features. He also added that the Council were awaiting further advice on this matter and had contacted the government to secure funding for sprinkler systems.

RESOLVED:

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

5.4 Petition regarding Campaign for Outdoor Gym in Sir John McDougal Park, Westferry Road, E14

Petition not presented due to the absence of the petitioner.

RESOLVED:

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

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council, referring to his written report circulated at the meeting, summarising key events, engagements and meetings since the last Council meeting.

When the Mayor had completed his report and at the invitation of the Speaker, the Leaders of the Independent Group, the People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets and the Conservative Group, responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE**Administration Motion regarding Housing in Tower Hamlets**

Councillor Sirajul Islam **moved** and Councillor Rachel Blake **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Oliur Rahman **moved** and Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim **seconded** the following amendment to the motion as **tabled**:

Additions in bold and deletions struck through:

This Council notes that:

1. The population of Tower Hamlets has broken through the 300,000 mark. It is predicted there will be a further 87,400 people living in the Borough over the next 25 years.
2. A lack of **genuinely** affordable housing is now the main concern for residents, as highlighted by the Annual Residents Survey 2017.

3. Since **the 2010 General Election**, rough sleeping has more than doubled and the number of homeless households has increased by half to almost 60,000. This is a direct result of the Government's failed housing policies: no proper investment for affordable homes; benefit changes; reduced funding for homelessness services, and a lack of action to help private renters.
4. The Government announced in its Autumn Budget that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) cap would be lifted for some councils, up to £1bn, starting in 2019/20, but that councils will need to bid for this in the future rather than automatically being given the power now.
5. The new Local Plan ~~will~~ **must** set out how the Council intends to manage the scale and pace of development and ensure that all residents benefit from the opportunities growth brings to the borough and will deliver more schools, transport, GP surgeries and jobs alongside new housing. **The Plan must ensure that it does not have a funding gap and ensures a fair, transparent and accountable distribution of local infrastructure levy and any development related funding is fairly distributed to all parts of the Borough – particularly the areas and neighbourhoods which are more deprived, poorer or those with the highest levels of child poverty and other needs.**
6. Mayor Biggs pledged to deliver 1,000 council homes and the Council is on track to meet this target. **However, Council considers that the current target is without any meaningful timescale, transparency and accountability and is not only unimaginative, lacks ambition and essential details but is also a poor attempt to steal the credit for the hard work already carried out by the previous administration led by former Mayor Lutfur Rahman, former Deputy Mayor Councillor Ohid Ahmed and the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Alibor Choudhury and their team.**
7. Council figures show Tower Hamlets delivered 1,070 affordable homes last year (2016/17) and another 1,073 the year before (2015/16) **all of which were approved by the previous administration.**
8. Under Mayor Biggs' new Living Rent policy, rents for new affordable homes are far more affordable to those on low incomes, saving residents up to £6,000 a year. This was a recommendation of the Tower Hamlets Affordability Commission, which was set up by Mayor Biggs in 2015 following his election. **However, Council considers that Mayor John Biggs did not need to spend taxpayers' money to set up a 'Commission' to figure out that the Council should make the rents more affordable. The lowering of some of the rents is also partly due to the imposition of a government requirement to cut social housing rent by 1% a year for four years.**
9. That Mayor Biggs unveiled 148 new council homes at Watts Grove in September; a scheme which was ~~scrapped in 2013 by the previous~~

administration but reinstated after a local Labour led campaign to save the housing. The housing is covered by new rent levels, introduced by Mayor Biggs, which means that compared to the previous Mayor's rent levels, a family living in a new three bed property will be up to £5,791 better off. However Council believes that this had been **approved by the previous administration at Cabinet on 5 November 2014 as shown on the Council website and that it is highly irresponsible for the current administration to claim otherwise. In its lazy and politically convenient manner, The Biggs Administration tries to claim its credit otherwise without listing the full facts which were that:**

- a. **The previous administration paused on the first draft of the scheme in 2013 because it wanted to secure better value for money, secure additional funding and push for more affordable and Council housing.**
 - b. **The Biggs' Administration also fails to understand that the initial delay was to secure a grant of £7 million from the Greater London Authority to provide 150 homes but at a "significantly lower cost to the Council". In fact the previous administration achieved these objectives and delivered £26.33 funding to build Watts Grove Homes saving the Council millions, securing best value for money and providing much needed homes for local people.**
10. The Mayor's Neighbourhood Refresh scheme will invest £3million in local neighbourhoods to make them safer, cleaner and greener. Practical improvements such as new lighting, more green space, traffic calming and new bins will make a positive difference to local areas **is a positive step in the right direction in principle but two years too late.**
 11. The rights of private renters in Tower Hamlets are being protected with the launch of the Tower Hamlets Private Renters' Charter. This, alongside innovative new measures such as the landlord licensing scheme, means a better deal for private renters. **However, Council notes that this was a project that begun under the previous Mayor Rahman Administration.**
 12. The Government's housing policies such as the benefit cap and bedroom tax, **along with local failures by the current administration**, have led to the total number of households in temporary accommodation – including bed and breakfast style housing, hostels, women's refuges and housing leased from private landlords – increasing by 55% from 50,400 in 2010 to 78,180 in 2017.
 13. Families are no longer housed in B&B accommodation for longer than the 6 week legal limit, ~~compared to the 174 families that were left to languish in B&Bs under the previous administration.~~ **However, Council considers that the current Mayor's lack of leadership and failures,**

mean that many families, out of nearly 19,000 on the housing waiting list, are primarily being bused out of the Borough or put in inadequate accommodation. Council also notes that it was the previous Labour Administration which sold Tower Hamlets housing stock to RSLs which was a catastrophic decision – ironically some of those properties which were sold by Labour are now being bought back by Mayor John Biggs using £60 million of taxpayers' money (despite some of these being not fit for purpose or provide value for money) – as part of £119m decision which the Biggs Administration sneaked through the full council meeting without any meaningful or a proper debate.

14. The Development Viability Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which ensures transparency in the planning process and encourages reviewing viability at each phase of large schemes, aims to provide greater clarity to both applicants and the public and ensures that the principles of sustainable development are at the forefront of decision-making in Tower Hamlets.

This Council believes:

1. Population growth will bring Tower Hamlets numerous benefits as well as challenges **that the previous administration was working hard to plan ahead and tackle proactively.**
2. The Borough benefits **when** ~~from the approach of this Council Administration which~~ **proactively** is meeting the challenge of the housing crisis head on by providing high quality affordable housing, a better deal for private renters, improved local environments and **1,000 and more** council homes, **as was the case under the previous administration.**
3. ~~The 174 families left to live in B&B accommodation for over 6 weeks, and their original decision to scrap the Watts Grove development, illustrates the approach of the previous administration: a failure to serve residents; a failure to properly manage council budgets; and a failure to plan for the future.~~
4. The Government's HRA cap proposals **are neither adequate nor do** ~~not~~ go far enough – borrowing caps should be lifted significantly higher, and not limited to a bidding process **and the local authorities provided with appropriate flexibility to deliver for communities they serve.**

The Council believes:

1. The former Mayor Lutfur Rahman's administration, supported by Deputy Mayor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources, Alibor Choudhury and their team, embarked on an ambitious journey to tackle the housing issues including by:

- a. Dealing with the poor standards of maintenance and upkeep within the private sector introducing 'licensing for private rented sector housing'.
 - b. Delivering a record 5,590 affordable homes (as confirmed by the Department of Communities and Local Government), the highest in the Country.
 - c. Securing the release of £53 million in New Homes Bonus by 2015 – again the highest in the Country. An achievement acknowledged in a recent report by City Hall.
 - d. A number of regeneration projects such as the London Docks project which helped to secure a space for a 1,500 strong secondary school in Wapping.
 - e. Other major regeneration schemes, led by Councillor Ohid Ahmed included the Ocean Estate and Blackwall Reach/Robin Hood Gardens.
 - f. Developing the Whitechapel Vision - along with its Master Plan, which was the brainchild of the former Mayor and his Cabinet Member for Finance/Resources Cllr Alibor Choudhury – that included support for local businesses, a 'tech city' and the expansion of medical research facilities. The historic regeneration of Whitechapel is a testament to their commitment and ambition to improve the Borough.
 - g. The Whitechapel Vision, its Master Plan and associated regeneration will also provide: at least 3,500 new homes; 5,000 new local jobs; school improvements; transformed public spaces; enhanced local heritage; and a new civic centre at the heart of the community.
- 2 The leadership and achievements of the Rahman Administration's policies and delivery between 2010 and 2015 were recognised by Government and commentators across the UK.

This Council resolves:

1. That Mayor John Biggs should stop taking the credit for the achievements of the previous administration led by former Mayor Lutfur Rahman, Deputy Mayor Cllr Ohid Ahmed and the team. Instead he must learn to take responsibility for a series of catastrophic failures under his watch, instead of indulging in lazy and politically convenient point scoring and excuses.
2. To acknowledge the historic achievements of the former Mayor, former Deputy Mayor and their administration in delivering the record level of affordable housing as acknowledged by the Government, the GLA and others.
3. For ~~to work with The Biggs Administration Mayor John Biggs to work with all groups including the largest opposition, Independent Group (and its mayoral candidate, former Deputy Mayor Councillor Ohid Ahmed)~~ to continue to work to deliver more affordable and social housing for local people.

4. ~~For To support Mayor Biggs~~ **The Biggs Administration to work with all parties and stakeholders** to campaign to lift the HRA cap significantly and immediately, to ensure that councils including Tower Hamlets can provide the good quality social housing that is so badly needed.
5. ~~For To Mayor John Biggs~~ **The Biggs Administration to work with everyone in the interest of residents, on a cross-party basis, to lobby support Mayor Biggs in his campaign to make sure that the Government does not to impose High Value Sales on Local Authorities.**

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

The original motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes that:

1. The population of Tower Hamlets has broken through the 300,000 mark. It is predicted there will be a further 87,400 people living in the Borough over the next 25 years.
2. A lack of affordable housing is now the main concern for residents, as highlighted by the Annual Residents Survey 2017.
3. Since 2010 rough sleeping has more than doubled and the number of homeless households has increased by half to almost 60,000. This is a direct result of the Government's failed housing policies: no proper investment for affordable homes; benefit changes; reduced funding for homelessness services, and a lack of action to help private renters.
4. The Government announced in its Autumn Budget that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) cap would be lifted for some councils, up to £1bn, starting in 2019/20, but that councils will need to bid for this in the future rather than automatically being given the power now.
5. The new Local Plan will set out how the Council intends to manage the scale and pace of development and ensure that all residents benefit from the opportunities growth brings to the borough and will deliver more schools, transport, GP surgeries and jobs alongside new housing.
6. Mayor Biggs pledged to deliver 1,000 council homes and the Council is on track to meet this target.
7. Council figures show Tower Hamlets delivered 1,070 affordable homes last year (2016/17) and another 1,073 the year before (2015/16).

- 8 Under Mayor Biggs' new Living Rent policy, rents for new affordable homes are far more affordable to those on low incomes, saving residents up to £6,000 a year. This was a recommendation of the Tower Hamlets Affordability Commission, which was set up by Mayor Biggs in 2015 following his election.
9. That Mayor Biggs unveiled 148 new council homes at Watts Grove in September; a scheme which was scrapped in 2013 by the previous administration but reinstated after a local Labour-led campaign to save the housing. The housing is covered by new rent levels, introduced by Mayor Biggs, which means that compared to the previous Mayor's rent levels, a family living in a new three bed property will be up to £5,791 better off.
10. The Mayor's Neighbourhood Refresh scheme will invest £3million in local neighbourhoods to make them safer, cleaner and greener. Practical improvements such as new lighting, more green space, traffic calming and new bins will make a positive difference to local areas.
11. The rights of private renters in Tower Hamlets are being protected with the launch of the Tower Hamlets Private Renters' Charter. This, alongside innovative new measures such as the landlord licensing scheme, means a better deal for private renters.
12. The Government's housing policies such as the benefit cap and bedroom tax have led to the total number of households in temporary accommodation – including bed and breakfast style housing, hostels, women's refuges and housing leased from private landlords – increasing by 55% from 50,400 in 2010 to 78,180 in 2017.
13. Families are no longer housed in B&B accommodation for longer than the 6 week legal limit, compared to the 174 families that were left to languish in B&Bs under the previous administration.
14. The Development Viability Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which ensures transparency in the planning process and encourages reviewing viability at each phase of large schemes, aims to provide greater clarity to both applicants and the public and ensures that the principles of sustainable development are at the forefront of decision-making in Tower Hamlets.

This Council believes:

1. Population growth will bring Tower Hamlets numerous benefits as well as challenges.
2. The Borough benefits from the approach of this Council administration which is meeting the challenge of the housing crisis head on by providing high quality affordable housing, a better deal for private renters, improved local environments and 1,000 council homes.

3. The 174 families left to live in B&B accommodation for over 6 weeks, and their original decision to scrap the Watts Grove development, illustrates the approach of the previous administration: a failure to serve residents; a failure to properly manage council budgets; and a failure to plan for the future.
4. The Government's HRA cap proposals do not go far enough – borrowing caps should be lifted significantly higher, and not limited to a bidding process.

This Council resolves:

- 1 To work with Mayor John Biggs to continue to deliver more affordable housing for local people.
2. To support Mayor Biggs in his campaign to lift the HRA cap significantly and immediately, to ensure that councils including Tower Hamlets can provide the good quality social housing that is so badly needed.
3. To support Mayor Biggs in his campaign to make sure that the Government does not impose High Value Sales on Local Authorities.

8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE

Opposition Motion by the Independent Group calling for the abandonment of the planned State Visit by Donald Trump

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Oliur Rahman **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the following friendly amendment to the motion **as tabled**:

Deleted text is scored out.

New text is underlined.

Tower Hamlets is home to one of the country's most diverse communities. The borough has always been a home to migrant communities beginning with the French Huguenots in the 16th Century, followed later by Jewish and Irish migrants. Bangladeshi residents began arriving in the borough during the 1970s. Somalian residents arrived as seamen and then later as a result of a war in Somalia. Tower Hamlets has the highest percentage of Muslim residents in England – 35 per cent compared with the national average of 5 per cent.

Tower Hamlets Council undertakes important and positive community cohesion work through its policies and priorities.

The Tower Hamlets Community Plan 2015 outlined the vision for the borough where people, regardless of their backgrounds, have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. The ~~then~~ Strategic Plan 17/18, sets out the council's aim to create more engaged, resilient and cohesive communities. One of the four key themes of the Tower Hamlets Community Plan, as part of its priority outcome to create and maintain a vibrant successful place, was to create a Safe and Cohesive Community and, as part of this, the plan highlighted a commitment to promote community cohesion. A cohesive community enables all to have an equal stake and status in the community; where people have the same opportunities as their neighbours; and where people have a commitment and responsibility to contribute to the well-being of their communities.

Like the neighbouring Royal Borough of Greenwich which formally adopted a similar motion, this Council notes with shock and alarm the decision by Donald Trump, President of the United States, to 'retweet' Islamophobic propaganda from the Britain First Twitter account.

The Council further notes with sadness the President's bigoted attitude (~~Washington Post, Caroline Lucas MP and co-chair of Green Party, Republicans in the United States, Boston Globe, Royal Borough of Greenwich among others~~) towards women, ethnic minorities and Muslims which has resulted in examples of division and hatred within the USA and beyond.

Mr Trump has been invited to visit the United Kingdom by the Government.

This Council also notes Trump's unilateral decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel which is against the United Nations resolutions, the official policy position of our country and all United Nations permanent member states and an overwhelming majority of nations refused to support this illogical decision. Trump's decision has created a huge impediment to achieving peace, to secure a possible two-state solution between Israel and Palestine and has unnecessarily provided a potential opportunity to be exploited by violent extremists which could have a possible knock-on impact on the efforts to deal with extremism and radicalisation in Tower Hamlets.

The Council further notes Trump's earlier remarks in December 2015 when he first stated 'parts of London were so radicalised that police feared for their lives', ~~and then~~ his decision to introduce 'a ban on Muslims travelling to the United States', and other statements and policies designed to sow division. ~~akin to 'Keystone Kops' running around.~~

For centuries our borough has welcomed people who want to make a better life for themselves or who are fleeing persecution. Our borough is one of the greatest of melting pots and as the centre of London moves towards us, in Tower Hamlets, we understand very well how to foster harmony and cohesion in society while defeating policies and decisions created to sow division and hatred.

The Council notes that on numerous occasions where far-right groups such as Britain First, the English Defence League and the Football Lads Alliance

~~have attempted to antagonise local communities in Tower Hamlets, Mr Trump needs to understand when the minority fascists calling themselves 'English Defence League (EDL)' tried to march into Tower Hamlets on 7 March 2013, the united local community led by the then leadership came together to stand up to the forces of bigotry and fascism. Similarly, when the East London Mosque was under siege on 12 March 2016, and again on 11 April 2016 by minority fascists calling themselves 'Britain First', it was the local community with a diverse and united population of our great borough, including a local Christian priest, Jewish, Buddhists, Jains, and people of no faith, who all came together to defend the right of their Muslim neighbours to worship peacefully.~~

The Council notes the positive impact of the work undertaken by the Council under the banner of its 'Community Plan', 'One Tower Hamlets', 'No Place for Hate' and 'Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission' bringing together all community; including faith, communities, community and third sector groups, throughout Tower Hamlets. As such, Council reiterates its commitment to working with residents to further strengthen community cohesion and relations.

The Council notes with regret that this Borough's commitment to maintaining a strong and vibrant community is totally incompatible with the ideology and policies espoused by President Trump and could have a very negative impact upon the positive work of the council.

Council notes Donald Trump has cancelled plans for a "working visit" to the UK which was scheduled for February.

Based on above, London Borough of Tower Hamlets resolves:

1. To fully support representations to the Prime Minister, which call for the offer of a state visit to be withdrawn, and to formally write to ask the Government, on a cross-party basis, to formally oppose the State visit to the UK, should a formal date for the visit be set.
2. The Council further calls upon the government to use funding that would have been spent on security and other arrangements for such a state visit to fund charities like the Jo Cox Foundation, ~~in conjunction with other~~ and local Tower Hamlets-based charities, that promote peace, dialogue and understanding and also tackle homelessness, loneliness and rough sleeping for our vulnerable citizens both locally and across the country.
3. However, should the Government still choose to go ahead with State Visit, this Council makes clear that President Trump would not be welcome in our Borough.
4. Declare Tower Hamlets a Trump-Free Zone like Chicago.

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

RESOLVED:

Tower Hamlets is home to one of the country's most diverse communities. The borough has always been a home to migrant communities beginning with the French Huguenots in the 16th Century, followed later by Jewish and Irish migrants. Bangladeshi residents began arriving in the borough during the 1970s. Somalian residents arrived as seamen and then later as a result of a war in Somalia. Tower Hamlets has the highest percentage of Muslim residents in England – 35 per cent compared with the national average of 5 per cent.

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lives', his decision to introduce 'a ban on Muslims travelling to the United States', and other statements and policies designed to sow division.

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The Council notes that on numerous occasions where far-right groups such as Britain First, the English Defence League and the Football Lads Alliance have attempted to antagonise local communities in Tower Hamlets, it was the local community with a diverse and united population of our great borough, including a local Christian priest, Jewish, Buddhists, Jains, and people of no faith, who all came together to defend the right of their Muslim neighbours to worship peacefully.

The Council notes the positive impact of the work undertaken by the Council under the banner of its 'Community Plan', 'One Tower Hamlets', 'No Place for Hate' and 'Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission' bringing together all community; including faith, communities, community and third sector groups, throughout Tower Hamlets. As such, Council reiterates its commitment to working with residents to further strengthen community cohesion and relations.

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2. The Council further calls upon the government to use funding that would have been spent on security and other arrangements for such a state visit to fund charities like the Jo Cox Foundation—and local Tower Hamlets-based charities that promote peace, dialogue and understanding and also tackle homelessness, loneliness and rough sleeping for our vulnerable citizens both locally and across the country.
3. However, should the Government still choose to go ahead with State Visit, this Council makes clear that President Trump would not be welcome in our Borough.
4. Declare Tower Hamlets a Trump-Free Zone like Chicago.

9. 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 or relevant Executive Member-

9.1 Question from Councillor John Pierce:

The scale of Government cuts to police budgets has led to police front counter closures in Limehouse and Brick Lane – what impact will this have?

Response of Mayor John Biggs:

This is an important issue and I regret enormously that the Mayor of London has felt forced to close the Police stations. We have lobbied against it and I fundamentally disagree with that decision. But there is a problem which is similar to the debates we have about our budgets each year, which is that he is facing from government, a massive cut in police numbers in Tower Hamlets and the whole of London. I think across our whole community including many Conservative voters, people feel anxious about the future of our borough because of the reduction in police numbers. I lobbied against the closure of Limehouse Police station and Brick Lane Police station. I think it is regrettable and I think there should still be an open police presence at those stations.

Supplementary question from Councillor Pierce:

The Mayor has rightly highlighted the harsh reality of the vicious tory cuts on policing. What representations did the Council make to oppose these closures?

Mayor Biggs' response to the supplementary question:

We responded to the official consultation to strongly object to the closures, and I hope the opposition groups also took part in that. I met with the Deputy Mayor for policing and made those representations as well. We argued that effective policing relies on public confidence and a sense of protection, including contact points such as front counters. We highlighted that between May 2010 and July 2017 Tower Hamlets lost 197 dedicated borough police officers and 98 PCSOs. That is simply unacceptable. The Council is investing in 39 new police officers but we cannot replace every police officer the Government scraps. We do not have the financial resources to fill in the gaps left by Government cuts. The Metropolitan Police should not have to choose between police stations and police officers. We will continue to work closely with the Police to tackle crime and ASB in the borough, and my latest Council Budget includes an additional £1.4m for this purpose. We will continue to work on this issue.

9.2 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed:

There is a slight typo in my question. It should actually read will the Mayor inform if he cut any council funded police officers in the 2016 budget and can he confirm that figure please?

(Question on the agenda - Will the Mayor inform the council if he cut 34 council-funded police officers in his 2016 budget?)

Response of Councillor Asma Begum, Cabinet Member for Community Safety:

You asked me a similar question at a public meeting. From July 2011, the council funded a team of 21 police officers known as the Partnership Task Force (PTF) 1. The contract came to an end on 31st March 2015 and it was the previous Mayor Lutfur Rahman who chose not to renew this contract. In December 2012 the Council funded an additional team of 19 officers, known as Partnership Task Force 2. That contract also expired on 30th November 2015. Mayor John Biggs has funded a new contract of 6 police officers in December 2015 and then he also later agreed £3m funding to bring the number of council funded officers to 39 police officers. Community safety is an absolute priority. I want to make sure we keep our police officers on the streets delivering neighbourhood policing that stops crime and deals with the issues residents are facing.

Supplementary question from Councillor Ahmed:

I was at the meeting and you made a statement and I don't think it is a correct statement. You said that the Police officers were cut in 2014, rather than 2015 and a lot of people heard your speech so I think you need to rectify this. You have learnt your lesson and you are now going back to my policy of funding local partnership police. When I stood up here in 2016 I alerted Mayor Biggs and gave him an alternative budget. I said to him at the time that he should not be cutting police officer funding but he went ahead. I think you have learnt a lesson. I think that it is important that you carry on funding police officers until you finish your time in office. My question is have you learnt your lesson?

Councillor Begum's response to the supplementary question:

I am happy to sit down with you and show you this briefing and that it was in 2011 that these officers were made redundant.

9.3 Question from Councillor Clare Harrisson:

Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on Operation Continuum, the police and council operation to tackle drug dealers?

Response of Councillor Asma Begum, Cabinet Member for Community Safety:

Tower Hamlets Police, and the Council are working together with other

partners to crack down on drug dealing through Operation Continuum. It was launched on 14th December 2017 and is a rolling 10 week programme. To date it has resulted in:

- 19 arrests for drugs and 4 arrests for other offences.
- 13 charges for drug trafficking.
- 12 addresses and 6 vehicles have been searched.
- £20,000 in cash has been seized.
- 2 carrier bags of cannabis have been confiscated along with a box of Class A Drugs.

Our partnership work maximises our resources and will help to stamp out drug dealing, which is a plague across London. Residents have told us where there are hotspots of drug dealing and crime, and we know that through partnership working we can be safer together.

Supplementary question from Councillor Harrison:

Can the Cabinet Member clarify whether Operation Continuum will be a one off or a continuing programme?

Councillor Begum's response to the supplementary question:

This is not a one off operation, it is a rolling operation and we will be working with our partners to deliver this once a month.

9.4 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan:

Is Tower Hamlets Drugs Service in Special Measures?

Response of Mayor John Biggs:

I know there has been some misinformation about this so let me be clear. The Reset drug and alcohol services are not in special measures. There is no such category as special measures and they are also performing pretty well. The borough's Drugs and Alcohol support is provided by Reset. As you would expect, the contract is closely monitored by our Drugs & Alcohol team and we work closely with Reset to ensure that clients are offered the best service possible. We want to see constant improvement from all our services so where we feel that things could be improved we work with them to draw up and implement plans to do just that. Good progress has been made on implementing the new model of service delivery and we have had good feedback from service users.

Supplementary question from Councillor Khan:

The question still remains as to why Lifeline was awarded this contract when they were having internal mismanagement since 2015 according to newspaper reports. On that note, could I ask that the Mayor ensures that he provides a briefing to all elected Members containing the following information:

- to confirm whether substance misuse services were put on special

- measures and when that had happened;
- to provide a list of specific areas where services were failing Borough residents due to their underperformance;
 - to provide a performance comparison with previous years in all key measurement areas and demographics;
 - to provide a breakdown of client demographics entering each of these respective services.

Mayor Biggs' response to the supplementary question:

I am aware that the Director of Adults Services has offered Councillor Khan a confidential briefing on the performance of this service. She has done so on legal advice because of the nature of the contract and the way in which it is structured, and the way in which information within it is treated. I can tell you that our investment of just under £8 million a year to address substance misuse in Tower Hamlets, means that they are currently more people engaged in structured drugs or alcohol treatment here than in any other London Borough with about 500 individual successfully completing treatment each year and nobody waiting more than 21 days to receive treatment. I can also tell her as I have a good relationship with them historically that I hold in very high regard the work of NAFAS and I would love to see them continue to play a role in drug treatment in our borough.

9.5 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell:

Can the lead member please update us on the outcome of the Ofsted monitoring visit for Children's Social Care that took place in December?

Response of Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services:

Thank you Councillor Hassell for your question and for all your challenge in your role as scrutiny lead. I have reported to some previous full Councils on the August visit from Ofsted when they found significant progress at the front door of Children's Social Care services. Their second visit took place in December and I am pleased to tell colleagues that Ofsted's feedback was positive but I want to make clear that the Mayor and I know we have a long way to go and that there is absolutely no complacency on this side of the chamber. So the improvements they found in August in the MASH, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, were sustained. Ofsted said that there were no children at immediate risk which is really positive compared to the inspection. They found significant and positive change to previously poor practice in the family support and protection teams. They found better management, better use of performance information to tackle drift and delay in cases and crucially much more direct work with children - children being seen more frequently and at home.

Supplementary question from Councillor Hassell:

I am sure that all Members would welcome the news that we are on the right

track and that the direction of travel is very positive for our children and families. In particular, could the Lead Member update us as to what the Ofsted found in relation to management and leadership of children's services.

Councillor Whitelock Gibbs' response to the supplementary question:

We have seen a draft letter from Ofsted and Members will be pleased that the letter will be published next week and we will make sure that it is circulated to Members. About senior leaders and elected Members, Ofsted said that we have an increased in-depth knowledge of the strengths and areas of weakness in the service and that leaders and managers demonstrate considerable determination, commitment and a tenacity to embed and sustain these changes. I would just like to highlight though that there are areas of concern that the Mayor and I and I know Councillor Hassell as scrutiny lead is very interested in, particularly: case loads that our social workers are dealing with and the high volume of work we are seeing, stability in the workforce -I have talked at many meetings about our need to recruit and retain, excellent social workers and the need to support those staff, and really embedding sustainable change into the future. The Mayor and I will continue to focus on this fortnightly. I hope that opposition members will start to come to the formal meetings where we debate these issues rather than just throwing things around in the Council Chamber, like the Best Value Programme Board.

9.6 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood:

The Mayor will be aware of the spate of recent acid attacks on the Isle of Dogs and street robberies in Limehouse. In view of the sums of money held by Tower Hamlets Council under section 106 agreements, when will the administration provide modern, high quality and permanent CCTV cameras in Marsh Wall, Glengall Grove, Blackwall Way, Millharbour and Narrow Street, all of which are both areas of development and have been subjected to attacks and robberies as outlined above?

Response of Mayor John Biggs to the question:

I attended the meeting at St Ann's Church last week to listen to residents' concerns in Limehouse, which are considerable because of a spate of attacks in that area. I will be following up on the agreed actions. I am concerned about the recent acid attacks on the Isle of Dogs as well, as we spoke about earlier. I have launched an Acid Charter about the sale of acid and I have lobbied the Government who is responsive. I would not claim credit for that by the way but it is part of the campaign which I think has encouraged the Government to take an interest in this issue and act to some extent. CCTV plays an important role but it is mischievous to suggest for example that there are only 3 CCTV cameras on the Isle of Dogs. There are probably about 300 because we work with partners across all the different agencies, such as Canary Wharf, the DLR and every single bus. A lot of private landowners and estates have CCTVs which record evidence that is used everyday to help keep people on the island safe.

Supplementary question from Councillor Wood:

One the issues that has come up recently is the role of private CCTV cameras. I would like to ask the Mayor whether is thinks private CCTV cameras inside tall buildings are allowed to cover public spaces and roads outside those buildings or not?

Mayor Biggs' response to the supplementary question:

The short answer is that I probably have not got the faintest idea but I know that they have been used. A person we all know was assaulted outside his building on the Isle of Dogs a while back and the CCTV evidence from the cameras in that building was very useful to the Police in trying to identify the people who assaulted him. Whether such evidence is admissible in court is another matter of course. But if we can use camera evidence to help maintain safety and deter people and provide a greater sense of security then that is what we should do. What I am doing in addition and this follows the Limehouse meeting, but I was minded to do this in any event, is reviewing the way in which we use our CCTV cameras to make sure they are up to date and digital, that we use modern networks and that we review the location of them. I think that it is very important to maintain public confidence and that we reassure people in a number of ways including the use of cameras

9.7 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed:

What support does the Council offer for new and small businesses?

Response of Councillor John Peck, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth:

I am particularly proud that Tower Hamlets is one of the most entrepreneurial Boroughs in the country with one of the highest number of new business start - ups of anywhere. Despite this, the previous Administration gave literally no support to our small businesses that create local wealth and employ lots of local people. By contrast, we have a whole raft of support for local businesses. We have opened the Tower Hamlets small business centre in the former Royal Mail building in Whitechapel from where we run a huge number of programmes including the start-up ready training for new entrepreneurs with a four day course and grants of up to £5,000. This has already benefited 170 people and 54 new businesses have been created. There is also: the supply ready scheme to help business apply for public contracts, the retail market ready scheme to help retailers, the growth ready scheme to assist businesses finding space and two small business rate relief schemes which between them have awarded almost £12million to local small businesses this year

(No supplementary question was asked)

9.8 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman:

Will the Mayor inform the council why did he not personally ensure that the £2m bribery allegation eventually reported by the Sunday Times on 10 December involving, the journalist stated, a Labour-supporting businessman who campaigned for the Mayor in 2015 and 4 councillors (that a lay person would assume are Labour given the businessman's allegiance) and, were not reported to the police straight away in late 2015 by him when the Mayor was first informed about the criminal allegations?

Response of Mayor John Biggs:

This is an important matter but obviously we are guided by the advice we received from the Monitoring Officer. To date we are essentially dealing with hearsay evidence and no firm evidence of any particular activity, which needs to be investigated by the proper Authorities. I would like to correct two things in your question. Firstly, you assert that this was a Labour supporting person. I have here the front page of a local newspaper where he is supporting very vigorously, Councillor Rabina Khan who is leader of the PATH Group. So I don't think that it is unambiguous that he is supporting any particular party. I suspect that he is a businessman first and foremost. The second is that the report in the newspaper identifies four Councillors. It talks about four gatekeepers whatever that might be. All I am doing is reporting to you what was in the newspapers. So I think you are trying to sow something out of less than the sum of its parts.

Supplementary question from Councillor Rahman:

Do you know that the Council whistleblowing policy says that if there is evidence of criminal activity the person will be obliged to inform the Police. The criminal allegation reported to you was serious enough for both yourself and the Chief Executive to go for a walk by the river in late 2015 – two years before the Sunday Times exposed the information that was kept hidden away from the members and the people of Tower Hamlets. The Council had access to the audio tape as well yet it was not until August 2016 that the Council informed the Authorities and only after being told to so by a QC and a consultant. A very slow process by yourself Mayor John Biggs. This is not acceptable and it means that the residents cannot trust the current system. Can you update us on the latest investigation and will you ensure that the relevant Councillors cooperate and give interviews to the Police as a matter of urgency and before the election.

Mayor Biggs' response to the supplementary question:

I can't update you on an investigation as far as I can tell I have no evidence that the Police have properly carried out the investigation that they need to be carrying out. I can advise you to look at the recording of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at which myself and the Chief Executive gave a pretty comprehensive account of what we, as representatives of the Council had

done. I can advise you also that I have never seen or heard any audio tapes until I read about them. Well I knew that they existed but I have never had any sight or contact with them and the Council had not either, it was through the independent investigation. We did not respond only when we were told to do so. I think the fundamental point is that if there was an offence it was initially an offence by a person between themselves and a private company. The investigation within the Council was designed to establish if there was any further concern about the role that the Council may have played in that and it was that which has been passed through the Audit to the Police.

9.9 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders:

How will the Mayor tackle air pollution in Tower Hamlets?

Response of Councillor Rachel Blake's Cabinet Member for Strategic Development and Waste:

In October 2017 we adopted an Air Quality Action Plan, drawing together information from a range of stakeholders. The whole borough has been declared an Air Quality Management Area. 48 of our schools are in areas of poor air quality in the borough. 37 of those are primary. 9000 Londoners die early due to poor air quality so it is critical that we get our air quality in legal limits. Our Action Plan considers priorities under nine broad headings - Local Air Quality Management which is around tackling and enforcement of particular poor emissions, development and buildings - designing out the issues that cause air quality, major infrastructure projects - making sure that our own projects don't cause any worse air quality emissions and critically raising awareness around public health and the impacts people can have on air quality themselves.

Supplementary question from Councillor Saunders:

Are the Government or the Greater London Authority doing any useful to help in the work you have described?

Councillor Blake's response to the supplementary question:

I think that it is to be welcomed that Mayor Sadiq Khan has set up both his toxicity charge and introduced the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). We have done some work to understand what mitigation measures we can help residents with to prepare for the ULEZ. I think that it is unfortunate that national government is dragging its heels on this issue and what would be welcomed would be a national car scrappage scheme to recognise the scale of the challenge we have to face to improve air quality in the borough.

9.10 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad:

How has the Mayor's decision to charge for adult social care services which includes free homecare affected vulnerable and disabled adults, their carers

and families?

Response of Councillor Denise Jones, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services:

As you know, we resisted doing this for many years in this Council and there is in fact only one Council left in the country now that isn't charging. However, in the face of Government cuts we were forced to make the decision. In 2016 the Council decided to ask those who can afford it to contribute to their homecare. We were clear that people on the lowest incomes would continue to be protected and receive free home care and that many people would only pay a small contribution towards their care. To make sure that only those who can afford to contribute are asked to, individual assessments are carried out to identify the needs of service users and their carers. Service users are then financially assessed and only contribute an amount based on their ability to pay. There are currently 2,929 service users in receipt of community based care. Financial assessments have been completed for 2,145 service users. Of these completed assessments, 746, that's 35%, have resulted in no charge being made at all.

Supplementary question from Councillor Asad:

Given the impact of the changes, is there any chance that this decision will be reversed to help the very vulnerable people in the borough?

Councillor Jones's response to the supplementary question:

To further support vulnerable and disabled adults and their carers, Tower Hamlets Council does not charge carers for the services that they access and receive. Charging for adult social care service users was implemented in October 2017, to allow more time to complete the financial assessments. There will be individual cases being reviewed as and when there are changes to their individual packages of care and on receipt of any updated financial information they are reassessed. The overall impact assessment on the implementation of the charging policy will be carried out in 2018 in about six months' time, so there will be reviews carried out.

9.11 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin:

How will the Mayor's £5m Tackling Poverty Fund be used?

Response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources:

I think that everyone in this chamber is well aware of the impact the austerity measures have had on many Tower Hamlets residents, in particularly the welfare reforms that have been introduced including the universal credit. So part of the Council's response to that is the establishment by the Mayor of a £5 million Tackling Poverty Fund to help mitigate the impact of those changes. I think that people will also be aware that at the November Cabinet meeting, the Mayor approved two reports. One of which would provide support for residents moving to universal credit, as well as those who have been affected

by the benefit cap and the self-employed residents subject to some of the changes to the local Council Tax scheme. That report recommended investment of about £500k per year for two years in the support. What the Mayor also approved at that Cabinet meeting was a consultation on a Resident Support Scheme which will replace the previous welfare support scheme.

Supplementary question from Councillor Helal Uddin:

This is a large amount of money and I would like to see a proper transparency strategy in place with aims and objectives being set up to target economic activities and tackling poverty. I am not talking about subsidising national welfare. It has to be used in an appropriate way that improves economic activity and reduces deprivation in our borough. It would also be helpful to know how the deprived wards like Bromley by Bow would be allocated the right proportion of money to be used to benefit the residents and how we would measure the impact of the investment to ensure it is used in a productive way?

Councillor Edgar's response to the supplementary question:

On transparency, I think if you were to look at the reports that I mentioned they both set out the plans in detail and the consultation is something that will be reported back on. As part of making sure that the work is going well, we are working with a number of agencies that provide support and we are developing ways that our internal team can work even more effectively with those agencies, making use of the information that we as the Council have access to. There is a focus within the scheme on things like fuel poverty and what we have also done is worked with other organisations to make sure we have the research about the impact that is taking place both in the Bromley wards and other wards across the borough to ensure that our case is well founded. When it comes to the next Council meeting, people should be able to look at and support the extension of the tackling poverty fund as part of next year's budget proposals.

Questioners 9.12- 32 were not put due to lack of time. Written responses would be provided to the questions. (Note the written responses are included in Appendix A to these minutes.)

10. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**10.1 Report of Cabinet: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-2021**

The Council considered a report on the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-2021. This plan was forwarded to Council for consideration by the Mayor in Cabinet on 31 October 2017. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-21 at Appendix 1 of the report be adopted.

11. OTHER BUSINESS**11.1 Localism Act 2011 - Appointment of Second Independent Person**

The Council considered a report of the Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer proposing the appointment of a second Independent Person. The recommendations were put to the vote under the guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9

RESOLVED:

The Council agree:

1. The appointment of Rachael Tiffin as a second Independent Person for a period of 4 years effective from the date of the Council meeting and concluding on 16 January 2022.
2. An annual allowance of £1,000 for any person appointed by the Council to the role of Independent Person to replace the existing separate allowances payable for attendance at meetings and training events and consultation on complaints as detailed in paragraph 3.2 and 3.3 of the report.

11.2 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees and panels of the Council 2017/18

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Governance, in respect of changes to the proportionality calculations for allocating places on the Council's Committees. The recommendations were put to the vote under the guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9

RESOLVED:

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 2017/18 as set out at paragraph 4.2 of the report.

2. To note the committees and panels established for the municipal year 2017/18 as listed in paragraph 4.2 as agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 17 May 2017.
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 Corporate Director, Governance.
4. That the Corporate Director, 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.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

No motions were debated due to a lack of time.

The meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL****HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2018****THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG****Members Present:**

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Clare Harrisson
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Shafi 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 Amina Ali	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
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 Sabina Akhtar in the Chair

The Speaker reported that since the last Council meeting, she had attended a range of engagements, marking important events and achievements. These included:

- A meeting with the Bangladesh Human Rights Commission - UK Women's Branch, to celebrate their inauguration.
- A Mulberry School for Girls leadership event.
- A Holocaust Memorial Day event at the City Hall and a two minutes silence at the Town Hall.
- A meeting with the Civic Awards Panel to choose this year's winner ahead of the ceremony on 16th March 2018.
- A celebration at QVRS, (that provided accommodation to seafarers and other adults) to mark its 175th anniversary.
- A Somali Task Force event to celebrate their achievements and a Somali Culture and History Project exhibition.

- Award ceremonies including: the London Cricket League Community Cricket Awards and the TPAS awards.
- An Art exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery that showcased the work of pupils from the Lansbury Lawrence School.
- An Award ceremony held by the High Commissioner of Bangladesh where some Tower Hamlets Students received honours.
- The Tower Hamlets Winter Volunteering Fair.
- An International Mothers' Day Language Event to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Bengali Language Movement.

The Speaker also advised that during the rest of the week, she would be visiting two more schools in the Borough and attending a children's celebration of International Mother Language Day.

The Speaker of the Council adjourned the meeting for 10 minutes at 7:15pm. The meeting reconvened at 7:25pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Suluk Ahmed and Gulam Robbani

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Shiria Khatun

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were made.

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

With regret, the Speaker reported that former Tower Hamlets Councillor and human rights activist Shahab Uddin Ahmed Belal sadly passed away recently. On behalf of the Council, she paid tribute to his contribution to the Borough and passed on her deepest condolences to his family and friends at this difficult time.

4. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

No petitions were received by the deadline for receipt of petitions for this Council meeting.

5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2018/19

Mayor John Biggs **moved**, the budget proposals of the Mayor and Executive as set out in the agenda pack. Councillor David Edgar **seconded** the proposals.

Four amendments were moved as follows:

- (i) Amendment **proposed** by Councillor Ohid Ahmed and **seconded** by Councillor Oliur Rahman
- (ii) Amendment **proposed** by Councillor Rabina Khan and **seconded** by Councillor Abdul Asad
- (iii) Amendment **proposed** by Councillor Andrew Wood and **seconded** by Councillor Chris Chapman
- (iv) Amendment **proposed** by Councillor Shafiqul Haque and **seconded** by Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE. This amendment was accepted by the Mayor as a 'friendly amendment' and the substantive motion was adjusted as required

Following debate, the amendment proposed by Councillor Ohid Ahmed was put to a recorded vote and was **defeated**.

The Mayor and Councillors recorded their votes on the amendment as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Khales Uddin Ahmed		x		
Ohid Ahmed	x			
Rajib Ahmed		x		
Shafi Ahmed			x	
Suluk Ahmed				x
Sabina Akhtar		x		
Mahbub Alam	x			
Shah Alam			x	
Amina Ali		x		
Abdul Asad			x	
Craig Aston				x
Asma Begum		x		
Mayor John Biggs		x		
Rachel Blake		x		
Chris Chapman		x		
Dave Chesterton		x		
Gulam Kibria Choudhury	x			
Andrew Cregan		x		
Julia Dockerill				x
David Edgar		x		
Marc Francis		x		

Amy Whitelock Gibbs		x		
Peter Golds		x		
Shafiqul Haque			x	
Clare Harrisson		x		
Danny Hassell		x		
Sirajul Islam		x		
Denise Jones		x		
Aminur Khan			x	
Rabina Khan			x	
Shiria Khatun		x		
Abjol Miah			x	
Ayas Miah		x		
Harun Miah	x			
Mohammed Maium Miah	x			
Mohammed Mufti Miah	x			
Mohammed Abdul Mukit		x		
Muhammed Ansar Mustaquim	x			
Joshua Peck		x		
John Pierce		x		
Oliur Rahman	x			
Gulam Robbani				x
Candida Ronald		x		
Rachael Saunders		x		
Helal Uddin		x		
Andrew Wood		x		
Total Votes	8	27	7	

The amendment proposed by Councillor Rabina Khan was put to a recorded vote and was **defeated**.

The Mayor and Councillors recorded their votes on the amendment as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Khales Uddin Ahmed		x		
Ohid Ahmed			x	
Rajib Ahmed		x		
Shafi Ahmed	x			
Suluk Ahmed				x
Sabina Akhtar		x		
Mahbub Alam			x	
Shah Alam	x			
Amina Ali		x		
Abdul Asad	x			
Craig Aston				x
Asma Begum		x		
Mayor John Biggs		x		
Rachel Blake		x		

Chris Chapman		x		
Dave Chesterton		x		
Gulam Kibria Choudhury			x	
Andrew Cregan		x		
Julia Dockerill				x
David Edgar		x		
Marc Francis		x		
Amy Whitelock Gibbs		x		
Peter Golds		x		
Shafiqul Haque			x	
Clare Harrison		x		
Danny Hassell		x		
Sirajul Islam		x		
Denise Jones		x		
Aminur Khan	x			
Rabina Khan	x			
Shiria Khatun		x		
Abjol Miah	x			
Ayas Miah		x		
Harun Miah			x	
Mohammed Maium Miah			x	
Mohammed Mufti Miah			x	
Mohammed Abdul Mukit		x		
Muhammed Ansar Mustaquim			x	
Joshua Peck		x		
John Pierce		x		
Oliur Rahman			x	
Gulam Robbani				x
Candida Ronald		x		
Rachael Saunders		x		
Helal Uddin		x		
Andrew Wood		x		
Total Votes	6	27	9	

The amendment proposed by Councillor Andrew Wood was put to a recorded vote and was **defeated**.

The Mayor and Councillors recorded their votes on the amendment as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Khales Uddin Ahmed		x		
Ohid Ahmed		x		
Rajib Ahmed		x		
Shafi Ahmed		x		
Suluk Ahmed				x
Sabina Akhtar		x		
Mahbub Alam		x		

Shah Alam		x		
Amina Ali		x		
Abdul Asad		x		
Craig Aston				x
Asma Begum		x		
Mayor John Biggs		x		
Rachel Blake		x		
Chris Chapman	x			
Dave Chesterton		x		
Gulam Kibria Choudhury		x		
Andrew Cregan		x		
Julia Dockerill				x
David Edgar		x		
Marc Francis		x		
Amy Whitelock Gibbs		x		
Peter Golds	x			
Shafiqul Haque		x		
Clare Harrisson		x		
Danny Hassell		x		
Sirajul Islam		x		
Denise Jones		x		
Aminur Khan		x		
Rabina Khan		x		
Shiria Khatun		x		
Abjol Miah		x		
Ayas Miah		x		
Harun Miah		x		
Mohammed Maium Miah				x
Mohammed Mufti Miah		x		
Mohammed Abdul Mukit		x		
Muhammed Ansar Mustaquim		x		
Joshua Peck		x		
John Pierce		x		
Oliur Rahman		x		
Gulam Robbani				x
Candida Ronald		x		
Rachael Saunders		x		
Helal Uddin		x		
Andrew Wood	x			
Total Votes	3	38	0	

(Note: Councillor Maium Miah was not present for the voting on this amendment)

The substantive budget motion including the 'friendly amendment' were then put to a recorded vote and were **agreed**.

The Mayor and Councillors recorded their votes on the budget proposals as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Khales Uddin Ahmed	x			
Ohid Ahmed		x		
Rajib Ahmed	x			
Shafi Ahmed		x		
Suluk Ahmed				x
Sabina Akhtar	x			
Mahbub Alam		x		
Shah Alam		x		
Amina Ali	x			
Abdul Asad		x		
Craig Aston				x
Asma Begum	x			
Mayor John Biggs	x			
Rachel Blake	x			
Chris Chapman		x		
Dave Chesterton	x			
Gulam Kibria Choudhury		x		
Andrew Cregan		x		
Julia Dockerill				x
David Edgar	x			
Marc Francis	x			
Amy Whitelock Gibbs	x			
Peter Golds		x		
Shafiqul Haque	x			
Clare Harrisson	x			
Danny Hassell	x			
Sirajul Islam	x			
Denise Jones	x			
Aminur Khan		x		
Rabina Khan		x		
Shiria Khatun	x			
Abjol Miah		x		
Ayas Miah	x			
Harun Miah		x		
Mohammed Maium Miah		x		
Mohammed Mufti Miah		x		
Mohammed Abdul Mukit	x			
Muhammed Ansar Mustaquim		x		
Joshua Peck	x			
John Pierce	x			
Oliur Rahman		x		
Gulam Robbani				x
Candida Ronald	x			
Rachael Saunders	x			

Helal Uddin	x			
Andrew Wood		x		
Total Votes	24	18	0	

RESOLVED

1. That the contents of the report be noted
2. To note that there will be a review of the Adult Social Care Charging scheme during 2018/19 to evaluate its impact, to ensure that all recipients of Social Care are properly assessed and to see what additional safeguards or allowances can be introduced to ensure that those who contribute do so at a level that minimises charges while ensuring that a reasonable contribution is made towards the ever increasing costs of adult social care. We note that the crisis of adult social care funding is a creation of the Government, as a direct result of the cuts they have made in local government spending.
3. To note that the Burial Subsidy remains the same although is restricted to Kemnal park.
4. To note that the Council Tax, other than the 'Adult Social Care Precept' will be frozen for 2018/19, and that the Mayor has indicated his wish to continue with the lowest possible Council Tax compatible with meeting the needs of people in our community."

General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax Requirement 2018-19

1. To agree a General Fund revenue budget of £343.730m and a total Council Tax Requirement for Tower Hamlets in 2018-19 of £93.777m as set out in the table below.

Service	Total 2017-18 £'000	Savings			Growth		Adjustments		Total 2018-19 £'000
		Approved £'000	Prior year deleted £'000	New £'000	Approved £'000	New £'000	Approved £'000	New £'000	
Health, Adult & Community	105,985	(1,985)	717	-	2,057	697	(2,821)	316	104,966
Public Health	33,521	(749)	-	-	(925)	-	-	-	31,847
Children Services	103,462	(2,313)	339	(300)	(135)	879	6	4,718	106,657
Place	64,610	(2,285)	200	-	578	(141)	1,823	1,392	66,176
Governance	12,751	(4)	-	-	-	-	-	100	12,847
Resources	25,095	(2,075)	-	-	(252)	80	(7,213)	615	16,250
Net Service Costs	345,424	(9,410)	1,256	(300)	1,323	1,515	(8,205)	7,141	338,743
Other Net Costs									
Capital Charges	6,997	-	-	(1,458)	-	-	-	-	5,539
Levies	1,796	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,796
Pensions	13,290	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,290
Corporate Contingency	3,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,150
Other Corporate Costs	(25,097)	(4,150)	-	-	196	(1,860)	5,270	-	(25,642)
Total Other Net costs	135	(4,150)	-	(1,458)	196	(1,860)	5,270	-	(1,867)
Inflation	354	-	-	-	4,231	2,269	-	-	6,854
Total Financing Requirement	345,913	(13,560)	1,256	(1,758)	5,750	1,924	(2,935)	7,141	343,730
Funding									
Revenue Support Grant									
Retained Business Rates	(185,265)	(4,100)	-	-	-	8,275	-	-	(181,090)
Business Rates (London Pilot)	-	-	-	-	-	(8,000)	-	-	(8,000)
Council Tax	(85,837)	-	-	(7,940)	-	-	-	-	(93,777)
Collection Fund Surplus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Council Tax	(1,000)	-	-	(1,500)	1,000	-	-	-	(1,500)
- Retained Business Rates	-	-	-	-	-	11,357	-	-	11,357
Core Grants									
- Public Health Grant	(35,974)	-	-	-	925	-	-	-	(35,049)
- NHB	(19,330)	(5,000)	-	-	20,407	-	-	-	(3,923)
- Strategic School Improvement Fund	(2,772)	-	-	-	2,572	-	-	-	(200)
- Improved Better Care fund	(1,640)	-	-	(6,071)	-	-	-	-	(7,711)
- Additional Improved Better Care Fund grant (NEW)	(7,017)	-	-	-	-	-	2,821	-	(4,196)
- Adult Social Care Support Grant	(1,500)	-	-	-	1,500	(916)	-	-	(916)
- Local Lead Flood	(32)	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(34)
Reserves									
- Earmarked (Corporate)	(6,094)	-	-	-	-	-	114	(7,141)	(13,121)
- General Fund (Smoothing)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Financing	(346,460)	(9,102)	-	(15,512)	26,404	10,717	2,935	(7,141)	(338,160)

2. To agree a Council Tax for Tower Hamlets in 2018-19 of £986.14 at Band D resulting in a Council Tax for all other band taxpayers, before any discounts, and excluding the GLA precept, as set out in the table below:-

This incorporates a 2% increase on the previous year in respect of the Adult Social Care 'Precept' announced by the government in the 2017 budget.

BAND	PROPERTY VALUE		RATIO TO BAND D	LBTH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH BAND £
	FROM £	TO £		
A	0	40,000	6/9	657.43
B	40,001	52,000	7/9	767.00
C	52,001	68,000	8/9	876.57
D	68,001	88,000	9/9	986.14
E	88,001	120,000	11/9	1,205.28
F	120,001	160,000	13/9	1,424.42
G	160,001	320,000	15/9	1,643.57
H	320,001	And over	18/9	1,972.28

3. To agree that for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 2018-19:-

(a) The Council Tax for Band D taxpayers, before any discounts and including the GLA precept, shall be **£1,280.37** as shown below:

£
(Band D, No Discounts)

LBTH	986.14
GLA	294.23
Total	1,280.37

(b) The Council Tax for taxpayers in all other bands, before any discounts, and including the GLA precept shall be as detailed in the table below:

BAND	PROPERTY VALUE		RATIO TO BAND D	LBTH £	GLA £	TOTAL £
	FROM £	TO £				
A	0	40,000	6/9	657.43	196.15	853.58
B	40,001	52,000	7/9	767.00	228.85	995.85
C	52,001	68,000	8/9	876.57	261.54	1,138.11
D	68,001	88,000	9/9	986.14	294.23	1,280.37
E	88,001	120,000	11/9	1,205.28	359.61	1,564.89
F	120,001	160,000	13/9	1,424.42	425.00	1,849.42
G	160,001	320,000	15/9	1,643.57	490.38	2,133.95
H	320,001	and over	18/9	1,972.28	588.46	2,560.74

- 4 To approve the statutory calculations of this Authority's Council Tax Requirement in 2018-19, detailed in Appendix A to the Council report, undertaken by the Corporate Director Resources (Chief Financial Officer) in accordance with the requirements of Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 5 To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Annual Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement as presented to Audit Committee on 23 January 2018.
- 6 To approve the General Fund Capital and Revenue Budgets and Medium Term Financial Plan 2018-2021 as amended following final settlement announcement as agreed by the Mayor in Cabinet on 30 January as set out in the report of the Mayor in Cabinet and summarised in the tables below.

Summary of Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-2021

	2017-18 £'000	2018-19 £'000	2019-20 £'000	2020-21 £'000
Net Service Costs	361,985	345,913	343,730	331,895
Growth				
Approved	(16,344)	(1,416)	1,053	(7,458)
New	15,517	6,796	(6,215)	7,515
Savings				
Approved	-	(13,560)	(13,174)	
Prior Year deleted	-	1,256		
New	(20,396)	(1,758)	-	(9,030)
Inflation	5,150	6,500	6,500	6,500
Total Funding Requirement	345,913	343,730	331,895	329,422
Revenue Support Grant	(53,958)	-	(33,281)	(30,498)
Retained Business Rates	(131,307)	(181,090)	(139,555)	(139,555)
Business Rates (London Pilot)	-	(8,000)	-	-
Council Tax	(85,837)	(93,777)	(98,030)	(103,756)
Collection Fund Surplus				
Council Tax	(1,000)	(1,500)	-	-
Retained Business Rates	-	11,357	-	-
Core Grants	(68,265)	(52,029)	(52,588)	(50,478)
Earmarked Reserves	(6,094)	(13,121)	(7,577)	(5,465)
Total Funding	(346,460)	(338,160)	(331,032)	(329,753)
Budget Gap (excl use of Reserves)	(548)	5,570	863	(331)
Unallocated Contingencies	-	-	-	-
Budgeted Reserve Contribution GF smoothing (Approved Feb 2017)	548	(5,459)		-
Budgeted Reserve Contribution	(0)	(111)	(863)	331
Unfunded Gap	-	0	-	-
	31/03/2018	31/03/2019	31/03/2020	31/03/2021
Balance on General Fund Reserves (£000s)	32,288	26,718	25,855	26,186

Detailed Analysis of the Medium Term Financial Plan by Service Area 2017-18 to 2020-21

Service	Total	Savings			Growth		Adjustments		Total	Savings		Growth		Adjustments		Total	Savings		Growth		Adjustments		Total
	2017-18	Approved	Prior year deleted	New	Approved	New	Approved	New	2018-19	Approved	New	Approved	New	Approved	New	2019-20	Approved	New	Approved	New	Approved	New	2020-21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Health, Adult & Community	105,985	(1,985)	717	-	2,057	697	(2,821)	316	104,966	(2,242)	-	2,125	814	(2,122)	(43)	103,498	-	(1,000)	-	3,499	(2,074)	4	103,927
Public Health	33,521	(749)	-	-	(925)	-	-	-	31,847	(411)	-	(730)	-	-	-	30,706	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,706
Children Services	103,462	(2,313)	339	(300)	(135)	879	6	4,718	106,657	(3,011)	-	(414)	-	(370)	(4,487)	98,375	-	(650)	-	-	(2,120)	2,000	97,605
Place	64,610	(2,285)	200	-	578	(141)	1,823	1,392	66,176	(1,781)	-	577	132	(225)	(219)	64,660	-	(580)	-	744	(1,598)	(98)	63,128
Governance	12,751	(4)	-	-	-	-	-	100	12,847	(4)	-	-	-	-	-	12,843	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,843
Resources	25,095	(2,075)	-	-	(252)	80	(7,213)	615	16,250	(525)	-	-	-	-	(200)	15,525	-	(1,900)	-	-	(1,666)	1,367	13,326
Net Service Costs	345,424	(9,410)	1,256	(300)	1,323	1,515	(8,205)	7,141	338,743	(7,974)	-	1,558	946	(2,717)	(4,949)	325,608	-	(4,130)	-	4,243	(7,458)	3,272	321,535
Other Net Costs																							
Capital Charges	6,997	-	-	(1,458)	-	-	-	-	5,539	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,539	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,539
Levies	1,796	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,796	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,796	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,796
Pensions	13,290	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,290	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,290	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,290
Corporate Contingency	3,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,150	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,150
Other Corporate Costs	(25,097)	(4,150)	-	-	196	(1,860)	5,270	-	(25,642)	(5,200)	-	2,212	(2,212)	-	(30,842)	-	(4,900)	-	-	-	-	-	(35,742)
Total Other Net costs	135	(4,150)	-	(1,458)	196	(1,860)	5,270	-	(1,867)	(5,200)	-	2,212	(2,212)	-	(7,067)	-	(4,900)	-	-	-	-	-	(11,967)
Inflation	354	-	-	-	4,231	2,269	-	-	6,854	-	-	4,440	2,060	-	-	13,354	-	-	-	6,500	-	-	19,854
Total Financing Requirement	345,913	(13,560)	1,256	(1,758)	5,750	1,924	(2,935)	7,141	343,730	(13,174)	-	8,210	794	(2,717)	(4,949)	331,895	-	(9,030)	-	10,743	(7,458)	3,272	329,422
Funding																							
Revenue Support Grant												(33,281)				(33,281)		2,783					(30,498)
Retained Business Rates	(185,265)	(4,100)	-	-	-	8,275	-	-	(181,090)	101,821	-	-	(60,286)	-	-	(139,555)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(139,555)
Business Rates (London Pilot)	-	-	-	-	-	(8,000)	-	-	(8,000)				8,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Council Tax	(85,837)	-	-	(7,940)	-	-	-	-	(93,777)		(4,253)	-	-	-	-	(98,030)		(5,726)	-	-	-	-	(103,756)
Collection Fund Surplus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Council Tax	(1,000)	-	-	(1,500)	1,000	-	-	-	(1,500)	-	-	-	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Retained Business Rates	-	-	-	-	-	11,357	-	-	11,357	-	-	-	(11,357)	-	-	(0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(0)
Core Grants																							
- Public Health Grant	(35,974)	-	-	-	925	-	-	-	(35,049)	-	-	730	-	-	-	(34,319)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(34,319)
- NHB	(19,330)	(5,000)	-	-	20,407	-	-	-	(3,923)	(5,000)	-	5,741	-	-	-	(3,182)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3,182)
- Strategic School Improvement Fund	(2,772)	-	-	-	2,572	-	-	-	(200)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(200)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(200)
- Improved Better Care fund	(1,640)	-	-	(6,071)	-	-	-	-	(7,711)		(5,066)	-	-	-	-	(12,777)		-	-	-	-	-	(12,777)
- Additional Improved Better Care Fund grant (NEW)	(7,017)	-	-	-	-	-	2,821	-	(4,196)	-	-	-	-	2,122	-	(2,074)	-	-	-	2,074	-	-	-
- Adult Social Care Support Grant	(1,500)	-	-	-	1,500	(916)	-	-	(916)	-	-	-	916	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Local Lead Flood	(32)	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(34)	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	(36)		36	-	-	-	-	(0)
Reserves																							
- Earmarked (Corporate)	(6,094)	-	-	-	-	-	114	(7,141)	(13,121)	-	-	-	-	595	4,949	(7,577)	-	-	-	-	5,384	(3,272)	(5,465)
- General Fund (Smoothing)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Financing	(346,460)	(9,102)		(15,512)	26,404	10,717	2,935	(7,141)	(338,160)	96,819	(9,319)	6,471	(94,509)	2,717	4,949	(331,032)	-	(2,907)	-	-	7,458	(3,272)	(329,753)

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL 21ST FEBRUARY 2018
BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX STATUTORY CALCULATIONS**

**SETTING THE AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX FOR THE COUNCIL'S
AREA**

1. That the revenue estimates for 2018-19 be approved.
2. That it be noted that, at its meeting on 9th January 2018, Cabinet calculated 95,095 as its Council Tax base for the year 2018-19 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]
3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the council for the year 2018-19 in accordance with Section 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended and the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 2011:
 - (a) £1,285,757,063 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of The Act. [Gross Expenditure]
 - (b) £1,191,980,080 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of The Act. [Gross Income]
 - (c) £93,776,983 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of The Act, as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of The Act). [Council Tax Requirement]
 - (d) £986.14 Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of The Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. [Council Tax]

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL 21ST FEBRUARY 2018
BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX STATUTORY CALCULATIONS**

(e)	VALUATION BAND	LBTH £
	A	657.43
	B	767.00
	C	876.57
	D	986.14
	E	1,205.28
	F	1,424.42
	G	1,643.57
	H	1,972.28

Being the amount given by multiplying the amount at 3(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of The Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of The Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL 21ST FEBRUARY 2018
BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX STATUTORY CALCULATIONS**

4. That it be noted that for the year 2018-19 the Greater London Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

VALUATION BAND	GLA £
A	196.15
B	228.85
C	261.54
D	294.23
E	359.61
F	425.00
G	490.38
H	588.46

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(d) and 4 above, the council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2018-19 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

VALUATION BAND	TOTAL COUNCIL TAX £
A	853.58
B	995.85
C	1,138.11
D	1,280.37
E	1,564.89
F	1,849.42
G	2,133.95
H	2,560.74

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL 21ST FEBRUARY 2018
BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX STATUTORY CALCULATIONS**

6. That the council hereby determines in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018-19 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018-19 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**6. SUBMISSION OF THE TOWER HAMLETS LOCAL PLAN 2031:
MANAGING GROWTH AND SHARING THE BENEFITS**

The Council considered the report of the Acting Corporate Director, Place, proposing the submission of the regulation 19 version of the Tower Hamlets Local Plan and associated minor amendments to the Secretary of State for independent examination in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Council approve:

1. The submission of the regulation 19 version of the Tower Hamlets Local Plan and associated minor amendments table to the secretary of state for independent examination in accordance with regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Statement of Community Involvement;
2. The submission of the documents which support the Tower Hamlets Local Plan and have been developed in accordance with regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.


These are:

- (a) the Integrated Impact Assessment;
- (b) the Policies Map;
- (c) the Statement of Consultation;
- (d) the Duty to Cooperate Statement;
- (e) the supporting evidence base; and

- (f) copies of representations made during the regulation 19 consultation and the council's response to them; and
3. That the Corporate Director of Place (Interim) in consultation with the Mayor and Lead Member for Strategic Development and Waste be authorised to make any further minor amendments in the minor amendments table.

The meeting ended at 9.55 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 21 March 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21 March 2018. The texts of all petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report.

2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except that petitions for debate (those in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.

3. For Petitions listed as for debate:
 - a. petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. The petition will then be debated by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. All speeches are limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. During his or her speech, any Councillor may move a motion for the Council's consideration relevant to matters in the petition (this does not require the suspension of the Council Procedure Rules).
 - d. the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 3 minutes.
 - e. Following the petition debate, any motions moved will be put to the vote in the order they were tabled.
 - f. If no motion is agreed, the petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response within 28 days of the meeting.

4. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
 - a. petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. Finally, the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
5. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.
6. For Petitions listed as to be noted, petitioners may not address the meeting. The Speaker will state where they will go for a full response.
7. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

No petitions for debate had been received by the petitions deadline.

PETITIONS TO BE HEARD

5.1 Petition regarding Wapping Speed Cameras (Petition from Stephen O'Shea and others)

Car racing has increased drastically in Wapping over the recent years, but the Police and Tower Hamlets Council appear powerless to fight it. We call for the Council and Police to install speed cameras in Wapping immediately, to safeguard the lives of local residents.

5.2 Petition regarding Watts Grove Parking Permits (Petition from Kabir Hussain and others)

We the residents of Watts Grove are having to deal with bureaucracy and red tape in relation to their parking issues. Some of the residents who moved here had a parking permit before, but it was 10-month old when they moved here but the Council is telling them that it must be minimum 1 year old to transfer here. Most of the families depend on car for their daily life to fulfil responsibilities for their children, elderly, carers or loved ones as there are disabled children and parents. In another instance, there is an example when the Council has summarily refused to transfer permit because the family/person has just gone beyond the strict stipulated time-limit to transfer amidst all the chaos and stress of moving. Instead the Council should be compassionate in making the slight adjustments and support to the local families with these issues. We ask the Council to ensure that all residents have at least one parking space within the vicinity and ensure parking transfer is not made unduly complicated, bureaucratic and a punishment for residents.

5.3 Petition regarding Community safety in Dunmore Point and surrounding areas (Petition from Fazleh Elaahi and others)

Community safety petition - drug-dealing, drug use, squatters, anti-social behaviour in Dunmore Point, Kirton Gardens, Wingfield House, Virginia Road and the surrounding area.

We, the undersigned, residents and stakeholders of Dunmore Point and the surrounding area, have seen an increase in drug-dealing, drug use, squatting and anti-social behaviour in our area. These activities are negatively impacting upon our quality of life, reputation of our neighbourhood and the most vulnerable people amongst us particularly our children and young people. We call upon Tower Hamlets Council and the Mayor to immediately address this important and harmful issue upsetting local residents. There are clear safeguarding concerns due to the medical risks associated with the availability of loose needle left by drug users in areas such as the stairwell of Dunmore Point where children frequently walk through.

5.4 Petition regarding Drug-dealing and Anti-Social Behaviour in Gower Walk and the Surrounding Area (Petition from Syed Shofor Ali and others)

We, the undersigned, residents and stakeholders of Gower Walk and the surrounding area have seen an increase in drug-dealing and anti-social behaviour in our area. Many of these incidents and crimes usually go unreported because of a variety of reasons but nevertheless significantly affect the local community — especially our children and young people. These activities are also negatively impacting upon our quality of life, reputation of our neighbourhood and the most vulnerable people among us. We call upon Tower Hamlets Council and the Mayor to immediately address this important and detrimental issue distressing the local residents.

PETITIONS TO BE NOTED

5.5 Petition regarding Crime and other issues in Whitechapel Ward (Petition from Syeda Nasim and others)

Shocking increase in Crime, prostitution on our streets, second hand and open drug dealings, begging and vagrancy on tube station, rubbish on Our Streets, Unauthorised car parking and increased Council Tax for residents in the Whitechapel Ward. Tower Hamlets.

We, the residents Of Whitechapel ward, are seriously worried about the above issues highlighted in the heading of this community petition. Tower Hamlets Council removed many Tower Hamlets Partnership Police officers, drastically reducing them to only 6 officers in 2016. Since 2015/16 residents of Tower Hamlets, including Whitechapel ward, have witnessed the Borough being declared and/or suffering from:

- One of the worst places in the country for drugs and drug-related crimes and deaths. (Mirror)
- The second worst London borough for the under-24 victims of knife crime and Stabbings. (Evening Standard). One of the worst authorities in the UK for knife and gun crime.
- The official crime figures indicate that crime in Tower Hamlets including homicides/murders, racist hate crimes, sexual offences and other types have seen a shocking increase since 2015. (The Met and media)
- Our Council Tax has seen one of the highest increases – 9% increase for residents since 2016.
- £Millions of cuts in Adults Social Care, Children and Youth Services and cuts in key community services.
- A shocking increase (12%) in the Mayor's own personal salary worth extra E 10,000 in his pay packet.

The residents are very anxious about the safety, welfare, brutal cuts and illogical decisions affecting children. young people, elderly, women and vulnerable — along with -- the reputation of the area where they live and local families walk to and from their homes with their children or family. We ask Mayor John Biggs, along with his administration, to take 4 practical steps, which he has personal control over:

1. Install and update CCTVs to improve prosecution and prevent the dangerous incidents occurring.
2. Increase the Community Safety Team, its budget and Council THEOs in the area, with the police.
3. Increased budget and monitoring of Veolia contract and the missed rubbish collection and cleaning.
4. We ask for immediate action from the Mayor of Tower Hamlets and Cabinet

Members responsible to address the serious issues highlighted, reverse their decision of cuts like the Council Tax increase of 9% and to the residents' services using the CIL money, developments funds, increased business rates and reserves of £409m inherited from the previous administration.

5.6 Petition regarding Watts Grove Parking Restrictions (Petition from Bodrul Islam Choudhury and others)

Urgent Petition: Mayor John Biggs and his Labour-run Council, are Deliberately Making Parking Difficult for Residents of Watts Grove, Yeo St, Glaucus St, Violet Rd and Morris Road. Stop unfair decision and gentrification in Tower Hamlets.

It has not been long since many residents of the Borough were initially sent a sudden parking consultation document by Tower Hamlets Council - run by Labour Mayor John Biggs and his councillors - to change the parking restrictions without initially giving residents the option to keep the 'current' parking restrictions. They wanted to impose a more prohibitive regime. It was only rectified when 5,342 Tower Hamlets residents came together and signed Cllr Ohid Ahmed's parking petition protesting about the way it was handled and rejected the approach. The Council seemed to have got the message and the proposal was dropped for BI zone quietly and then changes in zones B2 & B4 were also rejected.

But now again, we, the residents of above-named streets are shocked to learn that John Biggs's run Labour council have suddenly put notices 'on lampposts' instead of writing to residents to change the parking in our area. The Council under the current Mayor and his Labour councillors are deliberately making it 'almost impossible' for locals with families, friends and loved ones to park near their homes. We believe it is a ploy to force many residents out of these streets and impose more gentrification in Tower Hamlets. It is inexcusable and must be stopped. The Council notices on lampposts are no substitute for genuine and transparent consultation with residents. These notices, a bit like in ancient Rome, which more often than not hardly anyone stops to read, falsely claim that it is an "upgrade", in fact, it is a straight-forward 'prohibition', meaning residents and families won't be able to park anywhere near their homes.

1. We ask Labour Mayor John Biggs and his councillors to reverse this illogical decision immediately - and stop this from happening again - so residents are not penalised further as the current parking is already very prohibitive.
2. We ask the Council to stop this proposal as the process is flawed, improper and unfair.
3. Stop gentrification of our streets and force families out of their neighbourhoods in Tower Hamlets.
4. Stop treating residents with contempt and disrespect hoping that they won't notice such parking changes.

5.7 Petition regarding Burnham Estate Lift (Petition from Farhana Akther and others)

We the undersigned residents living at the above building are requesting for a lift to be installed - a portable one - just for elderly people, those with disability and those with shopping or young children and pushchairs.

Many of us have lived here long — quite a few all our lives - and now the health and ability are not as good as before and are struggling every day with shopping, old age, young children and to carry out day to day essential life activities. It won't be feasible for the council to rehouse all those affected residents and we believe the best option would be to consider putting a lift urgently. We would be grateful if Tower Hamlets Council will take an urgent action to help local residents and install a lift at this estate.

5.8 Petition regarding Tower Hamlets Council Budget and Community Services (Petition from Ms Momina Begum and others)

We ask Mayor John Biggs to reverse his budget cuts – based on his mayoral choices and decisions – which have a clear negative impact on the community services and residents.

This is important because:

Despite inheriting £409 million reserves in 2015 from the previous administration which were put aside to help Tower Hamlets residents and to protect local services, as well as, millions in the capital funds and receiving hundreds of extra millions of pounds, Mayor John Biggs, since June 2015, has chosen to:

- Increase Council Tax for residents by 9% since 2016. Between 2011-15, it was frozen at 0%;
- Make brutal cuts of c. £75m in total (c. £17m in 2016, then extra £58m in Feb 2017);
- Make cuts of £7.5 million to Adults Services; and £7.2 million to Children's Services;
- Shut down our Youth Centres, and stop funding Drugs/Rehab project like Nafas;
- Shut down Queen Mary nursery and privatised other services;
- Reduce the Council Tax subsidy for the self-employed and others;
- Stop Free Homecare by introducing new charges for residents, especially the elderly;
- Other frontline and community services reduced or removed;
- Cut 34 police officers, despite warnings, refused to fund them in 2015/16 but suddenly found the money, conveniently, before the election to fund some;
- Crime and drugs use increased, with other negative consequences, as a direct result of these budget choices by Mayor John Biggs which can't be simply excused or blamed on anyone else. These are only a few examples. Mayor John Biggs has made the above choices, decisions and cuts for residents while he has found money to:
- Award himself a shocking 11.78% pay increase & give inflation-busting raise to others.
- Spend £50m on consultants, agency contractors, gadgets and ICT

upgrades.

- Pay £5m on the Council's top-tiered salaries while hundreds of lower and middle-paid employees, who deliver services, have been made redundant.

5.9 Petition regarding Wapping Social Club (Petition from Sheila Smith and others)

We the undersigned patrons and supporters of the Wapping Social Club are petitioning the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to reconsider their decision to close our club.

Wapping Social Club has received notification that the club must close in September. We are asking all of our customers to sign our petition so that we can show the London Borough of Tower Hamlets how important our club is to the local community.

5.10 Petition regarding the Save Jamboree Campaign (Petition from Rena and others)

The Save Jamboree campaign now has a chance to ask the council to step in to help prevent the music venue Jamboree from closing. To do this, we must collect 2,000 signatures from people who live or work in Tower Hamlets, requesting specifically that Tower Hamlets council take action.

We don't have much time though, we must present the signatures by this Wednesday, March 7th. If we can do it, the council will have to debate the closure in a council meeting on March 21st, and we have a chance of having the mayor step in to help us.

If you live or work in Tower Hamlets, please would you sign this petition:

- Calling on the mayor of Tower Hamlets to intervene in this case and ask Sudbury Properties to revoke their decision not to renew Jamboree's lease.
- Calling on Tower Hamlets council to review our application for Cable Street Studios, the building where Jamboree is located, to be awarded the status of an asset of community value, which was declined without due process being followed and without steps for appeal being provided.
- Calling on Tower Hamlets council to recognise that if Tower Hamlets wishes to become the London Borough of Culture, it must take actions to support the venues that are providing the lifeblood of cultural life in the borough.
- Calling on the mayor of Tower Hamlets to ensure that any future development plans will include Cable Street Studios' cultural value and protect its community.


The previous petition - which was signed by not just local people but others from across London and even abroad - will remain up online, and will add to our campaign. However, the next step is to show the council we have overwhelming support in the local community too.

Jamboree is a much-loved grassroots music venue which is being forced to close at the end of March after the landlord refused to renew its lease, giving no explanation. We are aware of plans by Sudbury Properties for the building to be redeveloped, however, no official information has been shared with the tenants, and the online page for the development plan was taken down last week.

In the heart of the East End, Jamboree has provided a stage for musicians from around the world for almost a decade and is a hub for the local community. The number of live music venues in London is dwindling with 40% of grassroots venues lost since 2008, and the Mayor of London supports Jamboree's effort to stay open.

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Agenda Item 7

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 21 March 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by the Administration	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one specific Motion submitted by the Administration. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. The Administration Motion is submitted by the Labour Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

7 – Administration Motion regarding the future of Tower Hamlets Council

Proposer: Mayor John Biggs

Seconder: Councillor Sirajul Islam

This Council notes that:

1. Tower Hamlets Council has emerged from a period of turbulence and chaos which was created by the previous mayor Lutfur Rahman and his administration, many of whom still serve as councillors.
2. The Government had to appoint Commissioners to run services in the wake of Lutfur Rahman's administration.
3. Since Lutfur Rahman's removal from office by the Election Court, and the election of Mayor Biggs, Tower Hamlets Council has undergone a significant period of change and improvement which was recognised by the Government who withdrew their Commissioners.
4. Mayor Biggs and his administration have opened up the council's decision making process, and we now have a council focussed on the services that residents rely upon rather than a council which Secretary of State Sajid Javid said "had completely lost the trust of its residents" and "was mired in corruption and financial mismanagement".

This Council further notes that:

1. The election court in 2015 ruled that 'the election of all THF Councillors must be taken to have been achieved with the benefit of the corrupt and illegal practices'.
2. Most of the councillors elected as part of Tower Hamlets First remain on the Council.
3. Tower Hamlets First splintered into two groups: the 'Independent Group' and the 'People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets'.
4. The 'Independent Group' has now renamed itself as 'Aspire', and has formally registered as a political party with the Electoral Commission.
5. The 'People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets' has now been formally registered as a political party with the Electoral Commission.

This Council believes that:

1. The Council has never unanimously recognised the damage caused by the previous mayor and this motion represents an opportunity for the Council to unanimously declare that we will never return to the chaos of the past.
2. The rebranding or renaming of political groups or parties does not absolve them of or hide their previous failings when in office.


This Council resolves:

1. To condemn the record of the previous mayor and his administration.

2. To reject any attempts to return the Council to the chaos of the past which the former Secretary of State described as “at best dysfunctional and at worst riddled with cronyism and corruption.”
3. To call on whoever is elected Mayor this year to commit to, and build on, the openness and transparency agenda introduced by Mayor Biggs.

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Agenda Item 8

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 21 March 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one Motion submitted by an Opposition Group. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, submission of the Opposition Motion for Debate will alternate in sequence between the opposition groups.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

8 – Opposition Motion by the People’s Alliance Of Tower Hamlets Group regarding Gender Pay Gap Audit 2018

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Secunder: Councillor Abdul Asad

The Council Notes:

1. According to the latest [Government data](#), 74% of firms pay male staff higher wages than their female counterparts.
2. The average gender pay gap across all medium and large-sized firms is now 8.2%, as measured by median pay.
3. By law, all firms with more than 250 staff [must report their gender pay gap](#) to the government by 4 April this year. So far only 1,047 firms have complied, leaving [another 8,000 to go](#).
4. According to the most recent figures from the [Office for National Statistics](#), Tower Hamlets is also one of the top ten areas with the highest gender pay gaps.
5. More women have left Tower Hamlets Council than ever before [**Note – to be clarified**], in particular from black and minority backgrounds. The following FOI shows the breakdown:

FOI: 9551965 Staff who have left/joined council by ethnicity

By ethnicity of all staff having left or joined the authority since 12 June 2015, as in the following table:

White	Asian* See note below	Black	Other	Missing/ Declined to State	Men joining
193	186	123	39	72	Women joining
387	212	171	41	105	Women leaving
118	153	37	16	30	Men joining
235	211	71	17	68	Men leaving

*Note: The council does use the ethnicity category 'South Asian'.

6. Approximately 9% of the council staff are consultants and agency staff. Under Mayor Biggs, the use of consultants and agency staff has doubled from 4.5% to 9%.
7. Tower Hamlets Council’s joint Trade Unions are increasingly concerned about a new trend toward mass redundancies for Council Staff and launched the following petition: https://www.change.org/p/tower-hamlets-council-stop-the-mass-axing-of-tower-hamlets-council-staff-defend-jobs-equality?recruiter=46003048&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=share_petition
8. The petition states the following: “It is of particular concern that Trade Unions have noticed that BME and female staff appear to be disproportionately affected; potentially reversing gains on equalities that took many years to achieve.”

This Council Further Notes That:

1. Sadiq Khan has been the first mayor to publish [a gender pay audit](#) at City Hall and said that: "[There's no excuse](#) for there to be a gender pay gap."
2. Amidst the furore at the BBC about gender pay inequality, Michelle Stanistreet, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, said that she was aware of a "significant amount of cases" where women say they're being paid less for doing [the same or similar work](#).
3. Under the [Equality Act 2010](#), employees are legally entitled to equal pay with a person of the opposite sex where they are in the same employment and doing equal or similar work.
4. According to the [Women's Equality Party Manifesto](#), "The inflexible minimum earning threshold imposed on would-be migrants to the UK makes it doubly difficult for women to come here independently because of the gender pay gap."
5. Despite gains in school and higher education, young women are facing stark inequalities and the [gender pay gap](#) is not falling for women with A-levels or degrees.
6. The [Women's Equality Party Manifesto](#) states that "the gender pay gap is not falling for women with A-levels or degrees" and that "despite gains in school and higher education, young women are still facing stark inequalities." This is backed up by statistics published on [Gov.UK](#) (as of 1 March 2018) from councils who have already conducted a gender pay gap.

Summary of Findings:

Number of Councils reporting (at this point): 71

Average gap in hourly pay: -8.4%

Number of Councils where the hourly pay gap is greater than 10%:

- Hourly pay gap in favour of men of at least 10%: 21
- Hourly pay gap in favour of women of at least 10%: 2

Indeed one Council reported that women's hourly pay was 161.1% lower than men's.

(The full table of information is available through the web link or at the Council meeting)

The Council Believes:

1. That women are still undervalued in the workplace, regardless of their roles.
2. As specified by the [Women's Equality Party](#), we would welcome, "Gender pay gap reporting to be broken down by age, employment status, ethnicity, race, disability, industry and working hours, as well as gathering data on retention during – and up to a year after – parental leave."
3. That there should be zero tolerance for workplace discrimination, as suggested by the [Women's Equality Party](#).
4. That there should be greater investment in childcare to enable parents and care givers (male and female), especially those on lower incomes, to be able to afford to return to

work.


5. As large employers with large female workforces, public sector organisations should lead the way in gender pay gap audits.
6. That women over 50, who are vulnerable to [dual discrimination](#), based on age and gender, should be valued for their experience and dedication, since they are far less likely to change jobs than younger employees.

The Council Agrees that (as a large public sector employer) the Council should:

1. Carry out an immediate gender pay gap audit.
2. Investigate any difference in pay or other terms for all council employees and contractors. To be completed by the end of July 2018.
3. Using the results of the gender pay gap audit and investigation into difference of pay, commence an Equality Analysis so that greater emphasis on pay equality is embedded within Tower Hamlets Council, particularly within the Pay Policy.

In the latest [Pay Policy Statement – 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019](#), there is only two clauses pertaining to pay equality as follows:

- 3.7: The Council signed a Single Status agreement in April 2008 with trade unions. This brought former manual grades into the GLPC job evaluation scheme and replaced spot points with narrow grade bands. One of the key aims of the agreement was to eliminate potential pay inequality from previous pay structures and ensure that new pay structures are free from discrimination
 - 15.1: The Council has a keen regard for equality issues and should any changes be made to the pay policy in the future, proposals would go through an Equality Analysis. One of the key aims of Single Status agreement was to eliminate potential pay inequality from previous pay structures and ensure that new pay structures are free from discrimination
4. As part of the Equality Analysis, which should commence no later than 1 September 2018 and be completed before 28 September 2018, create greater flexible working options and enhanced leave options for primary care givers, including: child care, maternity leave, paternity leave, aged care and special needs' care, so that these options are rolled out across the Tower Hamlets' workforce and take effect no later than 1 March 2019.
 5. Launch a charter for all employers and companies in LBTH to agree to carry out a Gender Pay Audit.

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 21 st March 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st March 2018.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 10.7 (a) provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

33 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

9.1 Question from Councillor John Pierce

Can the Mayor please provide details on how much the Council has to pay for the previous Mayor and Cllr Rabina Khan's Housing Public Private Investment (PFI) arrangements, how long these housing PFI deals are for and whether ownership of these assets returns to the Council at the end of the process?

9.2 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman

Will the Mayor provide a comprehensive update about the National Crime Agency investigation (and any police involvement) into the alleged £2m bribery scandal under his watch in relation to securing a possible planning permission for the 5th tallest skyscraper in Tower Hamlets as exposed by The Sunday Times?

9.3 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

Will the Cabinet Member update Council on the number of children and families using children's centres this year, compared to last year?

9.4 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Has the Mayor made savings following his devastating decision to charge vulnerable people for homecare?

9.5 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell

Can the lead member please update the Council on the work being done to develop our understanding and response to child sexual exploitation in the borough?

9.6 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Will the Mayor explain why are there no Council owned CCTV cameras in any residential areas of Canary Wharf ward although the entrances to the Canary Wharf estate are covered by CCTV?

9.7 Question from Councillor Dave Chesterton

In support of the 'Time's Up' campaign will the Mayor review the Council's policy on Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs)? The Council has five licensed SEVs, the purpose of these establishments is the sexual objectification of women by men. Sexual objectification is deplorable and plays an important role in gender inequality. The Council has taken a stand on violence against women and girls, isn't it about time the Council also says Time's Up for strip joints, pole dancing and lap dancing in our borough?

9.8 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Will the Mayor provide an update about the latest situation relating to Raine's House Community Centre in Wapping?

9.9 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Lead Member for Environmental Services update me on the proposed consultations with residents in Cadogan Terrace and Fairfield Conservation Area about the extension of Controlled Parking Zone timings?

9.10 Question from Councillor Shah Alam

Why has the Mayor chosen to delete the Higher Education Support Bursary?

9.11 Question from Councillor Candida Ronald

Could the Mayor/Lead Member update on any progress in securing government funding for retrofitting sprinklers in existing tall buildings?

9.12 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

There are increasing problems of poor water pressure on the Isle of Dogs. Residents on the Kingsbridge Estate, Mill Quay, Maritime Quay, Lockesfield Place and Betty May Gray House on the south of the Island are all suffering from this problem. Will the Mayor investigate whether the situation is related to the scale of development on the Island causing increasing demand on existing and therefore overcapacity infrastructure?

9.13 Question from Councillor Shiria Khatun

What progress is being made with Operation Continuum, the ongoing partnership between the Council and Police tackling drug crime in the borough?

9.14 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Will the Mayor inform how many residents have been hit by his decision to remove our free homecare service in the borough?

9.15 Question from Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed

Can the Lead Member confirm when regeneration work will start at Stroudley Walk?

9.16 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad

Will the Mayor reverse the decision to charge disabled people paying £8 per week in council tax following his decision to change the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme?

9.17 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin

Can the Mayor or Lead Member please provide an update on the borough-wide Big Clean Up events that have taken place as part of the Clean & Green campaign?

9.18 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman

The Mayor will be aware that recycling across London is increasing, whilst in Tower Hamlets the figures are decreasing. On the Isle of Dogs, half of all public recycling points were removed last year due to fly tipping. However, fly tipping across the Island and in particular the Samuda and St John's estates has increased whilst nobody has been prosecuted by Tower Hamlets for this problem over ten years. What does he

intend to do to make the Borough and the Isle of Dogs cleaner and greener?

9.19 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah

Can the Mayor explain what changes are planned for Raines House, what is the timetable for any building works and will the pensioners who use the building for social gatherings be able to continue their daytime bingo sessions and social evenings?

9.20 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Will the Mayor inform how many hard-working self-employed and vulnerable residents have lost their Council Tax Support after his decision to make cuts to the scheme in April 2017?

9.21 Question from Councillor Clare Harrisson

Drug dealing around Teale and Coate Street has increased rapidly over the last 6 months. This has escalated into fights on the street in the last few months, which is very distressing to residents. What Council projects and initiatives are planned to tackle the drug dealing problem in these areas?

9.22 Question from Councillor Shafi Ahmed

Does the Mayor believe he is doing enough to address the increase of knife crime in the borough?

9.23 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill

The Mayor will be aware of the importance of Raines House as a hub for local elderly residents, will he guarantee that following the proposed refurbishment of Raines House, the facility will remain as financially accessible as it is today for elderly residents with the same or improved facilities?

9.24 Question from Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim

Will the Mayor provide parking income generated by the council for 2017/18, 16/17 and 15/16?

9.25 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah

Will the Mayor agree to reverse the decision to privatize council funded nurseries?

9.26 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

It has been announced that there is likely to be a further Big Half Marathon in 2019. What steps will the Mayor take to ensure that residents are, unlike this year notified well in advance of both road closures and interruptions to public transport?

9.27 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury

Will the Mayor confirm the total Community Safety Service budget for each year since 2014/15 until this budget year?

9.28 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

Does the Mayor believe that the 6 council funded youth centres are sufficient for a growing young population?

9.29 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Will the Mayor update the Chamber about the result of the Council's decision to initiate regulatory proceedings against the Times/Sunday Times in relation to a foster child story?

9.30 Question from Councillor Mufti Miah

Will the Mayor inform us about his meeting and any result in relation to extortionate increase parking charges by Poplar Harca?

9.31 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Will the Mayor demonstrate how the Social Value Act is being put in practice to secure better social value and benefits for our residents when the Council commissions services or engage with relevant stakeholders?


9.32 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Will the Mayor provide statistics of the total numbers of crime and ASB committed in Spitalfields and Banglatown Ward for each year since 2014 until now?

9.33 Question from Councillor Andrew Cregan

Will the Council revise its decision to reject the application for Cable Street Studios to become an asset of community value? Cable Street Studios is a heritage building housing a range of arts units that form a unique venue for creative collaboration and cultural exchange, serving as a great asset to the local community in Shadwell and Limehouse, and well beyond. The much celebrated grassroots live music venue at its heart, Jamboree, is clearly on its own enough to secure ACV status. This decision to reject must be revised urgently, and the process for appeal outlined to the applicants.

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Non-Executive Report of the: Council 21st March 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Resources	Classification: Unrestricted
Localism Act 2011 – Pay Policy Statement 2018/19	

Originating Officer(s)	Heather Daley, Divisional Director HR and Transformation
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

This report reflects changes made following the report to General Purposes Committee on 08 February 2018 and to which changes have been agreed in line with the decisions of that Committee.

Under Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to adopt a pay policy statement for each financial year.

The Council's first pay policy statement was adopted for 2012/13 and subsequent pay policy statements were agreed for each of the subsequent years. A statement for 2018/19 (draft attached as Appendix 1) should be approved and adopted by 31 March 2018 to enable it to be published as soon as is practical in the new financial year.

Should guidance change or there be an updated issue of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 after the 2018/19 pay policy has been adopted, which requires minor amendments to be made to the pay policy statement, it is proposed that Council delegate the authority to make such amendments to the Chief Executive after consultation with the Divisional Director (HR and Transformation), the Chair of the General Purposes Committee and the Monitoring Officer. Should any fundamental changes be required, the pay policy statement will go to General Purposes and then Council for consideration.

The draft 2018/19 pay policy statement is set out in Appendix 1 for adoption. The proposed statement needs to be approved and adopted by 31 March 2018.

The pay policy statement sets out the Council's current policies and practice in relation to pay for all parts of the workforce, with the exception of school based employees.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:-

- 1) Resolve to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/2019 as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2) Note the proposed arrangements for the approval of salary packages and severance packages of £100,000 or more as set out in the Pay Policy paragraphs 5 and 12.2.
- 3) Note that the Pay Policy provisions enable the Head of Paid Service to determine a settlement payment where there is no dismissal without the need for agreement of General Purposes Committee unless the payment value is £100,000 or more.
- 4) Agree that if any minor changes to the 2018/19 pay policy statement are required as a result of future government guidance or an updated Local Government Transparency Code, these amendments be delegated to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Divisional Director (HR and Transformation), the Chair of the General Purposes Committee and the Monitoring Officer. Should any fundamental changes be required, the Pay Policy statement will be referred back to the General Purposes Committee and then Council for consideration.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Chapter 8 of Part 1 to the Localism Act 2011 provides for pay accountability and section 38 requires the Council to prepare a pay policy statement and section 39 requires that that pay policy statement be approved by resolution of Council by 3 March each year and published as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter.
- 1.2 Statutory guidance issued under the Localism Act 2011 in 2012 and supplemented in 2013 advises that members should be offered the opportunity to vote on salary packages of £100,000 or more before they are offered on new appointments. The 2013 Supplementary Guidance also advises that members should be offered the opportunity to vote on severance packages of £100,000 or more.
- 1.3 Settlement payments where there is no dismissal, other than where the threshold in paragraph 1.2 is exceeded reasonably fall within the remit of the Head of Paid Service to approve.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 As the publication of a pay policy statement and the nature of its content is a legislative requirement, there are no alternative options.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The pay policy statement must set out the Council's policies for the financial year relating to the remuneration of its officers. This must include:
- A policy on the level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer
 - A policy on the remuneration of lowest paid employees (together with a definition of 'lowest paid employees' and reasons for adopting that definition)
 - A policy on the relationship between the remuneration of chief officers and the remainder of the workforce
 - A policy on other specific aspects of chief officers' remuneration (remuneration on recruitment, increases and additions to remuneration, use of PRP and bonuses, and the approach to termination payments).
- 3.2 Additionally, the Council must have regard to other statutory guidance or recommendations e.g. relating to pay multiples, but it should be noted that the statutory guidance emphasises that each LA has the autonomy to take its own decisions on pay and pay policies.
- 3.3 The draft pay policy statement takes into account Local Government Association (LGA)/Association of Local Authority Chief Executives (ALACE) guidance issued to local authority Chief Executives 'Localism Act: Pay Policy Statement Guidance for Local Authority Chief Executives' and the statement details the Council's current arrangements; using the definitions contained in the Act and associated guidance. The Act also requires the Council to have regard to statutory guidance entitled 'Openness and accountability in local pay' under the Transparency Agenda. Guidance issued under the Localism Act 2011 in 2012 and supplemented in 2013 advises that members should be offered the opportunity to vote on salary packages of £100,000 or more before they are offered on new appointments. The 2013 Supplementary Guidance also advises that members should be offered the opportunity to vote on severance packages of £100,000 or more.
- 3.4 Taking this Guidance into account, it is proposed that salary packages of £100,000 or more should receive member approval through General Purposes Committee and this is reflected in the draft Pay Policy Statement. Further that any severance package for a member of staff of £100,000 or more (excluding an employee's right to contractual redundancy/severance and pension/pension lump sum payments) will be subject to the approval of the General Purposes Committee.

- 3.5 Additionally, it is also proposed that any salary packages of £100,000 or more and any redundancy/severance package of £100,000 or more are noted by Council at each annual update of the Pay Policy Statement.
- 3.6 The above approach meets the requirement for Member involvement as well as transparency.
- 3.7 Some of the proposed changes to the Pay policy will necessitate changes to the Constitution. In particular, the proposals set out in paragraph 1.3 will necessitate the deletion of the requirement for General Purpose Committee agreement to agree settlements as set out in paragraph 3.3.10 (8) of the Constitution. Any settlements of the kind described in recommendation 1.3 will be approved by the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and section 151 Officer and input from the Divisional Director Human Resources and Transformation.
- 3.8 Under Article 15.02(a)(i) of the Constitution the Monitoring Officer has power to approve all changes to the Constitution that reflect decisions taken by the Council and will be able to make such changes once the Pay Policy is approved.
- 3.9 The draft statement refers to information already published by the Council in relation to senior salary data to meet with the requirements of the Government's transparency agenda. The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 also covers the way in which the pay multiple included in the pay policy should be calculated. It is proposed that any minor changes to the 2018/19 pay policy statement that are required as a result of the publication of an updated Code, be made by the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Divisional Director (HR and Transformation), the Chair of the General Purposes Committee and the Monitoring Officer. Should any fundamental changes be required, the pay policy statement will be referred back to the General Purposes Committee and then Council for consideration.

Pay Multiple

- 3.10 There is a requirement to publish a ratio, or pay multiple. There are a variety of ways to approach this, but the Hutton Review of Fair Pay in the Public Sector (2011) supported the publication of the ratio of the council's highest paid employee (the Chief Executive) to that of its median earner (i.e. the mid-point between the highest and lowest salaries). This multiple is quoted in the draft statement. The ratio last year was 1:6.1 and this year is 1:5.97.
- 3.11 For the 2014/15 pay policy statement, an additional ratio demonstrating the relationship between the council's highest paid employee (total salary package) and the lowest salary of the non-schools workforce was included. This ratio last year was 1:10.90 and this year is 1:11.19. This allows greater comparison with other boroughs that provide this ratio.
- 3.12 The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 states that the pay multiple is defined as the ratio between the highest paid taxable earnings for the given

year (including base salary, variable pay, bonuses, allowances and the cash value of any benefits-in-kind) and the median earnings figure of the whole of the authority's workforce. If this definition is applied, the ratio is 1:5.97. (Please note that this figure will be updated in March, when a full tax year can be taken into consideration, to ensure it is accurate and up to date).

- 3.13 When considering the 2015-16 pay policy in January 2015, the HR Committee asked about schools and apprentices in relation to the pay multiples. For clarity, apprentices and schools' staff are not included in the pay multiple calculations. Apprentices are excluded due to the fact the multiples apply to employees only. Schools can adopt their own pay policy and therefore their staff would be covered by these. The Pay Policy is clear that the pay multiples only apply to the non-schools' workforce.

London Living Wage

- 3.14 The council is an accredited Living Wage Employer. This means that we adhere to the Living Wage Foundations accreditation statement, which states that "Employees based in London Boroughs (shall be paid) not less than the London Living Wage; and increase the amount which it pays to affected employees by the same amount as any increase to the London Living Wage, within 6 months of the date on which any increase in the London Living Wage is officially announced."
- 3.15 The London Living Wage (LLW) increases annually and the latest rise was announced on 06 November 2017. The LLW rate increased from £9.75 to £10.20 per hour.
- 3.16 The council has 6 months in which to apply the new LLW rates, i.e. by end of April 2018. It is proposed the new rate is introduced from 01 April 2017. Whilst the council's standard procurement documentation does not stipulate when contractors are required to apply the LLW, it is further proposed to align the increase for third party service providers with directly employed workers.
- 3.17 The lowest paid staff in the council are currently paid at the lowest Spinal Column Point (SCP) above the LLW rate, which is SCP 7, £10.07 per hour (£18,384 per annum). SCP 8 is currently £10.27 per hour (£18,747 per annum). There has been no pay award agreed as yet for 2018, but given the recent history of nationally negotiated pay awards for NJC employees, it is likely that the national pay award for 2018 will be weighted towards the highest rise at the lowest end of the scale. Since an increase of only 1.3% on SCP 7 would take it above the LLW rate, it is suggested that:
- Changing the pay for the lowest paid staff, in terms of increasing them to the SCP 8, are not implemented pending the outcome the nationally negotiated pay award
 - If no agreement on the pay award has been reached by 01 April 2018, the salaries of the lowest paid staff are increased to the LLW rate of £10.20 per hour, with any back pay being paid as appropriate once the pay award has been agreed

- Should lowest paid staff not receive a pay increase of 1.3% or more through the pay award, then they be moved to the lowest SCP above the LLW rate
- Should lowest paid staff receive a pay increase of 1.3% or greater, then they will remain on their existing SCP 7, which would be the lowest SCP above the LLW

3.18 The approach outlined above would fit with the Council's approach as set out in the Pay Policy statement, which is that:

“The Council will implement the increase to the London Living Wage on 1st April 2018 and as the London Living Wage rises in future years, the council will continue to increase pay levels for the lowest paid staff to ensure that they are paid the nearest scale point above the London Living Wage.”

3.19 In terms of the prospective cost of implementing the new LLW, it is likely that lower graded staff will receive a 1.3% pay award or greater and that the cost for implementing the LLW will be exactly the same as the percentage of the pay award, i.e. staff will remain on the same SCP (unless they are also due incremental progression) and receive the nationally agreed pay award.

3.20 If a lower than 1.3% pay award is agreed, it will be more expensive to implement because it would mean increasing pay from SCP 7 to SCP 8 (plus the national pay award for SCP 8).

2018/19 Pay Claim - National

3.21 The last NJC pay award covered 2016/17 to 2017/18. The award for both years was a headline one per cent, in addition to increasing the bottom pay points to take account of the new National Living Wage. Increases ranged from 6.6% at the bottom end of the spine to 1% from spinal column point (SCP) 18 upwards. In 2017/18, increases ranged from 3.4% at the bottom of the spine to 1% from SCP 18 upwards.

3.22 The pay deal included a commitment to review the ‘Green Book’ pay spine to meet the challenge of achieving the Government’s target of a National Living Wage (NLW) equal to 60% of median earnings (forecast to be around £8.75 per hour in 2020). This resulted in formation of a technical working group of LGA officers and unions.

3.23 On 14 June 2017 the Trade Unions submitted a pay claim for 2018/19 of 5% on all pay points and deletion of the bottom of the NJC and London SCPs 6-9. The technical working group has been looking to devise a potential new national pay spine.

3.24 On 05 December 2017, an offer was made by the National Employers Side which covers the two years from 01 April 2018. It would mean a 2% wage rise next April for the majority of council staff currently earning more than £19,430, and a further 2% in April 2019. The proposal would give lower paid staff a higher wage rise of up to 16% over the two years.

3.25 The proposal also includes a revamp of National Joint Council pay scales.

2018/19 Pay Claim - London

3.26 The creation of a potential new national pay spine creates significant difficulties for London. The costs are likely to be greater by trying to replicate whatever might be agreed at national level and cost modelling shows that, over two years, the cumulative cost could be between 4%-7.5%. As a result, there is a potential London may have to determine its own pay arrangements for 2018 and beyond.

3.27 A Task and Finish Group (with Tower Hamlets representation) was established through London Councils to look at the implications for London (where the London Living Wage (LLW) raises further issues – and as a LLW Employer, this would impact on Tower Hamlets) and analyse potential pay spines and associated costs.

3.28 As a result, there are three likely scenarios for London: -

1) Replicate NJC arrangements – which would be fairly straightforward, since it follows the arrangement that has been in place since April 2000. Cost modelling shows, however, this is likely to cost London up to 3.5% more than any national deal.

2) Develop separate Outer and Inner London allowances that could be added to the NJC pay spine and do away with the London pay spines – the principles would be relatively easy to understand and would follow the nationally agreed pay deal. However, new longer pay scales and assimilation arrangements will change the pay and grading structures of London boroughs.

3) London could continue with its own pay spines and determine its own pay award based on relevant and appropriate principles of any pay award agreed at NJC level, e.g. the overall percentage increase agreed nationally - London could try and follow the spirit of the national pay award increases, within an affordability framework.

3.29 The Council's paybill for the last financial year was £118,892,558 (excluding on costs). A 5% increase on all SCPs would add £5,944,627 to the paybill, taking it to £124,837,185. Please note this is an approximation and is likely to be lower as not all staff are employed on NJC terms and conditions, though if 5% were to be agreed for NJC staff, it is likely a similar claim would be made for other staff. There would be additional costs associated with the removal of SCPs 6-9.

3.30 The determination of any national pay award is a matter for the national employers' side. The issue for London employers is the manner in which any final pay agreement is translated into the London context.

- 3.31 In terms of next steps, the London position in terms of objectives in translating any nationally agreed deal to London needs to be confirmed by the Employers side of Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC), which is likely to meet in early 2018.
- 3.32 Given the announcement that the public sector pay cap is going to be 'flexible' from now on, the changes that need to be made to the National and London pay spines identified above, and the National Employers Side pay offer, it is likely that any pay award for 2018/19 for London will be a minimum of 2%, though again it is likely to be bottom loaded, with a new pay spine for 2019 and any cost increases are proposed to come from Councils existing budgets.

Non-permanent Workforce Resources

- 3.33 It is proposed to insert a new section in to the 2018/19 Pay Policy that covers the Council's approach to the engagement of non-permanent staffing resources (see section 11 of the Pay Policy 2018/19).
- 3.34 The inclusion of the principles that underpin the way in which such resources will be engaged supports a more transparent approach and is in keeping with the Council's refreshed core values.
- 3.35 The suggested rates in the table under section 11 of the Pay Policy 2018/19 reflect the rates previously paid for workers at this level of the organisation and could, in exceptional cases, be used in conjunction with market supplements should a suitable candidate be unable to be secured based on the rates alone.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 The MTFS includes a provision of £3.1m in 2018/19 to cover increases in employee costs as a result of pay inflation and changes in the London Living Wage (LLW).
- 4.2 The recommendations within this report are not expected to incur any additional financial commitment for the Council. However, the cost of any additional administrative responsibilities arising from these changes will need to be contained and managed within existing resources.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

- 5.1 The main legal considerations regarding the pay policy requirements are set out in the body of the report.
- 5.2 Any changes to pay scales or pay awards are dealt with through collective bargaining and will not require contractual amendments as these are already accounted for in current terms and conditions however any changes to the way in which staff are remunerated would need to be dealt with by consultation and an agreed contract variation or the offer of new contractual

terms through re-engagement following the Council's agreed employment processes.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 An equality analysis will be carried out on the draft policy statement, but it should be noted that the statement describes existing policies and practice rather than proposing new ones. Should there be amendments, further advice on the impact will be given.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report sets out the council's pay policy for 2018/19, which is required by law. It ensures that employees receive an appropriate salary for the work they undertake and that the council's approach to pay is set out clearly.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 There are no implications.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The draft statement describes existing policies and practice. Any risks, e.g. from proposing changes in the future to pay and benefits, would be assessed at the time.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no implications.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report(s)

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Pay Policy Statement 2018/19

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

Localism Act 2011

LGA / ALACE - ‘Localism Act: Pay Policy Statement Guidance for Local Authority Chief Executives’

DCLG - Openness and Accountability in Local Pay: guidance under section 40 of the Localism Act

DCLG - ‘Openness and accountability in local pay: Guidance under section 40 of the Localism Act 2011’ Supplementary Guidance

Communities and Local Government - The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency

Officer contact details for documents:

- Heather Daley, Divisional Director HR and Transformation 020 7364 4922

**London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Pay Policy statement 2018/2019**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Sections 38 to 43 of the Localism Act 2011 require the Council to produce a policy statement that covers a number of matters concerning the pay of the Authority's staff, principally its Chief Officers and the Authority's lowest paid employees. This pay policy statement meets the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and takes account of the guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in February 2012 and the supplementary guidance issued in February 2013 both entitled "Openness and accountability in local pay: Guidance under section 40 of the Localism Act" together with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 where applicable. It also takes into account the 'Use of severance agreements and 'off payroll' arrangements Guidance for local authorities' published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in March 2015.
- 1.2 This pay policy statement does not apply to employees of schools maintained by the Council and is not required to do so. This pay policy statement is required to be approved by a resolution of the Full Council before it comes into force. Once approved by Full Council, this policy statement will come into immediate effect, superseding the 2017/2018 pay policy statement.

2 Definitions

- 2.1 All the posts below are collectively referred to as **Chief Officer** in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
- **Head of the Paid Service**, which is the post of Chief Executive
 - **Statutory Chief Officers**, which are:-
 - Corporate Director, Children's Services
 - Corporate Director, Health, Adults and Community who is the Council's designated Director of Adult Social Services.
 - Corporate Director, Resources who is the Council's Chief Finance Officer under section 151 Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
 - Corporate Director, Governance who is the Authority's Monitoring Officer under section 5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
 - Director of Public Health.

- **Non-statutory Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers**, which are:-
 - Divisional Directors and Heads of Service in each Directorate that report to a Chief Officer.
- 2.2 The **Lowest Paid Employees** are defined as employees paid on Spinal Column Point 6 of the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services pay scales. This definition has been adopted as it is the lowest level of remuneration attached to a post in this Authority (see section 7 below).

3 Pay and grading structure

- 3.1 The majority of employees' pay and conditions of service are agreed nationally either via the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services, or the Joint National Council (JNC) for Chief Officers, with regional or local variations.
- 3.2 The Council also employs some staff on Soulbury conditions of service, some on conditions determined by the Joint National Council for Youth and Community Workers, some staff covered by the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and some staff on locally agreed terms and conditions for Lecturers and Tutors.
- 3.3 There are also a number of staff who are protected by the provisions of TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006) following transfers into the organisation and have retained their existing terms and conditions.
- 3.4 It is the practice of the Council to seek the views of local trade unions on pay related matters, recognising that elements are settled within a national framework.
- 3.5 The Council uses national pay scales up to grade LPO8, and determines the appropriate grade for each job in accordance with the Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) job evaluation scheme.
- 3.6 Above LPO8 local grades are in place as follows:
- LPO9 - evaluated under a local variation to the GLPC job evaluation Scheme
 - Above LP09 - evaluated under the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers job evaluation scheme.
- 3.7 The Council signed a Single Status agreement in April 2008 with trade unions. This brought former manual grades into the GLPC job evaluation scheme, and replaced spot points with narrow grade bands. One of the key aims of the agreement was to eliminate potential pay

inequality from previous pay structures and ensure that new pay structures are free from discrimination.

- 3.8 New and changed jobs are evaluated using the relevant job evaluation scheme, with the appropriate grade being determined using a range of factors.
- 3.9 The scale point on which an individual is appointed to the post is normally the lowest of the grade but will depend on skills and experience.

4 Head of Paid Service, Statutory Chief Officer, Non Statutory Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer remuneration

4.1 Pay for the Head of Paid Service; Corporate Director, Children's Services; Corporate Director, Health, Adults and Community; Corporate Director, Resources; and Corporate Director, Governance is made up of 3 elements:

- Basic pay (defined by a locally agreed grade)
- London weighting allowance
- Travel allowance payment

4.2 The Chief Executive receives fee payments pursuant to his appointment as Returning Officer at elections. The fees paid in respect of district elections vary according to the size of the electorate and number of postal voters and are calculated in accordance with the allowance set by the Authority. Fee payments for national and European elections are set by central government and are, in effect, not paid by the Council, as the fees are reclaimed. The Chief Executive does not receive any additional payment for the role of Returning Officer for local government elections. This means that no fees will be paid for local elections or referenda which are funded by the Council but, the Returning Officer will receive fees for all elections and referenda externally funded.

4.3 Divisional Directors; other non-statutory Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers receive basic pay (defined by a locally agreed grade).

4.4 Chief Officer salary data is published on the Council's website as part of the Government's transparency agenda. For details, please see (*add link*)

5 Salary packages

5.1 All salary packages for posts at Chief Officer level are in line with locally agreed pay scales.

- 5.2 All salary packages for posts at Chief Officer level of £100,000 or more will be subject to General Purposes Committee approving the structure and grade for posts at Chief Officer level – and noting by Full Council.

6 Lowest paid employees

- 6.1 The Council's lowest paid London based employees are those who are paid on the lowest scale point above the level of London Living Wage.
- 6.2 The Council's lowest paid non London based employees are those who are paid on the lowest scale point above the level of National Living Wage.
- 6.3 The Council's Apprentices are paid at least the London Living Wage rate.
- 6.4 The Council will implement the increase to the London Living Wage on 01 April 2018 and as the London Living Wage rises in future years, the council will continue to increase pay levels for the lowest paid staff to ensure that they are paid the nearest scale point above the London Living Wage.

7 National pay bargaining

- 7.1 Annual pay increases across the Council's grades are set through the process of national pay bargaining which the Council subscribes to.
- 7.2 The Council contributes to the negotiation process by providing an employer view through the annual Local Government Employers' regional pay briefings. The employers' side then negotiate with trade unions at a national level.
- 7.3 National pay rates are set using a number of factors, including:
- The sector's ability to pay
 - Movement in market rates
 - Inflation levels
 - Other pay awards
 - The Government's policy position regarding public sector pay.

8 Incremental progression

- 8.1 Incremental progression is on an annual basis for those staff who are not at the top of their grade. In exceptional circumstances an increment may be withheld due to poor performance. Chief Officers have to demonstrate satisfactory performance through a formal annual appraisal before being awarded incremental progression.

9 Additional payments and allowances

- 9.1 A range of allowances and payments are paid as appropriate to the nature and requirement of specific posts, groups of posts and working patterns. These include car and travel allowances, overtime, standby, weekend and night work, shift and call-out payments.
- 9.2 Acting up (where there is a vacant post within a structure and a person takes on the full duties of that post on a temporary basis) and honoraria (where a person takes on additional duties of a higher graded post but not all of them) payments are made to individual staff as appropriate using clear criteria, and where a clear business need is identified.
- 9.3 The Council has a staff relocation package, available to new entrants to the Council's employment, but subject to tight eligibility criteria.
- 9.4 The Council's Divisional Director HR and Transformation, also has the ability to agree the payment of market supplements for recruitment and retention purposes, where there is a strong business case and appropriate criteria are met.
- 9.5 The Council does not operate a performance related pay scheme or bonus scheme.
- 9.6 Where a negotiated settlement is appropriate in circumstances which do not amount to a dismissal, it will be approved by the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer and input from the Divisional Director Human Resources and Transformation.

10 Pensions

- 10.1 All employees (with the exceptions set out below) of the Council up to 75 years of age and who have a contract of more than 3 months' duration are entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Decisions on delegated provisions are agreed by the Pensions Committee. The LGPS is a contributory scheme, whereby the employee contributes from their salary. The level of contribution is determined by whole time salary and contribution levels are set by Government who then advise the employer.
- 10.2 All employees of the Council from 18 to 75 years of age and who are employed on Teacher, Youth Work or Tutor/Lecturer terms and conditions are entitled to join the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The Teachers' Pension Scheme is a contributory scheme, whereby the employee contributes from their salary and contribution levels are set by Government.

11 Non-permanent workforce resources

- 11.1 To ensure flexibility in delivering services, the Council supplements its employee workforce with workers who are not Council employees or on the Council payroll. This non-permanent resource includes consultants and interims, procured through approved third party providers or the Council's agency contract.
- 11.2 In managing its non-permanent workforce resource, the Council seeks to ensure that: the Council and the wider public sector achieve value for money; tax and national insurance liabilities are managed appropriately; and contractual relationships between the Council, workers and third parties are properly reflected. In this regard, it is the Council's policy not to engage directly with self-employed individuals, or wholly owned one person limited companies in all but the rarest of exceptions. Where such arrangements are used, the Council seeks to limit them to a maximum duration of 24 months.
- 11.3 Where it is necessary to engage a worker, it will usually be on a rate that is comparable with the grade for the post, where there is a clear comparator. Where more senior workers are engaged, the remuneration paid to the individual will generally fall within the following rates. The higher rates of pay, compared to those paid to directly employed staff, are in recompense of interims and consultants not receiving all of the same terms and conditions of employment, most notably regarding leave, pension, redundancy and notice.

Grade of post	Day rate range (payable to the individual)
Head of Service (LP09)	£400-525
Divisional Director	£525-775
Corporate Director	£775-900
Chief Executive	£1200-1500

12 Compensation for loss of office

12.1 Financial terms for redundancy

The Council has a policy linked to its policy for Handling Organisational Change which sets out the terms for redundancy and early termination of staff (subject to qualifying criteria), which apply to all staff. In certain circumstances, individuals may also qualify for early release of their pension.

12.2 Redundancy/severance packages

A severance package for any member of staff of £100,000 or more (excluding an employee's right to contractual redundancy/severance and pension/pension lump sum payments) will be subject to the approval of General Purposes Committee and noting by Full Council.

12.3 *Ill health*

Where termination of employment arises from ill health, payments will be made in accordance with the contract of employment. In certain circumstances, individuals may also qualify for early release of their pension.

12.4 *Re-employment or re-engagement following redundancy/early retirement/receipt of compensation for loss of office*

Any member of staff who has left the Council by reason of redundancy or early retirement and received a severance payment is required to have a gap before reemployment. The gap should be at least 1 year after the date of termination for staff who left due to compulsory redundancy or a gap of at least 2 years after the date of termination for staff who left due to voluntary redundancy before they can return, either as a directly employed member of staff, an agency worker or a consultant. This does not prevent them from working in Tower Hamlets Schools during this period.

12.4.1 To allow for exceptional circumstances, when it might be necessary to reemploy or re-engage someone sooner than set out above, a Director, in conjunction with the Divisional Director HR and Transformation, and after consultation with the Chair of the General Purposes Committee, has authority to waive the 1 or 2 year requirement (as appropriate), provided there is reasonable justification.

12.4.2 If the Repayment of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2016 come into force, any employee or office holder who earns above the threshold set out in the Regulations, will be required to repay in full or part, to the employer who made the payment, any exit payment they receive should they return to any part of the public sector (see the Regulations for a full list), either on or off payroll, within 12 months. This requirement can only be waived in exceptional circumstances and by a decision of Full Council.

13 Pay multiples / comparisons

13.1 The Council's pay and grading structures reflect a wide range of job requirements and levels of responsibility across the organisation, with pay and grading being determined by the Council's job evaluation schemes.

13.2 The pay ratio demonstrating the relationship between the Council's highest paid employee (total salary package) and the median (mid-point between the highest and lowest) salary position of the non-schools workforce is 1:5.97.

13.3 The pay ratio demonstrating the relationship between the Council's highest paid employee (total salary package) and the lowest salary of the non-schools workforce is 1:11.19.

13.4 The Council will have regard to its pay ratios and keep them under review, seeking to balance the following:

- Ensuring appropriate reward mechanisms which value knowledge, skills and experience at a senior level, and ensure that the Council can recruit and retain the best talent
- Addressing its commitment to matching the London Living Wage for our lowest paid staff, and encouraging the developmental progression for staff in the lowest graded roles.


14 Equality issues

14.1 The policy elements described in this report derive from national terms and conditions and bargaining, or local discretion. The Council has a keen regard for equality issues and should any changes be made to the pay policy in the future, proposals would go through an Equality Analysis. One of the key aims of Single Status agreement was to eliminate potential pay inequality from previous pay structures and ensure that new pay structures are free from discrimination.

15 Review

15.1 The Pay Policy Statement is reviewed annually and submitted to General Purposes Committee for noting and Council for approval. In the interests of improving accountability and transparency, all appointments made to posts attracting remuneration of £100,000 or more per annum and all severance packages of £100,000 or more during the previous financial year shall be highlighted to Full Council.

15.2 Should changes to the Pay Policy be contemplated that would result in an amended statement being published in the year that it applies, these would be subject to a detailed consultation process before adoption by Full Council.

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Council</p> <p>21 March 2018</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Annual Report to Council by the Independent Person</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Mark Norman Legal Adviser & Deputy Monitoring Officer and Matthew Mannion Committee Services Manager
Wards affected	All Wards

Summary

An Independent Person is appointed by the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 to undertake duties in connection with the consideration of any complaints of alleged breach of the Code of Conduct for Members by the Mayor, a Member or Co-opted Member of the Council.

The Annual Report of the Independent Person to the Council for 2017 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Note the attached report.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Council is recommended to consider and note the attached report.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Not applicable.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the authority. The Act also requires the Council to adopt a Code of Conduct for Members and put in place arrangements for dealing with any allegation that a Member or Co-opted Member has breached the Code.
- 3.2 In December 2016, the Council agreed a revised Code of Conduct for Members and revised arrangements for dealing with allegations of breach of the Code.
- 3.3 In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the Council's arrangements include the appointment of at least one independent person whose views must be sought and taken into account by the authority before it makes a decision on any alleged breach of the Code which has been referred for investigation. In addition the Council's adopted arrangements provide for the views of the independent person to be sought before a decision is taken about whether an alleged breach of the Code should be referred for investigation.
- 3.4 The view of the Independent Person may also be sought by a Member or Co-opted Member who has been complained about and by the Monitoring Officer in any other circumstances s/he considers appropriate.
- 3.5 The Independent Person attends the Standards (Advisory) Committee and contributes to any review of the arrangements agreed by the Council to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.
- 3.6 Elizabeth Hall was appointed as Tower Hamlet's Independent Person by the Council in 2013 and her term of office will expire in June 2018. Ms Hall's annual report for 2017 is attached as Appendix a for the Council's consideration.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced new arrangements to regulate standards of conduct by local authority Members and Co-optees. A key element of the arrangements is the appointment of at least one Independent Person.
- 5.2 The Independent Person must be appointed following a public advertisement and recruitment process and her/his appointment must be confirmed by the majority of Councillors at a full Council meeting. Ms Rachel Tiffin was appointed by full Council as a second Independent Person on 17 January 2018 and further recruitment exercise will be carried out over the coming months as Ms Hall's term of office expires in June this year.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific implications for One Tower hamlets arising from this report.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no specific best value implications arising from this report.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 There are no sustainable action for a greener environment implications arising from this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There is a statutory requirement to appoint at least one Independent Person. A second Independent Person has now also been recruited and her appointment was confirmed by full Council on 17 January this year. This will ensure the efficient operation of the Council's arrangements for dealing with alleged breach of the Code and that the Council is able to comply with statutory requirements in cases where the first Independent Person is unable to act or has a potential conflict of interests.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific crime and disorder reduction implications arising from this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Annual Report of the Independent Person 2017.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A

APPENDIX 1

Independent Person

2017 Annual Report to the Council

I was appointed as Independent Person (IP) in July 2013 for a three year term, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011; my term was subsequently extended by two years. I made my last report to the Council in September 2016.

Since then, we sadly lost the then Monitoring Officer (MO), Melanie Clay, in November 2016. I am delighted however that the Council appointed Asmat Hussain to that role a few months ago; I am very pleased to see how she is introducing a more systematic approach to complaints in relation to the Code of Conduct. It is also very pleasing that the new Code of Conduct complaints regime itself seems to have settled down and to be working well. In particular, incidents of poor behaviour are now being handled by local resolution and with input from Group Leaders and party whips, as they properly should be.

Since my last report there were no substantive complaints until the second half of 2017, when a number of cases have been coming forward on which I have been consulted. Some of these present serious allegations, on which, with my support, the MO has taken further action. (Complaints are reported quarterly to the Standards (Advisory) Committee by the MO).

Earlier in the year there were two historical cases with Code of Conduct elements which stemmed from the Clear Up Project; the substantive issues in both cases had been pursued and resolved and, given the lapse of time, the MO and I did not feel that it would be in the public interest to expend resources on further investigation. This was endorsed by the Investigation & Disciplinary Sub-Committee of the Standards (Advisory) Committee.


I very much welcome the way in which the Code of Conduct regime has been further strengthened, such as the seminars for Members. I hope that the importance of visibly high ethical standards is now firmly embedded, and that the Standards Advisory Committee will have greater prominence in its monitoring role.

My term of appointment will come to an end next July, when I shall submit a final report.

Elizabeth Hall

December 2017

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Non-Executive Report of the: Council 21 March 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Member Allowances Scheme 2018/19	

Originating Officer(s)	Beverley McKenzie, Head of Members' Support
Wards affected	All Wards

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Part 6 of the Council's Constitution sets out the Scheme of Members' Allowances. This provides for a Mayor's Allowance to be paid to the Mayor; a Basic Allowance to all Councillors; Special Responsibility Allowances for specified member roles; Dependents' Carers' and Travel/Subsistence Allowances; Maternity/Paternity/Adoption leave and an attendance allowance for co-opted members of the Standards Advisory Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 By law the Council must agree the Scheme of Members' Allowances annually, before the start of the year to which it applies. The proposed Scheme of Members Allowances for 2018/19 is attached at Appendix A.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

The Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Adopt the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2018 as set out at Appendix A to this report.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 The Council is required to agree a Scheme of Members' Allowances annually.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 None.

5. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 5.1 In accordance with Statutory Instrument (SI 1021/2003) the Council is required to agree a Scheme of Members' Allowances on an annual basis. The Scheme may include an annual index-linked adjustment of allowances, but it must be subject to a full review at least every four years, taking into account the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel.

- 5.2 The London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel issued a report in January 2018. The Council's scheme was reviewed in May 2016 as part of the ongoing governance review and in the light of the Panel's recommendations. This was agreed by Council at their meeting on 18th May 2016.
- 5.3 The current scheme is included at Part 6 of the Council's Constitution and it is proposed that this should be re-adopted for 2018/19 as set out at Appendix A to this report. The updated scheme from March 2017, has been changed to include a provision for maternity, paternity and adoption leave and update the Dependent care allowance amount in line with the current London living wage. No other amounts have been changed for the 2018 scheme.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 The current budget for member allowances is £850k per annum. The financial implications of adopting the scheme detailed in appendix A of this report will be met from this budget. Whilst the actual costs incurred will vary dependent on the number of meetings scheduled and the circumstances of the relevant postholder, the existing budget is considered sufficient to accommodate the changes proposed to the scheme for 2018/19.

7. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 7.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ('the Regulations') require the Council to on or before 31st March in each year make a scheme in accordance with the Regulations. The Scheme must make provision for payment of the basic allowance specifying the amount and also make provision for the following allowances if it intends to make such payments in respect of a year-
- (a) special responsibility allowance;
 - (b) dependants' carers' allowance;
 - (c) travelling and subsistence allowance; and
 - (d) co-optees' allowance.
- 7.2 The proposed Member Allowances Scheme 2018/19 provides for Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Sickness Pay which is established practice in a number of other London boroughs. Whilst there is nothing in the Regulations that provides that the Scheme is to include reference to such, the inclusion of Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Sickness Pay are supported by the Council's general power of competence. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to specified restrictions and limitations imposed by other statutes. The inclusion of Maternity pay is also consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equalities Act 2010.
- 7.3 Regulation 17 of the Regulations places a duty on the Council to publish as soon as reasonably practicable after making any amendments to the current Members' Allowance Scheme a notice in one or more newspapers circulating

in its area. The Council must also ensure that copies of the Scheme are available for inspection by members of the public at the principal office of the Authority, at all reasonable hours.

8. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The payment of Members' Allowances helps to ensure that people from all parts of the community within the borough are able to serve as elected members. This promotes effective community leadership and accountability, to the benefit of the whole borough and all its communities.

9. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None specific to this report.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1 None specific to this report.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 None specific to this report.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 None specific to this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix A – Member Allowances Scheme

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

- Beverley McKenzie, Head of Members' Support

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Part 7 – London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Members’ Allowances Scheme

This Scheme is made by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended.

1. This Scheme shall be called The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members’ Allowances Scheme 2018 and it shall come into effect on 1 April 2018. The Scheme shall apply to the Mayor, Councillors and Co-opted Members of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Basic Allowance

2. Subject to paragraph 8, a basic allowance of £10,938* shall be paid to each Councillor for each year. The Basic Allowance shall not be payable to the elected Mayor.
3. The basic allowance of £10,938 shall be payable with effect from 1 April 2018.

Special Responsibility Allowance

4. Subject to paragraphs 5-8, a special responsibility allowance shall be paid for each year to those Members who hold a position of special responsibility as specified in Schedule 1.
5. The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against the respective special responsibility in Schedule 1 and it shall be payable with effect from 1 April 2018.
6. Any special responsibility allowance payable under paragraphs 4 and 5 shall be in addition to the basic allowance payable under paragraph 2 above.
7. Any Member who holds more than one position of special responsibility shall receive only one special responsibility allowance which shall be at the higher level.

**Note: Paragraph 11 of this scheme provides for the amounts marked * to be adjusted with effect from 1st April 2018 to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government staff when this is agreed.*

Part-Year Entitlement

8. If, in the course of the year, this scheme is amended or a Member's entitlement changes, the relevant basic and/or special responsibility allowance shall be calculated and paid pro-rata during the particular month in which the scheme amendment or entitlement change occurs.

Dependants' Carers' Allowance

9. A maximum of £10.20* per hour shall be paid to those Members who necessarily incur expense in arranging for the care of their children or other dependants to enable them to undertake any of the activities specified in Schedule 2 to this Scheme.
10. The following conditions shall apply:
 - payments shall be claimable for children aged 15 or under or for other dependants where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required;
 - only one weekly payment shall be claimable for the household of each Member, unless the Council's Standards Advisory Committee considers there are special circumstances;
 - the allowance shall be paid as a re-imbusement of incurred expenditure against receipts;
 - the allowance shall not be payable to a member of the claimant's own household;
 - any dispute as to entitlement and any allegation of abuse shall be referred to the Council's Standards Advisory Committee for adjudication.

Indexation

11. The Basic, Special Responsibility, Mayor's and Dependants' Carers' Allowances would normally be adjusted annually to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government staff. However, for 2017/18 only, this adjustment is not applied.

Travel and Subsistence Allowance

12. An allowance shall be paid to any Member for travelling and subsistence undertaken outside the Borough in connection with any of the duties specified in Schedule 2.
13. An allowance shall be paid to a co-opted member of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council for travelling and subsistence in

connection with any of the duties specified in Schedule 2, irrespective of whether the meeting or duty is inside or outside the Borough.

14. The amounts payable shall be the amounts which are for the time being payable to officers of the Council for travelling and subsistence undertaken in the course of their duties.

Co-optees' Allowance

15. Subject to paragraph 16, a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any of its Sub-Committees, may claim a co-optees' allowance of £123* and a co-opted member who is appointed as Chair of the Standards Advisory Committee may claim a co-optee's allowance of £250*, for attendance at any meeting of the Committee or the Panel or attendance at any conference or mandatory training event, where attendance is on behalf of and authorised by the Council.
16. A claim for co-optees' allowance shall be made in writing within two months from the date of attendance at the meeting, conference or training event.
17. Where a member is suspended or partially suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as a co-opted member under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000, any co-optee's allowance payable to him or her for the period for which he or she is suspended or partially suspended, may be withheld by the Council.

Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Sickness Pay

18. All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity, adoption and sickness leave.
19. Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance shall continue to receive their allowance in the case of maternity, paternity, adoption and sickness leave in the same way that the Council's employees enjoy such benefits.
20. If a replacement to cover the period of absence is appointed by Council or the Mayor (or in the case of party group position, the party group) the replacement will be entitled to claim a Special Responsibility Allowance.

Recovery of Allowances Paid

21. Any allowance that has been paid to a Member after he or she has ceased to be a member of the Council, or is for some other reason not entitled to receive the allowance for a specified period, may be recovered.

Claims and Payments

22. Payments shall be made for basic and special responsibility allowances in instalments of one-twelfth of the amounts respectively specified in this Scheme, paid on the last working day of each month.
23. Where a payment of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme for a basic or special responsibility allowance will result in the Member receiving more than the amount to which he or she is entitled, the payment shall be restricted to such amount as will ensure that no more is paid than the amount to which he or she is entitled.
24. A claim for travelling and subsistence or dependants' carers' allowance;
 - shall be made in writing within two months from the date of the performance of the duty for which the claim is made;
 - shall be accompanied by receipts and/or any relevant evidence of the costs incurred;
 - shall be subject to such validation and accounting procedures as the Council's Corporate Director, Resources may from time to time prescribe.
25. Travelling and subsistence and dependants' carers' allowance shall be paid on the last working day of each month for any claim received not less than 21 days before that date.

Pensions

26. Neither members nor co-opted members of the Council are eligible to join the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Local Government Pension Scheme.

Records of Allowances and Publications

27. The Council shall keep a record of payments made by it under this Scheme, including the name of the recipients of the payment and the amount and nature of each payment.
28. The record of the payments made by the Council under this Scheme shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection at no charge. A copy shall also be supplied to any person who requests it on payment of a reasonable fee.
29. As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the year to which this Scheme relates, the Council shall make arrangements to publish the total sums paid by it to each recipient for each different allowance.

30. A copy of the Scheme shall be supplied to any person who requests it on payment of a reasonable fee.

Renunciation

31. A member may at any time and for any period, by notice in writing given to the Chief Executive, elect to forego any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

Interpretation

32. In this scheme:

- “Councillor” means an elected member of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets who is a councillor;
- “Mayor” means the elected Mayor of Tower Hamlets Council;
- “Member” means any person who is either the Mayor, a Councillor or a co-opted member of Tower Hamlets Council;
- “Co-opted member” means any person who is not a Councillor but who sits on a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council;
- “Year” means the 12 months ending on 31 March in any year.

Revocation

33. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members’ Allowance Scheme 2017 is hereby revoked and replaced with the Tower Hamlets Members’ Allowances Scheme 2018.

SCHEDULE 1

Special Responsibility Allowance

The following are specified as the special responsibilities for which special responsibility allowances are payable and the amounts of those allowances:

Mayor	£75,000
Statutory Deputy Mayor	£16,000
Leader of the Majority Group on the Council	£11,300
Leader of the largest Opposition Group	£11,300
Leader of any Group (subject to having at least 10% of the Council)	£8,000
Cabinet Members	£14,000
Mayoral Advisors	£7,000
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	£11,000
Chair of Scrutiny Sub-Committee (Health, Housing or Grants)	£8,000
Lead Member for Scrutiny	£8,000
Chair of Development Committee	£11,000
Chair of Strategic Development Committee	£11,000
Chair of Licensing Committee	£6,000
Chair of General Purposes Committee	£8,000
Chair of Audit Committee	£6,000
Chair of Pensions Committee	£6,000
Speaker of Council	£10,000
Deputy Speaker of Council	£5,000


SCHEDULE 2

Dependants' Carers' and Travelling and Subsistence Allowances

The duties for which these allowances are payable include:

- the attendance at a meeting of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee of the Council or of any other body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations, or of any committee or sub-committee of such a body;
- the attendance at any other meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the Council, or a committee or sub-committee of the Council, or a joint committee of 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee, provided that –
 - where the Council is divided into two or more political groups it is a meeting to which members of at least two such groups have been invited; or
 - if the Council is not so divided, it is a meeting to which at least two members of the Council have been invited
- the attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the Council is a member;
- the attendance at a meeting of the Cabinet or a meeting of any of its committees, where the Council is operating executive arrangements;
- the performance of any duty in pursuance of any standing order under section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened;
- the performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the Council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Council to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises.
- the performance of any duty in connection with arrangements made by the Council for the attendance of pupils at any school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996 (approval of non-maintained special schools); and
- the carrying out of any other duty approved by the Council, or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Council or any of its committees or sub-committees.

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Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 21 March 2018	
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Committee Calendar 2018/19	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager Antonella Burgio, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Wards affected	All Wards

Summary

This report proposes a calendar of Council, committee and other meetings for the forthcoming municipal year 2018/19. A period of consultation has taken place with Members and officers and Council are now asked to confirm the proposed meeting dates. The calendar of meetings is presented in Appendix One to this report.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2018/19 as set out in Appendix A including amended standard start times where appropriate.
2. To delegate to the Corporate Director, Governance 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.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Council is required to give public notice of its meetings in order to fulfil its legal obligations under the Access to Information Rules set out in the Constitution and to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 1972.
- 1.2 The calendar will assist the Council to meet its legal requirements by setting out in a schedule, the meetings it intends to hold which all may easily refer to. It also aids transparent governance by enabling the work at meetings to be planned in advance. Hence the practice of presenting this report has evolved and is maintained.
- 1.3 Council is also asked to delegate to the Corporate Director for Governance 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 to ensure that there supporting arrangements to allow the Council to continue to be able to deliver its meetings efficiently.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 None are presented although it would be within the powers of Council to vary the proposed Committee meeting dates, times and frequencies as well as to change the overarching Committee structure.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The draft calendar is presented at Appendix A to the report. In general it follows the same pattern of meetings set in previous years in terms of frequency of meetings, however, one notable set of changes relates to Cabinet other Executive meetings and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) which operates reciprocal arrangements with Cabinet.
- 3.2 It is proposed that Cabinet and other Executive meetings will now take place on Wednesdays. The Health and Wellbeing Board will continue to meet on a Tuesday.
- 3.3 Mirroring the arrangements in 2017/18, an additional Cabinet meeting is scheduled for the beginning of January 2019 to consider the draft budget proposals before submission to the special budget OSC meeting later that month.
- 3.4 The OSC will now meet on the Monday of the same week as Cabinet. This change will support the role of OSC in providing Pre-Scrutiny of Executive decisions by giving OSC Members longer to review the Cabinet papers before their own meeting takes place. In April and May 2019, the Monday preceding

the date of a Cabinet meeting will be a Bank Holiday, on these dates, the OSC meeting will take place on the day before Cabinet.

- 3.5 As in previous years efforts have been made to avoid holding meetings during school holidays, with particular reference to August. However, it is necessary for some meetings to be held especially in relation to regulatory matters.
- 3.6 Wherever possible we have also sought to minimise the impact of meetings on members where these clash with certain religious holidays and other events. In most cases, committee meetings are listed at 5.30pm during Ramadan to allow the meetings to conclude before the breaking of the fast.
- 3.7 During discussion there was widespread for the idea of looking to avoid holding meeting too late in the evening. Therefore, it is proposed that no meeting will be set in the calendar to begin later than 6.30pm. Discussions will then take place with all Committee Chairs in the new municipal year to determine the most appropriate start times for their meetings.
- 3.8 The exceptions to the above are
 - (a) Council itself which will continue to meet at 7pm. However, it is proposed that the Annual Meeting will begin at 6pm.
 - (b) Standards (Advisory) Committee where current feedback is that this meeting should continue to start at 7pm.
- 3.9 The Member Learning and Development dates have also been listed in the Calendar and where possible are listed when no Committee meetings are planned to encourage attendance. Since this year follows a local election, the development programme has been intensively focussed at the start of the municipal year to ensure that new Members especially are able to receive appropriate support.
- 3.10 As Members will be aware, any subsequent requests to change dates of meetings of Committees following approval of the Committee Calendar by Council, or to set up Special Meetings of the Committees, are subject to consultation with the Chair(s) of the Committees, relevant members and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer.
- 3.11 Each year changes to the Committee structure may be necessary to enable the Council to discharge its responsibilities. Should it be necessary to revise the meeting structure further, or otherwise amend the calendar of meetings, the Calendar will be adjusted and a new Calendar will be presented at the Annual Meeting if required. It is also proposed to provide delegated authority to the Coproate Director for Governance to agree any meeting dates for new Committees should that be required.
- 3.12 The Council's Constitution, as amended on 22 November 2017, also provided a general power for the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive, meeting Chair and other Members as appropriate, to cancel or vary the time of any meetings where necessary.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 The timely consideration of budget monitoring information is critical to ensuring sound financial management and oversight and informed decision making. However, there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 There are no specific legal comments arising from this report.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 In collating this schedule of meetings, consideration has been given where possible to avoiding school holidays, known religious holidays and other dates which could inhibit attendance or participation by one or more section(s) of the borough's community. Certain meetings, such as the Health and Wellbeing Board will also take place at external venues where this is useful to encourage attendance and improve accessibility.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 There are no implications arising from this report

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix A – Proposed Calendar of Meeting dates

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A

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CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2018/2019 MUNICIPAL YEAR

DRAFT VERSION – Committee Calendar 2018/19

	MEETING DAY/TIME/	MAY 18	JUN 18	JUL 18	AUG 18	SEP 18	OCT 18	NOV 18	DEC 18	JAN 19	FEB 19	MAR 19	APR 19	MAY 19	JUN 19	No. of Mtgs
COUNCIL																
Council	7.00pm 3 rd Wednesday	23 ^τ AGM		18		19**		21		23	20 (Bud) 28 [^] (R.Bud)	20		15 ^τ (AGM)		8
CABINET																
Cabinet (monthly)	5.30 pm Wednesday		27	25		26	31	28	19	9 (Bud) 30	27	27	24	29 [^]		11
Grants Determination Sub Committee (every 8 weeks)	5.30pm Wednesday		6*		1	12		7		2		6		1		7
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY																
Overview & Scrutiny Committee <small>Monthly before Cabinet - plus budget meeting</small>	6.30 pm Mondays		25	23		24	29	26	17	14(Bud) 28	4(Bud) 25	25	23	28 [^]		11
Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee	6.30pm Mondays		4*	30		10		5	18			4	29			7
Health Scrutiny Sub Committee (every 2 months)	6.30pm Tuesday			10		20**			4		12		30			5
Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee	6.30pm Tuesday			3		11		20		29			9			5
COMMITTEES AND PANELS																
Development Committee (every 4 weeks)	6.30 pm Wednesday		20	19	23	27	17	14	20	24	13	13	17	22 [^]		11

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CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2018/2019 MUNICIPAL YEAR

	MEETING DAY/TIME/	MAY 18	JUN 18	JUL 18	AUG 18	SEP 18	OCT 18	NOV 18	DEC 18	JAN 19	FEB 19	MAR 19	APR 19	MAY 19	JUN 19	No. of Mtgs
Strategic Development Committee (every 5/6 weeks)	6.30 pm Thursday	31	12*	12	16	20**	25	29		10	14	28		9		10
Licensing Committee (Quarterly)	6.30 pm Thursday	24*				4 (SEV) 11(SEV) 13 (L+SEV)			13			14				4 3 SEV
Licensing Sub Committee (fortnightly)	6.30 pm Tuesday	8^	5*, 19	10,24, 31	21**	4(pm) 18	2, 16, 30	13, 27	4	8, 22	5, 19	5, 19	2, 16, 30	7, 21^		26
Audit Committee	6.30 pm Thursday			31			11	8		31			11			5
General Purposes Committee (Quarterly)	6.30 pm Thursday		12*			4			11		26			7		5
Appeals Sub Committee (GP) Monthly	6.30pm Monday		26	9		3	15	19	10	14	11	18	15			10
Standards (Advisory) Committee (Quarterly)	7.00 pm Thursday		21				18			17			25			4
Pensions Board (Quarterly)	10.00am Thursday			19		13		22				7				4
Pensions Committee (Quarterly)	6.30pm Tuesday			24		18		27				12				4
Corporate Parenting Board (Quarterly)	6.30pm Thursday			12			11			10			11			4
King George's Field Charity Board	5.30 pm Wednesday			11			31		5				3			4

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2018/2019 MUNICIPAL YEAR

	MEETING DAY/TIME/	MAY 18	JUN 18	JUL 18	AUG 18	SEP 18	OCT 18	NOV 18	DEC 18	JAN 19	FEB 19	MAR 19	APR 19	MAY 19	JUN 19	No. of Mtgs
(Quarterly)																
Partnerships																
Health and Wellbeing Board (every 2 months)	5.00pm Tuesday			17			9			15		19		7		5
Other Meetings																
Freedom of the Borough	As required															
Tower Hamlets Best Value Improvement Board (Quarterly)	6.00pm Monday		11*			17			18			26				4
MEMBERS																
Training & Development	6.30pm-8.30pm	9, 10, 15*, 16*, 17*, 22*, 24*, 29*, 30*, 31*	26	4, 5, 16, 19		14	23	15		21	7	11				14

KEY TO SYMBOLS

** - Clashes with, or is the day before or day after a religious holiday

* - Takes place during Ramadan Meeting time will be 5.30pm wherever the normal starting time would be listed later in the evening

- meeting starting time earlier than the normal scheduled time

^ - provisional date

τ - time of annual council will be 6.00pm. The remainder of ordinary council meetings will start at 7.00pm

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2018/2019 MUNICIPAL YEAR

NOTES:

1. **OTHERS**


- a. Freedom of the Borough Panel – will meet only as required.
- b. Appointments Sub-Committee – monthly dates are identified but are also arranged on an ad hoc basis as required.
- c. Times of meetings will be no later than 6.30pm except where it has been agreed otherwise, this is indicated in the calendar grid.

2. **BANK HOLIDAYS:**

- **MAY 2018 – 7th, 28th**
- **AUGUST 2018 – 27th**
- **DECEMBER 2018 – 25th, 26th**
- **NEW YEAR – 1st January 2019**
- **APRIL 2019 – 19th, 22nd**
- **MAY 2019 – 6th, 27th**

3. **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:**

- **2018**
 - Half Term – 28 May – 01 June
 - Summer Holidays – 25 July – 31 August
 - Half Term – 22 October – 26 October
 - Christmas Holidays – 24 December 2018 – 04 January 2019
- **2019**
 - Half Term – 18 February – 22 February
 - Easter Break – 8 April – 22 April
 - Half Term – 27 May – 31 May

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>COUNCIL</p> <p>21 March 2018</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Motions submitted by Members of the Council</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Twenty-one motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st March 2018.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, the motions alternate between the administration and the other Political Groups, with the Opposition Group motions starting with the largest Political Group not to have that meeting's Opposition Motion Debate slot.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 Motion Regarding Government Cuts To School Budgets

Proposer: Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

Seconder: Mayor John Biggs

This Council notes:

1. £2.8bn of funding has been cut from school budgets since 2015, representing a real-terms cut to school funding.
2. These school cuts have directly led to a major reduction in the number of secondary teachers, teaching assistants and support staff.
3. There are 15,000 fewer members of staff in secondary schools in England between 14/15 and 16/17, whilst roll numbers have increased by 31,000.
4. In Tower Hamlets, between 14/15 and 16/17:
 - a. 49% of schools have seen a reduction in staffing levels;
 - b. 56% of schools have seen an increase in the pupil to teacher ratio;
 - c. There are nearly 500 more pupils.
5. That schools in Tower Hamlets will receive £448 less in funding per pupil in 2019/20 than they did in 2015/16.

This Council further notes that:

1. Tower Hamlets has some of the best schools in the country: a result of proper funding from a Labour government and the hard work of teachers, pupils, the Council and parents.
2. There has been a dramatic improvement in the quality of education offered in our schools over the past 20 years, with students achieving consistently above average exam results at GCSE level, all of our special and nursery schools rated 'outstanding', all primaries and the vast majority of secondaries rated 'good' or 'outstanding'.

This Council believes that:

1. The Government is diverting money away from schools in poorer areas, into more affluent areas, doing severe damage to social mobility and the quality of education offered in our schools.
2. Schools in Tower Hamlets showcase what can be achieved when schools are properly funded.
3. As staff costs make up the main expenditure for schools, cuts to school budgets inevitably mean fewer members of staff in schools.
4. Our schools should receive the funding they need – if the Government persists with its current funding changes this will jeopardise decades of progress in Tower Hamlets, damaging the future prospects of our young people.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the campaign led by the School Cuts alliance of education unions, local schools, Mayor John Biggs and local MPs Rushanara Ali and Jim Fitzpatrick against the cuts to education funding.

12.2 Motion about the Changes to Raine's House Community Centre, Wapping

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Mahbub Alam

This Council Notes:

The petition against Labour Mayor John Biggs' proposal to charge an extortionate and unacceptable amount to Raine's House users has gained support from a cross-section of our Tower Hamlets and wider communities as well as political spectrum with about 2,000 signatures in a very short space of time.

The petition by the users and supporters – mainly the elderly and pensioners of our East End who have contributed so much to the society and our community - of Raine's House in Wapping reads as follows:

- For decades, Raine's house in Wapping has been utilised by the local (largely elderly) community for social events. Events organised include coffee mornings, tea dances, bingo afternoons, evening book clubs and weekend entertainment.
- Tower Hamlets council, under the guise of a much-needed renovation of the building, are seizing this opportunity to turn their community club into a "pay as you go" community hub. These pensioners will then be expected to pay up to £40 an hour for a smaller space than they currently use, and the club will be closed for up to a year while they are making their proposed changes. For many of these pensioners, attending this club is the only time they can afford to socialise in a safe and warm environment.
- Needless to say, the current proposals for the building will not meet the club member's needs and would destroy one of their few remaining social spaces in the interests of generating revenue.
- A "consultation" meeting was convened by the council and members were left with the distinct impression that the council had already made up its mind and that opinions will have little or no impact on the outcome of the building's renovation.
- Therefore, we are calling on all friends, relatives and interested parties to sign this petition, apply pressure to the council and try to get our voices heard.

This Council Believes:

That this is one of the few remaining social spaces for the elderly community in Wapping and it should be preserved as it provides a unique and possibly only opportunity for lonely and possibly isolated East Enders to meet and socialise.

Analysis of the 2015 Indices of Deprivation shows that Tower Hamlets has the highest rates of pensioner and child poverty in England.

This Council Resolves:

- To agree that our elderly East Enders must not be penalised by changes including a huge hike in charges that will exclude them from using the centre;

- To agree that the Raine's House users will continue to have the facility available for their use exactly in the same manner as it was the case before Mayor John Biggs decided to use the refurbishing opportunity to penalise and possibly to force them out. Our pensioners and elderly will not be able to afford the new charges of up to £40 per hour under this administration's 'pay as you go' scheme which is being forced on our elderly and pensioners; and
- To support the users of Raine's House in their campaign against this unfair proposal by the Council under the Labour administration of Mayor John Biggs.

12.3 Motion regarding Thrive LDN

Proposer: Councillor Denise Jones

Seconder: Councillor Amina Ali

This Council acknowledges that two million Londoners experience poor mental health, which equates to 62,500 people in each borough, and that London's suicide rate increased by 33 per cent from 552 to 735 incidents between 2014 and 2015 – the highest figure recorded by the Office for National Statistics since records began.

This Council understands that employment for Londoners with a mental health problem is 31 per cent lower than the UK average and that the financial cost of mental ill-health is approximately £700million for each London borough.

This Council reaffirms its commitment to approach mental health and wellbeing as a key priority and to work collaboratively with partners within and outside the borough to address and tackle mental ill-health across our communities.

This council commits to support and work with Thrive LDN to:

1. Create a citywide movement for all Londoners that empowers individuals and communities in our borough to lead change, address inequalities that lead to poor mental health and create their own ways to improve mental health.
2. Following on from the examples set by Harrow Thrive and Black Thrive in Lambeth, look in to localising Thrive LDN to Tower Hamlets by exploring the practicalities of establishing a local Thrive hub that responds to local needs
3. Examine new methods to support more people in Tower Hamlets to access a range of activities that help them to maintain good mental health and wellbeing.
4. Work closely with partners across Tower Hamlets to end mental health stigma and discrimination.
5. Build on the great work happening across London to engage children and young people in mental health by helping Thrive LDN to develop training and resources for youth organisations, schools and student societies.
6. Support employers to make mental health and wellbeing central to the workplace.
7. Work with partners to explore new ways to access services and support, and consider the use of digital technologies to promote mental health and improve information about accessing support.
8. Work with partners and build on the excellent work being done across the borough to reduce suicides in Tower Hamlets. We will build on existing suicide reduction and prevention initiatives by establishing a zero suicide ambition for Tower Hamlets.

12.4 Motion regarding Changing Prospects, Changes Lives – Addressing Knife Crime in 2018

Proposer: Councillor Shah Alam

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council Notes That:

1. There were approximately [80 fatal stabbings](#) in London in 2017, [four of them](#) on New Year's Eve.
2. That in the year ending June 2017, the police recorded a [26% increase](#) in knife/sharp instrument crime compared to 2016.
3. That knife crime has increased in the [Tower Hamlets by 8%](#) in the past year.

This Council Believes That:

1. In 2018, the strategy to address knife crime must be from the bottom up, where we begin to engage with a generation of disenfranchised and disillusioned young people.
2. We need to follow Scotland's example where there was not a single knife crime fatality in 2017, which could be attributed to its [Violence Reduction Unit](#) (VRU), established in 2005.
3. We should work with local schools in the fight against knife crime and support the work of safer schools' officers.
4. Free school meals should become part of the General Fund. With an astonishing [53.4% of children](#) living in poverty in Tower Hamlets and families already struggling to pay bills, giving children a better start in life will ensure that they are emotionally and physically well and therefore more likely to do well at school and less likely to become involved in gangs and knife crime.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Work collectively with communities to educate and help reduce knife crime.
2. Work with the local residents, community groups and police to continue to deliver "[Flash Sweeps](#)" to help remove knives from our streets so that a Community Police Partnership model is developed.
3. Campaign for stricter laws surrounding the carrying of knives and sharp instruments.
4. Campaign for [stop and search](#) powers to be carried out through intelligence-led methods, implemented ethically and with integrity.
5. Campaign for tougher sentences for knife crime perpetrators as a deterrent.
6. Reintroduce positive activities for young people and fund PAYP activities to combat crime in areas where there is always a spike in antisocial behaviour during school holidays, which stem from a severe lack of provisions.

7. Target those who are at risk of being involved in antisocial behaviour and crime to channel them into positive activities and volunteering, boosting their prospects – ultimately into further education and/or employment.
8. Positive activities need to be funded and administered through grassroots' organisations, who have a relationship with those in need of such services.
9. Young people who might not be aware of, or willing to engage with, statutory services, or who do not have a positive relationship with the police, can be signposted via relevant community and youth workers.
10. Promote schemes and charities, such as Steel Warriors, where recycled knives seized on the streets are used to create a free outdoor gym in Langdon Park, Poplar.
11. Through this investment, the borough will save money from reduced police call outs, housing associations will save money from reduced expenditure on repairs, and the wider community will benefit from having more people contributing to the positivity and strength that makes us very proud to be part of Tower Hamlets.
12. EMA is still funded to 2018/19 – £370k was made available in each year from 2016/17 **but should be confirmed its continuous funding into the following years to support young people to remain in education.**
13. In, 2016/17, there was a budget provision of £600k for Support for Higher Education (formerly Higher Education Bursary). **This funding for young people struggling to enter university and higher education and this funding should be reinstated to support young people to remain in education.**

12.5 Motion regarding changes to university pensions

Proposer: Councillor Rachel Blake

Seconder: Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

This Council notes:

1. Education spending in the UK has been the victim of a Government determined to drive through ideological cuts to the vital services that are relied upon by so many, with cuts hitting areas like Tower Hamlets the hardest.
2. The University and College Union (UCU) has taken the difficult decision to hold strike action following proposed changes to the university pensions scheme which pose a serious risk to morale, recruitment and retention in our universities including at Queen Mary University.
3. Academic staff in universities make a vital contribution to ensuring the supply of skilled graduates to UK businesses.
4. Queen Mary University makes a valuable contribution in Tower Hamlets as an important local employer and popular university amongst school leavers.

This Council believes:

1. University staff have a right to feel valued and supported in their employment.
2. All staff working in universities should have access to a secure and decent pension.
3. The Government must take action now to bring about meaningful negotiations between the UCU and Universities UK to resolve the situation.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on Mayor Biggs to write to the Government, asking them to review the situation and urge Universities UK to work with the UCU for the benefit of staff and students in Tower Hamlets.
2. To call on our 2 MPs to make the case to the Government Minister in Parliament to review the situation and urge Universities UK to work with the UCU for the benefit of staff and students in Tower Hamlets.

12.6 Motion regarding CCTV Cameras

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes that the Council has 339 permanent CCTV cameras across the Borough and that the distribution is as in the table below.

The Council further notes:

That the Infrastructure Delivery Plan October 2017 has allocated no money to the expansion of the network in the next fifteen years despite substantial population growth in a number of wards and that the location of many cameras reflect priorities from some years ago and may need to be refreshed.

That there has been a series of street robberies in late 2017 in Limehouse ward along Narrow Street, Ropemakers Fields and Limehouse Basin. That seemingly in response to Police Operation Naga, attacks appear to have moved to the boundaries of Limehouse ward including St James Gardens and an attempted attack on the Canary Riverside.

That on Wednesday 27th December 2017, two separate 'acid' attacks on the Isle of Dogs 1 ½ hours and 5 minutes walk apart.

That even where wards appear to have CCTV cameras their effectiveness is poor due to poor links back to the control room in Mulberry Place.

That the Infrastructure Plan only plans to improve links between Victoria Park and Mulberry Place.

This Council believes that;

Criminals know where the Council CCTV cameras are and are likely to exploit any gaps in that network.

The council calls on the Mayor to ;

Expand the permanent CCTV network to growth areas and to ensure a fairer distribution of cameras as many areas paying large amounts of Council tax receive no benefit from the Council CCTV network.

That the Mayor notes that whilst previous experience of crime is a factor the council needs to better anticipate problems in the future.

Ensure all Council CCTV cameras are of the highest technical quality with high quality fibre links back to the control room.

That the Council work with other stakeholders on a joint CCTV network strategy so that whether Council or private or housing association camera they effectively work together to capture criminal activity.

That the Council provide the Met Police with a way of accessing the network that does not require driving to and from Mulberry Place, thereby saving both time and expense to the police.

The Mayor notes the table below, which is completely unrepresentative of the problems facing the borough.

Ward	Permanent CCTV Cameras	Population 2016	CCTV Per Person
Limehouse	0	8,200	None
Stepney Green	2	13,600	6,800
Canary Wharf	3	14,600	4,867
Bromley North	6	14,000	2,333
Bromley South	7	11,700	1,671
Blackwall and Cubitt Town	7	18,500	2,643
Poplar	9	8,000	889
St Katharine's and Wapping	9	12,400	1,378
Island Gardens	14	16,500	1,179
Lansbury	14	17,300	1,236
Shadwell	15	11,500	767
St Dunstons	15	11,800	787
Weavers	16	14,900	931
Mile End	19	17,400	916
Bethnal Green	21	22,200	1,057
Bow West	30	13,500	450
Whitechapel	31	15,200	490
St Peters	31	19,000	613
Bow East	33	15,900	482
Spitalfields and Banglatown	57	14,100	247
Total	339	290,300	856

12.7 Motion about “Save Tower Hamlets Council Funded Nurseries”

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

This Council Notes that:

The Promise Tower Hamlets Labour made before the 2015 election to save and protect council-funded nurseries, saying “the cuts to Children Services cannot be allowed to stand.”

On December 23, 2016, Labour Mayor John Biggs proposed to privatise and cut funding for council-funded nurseries - John Smith, Mary Sambrook and Overland (The only nursery that has special provision for deaf children).

In addition, Labour Mayor John Biggs shut down council-funded Queen Mary nursery.

Labour Administration of Mayor John Biggs also made a cut of £2.4m to nurseries/Children services.

The action by Labour Mayor John Biggs after being elected is in complete contrast to the promises made to nursery mothers by Labour Party before the election – clearly breaking a Labour promise made to residents before 2015 election to protect the nurseries. This is an unacceptable betrayal of residents and nursery mothers by the Labour administration of Mayor John Biggs.

Under Labour Mayor John Biggs, there is a childcare crisis. Quality nursery provision in Tower Hamlets is under threat under the Biggs Administration.

Only last month, the Biggs Administration has tried to mislead the nursery mothers who were forced to write a scathing open letter to him and the Council criticising their conduct and claims in relation to consultation about the council nurseries.

Save Our Nurseries Tower Hamlets – a campaign predominantly led by working class mothers, has hit out at in an open letter to Labour Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs and his council chiefs, accusing them of, among other things, “privatisation”, questionable “political opinions”, being “vague” about the support for “disabled children” and adopting a “sexist and racist approach to consultation and decision-making” in relation to Mayor John Biggs and his Labour Administration’s conduct about the council-funded nurseries.

Mayor John Biggs has conveniently tried to kick the nursery can in the long grass until after the May 2018 election by putting the blame on to officers claiming I have asked the officers to come up updated proposal – presumably a new scheme of cuts and privatisation but not until the election are over. Mayor John Biggs needs to show leadership instead of hiding behind officers who work for him as the Executive Mayor of the Borough.

Since then, Nursery Mums, Aspire Group and other groups with people from the cross section of the society have been campaigning to keep these council nurseries public as many residents deeply care about nursery provision for all children in Tower Hamlets.

Most parents – particularly mothers - know that returning to work after maternity/paternity leave can feel like an incredible mission. Finding the right childminder or nursery setting to look after your precious little one is a very difficult decision.

Tower Hamlets waiting lists for the best nurseries can be incredibly long. The costs are so high you might even question if it's worth it.

For those families on a low-income or who have children with special needs, these decisions can be even more difficult.

This Council Believes that:

Huge cuts to staff will mean highly qualified specialists with training in things like nasal gastric tube feeding and catheterization could lose their jobs. A privately-run nursery will more than likely not have staff to attend medical appointments with families or work closely with community nurses in family's homes.

The network of social care around public nurseries not only helps children with special needs but also those on social care plans. Some of the children have serious child protection cases.

Council nurseries have a focus on education and help to address socio economic imbalances. So that by the time children are ready for school they are up to speed with other children in the borough who may have had more advantages. This has an impact on the sort of education all children in Tower Hamlets can receive.

With 1 out of 2 children in Tower Hamlets living in poverty these nurseries are extremely important for the future of all our children. Schools will struggle to meet the needs of catering to an already overwhelmed system if children are at disparate levels of ability.

Working parent's fees could go up to three times the rate of the public nurseries and those on low wages will probably not be able to afford a place. This will result in a bigger demand on Social Services across the borough and many mothers will be unable to return to work. Early Learning 2-year-old funding for families on low incomes or benefits would not be available as there would not be enough to cover the private nursery fees. With the population of children under 9 in Tower Hamlets set to increase by 10% in the next 4 years any reduction to affordable nursery provision within our borough will further impoverish already struggling families.

This Council Resolves that:

Mayor John Biggs should honour the promise made to nursery mums by Labour Party before the election.

Labour Administration should listen to the serious concerns of nursery mothers in their various representations, petition and correspondence to the council – including the latest open letter to Mayor John Biggs. The Biggs administration should implement the actions demanded by the nursery mums.

Mayor John Biggs must stop the privatisation in the name of outsourcing and cuts to the council-funded nurseries in the borough.

12.8 Motion regarding Tower Hamlets Brexit Task Force

Proposer: Councillor Shafi Ahmed
Seconder: Councillor Abdul Asad

This Council Notes:

1. That a recent YouGov poll on Brexit shows that a rising number of people regret the decision to leave the EU, with 47% per cent of respondents saying it was wrong for the UK to vote Leave, compared with 42% cent who believe it was the right decision.
2. That two-thirds of the public thinking that Brexit negotiations are going badly, compared with just over a third in March this year.
3. That in In June 2017, one year after Brexit, the pound was 14% lower against the dollar and 13% lower against the euro.
4. That Local third sector organisations supporting migrant, refugee and asylum seeker communities in the borough reported an increase in hate crimes immediately following the vote to leave the EU. Police figures also recorded an increase in hate crime reporting at the same time.
5. That Tower Hamlets has one of the most drastic levels of wealth inequality. 48.7% of households have an annual income of less than £30,000, 17% have an annual income exceeding £60,000 and another 17% have an annual income of less than £15,000.
6. That London has ranked among the European cities with the worst outlook for 2018, according to a survey of more than 800 real estate professionals.

The Council Further Notes:

1. That the impact of a hard Brexit would cost London's economy over [£100 billion over five years](#), according to research.
2. That Tower Hamlets would be one of the hardest hit boroughs, losing some eight per cent of output worth £11 billion, because of its [reliance on industries](#) that are significant exporters, at risk of offshoring to the EU, or are deeply embedded in international supply chains.
3. That a hard Brexit will cause financial firms to move from Canary Wharf to more favourable cities in Europe, resulting in fewer jobs and reduced commercial and housing development.
4. The [Bank of England](#) stated that the decision to leave the European Union is having a noticeable impact on the economic outlook and will probably hamper productivity and slow growth.
5. That research from [Centre for London](#) found that Brexit is already leading to fewer Europeans seeking work in London, a decline in confidence among businesses and a deceleration in house price growth.
6. That MPs on the [Communities and Local Government Committee](#) will look at which powers currently held by the EU could be transferred to town halls after the UK leaves.

7. That the Brexit vote has diminished London's status as an international haven and created uncertainty in the property market. [Lucian Cook, Director of Residential Research at Savills](#) said: "When you've got people borrowing bigger multiples of income, they are much more exposed to a change of sentiment of any degree of uncertainty about the impact of Brexit."
8. [Liam Booth-Smith](#), Director of the thinktank Localis said that the post-Brexit labour supply squeeze will affect parts of the country in very different ways. Many EU nationals, for example, are [leaving the NHS](#) following Brexit and employers' access to the EU labour market may be linked to the issue of [skills shortages](#) in the capital. This is particularly relevant to Tower Hamlets, because of The Royal London Hospital, one of the capital's leading trauma and emergency care centres.

This Council Believes:

1. That EU nationals living in Tower Hamlets should have the right to remain in the UK. With more EU nationals leaving the country and fewer coming in, this will have an adverse impact on industry areas that are more dependent on EU workers e.g. care workers, hospital staff and construction.
2. That the Council should identify the number of EU nationals within its own workforce those of its key suppliers and the contribution they make to the local labour market.
3. That EU funding, or its replacement, is vital support to economic regeneration, helping new and current businesses to create thousands of jobs and supporting broadband, new roads and bridges and other local infrastructure projects.
4. That Tower Hamlets Council must do all it can to protect the local economy, local regeneration projects, its residents, workers, businesses and all those in receipt of EU funding, or benefitting from services funded by EU funds during this time of uncertainty.

This Council Resolves to:

Set up a Tower Hamlets Brexit Task Group to plan for a number of Brexit scenarios, with the following aims and objectives:

1. Proactively campaign to ensure the EU funds expected by Tower Hamlets and local recipients of EU funds will be honoured until the end of 2020, in order to improve our local economy, development, infrastructure, employment and training.
2. Instruct the Senior Management Team to provide a dedicated help and information line to residents and businesses, with comprehensive and up-to-date information on the progress of Brexit and its effects on the Borough and address productivity and competitiveness challenges among local firms, enabling them to compete internationally.
3. Create new policies and programmes for education and skills to equip the local workforce for current and future jobs.
4. Work with local businesses to understand the changing market dynamics and focus on growing local SMEs.

5. Work with residents and EU nationals to promote community cohesion, tackle racism and help decrease their feelings of anxiety, insecurity and uncertainty about their future following Brexit, including their eligibility to apply for local authority housing.
6. Work with housing industry bodies to investigate ways to replace lost EU funds for regeneration schemes.
7. Promote Tower Hamlets as a diverse, inclusive and safe borough in which to live, work and socialise.
8. Call on the Mayor and all Councillors to support this motion, to ensure that the resolutions are carried out and for the Tower Hamlets' Brexit Task Group to report on the progress of implementing the resolutions.

12.9 Motion regarding Canary Wharf to Rotherhithe cycle and pedestrian river crossing

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds
Seconder: Councillor Andrew Wood

This Council notes the start of the public consultation by Transport for London (TfL) on the Canary Wharf to Rotherhithe cycle and pedestrian river crossing commenced on the 8th November 2017.

That a well attended public meeting on the Barkantine Estate expressed serious concern as to the viability of this proposal.

That the upfront capital costs are between £30 million for the ferry option to £335 million for a tunnel and TfL are clearly indicating their preference for a bridge costing between £120 million and £180 million upfront with annual running and maintenance costs of up to £2.4 million a year.

This Council further notes:

The Councils Infrastructure Delivery Plan October 2017 shows a funding gap of £648 million over the next 15 years across Tower Hamlets with no detail yet on how that gap will be filled. The draft GLA Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework Development Infrastructure Funding Study also indicates a large funding gap exists in the OAPF area.

That in October 2016 the Labour Mayor of London announced the delivery of a Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf bridge by 2020 before work had even started by TfL looking at the different options for a crossing.

This Council believes:

That the current consultation paper contains a number of questionable assumptions and that the need to prove that a bridge is required after it was announced by the Mayor is constraining the detailed analysis of potential options.

This Council:

Supports an improved river crossing but remains to be convinced about the value for money, timing, location and the rush to deliver this bridge. The council believes that a more open process may well result in a better solution and avoids the risk of another Garden Bridge debacle.

That without some certainty over how local infrastructure is funded; the council should not support an expensive and uncertain project.

12.10 Motion about The Whitechapel Estate Development and the Latest Appeal Decision

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconder: Councillor Mufti Miah

This Council Notes that:

The Council has received an important appeal decision from the Planning Inspectorate. This has allowed the appeal by the developer and granted planning permission for a major redevelopment of a site between Varden Street and Ashfield Street in Whitechapel (known as the Whitechapel Estate). This followed a 10-day public inquiry held in November 2017.

The proposed development is the demolition of all existing buildings and redevelopment to provide 12 buildings ranging from ground plus 2-23 storeys, comprising 343 residential dwellings, 168 specialist accommodation units, office floorspace, flexible office and non-residential institution floorspace, retail floor space, car parking, cycle parking, hard and soft landscaping and other associated works.

The Council refused planning permission on 17 October 2016 after the Strategic Development Committee agreed the officers' recommendation that planning permission should be refused. The main planning reasons for refusal were:

- the quality of design of the appeal proposal and its effect on the character and appearance of the area and on the wider townscape;
- the effect on heritage assets and their settings;
- the effect on living conditions of neighbouring residents, having regard in particular to daylight and sunlight, outlook and privacy;
- the quality of living conditions for future residents of the development, having regard in particular to daylight and sunlight, overshadowing, outlook and privacy.

In summary, the Planning Inspectorate's decision found that:

- the design of the scheme as a whole would provide a considerable improvement over the site as it currently exists and would achieve the policy objective of transformational change (identified in the Whitechapel Vision SPD) while having sufficient regard to the character and appearance of the wider area.
- the proposal would result in some significant individual reductions in daylight and sunlight levels, but that this is almost unavoidable in achieving the policy requirement for high-density development in a confined urban setting. Retained levels of daylight and sunlight would be adequate and comparable with existing and emerging urban conditions.
- taken as a whole the proposal would not result in unsatisfactory outlook, privacy or access to open space. Despite certain localised weaknesses, it would result in a good overall standard of amenity for future residents.
- any harm to heritage assets would be limited to an adverse effect on the setting of the Philpot Street and Walden Street listed terraces. The public benefits of delivering

transformational change, replacement of existing mediocre buildings and poorly presented public realm, establishment of a significant length of the Green Spine (Whitechapel Vision), provision of affordable housing to the maximum viable level (21%), provision of specialist accommodation for health-related staff and students within an affordable rent regime (which does not apply at present) and new space suitable for office or research use linked to the “Med City” aspirations would outweigh this harm.

- the Council was disappointed with the decision as it felt our case was strong and were hopeful that if the appeal was dismissed then an alternative scheme delivering many of the benefits but with less harmful impacts could have been negotiated. The Council has concerns about the implications of this decision on other major sites in Whitechapel including the forthcoming Sainsbury’s appeal.

This Council Believes that:

The decision by the Planning Inspectorate is not welcome by most residents and fails to consider several critical points raised by our council officers.

If this development goes ahead in current form, this will destroy the existing quality of life for all local current residents, the majority of them happen to be from Bangladeshi and BAME community. This scheme is completely overbearing on the area, with huge tower blocks, significant loss of sunlight to local residents, with only 21% so-called affordable housing minus 30% shared ownership.

More dangerous is the fact the Sainsburys development will get a go-ahead as this decision sets a precedent.

This is gentrification and social cleansing of the local community – mainly but not exclusively the Bangladeshi community - out of Whitechapel and eventually the borough. Crossrail is welcome but will only benefit certain people, not our existing community.

The Council should deploy specialist consultants to carry out a proper visibility toolkit assessment, as well as other relevant studies to demonstrate the figures presented by the developers are flawed - just like in Southwark and Greenwich.

This Council Resolves:

To carefully consider the planning and other relevant points made in the ‘This Council Believes’ section above with a view to carefully review, strengthen and follow the original advice given by our planning officers in relation to this application;

To hire specialists to carry out a proper and professional visibility toolkit assessment to demonstrate the figures presented by the developers are very probably flawed - just it was in Southwark and Greenwich;

To inform the residents affected and the nearby stakeholders about this decision and the Council’s position;

To agree that the Council has a policy of 35% minimum affordable housing. Hence this application fails to meet the target by only offering 21%; and

To note that this Council has a duty to represent the best interests of its residents. In this particular case, officers also recommended planning consent should be refused for very

strong reasons. Therefore, this Council must appeal the decision of the planning inspectorate. This scheme does nothing to help alleviate local residents housing needs in terms of affordability for local residents for the private units that will become available, priced x15 higher than the average salary of the borough. It also fails to reduce the Councils housing waiting list due to not meeting Councils 35% minimum affordable housing target.

12.11 Motion regarding Stop the Cut to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad

Seconder: Councillor Abjol Miah

The Council Notes That:

1. In January 2018, an analysis published by the [End Child Poverty](#) coalition of charities shows that 53.4% of all children in Tower Hamlets live in poverty (after housing costs). This is the second highest rate nationally and is well above the average rate for England (29%), and well above the London average (37%).
2. In the same report, End Child Poverty reported that wards in Tower Hamlets have child poverty rates well above the national average of 20%. The rate ranges from [52.98% in the ward of Bow East](#), up to [57.38% in the ward of Bethnal Green](#) North. Their methodology is [explained here](#).
3. That the risk of child poverty rises with family size and that larger families in Tower Hamlets have a higher risk of poverty than larger families nationally.
4. That Mayor John Biggs cut the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents but awarded himself an 11% overall pay rise.
5. That Mayor John Biggs' proposal replaced the current scheme with one where all working age claimants will be expected to pay at least 20% of their council tax liability, although one of the proposed options does include an exemption for a few vulnerable groups, but there's no guarantee.
6. That where other London boroughs have introduced such 'Minimum Payment' schemes, the result has pushed low-income residents deeper into poverty, stifling social mobility.
7. That Camden Council has recognised the hardship caused by its minimum payment scheme and is proposing to abolish it and reinstate 100% support from next year. This shows it is possible to avoid passing funding cuts onto the poorest residents.

The Council Believes:

1. That the council tax reduction has impacted on the cost of living for many Tower Hamlets' residents and will result in unfortunate choices between providing for their families, paying utility bills or paying their council tax, which Mayor Biggs increased by 4% in February 2016.
2. That Mayor John Biggs' proposal resulted in the abolition of the 100% support that currently exists for the borough's 23,000 working age households and misled the public by stating that it retains the 100% support.
3. That Mayor John Biggs' cut to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) has impacted on self-employed working families, in particular mini-cab drivers, and vulnerable and disabled adults.

The Council Resolves to:

1. Call on Mayor John Biggs to reverse the cut to Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for thousands of the borough's poorest and most vulnerable residents.
2. Call on Mayor John Biggs not to award himself an unreasonable pay rise when a large proportion of the Tower Hamlets' community is struggling to cope financially.

12.12 Motion regarding 'Tower Hamlets Acid Register' & the Council's Existing Regulatory Powers* *(in the aftermath of two recent acid attacks on 27 December 2017 in Tower Hamlets)*

Proposer: Councillor Maium Miah

Seconded: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

This Council notes:

Senseless, tragic and bigoted acid attacks have become prevalent in London. Too many families and individuals are suffering and falling victim to this grievous and criminal act. London is being dubbed as 'Acid attack capital of Britain'. Instances of acid attacks are on the sharp increase in 2016/17, a big increase on the year before.

Tower Hamlets is now the third worst borough for acid attacks in London according to the official statistics. Worryingly, a high percentage of these attacks have been concentrated in a small pocket of east London with 398 attacks in Newham, 134 in Barking and Dagenham and more than 84 acid attacks in Tower Hamlets in recent years. These figures exclude the recently reported acid attacks in 2017 and the unreported attacks which will further increase the number in relation to Tower Hamlets statistics.

Most recently, there were two separate horrific acid attacks in Tower Hamlets on the same day within the space of just two hours – one in Canary Wharf ward, another in Blackwall and Cubitt Town in the Isle of Dogs - on Wednesday evening 27th December. According to the police and other reports, on 27 December, a 36-year-old white woman suffered serious life-changing burns to her leg and face after she was hurled at with acid very close to South Quay Tesco/DLR station at 18.50 hours. No ID on the attacker or why she was attacked was established. She is in hospital at the time of writing this question. The 2nd attack was on an Asian male by two white men at 20.30 hours. The attack started on Glengall Grove close leading to the George pub but the actual attack was close to or in Crossharbour DLR. The police have decent CCTV images of these attackers, described as 'The suspects are believed to have gotten out of a Volkswagen car and are described as two White males aged 20 – 22 years old approximately. 5"10 tall, one was dressed in a Grey hooded top with a baseball cap, the other was in a blue jacket with a short beard.'

Previously, on 21 June 2017 in east London, Resham Khan, a university student, was driving a car with her cousin Jameel Mukhtar when they were victims of a horrific acid attack by a white male. Without any provocation or logic, out of nowhere, both were attacked with acid thrown at their face and body. Both will have scars that will never leave them. Their lives have been changed forever. The pair strongly believed and said they felt this was an Islamophobic hate crime.

Two of the other recent attacks in Tower Hamlets were on Commercial Road with the junction of Sidney Street, in Tower Hamlets on 29 June 2017 – another such attack on Burdett Road, E3 at 02:13hrs on 4 July 2017. A separate attack, possibly unreported, took place in Watney Market in the week before. There are quite a few other attacks which were neither reported to the police nor appeared in the media.

This Council believes:

Acid has become a weapon of choice used by younger criminals because it is far too easy to get hold of, far too cheap to buy, and most importantly far too unregulated –

something Tower Hamlets Council has the regulatory power over and must do more to address this serious criminal and horrendous issue.

The horrific injuries often sustained from such attacks can leave victims with permanent scarring, deep psychological problems and destroy their lives. These barbaric and inhumane attacks seriously impact on those who suffer as well as the wider community.

After media stories and campaigns led by many victims and civil society including the Independent Group, the Government had announced that under 18s will be banned from buying acid but the Government and the local authority (Tower Hamlets Council) can and must do more to tackle this menace and horrific crime as a person can easily walk into a store and purchase this lethal substance or similar chemical off the shelf.

Corrosive acids like sulphuric acid are very dangerous substances. Independent Group believes that you should only be allowed to purchase them with a licence or with a verifiable professional/trade identification. The person purchasing should go through checks before.

Many attacks could have been stopped if there were sensible and practical controls that made it harder to buy, and meant we knew more about people buying it.

This Council Resolves:

Tower Hamlets Council and its current Mayor must implement practical and sensible action urgently upon which the Council and the Mayor already have control and power over. After lobbying and pressure from the Independent Group, residents, victims, media and the civil society, a local acid charter by the council is a small step in the right direction, but it must go beyond public relation management exercise and promotion of John Biggs in order to genuinely reassure the residents and deter horrific acid attack crimes on our residents.

To immediately explore its already available regulatory powers and other existing means to seriously and effectively deter these disgusting criminal acts.

Given that Tower Hamlets is the third worst borough for the acid attacks, the Council will:

- a)** immediately create a 'Tower Hamlets Acid Register' on a voluntary basis for shops and businesses to record who they sell 'acid' or 'dangerous liquids' to;
- b)** ensure compliance that acid/ potentially dangerous liquid is not sold to under 21s in the borough which is being used as the weapon of choice in attacks on our innocent residents; and
- c)** acid and dangerous liquids are sold only with a licence or with a verifiable professional/trade identification. The person purchasing should go through checks before.

12.13 Motion regarding Private Rental Enforcement Team

Proposer: Councillor Abjol Miah
Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

The Council Notes That:

1. Many of the poorest families in Tower Hamlets have been forced into sub-standard, privately rented accommodation, which paradoxically can be insecure and which are [one of the causes of homelessness](#) in the first place.
2. Tower Hamlets' statistics regarding child poverty and the housing crisis are somewhat skewed because rising rents and benefit caps are forcing families out of the borough, which simply relocates the problem to another borough.
3. Under the Housing Act 2004, local authorities have the power to request that landlords make necessary improvements to a property or remove potentially hazardous health risks. Using the [Housing Health and Safety Rating System \(HHSRS\)](#), an evaluation tool, local authorities can identify and protect against risks and hazards to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in dwellings.
4. The new buy-to-let taxes on private landlords are excessive and could, in some cases, exceed the amount they receive in rent. Some may be forced to sell their properties or may be unable to afford ongoing maintenance costs, which will impact tenants and may create homelessness.
5. On 14 January 2018, Secretary of State for Housing, Sajid Javid, confirmed [government support for new legislation](#) that will help ensure rented homes are safe and will give tenants the right to take legal action when landlords fail in their duties.
6. The 2011 census revealed there were 67,209 **private sector** homes in **Tower Hamlets**; 41,670 (62%) of these were in the **private rented sector**.
7. The **Private rented sector** is now the largest tenure in the borough with 39% of the housing stock, far higher than the London average of 25%.
8. Lower quartile rents in the borough are £365 per week for a two bedroom and £462 for a three bedroom flat. The weekly Local Housing Allowance rate for a family needing two bedrooms is £302.33, and for three bedrooms it is £354.46.
9. The median rent for a room in a Tower Hamlets shared flat or House in Multiple Occupation is £147 per week. Single people under 35 have a weekly Local Housing Allowance of £102.99.
10. Median rents have increased by around a quarter in the last five years, to £1430 pcm (£330 pw) for one bedroom and £1750 pcm (£403.85 pw) for two bedroom flats. As of 2013, nearly half of all households in Tower Hamlets have an annual income less than £30,000.
11. Shelter said; "For many people the private rented sector is not a tenure of choice, but a tenure of necessity. The high cost of buying a home and the shortage of social

housing means many families have no choice but to rent privately for the medium to long term”.

The Council Believes That:

1. An enforcement body needs to be set up to ensure that private landlords and agents are adhering to ensure that families in the private rented accommodation are fully aware of their rights and their landlords’ responsibilities.
2. That all individuals and families in Tower Hamlets have the right to live in property that is of an acceptable standard and is safe.
3. That all individuals and families in Tower Hamlets are aware of their responsibilities regarding their tenancies.

The Council welcomes;

1. The 2013 tribunal judgement in favour of a private tenant in Chapman House who had been subjected to a revenge eviction after reporting unacceptable living conditions to the ward councillor.
2. The council’s work on Chapman House since that case, including extensive visits from Environmental Health Officers, including two who worked very hard to compile a comprehensive report on the fire, risks and hazards arising from the substandard quality of housing in the block between 2013 and 2015.
3. The 20 Improvement Notices and 8 Prohibition Notices that the council has issued in respect of this block, having found that the landlord had breached building regulations (whilst noting that the landlord has continued to increase the rent for tenants of this unsafe housing despite not having complied with the notices and addressing the breach of regulations.
4. The landlord has cladded the building but did not submit a statutory notice to the Local Authority Building Control, under The Building Regulations 2010 (Amended) prior to cladding the building.
5. A poll commissioned for the campaigning organisation Generation Rent showing about 60 per cent of respondents back some form of rent control.

The Council Resolves to:

1. Establish a Private Rental Enforcement Team to work with local residents in private rented accommodation to address their concerns and work towards ensuring that their needs are met using Environmental Health Statutory powers.
2. Ensure that if tenants are living in a private rented property that is unsafe, or in need of repair, that the landlord concerned that the problems are remedied.
3. Ensure that tenants in private rented property are not subjected to unfair eviction.
4. Ensure that tenants in private rented property are not subjected to unfair rental charges.
5. Ensure that tenants are aware of their rights and responsibilities and what steps they need to take if they are dissatisfied.

6. Act as a go-between to help resolve disputes between tenants and landlords.
7. To research, develop and introduce a Tower Hamlets policy for more secure tenancy agreements for private tenants, including stabilising rent controls to prevent landlords raising rents each year by more than an inflationary index
8. To research, develop and introduce a Tower Hamlets Policy to make three year tenancies in the private rented sector standard across the sector, with rent caps linked to inflation, the standard of the private dwelling and whether the landlord is compliant with EHO Notices.
9. If the Landlord of Chapman House fails to address the outstanding notices and breach of building regulation notices that have been served on him to seek prosecution.
10. *To uses its powers under the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to tackle problems created by rogue landlords. A Rent Repayment Order, for example, can be issued to a landlord, requiring him or her to repay rent (up to a year in some cases) to a tenant.*
11. To use its power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices of up to £30,000 if a landlord does not comply with the terms of an Improvement Notice.
12. Engage with the best landlords to encourage self-regulation; recognising that the most responsible landlords have an interest in promoting better standards to raise the standing of the whole sector and avoid the need for further regulation, local authorities should better incentivise landlord 'PRS Champions' to work closely in partnership with the council and the wider landlord community.

12.14 Motion regarding Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Proposer: Councillor Mahbub Alam

Seconder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

The Council Notes:

Because of changes made by the administration to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for poor and vulnerable residents, many residents are suffering – especially the self-employed residents and tax payers.

One of the changes made by the administration was to use notional earnings equivalent to 35 hours at the National Living Wage in the assessment of Council Tax Reduction for residents who have been self-employed for over one year and whose declared earnings are below this figure.

The Council Resolves:

The Council must reconsider its approach and reinstate its Council Tax Reduction Scheme to pre-April status as the change put in place by the Mayor and the administration are having a significant negative impact on the residents.

12.15 Motion to Reverse Charging for Home Care and Adult Social Care –

Proposer: Councillor Aminur Khan

Seconder: Councillor Shah Alam

This Council Notes That:

1. Approximately 3,500 adults in Tower Hamlets receive support from social care at any one time.
2. Adult social care provides vital support to adults with a wide range of needs arising from physical/mental disability, physical illness/injury, mental illness and other life situations and helps them to live as independently as possible.
3. Despite the Chancellor's Spring Budget delivering an additional £2 billion for adult social care over the period 2017/18 to 2019/20, John Biggs made the decision to charge for adult social care services, which were historically free in Tower Hamlets.
4. Around 81% of people who receive support are living at home and around 51% receive "home care".
5. Approximately 2,200 people have been assessed and approximately 1,400 are being charged, which equates to approximately 63.4% of people who are having to pay for their care.
6. Approximately £240k has been generated since October 2017 to date. The estimated income from the original business case was £540k per year for 2 years – a total of £1080k.
7. In a newspaper article about the Council's budget proposal for 2018/19, John Biggs said, "We are putting the protection of the most vulnerable members of our community at the heart of these budget proposals."

This Council Believes That:

1. Contrary to what John Biggs said, charging for homecare and adult social care ultimately places people in more vulnerable situations, because they are not longer able to afford the support that they desperately need, leaving them feeling isolated.
2. The consequences of charging for adult social care, which is a lifeline for many, are manifold. A disabled person, for example, may be incapable of looking after themselves or leaving the house without a personal assistant and may suffer a subsequent decline in mental and physical health.
3. There may be delayed discharges from hospital, deterioration in overall quality of care and reliance on unpaid carers.
4. Those still living at home may be forced, against their will, into residential care.
5. A high percentage of Tower Hamlets' residents will require adult social care at some point in their lives and Tower Hamlets Council has a statutory duty to support and

meet the needs of its residents.

This Council Resolves:

1. Reversal of charges for adult social care and homecare to ensure that all those in need are supported.
2. We believe that there should be a universal social care service, free at the point of use, and we will campaign for a national solution to this national problem.

12.16 Motion regarding the new direction from the secretary of state for education about failure of tower hamlets children services

Proposer: Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim

Secunder: Councillor Mahbub Alam

The Council Notes:

1. On 12 September 2017, The Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening, issued a fresh "Direction" to Tower Hamlets Council because John Biggs led Labour administration was failing the residents in the critical statutory area of 'children social care'.

2. Full details of the decision can be found here on the Government website https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643844/Tower_Hamlets_Direction_Sept_2017_signed_v2.pdf

3. Tower Hamlets Children's Services Improvement Board was already chaired by a former DCLG appointed Commissioner in a new capacity as the Improvement Board Chair due to failure in April 2017 when OFSTED judged Tower Hamlets Children Services to be "inadequate" – the worst possible rating. The same service was judged "Good" with outstanding features under the previous OFSTED inspection.

4. The Secretary of State has now imposed fresh "Intervention Advisers" from two outside authorities (Islington and Lincolnshire County Council), whose own OFSTED inspection reports revealed their own services to be Good with Outstanding features, and the first line of their Terms of Reference state "London Borough of Tower Hamlets has failed in its delivery of children's social care services."

5. The latest decision by the Secretary of State is a clear proof that Government have no trust in John Biggs led Labour administration and their existing plan of improvement for Tower Hamlets Children Services.

6. After shambolic OFSTED failure, in yet another damning verdict on John Biggs's mayoralty, the new "Direction" letter from the Secretary of State stated, inter alia, the following:

· "...the Council is failing to perform to an adequate standard, some or all of the functions to which section 497A of the Education Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") is applied by section 50 of the Children Act 2004 ("children's social care functions");

· The Secretary of State, having considered representations made by the Council, considers it expedient, in accordance with her powers under section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996, to direct the Council as set out below in order to ensure that all of the Council's children's social care functions are performed to an adequate standard; and

· Pursuant to section 497A(4B) of the Education Act 1996, the Secretary of State directs the Council as follows:

a. To comply with any instructions of the Secretary of State in relation to the improvement of the Council's exercise of its children's social care functions and to provide such assistance as may be required;

b. To co-operate with the Intervention Advisers, including on request allowing the Intervention Advisers at all reasonable times access:

- i. to any premises of the Council;
- ii. to any document of or relating to the Council; and
- iii. to any employee or member of the Council”

The Council believes:

1. The latest ‘Order’ from the Secretary of State shows that his mayoralty is not just in a crisis but in a complete meltdown – and the buck stops with him.
2. in addition to the political leadership, the catastrophic failure of the Council’s top professional leadership in Children Services in performing their duties and responsibilities as evident in 2017 OFSTED inspection result of “inadequate” – the worst possible rating, together with, the damaging data breach and leaking of confidential and sensitive council information about a 5-year-old foster girl.

The Council resolves:

1. John Biggs has not done what is required. He must act now to put Children Services back on track.
2. John Biggs must ensure to provide the political and officer level leadership that has clearly been lacking thus far. The Secretary of State clearly feels that John Biggs and the Council have not done what is required - hence the fresh “Direction”.
3. Banish all talk about delivering a Good OFSTED rated service in the next two years but only talk about our intention to receive an Outstanding OFSTED rating as soon as is practicable.
4. That the Council appoint an independent person to investigate individual cases like that of the 5-year-old foster child to ensure that we have full confidence in the handling of such cases while Children's Services rebuilds its credibility.

12.17 Motion regarding the future of the Tower Hamlets Youth Service

Proposer: Councillor Gulam Robbani

Seconder: Councillor Oliur Rahman

This Council notes that:

1. Former Mayor Lutfur Rahman had a positive vision for the Youth Service which was expressed, for example, at the Cabinet in April 2012:

“He considered that what really mattered were the young people of Tower Hamlets who represented the future of the Borough and that youth services were provided that benefited them. It was his intention as Mayor that young people in Tower Hamlets received the best youth services and best education possible.”
2. That the main motivations of bringing the Youth Service back in-house were:
 - to save money on duplicating management functions and re-invest it in the front line of the service;
 - to respond to the Government’s localism agenda;
 - to strengthen the Council’s partnership agenda;
 - to obtain extra value by, for example, the youth service working effectively.
3. That although bringing the Service back in-house was a decision of the Executive Mayor, councillors were able to discuss the transfer openly within Council structures – for example, Councillor Oliur Rahman was able to explain the decision to the April meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at which Councillor Rachael Saunders declared a personal interest on this item as she had “been in receipt of information from some of the service providers managing the contract in question.”

This Council further notes that:

1. The current Mayor’s intention to make a fundamental change in the way that the Youth Service is run (initially on an interim basis) was not mentioned at the Cabinet on 10th May 2016, although planning must have been well underway by then.
2. The Mayor’s intention to make this fundamental change was set out in a briefing paper from the Mayor’s office dated 12th May 2016 which was circulated to all councillors.
3. This paper stated that the interim delivery plan would begin in July, which clearly precludes any wider member involvement (indeed, the paper refers to the decision having been developed in discussion with John Biggs and Councillor Saunders) and a future delivery model will be in place from April 2017 (and there will be full member involvement in options for this model, but how this will happen is not explained).
4. This paper also stated that a gap analysis is underway with a view to there being a programme of procurement and commissioning in June 2016 targeted at local third sector organisations.

5. This paper also states that it is the intention to offer youth services for the rest of this financial year from only eight venues in the borough – despite the fact that youth are often very reluctant to travel far to a formal provision. The paper states that the Council intends to offer an outreach service to encourage you to travel to the formal provision and also to rely, in the interim, on whatever additional services are provided in an un-co-ordinated manner by local charities or voluntary organisations.

This Council further notes that:

1. The Mayor's decision was revealed at the Council's Annual Meeting on 18th May 2016 by Councillor Rachael Saunders in what appeared to be an unplanned announcement. This included Councillor Saunders reading out an email from her mobile phone but not saying who had sent her the email (in sad contrast to her previous openness about who was briefing her).
2. Councillor Saunders stated that "The service has faced allegations of fraud and corruption" and other serious allegations. She also said that "Investigations into these serious allegations are ongoing," and that the Youth Service does not have the capacity to deliver as much as it has in the past. She stated that "we" were working out a service plan which would be based on reduced capacity and on when that had been developed would consideration be given to identifying and filling gaps. She expected the identification of gaps to be finished by June (a couple of weeks after she was speaking) – but did not mention John Biggs's intention to fill these gaps by contracting out parts of the service to third sector organisations (or who, in the event of this being done, would manage these organisations).
3. The Council Communications Office issued a press release on 26th May referring to the change only having been prompted by "historic shortcoming". This announced that an interim delivery model would be adopted "by the summer". It gave details of the interim delivery model and stated that young people's views had been listened to throughout the review process. (The members have yet to see a concrete tangible and evidence of that)
4. There have been a number of reports in the local press since the Council AGM which have reported the detail of various allegations – presumably either on the basis of their own imaginations or on the basis of briefings from unknown parties in the Council which have not been shared with all councillors.
5. That as a result of the way the Mayor and relevant Cabinet Members have dealt with this issue, it is entirely unclear what is happening to the youth service – which has led to a great deal of serious concern among service users and in the wider community.

This Council believes that:

1. If and when there are allegations of corruption or other serious malpractice, these should be investigated in accordance with Council procedures and individuals should be dealt with appropriately. (Independent Group fully supports this approach and have publicly offered to work together for the benefit of young people of Tower Hamlets).
2. That if a service is to be reviewed in order to spend or save money by cutting certain provisions, and/or deliver the service more efficiently or effectively, this

should be discussed openly, including with councillors and services users and the wider community rather than playing politics or blame-game.

3. (1) and (2) above should not be confused.

This Council further believes that:

1. The current position, in which the Administration appears to have responded to allegations against individuals by pre-emptively altering the service as a whole, and in which the Youth Service is to be run on an interim delivery model based on reduced capacity and enhanced by some sort of ad-hoc procurement, is ill thought out and poorly planned.
2. The interim service delivery model will, for the rest of this financial year, lead to an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour across the Borough – to the irritation of the whole community, for whom this is already a massive problem.
3. The interim service delivery model will, for the rest of this financial year, incur a risk of extra spending on management and quality assurance of the service – risks which have not been addressed in the little documentation available or in such public statements as have emerged.

This Council resolves that:

1. The current Mayor, John Biggs, should honour his commitment to govern in a transparent manner and he should put on the public record a full account of what has been going on, including what allegations have been made, when these were made, by whom and how - and critically how these are being investigated (releasing as much information as is possible without compromising the investigations or the individuals concerned); what prompted the service review and how it took place; and what his intentions are towards the service.
2. The current Mayor, John Biggs, to immediately stop any further work to drastically reduce and cut the Youth Service provision in the name of interim delivery model and engage in a serious, open, transparent consultation with the young people, residents and stakeholders.
3. The current Mayor, John Biggs, to reverse the decision to close unprecedented number of Youth Centres and look for an alternative way to provide effective, efficient and fit-for-purpose Borough-wide localised youth service provision.
4. The current Mayor, John Biggs, must keep the Youth Service in-house rather than privatising or contracting it out.
5. In the event that the current Mayor, John Biggs, should not agree to do think again, he must issue a statement clarifying how he intends to procure a service to fill in the gaps from the third sector, given that the Commissioners have been running grant-making functions; and he must also issue a comprehensive statement covering which of his chosen eight venues will pick up delivering the service previously provided by centres which John Biggs and Councillor Saunders have closed and how service users whose centres have been closed are expected to access the replacement services, including details of travel arrangements, etc.

12.18 Motion regarding Housing Achievements in Tower Hamlets – setting the record straight

Proposer: Councillor Mufti Miah

Seconder: Councillor Maium Miah

The Council Notes:

It has become more difficult than any time before for people in inner City boroughs like Tower Hamlets to find a decent home to rent or buy. Today many essential workers; teachers, nurses, fire fighters and other public service workers find it nearly impossible to buy or rent in Tower Hamlets.

The former Mayor Lutfur Rahman's administration embarked on an ambitious journey to tackle the housing issues locally in a two-prong strategy:

1. Building affordable houses in Tower Hamlets; and
2. Improving the standard for private properties.

For example, to deal with the poor standards of maintenance and upkeep within the private sector, then Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his Deputy Mayor Ohid Ahmed introduced 'licensing for private rented sector housing' under the Housing Act 2004.

The achievements of the Rahman Mayoral policies and the leadership between 2010 and 2015 were recognised by people and commentators across the UK. With Cllr. Ohid Ahmed he also led building the highest number of affordable homes in the country. Figures released by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) showed that between 2010/11 and 2015, Tower Hamlets delivered a record 5,590 affordable homes.

In addition, as Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration, Cllr Ohid Ahmed led two major regeneration programmes, Ocean Estate and Blackwall Reach.

The Independent Group's success under the leadership of former Mayor Lutfur Rahman, his Deputy, Cllr Ohid Ahmed, and his team was further acknowledged by the Government, who released £24.2 million in 2015 alone from the 'New Homes Bonus' scheme, which has enabled the current administration to continue that legacy of our housing delivery. By 2015, the council had secured the total of £53m in New Homes Bonus - the highest in the country.

A recent City Hall report further acknowledged our administration's achievement that Tower Hamlets had built more affordable housing than anywhere else in the capital.

There were other regeneration projects – approved by the previous administration - for example 148 homes in Watts Grove with £26.33m funding approved by Mayor Lutfur Rahman on 5 November 2014. The London Docks regeneration project not only secured invaluable affordable housing but also a space for a 1,500 spaces strong secondary school in Wapping.

The Whitechapel Vision along with its Master Plan was the brainchild of the former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his then Cabinet Member Alibor Choudhury. Both were approved by the previous administration and adopted by the Council. This historic regeneration of

Whitechapel is the former administration's hard work and a testament to their commitment and ambition to improve the Borough which included local businesses, the agreed 'tech city' and the expansion of medical research facilities.

The Whitechapel Vision, its Master Plan and including associated regeneration will also provide:

- At least 3,500 new homes
- 5,000 new local jobs
- School improvements
- Transformed public spaces
- Enhanced local heritage
- A civic centre in the heart of the community

We have proposed a 'local community-led forum of grass-root stakeholders' to add value to get it right in the implementation phase which has been ignored by John Biggs.

The Council Believes:

John Biggs, his allies, and other opportunists have sought to take credit for what Mayor Lutfur Rahman, his Deputy Ohid Ahmed, former Cabinet member Alibor Choudhury and other cabinet members worked hard to deliver for residents.

John Biggs promised to build a thousand more houses in his manifesto, in reality he has built none save to carry on Lutfur Rahman's commitments as this was tied to the projects previously started and the funding previously secured and approved by us.

In the 2014 mayoral election, the previous administration had a manifesto promise to deliver further 5,000 affordable housing for the next 4 years by 2018. Indeed, on top of the 5,590 homes already delivered by the previous administration, another 3,000 affordable homes were in the pipeline and were well on course to be delivered as the previous administration's manifesto promise of additional 5,000 local homes. It's disingenuous for John Biggs to take credit for affordable housing in Tower Hamlets in which his administration had no contribution.

Our administration had a clear vision and drive to deliver more social affordable housing in the borough to alleviate overcrowding and increase life chances of our young people. A vision and drive we fail to see in John Biggs administration. There are no new council or affordable homes built between June 2015 until now 'which were not started or approved by our previous administration under former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and his Deputy Mayor'.

John Biggs has yet to credibly name one big regeneration project which he has initiated and approved which will deliver substantial affordable housing but as usual, he tries to take credit for the success of our hard work.

The Council Resolves:

John Biggs should stop taking the credit for former Mayor Lutfur Rahman and Deputy Mayor Cllr Ohid Ahmed's achievements and learn to take responsibility for the series of catastrophic failures he has committed and to stop blaming anyone but him for easy political point scoring.

To acknowledge the historic achievements of the former Mayor, Deputy Mayor and their administration in delivering the record level of affordable housing as acknowledged by DCLG, the GLA and others.

12.19 Motion regarding Stop closure of one stop shops in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Secunder: Councillor Oliur Rahman

The Council Notes:

John Biggs led Tower Hamlets administration is planning to shut down four One Stop Shops in their current form which provide invaluable services to many residents, including friends, family members and loved ones. This is being disguised as a “merger”.

The reason or ‘excuse’ given is the integration of the service with the Idea Stores and forcing the residents to use online services instead.

To force the service online will alienate the elderly, those who do not use a computer, find reading a challenge, have special needs or for whom the first language is not English.

This means there will no longer be ‘immediate’ face to face service in its current form about parking, housing benefits, council tax, welfare etc. for the residents in stand-alone One Stop Shops with face to face contact providing expert knowledge and support to help residents – many of whom would be vulnerable in a distressed situation or in need of ‘urgent’ help.

There is a genuine fear that the face to face service will completely disappear even if any ‘temporary stop-gap-measures’ or ‘a provisional promise’ to see complicated cases at a future date was made to some users to get the changes approved now in order to ‘manage’ any protest or to negate the complaints from the residents/users, staff, elected representatives and others. The ‘if needed’ assistance and a possible face to face meetings in complicated cases at a ‘future’ date leave a lot to be desired and are meaningless rhetoric for residents who need immediate face to face help.

Independent Group’s Shadow Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Partnerships, Cllr Ohid Ahmed, has raised this important issue and is campaigning to save the service. If approved this proposal will mean there will no longer be any stand-alone One Stop Shops with immediate face to face service using ‘ticket and wait’ provision currently in place in the borough.

It is also important to ensure that the Council does not allow the new wifi service to provide an opportunity for hackers and others in respect of data breaches and access to confidential information.

Approximately 1,000 residents visit the One Stop Shops services on daily basis – many of whom are from the ethnic minorities or the most vulnerable groups due to a variety of factors.

The Council Resolves:

To ask Mayor John Biggs to stop his proposed cut and closure of four One Stops Shops in Tower Hamlets due to its detrimental impact on residents who already feel besieged by his brutal cuts as well as a record 9% increase in the council tax while the Mayor enjoys an 11.7% pay rise at more than £10,000 extra in his pay packet.

12.20 Motion regarding Fire Safety in Tower Hamlets for Residents

Proposer: Councillor Kibria Choudhury

Seconder: Councillor Md. Maium Miah

The Council notes:

Prime Minister Theresa May has admitted in the Parliament that there are other buildings with 'combustible' cladding - like Grenfell Tower - across the country. She stated that that the Department for Communities and Local Government will inform the relevant local authorities and checks were being carried out.

The fire in Grenfell Tower in London was a national tragedy - with 80 people presumed dead but the accurate figure is likely to be more - to widespread public anger, dismay and a national search for answers. They all should have been safe when they went to sleep at night. In the 21st century Britain, one of the richest countries in the world, in the richest city in the country, nobody should be living in a home that risks their life.

It's heartbreaking when you consider that this devastating fire was eminently avoidable. The allegedly unnecessary cost cutting measures by Kensington and Chelsea (K&C) Council or its agencies to reportedly save £5,000 by installing cheaper but more flammable cladding and non-existence of sprinklers did not help the poor people, which included very young children, who were trapped and died in the fire. This becomes even more devastating when you consider the fact that the K&C Council is sitting on a shocking £209 million reserves in their coffers – surplus to their requirements, and offered a £100 council tax rebate to residents just before the local election in 2014.

The Chief Executive, Leader and Deputy Leader have of K&C council had to resign from their positions after initial reluctance. The Government is being urged to send commissioners to the K&C council.

The Boss - Director of Grenfell Tower insulation provider - 'is government adviser'. Technical director of Saint Gobain UK, which makes Celotex insulation, is reportedly also on the Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC), which advises Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

In Tower Hamlets, we have many similar towers and residents are genuinely worried and have concerns. We have seen many fires in Tower Hamlets in recent weeks with many families evacuated.

On 3 July, a young teenage girl – 17 years old – tragically died after trying to escape a burning fire in her home in Mile End, with 50 people evacuated and four suffering smoke inhalations. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones, as well as all the victims and loved ones of Grenfell Tower and other fires in the capital.

A large blaze tore through the roof of a multi-million-pound development next to Regent's Canal, Bow Wharf in Tower Hamlets where eighty firefighters were dispatched to tackle the fire at the five-storey building in Bow Wharf, Wennington Road – luckily no one was yet living in the building.

Following Grenfell fire tragedy, John Biggs issued a statement citing Tower Hamlets Homes (THH), Council's Arms-length Housing provider, about the Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) of its THH managed tower blocks in the Borough but has failed to publish the

FRAs despite requests by the residents and the Independent Group.

John Biggs has yet to confirm the final details about the safety of the buildings and towers managed by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and private landlords.

Labour administration in Tower Hamlets sold off the family silver – our social housing stock – to private companies or RSLs – so John Biggs cannot simply absolve himself of his utmost responsibility of keeping all our residents safe in light of the tragedy that befell on the poor people of Grenfell Tower in west London at night.

Independent Group in London Borough of Tower Hamlets had officially written to John Biggs highlighting the concerns and asking for reassurance and specific answers for residents, still awaiting a reply.

The Council believes:

Everyone deserves to know if their home is safe when they go to sleep at night.

All Landlords - including local authorities, RSLs, Arm's Length Housing Management Organisations (ALMOs) like THH and private landlords - have a legal obligation to provide safe and secure buildings for our residents and where they cannot do so they must provide alternative accommodation.

People need assurance and answers and Biggs must ensure that 'all' our buildings in Tower Hamlets are safe for our residents.

The Council resolves:

1. Install up to date sprinklers and smoke alarms that are regularly checked – retrofitted if needed without any exception, and implement all relevant recommendations made by Lakanal House fire inquiry.
2. A clear public assurance that none of our buildings, not just THH tower blocks, is fitted with the cladding that contains 'flammable polyethylene' used in Grenfell Tower or have 'any combustible material' that may spread instead of containing the fire.
3. The most appropriate fire safety doors that can at least withstand the fire for 60 minutes, retrofitted if necessary, in consultation with the residents.
4. Comply with the best practice and official advice from the Fire Brigade and other relevant authorities on fire safety.
5. Comply with the advice from The Department for Communities and Local Government which state: "Cladding using a composite aluminium panel with a 'polyethylene core' would be non-compliant with current Building Regulations guidance."
6. Use the Council's position and power directly, or through appointed board members sitting on RSL boards and other influential places, to ensure that the above is complied with by the RSLs, the Council and THH.
7. Publish all Fire Risk Assessments carried out by the Council, THH and RSLs.
8. Keep all local ward councillors inform of any local issues in this regard.

With the Independent Group and others who may wish to join, write to the Government for urgent changes in the fire safety laws. Use the Council's reserves and/or contingency funds to ensure all our buildings - particularly high rise and tower blocks - are safe and are properly maintained

12.21 Motion Regarding Save The Jamboree

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Cregan
Seconder: Councillor Denise Jones

This Council notes:

- Cable Street Studios is a remarkable cavalcade of artists, musicians and educators, housed in the labyrinthine hallways of the famous industrial heritage building on the border of Limehouse and Shadwell. It is a unique venue for creative collaboration and cultural exchange forming a unique social and cultural asset to the local community of Tower Hamlets and those beyond.
- At its heart is the much-loved grassroots live music venue, Jamboree, that has provided a stage for musicians from around the world for almost a decade and a hub for the local community.
- An online page regarding redevelopment plans for Cable Street Studios was recently taken down by the landlord, Sudbury Properties Ltd. No official information has been shared with the tenants, local residents or the Council.
- Cable Street Studios was recently denied Asset of Community Value (ACV) status without steps for appeal being provided.
- The landlord, Sudbury Properties Ltd, have now refused to renew its lease of Jamboree and are forcing the closure at the end of March – weeks before the celebrated venue's 10 year anniversary.
- The number of live music venues in London is dwindling with 40% of grassroots venues lost since 2008.
- The Mayor of London's support for Jamboree to remain open.
- That Mayor Biggs has written to Sudbury to express support for the current use and venue.
- That the Council's officers are in dialogue with the current Jamboree organisers to look into alternative space as a last resort
- That our Draft Regulation 19 Local Plan provides protections to artistic venues:
 - Policy S.CF1: Supporting Community Facilities: Development which seeks to protect existing community facilities will be supported
 - Policy D.CF2: Existing community facilities: Existing community facilities must be retained unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a need for the facility or an alternative community use within the local community; or a replacement facility of a similar nature that would better meet the needs of existing users is provided.

This Council believes:

- Jamboree is one of the UK's most unique and vibrant live music venues and we are privileged to have it here in the heart of the East End. Its loss would be sorely felt by the community in Tower Hamlets, particularly in a year when the borough is bidding to be the London Borough of Culture.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the Mayor to urge Sudbury Properties to revoke their decision not to renew lease the lease of Jamboree.
- To call on the Mayor to review and recognise the application of Cable Street

Studios to be recognised as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

- To call on the Mayor to ensure that any future development plans for Cable Street Studios ensures the continuation of the existing art and cultural community.

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