

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JULY 2018

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Rabina Khan

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Puru Miah

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Kahar Chowdhury declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda Item 10.12, a Member Question regarding LBTH Councillor representation on the Poplar HARCA board. This was on the basis that he was the leaseholder owner of a Poplar HARCA property.

Councillor Eve McQuillan declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in agenda item 8, Administration Motion regarding Celebrating 70 Years of The NHS. This was on the grounds that she worked for the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Councillor Helal Uddin declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda Item 10.12, a Member Question regarding LBTH representation on the Poplar HARCA board. This was on the basis that his employer, the Bromley by Bow Centre, had a working relationship with Poplar HARCA and his wife was a leaseholder owner of a Poplar HARCA property.

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in agenda item 10.1, a Member Question regarding Grafton House. This was on the grounds that he was a Council appointed Member of the East End Homes Board.

Councillor Bex White declared a non-pecuniary personal interest in agenda item 8 – Administration Motion regarding Celebrating 70 Years Of The NHS. This was on the grounds that her spouse was an NHS GP.

Members declaring Disclosable Pecuniary Interests would be required to leave the room for the duration of the relevant agenda items.

3. MINUTES

DECISION:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting and the Annual General Council Meeting held on 23rd May 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

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

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

For announcements, please see the minutes

Councillor Kevin Brady **moved**, and Councillor Rachel Blake **seconded**, a procedural motion that “Under Procedure Rule 12.1(C), the order of business be changed as set out in the Motion below. The reason for this was to enable the meeting to effectively conduct its business given the need to accommodate a State of the Borough debate in addition to the standard agenda items.

Procedural Motion.

The Council is required by the Constitution to have a State of the Borough Debate at every Annual Meeting. However, in order to accommodate the Freedom of the Borough award at the AGM in May, Council agreed to defer the State of the Borough debate to the July Council meeting.

Therefore in these exceptional circumstances, in order to ensure that the meeting covers the full agenda within the allotted three hours, it is proposed to alter the normal time limits on items of business.

These changes would apply to this meeting (18th July 2018) only.

It is proposed to:

- Suspend council procedural rule 11.5 (e), to reduce the time limit on both the administration and opposition motion from 30 minutes to 15 minutes.
- Suspend council procedural rule 10.12, to reduce the time limit on members' questions, from 30 minutes to 20 minutes.
- Suspend council procedural rule 1.3 (a), to reduce the time limit on the State of the Borough Debate from 1 hour to 40 minutes.

The procedural motion was **agreed**.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition regarding STOP Drug Dealing in Batty Street E1

Samran Saleem 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.

DECISION:

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community for a written response within 28 days.

(**Action by:** Denise Radley, Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community).

5.2 Petition calling on Tower Hamlets Council to repair Frank Dobson Sq Fountain and replace statue

Tara Hudson and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION:

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

(**Action by:** Ann Sutcliffe, Acting Corporate Director, Place).

5.3 Petition regarding Divestment from fossil fuels

Jess D'Arcy and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION:

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

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

5.4 Petition regarding Buxton Street Empty Space

Caroline Hand addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Amina Ali, Cabinet Member

for Culture, Arts and Brexit then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION:

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

(**Action by:** Ann Sutcliffe, Acting Corporate Director, Place)

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor presented his tabled report to the Council. Councillor Peter Golds, on behalf of the Conservative Group Leader, then responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

7. STATE OF THE BOROUGH DEBATE

The Mayor, the Leader of the Conservative Group and Members of the Council set out their views on the 'State of the Borough'.

8. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE

8 – Administration Motion regarding Celebrating 70 Years Of The NHS

Councillor Denise Jones **moved** and Councillor Eve McQuillan **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Andrew Wood **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** the following amendment to the motion to be debated as **tabled**:

Insert new item 2

On 10th June 1940 a Committee was appointed by the Coalition Government to report on social insurance and allied services. The report, published in December 1942, identified the five giant evils in society as "Squalor, ignorance, want, idleness and disease." It proposed comprehensive and far reaching solutions to these problems and became a "best seller."

The King's Speech to Parliament on 24 November 1943 said;

"My Ministers will present to you their views and proposals regarding an enlarged and unified system of social insurance, a comprehensive health service and a new scheme of workmen's compensation." (Column 9 Hansard, 24 November 1943)

Insert new item 3

The three major political parties contesting the 1945 election all included comprehensive proposals for Health and National Insurance within their manifesto commitments. That for the Conservative Party said:

“The health services of the country will be made available to all citizens. Everyone will contribute to the cost, and no one will be denied the attention, the treatment or the appliances he requires because he cannot afford them.”

Following Labour’s victory they were able to implement their manifesto commitments.

Re-number items 2 as item 3 and item 3 as item 4.

Amendment to item 3 under this council further notes (replace with):

During the lifetime of the National Health Service there have been Conservative Governments for 42 years who have, after 1952, always increased expenditure on the Health Service on year on basis and were responsible for launching the post war expansion of new hospitals.

All parties in Government have sought to undertake this, during often turbulent economic circumstances. The exceptional year was during the Labour Government of 1974-79 when in 1977-78, at a time when public spending was being cut as part of the IMF austerity measures, expenditure was reduced.

Amend Item 5 to read (replace with)

The concerns of the East London Health and Care partnership need to be examined and addressed, particularly in light of the recent announcement of the 20 billion health bonus announced by the government.

Delete items 6 and 7.

After “This council believes” delete items 2 and 3.

Amend item 4 to read

This council welcomes the increased funding of 3.4% announced by the Government.

Last sentence

To celebrate the invaluable contribution the NHS and its staff have made over the last 70 years, and to work with colleagues and partners to safeguard the future of the NHS.

Replace with

To celebrate the invaluable contribution the NHS and its staff have made over the last 70 years, and to work with colleagues and partners to ensure that the NHS continues to deliver outstanding care.

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

The original motion was then put to a vote and was **agreed**.

DECISION:

This Council notes that:

1. The National Health Service celebrated its 70th birthday on 5th July 2018.
2. The NHS was founded by a Labour government, with three core principles:
 - a. That it meet the needs of everyone;
 - b. That it be free at the point of delivery;
 - c. That it be based on clinical need, not ability to pay.
3. We are all proud of our NHS, which has made a huge difference to public health and delivered incredible developments in medical science, all but eradicating debilitating diseases like polio and diphtheria and continuing to develop ground-breaking treatments.

This Council further notes:

1. The NHS could not survive without the extraordinary care, skill, compassion and dedication provided by over 1.5 million staff members.
2. The 70th birthday of the NHS is a time to celebrate the massive contribution made by the organisation and its staff, but it is also an important time to look at the future of the NHS, which is seriously threatened.
3. NHS services under successive Tory governments have been pushed to the brink by the biggest financial squeeze in NHS history as well as cuts to public health and social care.
4. The East London Health & Care Partnership, which covers Tower Hamlets, warns that:

In the east London area alone, **there will be a £580m shortfall in funding within four years, by 2021.**

Services and facilities may have to close and standards of care will suffer if not addressed urgently. Change is required, and fast, to help keep us healthy and well in the future and to receive care when we need it.

5. A&Es are overstretched and overcrowded, waiting lists for operations are far too long, and key performance targets are routinely missed.

6. That many staff members feel threatened by Brexit, which is also having a severe impact on the ability of the NHS to recruit much-needed staff from outside the UK.
7. The ongoing campaign to save the NHS, including important contributions from doctors, nurses, patients, other NHS staff members, and campaigners including councillors, trade unions and our local MPs Jim Fitzpatrick and Rushanara Ali.

This Council believes that:

1. The NHS has provided a remarkable public service over the last 70 years, and we must do everything we can to protect it and ensure it can continue to provide world-class care.
2. Our NHS is being failed by the Government, which is not providing adequate funding to match rising demand.
3. Our NHS urgently needs proper investment to address the vast pressure the NHS faces.
4. The Government's recent announcement of an annual 3.4% increase for NHS funding falls short of what is needed – this is an uncosted standstill settlement, with the IFS saying the NHS needs 3.3% just to maintain current levels.

This Council resolves:

1. To celebrate the invaluable contribution the NHS and its staff have made over the last 70 years, and to work with colleagues and partners to safeguard the future of the NHS.

(Action by: Denise Radley, Corporate Director, Health Adults and Community/ the Mayor's Office)

9. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE

9 – Opposition Motion by the Conservative Group regarding the Isle Of Dogs & South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework

Councillor Andrew Wood **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Rachel Blake **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the following amendment to the motion to be debated as **tabled**:

(Deleted text scored out, added text underlined)

The Council notes:

The release of the Isle of Dogs & South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework in May 2018 together with the accompanying Transport Strategy,

Local Connections Strategy and the Development Infrastructure Funding Study (DIFS).

This contains the following total forecasts for the number of new homes in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area (Poplar, Blackwall & Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens wards) by 2041.

Low 312,000 (19,500 permitted and 11,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

High 387,000 (19,500 permitted and 18,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

Maximum 49,000 (19,500 permitted and 29,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

Plus 110,000 new jobs in all three options

The Council further notes that in the same area that:

- The draft LBTH Local Plan sets a minimum housing target of 30,601 new homes
- The draft GLA London Plan sets a minimum housing target of 29,000 new homes

That the GLA is responding to the draft LBTH Local Plan evidence by reducing the overall target for new homes in the GLA emerging London Plan.

That development while slowing has not stopped and that ~~new~~ schemes are at pre-application or formal application stage being considered on Poplar high street, Marsh Wall, Skylines, Westferry Printworks, Quay House and that One Housing Group has initiated discussions on potentially re-developing the future of four identified sites on the island, which could involve some re-development.

The Council notes that the Development Infrastructure Funding Study is recommending the following investment in new infrastructure (gross spend).

£'000

<u>By</u>	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/2022	First five years
<u>Category of</u>						
<u>Spending</u>						
Utilities	£2,728	£11,088	£8,838	£11,838	£11,838	£46,330
Transport & Local Connections	£139	£9,806	£18,756	£23,830	£17,164	£69,695
Education	£28,946	£28,946	£28,946	£28,946	£28,946	£144,730
Fire, Ambulance, Police,	£2,930	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2,930

CCTV						
Health	£1,526	£1,526	£1,526	£1,526	£1,526	£7,630
Leisure	£4,764	£4,764	£4,764	£4,764	£4,764	£23,820
Community facilities	£738	£738	£5,411	£5,411	£5,411	£17,709
Total Low	£41,771	£56,868	£68,241	£76,315	£69,649	£312,844
By Priority of Spending	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/2022	First five years
Critical	£2,450	£17,310	£20,310	£18,185	£20,185	£78,440
Essential	£35,974	£39,141	£47,314	£55,313	£48,147	£225,889
High	£3,347	£417	£417	£917	£417	£5,515
Desirable	£0	£0	£200	£1,900	£900	£3,000
	£41,771	£56,868	£68,241	£76,315	£69,649	£312,844

~~Of note is that most of the 2017/18 spending did not happen and that with the exception of the South Dock bridge none of the 2018/19 spending is underway.~~

That the Council has already identified infrastructure investment in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area:

- South Dock Bridge preparation and feasibility
- Crossharbour DLR improvements

The OAPF confirms the following investment is already committed by Transport for London and LB Tower Hamlets:

- New higher capacity DLR trains, running every 2 minutes at peak times
- Bus service and reliability enhancements
- 2018 opening of Elizabeth Line
- Major Capital Investment in Delivering Healthy Streets
- Investing in the Cycle Network and CS3

That the DIFS describes the priorities as follows:

1. Critical enabling. This category includes all infrastructure that is critical to facilitate a development. Without these works development cannot proceed.
2. Essential mitigation. This category includes all infrastructure that we believe is necessary to mitigate the impacts arising from the development.
3. High priority. This category includes all infrastructure that support wider strategic or site-specific objectives which are set out in planning policy but would not necessarily prevent development from occurring,

although that would need to be considered on a case by case basis

4. Desirable. This defines all projects that are deemed to be of benefit but would not prevent, on balance, the development from occurring or from being acceptable if they were not taken forward.

That these growth numbers and the infrastructure required are unprecedented within London and therefore require ~~an unprecedented response reminiscent of the London Docklands Development Corporation~~ robust intervention from Local, Regional and National Government to step up to the challenge.

That the Mayor has already established:

- Construction Engagement Forum on the Isle of Dogs
- Framework for allocating infrastructure funding

That the Neighbourhood Plan for the Isle of Dogs was recommended for refusal by an Independent Examiner because of a 'fundamental flaw in the plan' where 'the infrastructure evidence is simply not robust or proportionate to support a key policy'.

The Council therefore calls on the Mayor to:

- Respond to the GLA's Opportunity Area Planning Framework consultation setting out preferred terms of an LBTH Delivery Board.
- Work with the GLA to identify maximum feasible delivery resources for infrastructure in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Area for the benefit of current and future residents.
- Work with the GLA family, Developers and Utilities providers to ensure that disruption caused by construction is minimised for current and future residents
- Continue to monitor the evidence base for the infrastructure need for the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Area.

- ~~Set up the recommended LBTH Delivery Board which will include the GLA, TfL, developers and representatives from the community~~
- ~~Set up the Community Development Panel who will nominate representatives to sit on the main LBTH Delivery Board~~
- ~~Set up the recommended dedicated Delivery Team whose sole responsibility will be to deliver infrastructure / projects as outlined in the documents~~

- ~~Set up the Utility Providers Forum~~

- ~~Set up the Developer Forum~~

- ~~Establish a Construction Charter~~

- ~~Initiate the recommended Future Studies (p119 of the OAPF) which the GLA describe as urgent~~

In addition, if the Critical Enabling works described as “Without these works development cannot proceed,” are not undertaken then new planning applications be refused on the grounds of cumulative over-development.

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

The motion as amended was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

DECISION

The Council notes:

The release of the Isle of Dogs & South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework in May 2018 together with the accompanying Transport Strategy, Local Connections Strategy and the Development Infrastructure Funding Study (DIFS).

This contains the following total forecasts for the number of new homes in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar area (Poplar, Blackwall & Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens wards) by 2041.

Low 31,000 (19,500 permitted and 11,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

High 38000 (19,500 permitted and 18,500 future potential, with 23,000 existing)

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The Council further notes that in the same area that:

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That development while slowing has not stopped and that schemes are at pre-application or formal application stage on Marsh Wall, Skylines, Westferry Printworks, Quay House and that One Housing Group has initiated discussions on the future of four identified sites on the island, which could involve some re-development.

The Council notes that the Development Infrastructure Funding Study is recommending the following investment in new infrastructure (gross spend).

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4. Desirable. This defines all projects that are deemed to be of benefit but would not prevent, on balance, the development from occurring or from being acceptable if they were not taken forward.

That these growth numbers and the infrastructure required are unprecedented within London and therefore require robust intervention from Local, Regional and National Government to step up to the challenge.

That the Mayor has already established:

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The Council therefore calls on the Mayor to:

- Respond to the GLA's Opportunity Area Planning Framework consultation setting out preferred terms of an LBTH Delivery Board.
- Work with the GLA to identify maximum feasible delivery resources for infrastructure in the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Area for the benefit of current and future residents.
- Work with the GLA family, Developers and Utilities providers to ensure that disruption caused by construction is minimised for current and future residents
- Continue to monitor the evidence base for the infrastructure need for the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Area.

In addition, if the Critical Enabling works described as "Without these works development cannot proceed," are not undertaken then new planning applications be refused on the grounds of cumulative over-development.

(Action by: Ann Sutcliffe, Acting Corporate Director, Place).

10. 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-

10.1 Question from Councillor Dan Tomlinson requesting an update on the Grafton House fire.

10.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds about proposed changes to the Greenwich Foot Tunnel and clean air concerns.

10.3 Question from Councillor Asma Islam about the Mayor's negotiations to introduce the London Living Wage for young people.

10.4 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood regarding the preservation of water space.

10.5 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin regarding Council action to tackle ASB and crime in Island Gardens.

10.6 Question from Councillor Marc Francis requesting an update on the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme review.

10.7 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar regarding recent drug raids.

10.8 Question from Councillor Ehtasham Haque regarding the latest Ofsted monitoring visit (No supplementary question was asked).

10.9 Question from Councillor Kevin Brady about the use of the Council's children's services following the recent changes.

10.10 Question from Councillor John Pierce about the parking times in Weavers Wards

10.11 Question from Councillor Puru Miah about Council support for a bus stop to be renamed as Altab Ali Park (No supplementary question was asked)

10.12 Question from Councillor Muhammad Harun about Council Membership of the Poplar HARCA Board.

Question 10.13 was not put due to lack of time. A Written response would be provided to the question.

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

11. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**11.1 Report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Abdal Ullah (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee), presented the Committee's Annual Report for 2017-18.

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

DECISION

1. That the contents of the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2017-18 be noted.
2. That the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4 be noted.

(**Action by:** Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer)

12. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS/EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)

There was no business to transact under this agenda item.

13. OTHER BUSINESS**13.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Appointment of Co-Opted Members**

The Council considered a report proposing the appointment of a number of Co-Optees to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**.

DECISION

1. That the following co-optees of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be approved:
 - 1.1 Dr Philip Rice as the Church of England diocese representative;
 - 1.2 Joanna Hannan as the Roman Catholic diocese representative;
 - 1.3 Muhammad Khoyrul Shaheed as the Muslim faith representative; and
 - 1.4 Neil Cunningham; Ahmed Hussain and Fatiha Kassouri as parent governor representatives.

2. That the appointments above will take effect immediately and will be reviewed following the Council elections in May 2022 (or such earlier date as required).

(**Action by:** Asmat Hussain Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer)

14. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

14.1 Motion regarding the Grenfell Tower response

Councillor Sirajul Islam **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

The motion was then put to a vote and was **agreed**.

DECISION:

This Council notes:

1. The catastrophic Grenfell Tower fire disaster which broke out on 14th June last year in Kensington and Chelsea which killed 72 people.
2. The causes of the fire are still being investigated but it is strongly believed that the fire spread so rapidly because of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding that was found on the outside of the building.
3. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, Tower Hamlets Council gave significant support to Kensington and Chelsea including seconding staff to the borough to provide assistance.
4. Despite Government promises to the contrary, according to media reports many of those made homeless by the tragedy have yet to be permanently rehoused over a year on from the disaster.

This Council also notes:

1. At the time of the Grenfell fire, THH and the council had already completed new Fire Risk Assessments on all of its 900 Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) blocks.
2. The council provided support to RPs and private landlords to test and replace cladding on tower blocks in the borough, including Randall House (a PFI scheme), which had a small amount of category 3 ACM which was quickly replaced.
3. In the Budget this year the Mayor, Council and THH agreed a significant programme of investment, committing £26.8m in new fire protection works with the aim of reducing the fire risks in THH properties even further over the next four years.

4. The Mayor and council have consistently lobbied Government to secure funding for cladding replacement costs and that it took almost a year for the Government to agree to do so but that this funding does not cover private blocks, of which there are many in Tower Hamlets, and does not cover councils to install sprinkler systems in high rise blocks to further reduce fire risks.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the Grenfell Public Enquiry and to call on Government to fully fund councils and the Fire Brigade to implement its recommendations.

2. To continue to lobby Government for funding to install sprinkler systems in high rise residential blocks and to provide support to leaseholders and tenants in private blocks where cladding needs to be removed.

(Action by: Ann Sutcliffe, Acting Corporate Director, Place).

(Motion 14.2 was not debated due to lack of time)

The meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.