

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2008

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

Members Present:

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Lutfa Begum	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Abdul Munim
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Fazlul Haque	Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Clair Hawkins	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Alexander Heslop	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Waiseul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

The meeting opened at 7.33 p.m.

The Mayor, Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Carli Harper-Penman and Councillor Mohammed Mamun Rashid.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest in items included on the agenda as follows:

Councillor	Item(s)	Type of interest	Reason
Helal Abbas	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Helal Abbas	11.4	Personal	Member of Tower Hamlets Credit Union
Ohid Ahmed	5.2.3	Personal	Chair of Grants Panel
Ohid Ahmed	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder, Poplar Harca
Rajib Ahmed	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Rofique Ahmed	5.1.1 & 11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Rofique Ahmed	8.1 & 11.9	Personal	Board member – Olympic Delivery Authority Planning Committee
Rofique Ahmed	11.4	Personal	Member of the GMB
Rofique Ahmed	11.5	Personal	Family members on housing waiting list
Anwara Ali	5.2.3	Personal	Board member – Tower Hamlets PCT and GP in Tower Hamlets
Mohammed Shahid Ali	Urgent motion	Personal	Tenant, Toynbee Housing Association
Shahed Ali	11.3 & Urgent motion	Personal	Leaseholder/Toynbee Island Homes
Abdul Asad	11.4	Personal	Member of the Co-operative Party
Lutfu Begum	5.2.3	Personal	Employed by PCT
Stephanie Eaton	Urgent motion	Personal	Leaseholder, Toynbee/Island Homes
Fazlul Haque	11.2	Personal	Member of NO2ID Campaign
Fazlul Haque	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Philip Briscoe	7.2	Personal	Professional relationship with Swan Housing (not related to this project)

Philip Briscoe	11.1	Personal	Professional relationship with renewable energy companies
Shafiqul Haque	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Shafiqul Haque	11.10	Personal	Board member, Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Carli Harper-Penman	11.2	Personal	Member of the NO21D campaign
Carli Harper-Penman	11.4	Personal	Member of the Co-operative Party
Alex Heslop	5.1.1, 7.7, 7.11, 7.18, 11.10	Personal	Board Member, Tower Hamlets Homes
Alex Heslop	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder and Board Member, Tower Hamlets Homes
Alex Heslop	11.4	Personal	Member of Co-operative Party and shareholder in co-operative
Shirley Houghton	Urgent motion	Personal	Member, Barkantine Management Board
Ahmed Hussan	5.2.3	Personal	Employed by PCT
Sirajul Islam	11.5	Personal	On Council Housing waiting list
Sirajul Islam	11.10	Personal	Board member – Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Waiseul Islam	11.10	Personal	Board member, Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Ann Jackson	5.2.3	Personal	Had discussions with the petitioner organisation
Denise Jones	5.1.1, 7.7, 7.11, 7.18, 11.3, 11.10	Personal	Board member, East End Homes and Tower Hamlets Homes
Denise Jones	5.2.2	Personal	Director of bookshop in Tower Hamlets
Denise Jones	5.2.3	Personal	Board member – Tower Hamlets PCT
Azizur R. Khan	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Shiria Khatun	11.3	Personal	Tenant – Poplar Harca

Harun Miah	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Oliur Rahman	8.1	Personal	Previously been a member of Neighbourhood Watch
Oliur Rahman	11.2	Personal	Signed the NO21D petition
Oliur Rahman	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Oliur Rahman	11.5	Personal	On Council Housing waiting list
Oliur Rahman	Urgent motion	Personal	Tenant Toynbee/Island Homes
Muhammad Abdullah Salique	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
A. A. Sardar	5.1.1	Personal	Leaseholder
A. A. Sardar	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Bill Turner	5.2.3	Personal	Founder Governor of East London Mental Health Foundation Trust
Bill Turner	11.4	Personal	Member, Co-operative Party and shareholder in co-operative and member of Tower Hamlets Credit Union
Abdal Ullah	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Salim Ullah	11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Motin Uz-Zaman	5.1.1 & 11.3	Personal	Leaseholder
Motin Uz-Zaman	5.1.1 & 11.3	Personal	Board member – Poplar Harca and East End Homes
Motin Uz-Zaman	5.2.3 & 8.1	Personal	Employed by Barts and the London NHS Trust

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That subject to amendments to (i) correct the spelling of Cllr Shahed Ali's name; and (ii) record the declaration by Cllr Philip Briscoe of a personal interest in agenda item 10.1 as the Director of a company that provides advice on property development; the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th June 2008 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**(i) Former Councillors Dan Kelly and Brian Son**

At the invitation of the Mayor the Council, officers and members of the public stood for a minute's silence in memory of former Councillors Dan Kelly and Brian Son, who had each passed away recently.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to the work that the two former Councillors had undertaken on behalf of the people of Tower Hamlets. Councillors Alex Heslop, Tim Archer, Abjol Miah, Stephanie Eaton and Peter Golds endorsed Councillor Rahman's comments and added their own tributes to Councillors Kelly and Son and condolences to their respective families.

(ii) Local Democracy Week

The Mayor said that Councillors were aware that this week was Local Democracy Week and he welcomed Faiza Mukeith, Deputy Young Mayor to the meeting. A full programme of Local Democracy Week activities was taking place in the Town Hall and in schools across the borough to promote young people's awareness of and participation in democracy. There was a display of School Council declarations outside the Chamber and Local Democracy Week also marked the opening of nominations for the Young Mayor elections 2009.

(iii) Children's Services announcements - Councillor Clare Hawkins

Councillor Clare Hawkins, Lead Member for Children's Services, announced that figures to be published shortly showed that there had been a significant increase this year in the proportion of young people from Tower Hamlets achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C grades including English and Maths. Councillor Hawkins also informed the Council that the Government had uplifted the funding for the Building Schools for the Future Programme to £300 million; and that Tower Hamlets had been shortlisted for Beacon Status for tackling child poverty.

(iv) Bancroft Library - Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Councillor Lutfur Rahman, Leader of the Council, announced that following consultation and consideration of expert advice in relation to the Local History Library and archive, it had been decided that the Bancroft Library would not be sold to Queen Mary College but would be retained by the Council for the Library and Archive. Councillor Peter Golds welcomed the Leader's announcement on this matter.

(v) **Assistant Chief Executive**

The Leader of the Council welcomed Mr Lutfur Ali, recently appointed to the post of Assistant Chief Executive, to the meeting.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

DEPUTATIONS

5.1.1 Leaseholder Services

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Andrew Coles addressed the meeting about leaseholder services and charges.

After Mr Coles had addressed the meeting, Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED** and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED** – “That under Rule 14.1.3 (to change the order of business in the agenda), agenda item 11.3 (motion on leaseholder services) be moved forward to follow immediately the deputation from the Tower Hamlets Leaseholders Association.”

The procedural motion to change the order of business was put to the vote and was **agreed** with no Member voting against.

Mr. Coles then responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development, then responded to the matters raised by the deputation.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on outstanding matters within 28 days.

Change to order of business

11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Archer regarding Leaseholder Services

Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED** and Councillor Peter Golds, **SECONDED** the motion as set out at agenda item 11.3.

Councillor Marc Francis **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** an amendment to the motion as follows:-

‘Delete from “*This Council notes*” To “*... firm of auditors.*” and replace with the following text

“This Council supports the principle of leaseholders only being charged for services they actually receive.

It further notes the need to drive up the performance of Arms Length Management under Tower Hamlets Homes to be confident of achieving a two-star rating from the Audit Commission when it is inspected;

It also notes the continuing dissatisfaction of some leaseholders with the overall service they receive, particularly in respect of:

- Information and consultation on both major works and annual service charges
- The overall level of both major works and annual charges, particularly the management and administration element
- The value for money that these charges represent and the quality of services that leaseholders are asked to pay for

This Council welcomes the constructive role Tower Hamlets Leaseholders Association has played in representing the interests of individual leaseholders in dispute with LB Tower Hamlets and in helping to shape council policy.

Furthermore, this council welcomes the following recent developments:

- The decision to issue a £50 rebate on the administration charge for 2006/07, and repeat this £50 rebate in the 2007/08 "actuals"
- The Scrutiny Review of Leasehold Services, including its key recommendation of the need for greater transparency and accountability in the calculation and apportionment of charges
- The Leasehold Valuation Tribunal's judgements on Lister House, the 2006/07 "estimates" and the Aurora House test case
- The early signs of improvement in the day-to-day caretaking, management and maintenance since the establishment Tower Hamlets Homes.

Nevertheless, believes that further measures are needed to ensure sustained improvements in performance, greater value for money and improve satisfaction amongst leaseholders. And therefore resolves that Cabinet:

- Commission an independent audit of the processes used by Tower Hamlets Homes to determine the leasehold service charge "actuals" for 2007/08 to ensure these are accurately calculated in accordance with best practice
- Instruct the Lead Councillor for Housing and Development to urgently draw up the remit for this audit following consultation with Tower Hamlets Leaseholders Association, Opposition Parties and other representative bodies
- Ensures that this review is carried out in accordance with the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Regeneration Act 1993 in respect of management audits
- Require this audit to be completed in time to inform the 2009/10 "estimates" and the 2008/09 "actuals".'

The Service Head, Democratic Services informed the Council that the matters set out in the amendment were Executive Functions under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and that should the Council wish to agree the amendment, the sentence immediately before the final bullet points should be amended to read 'And therefore resolves to request the Cabinet to:-'

After discussion, the amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed** with no Member voting against.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed** with no Member voting against. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council supports the principle of leaseholders only being charged for services they actually receive.

It further notes the need to drive up the performance of Arms Length Management under Tower Hamlets Homes to be confident of achieving a two-star rating from the Audit Commission when it is inspected;

It also notes the continuing dissatisfaction of some leaseholders with the overall service they receive, particularly in respect of:

- Information and consultation on both major works and annual service charges
- The overall level of both major works and annual charges, particularly the management and administration element
- The value for money that these charges represent and the quality of services that leaseholders are asked to pay for

This Council welcomes the constructive role Tower Hamlets Leaseholders Association has played in representing the interests of individual leaseholders in dispute with LB Tower Hamlets and in helping to shape council policy.

Furthermore, this council welcomes the following recent developments:

- The decision to issue a £50 rebate on the administration charge for 2006/07, and repeat this £50 rebate in the 2007/08 "actuals"
- The Scrutiny Review of Leasehold Services, including its key recommendation of the need for greater transparency and accountability in the calculation and apportionment of charges
- The Leasehold Valuation Tribunal's judgements on Lister House, the 2006/07 "estimates" and the Aurora House test case
- The early signs of improvement in the day-to-day caretaking, management and maintenance since the establishment Tower Hamlets Homes.

Nevertheless, believes that further measures are needed to ensure sustained improvements in performance, greater value for money and improve

satisfaction amongst leaseholders. And therefore resolves to request the Cabinet to:

- Commission an independent audit of the processes used by Tower Hamlets Homes to determine the leasehold service charge “actuals” for 2007/08 to ensure these are accurately calculated in accordance with best practice
- Instruct the Lead Councillor for Housing and Development to urgently draw up the remit for this audit following consultation with Tower Hamlets Leaseholders Association, Opposition Parties and other representative bodies
- Ensures that this review is carried out in accordance with the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Regeneration Act 1993 in respect of management audits
- Require this audit to be completed in time to inform the 2009/10 “estimates” and the 2008/09 “actuals”.

At this point (8.36 p.m.) the meeting was adjourned to enable a number of members of the public to leave the gallery.

The meeting resumed at 8.48 p.m. and the Service Head, Democratic Services informed Members that the revised projected end time for the meeting was now 10.45 p.m.

PETITIONS

5.2.1 Muslim graveyard

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Rabbi Ashfak Hussain addressed the meeting in support of the petition concerning a Muslim graveyard. He reiterated the points raised in the written petition and asked when the burial space would be provided.

Mr. Hussain responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships responded to the matters raised in Mr. Hussain’s petition.

During Councillor Ohid Ahmed’s response, Councillor Ahmed Hussain sought to move to a vote on the petition. The Service Head, Democratic Services advised that the procedure rules did not provide for the Council to vote on a petition.

Councillor Ahmed Hussain then **MOVED** and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED** – “That under procedural rule 14.1.14, rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion to be put on the matters set out in the petition 5.2.1.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.2.2 Banning of a book from marketing in Tower Hamlets and lobbying for a UK-wide ban

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Rabbi Ashfak Hussain addressed the meeting in support of the petition, which called for the book 'Kalapanir Hatchani – Biletey Bangaleer Itihash' to be not shelved in any Idea Store or bookshop in the borough and for the Council to lobby the Government for the book to be removed from circulation in the UK.

Mr. Hussain responded to questions by Members.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships responded to the matters raised in Mr. Hussain's petition.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Assistant Chief Executive for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.2.3 The Tower Hamlets Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre in St. Margaret's House

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Tony Uwadiale addressed the meeting in support of the petition. A user of the Centre also addressed the meeting about the importance of the support that it gave to sickle cell sufferers.

Mr. Uwadiale responded to questions by Members of the Council.

Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali, Lead Member, Health and Wellbeing, responded to the matters raised in Mr. Uwadiale's petition.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Adult Health and Wellbeing for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

Change to the order of Business**Urgent Motion – Island Homes**

Councillor Peter Golds **MOVED** and Councillor Timothy Archer **SECONDED** “That under procedural rule 14.1.14, rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion on Island Homes to be considered at the meeting.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was unanimously **agreed**.

Councillor Timothy Archer then **MOVED** and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED**, “That under Procedural Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied to enable the urgent motion in respect of Island Homes to be discussed as the next item of business.”

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was unanimously **agreed**.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton, Councillor Shahed Ali, Councillor Mohammed Shahed Ali and Councillor Oliur Rahmen each declared a personal interest in the urgent motion as leaseholders/tenants respectively of Toynbee/Island Homes. Councillor Shirley Houghton also declared a personal interest in the urgent motion as a Member of the Barkantine Management Board.

Councillor Peter Golds **MOVED** and Councillor Timothy Archer **SECONDED** the urgent motion as follows:-

“1. This Council notes:

(a) that on 5th December 2005, four Council estates on the Isle of Dogs transferred over to Toynbee Island Homes, a new Housing Association created for the purpose of this transfer, under the Council's "Housing Choice" policy;

(b) that the terms of the transfer were set out by the Council in an offer document, and included:

i) a promise that Toynbee Island Homes Housing Association (later renamed "Island Homes") would be resident-led and have a majority of residents on the Board;

ii) a promise that management agreements would be signed between Island Homes and the resident organisations on each of the four estates which would govern service delivery on each estate;

iii) a promise that services would be delivered locally by three offices based in the Island Homes estates;

(c) that the terms of transfer as set out in the Council's offer document were the basis on which tenants voted in favour of transfer, on the basis of which the transfer went ahead, and the basis on which leaseholders, in an indicative vote, indicated their wish to see the transfer go ahead.

2. This Council further notes:
 - (a) the deputation from Island Homes residents to this Council at its meeting on 25th June which described how ONE Housing Group took over the role of "parent body" of Island Homes and in that role sacked the Board of Island Homes in April 2008 and unilaterally appointed an Interim Board which instituted changes in governance and service delivery which the Board of Island Homes had declined to implement itself;
 - (b) that the Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration, in replying to that deputation, stated that the Council was committed to seeing that the terms of the offer document, and in particular the condition that Island Homes Housing Association be resident-led with a majority of residents on the Board, were restored.
3. This Council further notes that the Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration attended a meeting of Island Homes residents on 30th September and repeated that commitment he gave before the meeting of the Council. He reported that despite representations he had made to ONE Housing Group to restore the conditions promised in the offer document, ONE Housing Group had not bowed to his representations and had not agreed to do this. He heard the fears of Island Homes residents that unless progress was made very quickly, the Interim Board appointed by ONE Housing Group would make such far-reaching changes that it would be extremely difficult to restore the conditions promised by this Council in the offer document.
4. This Council further notes that during the period of office of the Interim Board of Island Homes, three senior members of staff who transferred over from the Council have been suspended without substantive disciplinary charge by ONE Housing Group and one such member of staff has left for employment elsewhere, and that these officers have over a century of unblemished and lauded service for the Council and are extremely popular with residents.
5. This Council notes that on Friday, 10th October UNISON was invited to meet ONE Housing Group to hear that ONE Housing Group has announced the start of a 28 day consultation period with trade unions in respect of its plans to integrate services at a Customer Contact Centre at Mile End which would become the main means for residents to contact Island Homes. This would involve closing all but one office on the Island Homes estates. It will also involve staff moving, changing jobs and potential redundancies. ONE Housing Group has not announced any plans to consult residents about these plans which would further breach the promises made by this Council in the offer document. These plans would be virtually impossible to undo if the conditions in the offer document are to be restored.
6. This Council believes that:

- (a) the promises set out in the offer document should be upheld;
- (b) if this Council cannot manage to keep its promises, it will have let down the residents on the Isle of Dogs who believed the Council would keep its promises and voted for their estates to be transferred on that basis;
- (c) if the promises in the offer document are not upheld, the Housing Choice programme undertaken by this Council will be revealed to have been a nonsense.

7. This Council requests:

- (a) the Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration to undertake at this meeting to make representations on behalf of this Council to ONE Housing Group, requesting that they do not go ahead with establishing a call centre and that they put any plans for major change on hold while a solution which restores the conditions in the offer documents is worked out by the relevant parties, namely the Council, ONE Housing Group, the residents and the staff;
- (b) the Leader to use his best endeavours to ensure that ONE Housing Group do not pursue their plans and that such a satisfactory conclusion is reached;
- (c) the Cabinet to take reports on the progress of this matter at each meeting;
- (d) the Cabinet to consider all strategies necessary to achieve this outcome, including:
 - i) legal action;
 - ii) making urgent representations to relevant bodies such as the Minister and the housing Corporation to obtain their assistance in achieving the desired outcome;
 - iii) publicising our grave displeasure over the conduct of ONE Housing in the local, regional, national and professional/specialist press.
- (e) the Leader to report on progress on the above in a weekly written bulletin to all Members of this Council until a satisfactory outcome has been achieved.”

An amendment was then **MOVED** by Councillor Marc Francis and **SECONDED** by Councillor Lutfur Rahman as follows:-

‘To delete from “(7) This Council requests ...” to “... a satisfactory outcome has been achieved.” and replace with the following text

7. This Council requests:

- (a) the Lead Member for Housing and Development to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the promises made to Island Homes residents by Toynbee Housing Association via the Offer Document are fulfilled, including those relating to service delivery as well as governance by considering:
 - (i) making formal written representations to ONE Housing Group;
 - (ii) pursuing legal action to enforce the transfer agreement;
 - (iii) making representations to the Housing Corporation, the Department for Communities and Local Government;
 - (iv) drawing this matter to the attention of the newly-appointed Housing Minister, Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP;
- (b) the Lead Member to report back to councillors within one month of the passing of this resolution on the progress of this matter.”

Following discussion, Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **SECONDED**, “That in accordance with Procedure Rule 14.1.10, the question be now put.”

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

The amendment moved by Councilor Marc Francis and seconded by Councillor Lutfur Rahman was then put to the vote and was **agreed** with no Member voting against.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed** with no Member voting against. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

1. This Council notes:
 - (a) that on 5th December 2005, four Council estates on the Isle of Dogs transferred over to Toynbee Island Homes, a new Housing Association created for the purpose of this transfer, under the Council's "Housing Choice" policy;
 - (b) that the terms of the transfer were set out by the Council in an offer document, and included:
 - i) a promise that Toynbee Island Homes Housing Association (later renamed "Island Homes") would be resident-led and have a majority of residents on the Board;

- ii) a promise that management agreements would be signed between Island Homes and the resident organisations on each of the four estates which would govern service delivery on each estate;
 - iii) a promise that services would be delivered locally by three offices based in the Island Homes estates;
- (c) that the terms of transfer as set out in the Council's offer document were the basis on which tenants voted in favour of transfer, on the basis of which the transfer went ahead, and the basis on which leaseholders, in an indicative vote, indicated their wish to see the transfer go ahead.
2. This Council further notes:
- (a) the deputation from Island Homes residents to this Council at its meeting on 25th June which described how ONE Housing Group took over the role of "parent body" of Island Homes and in that role sacked the Board of Island Homes in April 2008 and unilaterally appointed an Interim Board which instituted changes in governance and service delivery which the Board of Island Homes had declined to implement itself;
 - (b) that the Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration, in replying to that deputation, stated that the Council was committed to seeing that the terms of the offer document, and in particular the condition that Island Homes Housing Association be resident-led with a majority of residents on the Board, were restored.
3. This Council further notes that the Lead Member for Housing and Regeneration attended a meeting of Island Homes residents on 30th September and repeated that commitment he gave before the meeting of the Council. He reported that despite representations he had made to ONE Housing Group to restore the conditions promised in the offer document, ONE Housing Group had not bowed to his representations and had not agreed to do this. He heard the fears of Island Homes residents that unless progress was made very quickly, the Interim Board appointed by ONE Housing Group would make such far-reaching changes that it would be extremely difficult to restore the conditions promised by this Council in the offer document.
4. This Council further notes that during the period of office of the Interim Board of Island Homes, three senior members of staff who transferred over from the Council have been suspended without substantive disciplinary charge by ONE Housing Group and one such member of staff has left for employment elsewhere, and that these officers have over a century of unblemished and lauded service for the Council and are extremely popular with residents.
5. This Council notes that on Friday, 10th October UNISON was invited to meet ONE Housing Group to hear that ONE Housing Group has announced the start of a 28 day consultation period with trade unions in respect of its plans to integrate services at a Customer Contact Centre at

Mile End which would become the main means for residents to contact Island Homes. This would involve closing all but one office on the Island Homes estates. It will also involve staff moving, changing jobs and potential redundancies. ONE Housing Group has not announced any plans to consult residents about these plans which would further breach the promises made by this Council in the offer document. These plans would be virtually impossible to undo if the conditions in the offer document are to be restored.

6. This Council believes that:
 - (a) the promises set out in the offer document should be upheld;
 - (b) if this Council cannot manage to keep its promises, it will have let down the residents on the Isle of Dogs who believed the Council would keep its promises and voted for their estates to be transferred on that basis;
 - (c) if the promises in the offer document are not upheld, the Housing Choice programme undertaken by this Council will be revealed to have been a nonsense.
7. This Council requests:
 - (a) the Lead Member for Housing and Development to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the promises made to Island Homes residents by Toynbee Housing Association via the Offer Document are fulfilled, including those relating to service delivery as well as governance by considering:
 - (i) making formal written representations to ONE Housing Group;
 - (ii) pursuing legal action to enforce the transfer agreement;
 - (iii) making representations to the Housing Corporation, the Department for Communities and Local Government;
 - (iv) drawing this matter to the attention of the newly-appointed Housing Minister, Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP;
 - (b) the Lead Member to report back to councillors within one month of the passing of this resolution on the progress of this matter.

6. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No public questions were received.

7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Twenty seven questions were submitted by Councillors for response by members of the Cabinet as listed in agenda item 7. The questions, together

in each case with the response of the relevant Lead Member and a summary of any supplementary question and response, are set out below.

Councillor Ahmed Hussain **MOVED** and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED**, "That under Procedural Rule 14.1.14, rule 11.3 be suspended to allow an urgent question to be put as follows:- 'Can the Leader let us know why is the Council helping Poplar HARCA to continually bully us the residents of Burdett and implementing policies that are not consulted with or in favour of the local residents'."

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

7.1 Question from Councillor Ahmed Omer to the Lead Member for Children's Services, Councillor Clair Hawkins

Can the Lead Member for Children's Services tell us whether there will be any much-needed investment in Youth Services in the borough?

Response of the Lead Member:

An additional £1Million funding has been agreed to uplift the annual revenue stream of the youth contracted services which will bring significant benefit to all young people across the borough. This funding will provide an opportunity for more young people to be engaged in structured, positive activities across all LAP areas. This will bring the following benefits;

- an increase in provision in each LAP including week-end provision with at least one centre open to 12.00 midnight on Saturday and 10.30pm on week nights
- engagement with the Duke of Edinburgh Award offering at least one Award Club in each LAP,
- additional skills and expertise so that all remaining unqualified staff become qualified youth workers and all staff take up specialist curriculum training such as Duke of Edinburgh, drugs education, or sex and relationships education
- an increase in the proportion of accredited outcomes by 20% on the current targets, to include at least 15 Duke of Edinburgh bronze award level achievers in each LAP
- outreach work with targeted under-represented groups, particularly young people with disabilities and girls, to ensure a 10% annual uplift on the existing contract target for the number of young people engaged in activities leading to accredited outcomes

- work with parents to market and advertise activities in every centre, to attract a wider range of young people and the development of parent-led and parent-supported activity.
- In addition to this unprecedented increase in revenue support resources have also been allocated to improve the centres. The Osmani Centre in Spitalfields will be rebuilt and we have submitted a bid to secure government funding to create a world class centre at the Haileybury site.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Ahmed Omer

Can the Lead Member tell me the proposed level of investment in Bow and the LAP 5 area?

Summary of Lead Member's response

LAP 5 has been allocated an uplift of nearly £80k per year. Hitherto Bow has not had many youth centres and I am pleased that this money will deliver for the young people of the area. Priorities will include late night and weekend opening, the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, work with Somali groups, parental involvement, outreach services and building on the programme at Caxton Hall.

7.2 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck

Would the Lead Member please confirm what the current position is regarding securing the future of Poplar Baths?

Response of the Lead Member

A proposal has been submitted by the Tower Hamlets Environment Trust (THET) in conjunction with Swan Housing to renovate Poplar Baths to include a pool with redevelopment of the remainder of the site as enabling development.

The Council has commissioned a study of the proposals and is currently pulling together the Borough's leisure strategy. Progress on Poplar Baths is contingent on completion of these.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Tim Archer

Steering Group members feel that the Council is blocking this scheme. Can the Lead Member tell me what he has done to help progress it as promised in his e-mail of 19 months ago and what will he do now to commit to making it happen?

Summary of Lead Member's response

There is no overnight solution to this matter. The easiest way to secure a swift resolution would have been to sell the building but we have chosen instead to work with local people to develop a scheme which can deliver its renovation and re-opening as a pool. The nature of the building means that this is a difficult and potentially costly heritage project but we are committed to working with the residents and a paper will come to Cabinet in the next few months, in the context of the Council's leisure strategy. I am confident that there is a need for a pool in Poplar.

7.3 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Would the Council Leader agree that the report from End Child Poverty, an umbrella organisation including some 130 children's charities, that Tower Hamlets continues to have the highest proportion of children living in poverty of any borough in London or council in the country, more than 42,000 children in total, is a scandal and shows that the government's proposals to halve the number of children in poverty have failed in Tower Hamlets, despite the relative success acknowledged by End Child Poverty in educational achievement in the borough, that child poverty is closely correlated to lack of work and dependence on benefits, that the growth of jobs in Canary Wharf has had no apparent effect on this unemployment and low incomes and that the council needs to completely reconsider its anti-poverty strategy in the face of this failure?

Response of the Leader of the Council

The levels of child poverty in Tower Hamlets are unacceptable. This is why it has been identified as a priority in our Local Area Agreement, with challenging targets set for reducing the number of children living in benefit dependent households.

We are currently writing a child poverty strategy with local partners, including the voluntary sector, which aims to address the causes of poverty, as well as mitigating its effects on children and young people. As part of this work we are looking at what we can do differently and in addition to our existing work, to meet our ambitious targets.

It is also true that adult unemployment is closely correlated to child poverty. Tower Hamlets has seen significant growth in jobs in recent years, with an increase of 56% between 1998 and 2006 compared to 6.2% in London as a whole. The majority of this growth is in the financial services sector, based in Canary Wharf. Public administration, education and health is the second largest growth sector. Despite this growth, unemployment persists at one of the highest levels in the Country. Our priority therefore is to ensure that local residents are able

to take advantage of the growth in employment opportunities. We have already had some success, working in partnership with other agencies and local employers, in getting people into jobs. Our Employment Strategy, launched earlier this year, recognises that whilst successful, programmes to date have been relatively small scale. Through the strategy, we are therefore improving co-ordination of and increasing investment in these initiatives.

We are also taking steps to increase skills in the adult population, for example addressing low levels of English language skills by increasing provision of English as a Second Language (ESOL) courses. In addition we are doing targeted work with unemployed parents to help with issues such as childcare so that they are able to return to work.

As well as actions to reduce the levels of poverty, we are also working to mitigate its effects on children and young people. Too often, living in poverty can act as a barrier to educational attainment and opportunities to participate in positive activities outside school. Our ambition for pupils in the borough's schools remains high and we continue to see year on year improvement in attainment at GCSE level as a result of our work in this area. We are also focussing our attention on participation in higher education, again backed up with targets in our LAA, through our 'aim higher' programme which encourage children from low income families to continue into higher education. To ensure that young people from low income families are fully able to participate in positive activities outside school, we have launched our ground-breaking Choice and Opportunities Online (COO-I) scheme which gives 13-19 year olds who are eligible for free school meals or have special educational needs a monthly bursary to spend on activities such as gym membership, arts classes and sports training.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Abjol Miah

Does the Leader agree that the levels of child poverty in Britain currently are shocking and the figures for Tower Hamlets a poor reflection on the Borough and, particularly in the light of the billions of pounds paid to bail out the banking industry, should the Council demand that the Government provide additional resources to address this problem?

Summary of Leader of the Council's response

I welcome the ambitious targets set by the Labour Government and this Labour Council is committed to investing in the children of the borough and ensuring that they all have equal opportunities and equal life chances.

7.4 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

What is the Council's target for meeting National Indicator NI35 (Building resistance to violent extremism), what financial resources are being put into meeting this target by the Borough and how is performance against this target being assessed?

Response of the Lead Member

NI35 (Building resilience to violent extremism) measures our performance in delivering the national Prevent Strategy which has the following objectives:

- Undermine extremist ideology and support mainstream voices
- Disrupt those who promote violent extremism, and strengthen vulnerable institutions
- Support individuals who are vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists
- Increase the capacity of communities to challenge and resist violent extremists
- Effectively address grievances

Funding

During 2007-08 Tower Hamlets was awarded £99,200 as part of the Pathfinder year for Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE). In February 2008 the Home Secretary and the Communities Secretary announced additional PVE related funding to support the delivery of the Prevent Strategy. This included funding for an additional 300 police officers and a grant of £45 million to be made to local authorities between 2008 -11. Allocated on the size of local Muslim populations Tower Hamlets received £1.3 million to fund activities, with an allocation of £365,000 for 2008/09. Additional funds were also allocated to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and our Youth Offending Team has received £ 15 0,000 to "reach young people at risk of becoming involved in violent extremism" over two years.

Performance management: National Indicator 35

The Council has chosen to include the national indicator which measures Authority's performance on 'Building Resilience to Extremism' within the 2008-11 Local Area Agreement. This is measured by self-assessment across four domains:

- Understanding of and engagement with Muslim communities
- Knowledge and understanding of the Preventing Violent Extremism agenda
- Effective development of an action plan to build the resilience of communities and support vulnerable individuals

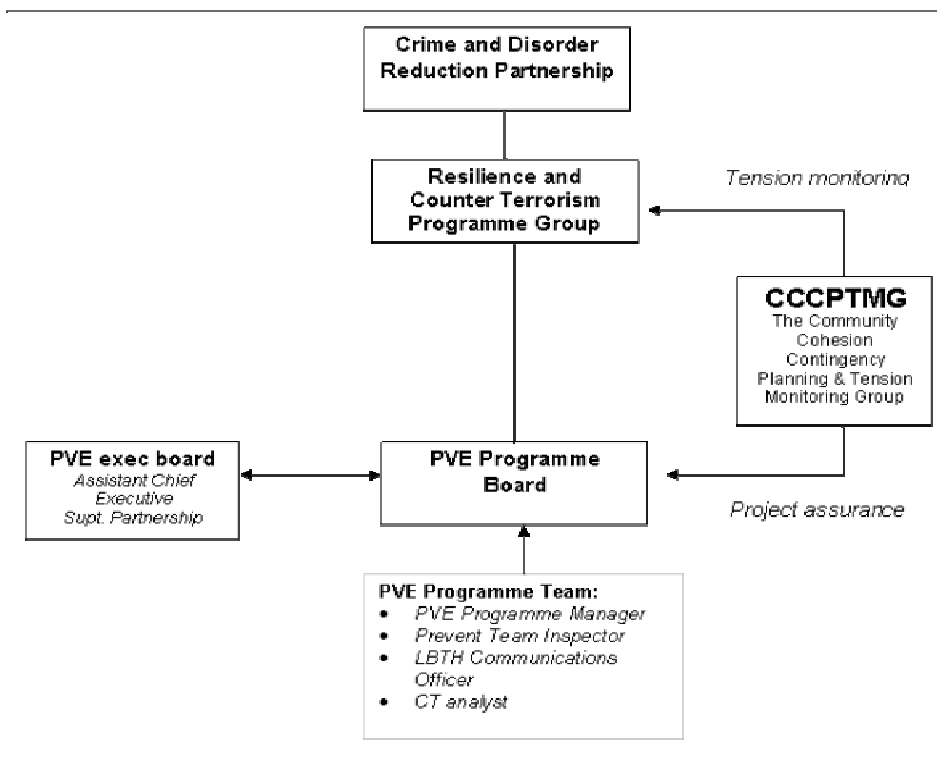
· Effective oversight, delivery and evaluation of projects and actions

Using the self-assessment framework detailed below, we have set ourselves the following targets:

2008/09: 16/20;
 2009/10: 18/20;
 2010/11: 20/20

Project governance and delivery

Delivering Prevent sits within the remit of the Community Plan Delivery Group for ‘A Safe and Supportive Community’, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The organisational structure is set out below:



The Resilience and Counter Terrorism Group, chaired by the Police Superintendent for Operations, has responsibility for delivering the Protect, Pursue and Prepare elements of CONTEST work including the delivery of the NI36 and NI37 (Protection Against Terrorist Attack and Awareness of Civil Protection arrangements in the local area respectively). Membership of this group includes officers from the police, community safety and RSLs.

The PVE Programme Board, chaired by the Council, operates as a distinct board with responsibility for delivering the Prevent work and delivering NI35. Membership includes additionally officers from Children’s Services.

The Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group (CCCPTMG), chaired by the Lead Member for Safer, Cleaner, Greener acts both as an operational tension monitoring group and as the Project Assurance Board for the PVE Programme (this includes independent monitoring of projects' performance and provides a mechanism to ensure that all stakeholder needs and expectations are being met and managed). Membership includes representatives from the Interfaith Forum, the London Muslim Centre, the Council of Mosques and the third sector.

N.I. 35 – BUILDING COMMUNITIES RESILIENT TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Understanding of, and engagement with, Muslim communities.

Target for 2008/09

Regular and reliable mechanisms which include all communities and underrepresented groups such as women and youth in an ongoing dialogue. That dialogue influences and informs policy. Sophisticated and segmented understanding of Muslim communities, the structures within them, and the cultures which make them up.

Target for 2010/11

A self sustaining, dynamic and community driven engagement which takes place on a number of different levels and in a number of different ways, with innovative approaches to communication and engagement of all groups. Sophisticated understanding of local Muslim communities is used to drive policy development and engagement.

Knowledge and understanding of the drivers and causes of violent extremism and the Prevent objectives

Target for 2008/09

Strong understanding of the Prevent objectives and the drivers of violent extremism, as well as of the interfaces with related policy areas. Full use of local, national and international research, guidance and expertise on the agenda, including good information sharing between partners. Good understanding of local circumstances and drivers.

Target for 2010/11

Sophisticated understanding of the Prevent objectives and the drivers of violent extremism. Full use of local, national and international research, guidance and expertise on the agenda to build a wide-ranging and sophisticated evidence base. Clearly strong information interchanges between local partners across delivery organisations and strands of activity. Strong understanding of local circumstances and drivers.

Development of a risk-based preventing violent extremism action plan, in support of delivery of the Prevent objectives

Target for 2008/09

Risk based and strategically focused action plan with clear links to the knowledge and understanding of the drivers of violent extremism, the 'Prevent' strategy and to extensive consultation with communities. Clear buy-in from senior officers and strategic partners. Necessary actions, capabilities, policies and projects clearly identified. Strong focus on multi-agency partnership working, including synergies with CDRPs and other bodies. Broad range of activity delivering all strands of the 'Prevent' strategy, including through a range of mainstream services.

Target for 2010/11

Risk based and strategically focused action plan with strong links to the knowledge and understanding of the drivers of violent extremism, the 'Prevent' strategy and to extensive consultation with communities and local partner agencies. Agenda effectively 'mainstreamed' through consideration of existing service delivery and policies, alongside the development of specific actions, projects and capabilities. Awareness of agenda throughout partner organisations. Full range of activities across all strands of the 'Prevent' strategy. Innovative actions, projects and capabilities clearly identified. Strong evidence of multi-agency approach to deliver across a broad range of partners and agencies, including synergies with CDRPs and other bodies.

Effective oversight, delivery and evaluation of projects and actions.

Target for 2008/09

Proven monitoring mechanisms in place which help ensure regular delivery of projects within timescale, to the required standard and budget constraints. Oversight group with range of skills and representing appropriate range of interests. Formal evaluation using appropriate methodology which has some impact on the development of future projects. Strong audit arrangements and risk management in place.

Target for 2010/11

Strong tried and tested monitoring mechanisms which allow highlighting and resolution of issues, track progress and ensure consistent delivery of projects and actions within timescale, to the required standard and budget constraints. Oversight group with appropriate skills and seniority in place and actively involved in monitoring. Professional and extensive evaluation of project against agreed objectives, which has real impact on development of future projects. Strong audit arrangements and sophisticated risk management in place.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton

What specific actions will the Lead Member take, for example to stop the Hizb ut-Tahrir organisation from holding events in the Borough?

Summary of Lead Member's response

The Government has not banned Hizb ut-Tahrir. We should not close the door on debate but rather counter any extremist views through argument and ensure that there is a platform for the majority who would wish to put the alternative view.

7.5 Question from Councillor Fazlul Haque to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Can the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener tell us if there are any plans to increase the number of Police officers in the borough over the next two years?

Response of the Lead Member

I can confirm that the Cabinet have agreed to commit £600K to fight crime. This will result in a minimum of an additional 17 Police Officers for the borough. It is anticipated that these officers will be on our streets from April next year.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Fazlul Haque

I welcome the additional investment in police officers and the many other initiatives that the Cabinet has brought forward for the benefit of local people. What will the management arrangements be for the additional police resources and to whom will they be accountable?

Summary of Lead Member's response

I work in close partnership with the Police and other agencies through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to ensure effective delivery and accountability of services. We all have a responsibility to contribute to community safety and I would draw the questioner's attention to the first ever Community Safety Awards to be launched in Tower Hamlets. These will commend people who help the authorities to make the borough a safer place. Nominations close on 30th November and the awards event will take place on 27 January 2009.

7.6 Question from Councillor Dr. Emma Jones to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Would the Lead Member inform us as to what the council is doing to ensure that a fuller use is made of the river as part of the public transport network?

Response of the Lead Member

As Members will be aware the Council recently launched its sustainable transport strategy "Making Connections" which includes a commitment to work with British Waterways and Transport for London to promote sustainable water transport. The Council actively engages with London River Services, through the Council's Public Transport Consultative Forum and the Canary Wharf Transport Forum, to publicise their services and to work with them to improve access. A small amount of funding has been allocated by TfL to Thames Gateway London Partnership for improving access to river piers, and officers are investigating the provision of signage to piers on the Isle of Dogs.

The Council has also contributed earlier this year to the London Development Agency's Study of River Piers which is intended to inform the forthcoming review of the Mayor for London's Transport Strategy.

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Dr. Emma Jones

What is the Lead Member doing to alleviate the travel problems currently experienced by residents in Wapping?

Summary of Lead Member's response

The refurbishment of the East London Line will provide vastly improved links between Wapping and other parts of London both north and south of the river. We will continue to contribute to the Mayor of London's transport strategy and work in partnership with Transport for London to address the needs of local residents.

7.7 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to the Leader Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis

Could the Lead Member identify the number of Council rented and RSL properties which have not had heat insulating refurbishment including double glazing since 1997 and therefore how many Council-rented and RSL properties remain heating inefficient and expensive for their tenants and could he confirm when it is planned they will get this vital refurbishment and what other plans the Council is intending to bring forward to address the growing problem of fuel poverty in this borough?

Response of the Lead Member
Insulation

Improvement activity before and after 1997 that has affected thermal performance of the remaining Council stock is as follows:-

	Pre 1997	Post 1997	Remaining
Cavity Wall Insulation (CWI)	1,843	1,233	4,161
Double Glazing	6,630	1,565	4,876
Roof Insulation	3,012	1,591	3,672

Prior to 2001, government grant was available to low income social housing tenants through the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) and significant work programmes were co-ordinated by the Council with insulation firms to deliver insulation measures to around 3,500 homes annually at its peak. Withdrawal of this grant from the social housing sector in 2001 particularly disadvantaged Tower Hamlets.

The Council has also used the government's Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) programme (now the Carbon Emission Reduction Target programme – CERT) since 1997 to fund block energy measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation, combined heat and power system connections, modernising inefficient heating plant, eliminating early pump firing to conserve gas at communal boiler plant, draughtsealing, and heat recovery ventilation.

In the current year there are plans to use CERT funding to insulate 200 cavity-walled properties which currently have scaffolding erected for other works.

Loft insulation is intended for a further 278 properties, once access to their communal lofts can be provided. To establish the remaining priorities for loft insulation a thermal survey is intended to prepare an extensive CERT loft insulation programme for installation during 2009/10.

Heating

Heating improvements made to the remaining Council stock, pre- and post-1997:-

	Communal Heating	Individual Combination Boiler	Individual Conventional Boiler	Totals
Pre 1997	1,782	72	4,936	6790
Post 1997	650	951	5,144	6745

The Council also delivered the Barkantine CHP Energy Services scheme, which has been providing low carbon, low cost heat and power to around 500 residents since 2000 – their newly negotiated tariff for 2008/09 is 4.714p/kWh for heat and 9.7p/kWh for electricity, both inclusive of VAT.

Planned investment schemes to maintain heat supply from remaining communal systems and to upgrade old individual heating systems/controls have been agreed within the Tower Hamlets Homes investment programme. Aside from this, boilers, controls and tank insulation are upgraded to current Building Regulations at the point of individual breakdown.

Tenants' Heating Costs

Communal systems are more efficient than using individual boilers, providing the plant, pipework and controls are well managed. The energy supply for these are included in the Council's energy tender and over the past few years our strategy has achieved lower pricing than was available from larger consortia, keeping the fuel re-charge to residents as low as possible. RSLs are able to join the Council's energy supply contracts if they wish.

Since April 2008, all THH void properties have their energy supply nominated to HELPCo (part of the Greater London Energy Efficiency Network) and the incoming tenants are put on an affordable tariff that includes provision of monthly consumption reports to help the householder budget their fuel use and provides small conservation measures such as radiator panels and CFLs. (Tenants can subsequently change to any other energy Supplier in the marketplace by giving 28 days notice). The HELPCo tariff and energy service is available to existing tenants.

Energy advice is available to all residents and provides help with budgeting, selecting tariffs, reading meters, bill debt, how to get greater benefit from their fuel spend and how to access grants. Any necessary property improvements that can't be grant funded are referred to THH's Technical Services team and other landlords as appropriate.

For the past ten years the Council have offered Zero interest finance for energy measures, enabling anyone resident in the borough to divert cost savings gained from installing insulation or high efficiency/renewable heating systems to fund energy loan repayments.

Fuel Poverty

The new National Indicator for fuel poverty (NI187a) indicates the proportion of low-income households living in properties with SAP¹s less than 35, it also measures those living in properties with SAPs greater than 65 (NI187a) who are assumed to be in affordable to heat homes.

In June 2008 the Council identified 39 homes in its own stock where low income households occupy homes with SAPs of less than 35. There are 405 such homes in the RSL sector.

	SAP Less than 80	SAP Less than 65	SAP Less than 35
Council	8,226	4,939	39
RSL	11,686	6,635	405
Private	3,882	1,744	344
Totals	23,794	13,318	788

Tower Hamlets Homes are presently considering how to respond to this relatively low number of tenants in severe fuel poverty this includes consideration of whether a window renewal scheme could be brought forward in the THH investment programme to deal with one particularly hard-to-heat block where 4 of the 39 low-SAP properties are located.

A Fuel Poverty alleviation strategy and action plan will be produced as part of the strategic review of the improvement requirements of stock managed by Tower Hamlets Homes

The results were discussed with the RSLs in July and advice is now awaited from individual RSLs as to how/when the 405 low SAP homes in their sector will be improved.

The 344 private sector low SAP properties are being surveyed by Warm Zone, the sub-regional response to fuel poverty and unfit homes in the private sector. By mid-December all 344 of these homes will

¹ Standard Assessment Procedure: a domestic energy rating system used for compliance with Building Regulations

have been surveyed and referred for Warm Front grants and/or sub-regional home improvement funds, and will also receive a benefit check to ensure income maximisation. (The ELRP assists vulnerable households, but does not fund double glazing as a measure, due to its high installation cost which produces unrealistic pay-back periods).

The Council have actively marketed energy advice and fuel poverty assistance programmes since 1997 and for Energy Efficiency Week 2008 a number of publicity adverts covering energy advice service availability across all tenures have been placed in East End Life to increase awareness of fuel poverty. A series of energy promotions are also taking place that week:-

Monday 20 October	09:30 - 12:30 The Foyer, Mullberry Place. 13:30 - 16:30 The Idea Store, Canary Wharf
Tuesday 21 October	10:00 - 17:00 The Idea Store, Whitechapel
Wednesday 22 October	09:30 - 12:30 The Idea Store, Chrisp Street 13:30 - 16:30 Sainsbury's, Whitechapel
Thursday 23 October	10:00 - 17:00 The Idea Store, Bow
Friday 24 October	10:00 - 17:00 Asda, Isle of Dogs

Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Fozol Miah

Is the Lead Member aware that many local residents in fuel poverty live in Council or RSL properties and that during a severe winter some residents could die as a result. What plans does he have to press the Government to make available funding to address this?

Summary of Lead Member's response

Many homes in Tower Hamlets have a low SAP rating and the Council is working to help landlords and owners to access grants for fuel efficiency via the Warm Front scheme. Ten years ago the Labour Government introduced the winter heating allowance. We have actively campaigned for and welcome the increases in this allowance which have greatly benefited all households with a person of pensionable age.

In accordance with Rule 12.10 (expiry of time limit), questions 7.8 to 7.27 were not put. Written responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

8. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**8.1 Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 10th September 2008****Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-2011**

The meeting considered the report of the Cabinet meeting on 10th September 2008 in relation to the above item.

Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Safer, Greener, Cleaner introduced the report and commented in particular on the work that had been undertaken on reducing drug problems in the borough.

Councillor Abdal Ullah **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report.

After discussion Councillor Peck **MOVED** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **SECONDED** "That the question be now put."

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed** with no Member voting against.

The recommendations as moved by Councillor Adbal Ullah and seconded by Councillor Lutfur Rahman were then put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

That the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11, attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 041/089) be approved.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**9.1 Joint Arrangements**

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

9.2 External Organisations

There was no business under this heading to be considered.

10. OTHER BUSINESS**10.1 Review of proportionality and appointments to committees and panels of the Council**

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report.

After discussion, Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **SECONDED** an amendment as follow:- "That recommendation 2.3 as set out in the report be deleted."

After further discussion the amendment moved by Councillor Peck and seconded by Councillor Islam was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive recommendations as amended were then put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 in the report be noted and the Council agree the allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09 as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.
2. That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on the committees and panels affected by this change in accordance with the nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Assistant Chief Executive.

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Motions 11.1, 11.2 and 11.4 to 11.10 as listed below were not considered due to lack of time, the meeting having closed following item 10.1 above in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 (Duration of meeting) and motion 11.3 having been considered earlier in the meeting.

- 11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding Utilities Charges.**
- 11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding Community Cohesion and ID Cards**
- 11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the Co-operative and Social Enterprise Sector**
- 11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding the Recession**
- 11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding Webcasting Council committee meetings**
- 11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Rania Khan regarding Ghurka Rights**
- 11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding Child Poverty**

11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Mohammed Abdul Munim regarding Policing

11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding Tarling Estate

The meeting ended at 10.45 p.m.

Chair,
Council