

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.35 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 9 JUNE 2010

**COMMITTEE ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Helal Abbas (Chair)	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Shahed Ali	(Lead Member, Environment)
Councillor David Edgar	(Lead Member, Resources)
Councillor Marc Francis	(Lead Member, Housing, Heritage and Planning)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Lead Member, Regeneration and Employment)
Councillor Denise Jones	(Lead Member, Culture and Creative Industries)
Councillor Shiria Khatun	(Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Joshua Peck (Vice-Chair)	(Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Rachael Saunders	(Lead Member, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Abdal Ullah	(Lead Member, Community Safety)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Stephanie Eaton	(Leader, Liberal Democrat Group)
Councillor Judith Gardiner	
Councillor Ann Jackson	(Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee)

Others Present:

Officers Present:

Mohammed Ahad	– (Scrutiny Policy Officer, Scrutiny & Equalities, Chief Executive's)
Isobel Cattermole	– (Acting Corporate Director, Children, Schools & Families)
Kevan Collins	– (Chief Executive)
Colin Cormack	– (Service Head Housing Options, Development & Renewal)
Aman Dalvi	– (Corporate Director, Development & Renewal)
Jim Elliott	– (Lettings Policy Advisor, Development & Renewal)
Isabella Freeman	– (Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services])
Stephen Halsey	– (Corporate Director, Communities, Localities & Culture)

Afazul Hoque	– (Scrutiny Policy Manager, Scrutiny & Equalities, Chief Executive's)
Lorraine Johnson	– (Communications Officer, Corporate Communications, Chief Executive's)
Paul Leeson	– (Finance Manager, Development & Renewal)
Firuz Miah	– (Future Jobs Fund Placement, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Chris Naylor	– (Corporate Director, Resources)
Jackie Odunoye	– (Service Head Strategy Regeneration and Sustainability, Development & Renewal)
Chris Saunders	– (Interim Political Advisor to the Labour Group)
Takki Sulaiman	– (Service Head Communications, Chief Executive's)
Helen Taylor	– (Acting Corporate Director Adults Health & Wellbeing)
Paul Thorogood	– (Senior Accountant, Development & Renewal)
Matthew Vaughan	– (Political Advisor to the Conservative Group)
James Walsh	– (Housing Regeneration Officer, Development & Renewal)
Chris Worby	– (Interim Service Head, Regeneration, Development & Renewal)
Angus Taylor	– (Executive Team Leader, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)

COUNCILLOR H. ABBAS (CHAIR) IN THE CHAIR

The Chair opened the meeting by:

- Introducing himself, and welcoming all those present to the first Cabinet meeting of the new Council Year and also the new Labour Administration.
- Advising that the current Cabinet would be in place until the election of an Executive Mayor in October 2010.
- Commenting that there were difficult times ahead for the Council, as the agenda item on the Government announcement of in year spending cuts indicated, and it remained to be seen how this would impact on the authority.
- Expressing his aspiration that Cabinet meetings should be as accessible and transparent as possible. Accordingly he had asked for arrangements to be made for the forthcoming Cabinet meetings prior to the Mayoral election to be held in the Community with a view to promoting resident attendance and engagement.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The clerk advised that no apologies for absence had been received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S. Ali declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6.1 “Ocean New Deal for Communities - Delivery Plan for 2010/11 - Ocean Estate Regeneration” (CAB 001/101). The declaration was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the regeneration of the Ocean Estate and Councillor Ali had been a member of the Authority’s Strategic Development Committee when the application for planning consent associated with the regeneration proposals for the Ocean Estate had been considered.

Councillor D. Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.1 “Ocean New Deal for Communities - Delivery Plan for 2010/11 - Ocean Estate Regeneration” (CAB 001/101). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust and Councillor Jones was a non-executive member of the governing body of the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust.

Councillor S. Khatun declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6.1 “Ocean New Deal for Communities - Delivery Plan for 2010/11 - Ocean Estate Regeneration” (CAB 001/101). The declaration was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the regeneration of the Ocean Estate and Councillor Khatun had been a member of the Authority’s Strategic Development Committee when the application for planning consent associated with the regeneration proposals for the Ocean Estate had been considered.

Councillor A. Ullah declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.1 “Ocean New Deal for Communities - Delivery Plan for 2010/11 - Ocean Estate Regeneration” (CAB 001/101). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the regeneration of the Ocean Estate area including St Dunstan’s and Stepney Green Ward and Councillor Ullah was one of the Ward Councillors for St Dunstan’s and Stepney Green Ward.

Councillor S. Islam declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.2 “Lettings Policy and Lettings Plan” (CAB 002/101). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Authority’s Lettings Policy (which determines nominations from the Common Housing Register for properties in the ownership of the Authority (managed by Tower Hamlets Homes)) and Councillor Islam was a tenant of Tower Hamlets Homes and also on the Common Housing Register (also known as the Housing Waiting List).

Councillor D. Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7.1 “Children and Young People’s Plan Annual Review 2009-10” (CAB 004/101). The declaration was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to secondary schools in general and Councillor Jones was a member of the governing body of Mulberry Secondary School.

Councillor D. Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7.2 “Establishment of a Children and Families Trust Board for Tower Hamlets” (CAB 005/101). The declaration was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to secondary schools in general and Councillor Jones was a member of the governing body of Mulberry Secondary School.

Noted.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cabinet held on 7th April 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair, as a correct record of the proceedings.

4. DEPUTATIONS & PETITIONS

The clerk advised that the Assistant Chief Executive had received no requests for deputations or petitions in respect of the business contained in the agenda.

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.1 Chair's advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Unrestricted Business to be considered

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that Councillor Jackson, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, had **Tabled** a sheet of questions/ comments arising from the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 8th June 2010, in respect of the unrestricted business contained in the agenda for consideration, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

Councillor Jackson, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, addressed members of the Cabinet:

- Reporting the election of Councillor R. Ahmed as Vice- Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2010/11; and the appointment of six Scrutiny Lead Members by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Reporting consideration and agreement by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of a scrutiny review on child obesity, including a series of positive recommendations which it was hoped the Cabinet would

consider and endorse, in due course, and the Authority would subsequently implement.

- *Key Issues or Questions (Pre Scrutiny)*
Briefly outlining the questions/ comments raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the tabled paper regarding: -
 - Item 6.1 “Ocean New Deal for Communities - Delivery Plan for 2010/11 - Ocean Estate Regeneration”
 - Item 6.2 “Lettings Policy and Lettings Plan”
 - Item 7.1 “Children and Young People's Plan Annual Review 2009-10”
- Expressing the aspiration of joint working over the coming year with the Cabinet Lead Members in relation to a number of scrutiny reviews including that on arrangements for an Executive Mayor.

Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing, Heritage and Planning, commented that pre-scrutiny questions and comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were invariably constructive and often prompted consideration of the reports contained in the agenda from a different perspective. He therefore considered that it would be helpful for members of the Cabinet to receive all the questions and comments, and not only those relating to their own Lead Member portfolios, as soon as possible prior to the Cabinet meeting. This would allow a greater opportunity to reflect on the matters raised and better inform Cabinet consideration of these agenda items. Accordingly he proposed, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet:

“That the questions and comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be circulated to all members of Cabinet at the earliest opportunity prior to the Cabinet meeting.”

The Chair thanked Councillor Jackson for presenting the contribution of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and welcomed the prospect of partnership working in the months ahead. He further emphasised the importance he and the new Cabinet placed on the role of Scrutiny in giving detailed consideration to areas that the Cabinet had not, and also to holding the Cabinet to account for their decisions; and gave an assurance that any concerns or matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be given full consideration. The Chair then **Moved** (taking account of the proposal made by Councillor Francis); and it was: -

Resolved

1. That the questions and comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted, and that these be given consideration during the Cabinet deliberation of the items of business to which the questions/ comments related.
2. That the questions and comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be circulated to all members of Cabinet at the earliest opportunity prior to the Cabinet meeting.

5.2 Any Unrestricted Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Clerk advised that no provisional decisions taken by the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 7th April 2010, had been referred back to Cabinet, by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for further consideration.

6. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

6.1 Ocean New Deal for Communities - Delivery Plan for 2010/11 - Ocean Estate Regeneration (CAB 001/101)

Councillor S. Ali declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6.1 "Ocean New Deal for Communities - Delivery Plan for 2010/11 - Ocean Estate Regeneration" (CAB 001/101). The declaration was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the regeneration of the Ocean Estate and Councillor Ali had been a member of the Authority's Strategic Development Committee when the application for planning consent associated with the regeneration proposals for the Ocean Estate had been considered.

Councillor D. Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.1 "Ocean New Deal for Communities - Delivery Plan for 2010/11 - Ocean Estate Regeneration" (CAB 001/101). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust and Councillor Jones was a non-executive member of the governing body of the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust.

Councillor S. Khatun declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6.1 "Ocean New Deal for Communities - Delivery Plan for 2010/11 - Ocean Estate Regeneration" (CAB 001/101). The declaration was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the regeneration of the Ocean Estate and Councillor Khatun had been a member of the Authority's Strategic Development Committee when the application for planning consent associated with the regeneration proposals for the Ocean Estate had been considered.

Councillor A. Ullah declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.1 "Ocean New Deal for Communities - Delivery Plan for 2010/11 - Ocean Estate Regeneration" (CAB 001/101). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the regeneration of the Ocean Estate area including St Dunstan's and Stepney Green Ward and Councillor Ullah was one of the Ward Councillors for St Dunstan's and Stepney Green Ward.

Ms Odunoye, Service Head Strategy Regeneration and Sustainability, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report:

- Summarised the key points contained therein, highlighting in particular:

- Agreement by the Department for Communities and Local Government to extend the New Deal for Communities (NDC) Programme for 1 year, and permit the rollover of £5 million of NDC resources into 2010/11, to finalise the regeneration of housing, environment and community facilities. Also, the consequent need for Cabinet approval of revisions to the NDC Delivery Plan and succession strategy previously approved by it.
- The rationale for and need for Cabinet approval of the proposed appropriation of specific land and buildings at the Ocean Estate for planning purposes and subsequent valuation and accounting treatment of these Council freehold interests thereafter.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 8th June 2010, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheet of questions and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings:

A discussion followed, during which both progress to date towards the delivery of the NDC Programme and the proposals in the report were broadly welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- Commented that the revision of the NDC Delivery Plan to reflect its extended life had provided an opportunity to examine progress over the past 12 months and accelerate some of the desired outcomes. The pilot refurbishment programme had been a success, after initial concerns regarding contractor maintenance of the site had been addressed. On a recent site visit, by the Leader of the Council and the Lead Member, it had been apparent that tenants were happy with their newly installed kitchens and bathrooms and this element of the regeneration scheme would now be rolled out to a further 30 households. The Cabinet were keen to carry out the physical regeneration of the estate as quickly as possible, and the rollover of £5 million of resources would be utilised to this end.
- The Officer team was formally thanked for the timely completion of the relevant documentation, for the Ocean Estate regeneration scheme, particularly the legal aspects, before the close of the financial year 2009/10, which had mitigated the risk of losing substantial funding. Ms Odunoye, Service Head Strategy Regeneration and Sustainability, was thanked for her contribution together with Ms B. Daly, Chair of the Ocean TRA.
- That consideration be given to the continued support, financially or by other means, of partner organisations such as the Ocean TRA, which were widely acknowledged to undertake good work in the community. The Lead Member gave an assurance that the Authority would continue to work closely with the Ocean TRA, whose contribution to development and progression of the regeneration scheme had proved invaluable.
- With reference to the Retail Strategy, set out within the 2010/11 NDC Delivery Plan, attached at Appendix A to the report, clarification/assurance was sought and given that retail traders whose business premises were lost as a consequence of demolition under regeneration scheme would be treated with sensitivity, every endeavour made by the Authority to identify alternative retail space for them and also to

- protect their interests in the context of the development of a small anchor store.
- With reference to the Succession and Legacy sections of the 2010/11 NDC Delivery Plan, attached at Appendix A to the report, and concerns relayed to Members in this context, clarification/ assurance was sought and given regarding the level of scrutiny applied to the Community Consortium Against Poverty (CCAP), CCAP performance to date in delivering programme outcomes and the Authority's level of involvement scrutiny and monitoring. Councillor Peck, Deputy Leader of the Council and Vice-Chair, whilst in part assured by Officer assurances, remained concerned and requested that the appropriate Chief Officer provide him with further details regarding the performance monitoring of targets in this regard. Mr Collins, Chief Executive, reported that detailed work was already underway to identify quantifiable evidence of performance against targets, and this would be reported to members of the Cabinet. Councillor Eaton, speaking with the consent of the Cabinet, requested that she also be provided with the information.
 - Clarification/assurance also sought and given regarding:
 - Submission of the NDC Delivery Plan in the context of discontinuation of Government Office for London.
 - Comments of the Chief Financial Officer (paragraph 11.5) relating to certification of the value of appropriated land.
 - Usage of terminology in the Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal) lacking in definitive clarity (paragraph 12.2).
 - Whether the new Primary Care Trust surgery at the Harford Street Community Facility (Appendix B Succession Strategy page 10) was included in the fit out or to be undertaken separately.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations, as set out in the report, and it was: -

Resolved

1. That the 2010/11 New Deal for Communities Delivery Plan, as set out in Appendix A to the report (CAB 001/101), be approved;
2. That the Corporate Director of Development and Renewal, after consultation with the Lead Member Regeneration and Employment, be authorised to finalise the plan, making any appropriate and necessary minor amendments prior to submission to Government Office for London (GOL);
3. That the amendments to the previously agreed succession strategy for the Ocean NDC, as set out in Appendix B of the report (CAB 001/101) and outlined in paragraph 6.1 of the report, be approved;
4. That the appropriation for planning purposes of land and buildings comprising the Council's freehold interest within site E shown on the

Plan attached to the report (CAB 001/101), pursuant to s122 of the Local Government Act 1972 be approved; and

5. That the freehold interest of the site E shown on the Plan attached to the report (CAB 001/101) be appropriated from the Housing Revenue Account to the Council's General Fund and held there for planning purposes.

6.2 Lettings Policy and Lettings Plan (CAB 002/101)

Councillor S. Islam declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6.2 "Lettings Policy and Lettings Plan" (CAB 002/101). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Authority's Lettings Policy (which determines nominations from the Common Housing Register for properties in the ownership of the Authority (managed by Tower Hamlets Homes) and Councillor Islam was a tenant of Tower Hamlets Homes and also on the Common Housing Register (also known as the Housing Waiting List).

Mr Cormack, Service Head Housing Options, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report:

- Summarised the key points contained therein, highlighting in particular:
 - That this was the first report to Members on likely activities under the Authority's allocations policy, following Cabinet agreement of a new Lettings Policy in March 2010. Officers considered it important to indicate early on how the policy was likely to work, rather than report the outcome of monitoring at year end, and risk a pattern of lettings developing which was not congruent with the housing strategy and priorities of the Authority and its partners. These priorities included a new emphasis on reduction of overcrowding without taking away the emphasis on homelessness.
 - The proposed Lettings Plan, informed by the assessment of the likely lettings activity, set out an overall direction for the allocation of the available supply of housing over the coming year to meet statutory obligations and the priorities of the Council and its partners.
 - The Lettings Policy had been agreed in March, subject to final amendments to the quota of lettings to be made available to applicants from Band 3, and this quota was now proposed for agreement.
 - The opportunity of developing the Lettings Plan had been taken to review the Band 1 priority target groups and capture the numbers from the early monitoring of allocations work.
 - There had been no intention on the part of the previous Administration to cap bidding for housing under the Choice Based Lettings system, when the new Lettings Policy had been adopted in March 2010, however this position had not been captured in the agreed policy. It was now proposed that this

omission be mitigated with a small amendment to the current Lettings Policy.

- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 8th June 2010, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheet of questions and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings:

A discussion followed, during which the proposals in the report were broadly welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- The Officer team was formally thanked for their contribution in bringing these proposals forward.
- It was emphasised that there had been no intention to introduce restricted bidding for housing, under Choice Based Lettings, when the Lettings Policy had been adopted in March 2010 and the proposal to capture that position with a further review to the Lettings Policy was welcomed.
- Consideration that introduction of a fair and transparent Lettings Policy, whereby applicants for housing could see why others had been prioritised ahead of them, reinforced with effective allocation of social housing, would ensure that community cohesion was no longer undermined, as had been the case historically.
- Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing Heritage and Planning, considered it appropriate that the annual quota of lettings to be made available under the Lettings Policy for applicants in Band 3 be increased to 5% rather than the 3% recommended in the report. Accordingly he proposed an amendment to the recommendations set out in paragraph 2.2.2 of the report, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet.
- Councillor Peck, Deputy Leader of the Council and Vice-Chair, thanked the Lead Member Housing Heritage and Planning, for identifying that a quota operated for foster carers in relation to housing lettings. He commented that, as a long standing member of the Corporate Parenting Steering Group [charged with protecting the interests of looked after children in Tower Hamlets], he had long been aware of a problem whereby families wishing to provide foster care, but lacking a sufficient number of rooms, were not being prioritised for housing in a way which was delivering the desired outcome. One consequence was that these children were fostered outside the borough and therefore not able to benefit from the good schools and other benefits available to them in Tower Hamlets. He noted that the figures for this Band 1 priority target group, set out at appendix 2 to the Lettings Plan appended to the report, indicated that no foster carer households had received a let in 2009/10, that 8 households needed accommodation with the appropriate number of rooms, but no target had been set for 2010/11. He considered that current arrangements for prioritising applications for housing from foster carer households were not delivering, and setting a target would drive performance in this area with a massive impact for the small number of vulnerable children needing foster care. He also considered it imperative that officers from the 2 directorates responsible for Children and Housing work closely to

ensure that foster carer households understood how they qualified for housing priority and how to make an appropriate bid. Officers acknowledged the need for joint working and intervention action. Accordingly he proposed the following amendment to the recommendations set out in the report:

“That a 2010/2011 target for Band 1 Group B Priority Target Group – foster carers, be set at 8 lets.”

A discussion ensued as to the positives and negatives of setting a minimum target for foster carer households during which the Lead Member Housing Heritage and Planning concurred that the introduction of a target was appropriate as no foster carer households had been housed in 2009/10 despite being a priority target group.

- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given regarding:
 - Whether the Authority was making optimum use of ICT, and provision of information on the internet in particular, to facilitate informed choices and increased control of outcomes by applicants for housing under Choice Based Lettings.
 - Whether the quota for the Band 1 priority target group of care workers had been increased and who made the application for this the individuals needing care or the key worker.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations set out in the report (taking account of the amendments proposed by Councillor Francis and Councillor Peck); and it was:-

Resolved

1. That it be noted that the impact of the New Lettings Policy will be monitored for 6 months in order to assess whether broad targets are required in 2010/2011;
2. That, subject to resolution 6. below, the Lettings Plan for 2010/2011, as set out in paragraphs 6.12 to 6.28, Appendix 2 of the report (CAB 002/101) and further as part of the Lettings Plan, be agreed;
3. That 5% of annual lettings should be made available to applicants in Band 3 of the new Lettings Policy as set out in paragraph 6.23 of the report (CAB 002/101);
4. That unlimited bidding in the new Lettings Policy be retained with a review in one year's time;
5. That, subject to resolution 6. below, the amended New Lettings Policy, attached to the report (CAB 002/101) as Appendix 1, be agreed; and
6. That a 2010/2011 target for Band 1 Group B Priority Target Group – foster carers, be set at 8 lets.

6.3 Implications and recommended response to the Government's prospectus on Council Housing Finance (To Follow) (CAB 003/101)

The clerk advised that the report had been withdrawn upon the advice of Mr Dalvi, Corporate Director Development and Renewal, as the matter would be progressed by Officers under delegated authority. However a subsequent report might be submitted for future Cabinet consideration.

7. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

7.1 Children and Young People's Plan Annual Review 2009-10 (CAB 004/101)

Councillor D. Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7.1 "Children and Young People's Plan Annual Review 2009-10" (CAB 004/101). The declaration was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to secondary schools in general and Councillor Jones was a member of the governing body of Mulberry Secondary School.

Ms Cattermole, Acting Corporate Director Children, Schools and Families, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report:

- Summarised the key points contained therein:
 - Commenting that the 3 year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) approved by Cabinet in March 2009 had been refreshed and re-approved by Cabinet in April 2010. The CYPP set out the vision of the Tower Hamlets Partnership for children, young people and families in the borough and therefore determined the programme of activities undertaken by the Council and its partners, as well as setting out key performance indicators for these activities. The Authority had high aspirations for its children and young people and the targets set were consequently challenging.
 - Highlighting key performance achievements:
 - 17 indicators, where end of year data was available, showed improved performance on 2008/9.
 - Reduction of teenage pregnancy was the best performance in London and 3rd best nationally.
 - Implementation of the Integrated Pathways Team secured earlier referral to appropriate intervention for children at risk. A recent unannounced Ofsted inspection gave positive feedback on child protection services.
 - Summer 2009 saw achievement of the best ever GCSE results, with improvement at twice the national rate.
 - One of the smallest gaps nationally for academic achievement between pupils eligible for school meals and their peers had been achieved.
 - Extension of the reach of youth provision across the borough with engagement of 50% of young people in youth activities.

- Increased engagement with sports and outdoor activities with 400 teenagers signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh award, double the number in 2008/9.
- Child Poverty levels reduced by 3.4% to 48%, a positive direction of travel.
- Rebuilding and refurbishing schools through a Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme at a pace second to none: first completed sixth form college, on site in 6 secondary schools with 1st secondary school to open at St Paul's Way in January 2011. 31 primary schools had received significant funding to improve.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 8th June 2010, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheet of questions and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings:

A discussion followed, during which the proposals in the report were broadly welcomed, and which focused on the following points:-

- Ms Cattermole, Acting Corporate Director Children, Schools and Families and her Officer team were formally thanked for their contribution to the achievement of improved performance detailed in the report.
- The improvement in volunteering opportunities was particularly welcomed by the new Lead Member Children's Services.
- Concern was expressed that survey results of young people which indicated that 82% felt safe in their local area was not a reflection of the reality on the ground, as anecdotal evidence received, and experience of lower level violence and intimidation on the door step election campaign belied this. Consideration also that the programme of activities for the Every Child Matters (ECM) theme "Stay Safe" – Priority 1 "Protect children and young people from harm and support them to feel safe and confident in their area and beyond" was inadequate and behind the curve, with the associated targets requiring clarity. Clarification/ assurance was given in relation to the source of the data, the initiatives being undertaken in schools around youth violence and young people's perception of a safe environment, also the targeting of hot spots of youth violence by the joint tasking group (police and safer neighbourhood teams). The Acting Corporate Director undertook to report the detail of this work to members of the Cabinet but advised that Officers were preparing a report on youth violence in the borough for Member consideration in June/ July.
- Concern was expressed that the activities associated with the theme "Local Priorities" – LAPs 5 & 6 – "Establishing additional youth services in the west of LAP 5 continued not to address the needs of the west of the borough", which had suffered historically from lower levels of youth provision, and additional resources were required. Also the joint sessions at Caxton Hall had not been undertaken due to staff absence or leave. Clarification was given as to the rationale for resource allocation in this area, and the Acting Corporate Director undertook to provide members of the Cabinet with an analysis of related spend and activity provision by LAP.

- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, with reference to extension of youth provision across the borough with engagement reaching 50% of teenagers, as to how this compared with other similar boroughs and what aspirations there were to improve it further. Also as to what measures were being taken to engage young women with youth service provision, given they had been less engaged than young men historically. Another Cabinet member commented that the offer to youth in the borough was now fantastic, having greatly improved over recent years and made particularly attractive with the extended hours provision.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given as to specific initiatives undertaken which had led to the reduction in child poverty indicated in the report. The Acting Corporate Director undertook to provide members of the Cabinet with information on the initiatives being undertaken with the Child Poverty Strategy.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, with reference to ECM theme “Make a Positive Contribution” - Priority 2 “Increase community cohesion among our children, young people and their families” as to initiatives to build community cohesion in primary schools with a predominantly Bangladeshi and other BME cohort. The Acting Corporate Director undertook to provide Councillor Islam, Lead Member Regeneration and Employment, with information on the initiatives being undertaken.
- Concern was expressed regarding the adequacy of youth service provision in the Bethnal Green area which appeared not to have seen the uplift of other LAPs. Current provision was limited to the Wessex Centre but there were issues with space and cost that remained unresolved. Clarification/ assurance was given by the Acting Corporate Director.
- Clarification was sought and given, with reference to the priority of reducing child obesity, as to whether the opportunity to engage with parents of reception year children, and disseminate appropriate information to them, was being optimised. The chair requested that Councillor Ali be provided with a copy of the recent scrutiny review report on child obesity.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, with reference to theme “Local Priorities” – LAPs 3&4 – “Increase the variety of and quality of activities at youth clubs making sure that diverse groups of young people are engaged”, as to:
 - The current position with the refurbishment and development of plans for the Haileybury Youth Club.
 - The medium and long term future of the Redcoats Youth Club, and in particular if this temporary arrangement proved to be successful it could be retained. The Acting Corporate Director undertook to provide Councillor Ullah, Lead Member Community Safety with a written response.
- Commented that a large number of young people were attending university but were not being signposted to opportunities to improve employment related skills linked to local and regional labour market opportunities such as the Olympics and Crossrail. Clarification sought

and given in relation to duty of schools to provide this signposting and associated initiatives. The Acting Corporate Director undertook to provide Councillor Saunders, Lead Member Health and Wellbeing with the booklet of information provided to parents.

- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, regarding plans to meet the future need for improved service provision resulting from a demographic bulge in Mile End East.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought, with reference to theme “Local Priorities” – LAPs 5 & 6 – “Establishing additional youth services in the west of LAP 5 “ as to initiatives to improve youth service provision at the Eleanor Street Travellers’ Site. The Acting Corporate Director undertook to provide Councillor Saunders, Lead Member Health and Wellbeing with a written response/ information.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given as to the per capita spend on youth service provision and comparatives with other London boroughs, and nationally. The Acting Corporate Director undertook to provide members of the Cabinet with the detail in writing.

Mr Collins, Chief Executive, informed members of the Cabinet that, following a recent Government announcement which could impact on the future relationship between schools and local authorities, he had met with all head teachers that day. He was pleased to report that they wished to remain in the Tower Hamlets community of schools, and that the matter would now be discussed with school governing bodies, with a view to ensuring that the best facilities possible were provided to young people in Tower Hamlets.

The Chair commented that:

- The amount of work already done to improve provision of services for young people in Tower Hamlets must not be underestimated, and he endorsed the formal thanks of the Lead Member to Ms Cattermole, Acting Corporate Director Children, Schools and Families and her Officer team for their contribution to the achievement of improved performance as detailed in the report.
- The Authority and the Administration could take pride in its Youth Service. However it was acknowledged that there was a perception in the Community that little or not enough was being provided by the Council in terms of youth services and this needed to be taken seriously and addressed.
- A strategic rather than parochial approach was essential when examining youth service provision, as there was One Tower Hamlets. Some areas had more youth facilities than others, but the key issue was how to ensure that residents had the opportunity to access service provision, and young people were encouraged to travel to where provision was available.

The Chair then requested that Officers take account of the comments/ suggestions made by members of the Cabinet, and in particular those to improve progress in relation to CYPP activities and targets in the year ahead; and subsequently **Moved** that:

“The assessment of the first year’s progress against the current three year CYPP 2009-2012, recommended for Cabinet consideration in the recommendation contained in paragraph 2.1 of the report, be noted.”

Together with the following additional recommendation for the consideration of members of the Cabinet:

“That a further report on progress against targets within the CYPP 2009-2012, be brought forward for Cabinet consideration.”

and it was: -

Resolved:

1. That the assessment of the first year year’s progress against the current three-year CYPP 2009-2012 be noted; and
2. That a further report on progress against targets within the CYPP 2009-2012, be brought forward for Cabinet consideration.

7.2 Establishment of a Children and Families Trust Board for Tower Hamlets (CAB 005/101)

Councillor D. Jones declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7.2 “Establishment of a Children and Families Trust Board for Tower Hamlets” (CAB 005/101). The declaration was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to secondary schools in general and Councillor Jones was a member of the governing body of Mulberry Secondary School.

Ms Cattermole, Acting Corporate Director Children, Schools and Families, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report summarised the key points contained therein, highlighting in particular:

- The proposed changes to Children’s Trust arrangements in Tower Hamlets were required to meet new statutory requirements.
- The review of arrangements included a very wide ranging consultation including Trust partners, third sector service providers and young people.
- The proposed governance structure aimed to build on the strengths of existing arrangements, address concerns highlighted in the review, and ensure that services for children were commissioned and developed effectively to make optimum use of resources and achieve better outcomes.

A discussion followed which focused on the points set out below:-

- The focus on setting shared priorities for children and young people, joined up working and joint commissioning was welcomed.
- Concern was expressed that the proposed organisational structure of the Children and Families Trust Board (CFTB) was overly bureaucratic and layered, with 12 separate commissioning groups and specialist

commissioning groups in addition, and not congruent with the current environment of fiscal constraint. Concern also that the terms of reference of the different groups would result in the operational support and costs falling on the Authority when the costs should be at least shared by the statutory partners of the Board. Consideration therefore that the proposals should be remitted for 1 month to allow for review with a focus on more streamlined and efficient arrangements.

- Concern was also expressed regarding the membership of the CFTB and that this be the subject of review and reported back to Cabinet.
- Officers responded that there was no option for non-introduction of new arrangements as these were a Government requirement, and the proposals also responded to detailed statutory guidance as to implementation. However it was known that the new Secretary of State intended to review such trusts nationally. There was also a need to ensure that services were commissioned and developed to produce optimum outcomes for children and young people, and this could only be achieved through detailed discussion with partners drilling down to services delivered and outcomes expected. Where this had not happened the arrangements had gone awry. The Authority received a small amount of funding to operate the CFTB.
- Acknowledging the pressing need to set up the CFTB and taking account of the advice of the Acting Corporate Director Councillor Peck, Deputy Leader of the Council and Vice-Chair, commented that if remitting the report for 1 month for review was unviable, then the expertise of the Authority's Transformation Board should be applied to examining the organizational structure. Accordingly he proposed an additional recommendation, to that set out in the report, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet as follows:
"That an expeditious review of the membership and organisational structure of the Children and Families Trust Board be undertaken, by the Authority's Transformation Board, to assess the potential for more streamlined arrangements and the outcomes be reported back to Cabinet."

The Chair in **Moving** the recommendations set out in the report (taking account of the amendment proposed by Councillor Peck); and it was:-

Resolved

1. That, subject to resolution 4 below, the establishment of a Children and Families Trust Board for Tower Hamlets with initial membership, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report (CAB 005/101), be agreed;
2. That, subject to resolution 4 below, it be agreed that the Children and Families Trust Board will operate in accordance with the organisational chart set out in Appendix 1 of the report (CAB 005/101) and the terms of reference in Appendix 2;
3. That it be agreed that the Chair of the Children and Families Trust Board will be the Lead Member for Children's Services; and

4. That an expeditious review of the membership and organisational structure of the Children and Families Trust Board be undertaken, by the Authority's Transformation Board, to assess the potential for more streamlined arrangements and the outcomes be reported back to Cabinet.

8. A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

The Clerk advised that there were no business to be considered under this section of the agenda.

9. A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

The Clerk advised that there were no business to be considered under this section of the agenda.

10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS

Variation of Order of Business

Following consideration of Agenda item 7.2 "Establishment of a Children and Families Trust Board for Tower Hamlets" and advisement by the clerk that there was no business to be considered under Sections 8 and 9 of the agenda the Chair Informed members of the Cabinet that:

- The clerk had advised that Agenda item 12.2 "Cabinet Sub-Bodies Terms of Reference and Membership" contained recommendations for consideration, but had been circulated, in error, within the section of the agenda comprising reports for information.
- The clerk had advised that Agenda item 11.1 "Government announcement of 6.2 billion in year spending cuts" published on Monday 7th June 2010, contained noting recommendations, but had been circulated, in error, within the section of the agenda comprising any other unrestricted business considered to be urgent (and therefore requiring consideration).

The Chair **Moved** (taking account of the advice of the clerk), and it was:-

Resolved

That the Order of Business be varied so that:

- Agenda item 12.2 "Cabinet Sub-Bodies Terms of Reference and Membership" be considered as the next item of business. However the remaining reports for information (agenda items 12.1 "Cabinet Terms of Reference and Membership" and 12.3 "Exercise of Corporate Director Discretions") be taken in the sequence detailed in the order of business.
- Agenda item 11.1 "Government announcement of 6.2 billion in year spending cuts" be taken at the end of the section of the agenda comprising reports for information.

However for ease of reference the deliberations of the Cabinet, and subsequent decisions taken, are set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

11. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil Items.

11.1 Government announcement of 6.2 billion in year spending cuts (CAB 009/101)

Please note that the order of business was varied by resolution of the Cabinet earlier in the proceedings in order to allow this item of business to be taken within the section of the agenda for unrestricted reports for information following agenda item 12.3, however for ease of reference the deliberations of the Cabinet, and subsequent decisions taken, are set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that Councillor Edgar, Lead Member: Resources, had **Tabled** a **Motion** in relation to the recommendations set out in the report, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

Mr Naylor, Corporate Director Resources, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report summarised the key points contained therein, highlighting in particular:

- The Authority had set a balanced budget for 2010/11 in line with the third year of its 3 year budget strategy.
- Government had recently announced £6.2 billion of in year spending cuts, of which the share for Local Government was approximately £1.2 billion. Detail was still lacking but a “rule of thumb” was that the London Borough of Tower Hamlets represented approximately 1% of local government expenditure in England and Wales and therefore its share of these spending cuts was likely to be of that order. London Councils had undertaken a more sophisticated analysis which projected the LBTH share of the cuts to be £8.5 to £10 million.
- Action was required immediately to close the savings gap and mitigate the risk of the Authority overspending in 2010/11. Officers had already actioned a temporary moratorium on new spend in the areas funded by grants likely to be the focus of the Government cuts.
- Government has also announced that ring-fenced grants to Local Government of a similar amount would have the ring-fence removed, which would allow for a more creative approach to meeting the savings gap across both the pool of grants and other Council budgets.
- It was intended that proposals of the scale required to meet the savings gap were submitted to the July Cabinet for consideration.

Councillor Edgar, Lead Member Resources, in **proposing** the tabled motion: - Commented:

- That the announcement of £6.2 billion of in year spending cuts was a major decision and a substantial figure which gave rise to concerns of

damaging the economic recovery if not a “double dip” recession. Concerns which had been shared by the Liberal Democrat “shadow chancellor”, Mr Vince Cable, before the General Election and Coalition Government.

- Tower Hamlets like other areas of high deprivation was dependent on the Government funding to carry out its activities and many areas were touched by this development, such as services for young people, activities to address anti-social behaviour and work with housing associations to provide housing and address overcrowding.
- It was essential that the process of identifying the savings needed was focused on the protection of front line services and the protection of the Community in the interest of all its residents. This was even more important when some of these residents would rely on Council services as a consequence of the impact of public sector cuts.
- He was confident that despite the scale of the savings, given the past record of the Authority in achieving efficiency savings, the organisation would identify ways to make the required savings. He considered that as part of this process Officers should be asked to:
 - Examine whether efficiency savings in the pipeline for 2010/11 could be brought forward.
 - Undertake detailed work to ensure the Authority optimised its use of space and in particular with a view to vacating Anchorage House [Clove Crescent, London E14].
 - Review workforce productivity arrangements particularly with reference to agency and temporary staff.
 - Examine the Members Allowances Scheme with a view to making savings.
 - Scrutinise grants effected by Government cuts to identify opportunities for efficiency savings in the back office rather than front line and opportunities as a result of de ring-fencing.

A discussion followed, during which the proposals in the report were endorsed, and which focused on the following points:-

- Councillor Edgar, Lead Member Resources thanked for bringing the proposals in the tabled motion forward to Cabinet.
- Noted that London Councils had analysed the cuts announced and produced a list of Councils that would lose out. Tower Hamlets was at the top with most to lose, alongside Newham and Hackney, whilst Kensington and Chelsea were at the bottom, with least to lose.
- The Coalition Government was considered to be lying shamefully about its approach to savings in public sector spending, as the swingeing cuts fell on the most deprived and needy. The Government approach was also considered to be shameful in a strategic sense: with mainstream grant, that all local authorities received, not targeted for cuts; but specialist grants directed at supporting the most vulnerable and deprived, such as those in poverty or with disabilities, targeted for cuts. This impacted on Tower Hamlets disproportionately, as it was acknowledged to be one of the most deprived in the country.
- The Authority had a track record of efficient service delivery, having achieved £5 million in efficiency savings over the last 5 years. This had

been difficult to achieve, so the prospect of identifying savings in the order of £10 million in year was daunting.

- The proposed approach of protecting frontline services and focusing savings on the back office was endorsed. It was considered sensible to endeavour to take some of the savings now that had been planned for future years. It was acknowledged that the Council would also need to reduce the footprint of its activities and squeeze all grants so every penny available was channelled to frontline services. This was the start of a very painful process for local residents and would change the way they lived much more than it would people of backgrounds such as the Prime Minister.
- Anger and frustration was expressed at the delay in Government communicating the detail of the spending cuts, which exacerbated the situation and the process of meeting the savings gap.
- A Liberal Democrat Member, speaking with the consent of the Cabinet:
 - Commented that prior to the Election the former Leader of the Council had publicly acknowledged that fiscal tightening would occur whatever the political composition of the next Government.
 - Commented that the Authority had in recent years adopted a prudent approach to its finances, which the Liberal Democrat Group had supported. Considered in that context, and given the severity of the fiscal situation, a cross party process of identifying savings, that did not impact on front line services, would be constructive.
 - Expressed dismay that the proposed cuts would impact disproportionately on Tower Hamlets and the most needy in the Community, and offered support in the lobbying of the Coalition Government in this regard.
- Whilst cross party support in lobbying Government in respect of the spending cuts for local government and Tower Hamlets in particular was welcome, these were in part due to the Liberal Democrat participation in the Coalition Government and support for the Conservative cuts agenda, a policy it had not espoused during the General Election campaign.

The Chair considered that it was essential to be proactive and work together to identify a way to meet the savings gap, and accordingly formally **Seconded** the motion as tabled; and it was:-

Resolved

1. That the priority in responding to public sector spending cuts made by the Government should be to focus on protecting the delivery of frontline services, in particular, our priority of achieving a safe and secure community for all our residents;
2. That the record of the Council in achieving significant efficiency savings in previous years, be noted;

3. That the contents of the report (CAB 009/101) be noted, and Officers be commissioned to undertake the following activity:
 - a) Consider whether efficiency proposals in the pipeline for the financial year 2011/12 can be brought forward into this financial year.
 - b) Carry out detailed work on vacating Anchorage House to allow a decision to be made in the summer, review workforce productivity arrangements with specific reference to the deployment of agency and temporary workers, and the Members' Scheme.
 - c) Scrutinise the allocation of grants in-scope for Government reduction and identify opportunities for efficiency savings, in particular those that might arise in the back office and those that may become available as a result of un-ring fencing.

12. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

12.1 Cabinet Terms of Reference and Membership (CAB 006/101)

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved:

That the contents of the report (CAB 006/101) be noted.

12.2 Cabinet Sub-Bodies Terms of Reference and Membership (CAB 007/101)

Please note that the order of business was varied by resolution of the Cabinet earlier in the proceedings in order to allow this item to be considered within the section of the agenda for unrestricted reports for consideration at agenda item 10 "One Tower Hamlets", however for ease of reference the deliberations of the Cabinet, and subsequent decisions taken, are set out below in the order detailed in the agenda.

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that he had **Tabled a Motion** for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

The short discussion that followed focused on the points set out below:-

- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given regarding the establishment and membership of the King George's Fields Charity Board.

- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given as to whether the Grants Appeals Panel had met in the previous Municipal Year and whether it was still required.

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that he understood that the Authority’s constitution currently required an appeals mechanism to be in place for grant applicants wishing to appeals decisions made by the Grants Panel; however it would be appropriate for the Constitutional Working Party to examine whether the future establishment of a Grants Appeals Panel remained appropriate. Accordingly the Chair formally **Moved** the motion as tabled, together with the following additional proposal for the consideration of members of the Cabinet:-

“That the Constitutional Working Party examine whether the future establishment of a Grants Appeals Panel remains appropriate.”

and it was:-

Resolved

1. That the establishment of the Sub-Bodies listed at (a) and (b) below, to discharge functions on behalf of the Cabinet, with Terms of Reference, Membership and Quorum as set out in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 of the report (CAB 007/101), be agreed:
 - (a) Grants Panel
 - (b) Grants Appeals Panel
- 2) That the appointments to the Grants Panel and Grants Appeals Panel until 21 October 2010 in the Municipal Year 2010/2011, as set out below, be agreed: -

Grants Panel	
<i>Members</i>	<i>Substitutes</i>
Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Denise Jones	
Councillor Joshua Peck	
Councillor Shiria Khatun	

Grants Appeals Panel	
<i>Members</i>	<i>Substitutes</i>

Councillor Rachael Saunders	Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Sirajul Islam	

- 3) That the Constitutional Working Party examine whether the future establishment of a Grants Appeals Panel remains appropriate.

12.3 Exercise of Corporate Director Discretions (CAB 008/101)

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved

That the exercise of Corporate Directors' discretions as set out in Appendix 1 of the report (CAB 008/101) be noted.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

Resolved:

That pursuant to regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting:

- (a) As it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted in Section Two of the agenda, that if members of the public were present during consideration of this business there would be disclosure of exempt information.
- Exempt information is defined in section 100I and, by reference, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the 1972 Act"). To be exempt, information must fall within one of the categories listed in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Schedule 12A, must not fall within one of the excluded categories in paragraphs 8 and 9 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption must outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.
 - Agenda item 14. "Exempt/ Confidential Minutes" (of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7th April 2010) contained information
 - Relating to any individual.
 - The financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
 - Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

- (b) As although there is a public interest favouring public access to local authority meetings, in this case the Cabinet concluded that given the information contained in:
- Agenda Item 14. "Exempt/ Confidential Minutes" (of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7th April 2010) relating to
 - any individual.
 - The financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
 - Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.that the public interest in maintaining the exemption on the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

SUMMARY OF EXEMPT PROCEEDINGS

14. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Minutes of Cabinet meeting held on 7th April 2010 amended.

Motion from the Chair agreed.

15. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15.1 Chair's advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Exempt / Confidential Business to be considered.

Nil Items.

15.2 Any Exempt / Confidential Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nil Items.

16. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Nil Items.

17. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

Nil Items.

18. A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Nil Items.

19. A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Nil Items.

20. ONE TOWER HAMLETS

Nil Items.

21. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil Items.

22. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Nil Items.

The meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Helal Abbas
Cabinet