

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010**

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**SUMMARY**

1. Four motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010.
2. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008, the order in which the motions are listed is by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months unless notice of motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

**MOTIONS**

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

## 11.1 Child Poverty in Tower Hamlets

**Motion proposed by:** Councillor Stephanie Eaton

**Seconded by:** Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes with sadness that:

1. Tower Hamlets has the highest levels of child poverty in the country.
2. Using the National Indicator 116 measure (the proportion of children who live in families in receipt of out of work means-tested benefits and those families in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of the median income) 48% of children in the borough live in poverty.
3. Alongside this 66% of children live in low income households – the Child Poverty Act 2010 makes a commitment to reduce this to 10% nationally.
4. 50% of children are in benefit dependent families.
5. 33% of families live on less than £20,000 per year.
6. Tower Hamlets has the highest free school meals entitlement in the UK (52% of children)

This Council welcomes:

The £7bn package for supporting children announced by the government which includes measures to ensure:

1. All disadvantaged two-year-olds will have an entitlement to 15 hours a week of pre-school education, in addition to the 15 hours already available to those aged three and four. The cash will go to the poorest 20% of children nationally of whom many will be in Tower Hamlets.
2. Schools will receive additional funds to offer targeted help to every pupil eligible for free school meals.
3. The vast bulk of the £7bn fairness premium – roughly £5bn – will be devoted to the pupil premium.
4. Schools will be entitled to spend the money as they see fit, for instance on catch-up classes for struggling pupils.

This Council notes:

These measures will make a substantial and verifiable difference to the lives of the youngest and poorest people in our Borough.

This Council will:

Work with Ministers and officials to ensure that correct information is supplied quickly and accurately to the Department of Education so that the children of Tower Hamlets can benefit from these proposals as soon as possible and the Borough can start to alleviate the unacceptable levels of child poverty.

## **11.2 Publication of licensed hours and conditions imposed**

**Motion proposed by: Councillor David Snowdon**

**Seconded by: Councillor Zara Davis**

This council notes:

- The significant resident interest in the licensing function of Tower Hamlets Council amongst residents of the Borough.
- The large number of licensing reviews and refused applications which result from breaches in licensed hours.
- The difficulty faced by local residents in finding out the details of the licensed hours of pubs, clubs and venues offering late night refreshment in Tower Hamlets.
- That there is no single repository on the Tower Hamlets website giving the details of the licensed hours in force, and that to find the licensed hours residents must either note them down from the official notice in the premises or locate the decision note from a licensing committee meeting.
- Other authorities offer online databases of the licensed hours in force, including Elmbridge, Southampton, the East Riding of Yorkshire and Woking.

This council believes:

- That residents have a right to easily accessible information on licensed hours.
- That it is not appropriate that residents should be asked to enter a licensed premises in order to note down their licensed hours, given that residents may already feel intimidated by the premises.
- That increased transparency in hours will lead to increased resident involvement in the licensing process, and help to limit the harm caused by breaches of the law.

This council resolves:

- To provide an online “one-stop-shop” which will provide details of all licenses granted by the licensing committee or officers acting under delegated power for licensable activities within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- This online service will include a list of licensed establishments, searchable by name of establishment, type of establishment, ward and street. When an establishment is selected, the full licensed hours, together with any conditions imposed will then be displayed.

- This online service will have an accompanying map, upon which will be plotted licensed premises in the Borough. The map used will have suitable resolution to see individual streets within the Borough. When an establishment is selected on the map, the full licensed hours, together with any conditions imposed will then be displayed.
- This service will be available by January 1 2011.

### **11.3 Island Homes**

**Motion proposed by: Councillor Peter Golds**  
**Seconded by: Councillor David Snowdon**

This council notes:

1. The ongoing concerns of Island Homes residents in the management structure of their Housing Association
2. The fact that the board of Island Homes, while having a majority of residents, does not have representatives elected by the residents of the Island Homes estates
3. That the Barkantine Management Team (BMT) has been deprived of its office by Island Homes since the board was suspended in 2008.
4. The motion approved by Full Council on 9 December 2009 calling for the Lead Member for Housing to press Island Homes for further reforms to bring governance standards in line with those expected by Island Homes residents

This council believes:

1. That the London Borough of Tower Hamlets has an ongoing responsibility towards the residents of the Island Homes estates due to the mistakes made in the transfer process, which resulted in the Transfer Document not fully reflecting the promises made in the Offer Document

This council resolves that:

1. The Lead Member for Housing should take renewed and additional steps to seek a resolution to the dispute over board membership between Island Homes Residents and Island Homes
2. The Lead Member for Housing should report back on progress made at the next meeting of Full Council.

#### **11.4 Location of meetings**

**Motion proposed by: Councillor Dr. Emma Jones**  
**Seconded by: Councillor David Snowdon**

This council notes that recent Cabinet Meetings have been held in venues throughout the borough.

The council resolves that Licensing, Development and Planning meetings will therefore be held in the appropriate LAP to enable residents to fully partake in taking part more fully in this vital decision making process.