

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 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 8<sup>th</sup> December 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

**MOTIONS**

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

## 12.1 Bancroft Local History Library & Archive

**Proposed:** Councillor Denise Jones

**Seconded:** Councillor Bill Turner

Notice of motion also signed by: Councillors Helal Abbas, Kabir Ahmed, Khaled Uddin Ahmed, Rajib Ahmed, Mizan Chaudhury, David Edgar, Judith Gardiner, Carli Harper-Penman, Ann Jackson, Anwar Khan, Anna Lynch, Mohammed Mukit, Joshua Peck, Zenith Rahman, Rachael Saunders, Helal Uddin, Kosru Uddin and Motin Uz-Zaman.

Note: This motion includes a proposal to rescind a resolution of the Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.1, the notice of the following motion has been signed by 20 councillors as above.

This Council believes that:

- East London has a rich heritage that should be safeguarded and celebrated.
- Bancroft Local History Library & Archive has an important and unique collection of historical archives of East London that is well used and should be developed and preserved for posterity.
- Bancroft Local History Library & Archive is in need of refurbishment and investment.

This Council notes that:

- At the Full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010 a motion was tabled on Bancroft Local History Library and Archive proposed by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, seconded by Councillor Rabina Khan. One of the resolutions was to: *“support the Mayor in his proposal that all £500,000 of the section 106 from the Peugeot site development should be earmarked to the Bancroft Local History Library and Archive”*
- The facts are incorrect. Officers had already agreed at a PCOP meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 to allocate £500k S106 money from the Peugeot Garage site on Mile End Road to Bancroft Local History Library. Whilst the support of the Mayor to allocate this money to Bancroft is reassuring, the decision was taken under the previous administration.
- More significantly, a pre application bid for up to £2 million capital funding was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund which was supported by Councillor Denise Jones as the former Lead Member for Culture whilst officers are continuing discussions with the HLF regarding the national importance of the Bancroft Road History Library and Archives.

This Council further notes that:

- The motion also contained a statement that *'The former Lead Member for Culture should not have requested the withdrawal of £350,000 funding from Bancroft in favour of the Rich Mix Centre'*
- Cllr Edgar tabled an amendment to the motion, proposing to delete this reference and clarifying that any implication that the former Lead Member had made such a request was untrue. Cllr Ohid Ahmed refused to accept this amendment and voted against it. The substantive motion was then passed still containing this untrue implication.
- Councillor Denise Jones, the former Lead Member for Culture refuted the implied allegation that she made such a request. She made this point at the meeting under Council Procedure Rule 15.14 *'personal explanation'* but ruled herself out of the discussion because she is a trustee of Rich Mix.
- Following the meeting, at the request of Councillor Denise Jones, the Chief Executive of the Council investigated the implied allegation and found *"that there was no evidence that Councillor Jones requested the withdrawal of £350,000 funding from Bancroft in favour of the Rich Mix Centre."* This finding was circulated to all Councillors.

This Council believes:

- That any allegation that the former Lead Member for Culture requested the withdrawal of £350,000 funding from Bancroft in favour of the Rich Mix Centre is untrue and should be withdrawn by Councillor Ohid Ahmed.
- That Councillors Ohid Ahmed and Rabina Khan should apologise to Councillor Denise Jones for making a defamatory statement in public and for the damage they have done to her reputation.
- That the fact that the implied allegation was untrue should be formally recorded in the minutes of the Full Council of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

This Council resolves:

- To continue to support the development and refurbishment of the Local History Library and Archives with the allocation of £500k of S106 money from the Peugeot site in Mile End Road, from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from any further funding opportunities.
- To rescind the motion as presented on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010 to Full Council on the grounds that it contained false information.

## **12.2 Public questions, petitions and deputations at Council**

**Proposed:** Councillor Tim Archer

**Seconded:** Councillor David Snowdon

This Council believes in localism and transparent democracy and therefore amends the constitution to permit members of the public to ask questions at successive meetings, subject to being placed behind new questioners in the event of a member of the public asking a question at either of the previous two meetings.

In addition the Council restores the provision for petitions and deputations as existing prior to the last meeting and thereby allowing members of the public and community groups to bring their concerns directly to the Mayor and his administration.

## **12.3 Victoria Park events**

**Proposed:** Councillor Joshua Peck

**Seconded:** Councillor Carli Harper-Penman

This Council notes:

- That Victoria Park has long been used to host big events, including the annual fireworks display, Paradise Gardens and commercial concerts and that many of these are popular with residents who live around the park and those from further afield;
- That the frequency of events has increased in the last two years and with it the noise, crowds, disruption, rubbish, damage and the amount of time large parts of the park are out of use;
- That as a result, local opposition to events has grown significantly.

This Council believes:

- That events in Victoria Park are both an opportunity for our community to come together and bring new users to the park and should be supported;
- That commercial events in the park are an important revenue stream for the future upkeep of the park after the Lottery-funded restoration;
- That this must be balanced with the needs of local residents

This Council resolves:

- To ask officers to bring forward a policy that:
  - Limits the number of large commercial music events in the park to six each year;

- Prevents the park being used on consecutive weekends throughout the summer, with at least two weekends free after a weekend of events;
- Brings forward the closing time for events to 10pm;
- Increases the level of security, stewarding and traffic management in the streets surrounding the events;
- Reduces the noise levels permitted at events; and
- Includes a separate policy that addresses the particular needs of the 2012 Live Site during Olympic year, recognising that this is a one-off occasion but also recognising the needs of local residents.

## **12.4 NHS**

**Proposed: Councillor Rachael Saunders**

**Seconded: Councillor Helal Abbas**

This Council notes:

1. That in 2006 David Cameron promised “no more pointless and disruptive reorganisations” of the NHS;
2. That Tower Hamlets PCT recently came top of the World Class Commissioning League Table;
3. That the Conservative-Liberal Democrat government recently published a White Paper, “Liberating the NHS”, which proposed the abolition of PCTs and opened the door to private companies offering commission support to GPs. Under these proposals consortia of GPs will control 80% of the total NHS budget;
4. That GPs in Tower Hamlets have stated their support for the good work that the PCT does, and have decided that under the plans in the White Paper they wish to operate a GP consortium on a borough level and to do all they can to preserve the talent and expertise currently in the PCT.

This Council believes:

1. That the proposed NHS reorganisation is unnecessary, costly and not in the interests of the people of Tower Hamlets;
2. That the position that Tower Hamlets GPs have taken is welcome;
3. That any change in NHS organisation in Tower Hamlets must result in more public accountability, not less.

This Council resolves:

1. To oppose Conservative-Liberal Democrat plans to break up the NHS;
2. To use our position as local representatives to work with the groups of GPs, who organise together on geographical boundaries that reflect LAPs, to increase local democratic accountability and engagement;
3. To scrutinise the East London and City Alliance NHS and Tower Hamlets PCT in their responses to the White Paper, and to campaign for increased democratic accountability in any structural changes that are made.