

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

SUMMARY

1. Eleven motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 19th September 2012.
2. In addition, eight motions were deferred from the previous (11th July 2012) Council Meeting due to time constraints.
3. The deferred motions are listed overleaf in the order in which they appeared on the agenda for the 11th July meeting. They are followed by the new motions which, in accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, are listed 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.
4. 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in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
5. 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 History Teaching And The English Baccalaureate

Proposer: Councillor David Snowdon

Seconded: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council notes:

- Only 11.7% of Tower Hamlets school children passes GCSE History at grades A*-C. This is the fifth lowest number in England, ahead of only Knowsley, Newham, Kingston-Upon-Hull and Manchester.
- Over three times more school children achieve A*-C GCSE History in the top performing council in the country, Hammersmith and Fulham.
- That the new gold standard of English secondary education, the English Baccalaureate, requires school children to have A*-C passes in Maths, English, two sciences, a modern language and history or geography. Only 5.9% of children achieved this, in part due to the low number of history GCSEs entered.
- Tower Hamlets has the ninth lowest number of children passing A-Level History in England.

This Council believes:

- That the study of history allows our school children to develop high level analytical skills, and helps them to more fully appreciate the world around them. This in turn promotes civic and community engagement.
- That in order to increase the number of Tower Hamlets school children achieving the English-Baccalaureate we need to increase the provision of History teaching in our schools. Not achieving this standard threatens to limit the educational opportunities available to our school children.

This Council resolves:

- To instruct officers to write to all head teachers of schools within the Borough to make them aware of the Council's support for a higher provision of History teaching.
- To instruct officers to contact schools to see what barriers exist to a higher level of provision of history teaching, and report back to full council within six months.
- To ask the Mayor to champion the case of history teaching in Tower Hamlets, and investigate what he can do to promote this objective.

12.2 Defending the Welfare State

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconded: Councillor Fozol Miah

This Council notes:

- a) the Condem government is planning an extra £18 billion welfare cuts, on top the £18 billion already in train
- b) this will condemn more families to poverty and undermine progress made in reducing child poverty in Tower Hamlets and nationally.
- c) Government attempts to depict these cuts as largely affecting the long term unemployed or disabled are misleading
- d) most of those drawing benefits are the working poor like cleaners, carers and caterers who are working hard yet need benefits to survive because of their very low pay.
- e) Britain's low wage economy and lack of jobs are driving up our benefits bill, as is our failing housing market
- f) 95% of the recent £1 billion rise in housing benefit is paid to those in work.

This Council agrees:

- a) the defence of the welfare state from Tory driven attempts to dismantle it is a political priority for the people of Tower Hamlets
- b) that Government austerity is self-defeating
- c) instead of creating growth and jobs these policies are shrinking the economy, strangling growth, increasing unemployment, and driving the country deeper into recession.
- d) that we urgently need a programme of job creation, housing building, and measures to ensure people are paid a real living wage and have access to decent, affordable and secure housing.

12.3 Social Landlords

Proposer: Councillor Gloria Thienel

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council Notes:

- That the Minister for Housing and Local Government has praised social landlords such as Viridian and Home Group for their plans to publish expenditure over £500.
- That the Housing Minister calls on social landlords to follow Viridian and Home Group's example and become more transparent.
- That the government is committed to a consultation with social landlords on whether to expand the scope of the Freedom of Information Act to apply to them.

This Council Believes:

- That the example shown by Viridian and Home Group is a step in the right direction and all social landlords should consider following their lead.
- That the government should extend the Freedom of Information Act to apply to social landlords and all Housing Associations; so they will publish spending over £500.

This Council Resolves:

- To support the Government in its consultation.
- To encourage and support Housing Associations/Social landlords in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to publish all spending over £500.

12.4 High Earners and Council Housing

Proposer: Councillor Tim Archer

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

This Council Notes:

- There are some 6,000 Council houses across the UK that have tenants earning more than £100,000 a year living in them.
- That it has been reported that there are 15,000 tenants in social housing earning more than £80,000 a year.
- That there are a number of such tenants resident in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, including key supporters of the Mayor and his administration, who fall into this category.
- The wish by the Spitalfields Housing Association for the introduction of new measures which will enable them to re-let a Town House in Wapping to tenants more serving then the current resident.
- That the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Grant Shapps MP has brought forward plans that would give social landlords new powers to increase rents for high-income tenants.

This Council Believes:

- That these new powers social landlords will be granted in the proposals by the Department for Communities and Local Government will help solve this problem, and return much needed social housing to those in need.

This Council Resolves:

- To support the Department for Communities and Local Government in putting in place these new powers.
- To encourage all social landlords in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to not subsidise rents for those high earners earning over £80,000 a year.

12.5 Housing Benefit Reform

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconded: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council notes that:

- Some London councils are seeking to 'export' council tenants saying they can no longer afford to house residents owing to rising rents in the capital and the impact of housing benefit reforms.
- In Tower Hamlets, the changes to Local Housing Allowance (LHA) means that 77% of LHA recipients will see a reduction in income.
- Despite Grant Shapps' comments that there is a National Discretionary Housing Payments Fund of £91m, Tower Hamlets has received only £490,000.
- Residents in the borough are now receiving collectively £3.2m less than before April 2011 in benefits.
- On 28th February 2012, the Mayor and key partners in Tower Hamlets signed a Welfare Reform Pledge, which committed the Council and its partners to limiting the impact of Central Government's reforms on Tower Hamlets' Residents.

This Council believes that:

- Grant Shapps MP's defence of Housing Benefit Reforms was disingenuous and ignored the unique circumstances faced by inner London boroughs.
- These Central Government reforms will have a disproportionate impact on Tower Hamlet's residents, as it limits the level of housing benefits to large families and in areas of high rents.
- This is a deliberate attempt by the coalition government at social engineering.
- Inner London should remain somewhere people on all incomes can live.

This Council resolves:

- To continue to work with all partners to develop solutions which will help residents to stay in the borough.
- To support the lobby for a larger Discretionary Housing Payments Fund for London Boroughs.
- To support the lobby for a living rent.
- To offer support and guidance to any families who find themselves in financial difficulties due to these changes.

12.6 Recorded Votes

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Seconded: Councillor Shafique Hoque

This Council notes:

1. That Council's constitution includes a provision for 'Recorded Votes'.
2. That this provision is designed to allow for maximum accountability.
3. That until 25 January 2012 the threshold of members required to trigger a Recorded Vote in Full Council was 10.
4. That on 25 January 2012 a motion was carried by a majority in Full Council increasing the threshold from 10 members to 20.
5. That this threshold is unreasonably high without precedent in Tower Hamlets and elsewhere.
6. That in Camden, the threshold is 7 members, in Barnet it is 10 members, in Newham it is 6 members, in Westminster it is 10 members, and in Greenwich it is 5 members.

This Council believes:

1. That the 'Recorded Vote' thresholds are generally low so that a minority can make their views known when votes go against them, to communicate to the public that whilst something they did not support may be Council policy, it is not unanimous and the minority opposed it.
2. That having a threshold of 20 members defeats the object of this provision, since (assuming whipping) recorded votes can only go ahead if the majority group is in favour.
3. That raising the threshold from 10 to 20 members was a backward step as regards the health of local democracy, and a grave mistake.
4. That having the highest threshold in the land, particularly when compared to the other aforementioned London boroughs, is deeply embarrassing for this authority.

This Council resolves:

1. To lower the threshold of support required to trigger a recorded vote from 20 members to 7 members.

12.7 Dignity Code for nurses and care workers for the elderly

Proposer: Councillor Gulam Robbani

Seconder: Councillor Abdul Asad

This Council notes that:

1. Recent exposes of shocking abuse of elderly and vulnerable patients in Care Homes for the elderly.
2. The calls from public figures, politicians and charities that Nurses and care workers should sign a Dignity Code guaranteeing that elderly patients are treated with respect.
3. The comments of Jeremy Hughes, chief executive of the Alzheimer's Society, that the care system in the UK is at further risk due to underfunding.

This Council believes that:

1. The care of elderly and vulnerable residents is one of the most important responsibilities of local government.
2. All residents of care homes have the right to the highest quality of care, as well as the right to live in dignity and be treated with respect.

This Council resolves:

1. To condemn all forms of abuse in care homes.
2. To call on the Government to improve the national inspection of Care Homes and protect funding for care homes.
3. To improve our own systems of reporting and investigating abuse to ensure that all vulnerable people in our care receive the highest standards of care.
4. To support the national call for Nurses and care workers to sign up to a Dignity Code.

12.8 Recession

Proposer: Councillor Rania Khan
Seconded: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

This Council notes:

1. Tory driven austerity measures are not working; unlike the United States, UK economic output has yet to return to the levels before the recession began four years ago.
2. This economic picture is set to worsen; national debt is expected to continue rising, from 67.3% of GDP this year, to peak at 76.3% of GDP in 2014/15, contrary to George Osborne's claims that his cuts would reduce the debt.

This Council agrees:

1. To support calls for a Plan B for the economy, outlined by over one hundred leading economists last year (Guardian Saturday 29 October 2011) which would include 'reversing cuts to protect jobs in the public sector, directing quantitative easing to a green new deal to create thousands of new jobs, increasing benefits to put money into the pockets of those on lower and middle incomes and thus increase aggregate demand. This could in part be paid for by the introduction of a financial transactions tax.'
2. To support the call for 'Robin Hood' taxes on the financial sector. A tiny tax on short-term, casino-style trading, which employs a small number of highly paid bankers in London, not the tens of thousands employed in high street financial services, would raise an estimated £20 billion. Research by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) shows that the sector can comfortably afford paying another £20 billion in tax.
3. That the priority for this council will be to follow policies that seek to protect residents, and their quality of life, from the impact recession by maintaining frontline services, protecting lower waged staff, reducing housing waiting lists and overcrowding by meeting the Mayor's affordable homes pledge, reducing energy bills via the setting up of new borough-wide energy co-op, and campaigning for a programme of public investment to create jobs and improve infrastructure.
4. That in light of the fact that the financial sector is responsible for the current economic crisis, and that they have received huge handouts from the public purse, the bankers have a moral responsibility to get their industry in order and repay their debt to the British people.

12.9 London Metropolitan University

Proposer: Councillor Fozol Miah

Seconded: Councillor Harun Miah

This council notes

- The decision, announced by the UK Borders Agency (UKBA) on 29 August to rescind the licence of London Metropolitan University to teach students from outside the European Union
- That such students currently number 2,600, that they are now facing the prospect of deportation unless they cannot arrange alternative means of completing their education at a different higher education institution in Britain and that many of these students have already paid thousands of pounds in fees for their studies and may have nothing to show for their considerable personal investment
- The large number of students that attend London Metropolitan University who grew up in and reside in Tower Hamlets.
- The considerable social and economic contribution that international students make to the national economy and in particular the contribution of London Metropolitan's international students to the life and prosperity of East London
- The UKBA decision now seriously jeopardises the financial stability and future of the University as a whole.
- That this University more than most has tried to broaden the availability of higher education to those from less privileged backgrounds
- That the loss of London Met would be a massive blow to the young people of Tower Hamlets and all those who are employed by the University and benefit from its presence in our community

This council believes

- This decision by the UKBA will give the UK an ill-deserved reputation as an unwelcoming and inhospitable destination for international students
- The Government's failure so far to intervene to end this crisis must be placed in a context of the Coalition's wider education policies, including the abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance and the Building Schools for the Future investment programme

This council asks the mayor

- To write to the Home Office expressing our condemnation of the UKBA decision and asking the Government to intervene to reverse the decision
- To write to the National Union of Students expressing this Council's support for their efforts to defend the rights of international students to study at London Metropolitan University
- To write to London Met Unison and UCU to support them in their initiatives to reverse the decision
- To seek information on the number of Tower Hamlets residents who will be directly affected by the decision and offer all necessary and appropriate assistance to them

12.10 Mayoral apology to the Honourable Syed Ashraful Islam MP

Proposer: Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed

Seconded: Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

This Council notes:

- That the Mayor personally intervened to block an event on the 9th August with the Honourable Syed Ashraful Islam MP from taking place in the Council Chamber.
- That following the Mayor's decision the Council was forced to offer to hire an outside venue for the Speaker's official function which would have come at significant tax-payer cost.
- That the Honourable Syed Ashraful Islam MP is an elected representative of a Commonwealth country and had been formally welcomed in other London boroughs.
- The high level of community interest in Mr Islam's visit and the many people who wanted to attend the event.

This Council believes:

- That the Mayor did intentionally abuse his position to attempt to block the Speaker of the Council from carrying out his constitutional duties.
- The Speaker of the Council is a prestigious role steeped in a history which should be respected and that the office holder should be supported to carry out their civic duty to serve and represent the entire borough.
- The Mayor failed to meet the standards expected of him by residents and tarnished the reputation of the borough with his petty actions.
- The Mayor should make a public apology to all of the Speaker's guests, including the Honourable Syed Ashraful Islam MP, for any offence he caused.

This Council resolves:

- That use of the Council Chamber should not be a matter for the Executive or subject to Executive decisions and that all councillors should have access and use of the Council Chamber for the purposes of carrying out their roles as elected representatives

12.11 Access to Information Regulations

Proposer: Councillor Tim Archer

Seconded: Councillor David Snowdon

This Council Notes:

- The implementation on September 10 of “The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012”.

This Council Further Notes:

- That the chair and members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will now be entitled to any document which is in possession or under the control of the executive of the local authority, and contains material relating to any items that has been carried at a decision-making meeting of the authority, any decision made by a member of the executive within the accordance of the executive arrangements, and any decision by an officer within accordance of the executive arrangements.
- That it is now law that if a member of O&S requests such a document the executive must provide that document as soon as possible and no later than 10 clear days after the request is received.
- That a document can only be refused by the executive if it contains exempt or confidential information or part of the document and this is more clearly defined than previously, which will prevent information being described as Private and Confidential, solely to surpass debate and public discussion.

This Council Believes:

- These regulations enable access to council documents for the media, including local bloggers and give members additional rights to view executive documents in advance of decisions being made. In future the council will not be able to exclude members and the public on grounds of "political advice" or on the claim that there isn't a "key decision

This Council Resolves:

- To call upon a report to be brought forward on the implementation of these regulations and this to be considered by the Constitutional Working Party as soon as possible to ensure that the authority works in accordance with current law.

12.12 Rohingya Community Persecution

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconder: Councillor Fozol Miah

This council notes

- That a number of Tower Hamlets residents originate from the Rohingya community in Myanmar
- That many Tower Hamlets residents have connections to the Rohingya community because the community lives close to the Burmese border with Bangladesh
- The United Nations has designated this community one of the most persecuted in the world
- That there has been a rise in sectarian violence focussed on the Rohingya community over the last few months including rapings and killings
- That the Myanmar authorities have failed to intervene to stop this persecution
- That the Bangladesh government is limiting the number of Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution

This council asks the mayor

- To write to the Foreign Secretary asking him to make urgent representations to the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh to stop the persecution and assist members of the Rohingya community facing persecution

12.13 Mattress Recycling in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Shiria Khatun

Seconder: Councillor Joshua Peck

This Council notes:

- That across the borough unwanted mattresses are frequently fly-tipped in streets and public places at the detriment of the natural environment and local residents.
- The Mayor's introduction of a £15 charge for bulk waste collection in Tower Hamlets.
- That a number of other London Councils have in place schemes offering free mattress collection and recycling. Labour run Lewisham council for example recycles over 9000 mattresses each year resulting in 307 tonnes saved from landfill last year.
- 10 million mattresses are landfilled every year in the UK and the annual contribution of mattresses to the nation's waste stream is estimated to rise from 160,000 ton to 245,000 ton by the year 2016.
- That the Council incurs significant cost collecting and landfilling fly-tipped mattresses in the borough.

This Council Believes:

- That where possible recycling is a preferable alternative to landfill as it helps to protect the environment, creates jobs and saves money on landfill.
- With its dense urban population mattresses are regularly to be found dumped and fly-tipped in Tower Hamlets.
- Lewisham's scheme of mattress recycling is a progressive and innovative scheme which has received significant uptake throughout the borough.
- A similar scheme in Tower Hamlets would allow the council to increase the amount of waste it recycles, reduce fly-tipping and better meet resident's needs.

This Council resolves:

- To call upon the Mayor to conduct a feasibility study into introducing in Tower Hamlets a mattress recycling scheme similar to that operated in Lewisham.
- To call on the Mayor report back to Full Council on the outcome of the study and to include the scheme in his next budget.

12.14 Youth Employment

Proposer: Councillor Craig Aston

Seconded: Councillor David Snowdon

This Council Notes:

- That the Employment Minister and the Mayor of London Boris Johnson have launched a new pilot scheme across 16 London Boroughs to help young Londoners into work
- The pilot will help 6,000 Londoners who have little or no experience of work gain that invaluable experience
- The Mayor of London has pledged to create 200,000 jobs over the next four years
- 10% (3,430) of 16 - 24 year olds in Tower Hamlets are classified as NEETS

This Council Believes:

- That the Minister for Employment is getting to get to grips with youth unemployment
- That the Mayor of London has the right plans and policies to help create jobs across London and in Tower Hamlets

This Council Resolves:

- To support the Mayor of London in his plans to create 200, 000 new jobs in four years
- To support this new pilot and encourage the Mayor of London and the Employment Minister to extend the pilot to include the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- To do everything it can to get young people in the borough into employment

12.15 Bullying and Intimidating Council Officers and Members

Proposer: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

Seconded: Councillor Rania Khan

This Council notes:

- The judgement by the Local Government Standards Tribunal in England to uphold the decision of this council's Standards Committee to suspend a Labour member for disclosing confidential staff information.
- The report from the Evening Standard newspaper on 17 May 2012, where a Labour member allegedly threatened a female council member in the council chamber.
- The council has a code of conduct which governs the way members engage with officers and other members.

This Council believes:

- Members and officers and have a right to work in a safe and secure environment without threat of abuse and intimidation.
- Public servants, in discharging their duties, should provide impartial advice without fear or favour, and this is true from central government to local authorities.
- Councillors are expected to uphold the highest standards in public life.
- The use of council staff as 'political footballs' to undermine the work of the mayor impacts on the delivery of council services to local residents.
- Targeting of council officers for political purposes is unacceptable and warrants immediate disciplinary action.
- That abuse of position not only brings the council into disrepute but damages the reputation of elected office.
- Procedures to address grievances against members must be reviewed to ensure council officers are protected from politically motivated bullying and intimidation.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the mayor to instruct council's monitoring officer to write to all party leaders reminding them of their responsibilities to council staff and fellow members.
- To call on the mayor to instruct council's head of paid service to write to senior officers to reassure council staff and encourage the reporting any breaches of member/officer protocol.
- To call on the mayor to support an independent investigation by the Standard Committee, leading to sanctions for any member, who is found guilty of bullying or intimidating council officers.
- To seek advice from the district auditor, Local Government Association, London Councils, Trade Unions and the Department of Communities and Local Government on bullying and intimidation of council officers by members.

12.16 Social Fund – Coalition Reforms

Proposer: Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Seconded: Councillor Marc Francis

This Council Notes

- The Social Fund was set up in 1988 to provide financial assistance predominantly to people on low incomes;
- It includes a regulated element, comprising Winter Fuel Payments, Cold Weather Payments, Funeral Payments and Sure Start Maternity Grants.
- The conditions for receiving these payments and grants are set down in regulations.
- It also includes a discretionary element, comprising Community Care Grants, Crisis Loans and Budgeting Loans, where awards are made at the discretion of Job Centre Plus;
- Social Fund Community Care Grants (CCGs) are available to homeless people, care leavers, ex-offenders leaving custody and others with an institutionalised background to help them with the costs of setting up home;
- Funding for CCGs was increased by around £10 million a year between 2002/03 and 2006/07, but has remained at a total of £141 million since then;
- The Coalition Government's proposal to reform the Social Fund, including the replacement of the CCG and Crisis Loans with locally-based provision;
- Ministers have refused to commit to ring-fence funding for this local provision or issue guidance to those authorities to ensure vulnerable people are helped;
- While there were many problems with the discretionary Social Fund, particularly as a result of its cash-limited nature, no organisation has called for it to be abolished;
- The de-ring fencing of Supporting People funding for vulnerable homeless people and others requiring housing support has resulted in cutbacks to those services in many authorities.

This Council Believes

- These reforms undermine the principles of the Welfare State and leave vulnerable people at the mercy of a postcode lottery of local authority provision;
- The Labour Government's previously published plans to modernise the Social Fund within the same basic structure as exists at present would provide for a much stronger safety-net for vulnerable people.

This Council Resolves

- To call on the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to voice opposition to these changes and give a commitment to ring-fence any funding received for the purposes of replacing CCGs with locally administered grants/loans for those same purposes.
- To call on the Mayor to prioritise developing a new system to replace CCGs in order to allow full scrutiny before its introduction in April 2013.

12.17 The Government's failed economic policies

Proposer: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

Seconder: Councillor Rabina Khan

This Council notes:

- That the only growth this government is creating in Britain today is in the rate of poverty.
- That government austerity has ensured that the numbers of children living in poverty is growing; home repossessions are growing; transport, energy and food bills are growing; numbers of food banks are growing; and the national debt is growing.
- That despite government assurances that cuts would reduce the national debt and stimulate economic growth, the opposite is the case. In July, the government borrowed £600m over the month to bridge the gap between what was coming in and what was going out. National debt is expected to continue rising, from 67.3% of GDP this year, to peak at 76.3% of GDP in 2014/15.
- That the economic cost of government policy threatens to be a 'lost decade' of growth. The human cost threatens to be a 'lost generation'; for the first time since World War II, the next generation will have a worse lot in life than those before them.

This Council resolves:

- To support calls for a Plan B for the economy, outlined by over one hundred leading economists last year, which would include protecting public sector jobs and services and intervening in the economy to stimulate demand and growth.
- To support calls for a 'Robin Hood' taxes on the financial sector. Research by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) shows that the sector can comfortably afford paying another £20 billion in tax. The Robin Hood tax is tiny tax on short-term, casino-style trading, which employs a small number of highly paid bankers in London, not the tens of thousands employed in high street financial services.

12.18 Review of the Contract for the BaishakhiMela

Proposer: Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

Seconded: Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed

This Council notes:

- The significant concern within the community at the way the 2012 BaishakhiMela was conducted, specifically over the process used to allocate stalls.
- The media reports that 19 people were arrested for attempted visa fraud relating to the Mela.
- The 2012 BaishakhiMela was the first under a 9 year contract awarded to the BaishakhiMela Trust.

This Council Believes:

- The BaishakhiMela is a great cultural addition to Tower Hamlets offering a wide range of cultural experiences and economic benefits to the borough.
- The BaishakhiMela should be an event open to be enjoyed by all and organised in the best interests of all in the community.
- The reputation of both the borough and the Mela is damaged by reports of fraud and that the Council should do all it can to protect its reputation and support organisers to prevent such attempts.
- Awarding the contract to run the Mela to an outside organisation brought with it significant risks and challenges and as such the running of the BaishakhiMela should be an issue of on-going independent monitoring.

This Council resolves:

- To call upon the Mayor to undertake a full independent review of the 2012 BaishakhiMela to ensure that it met all of its contractual obligations and provided a service which best served the community.
- To call upon the Mayor to make public the findings and report of the independent review in to the 2012 BaishakhiMela and to report back to Full Council on 23rd January 2013 on the findings.

12.19 Paralympic Games

Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad

Seconded: Councillor Rania Khan

This Council Notes:

- That East London played host to the Paralympic Games between 29 August and 9 September 2012.
- That whilst Tower Hamlets figures for participation in sport among disabled people are better than London and England averages, there remain 69.6% of the borough's disabled residents that do not take part in moderate sporting or physical activity for 30 minutes per week.
- The Council's Sport and Physical Activity Team has invested, developed and championed disability sport in the borough for many years to address the low levels of disability sports participation.
- That as part of the Paralympic Legacy for Tower Hamlets, the Sports Team has contributed to a consortium funding application to Sport England lead by the London Legacy Development Corporation to fund disability sport activity in Tower Hamlets for the next three years.

This Council Believes:

- That the Paralympic Games have served as a brilliant showcase of disabled people's sporting talent.
- That the Paralympians have served as an inspiration to us all: not cowed but driven by their limiting disabilities, determined to triumph through adversity.
- That sports and physical activity should be championed for all, both for enjoyment and as a basic necessity for health; and that we have a duty to make opportunities available for disabled residents in Tower Hamlets to take part in sporting activity.

This Council Resolves:

- To congratulate Team GB on their stunning achievements in the Paralympic Games at London 2012.
- To continue to champion sports and physical activity for all, including disabled people in Tower Hamlets.
- To continue to offer sports provision specifically for disabled people, such as swimming, disability athletics, judo, and wheelchair basketball.
- To call on Sport England to uphold Tower Hamlets' consortium bid so that the Council is able to build on the excellent provision currently on offer in the years to come, in the aim of increasing the proportion of disabled residents that take part in regular physical activity.