Members Present:

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

The Mayor, Councillor Ann Jackson, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Timothy Archer, Councillor Louise Alexander, Councillor Harun Miah, Councillor M A Munim and Councillor Oliur Rahman.

DECISION

That the apologies for absence be noted.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Type of interest</th>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ohid Ahmed</td>
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<td>Lutfur Rahman</td>
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<td>Resident of Spitalfields and Banglatown Ward</td>
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<td>7.22</td>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>Non-Executive Director on the Barts and The Royal London NHS Trust</td>
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3. MINUTES

That subject to the following amendments, the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on Wednesday 20 June 2007 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly:

- Page 5: Urgent question 7.0, regarding the reported rejection of a funding offer to build a City Academy, was asked by Cllr Peter Golds of Cllr Clair Hawkins.
- Page 6, Question 7.3, Councillor Houghton stated that it was her understanding that Councillor Jones had not at that point been appointed as Historic Environment Champion for Tower Hamlets.
- Page 13: Second amendment (noting that the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Group has been granted planning permission and has begun to raise funds) was also moved by Cllr Clair Hawkins and seconded by Cllr Peter Golds.

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor notified Members that Councillor Harun Miah had been elected to represent Shadwell Ward in the recent by-election and extended to him a formal welcome to the Council.

Councillor Clair Hawkins, Lead Member for Children’s Services, made an announcement on the provisional education results and educational achievement in the Borough.

MOVED by Councillor Philip Briscoe, and SECONDED by Councillor Peter Golds:
To suspend Council Procedure Rule 12.3 under the provisions of Rule 27.1 to enable as a matter of urgency the following question which is a matter of public policy involving the Council to be put to the Leader of the Council:

‘Will the Leader of the Council tell the Council why a report from the Centre for Social Cohesion exposed Tower Hamlets libraries as being home to hundreds of radical Islamic publications and recordings, that peddle Jihadist, misogynist, anti-semitic and just plain hateful and violent ideas. The report was further highlighted in the national media and on the BBC Newsnight. Given that it is 6 years today since 3,000 people died at the hands of terrorists in New York, and that those terrorists were inspired by people such as Abu Hamza-al-Masri, whose publications are freely on offer in Tower Hamlets, can the Leader of the Council provide me with an urgent proposal for conducting an investigation into this issue and rooting out any such publications that should have no place in a tolerant and diverse community such as this?’

The procedural motion was put to the meeting and was DEFEATED.

[Note: Councillor Golds, Councillor Briscoe and Councillor Rouse wished it recorded that they had voted in favour of the above procedural motion.]

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS OR DEPUTATIONS

5.1 Deputations

No deputations were made.

5.2 Petitions

5.2.1 Mr Abdul Halim re: expansion of Poplar Mosque and Community Centre.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr Abdul Halim addressed the meeting on the subject of the expansion of Poplar Mosque and Community Centre.

Mr Halim responded to a series of questions put by Members.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, responded on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Peter Golds requested a copy of Cllr Ahmed’s statement.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director of Development and Renewal for a written response within 28 days.

5.2.2 Ms Yvonne Mallinson re: Closure of St James Housing Office.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms Yvonne Mallinson addressed the meeting on the subject of the closure of St James Housing Office and the transfer of services to Gladstone Place.
Ms Mallinson responded to a series of questions put by Members.

Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Development and Housing, responded on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED

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

5.2.3 Mr Paul Fredericks re: Debate and ballot prior to the establishing of Tower Hamlets Homes.

At the invitation of the Mayor Mr Paul Fredericks, on behalf of THATCH, addressed the meeting on that organisation’s request for a debate and ballot prior to the establishment of Tower Hamlets Homes.

Mr Fredericks responded to a series of questions put by Members.

Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Development and Housing, responded on behalf of the Council

RESOLVED

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

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One question was submitted by a member of the public for response by the relevant Lead Member, details of which were set out in agenda item no.6. The question and the Lead Member’s written response were tabled on yellow paper.

1. Question from Mr Muhammad Haque regarding the Crossrail Bill, to Councillor Rupert Bawden, Lead Member for Development and Housing.

Mr Haque put his question as printed. Councillor Bawden referred to his tabled response. Mr Haque asked a brief supplementary question regarding a number of issues arising from his original question, including the importance of taking the breadth of community feelings into account, to which Councillor Bawden responded.

7. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

29 questions were submitted by members of the Council for response by the relevant Cabinet Member, details of which were set out in agenda item 7. The questions, together in each case with the Cabinet Member’s written response, were tabled on blue paper.
1. **Question from Councillor Alex Heslop to the Lead Member for Culture, Councillor Shiria Khatun regarding the Council’s plans for this year’s Bonfire night celebrations in Victoria Park.**

Councillor Khatun referred to her tabled response. Councillor Heslop asked a brief supplementary question to which Cllr Khatun responded.

2. **Question from Councillor Shahed Ali to the Lead Member for Resources & Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck regarding the disposal of the Bishop Challoner school site (Christian Street), adjoining open space, and the area of the re-developed football pitch.**

Councillor Peck referred to his tabled response. Councillor Ali asked a brief supplementary question relating to the adequacy of the telephone consultation carried out to which the Lead Member responded.

3. **Question from Councillor Rupert Eckhardt to the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman regarding the number of personnel taken on to re-assess adults receiving services, the number of re-assessments that have been completed and how this related to the to the savings anticipated in the budget.**

Councillor Uz-Zaman referred to his tabled response. Councillor Eckhardt asked a brief supplementary question regarding the support necessary for vulnerable people in the Borough to which the Lead Member responded that the levels of home care provided by the Council for vulnerable residents were widely recognised as exemplary and the impact of changes made to provision was routinely monitored and evaluated.

4. **Question from Councillor Tim O’Flaherty to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah regarding the fall in violent crime in the Borough in the year to July 2007 and what measures had been in force to address the rise in robbery and burglary over the same period.**

Councillor Ullah referred to his tabled response. Councillor O’Flaherty asked a brief supplementary question regarding the measures taken to address the rise in robberies against businesses, to which the Lead Member responded referring in particular to Police Community Support Officers and CCTV. He advised that the Community Safety Service was well placed to advise businesses on these matters.

5. **Question from Councillor Salim Ullah to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Denise Jones regarding what action the Council is taking to secure regular and effective alternative cross-river public transport to replace the East London Line during the period that it is closed for upgrading.**

Councillor Jones referred to her tabled response. Councillor Ullah asked a brief supplementary question regarding whether the proposed solution was sufficient, to which the Leader responded. She advised that dialogue was
continuing with London Underground and the suitability of the arrangements put in place would be evaluated.

6. **Question from Councillor Rania Khan to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck regarding the Office Accommodation Strategy and Adult Services to vulnerable residents.**

Councillor Peck referred to his tabled response. Councillor Khan asked a brief supplementary question referring to the projected savings which she felt would impact negatively on service provision, to which the Lead Member responded.

7. **Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Denise Jones regarding the appeal to repair and renovate the Minnie Lansbury Clock in Bow Road.**

Councillor Jones referred to her tabled response. Councillor Golds asked a brief supplementary question regarding the Leader’s commitment to action on this matter and the Borough’s heritage in general. Councillor Jones responded, giving an update on the current position and provided Members with further background information on the life of Minnie Lansbury.

8. **Question from Councillor Abdul Matin to the Lead Member for Employment and Skills, Councillor Abdul Asad regarding the level of unemployment in the Borough and strategies to reduce this figure.**

Councillor Asad referred to his tabled response. Councillor Matin asked a brief supplementary question specifically regarding the employment opportunities available for women in the Borough. The Lead Member responded, acknowledging the importance of a holistic approach to training, skills development and employment, working in partnership with stakeholders.

9. **Question from Councillor Alibor Choudhury to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Joshua Peck regarding what the Council is doing to ensure that its pension fund is invested ethically.**

Councillor Peck referred to his tabled response. Councillor Choudhury asked a brief supplementary question regarding whether it was possible to disinvest in companies that operated in certain industries. The Lead Member responded that there was general agreement that pension fund investment should take account of ethical questions but also a duty to Council employees to ensure that the fund is sufficiently robust.

In accordance with Rule 12.10 (expiry of time limit) questions 7.10 to 7.29 were not put. Copies of the tabled responses would be forwarded to the questioners.
8. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL’S COMMITTEES

8.1 Annual Report of the Standards Committee

The meeting received the annual report of the Standards Committee. The report was introduced by the Chair of the Standards Committee, Mr Patrick O’Connor, who highlighted the key points in the report and gave an overview of the work undertaken by the Committee during the year.

The Leader of the Council, in moving the report, stressed the commitment of all Members of the Council to maintaining the highest standards of conduct and thanked Mr O’Connor and the Independent Members of the Standards Committee in particular for the work they had undertaken as described in the report.

A number of Members asked a number of questions to which Mr O’Connor responded, and echoed Councillor Jones’ comments on the work of the Committee.

It was MOVED by Councillor Denise Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Sirajul Islam and:

RESOLVED

That the annual report of the Standards Committee 2006/07 be received.

8.2 New Code of Conduct for Members

Members noted that the Council was required to adopt a new Code of Conduct for Members before 2nd October 2007. A draft revised Code had been considered by the Standards Committee and was now recommended for adoption.

It was noted that all Members would be provided with training on the provisions of the revised Code of Conduct and that specific training would also be held in respect of the changes to participation in Development and Licensing Committees.

It was MOVED by Councillor Denise Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Sirajul Islam and:

RESOLVED

That the Council adopt the new Code of Conduct for Members as set out in the report.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

9.1 Joint Arrangements

There were no items of business for consideration.
9.2 External Organisations

There were no items of business for consideration.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 London Local Authorities Bill

Members considered a report recommending that the Council participate in the promotion of the 10th London Local Authorities Bill. The Council noted that a further report would be submitted to confirm the authority’s participation after the Bill had been deposited in Parliament and that report would provide further clarification on the specific measures included in the final version of the Bill.

It was MOVED by Councillor Denise Jones, SECONDED by Councillor Sirajul Islam and:

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the inclusion in a bill or bills to be promoted by Westminster City Council or, as the case may be in a bill or bills to be promoted jointly by Westminster City Council and any other person as appropriate, of provisions effecting all or some of the following purposes -

(a) to make provision about the decriminalisation of offences relating to public health, highways and road traffic and making contravention of the relevant legislation subject to a civil penalty charge regime; the introduction of a local levy, administrated by London borough councils, on the provision of disposable shopping bags or to introduce a prohibition on the provision of disposable shopping bags; the introduction of a local levy administrated by the London borough councils on the sale of chewing gum; an extension of the type of premises in respect of which a street litter control notice can be issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to include a wider range of non-domestic premises; to enable councils to better control the feeding of wild birds; to enable borough councils to make charges for the use of urinals; to make further provision about the control of the placing of items on the highway; altering London borough councils’ powers to fix signs and apparatus to buildings; amending London borough councils’ powers to charge for the provision of amenities on highways under Part VIIA of the Highways Act 1980; controlling the placing of household waste in street litter bins; to enable London borough councils to recover costs incurred by them in rectifying damage caused by them when removing unlawful advertisements; to enable London borough councils, as local housing authorities, to take enforcement action and recover costs in cases where there has been a failure to comply with a duty imposed in relation to the management of houses in multiple occupation under regulations made under Section 234 of the Housing Act 2004; imposing a requirement in respect of food premises which are subject to inspection by London borough councils under the Food Safety Act 1990 to display copies of inspection notices or summaries thereof on the
premises; to impose a new licensing regime for social clubs; to alter the
requirements relating to the service of documents under the City of
Westminster Act 1996, which deals with sex establishments; to enable
London borough councils to exert better control over the licensing of
premises which, but for the Licensing Act 2003 would be required to be
licensed as sex encounter establishments; to enable London borough
councils to delegate their functions under existing street trading
legislation and enable other bodies to manage street markets; to alter
the street trading legislation in the City of Westminster so as to enable
Westminster City Council, without a court order, to dispose of articles
seized under the Act; to make further alterations to street trading
legislation in London; to control the distribution of free refreshments on
the highway and in other public open places; to enable the highway
authority to recover traffic management and street cleansing costs
incurred as a result of public events and to have the power to close or
manage traffic for certain special events; to enable the highway authority
to provide charging points for electric vehicles in the highway; to enable
local planning authorities to require that a deposit is provided prior to
commencement of development, to be offset against costs arising from
making good damage to the highway caused by the construction of the
development; to enable action to be taken against persons who interfere
with gates placed in pursuance of powers under road traffic legislation;
to enable councils to better control pedicabs; to enable councils to serve
penalty charge notices by post where there has been a parking
contravention, and where service was prevented by the vehicle driving
away; to allow decriminalised enforcement in respect of advanced
stopping areas for cyclists at traffic lights; to allow decriminalised
enforcement in respect of the use of mobile phones whilst driving; to
enable London borough councils to vary fixed penalty levels for cycling
on the footway; to enable the better control of the depositing of builders’
skips on the highway; and to provide for a decriminalised regime of
enforcement in relation to the driving of abnormal vehicles on the
highway;

(b) to enact any additional, supplemental and consequential provisions that
may appear to be necessary or convenient.

[Note: All 46 Councillors present voted in favour of the above resolution]

10.2 Executive decisions precluded from 'call-in' on grounds of urgency

The Mayor MOVED and after discussion it was

RESOLVED

That the Council note the report on executive decisions precluded from “Call-
in” on grounds of urgency.
11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

11 motions were submitted by members of the Council for consideration at the meeting.

11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Fozol Miah regarding Crossrail

MOVED by Councillor Fozol Miah and SECONDED by Abjol Miah

We note that more “consultation” is being conducted on behalf of Crossrail, in Spitalfields only.

We are concerned that this is serving only to further discredit the idea of “consultation” on this or other issues of public concern. It contributes further to increasing the real cost of the Crossrail project and potentially divides community groups concerned to stop the digging, dumping and destruction of our environment.

In light of this and previous expensive consultation exercises, we are concerned at the lack of any evidence that Crossrail serves the interest of or has the support of Tower Hamlets residents.

We oppose any Crossrail digging or dumping in or around Brick Lane, or in Stepney or Bow. We will not back any Crossrail development without clear evidence that this is supported by the majority of Tower Hamlets residents, as indicated in a referendum or other genuine measure of opinion.

MOVED as an amendment by Councillor Stephanie Eaton and SECONDED by Councillor Timothy O’Flaherty

(Delete all substantive motion).

Replace with:

This Council notes:

1. The Crossrail hybrid Bill (if enacted) will provide powers for the construction and operation of Crossrail.

2. The Environmental Statement (ES) identifies the likely significant effects that will arise from the construction and operation of Crossrail (and takes account of the practicable scope for variation within limits), and identifies the range of mitigation measures that could be used to reduce or eliminate these effects in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended).

3. The assessment is however of the likely significant effects and based on a number of assumptions about design and construction practices. As the project is taken forward to detailed design and actual construction there may be some changes to assumed working practices and design.

4. The Bill only seeks powers for the works that relate to the construction of the Crossrail railway, and the structures necessary for the operation of the railway. Once complete, the operational structures will not require the full site
area and hence there are opportunities for non-operational development (referred to as over-site development).

This Council directs:

1. That any variation from the Environmental Statement is permitted only after detailed consultation with local residents and businesses in order to enable implementation of the most appropriate mitigation measures.

2. That local residents and businesses are fully consulted and informed about (a) the proposed use, quantum, layout, scale, access and appearance of any proposed over-site development and (b) the means by which the fundamental design elements of any over-site development will be integrated with the Crossrail works.

Following debate the amendment was put to the meeting and was DEFEATED.

The substantive motion was then put to the meeting and was DEFEATED.

[Note: Councillor Shahed Ali wished it recorded that he had voted in favour of the substantive motion above.]

MOVED by Councillor Philip Briscoe and SECONDED by Councillor Peter Golds

That in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 14.1.3, and in view of the interest expressed in the subject by the Borough Commander at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, motion 11.8 be brought forward to be heard before motion 11.2.

The procedural motion was put to the meeting and was DEFEATED.

MOVED by Councillor Shahed Ali and duly SECONDED

That in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 14.1.3, motion 11.7 be brought forward to be heard before motion 11.2.

The procedural motion was put to the meeting and was DEFEATED.

11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding secure, affordable, decent and accountable housing

MOVED by Councillor Abjol Miah and SECONDED by Councillor Ahmed Hussain:

“Council believes that the future of secure, affordable, decent and accountable council housing is vital for Tower Hamlets. We reject any attempt to remove life-long secure tenancies and oppose removing or downgrading tenancy rights for future tenants, or means-testing tenants out of council housing.
We welcome growing support for the “Fourth Option” of direct investment by ring-fencing and re-investing all the money belonging to council housing, to improve existing and build new council homes.

We respect the right of all council tenants to take part in a fair and balanced debate and vote before any transfer of ownership or management of their homes to a private sector organisation.

We believe that independent tenants and residents associations and a borough-wide federation can play a vital part in improving housing management and services, and in building community cohesion, and should be recognised and funded in order to fulfil this role”. 

The motion was put to the meeting and was DEFEATED.

11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Lutfa Begum regarding the National Health Service

MOVED by Councillor Lutfa Begum and SECONDED by Councillor Shahed Ali

"This Council considers Tower Hamlets needs excellent NHS-provided health services, with capacity for our growing population and the demands of the Olympics and we pledge to work and campaign for this. We recognise the importance of local health service providers as employers and trainers of local people. This Council opposes current NHS financial regulations leading to cutbacks and private finance schemes, and privatisation of NHS services. It calls on the Cabinet and officers, through the Partnership, the Primary Care Trust and other bodies, to investigate the costs of the Barts and London PFI programme, privatisation and cutbacks on local services, employment and training, and report publicly.”

MOVED by Councillor Shahed Ali and duly SECONDED

That in accordance with Council Procedural Rule 14.1.13 the meeting be extended by 30 minutes, implementing the provisions of Rule 9.

The procedural motion pursuant to Rule 14.1.13 was put to the meeting and was DEFEATED.

MOVED as an amendment by Councillor Stephanie Eaton and SECONDED by Councillor Abdul Matin

Delete:

“This Council opposes current NHS financial regulations leading to cutbacks and private finance schemes, and privatisation of NHS services. It calls on the Cabinet and officers, through the Partnership, the Primary Care Trust and other bodies, to investigate the costs of the Barts and London PFI programme, privatisation and cutbacks on local services, employment and training, and report publicly”

Replace with:
“This Council directs:

That a report is prepared for the next meeting of this Council on the short and medium term financing of National Health Services in Tower Hamlets which includes an assessment and illustration of the impact of the financial position on healthcare services, and local employment and training opportunities in the NHS”.

Due to a lack of time, a vote was not taken on either the proposed amendment to the motion or the substantive motion.
Motions 11.4 to 11.11 were not considered due to lack of time.

11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Shahed Ali regarding the East London Line
11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Ahmed Hussain regarding a staff remuneration / salary cap
11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Rania Khan regarding Sale of Council land and buildings
11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding webcasting of Council Committee Meetings
11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Philip Briscoe regarding Special Constables
11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding emergency funding
11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Golds regarding Lanterns Nursery School
11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Rajib Ahmed regarding ethical investment and the Tower Hamlets Pension Fund

The meeting ended at 10.43 p.m.

The Mayor
Chair, Tower Hamlets Council