

Meeting of the

# CABINET

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Wednesday, 6 January 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

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**Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses**

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	<b>PAGE NUMBER</b>
<b>5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions</b>	
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to report on any issues raised by the OSC in relation to unrestricted business to be considered.	<b>3 - 10</b>

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

Matthew Mannion, Democratic Services **Page 1**

Tel: 020 7364 4651, E-mail: [matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

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# **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY QUESTIONS (PDSQ) FOR CABINET**

**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 5.30 p.m.**

- 1. ITEM 6.3 FEES AND CHARGES 2021-22**
- 2. ITEM 6.4 CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2021-22**
- 3. ITEM 6.5 PROPOSAL FOR VARIATION TO THE AEG PRESENTS:  
VICTORIA PARK COMMERCIAL CONCESSION TENDER AND MAJOR  
EVENTS POLICY**

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**Item 6.3 Fees and Charges 2021-22**

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>Q1 With rounding up, to the nearest 5p/10p etc many items costs are increasing faster than inflation - what is the overall % increase expected for each area or the average increase for each area based on expected demand?</p>	<p>Average percentage increases per directorate are Children &amp; Culture (2.2%), Governance (0.9%), Health, Adults &amp; Community (7.2%), Place (11.0%) and Resources (11.2%).</p>

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**Item 6.4 Calculation of Council Tax Base 2021-22**

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>Q1 13 Council Tax Support Estimate = £22,457 but on page 26 of main section it says, "cost of the scheme has risen from £26.7m in 2019-20 to circa £31.8m in 2020-21." which number is correct as this seems to low?</p>	<p>The 22,457 figure is the estimated number of Council Tax Support Band D equivalent properties (not an amount of money).</p>

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<b>Item 6.5 Proposal for variation to the AEG Presents: Victoria Park Commercial Concession Tender and Major Events Policy</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>Will officers explain why it is being proposed that two additional events days be added to the strategy and contract if AEG has not actually asked for these, and why this increase is not being consulted on with residents and other stakeholders?</p>	<p>Whilst AEG Presents has not requested any additional event days, officers are recommending a change to the major events policy to enable future tenders to have greater flexibility to generate additional income for the council. All event days would be subject to licensing and consultation with the public would be undertaken through that process in the usual manner.</p> <p>It should be noted that the events sector has been decimated by COVID-19 and it is recommended that the council has as much flexibility as possible in order to be able to deliver commercially viable events in a volatile sector. In addition, it is anticipated that more councils will look to utilise their assets for events to generate income and we will have to compete with a wider pool of venues. Therefore, to ensure that we can secure the best event operators and commercial deals (both in relation to income and community benefits), greater flexibility regarding event capacity and event days is recommended as it will make our venue more attractive and viable to the sector.</p> <p>Officers are seeking a decision now in anticipation of having to go to tender if AEG Presents do not take up any agreed extension year for 2023 (this extension is subject to Cabinet approval). If approved by Cabinet, AEG Presents will need to confirm by 31st October 2021 if they wish to take up the optional extension for 2023. If they do not, then we will look to go to tender later in 2021. As per above, the sector has been devastated by the pandemic and the impact is likely to be felt for several years. Therefore greater flexibility in the number of event days and capacities is recommended so that we are able to go out to a reduced market place with a tender opportunity that is more commercially viable and attractive to event operators</p>

