



Meeting of the

Tower Hamlets Council

Amendments to Motions

Wednesday, 16 March 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

VENUE

Council Chamber, 1st Floor,
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG

Democratic Services Contact:

Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services

Tel: 020 7364 4651, E-mail: matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Directorate of Governance

Democratic Services
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London E14 2BG

Tel **020 7364 4651**

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

To the Mayor and Councillors of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.00 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2022**

Will Tuckley
Chief Executive





Public Information

Viewing Council Meetings

Except where any exempt/restricted documents are being discussed, the public are welcome to view this meeting through the Council's webcast system.

Physical Attendance at the Town Hall is not possible at this time.

Meeting Webcast

The meeting is being webcast for viewing through the Council's webcast system.

<http://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Electronic agendas reports and minutes.

Copies of agendas, reports and minutes for council meetings can also be found on our website from day of publication.

To access this, click www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee and search for the relevant committee and meeting date.

Agendas are available on the Modern.Gov, Windows, iPad and Android apps.



QR code for
smart phone
users



London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Council

Wednesday, 16 March 2022

7.00 p.m.

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------|
| 7. | ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE
Amendment submitted by opposition | 7 - 10 |
| 8. | OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE
Amendment submitted by Administration | 11 - 14 |
| 12. | TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
12.2 Motion regarding Infrastructure - Amendment submitted by Administration | 15 - 18 |



Agenda Item 7

7 – Administration Motion for Debate – The Council’s Record – Amendment by the Conservative Group

Proposed by: Cllr Peter Golds

Seconded by: Andrew Wood

This Council Notes:

1. In 2018, the Mayor pledged 2,000 new council homes by 2022, and the Council is on track to hit this target, with 2,046 homes delivered or in delivery. There have also been 6,876 new affordable homes completed across the borough since 2015.

That the 700 new homes promised as part of the wider Town Hall project have never been delivered (see the poster in the entrance to Mulberry Place)

That the Council intends to sell large sites to private developers (Car pound for example) rather than develop themselves and when it has sold those sites to private developers (LEB for example) no new homes have been built years later.

That the Council has displacing existing residents from 422 homes who now have to compete in the housing market meaning more people may need to rely on temporary housing.

That the Council only bought existing old homes from one housing association, Poplar Harca, providing them with a cash injection, that this opportunity was not extended to other housing associations. And again, has displaced existing residents.

That the Council bought 157 existing s106 properties so that they can be presented as new homes when they are not, they would have been bought by another housing association and provided to residents of Tower Hamlets in need. That only 225 homes are genuinely new build plus 23 conversions, but this has in some cases meant the loss of scarce green space.

Only these 225 + 23 homes can be genuinely described as new Council homes.

2. That this Council provides Universal Free School Meals for all primary school children in the borough, one of only a few councils in the country that does this. This costs the council £3m per year, and means that 19,000 children get a meal, equating to an estimated saving for families of £450 per child.
3. Although tackling crime and ASB is a police responsibility, the Council are investing in tackling crime and ASB by funding additional police officers and a council-operated ASB service. It has also set up a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection order to tackle the misuse of laughing gas and the associated ASB.

The Conservative group welcome the adoption of the borough-wide NOX Public Space Protection Order that we suggested several years before its adoption.

We regret that other ideas we have suggested have not been adopted to reduce ASB.

That residents have had to flee their homes after a home invasion following vehicle related ASB.

That we also need Public Spaces Protection Orders to deal with all vehicle related ASB including tunnel runs, vehicle based parties, and noisy cars.

4. The Council is also investing over £3m in an upgrade to the entire public space CCTV network in part to allow the relocation of the CCTV control room from Mulberry Place to the new Town Hall.

That new residential areas in Tower Hamlets including some of the densest places in the UK have no Council CCTV cameras. The network largely reflects residential areas several decades ago.

That the opportunity to use technology like acoustic cameras to monitor noisy drivers is not being taken.

5. The Council has supported over 7,000 people into jobs or training since 2016, including supporting 1,052 young people, and created more than 1,000 apprenticeships.

In part paid for by s106 contributions from developers.

6. The Council's multi-million pound Tackling Poverty Fund has invested £6.6 million since 2017 in innovative programmes to support residents affected by welfare reforms. Last year it also provided over £750,000 in Crisis Grants through our Resident Support Scheme.

7. The current administration's work in turning the council around after the failures of the previous mayor. Tower Hamlets Council has transformed from being directly partially run by Government Commissioners in the wake of the former mayor's removal from office into an award-winning council but which still fails to deliver in a number of areas, for example:

- Failing OFSTED in 2017, being required to write an improvement plan after the most recent SEND inspection.
- That the financial accounts for three years now have not been signed off yet after multiple failings were found by our new auditors.
- Having the lowest recycling rate in London and the 2nd lowest in the country
- Failing to ensure the long-term condition of Tiller Road Leisure Centre, York Hall and St Georges Baths so that they could not re-open last year and that we will lose 1/5 of our swimming provision for 6 years as a result.
- Failing to build the much-delayed new South Quay Bridge.
- Losing access to GLA money for Poplar Riverside.
- That it has lost more than £30 million through inflation in the last 4 years.

8. The Council's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission has set out recommendations for how we make our community fairer and more equal. It is currently delivering on these, and backing this up with over £1.5m of council funding to meet the ambitious targets set forth by the Commission.

That 59% of the Council staff are BAME as at December 2021 but only 30.17% of staff earning more than £60k are BAME, that this has dropped from 32.14% in December 2019. That it still does not understand why or in which department this happened in.

That relative pay of its own BAME staff has got worse.

9. The Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 and the council has committed to become a net zero carbon council by 2025 and a net zero carbon borough by 2045 or sooner. In 2021, Tower Hamlets Council was named the greenest local authority in the country purely on the energy efficiency of housing in the borough, with so many new apartments built since the 1980's inevitably we have more energy efficient homes than other Boroughs with an older housing stock, this was not due to any direct action by the Council.

That in 2020 it bought a whole new fleet of diesel-powered refuse vehicles (after the City of London started trialing electric only refuse vehicles) and installed diesel storage tanks at its transport facility. That only one Council building has any form of renewable energy. That no Council building has any electric vehicle chargers because the Council has no purely electric road vehicles.

10. The Council funds a 100% council tax discount for the poorest in our community, one of the few places in the UK to offer this, meaning the poorest in Tower Hamlets don't have to pay a single penny of council tax. For the financial year 2021/22 the Council has so far awarded £33m in Council Tax Support to nearly 34,000 council taxpayers.

THIS reflects the failure for a generation now by Tower Hamlets Council to get so many of its residents into good jobs that would allow residents to be able to pay Council tax without help.

This Council believes:

1. Despite Council successes in the past four years, there is still more to be done to tackle the future challenges faced by Tower Hamlets residents.

But that its capacity for improvement is inadequate, that the Council is unable to do its day job in some areas, that it gets distracted whenever something goes wrong. That it remains a very small conservative organization, incapable and unwilling to take any risk.

This Council resolves:

1. To continue its good work in tackling poverty and addressing inequalities in the borough, and delivering on residents' priorities.
2. To work diligently with residents, partner agencies and the Mayor of London to ensure Tower Hamlets residents are supported in these uncertain times, and to listen to the concerns put forward by Tower Hamlets residents.
3. To work with other London boroughs to ensure good ideas and strategy can be shared and implemented for the benefit of all Londoners.
4. To focus relentlessly on delivery.
5. TO HAVE a clear plan for delivery
6. To change its culture and be more willing to do new things and to take appropriate risks.
7. To be more transparent in its comms activities ABOUT DELIVERY.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 8

Labour Group Amendment to the Opposition Motion for Debate - regarding Whitechapel Market

Proposer: Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman

Seconder: Mayor John Biggs

This Council notes:

The Whitechapel Market was established nearly 120 years ago in 1904. In 1909, the Council bought the strip from Vallance Road to Mile End Gate.

Leading up to that, in the 1850s there were stalls and costermongers' barrows along the north side of Whitechapel Road from St Mary (Davenant) Street to Charrington's Brewery in Mile End Old Town. Some sections of the waste were given over to the setting- out of furniture and, street junctions aside, paved cart roads separated the ground at several points.

In 1904 Stepney Council sought to take control of the market on the waste in both Whitechapel and Mile End to regulate nuisance traders. Terms were agreed with the Manor in 1909 and the Council acquired strips on both north and south sides from Vallance Road east into Mile End where gardens were laid out in 1909–10. Thus regulated, trading west of Mile End Gate came to be called Whitechapel Market.

It was noted in the 1970s for clothing, jewellery, flowers, second-hand records and hi-fi equipment.

By the 1980s, when there were 124 pitches between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road, the market was being transformed by a transition to the latest edition of East Enders, Bangladeshi stallholders. They remain the predominant community trading in the Whitechapel Market with a wide range of items for all in the community including idiosyncratic products including clothing as well delicious food and delicacies hard to come by elsewhere.

In 1997 the Whitechapel conservation area was established and later renewed in 2008. It

has seen various communities pass through including the French Huguenots, the Irish, the Jews and currently the Bangladeshis. It is a market that exemplifies market street trade. By the 1980s the Market was established from Vallance road to Cambridge Heath Road. In 2008 the Whitechapel Market became the market in the UK to recycle its waste. The Market's street furniture was renewed as part of the High Street 2012 project. Alan Baxter & Associates and East Architecture Landscape Urban Design oversaw standardisation of demountable market stalls, and the additions of perforated metal screens to face the road and catenary lighting along the pavement on a row of standards, as well as new bollards and seating.

In 2021, Tower Hamlets Council launched an extensive survey with traders, business owners, residents and visitors of Whitechapel Market. All were asked what changes they would like to see, and the responses then went out to public consultation and have been included in the Action Plan 2022-25.

One of the things that traders were strongly in favour of was new stalls to be provided. This is a current project funded by a Levelling Up Grant and part of the Whitechapel Road Improvement Program (WRIP).

The Council has conducted face to face consultation with traders on the design of the stalls. The next one planned for mid-March. This will inform the stall pilot scheme where a number of stalls will be installed to test the design, with feedback from traders informing the final design for the stalls.

There was an increase in pitch fees in Summer 2021, however no further increases are planned for 2021/22.

With regard to 2022/23 Markets are partway through a trader and public consultation on fees, these are broadly in line with inflation.

This Council believes:

That this culturally rich and historic Whitechapel Market is an important part of Tower Hamlets. We understand the concerns that many have about ~~now faces the challenges of~~ gentrification and rising property prices, as well concerns about the cost of living crisis ~~while stall owners are struggling to make a decent income.~~ Furthermore, the current ~~and the continuing economic impact of the pandemic crisis with Covid has left many traders on the verge of collapse~~ which has had such a profound effect on both our national and local economy.

In addition to this, the Tower Hamlets Council is looking to increase the rent for stalls by 40p per day Monday to Friday and £1.00 on Saturdays, which in turn equates to £3.00 a week and £156 per year (11.4%). At times of crisis and where support is needed it seems unethical, inappropriate and cruel that the Council should increase rents now for

~~stakeholders already under serious financial pressure. As this is the case for all market stalls in Tower Hamlets, the Council should freeze rents for all market stalls and consider further support for these unique and local market traders or else this increase by the Council cause them to disappear forever and simply be replaced by gentrified standard pop up shops that have no real local connection or heritage.~~

This Council Resolves:

1. ~~To freeze all increases to rent for market stalls in Tower Hamlet for this tax year and undertake a review in the next financial year. To continue working with the traders and business owners in Whitechapel Market see how the Council can assist in these uncertain economic times.~~
2. ~~To protect the market stallholders from being priced out due to gentrification thereby supporting local history and heritage.~~
3. ~~Not restrict or set quotas on what can legally be sold. To continue to work with traders at Whitechapel Market and engage with customers to ensure the goods offered are diverse and it offers a wide range of good, so that traders can also apply to change what they are licenced for through a variation each quarter.~~
4. To continue to engage with the stallholders in any changes to the dynamics and processes relating to Whitechapel Market.

This page is intentionally left blank

Labour Group amendment

12.2 Motion regarding Infrastructure to support development

Proposed by: Cllr Asma Islam

Seconded by: Mayor John Biggs

Additions underlined and deleted text scored out.

This Council notes:

- The Mayor of London set Tower Hamlets Council a target in March 2020 to deliver 34,730 homes in ten years between 2019/20 and 2028/29
- In addition he has set a target for Isle of Dogs Opportunity Area to deliver 29,000 new homes and space for 110,000 jobs
- In addition there are additional housing and jobs targets for the following Opportunity Areas which partially includes areas within Tower Hamlets - City Fringe/Tech City, Poplar Riverside and Olympic Legacy
- The Councils own Local Plan adopted in January 2020 requires us to deliver 54,889 homes in fifteen years between 2016 and 2031 – mainly in the Aldgate, Whitechapel, Poplar and Isle of Dogs areas.
- Tower Hamlets is the densest Borough in the country, the Isle of Dogs contains 3 of the 10 densest places in England.
- The requirement of the Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan for an Infrastructure Impact Assessment to be produced for strategic planning applications to encourage developers to look at wider infrastructure issues.
- The Mayor of Tower Hamlets' commitment to deliver 2,000 much-needed new council homes.
- That these targets have been set in order to meet the urgent need for more housing in the borough, a situation exacerbated by the Government's own policies which have created a housing crisis.

The Council further notes that:

- Considerable progress has been made in recent years in securing investment in, developing and delivering infrastructure across the borough's growth areas – including bridges and road schemes, improvements to parks, leisure and community facilities, on-site development of schools and health centres and a range of local enhancements through the Local Infrastructure Fund.
- The council regularly reviews infrastructure needs and uses this to inform both its own delivery through the Capital Programme (to be updated in February 2022) and by working with external delivery partners, such as TfL.
- ~~The failure to build the approved bridge (PA/11/00637) across the Lea river by the Leven Road gas works site despite knowing that major developments were planned in the area and allowing the new gas works application to invalidate that planning permission by permitting building on land reserved for the new bridge~~
- While the historic planning permission for the Leven Road bridge has lapsed, the land safeguarded on St Williams' Leven Road Gasworks site remains, to enable future delivery. The council is working with the developer to integrate the bridge landing into the landscaping of the emerging new housing estate. Bridge landings are located in Phase 2 and 3 of this development, which are

covered by an outline permission, allowing for adjustments to be made and designing bridges into the wider public realm.

- ~~• The continuing delays to the 4th attempt to build a new pedestrian only bridge across South Quay whose budget has now increased to over £20 million. The failure to provide cyclists with cycling access on that new bridge.~~
- That Thames Water still need to dig up Burdett Road between Mile End and Westferry station to ensure enough fresh water supply to support development in the E14 area
- By 2025, Thames Water will have completed their upgrade of a high capacity water main on Burdett Road. This will deliver additional capacity and resilience to the water network in and around the Isle of Dogs and will meet the island's longer term water supply requirements. Works are also planned for a new connection along Byng Street between Westferry Road & Mastmaker Road. This will improve resilience and increase capacity to supply all new developments in and around that area, with works to be delivered by September this year at the latest.
- ~~That There are concerns about UKPN's do not have the capacity to support all new developments on the Isle of Dogs and somebody may need to spend £20 million to improve electricity capacity to Marsh Wall.~~
- Working with the GLA, the council is preparing a Local Area Energy Plan that will investigate future energy demand for the Isle of Dogs, South Poplar and Lower Lea Valley areas. This plan will be completed by June this year and will include investment prioritisation of how to best meet this demand. With UK Power Networks, we are also undertaking a feasibility study of strategic electrical connection route options onto the Isle of Dogs to increase network capacity. Once complete, the council will be liaising with developers, UKPN and key stakeholders on how best this new capacity is delivered by providers. This study will be completed by April 2022.
- That the GLA funded Development Infrastructure Funding Study (DIFS) completed in November 2017 and discussed with Council officers in June of 2017 detailed the need to spend over a billion pounds on infrastructure to support the growth required to meet the the above targets between April 2017 and March 2041.
- It was written by Peter Brett Associates LLP (PBA) with Cushman & Wakefield (C&W) and Gardiner & Theobald (G&T) for the Greater London Authority (GLA), London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) and Transport for London (TfL).
- The DIFS estimated that a number of organisations including LBTH had to spend £503.7 million on new infrastructure to support growth on the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar between April 2017 and March 2022 (£156.8 million by TfL on new DLR trains)
- The closure of St Georges Leisure Centre due to the Covid-19 pandemic, noting that reopening has proved particularly challenging due to concerns regarding the centre's condition. known issues not resolved sooner
- The council's Cabinet agreed in February to build a new leisure centre on the St George's Leisure Centre site, and to invest in other leisure sites, with a detailed plan for the next thirty years. The Mayor has also emphasised his commitment to five swimming pools in the borough.

- The delayed re-opening of Tiller road leisure centre (which re-opened on 3rd January) and York Hall due to problems found in 2020 (with work at York Hall due to be completed in April, noting the difficulties around refurbishing a Grade II listed building).
- That on a number of approved planning applications either no Infrastructure Impact Assessment has been produced as required by the Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan or what has been produced does not suggest any need for the developer to help provide new or additional infrastructure.

That the Council has £587 millions of reserves – much of which is legally earmarked for specific purposes – including substantial sums of s106 and CIL monies from developers and New Homes Bonus from government – all due to previous developments completing.

This Council therefore recommends that officers update Strategic Development Committee members on:

- ~~To ask Council officers to work with stakeholders to provide an update on progress of the DIFS recommendations and actual spend as at March 2022~~
- ~~To provide an update on the infrastructure improvements to be delivered by March 2022 to support growth in the City Fringe/Tech City, Poplar Riverside and Olympic Legacy areas~~
- ~~To confirm the status of Thames Water network improvements to the Isle of Dogs and other growth areas in Tower Hamlets~~
- ~~To confirm the status of electricity supply issues to the Isle of Dogs and other growth areas in Tower Hamlets and what the Council and the GLA are doing to help alleviate the bottlenecks~~
- ~~To provide a briefing to the Strategic Development Committee and the Community Development Panel for the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar on the delivery of infrastructure.~~
- ~~To develop an Existing plans to implement Infrastructure Impact Assessments template for developers to use that look at wider infrastructure issues and is pre-populated with agreed data and the latest infrastructure issue.~~

This page is intentionally left blank