



Meeting of the

# Tower Hamlets Council

## Supplemental Agenda

**Wednesday, 15 March 2023 at 7.00 p.m.**

### **VENUE**

Council Chamber,  
Whitechapel Town Hall  
160 Whitechapel Road,  
London E1 1BJ

**Further information about this meeting is available in the main agenda.**

### **Democratic Services Contact:**

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# London Borough of Tower Hamlets

## Council



### Supplemental Agenda

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

7.00 p.m.

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>3. MINUTES</b>  | <b>3 - 18</b>  |
| To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted and exempt/confidential minutes of the Budget Council meeting on 1 March 2023 – attached. |                |
| <b>8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE</b>   | <b>19 - 22</b> |
| Proposed amendment to the motion from the Aspire Group.  |                |



**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT 7.05 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2023**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL**

**Members Present:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Member)               | Councillor Kabir Hussain (Member)           |
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed (Member)          | Councillor Kamrul Hussain (Member)          |
| Councillor Kabir Ahmed (Member)            | Councillor Shahaveer Shubo Hussain (Member) |
| Councillor Leelu Ahmed (Member)            | Councillor Asma Islam (Member)              |
| Councillor Musthak Ahmed (Member)          | Councillor Sirajul Islam (Member)           |
| Councillor Saied Ahmed (Member)            | Councillor Ahmodul Kabir (Member)           |
| Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Member)            | Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled (Member)       |
| Councillor Suluk Ahmed (Member)            | Councillor Ahmodur Khan (Member)            |
| Councillor Ohid Ahmed (Member)             | Councillor Sabina Khan (Member)             |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar (Member)          | Councillor James King (Member)              |
| Councillor Asma Begum (Member)             | Councillor Amy Lee (Member)                 |
| Councillor Maisha Begum (Member)           | Councillor Abdul Malik (Member)             |
| Councillor Nathalie Bienfait (Member)      | Councillor Abdul Mannan (Member)            |
| Councillor Rachel Blake (Member)           | Councillor Ana Miah (Member)                |
| Councillor Mufeedah Bustin (Member)        | Councillor Ayas Miah (Member)               |
| Councillor Bodrul Choudhury (Member)       | Councillor Harun Miah (Member)              |
| Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury (Member) | Councillor Amin Rahman (Member)             |
| Councillor Jahed Choudhury (Member)        | Councillor Rebaka Sultana (Member)          |
| Councillor Abu Chowdhury (Member)          | Councillor Maium Talukdar (Member)          |
| Councillor Marc Francis (Member)           | Councillor Bellal Uddin (Member)            |
| Councillor Peter Golds (Member)            | Councillor Abdal Ullah (Member)             |
| Councillor Iqbal Hossain (Member)          | Councillor Abdul Wahid (Member)             |

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received for the meeting.

Councillor Amina Ali and Councillor Mohammed Chowdhury joined the meeting online.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS**

The Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer advised that the Standards Advisory Committee had agreed a general dispensation to all Councillors in respect of matters relating to the Council Tax and also on Housing where the Councillor (or spouse or partner) holds a tenancy or lease with the Council. Members did not therefore have to declare a DPI in respect of these matters.

**3. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

There were no announcements made by the Speaker or Chief Executive.

**4. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**

There were no petitions listed for consideration for this meeting.

**5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2023/24**

Mayor Lutfur Rahman **moved**, the budget and council tax proposals of the Mayor and Executive as set out in the agenda pack and the Aspire Group's amendment set out in the supplementary agenda. Councillor Saied Ahmed **seconded** the proposals.

Councillor Marc Francis moved the Labour group amendment set out in the supplementary agenda, which was seconded by Councillor Sirajul Islam. Amendments proposed by Councillor Nathalie Bienfait for the Greens and Councillor Peter Golds, for the Conservatives were also considered who seconded each other's amendments.

Following debate, the amendments moved by Councillors Marc Francis, Nathalie Bienfait and Peter Golds were put to a recorded vote and were rejected. The substantive Budget for 2023-24, including the administration amendment, the Council Tax Resolution and the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Statements and the Capital Report submitted by Mayor Lutfur Rahman were put to a recorded vote and were agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**Budget Motion:**

**Revenue 2023-26 and Capital 2023-26**

1. To note a General Fund Revenue Budget of £446.205m and approve a Council Tax (Band D) of £1,146.88 (Council share) for 2023-24 as set out in the motion and Council Tax Resolution attached at Annex 1 to this report. This incorporates a freeze to the Tower Hamlets element of Council Tax and to only levy a 2% Adult Social Care precept for 2023-24.
2. To note the GLA precept as set out in the Council Tax Resolution is subject to the approval of the GLA Assembly at their meeting

scheduled for 23 February, any changes as a result of that meeting will be made known to Council before the date of this meeting.

3. To note the change in the budget report appendices to reflect the final Local Government Finance Settlement grant allocation for the Services Grant which was increased by £0.178m (Annex 2 Appendix 1A, 1B, 2 and 6).
4. To note the Capital Programme, Housing Revenue Account budget and Dedicated Schools budget. Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy 2023-24
5. To adopt the Treasury Management Strategy Statement set out in Annex 3 Appendix A attached to this report.
6. To adopt the Investment Strategy Report set out in Annex 3 Appendix B attached to this report.
7. To adopt the Capital Strategy Report (which incorporates the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement) set out in Annex 3 Appendix C attached to this report.

### Section 25, Local Government Act 2003

8. To note the Section 151 officer's view on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, set out in section 2 of this report.

### Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)

9. To note that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme will remain unchanged for 2023-24.

### Administration budget amendment – Full Council 1 March 2023

#### This Council notes:

1. The draft budget considered by Cabinet on 25 January 2023 included the following two savings proposals:

| Title                           | Reference             | Directorate                  | Service Area      | 2023-24<br>£'000 | 2024-25<br>£'000 | 2025-26<br>£'000 | Total<br>£'000 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Re-commissioning Hostel Support | SAV / HAC 001 / 23-24 | Health, Adults and Community | Adult Social Care | (50)             | (100)            | (100)            | (250)          |
| Council-wide efficiencies       | SAV / ALL 001 / 23-24 | Cross-Directorate            | Cross-Directorate | (743)            | -                | -                | (743)          |

2. The administration has further considered the Re-commissioning Hostel Support saving and believes that the commissioning strategy will need to be thoroughly reviewed during 2023. To allow for this review, it is proposed that the £50k saving initially proposed for 2023-24 is removed from the Re-commissioning Hostel Support saving and added into the Council-wide efficiencies saving.

3. This does not alter the total sum of proposed savings and therefore does not impact the overall balanced budget or planned use of reserves. The revised savings would become:

| Title                           | Reference             | Directorate                  | Service Area      | 2023-24<br>£'000 | 2024-25<br>£'000 | 2025-26<br>£'000 | Total<br>£'000 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Re-commissioning Hostel Support | SAV / HAC 001 / 23-24 | Health, Adults and Community | Adult Social Care | -                | (100)            | (100)            | (200)          |
| Council-wide efficiencies       | SAV / ALL 001 / 23-24 | Cross-Directorate            | Cross-Directorate | (793)            | -                | -                | (793)          |

**This Council Resolves:**

1. That the £50k saving for 2023-24 is removed from the Re-commissioning Hostel Support saving and added into the Council-wide efficiencies saving.

**BUDGET COUNCIL**  
**1 MARCH 2023**  
**COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT 2023-24**

That Council:

1. Approve the Council Tax Resolution, detailed in Appendix A to this motion.
2. Agree a General Fund revenue budget of £446.205m and a Council Tax Requirement for Tower Hamlets in 2023-24 of £129.541m.
3. Agree the Council's 2023-24 Budget Report and 2023-26 Medium Term Financial Strategy set out in Annex 2.
4. Agree the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy Report and Capital Strategy Report for 2023-24 set out in Annex 3.

## Appendix A

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS  
COUNCIL 1 MARCH 2023  
COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION**

1. That the revenue estimates for 2023-24 be approved.
2. That it be noted that, at its meeting on 4 January 2023, Cabinet agreed 112,950 as its **Council Tax base** for the year 2023-24 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]
3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the council for the year 2023-24 in accordance with Section 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended and the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 2011:
  - a) £1,428,682,281 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of The Act. [**Gross Expenditure**]
  - b) £1,299,142,185 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of The Act. [**Gross Income**]
  - c) £129,540,096 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of The Act, as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of The Act). [**Council Tax Requirement**]
  - d) £1,146.88 Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of The Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. [**Council Tax**]
4. Being the amount given by multiplying the amount at 3(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of The Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of The Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. **Tower Hamlets Council Tax:**

| Band A  | Band B  | Band C    | Band D    | Band E    | Band F    | Band G    | Band H    |
|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| £764.59 | £892.01 | £1,019.45 | £1,146.88 | £1,401.75 | £1,656.60 | £1,911.47 | £2,293.76 |
5. That it be noted that for the year 2023-24 the **Greater London Authority (GLA)** has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:
 

| Band A  | Band B  | Band C  | Band D  | Band E  | Band F  | Band G  | Band H  |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| £289.43 | £337.66 | £385.90 | £434.14 | £530.62 | £627.09 | £723.57 | £868.28 |
6. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4 and 5 above, the council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of **Council Tax for the year 2023-24** for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:



| <b>Band A</b>    | <b>Band B</b>    | <b>Band C</b>    | <b>Band D</b>    | <b>Band E</b>    | <b>Band F</b>    | <b>Band G</b>    | <b>Band H</b>    |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>£1,054.02</b> | <b>£1,229.67</b> | <b>£1,405.35</b> | <b>£1,581.02</b> | <b>£1,932.37</b> | <b>£2,283.69</b> | <b>£2,635.04</b> | <b>£3,162.04</b> |

7. That the council hereby determines in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023-24 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2023-24 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

| <b>Results of Vote on Amendment moved by Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Aspire Group)</b> |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Mayor Lutfur Rahman   | For                    |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam  | For                    |
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Kabir Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Leelu Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Musthak Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Ohid Ahmed   | For                    |
| Councillor Saied Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Suluk Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar  | For                    |
| Councillor Amina Ali  | Online – Couldn't vote |
| Councillor Asma Begum   | For                    |
| Councillor Maisha Begum   | For                    |
| Councillor Nathalie Bienfait  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Rachel Blake   | For                    |
| Councillor Mufedah Bustin   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Bodrul Choudhury   | For                    |
| Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury   | For                    |
| Councillor Jahed Choudhury  | For                    |
| Councillor Abu Chowdhury  | For                    |
| Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury   | Online – Couldn't vote |
| Councillor Marc Francis   | For                    |
| Councillor Peter Golds  | For                    |
| Councillor Iqbal Hossain  | For                    |
| Councillor Kabir Hussain  | For                    |
| Councillor Kamrul Hussain   | For                    |
| Councillor Shubo Hussain  | For                    |
| Councillor Asma Islam   | For                    |
| Councillor Ahmodul Kabir  | For                    |
| Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled  | For                    |
| Councillor Ahmodur Khan   | For                    |
| Councillor Sabina Khan  | For                    |
| Councillor James King   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Amy Lee  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Abdul Malik  | For                    |
| Councillor Abdul Mannan   | For                    |
| Councillor Ana Miah   | For                    |
| Councillor Ayas Miah  | For                    |
| Councillor Harun Miah   | For                    |
| Councillor Amin Rahman  | For                    |
| Councillor Rebeka Sultana   | For                    |
| Councillor Maium Talukdar   | For                    |
| Councillor Bellal Uddin   | For                    |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Abdul Wahid  | For                    |
| Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Speaker of the Council)                                 | For                    |
| <b>RESULT</b>   | <b>CARRIED</b>         |

| <b>Results of Vote on Amendment moved by Councillor Marc Francis (Labour Group)</b> |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Mayor Lutfur Rahman   | Against                |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam  | For                    |
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Kabir Ahmed  | Against                |
| Councillor Leelu Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Musthak Ahmed  | Against                |
| Councillor Ohid Ahmed   | Against                |
| Councillor Saied Ahmed  | Against                |
| Councillor Suluk Ahmed  | Against                |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar  | For                    |
| Councillor Amina Ali  | Online – Couldn't vote |
| Councillor Asma Begum   | For                    |
| Councillor Maisha Begum   | For                    |
| Councillor Nathalie Bienfait  | For                    |
| Councillor Rachel Blake   | For                    |
| Councillor Mufedah Bustin   | For                    |
| Councillor Bodrul Choudhury   | Against                |
| Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury   | Against                |
| Councillor Jahed Choudhury  | Against                |
| Councillor Abu Chowdhury  | Against                |
| Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury   | Online – Couldn't vote |
| Councillor Marc Francis   | For                    |
| Councillor Peter Golds  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Iqbal Hossain  | Against                |
| Councillor Kabir Hussain  | Against                |
| Councillor Kamrul Hussain   | Against                |
| Councillor Shubo Hussain  | For                    |
| Councillor Asma Islam   | For                    |
| Councillor Ahmodul Kabir  | Against                |
| Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled  | Against                |
| Councillor Ahmodur Khan   | Against                |
| Councillor Sabina Khan  | For                    |
| Councillor James King   | For                    |
| Councillor Amy Lee  | For                    |
| Councillor Abdul Malik  | Against                |
| Councillor Abdul Mannan   | Against                |
| Councillor Ana Miah   | Against                |
| Councillor Ayas Miah  | For                    |
| Councillor Harun Miah   | Against                |
| Councillor Amin Rahman  | Against                |
| Councillor Rebeka Sultana   | For                    |
| Councillor Maium Talukdar   | Against                |
| Councillor Bellal Uddin   | Against                |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah  | For                    |
| Councillor Abdul Wahid  | Against                |
| Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Speaker of the Council)                                     | Against                |
| <b>RESULT</b>   | <b>FALLS</b>           |

| <b>Results of Vote on Amendment moved by Councillor Nathalie Bienfait (Green)</b> |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Mayor Lutfur Rahman   | Against                |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Kabir Ahmed  | Against                |
| Councillor Leelu Ahmed  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Musthak Ahmed  | Against                |
| Councillor Ohid Ahmed   | Against                |
| Councillor Saied Ahmed  | Against                |
| Councillor Suluk Ahmed  | Against                |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Amina Ali  | Online – Couldn't vote |
| Councillor Asma Begum   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Maisha Begum   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Nathalie Bienfait  | For                    |
| Councillor Rachel Blake   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Mufedah Bustin   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Bodrul Choudhury   | Against                |
| Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury   | Against                |
| Councillor Jahed Choudhury  | Against                |
| Councillor Abu Chowdhury  | Against                |
| Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury   | Online – Couldn't vote |
| Councillor Marc Francis   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Peter Golds  | For                    |
| Councillor Iqbal Hossain  | Against                |
| Councillor Kabir Hussain  | Against                |
| Councillor Kamrul Hussain   | Against                |
| Councillor Shubo Hussain  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Asma Islam   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Ahmodul Kabir  | Against                |
| Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled  | Against                |
| Councillor Ahmodur Khan   | Against                |
| Councillor Sabina Khan  | Abstain                |
| Councillor James King   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Amy Lee  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Abdul Malik  | Against                |
| Councillor Abdul Mannan   | Against                |
| Councillor Ana Miah   | Against                |
| Councillor Ayas Miah  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Harun Miah   | Against                |
| Councillor Amin Rahman  | Against                |
| Councillor Rebeka Sultana   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Maium Talukdar   | Against                |
| Councillor Bellal Uddin   | Against                |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Abdul Wahid  | Against                |
| Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Speaker of the Council)                                   | Against                |
| <b>RESULT</b>   | <b>FALLS</b>           |

| <b>Results of Vote on Amendment moved by Councillor Peter Golds (Conservative)</b> |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Mayor Lutfur Rahman  | Against                |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Kabir Ahmed   | Against                |
| Councillor Leelu Ahmed   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Musthak Ahmed   | Against                |
| Councillor Ohid Ahmed  | Against                |
| Councillor Saied Ahmed   | Against                |
| Councillor Suluk Ahmed   | Against                |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Amina Ali   | Online – Couldn't vote |
| Councillor Asma Begum  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Maisha Begum  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Nathalie Bienfait   | For                    |
| Councillor Rachel Blake  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Mufedah Bustin  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Bodrul Choudhury  | Against                |
| Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury  | Against                |
| Councillor Jahed Choudhury   | Against                |
| Councillor Abu Chowdhury   | Against                |
| Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury  | Online – Couldn't vote |
| Councillor Marc Francis  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Peter Golds   | For                    |
| Councillor Iqbal Hossain   | Against                |
| Councillor Kabir Hussain   | Against                |
| Councillor Kamrul Hussain  | Against                |
| Councillor Shubo Hussain   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Asma Islam  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Ahmodul Kabir   | Against                |
| Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled   | Against                |
| Councillor Ahmodur Khan  | Against                |
| Councillor Sabina Khan   | Abstain                |
| Councillor James King  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Amy Lee   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Abdul Malik   | Against                |
| Councillor Abdul Mannan  | Against                |
| Councillor Ana Miah  | Against                |
| Councillor Ayas Miah   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Harun Miah  | Against                |
| Councillor Amin Rahman   | Against                |
| Councillor Rebeka Sultana  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Maium Talukdar  | Against                |
| Councillor Bellal Uddin  | Against                |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Abdul Wahid   | Against                |
| Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Speaker of the Council)                                    | Against                |
| <b>RESULT</b>  | <b>FALLS</b>           |

| <b>Results of Vote on main Budget Motion moved by Mayor Lutfur Rahman including the Aspire amendment.</b> |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Mayor Lutfur Rahman   | For                    |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Kabir Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Leelu Ahmed  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Musthak Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Ohid Ahmed   | For                    |
| Councillor Saied Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Suluk Ahmed  | For                    |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Amina Ali  | Online – Couldn't vote |
| Councillor Asma Begum   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Maisha Begum   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Nathalie Bienfait  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Rachel Blake   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Mufeedah Bustin  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Bodrul Choudhury   | For                    |
| Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury   | For                    |
| Councillor Jahed Choudhury  | For                    |
| Councillor Abu Chowdhury  | For                    |
| Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury   | Online – Couldn't vote |
| Councillor Marc Francis   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Peter Golds  | Against                |
| Councillor Iqbal Hossain  | For                    |
| Councillor Kabir Hussain  | For                    |
| Councillor Kamrul Hussain   | For                    |
| Councillor Shubo Hussain  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Asma Islam   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Ahmodul Kabir  | For                    |
| Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled  | For                    |
| Councillor Ahmodur Khan   | For                    |
| Councillor Sabina Khan  | Abstain                |
| Councillor James King   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Amy Lee  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Abdul Malik  | For                    |
| Councillor Abdul Mannan   | For                    |
| Councillor Ana Miah   | For                    |
| Councillor Ayas Miah  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Harun Miah   | For                    |
| Councillor Amin Rahman  | For                    |
| Councillor Rebeka Sultana   | Abstain                |
| Councillor Maium Talukdar   | For                    |
| Councillor Bellal Uddin   | For                    |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah  | Abstain                |
| Councillor Abdul Wahid  | For                    |
| Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Speaker of the Council)   | For                    |
| <b>RESULT</b>   | <b>CARRIES</b>         |

**6. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Speaker **MOVED** and Councillor Talukdar **seconded** the motion to exclude the press and public for the remaining part of the meeting and **AGREED** a 5-minute adjournment to clear the public gallery.

Council

**RESOLVED**

“That under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) Act 1985, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the consideration of Section Two business on the grounds that it contains information defined as Exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972.”

**7. AGREEMENT OF A SPECIAL SEVERANCE PAYMENT**

Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled, Chair of the General Purposes Committee introduced the report which set out the process for agreeing a Special Severance Payment for the outgoing Chief Executive.

Members asked questions of the independent panel and the external consultant before the recommendations were put to a vote.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Review and note the response of the Independent Panel;
2. Agree the special severance payment to the outgoing Chief Executive.

Under paragraph 16.7, Part B – Responsibility for Functions and Decision-Making Procedures, of the Council’s Constitution, a member can ask for their vote to be recorded. The following table lists those Members who wished to have their vote recorded:

| <b>Results of Vote</b>       |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Councillor Sirajul Islam     | Against |
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed     | Against |
| Councillor Leelu Ahmed       | Against |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar     | Against |
| Councillor Asma Begum        | Against |
| Councillor Maisha Begum      | Against |
| Councillor Nathalie Bienfait | Against |
| Councillor Rachel Blake      | Against |
| Councillor Mufedah Bustin    | Against |
| Councillor Marc Francis      | Against |
| Councillor Peter Golds       | Against |

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Councillor Shubo Hussain  | Against        |
| Councillor Asma Islam     | Against        |
| Councillor Sabina Khan    | Against        |
| Councillor James King     | Against        |
| Councillor Amy Lee        | Against        |
| Councillor Ayas Miah      | Against        |
| Councillor Rebeka Sultana | Against        |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah    | Against        |
| <b>RESULT</b>             | <b>CARRIED</b> |

## 8. AGREEING INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Speaker of the Council proposed and Mayor Lutfur Rahman seconded, that, under Procedure Rule 12.1 (m), Rule 9.1 be agreed to extend the meeting for up to 20 minutes to allow for the completion of the discussion on this report. This was put to Members and was agreed.

Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled, Chair of the General Purposes Committee introduced the report and asked members to note the process and proposals for agreeing the interim Chief Executive arrangements until the recruitment of a permanent replacement could be concluded.

Following debate, the Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the report and minutes of the General Purposes Committee of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.
2. Agree that Stephen Halsey be appointed as the Council's Interim Chief Executive on the job description set out in the Appendix to the cover report.
3. Agree that this includes appointment to the designations of:
  - a) Head of Paid Services
  - b) Electoral Returning Officer
  - c) Electoral Registration Officer
4. That the above arrangements apply until such time as the Council appoints a permanent Chief Executive.

Under paragraph 16.7, Part B – Responsibility for Functions and Decision Making Procedures, of the Council's Constitution, a member can ask for their vote to be recorded. The following table lists those Members who wished to have their vote recorded:

| <b>Results of Vote</b>   |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Councillor Sirajul Islam | Against |
| Councillor Faroque Ahmed | Against |
| Councillor Leelu Ahmed   | Against |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar | Against |



|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Councillor Asma Begum        | Against        |
| Councillor Maisha Begum      | Against        |
| Councillor Nathalie Bienfait | Abstain        |
| Councillor Rachel Blake      | Against        |
| Councillor Mufeedah Bustin   | Against        |
| Councillor Marc Francis      | Against        |
| Councillor Peter Golds       | For            |
| Councillor Shubo Hussain     | Against        |
| Councillor Asma Islam        | Against        |
| Councillor Sabina Khan       | Against        |
| Councillor James King        | Against        |
| Councillor Amy Lee           | Against        |
| Councillor Ayas Miah         | Against        |
| Councillor Rebeka Sultana    | Against        |
| Councillor Abdal Ullah       | Against        |
| <b>RESULT</b>                | <b>CARRIED</b> |

The meeting ended at 10.41 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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## ASPIRE GROUP AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION ON RECRUITMENT OF SENIOR COUNCIL OFFICERS

Proposed by: Councillor Saied Ahmed

Seconded by Councillor Kabir Ahmed

Additions: Red and Underlined

Deletions: Red and struckthrough

### This Council notes:

- The importance of local government officers to Tower Hamlets Council, where officers contribute to the vital professional expertise needed to deliver the policy framework agreed by elected Councillors. This enables the Council to deliver the highest levels of service to residents of Tower Hamlets.
- That, with the exception of Political Advisors, officers work to the instructions of their senior officers within the Council framework.
- When the previous Labour administration took over from Tower Hamlets First in 2015. ~~the majority of the Corporate Leadership Team were interim, including the Chief Executive, which was not good for the stability of a functioning local government authority, and the Labour administration worked with the Government Commissioners to have these positions filled. They inherited a management regime that had delivered some of the best performing education services, libraries, social care services and parks anywhere in the UK. In spite of this, the Labour Group set out to remove every manager in the top two tiers of the organisation with no thought about the resulting loss of stability of the organisation.~~
- It is not unusual for there to be senior management staff churn in a local authority following a change of administration. In the first seven months of the Aspire administration, there have been a number of interim roles amongst the Corporate Leadership Team. This includes the important roles of Chief Executive and the Corporate Director of Finance, a legacy inherited from the previous Labour administration. As with the Corporate Director of Finance not all interim arrangements are the result of staff churn. Some may be necessary cover for temporary absence where this absence may be for an extended period. Where senior managers have left or are leaving the organisation, work has been progressing swiftly and transparently to recruit suitable high-quality replacements. Recruitment to the most senior roles in local government will typically take around six months from the point at which market recruitment activity begins, inclusive of the standard three month notice period that most

senior officers are required to give their employers. It is long established best practice and common sense, therefore, to ensure continuity of management by securing experienced interim managers to cover this period.

- The appointment of the Interim Chief Executive was reported to and ratified by Full Council explaining the interim role as it related to the recruitment of the Permanent Chief Executive. The Opposition can be assured that they will be involved in the appointment process of the permanent Chief Executive and that all relevant constitutional obligations are and will continue to be followed'
- ~~— Concern that the main Opposition Group was not notified of the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive or the process until the moment it was published to all Council employees, thereby excluding the Opposition Group from the selection process.~~

#### **This Council believes:**

- That interim appointments to senior local government officer roles are ~~not healthy for a Local Government Authority and should only be used as a last resort, as it threatens the stability and continuity of good governance and provides uncertainty to their Council employees.~~ sometimes essential and necessary to ensure continuity of effective management and/or where there are limited periods in which extra capacity is required to ensure the delivery of the Council's priorities. The notion held by the Opposition that the use of interims threatens the stability and continuity of good governance is foolhardy as it does exactly the opposite, and in fact ensures that the Council meets its statutory obligations.
- That it is good practice to ensure any recruitment of a senior local government officer in Tower Hamlets Council should be done in a fair and transparent way with the inclusion of all elected representative of the Council, including those of the opposing party to the current administration and representatives of the trade unions operating in the Council. The recruitment processes for the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive and a Corporate Director of Resources are entirely in line with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

#### **This Council resolves:**

- That interim managers should continue to be appointed where justified to ensure continuity of management or to add time-limited capacity to ensure the delivery of the Council's priorities.

~~To call on the Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets to immediately publish a timeline on the recruitment of the current Interim Local Government Officer positions, including the Chief Executive role~~

To note that the General Purposes Committee will meet on March 28<sup>th</sup> to consider a proposed timeline and process for the recruitment of a permanent Chief Executive Officer and Corporate Director of Resources.

- To commend the Mayor for supporting the ~~To strengthen the~~ process in which senior appointments, such as the Chief Executive, are made where the administration works with Opposition members, partners ~~an independent body~~ and trade unions to ensure that the recruitment is fair, transparent and includes input from all the major stakeholders.

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