

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.33 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2020

**C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

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| Mayor John Biggs | |
| Councillor Sirajul Islam | (Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing) |
| Councillor Rachel Blake | (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing) |
| Councillor Asma Begum | (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Youth and Equalities) |
| Councillor Sabina Akhtar | (Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit) |
| Councillor Danny Hassell | (Cabinet Member for Children and Schools) |
| Councillor Candida Ronald | (Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector) |
| Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman | (Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth) |
| Councillor Mufeedah Bustin | Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Social Inclusion |
| Councillor Asma Islam | Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) - Lead on Environment |
| Councillor Eve McQuillan | Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Planning |
| Councillor Dan Tomlinson | Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) - Lead on Public Realm |

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor James King
Councillor Andrew Wood

Officers Present:

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| Stephen Bramah | (Deputy Head of the Mayor's office) |
| David Esdaile | (Environmental Sustainability Officer) |
| Lucy Fordham | Senior Communications Officer |
| Sharon Godman | (Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance) |
| Asmat Hussain | (Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer) |
| Dan Jones | (Divisional Director, Public Realm) |
| Debbie Jones | (Corporate Director, Children and Culture) |
| Daniel Kerr | (Strategy and Policy Manager) |
| Abdul Khan | (Service Manager - Energy & Sustainability) |

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| Neville Murton | (Corporate Director, Resources) |
| Denise Radley | (Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community) |
| Ann Sutcliffe | (Corporate Director, Place) |
| Will Tuckley | (Chief Executive) |
| Michael Darby | (Head of Parking & Mobility Services) |
| Matthew Mannion | (Head of Democratic Services, Governance) |
| David Knight | (Senior Democratic Services Officer) |

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

DECISION

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR

See the minutes.

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions

Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were tabled in respect of agenda items:

- 6.2 – Contract variation for diesel surcharge on paid for parking
- 6.3 – SME Energy Improvement Grants Programme – Phase 2
- 6.4 – Update on the Regional Adoption Agency, Adoption London East.

These were considered during discussion of each relevant agenda item.

5.2 Any Unrestricted Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nil items.

6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 GLL Financial Assistance Report

This report was withdrawn.

6.2 Contract variation for diesel surcharge on paid for Parking

The Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To approve a variation to the existing paid for parking contract to accommodate for the application of the diesel surcharge; and
2. To note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)

(Parking Development Investigation Manager (E. Cullinan))

Reasons for the decision

Where the total value of a contract variation is in excess of £180,000, for the duration of the contract, the Council's Procurement Procedures and Policies require that a Mayoral decision is necessary.

Alternative options

The additional service to introduce a diesel surcharge is applied to the existing paid for parking charges. The existing contract for paid for parking still has just under three and a half years to run. As this cannot be procured separately the alternative option would be not to go ahead with the diesel surcharge at present but to consider it when the contract comes up for retendering.

6.3 SME Energy Improvement Grants Programme – Phase 2

Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To approve the grant funding of £225,000 to deliver the SME Energy Reduction Programme – Phase 2.
2. To authorise the Corporate Director, Place to enter into grant agreements and make any associated decisions in order to distribute the funding in accordance with this report.
3. To authorise the Corporate Director, Place to nominate a Council officer or officers as the Corporate Director, Place shall determine to

sign on behalf of the Council any grant agreements and or offer letters necessary for the fulfilment of this scheme.

Acton by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)

(Environmental Sustainability Officer (D. Esdaile))

Reasons for the decision

The programme will provide grants of 50% of the project costs up to £5,000 to SMEs in Tower Hamlets to complete energy reduction projects that will not only reduce energy consumption but also the associated carbon emissions. It will result in cost reductions and an increased comfort in the working environment for the SMEs.

A lot of SMEs do not have enough budget available to carry out energy efficiency projects due to other costs that continue to rise. Therefore, by providing 50% grants it will enable SMEs to complete projects whilst ensuring they still have ownership over the project to ensure the best solutions and technologies are installed.

This programme can be a key part of a green recovery following the COVID19 pandemic. The grants from the programme will help SMEs to futureproof their premises by ensuring that they are installing the most energy efficient technologies that will reduce their carbon emissions whilst also helping their business grow by making them more attractive and reducing their energy costs.

Tower Hamlets produces the third highest level of carbon dioxide emissions of the 33 Local Authorities in Greater London. There are drivers to reduce these emissions including the Borough's target of becoming a Net Zero Carbon Borough by 2050 or earlier if possible. This programme will engage with SMEs that collectively with the rest of the industrial and commercial sector are responsible for 62% of the Borough's emissions.

S106 money from the Carbon Fund needs to spend funds on programmes that will reduce carbon emissions in the Borough. This is a key programme that will reduce carbon emissions across the Borough.

Alternative options

The only other funding available are grants from the Carbon Trust's Green Business Fund. However, this fund only provides grants of up to 15% of project costs and you must use a supplier approved by the Carbon Trust. This means SMEs are not able to use local suppliers and may not be able to get best value for money as they are restricted by which suppliers they can use. Therefore, we are creating a programme that provides better support and gives SMEs the opportunity to procure the products that are right for them and achieves best value for the SME.

6.4 Update on the Regional Adoption Agency; Adoption London East (ALE)

Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were noted.

DECISION

1. To note the progress made in establishing the new Regional Adoption Agency, and the review of practice and performance in the first six months of operation.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND CULTURE (D. JONES)

(Divisional Director, Children's Social Care (R. Baldwin)

(Service Manager, Regulated Services (L-M. Minnis)

Reasons for the decision

To provide an update on the initial months of the RAA, and highlights some of the current challenges and the focus of future work.

Alternative options

Not applicable

6.5 Nomination to Outside Bodies

DECISION

1. To agree the nominations to outside bodies as shown in Paragraph 3.3 of the report.
2. To agree the nominations to London Councils Committees as shown in Paragraph 3.8 of the report.

Action by:

HEAD OF MAYOR'S OFFICE (D. COURCOUX)

(Committee Services Officer (J. West)

Reasons for the decision

Having representatives on outside bodies increases the Council's engagement with the local community and improves its potential to offer leadership and guidance in relation to activities taking place in the borough.

London-wide initiatives can also offer considerable benefits that promote delivery of the Council's key priorities. Conditions of some London-wide partnerships and trusts are that the Council is represented on their boards.

Alternative options

The Mayor could decide not to make appointments to outside bodies at all. However, this is not recommended as it would reduce the Council's opportunity to be involved in and to support good work within the community and it would also reduce the Council's leadership opportunities. There are

also a number of bodies where the Council is required or expected to provide a representative.

7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil items.

9. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items.

10. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Exempt / Confidential Business

Nil items.

10.2 Any Exempt / Confidential Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Nil items.

11. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 6.15 p.m.

Mayor John Biggs