

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**MINUTES OF THE CABINET****HELD AT 5.33 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2020****ONLINE 'VIRTUAL' MEETING - [HTTPS://TOWERHAMLETS.PUBLIC-I.TV/CORE/PORTAL/HOME](https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home)****Members Present:**

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:

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)
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

RESOLVED

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

The **Mayor** made a number of announcements at the meeting, including that:

- He had held a successful, virtual, 'Ask the Mayor' event the previous evening attended by up to 180 residents.
- He noted the current parliamentary debate in relation to the Westferry Print Works planning application.
- This was the last Cabinet meeting for Debbie Jones, Corporate Director, Children and Culture. He highlighted how important her work was to the Council and he thanked her for the big contribution she had made to supporting residents in Tower Hamlets. He wished her well for the future. Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children and Schools echoed the words of thanks.

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.

In addition, Councillor James King, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, provided Cabinet with a brief update on his Committee's recent activity.

He reported that the Committee were continuing to review the Council and borough's response to COVID-19 and that they were looking to produce a report to help identify any learning and actions that could be taken forward.

As part of this work they received a number of presentations at their last meeting including from;

- Pam Bhamra, Chair of Tower Hamlets Housing Forum and Director of Operations at Tower Hamlets Community Housing,
- Ian Parkes, Chief Executive of East London Business Alliance,
- Dr Jackie Applebee and Dr Naureen Bhatti, Chair and Vice Chair of Tower Hamlets Local Medical Committee,
- Sister Christine of Neighbours in Poplar.

The **Mayor** thanked him for his update.

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

The **Mayor** reported that this item had been withdrawn. However, he highlighted that discussions were continuing on potential financial assistance for GLL and that a decision report may follow at a later date.

6.2 Contract variation for diesel surcharge on paid for Parking

Cabinet Member Dan Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm, Lead on Public Realm, introduced the report. He highlighted that the diesel surcharge had already been agreed and that this report allowed for a variation in the parking contract to allow for that change.

The **Mayor** highlighted the importance of discouraging diesel vehicles due to the air pollution they created. He noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

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.

6.3 SME Energy Improvement Grants Programme – Phase 2

Councillor Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) (Lead on Environment), introduced the report on phase two of the energy improvement grants programme for small and medium sized enterprises. She highlighted that the grants would enable businesses to reduce their carbon emissions whilst also reducing their costs which could then be re-invested into their businesses.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report. He noted concerns around emissions from gas boilers and heard reassurance that all projects were assessed for how much carbon emissions would be reduced. He noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses and **agreed** the recommendations as set out..

RESOLVED

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.

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

Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children and Schools, introduced the update report on the 'Adoption London East' Regional Adoption Agency. In particular he highlighted the work that had been undertaken to bring the services together and that now they were looking for it to improve outcomes and performance. It was noted that performance data was improving and the service continued to do well when compared with other regions but that there were still improvements that could be made including around effective working with the courts.

The **Mayor** noted that there would be regular performance monitoring and that the Corporate Parenting Board would be taking a key role in this. He noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses and **agreed** the recommendation as set out.

RESOLVED

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.

6.5 Nomination to Outside Bodies

The **Mayor** introduced the report setting out a number of nominations to Outside Bodies. He **agreed** the nominations as set out.

RESOLVED

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.

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