

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET**

**HELD AT 5.45 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2021**

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

**Members Present in person:**

Mayor John Biggs	
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Statutory Deputy Mayor for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit
Councillor Eve McQuillan	Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Planning

**Members Present remotely:**

Councillor Rachel Blake	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Asma Begum	Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services and Education
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 Dan Tomlinson	Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) - Lead on Public Realm

**Other Councillors Present in person:**

Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
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**Other Councillors Present remotely:**

Councillor Mohammed Pappu

**Officers Present in person:**

Janet Fasan	(Director of Legal & Monitoring Officer)
Will Tuckley	(Chief Executive)
Matthew Mannion	(Head of Democratic Services, Governance)
Joel West	(Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee))

**Officers Present remotely:**

Kevin Bartle	(Interim Corporate Director, Resources and Section 151 Officer)
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Raj Chand	(Director, Customer Services)
Vicky Clark	(Divisional Director for Growth and Economic Development)
Thorsten Dreyer	(Head of Intelligence and Performance)
Emily Fieran-Reed	(Senior Strategy and Policy Manager, Communities Team, Corporate Strategy & Policy Strategy, Policy & Performance Division)
Sharon Godman	(Director, Strategy, Improvement and Transformation)
Steven Heywood	(Planning Officer, Plan Making Team)
Afazul Hoque	(Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
Ahsan Khan	(Chief Accountant)
Denise Radley	(Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)
Marissa Ryan-Hernandez	(Plan Making Team Leader)
Joanne Starkie	(Head of Strategy and Policy - Health Adults and Communities)
James Thomas	(Corporate Director, Children and Culture)
David Tolley	(Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards)

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Housing.
- Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place for whom Vicky Clark, Divisional Director, Growth & Economic Development was deputising.
- Andreas Christophorou, Divisional Director of Communications.

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

Councillors Asma Islam and Motin Uz-Zaman declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in relation to Agenda Item 6.6 (Correction to Private Rented Sector Housing Selective Licensing Designation) due to owning properties which they rented out near the boundary of the scheme. They left the meeting for the duration of that item.

### **3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

#### **DECISION**

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 28 April 2021 be approved and signed by the chair as a correct record of proceedings.
2. That the notes of the Cabinet discussion held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 be noted.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR**

See the minutes.

**5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions**

The Mayor advised that it had not been possible to circulate Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses prior to the meeting but these would be made available shortly after the meeting. He indicated he would invite Councillor Muhammed Pappu, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to highlight any pressing issues the Committee had raised during the discussion on each item.

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

Nil items.

**6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION****6.1 Annual Council Performance & Delivery Report 2020/21****DECISION**

1. To note the strategic delivery and performance report for 2020/21;
2. To note that in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, throughout the past year we have rapidly pivoted many of our services to support residents, businesses and partners in the borough and this has had an impact on our ability to deliver everything that we had planned;
3. To review the performance of the strategic measures, including those measures where the minimum expectation has been missed; and
4. To review progress in delivering the council's Strategic Plan.

**Action by:****CHIEF EXECUTIVE (W. TUCKLEY)**

(Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance (S. Godman)

(Head of Intelligence and Performance (T. Dreyer)

**Reasons for the decisions**

The council is committed to improving outcomes for residents. Our corporate priorities and outcomes are found in our Strategic Plan and provide a framework for action.

Our Performance & Accountability Framework sets out the process for monitoring the timely and effective delivery of the Strategic Plan to improve outcomes for residents. In line with the framework, Cabinet receives regular update reports to ensure oversight of pace, delivery, performance and improvement activities.

This report promotes openness, transparency and accountability by enabling Tower Hamlets residents to track progress of activities that impact on their lives and the communities they live in.

#### **Alternative options**

Cabinet may decide not to review the delivery and performance information. This is not recommended as Members have a key role to review and challenge underperformance and to utilise performance information to inform resource allocation.

## **6.2 Covid-19 Response - Annual Report 2020-21**

### **DECISION**

1. To note the contents of the report outlining our response to the Covid-19 pandemic over 2020-21.

#### **Action by:**

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE (W. TUCKLEY)**

(Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance (S. Godman)

(Head of Strategy and Policy Health, Adults and Community (J. Starkie)

#### **Reasons for the decisions**

To provide the Mayor and Cabinet with an overview of the wide range of actions undertaken by the council in response to the Covid-19 pandemic over the last year.

#### **Alternative options**

n/a

## **6.3 Covid Recovery Fund**

### **DECISION**

1. To agree to fund projects listed in Appendix 1 to the report totalling £2,406,048 as Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund to support the recovery of the borough.
2. From the Mayor's Covid Recovery fund agreed in Recommendation 1, to add £50,000 to the cohesion theme of the Small Grants Programme in accordance with our current grants policy.
3. To authorise the relevant Corporate Director to enter into an agreement with East End Community Foundation (EECF) for the

management of the fund referred to in recommendation 2 in line with the other small grants fund themes.

4. To authorise the relevant Corporate Director to enter into any other agreements to give effect to the recommendations in the report.
5. To note that details of any grants awarded from Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund monies will be reported to Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee.

**Action by:**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE (W. TUCKLEY)**

(Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance (S. Godman)

(Head of Strategy and Performance (A. Hoque)

**Reasons for the decisions**

There is a need to support the Tower Hamlets community to recover from the impact of the pandemic and to address the damage caused by it. This report presents details of the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund, including an overview of the proposed funding programme and themes, along with details of recommended project proposals to help achieve the commitments to support community recovery.

**Alternative options**

The Council can decide not to contribute to the borough's recovery. This is not recommended as our impact and engagement work, detailed below, has highlighted that it is crucial to support recovery of the borough in order to ensure that we can achieve the aims and objectives of the Council's Strategic Plan.

The Council could agree an alternative set of projects to be funded or ask for some proposals to be reworked.

**6.4 Additions to the Approved Capital Programme 2021-22 to 2023-24**

**DECISION**

1. To approve the inclusion of £17.083m of the additional capital schemes and amendments to existing capital schemes, as set out in the report, into the council's 2020-24 Approved Capital Programme for the General Fund.
2. To note the detail of the first 1,000 new council homes delivery programme and approve the scheme-specific budgets and identified funding sources within the previously approved total budget of £232.768m.
3. To approve the allocation of £5.000m to enable the direct delivery of Landon Walk scheme as part of the HRA first 1,000 council homes programme, including the purchase and installation of the modular homes, instead of via a loan agreement to PLACE Ltd, currently

included in the General Fund approved capital programme funded by £3.820m of borrowing.

4. To approve the inclusion of £1.400m for the delivery of the Sewardstone Road scheme to be funded by RTB receipts (£0.560m) and borrowing (£0.840m) (from the reduction in borrowing achieved through the removal of the PLACE Ltd scheme to fund this) as part of the General Fund programme.
5. To approve the inclusion of £2.980m for the purchase of additional buy-backs to be funded by borrowing (£2.980m) (from the reduction in borrowing achieved through the removal of the PLACE Ltd scheme to fund this).
6. To approve the funding sources for the additions and amendments to schemes in the Approved Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2023/24 as set out in para 4.7, Table 1 of the report.
7. To agree that approval to proceed to award contracts for works and services be delegated to the Corporate Director of Place, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Resources, subject to the procurement process and approval through the capital governance process and tenders being within agreed budgets. .

**Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE) CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES (K. BARTLE)**

(Interim Head of Capital Delivery, (J. Abraham)

**Reasons for the decision**

Additional capital schemes have progressed through the capital governance process since the current capital programme was approved by Full Council in March 2021. Funding sources have been identified for these schemes and allocated. In accordance with the council's financial regulations, formal approval from Cabinet is required for these schemes to be included in the 2020-24 Approved Capital Programme. The report includes changes to existing capital schemes which have progressed through the capital governance process and require approval. It also includes detail of the schemes which form part of the first 1,000 homes programme and individual scheme budget allocations from the total approved budget of £232.768m.

**Alternative options**

An alternative route for capital programme approvals is through the Quarterly Monitoring Report prepared by Corporate Finance. The next opportunity for approvals to incorporate additional schemes into the programme is late July 2021.

In order to maintain the pace of delivery, this report seeks approval for the schemes listed, between quarterly monitoring, an approach which was agreed by the Mayor in Cabinet in June 2019.

## **6.5 Response to Overview and Scrutiny's Challenge Session on 'Examining Council's Revised Approach to Idea Stores and Library Services'**

### **DECISION**

1. To note the report (Appendix 1 to the report) of the scrutiny challenge session on examining the council's revised approach to Idea Stores and library services; and
2. Agree the action plan (Appendix 2 to the report) in response to the scrutiny recommendations.

### **Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)**

(Director, Customer Services (R. Chand))

### **Reasons for the decisions**

To provide a formal response to the OSC report and an action plan to cover any recommendations, or elements thereof, not already included in the report that was taken to Cabinet on the 3 March 2021.

The attached report is the Executive's response to the scrutiny recommendations arising from the scrutiny challenge session's examination of the council's revised approach to Idea Stores and library services.

In practice, the challenge session formed part of the consultation process that fed into the final report on the revised approach to Idea Stores and library services taken to Cabinet on 3 March 2021

### **Alternative options**

The alternative option would have been to delay the cabinet report until after the formal report from OSC had been received. This was not acceptable as it would have delayed the timing of any savings agreed in the final report.

The option to delay engaging with OSC was dismissed as this would have reduced the potential for the session to influence design and decisions.

## **6.6 Correction to Private Rented Sector Housing Selective Licensing Designation**

### **DECISION**

1. To vary/amend the Cabinet decision of 28 April 2021 relating to the selective licensing designation (due to commence 1st October 2021), to exclude the following post codes: E1 1ES, E1 1FA, E1 7HS, E1 8EU, E1 1LP and E1 1DQ.
2. To note that these postcodes relate to student accommodation accredited by ANUK and fall within the Weavers, Whitechapel and Spitalfields and Banglatown areas Selective Licensing scheme.(pre 2014 boundaries)

**Action by:****CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)**

(Divisional Director Public Realm (D. Jones)

(Head of Environmental Health &amp; Trading Standards (D. Tolley)

**Reasons for the decision**

Following Cabinet approval on 28th April 2021 for the continuation of the selective licensing scheme for a further five years, during the statutory publication process the Council received a query as to why the student accommodation blocks associated with ANUK were excluded and whether the Council could actually make this exclusion.

After further consideration it was determined that the Council may not be able to make this exclusion via accreditation awards. Therefore, officers have determined to remove this exclusion from the designation and to amend the designation to remove geographical locations for the selective licensing area. This report effects that change.

**Alternative options**

The current designation made on the 28th April 2021 could remain in place without correction. This may result in a legal challenge and delay the commencement on the designation on the 1st October 2021. However, by making this small administrative change excluding the geographical areas where the accommodation blocks accredited by ANUK sit reduces the risk of a challenge.

**6.7 Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Area – Boundary Correction****DECISION**

1. To approve the formal amendment of the neighbourhood planning area to the boundaries shown in appendix 1 to the report.

**Action by:****CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)**

(Divisional Director, Planning and Building Control (J. Peters)

(Principal Planning Officer, Plan Making Team (S. Heywood)

**Reasons for the decision**

The Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Plan underwent statutory consultation from 15 March to 27 April 2021 under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. As part of that consultation it was identified that part of the neighbourhood planning area as currently designated falls within LLDC.

The Council cannot designate land for planning purposes within area under the LLDC's authority. Officers discussed options with the Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum and LLDC planning officers, including the option of retaining the existing boundary and cooperating with LLDC to develop a trans-boundary neighbourhood plan.



Given the added complication and time required to develop and adopt a trans-boundary neighbourhood plan, and the relatively small amount of land that falls within LLDC, the neighbourhood forum expressed a preference to amend the boundary to remove the area falling within LLDC.

Officers discussed the process to be followed with the Council's legal team, who also sought external counsel advice, which concluded that it would be appropriate to correct an error in the boundary as long as the correction was properly publicised. Counsel advice also advised that the neighbourhood forum should consult on the impact of the changed boundary on the neighbourhood plan, although this decision is in the hands of the forum.

### **Alternative options**

The alternative to making these changes would be to leave the neighbourhood area boundary as designated in 2017. However, as the Council has no authority at this time to designate land that sits within the LLDC for planning purposes, this is not seen as a realistic alternative, and would create problems for further consultation and examination of the neighbourhood plan.

On this basis, it is considered that there are no reasonable alternative options to the correction of the eastern boundary of the neighbourhood area to match the boundary between Tower Hamlets and the LLDC planning areas.

## **6.8 Nomination to Outside Bodies**

### **DECISION**

1. To agree the nominations to outside bodies as shown in Paragraph 3.3 of the report.

### **Action by:**

**DIRECTOR LEGAL AND MONITORING OFFICER (J. FASAN)**

(Head of Democratic Services (M. Mannion)

(Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee) (J. West)

### **Reasons for the decisions**

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 cabinet 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**

Nil items.

**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. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Nil items.

**12. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 7.31 p.m.

Mayor John Biggs