

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2021

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Sufia Alam (maternity leave)
- Councillor Eve McQuillan
- Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
- Councillor Mohammed Pappu

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

Councillor Mufeedah Bustin declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 11.15, Member Question regarding the management of Children's Care Homes. This was on the basis of her employment by Young Futures Children In Care who provide residential support for young people in care. (This question was not asked).

The following Councillors declared a Non - Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 9.1, Report of Cabinet on the Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy 2021-24:

- Councillor Kabir Ahmed – on the grounds on his employment in a shop in Brick Lane.
- Councillor Denise Jones – on the grounds of owning a business in Brick Lane.
- Councillor Victoria Obaze – as an Ambassador for the London Tea Exchange located in Brick Lane.

3. MINUTES

DECISION:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 29th September 2021 and the Meeting of the Freedom of the Borough Council meeting held on 13th October 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

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

See the minutes.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition regarding Stop Wellington Row, Barnet Grove & Quilter Street Road Closures & Restrictions

Petition not presented due to the absence of the Petitioner.

DECISION

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

(Action by: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place)

5.2 Petition regarding Save St Andrew's Wharf Youth Club

Camila Consolmagno addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners, and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services, Education and Equalities then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Children and Culture for a written response within 28 days.

(Action by: James Thomas, Corporate Director, Children and Culture)

5.3 Petition regarding Tower Hamlets Council proposing to change the conditions of succession for tenants

Terry McGrenera addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners, and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Housing then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Place for a written response within 28 days.

(Action by: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place)

5.4 Petition regarding Keep our Warden Service on Ocean Estate

Brenda Daley and Margie Watts addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners, and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community for a written response within 28 days.

(**Action by:** Denise Radley, Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor presented his report to the Council.

The Opposition Group Leader's then responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

- Councillor Peter Golds, Leader of the Conservative Group.
- Councillor Kabir Ahmed, Leader of the Aspire Group.

The Mayor provided concluding remarks.

7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE - REGARDING COP26

Councillor Asma Islam **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Rabina Khan **moved** and Councillor Harun Miah **seconded** an amendment to the motion (as set out in the supplementary agenda). Following a brief adjournment, Councillor Rabina Khan agreed to accept an amendment from Councillor Asma Islam as set out below.

To replace point 3 of the amendment (Under this Council Resolves)

- That the Council must proactively work to ensure that people ALWAYS have access to recycling bags particularly those who are elderly or cannot easily pick bags up from distribution points.

With

- The Council carry on exploring bringing in reusable recycling bags, which will eventually replace plastic recycling bags.

The updated text of this amendment is set out below:

The Council Notes:

1. According to figures published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Tower Hamlets is the third-worst borough for recycling in London.
2. Defra figures also show that Tower Hamlets was the fourth-worst local authority for recycling in the whole of the UK in 2019/20.
3. A report published by the Council showed that the recycling rate per household was just 19.5 percent between April and June this year - significantly lower than the UK average of 46.2 percent.
4. Regularly misses recycling and refuse collections potentially disenfranchises residents from recycling.
5. Our borough's household refuse and recycling must be collected on time and our streets cleaned regularly. Residents need to see that the Council is leading the way to make our borough both clean and green.

The Council Resolves:

1. That a targeted approach by the Council to ensure that the Borough is no longer the fourth worst local authority for recycling.
2. That a concerted effort is made by the Council to ensure that recycling is collected on time without ANY missed collections.
3. The Council carry on exploring bringing in reusable recycling bags, which will eventually replace plastic recycling bags.

Councillor Asma Islam accepted this amendment.

The substantive motion, as amended, was put to a vote and was unanimously **agreed**.

DECISION:

This Council notes that:

1. The UK Government was the host of COP26, held in Scotland in November 2021. This was an opportunity for the UK Government to radically shape global action on climate change, and to use the opportunity to shape how climate change is tackled in the UK.
2. In March 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency setting an ambitious target of becoming a Net Zero Carbon Council by 2025.
3. In March 2020, the Council hosted the Climate Engagement event, and it then on behalf of the PEG set up the Climate Task Force representing key stakeholders and partners as identified by the PEG.
4. The Council has just launched the Net Zero Carbon (NZN) Partnership Action Plan.
5. The Council has already taken a number of actions locally to combat climate change, including:
 - a. Sustainable Workplace programme to encourage sustainable behaviours for council employees including: promoting resource efficiency, reduction in single use plastics and elimination of plastic cups from buildings, introduction of food waste collection

- to council offices to reduce waste being sent to landfill and incineration.
- b. Adopted Local Plan policies that require all new development to achieve net zero carbon status.
 - c. Review of council Assets for Zero Carbon retrofit feasibility. Proposals include transitioning to low carbon heating and hot water systems and LED lighting, these projects will reduce carbon emissions by 105 tonnes a year.
 - d. Completed initial feasibility for decarbonisation of Barkantine Heat and Power district heating network.
 - e. Promoting Trees for Streets
 - f. Council purchasing 100% renewable energy
 - g. Retrofitting schools projects
 - h. Solar Together London
 - i. Sustained investment through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
 - j. Sustained investment in public transport to support a just transition
6. Tower Hamlets has been named the most eco-friendly local authority in England in a study published by In Your Area, which found that the borough has the lowest carbon emissions in the country and it is the best in the UK for energy-efficient homes.
 7. According to figures published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Tower Hamlets is the third-worst borough for recycling in London.
 8. Defra figures also show that Tower Hamlets was the fourth-worst local authority for recycling in the whole of the UK in 2019/20.
 9. A report published by the Council showed that the recycling rate per household was just 19.5 percent between April and June this year - significantly lower than the UK average of 46.2 percent.
 10. Regularly misses recycling and refuse collections potentially disenfranchises residents from recycling.
 11. Our borough's household refuse and recycling must be collected on time and our streets cleaned regularly. Residents need to see that the Council is leading the way to make our borough both clean and green.

This Council believes:

1. This summer has seen more evidence of the immediate impact of climate change across the world, with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Report, published in August 2021, found that the global surface temperature will continue to rise until at least the middle of this century. This shows the need for more ambitious and immediate action to tackle this climate emergency at a local, national and international level.
2. The Council has made significant progress but must continue to press its partners and the UK Government for a wider solution while leading by example.

This Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning to raise this motion with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to:
 - a. Call for the UK Government to provide local authorities with the necessary resources to take further action against climate change, and to support a fair and just transition to a Net Zero Carbon UK.
 - b. State our support for more public investment in green projects across the UK to tackle the Climate Emergency.
2. Continue to work with local residents, businesses and council partners to encourage them to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint in order to achieve our net zero commitment.
3. That a targeted approach by the Council to ensure that the Borough is no longer the fourth worst local authority for recycling.
4. That a concerted effort is made by the Council to ensure that recycling is collected on time without ANY missed collections.
5. The Council carry on exploring bringing in reusable recycling bags, which will eventually replace the plastic recycling bags.

(Action by: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place/Mayor's Office)

8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE - KNIFE CRIME EMERGENCY IN TOWER HAMLETS

Councillor Kabir Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Harun Miah **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Sirajul Islam **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the following amendment to the motion as set out in the supplementary agenda:

Added text is underlined.

Deleted text is scored out.

This council notes:

1. That tackling crime and anti-social behaviour is a police responsibility, however local councils have an important role to play in supporting the police to do this.
2. That a petition entitled "Knife Crime Emergency in Tower Hamlets" on Change.org has been signed by 23,310 people, and the council fully recognises the concerns that are regularly raised about crime and is working hard to address them, alongside the police and other partners. ~~The petition has been organised by Isle of Dogs residents and former Canary Wharf Cllr Maium Talukdar.~~

3. That knife crime in Tower Hamlets is a serious issue across the whole country and leads to fatalities and serious injury, especially among young people.
4. That knife crime in Tower Hamlets creates a perception of a lack of safety among residents that the streets of this Borough are not safe, and that elected representatives have a public duty not to sensationalise these serious issues, but instead must engage in careful debate that does not cause fear.
5. That Tower Hamlets Council funds additional police officers in order to fill the gaps in policing caused by Tory Government cuts. Between April and June this year, Tower Hamlets saw 4,664 hours of uniformed and plain clothes patrols conducted by council-funded police officers

This council believes:

6. The reduction in police budgets and closure of local police stations, such as the police station in Manchester Road is a direct result of the Tory Government's austerity agenda and risks harming efforts to deal with this emergency.
7. A great deal of knife crime is related to the sale of drugs and gangs and the council's partnership work with the police through Operation Continuum (including utilising council-funded police officers) is making significant steps in disrupting this crime.
8. An effective strategy to tackle knife crime must combine enforcement, education and support for those who may be tempted into carrying or using knives and redirecting them to positive activities.

This council resolves:

9. To declare a continue its work to tackle Knife Crime Emergency in Tower Hamlets, including through the violence, vulnerability, and exploitation (VVE) and to devise a strategy to tackle it launched earlier this year, and the Community Safety Partnership Plan that came to Full Council in March, among the other measures the council takes.
10. ~~That this strategy should be a practical document, assembled as an emergency – and not a bureaucratic paper exercise. It should be brought before the next Council meeting for discussion.~~
11. That the Strategy should To continue its work, including ~~include~~ the following elements.
 - a. ~~The Mayor should ask the borough's MPs and all LBTH councillors to work with him on making representations to~~ Continue to lobby the Government asking for the Council and the police to receive emergency funding to restore the funding lost through the last ten years of austerity, which would help to tackle knife crime in Tower Hamlets.
 - b. The Tower Hamlets Mayor should make representations to the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, asking him to continue his lobbying of the Government for additional ~~find~~ funding for the

- Council and police to tackle the Knife Crime Emergency in the borough, including the re-opening of Manchester Road police station. as Government-imposed funding cuts have forced the closure of police stations right across the country.
- c. ~~To increase the provision of~~ THEOs and extra police officers ~~so that there is~~ which provide a constant and visible presence to deter crime as well as respond to it quickly.
 - d. ~~A strategy~~ Its work to disrupt the attraction in the borough towards carrying knives and other weapons, using a mixture of enforcement, education and support for those who may be or have been drawn towards knife crime in the borough.
 - e. Whilst noting that any ~~The~~ knife deterrence strategy in the borough ~~should be organised under a clear and measurable~~ cannot rely on just a slogan or rhetoric alone.
 - f. ~~A strategy to bring a~~ Our comprehensive, effective Youth Service in Tower Hamlets ~~back up to a level which can~~ which offers support to all those who need it, especially those at risk of being groomed into carrying knives and offending; this service to be based very locally (~~rather than bring restricted to “hubs”~~) and ~~offering a companion outreach service.~~ Through hubs and detached youth work.
 - g. ~~A strategy~~ Continuing to offer specialist support for victims of knife crime and their families, with appropriate services for young women and for members of the BAME communities.
 - h. Continuing our work ~~A strategy~~ to tackle organised crime and disorder ~~by re-investing in a “Gangbuster Unit” that has~~ through Operation Continuum, a multi agency approach and intelligence led approach to tackle knife crime.

Under Council Procedure Rule 13.2, Councillor Kabir Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Harun Miah **seconded** a motion to withdraw their motion. This proposal was put a vote and was **defeated**.

The amendment was put to a vote and was **agreed**

The motion as amended was put to a vote and was **agreed**.

DECISION:

This council notes:

1. That tackling crime and anti-social behaviour is a police responsibility, however local councils have an important role to play in supporting the police to do this.
2. That a petition entitled “Knife Crime Emergency in Tower Hamlets” on Change.org has been signed by 23,310 people, and the council fully recognises the concerns that are regularly raised about crime and is working hard to address them, alongside the police and other partners.

3. That knife crime is a serious issue across the whole country and leads to fatalities and serious injury, especially among young people.
4. That knife crime creates a perception of a lack of security among residents and that elected representatives have a public duty not to sensationalise these serious issues, but instead must engage in careful debate that does not cause fear.
5. That Tower Hamlets Council funds additional police officers in order to fill the gaps in policing caused by Tory Government cuts. Between April and June this year, Tower Hamlets saw 4,664 hours of uniformed and plain clothes patrols conducted by council-funded police officers

This council believes:

6. The reduction in police budgets and closure of local police stations, such as the police station in Manchester Road is a direct result of the Tory Government's austerity agenda and risks harming efforts to deal with this emergency.
7. A great deal of knife crime is related to the sale of drugs and gangs and the council's partnership work with the police through Operation Continuum (including utilising council-funded police officers) is making significant steps in disrupting this crime.
8. An effective strategy to tackle knife crime must combine enforcement, education and support for those who may be tempted into carrying or using knives and redirecting them to positive activities.

This council resolves:

9. To continue its work to tackle Knife Crime in Tower Hamlets, including through the violence, vulnerability, and exploitation (VVE) strategy launched earlier this year, and the Community Safety Partnership Plan that came to Full Council in March, among the other measures the council takes.
10. To continue its work, including the following elements.
 - a. Continue to lobby the Government asking for the Council and the police to receive emergency funding to restore the funding lost through the last ten years of austerity, which would help to tackle knife crime in Tower Hamlets.
 - b. The Tower Hamlets Mayor should make representations to the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, asking him to continue his lobbying of the Government for additional funding for the Council and police to tackle Knife Crime in the borough, as Government imposed funding cuts have forced the closure of police stations right across the country.
 - c. TEOs and extra police officers which provide a constant and visible presence to deter crime as well as respond to it quickly.
 - d. Its work to disrupt the attraction in the borough towards carrying knives and other weapons, using a mixture of enforcement,

education and support for those who may be or have been drawn towards knife crime in the borough.

- e. Whilst noting that any knife deterrence strategy in the borough cannot rely on just a slogan or rhetoric alone.
- f. Our comprehensive, effective Youth Service in Tower Hamlets which offers support to all those who need it, especially those at risk of being groomed into carrying knives and offending; this service to be based very locally Through hubs and detached youth work.
- g. Continuing to offer specialist support for victims of knife crime and their families, with appropriate services for young women and for members of the BAME communities.
- h. Continuing our work to tackle organised crime and disorder through Operation Continuum, a multi agency approach and intelligence led approach to tackle knife crime.

(Action by: Denise Radley, Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)

9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

9.1 Report of Cabinet, Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy 2021-24

The Council considered the report of Cabinet setting out the Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy 2021-24 under the Budget and Policy Framework.

DECISION:

1. Note the evidence and statutory consultation returns and retain both CIAs in Brick Lane and Bethnal Green.
2. Agree the reviewed CIA Policy Statement, which has been reviewed in light of the consultation. The Policy Statement can be found in Appendix One to the main report, however Council should note paragraph 9.10 of the policy which states:

"If there are no representations, the licensing authority must grant the application in terms that are consistent with the operating schedule submitted in line with their delegated authority."
3. That the proposed CIAs, as part of the Statement of Licensing Policy, will take effect from 18th November 2021 for three years unless, within that time, they are reviewed and the Council is of the opinion that they are no longer necessary.

(Action by: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place)

9.2 Report of the Audit Committee, Appointment of External Auditors for 2023-2024 (plus 5 years)

The Council considered the report of the Audit Committee regarding the appointment of External Auditors.

DECISION:

1. Note the Appointment of External Auditors for 2023-24 (plus 5 years) report.
2. Agree to opt into the national scheme operated by the Public Sector Audit Appointments for external auditor appointments.

(Action by: Kevin Bartle, Interim Corporate Director, Resources (s.151 Officer))

9.3 Report of the Standards Advisory Committee: Update on the new Member Code of Conduct

The Council considered the report of the Standard Advisory Committee regarding the adoption of the new Member Code of Conduct.

DECISION:

1. Note the Update report on the new Member Code of Conduct and appendix.
2. Agree to adopt the new Member Code of Conduct and add it to the Council's Constitution.
3. Agree that the new Code be adopted from Friday 6 May 2022 with training to be included as part of the Member Induction Programme following the local elections.

(Action by: Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer)

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Proposed changes to Borough Ward names

The Council considered the report of the General Purposes Committee.

Councillor Helal Uddin **moved** a proposal to agree name changes for Bethnal Green and St Peter's Wards but not to change the name of the Canary Wharf Ward.

The recommendations were put to a vote and were **agreed**.

DECISION:

1. Note the results of the consultation on proposed changes to Borough Ward Names
2. To amend the names of the Borough Wards as follows:
 - change Bethnal Green Ward to Bethnal Green East Ward
 - change St. Peter's Ward to Bethnal Green West Ward
3. To not change the name of the Canary Wharf Ward.

(Action by Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer)

10.2 Spitalfields Neighbourhood Plan – Post-Referendum Report

Report withdrawn from the agenda.

11. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following questions and in each case supplementary questions were put (except where indicated) and were responded to by the Mayor or relevant Executive Member:

- 11.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds about the number of Council managed/provided CCTV cameras in the borough.
- 11.3 Question from Councillor Shah Ameen regarding the allocation of the levelling up funding for the Whitechapel Ward. No supplementary questions was asked.
- 11.4 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed seeking assurances that the council's accounts for 2020/2021 have been published, audited and certified.
- 11.5 Question from Councillor Victoria Obaze about the Mayor's Covid-19 Recovery Fund. No supplementary question was asked.
- 11.6 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood regarding the capacity of utility networks along Marsh Wall.
- 11.7 Question from Councillor Faroque Ahmed about the Council's Poverty Review. No supplementary question was asked.
- 11.8 Question from Councillor Harun Miah about road markings in Watney Street and Cable Street junction. No supplementary question was asked.
- 11.9 Question from Councillor Val Whitehead about green initiatives. No supplementary question was asked.
- 11.10 Question from Councillor Marc Francis about the introduction of a new Traffic Management Order for the St Stephen's estate, Usher Road and Annie Besant close.

11.11 Question from Councillor Amina Ali regarding the Council's response to the £20 cut to Universal Credit.

11.12 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin requesting an update on the Parks Investment Programme. No supplementary question was asked.

11.13 Question from Councillor Puru Miah about the number of schools that have an up-to-date Equality Information and Objectives Policy

Question 11.1 was not put due to the absence of the questioner. Questions 11.14 - 11.16 were not put due to lack of time. A written response would be provided to these questions. (Note the written responses will follow)

(**Action** by:—Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services to arrange written responses)

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(No Motions were considered due to lack of time).

The meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.