

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.35 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2021

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

Members Present in person:

Mayor John Biggs
Councillor Rachel Blake (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Sabina Akhtar (Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Sports)
Councillor Candida Ronald (Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)

Members In Attendance remotely:

Councillor Asma Begum (Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services, Education and Equalities)
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion (Job Share) – as part of wider Social Inclusion and Public Realm portfolio)
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury (Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Highways (Job Share) – as part of wider Public Realm and Highways portfolio)
Councillor Asma Islam (Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning)
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Cabinet Member for Community Safety)
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Work, Economic Growth and Faith)

Other Councillors Present at the meeting:

Councillor Kabir Ahmed (Leader of the Aspire Group)
Councillor Peter Golds (Leader of the Conservative Group)

Other Councillors In Attendance remotely:

Councillor Mohammed Pappu (Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

Officers Present:

Vicky Clark (Divisional Director for Growth and Economic Development)
Keith Daley Interim Head Substance Misuse
Janet Fasan (Director of Legal & Monitoring Officer)
Sharon Godman (Director, Strategy, Improvement and Transformation)
Adrian Gorst (Divisional Director, IT)

Hitesh Jolapara	(Interim Divisional Director, Finance, Procurement & Audit)
Mehmet Mazhar	(Business Manager, Highways & Traffic Management)
Thomas Parsonage	(Estate Surveyor)
Denise Radley	(Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)
Melanie Rose	(Head of IT Office)
Ann Sutcliffe	(Corporate Director, Place)
James Thomas	(Corporate Director, Children and Culture)
David Tolley	(Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards)
Will Tuckley	(Chief Executive)
Matthew Mannion	(Head of Democratic Services, Governance)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Danny Hassell (Cabinet Member for Housing)
- Kevin Bartle (Interim Corporate Director, Resources) for whom Hitesh Jolapara (Interim Director of Finance, Procurement and Audit) was deputising.

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 28 July 2021 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 including:

- Noting the changes made to Cabinet Membership and portfolios and welcoming Councillor Kahar Chowdhury to the Cabinet.
- There would shortly be an announcement on future plans for the Liveable Streets programme.
- The Council was looking to house a number of Afghan refugees.

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 – Integrated Housing and Support Mental Health Schemes
- 6.5 – 3-11 Vallance Road – Disposal
- 6.6 – 122 Back Church Lane – Disposal (further details on this response would be provided in due course)

These were considered during deliberation of the relevant Agenda Items.

In addition, Councillor Mohammed Pappu, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) highlighted the agenda for the upcoming OSC meeting including on strategic performance, budget monitoring report and digital inclusion. Scrutiny was also soon to hold a review into swimming provision in the borough.

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

Nil items.

6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Reset Adult substance Misuse Service Contract Direct Award

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health, Adults and Wellbeing introduced the report. She highlighted that this report had been brought to Cabinet due to the Council successfully winning a government grant to support this work. The proposals included variations to contracts on treatment services, outreach and recovery services.

During discussion, officers were congratulated for their success in winning the grant award. There were also detailed discussions on the posts and related structures/costs. It was explained that a lot of the figures were set by national negotiations.

The Mayor (and Members present) welcomed the report as a good news story. The Mayor moved the recommendations as set out. These were approved unanimously by the Cabinet Members present and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To agree the variation of the: Reset Outreach and Referral Service delivered by Providence row (contract HAC5384 A) in line with the report.
2. To agree the variation of the: Reset Recovery Support Service delivered by Change, Grow, Live (CGL) (contract HAC5384 C) in line with the report.
3. To note that the Corporate Director will agree the variation of the Reset Treatment Service delivered by CGL (contract HAC5384 B) in line with the report in accordance with the delegation under the constitution.

This has been agreed at the Directorate Leadership Team on 26th July 2021.

4. To note the contents of this report as an update on recent grants made to LB Tower Hamlets substance misuse service.

6.2 Integrated housing and support Mental Health schemes: Direct Award of contract to Look Ahead Care and Support

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health, Adults and Wellbeing, introduced the report. The reason for bringing the report forward was because this was a direct award and the reason for that was because the services were linked to the accommodation provided for the users. The best value of the proposals had been tested carefully and this was a good proposal.

The Mayor noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses. The Mayor welcomed the report and proposed the recommendations as set out. These were approved unanimously by the Cabinet Members present and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To agree to the direct award of a single contract with Look Ahead Care and Support, for a period of 7 years (3+2+2); with a maximum value of £1,080,891 annually and £7,566,237 for the life of the contract.
2. To authorise the Corporate Director Health Adults and Communities in consultation with legal services to enter into such appropriate agreements as are required to give effect to the recommendation detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report.
3. The contract to bring together the provision of integrated housing and support for the schemes delivered at Commercial Road; Coventry Road and Tabard Court.

6.3 Service Action Plan: Improving Air Quality in Tower Hamlets

Councillor Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, introduced the report on the Service Action Plan in response to a Scrutiny review of Air Quality in Tower Hamlets. There were nine recommendations from scrutiny and responses were set out in all cases including a number that had already been completed. She thanked Scrutiny for their work on this important issue.

During discussion the action taken in relation to pollution from canal boats was welcomed. The meeting also heard concerns around the Liveable Streets programme and its impact on traffic in some areas. The Mayor reported that managing pollution from cars was important and that the schemes had

improved the lives of residents. There would be further announcements in relation to the liveable streets programme shortly including reacting to feedback from residents. Finally, it was noted that the intention of the actions in relation to cars idling was around educating drivers.

The Mayor proposed the recommendation as set out in the report. This was unanimously agreed by the Cabinet Members present, and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To note the report of the Environment scrutiny challenge on “examining the Council’s Air Quality Commitments and impacts on residents’ health outcomes” and agree the service action plan in response to the report recommendations.

6.4 Highways & Street Lighting Works Contract Tender

Councillor Kahar Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Highways introduced the report on tendering for the new highways and street lighting contract. This includes maintenance and improvement works.

The Mayor proposed the recommendations as set out and they were agreed unanimously by the Cabinet Members present. It was:

RESOLVED

1. To agree that contract set out in this report may proceed to procurement in October 2021.
2. To confirm that contract set out in this report can proceed to contract award by the Corporate Director, Place, after Tender.
3. To authorise the Director of Legal to execute all necessary contract documents in respect of the award of contract referred to in recommendation 2 above.

6.5 3 – 11 Vallance Road - Disposal

Councillor Mufeedah Bustin, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, introduced the report proposing the disposal of property on Vallance Road. The property had been empty for many years and so it was good that a solution had now been found. It was confirmed that the retention of the buildings for a potential road scheme was no longer required.

It was noted that the overall benefit to the community had been carefully considered and was best met through the sale of the site. The Mayor noted the exempt appendices setting out financial information and the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses. He moved the recommendations as set out. These were unanimously approved by the Cabinet Members present and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To declare that 3-11 Valance Road is surplus to requirements.
2. To note the bids received to date (Exempt Appendix A to the report) and authorise the Corporate Director Place to accept the most advantageous offer for the disposal (freehold or long leasehold) for the site.
3. To authorise the Director of Legal to enter into any legal agreements considered necessary to give effect to the recommendations listed.
4. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment.

6.6 122 Back Church Lane – Disposal

Councillor Mufeedah Bustin, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion introduced the report proposing the disposal of 122 Back Church Lane. She explained that this former school building had been vacant for ten years and feasibility studies had determined that disposing of the property would achieve best value.

The Mayor noted the Pre-Decision Questions and proposed the recommendations as set out. These were agreed unanimously by the Cabinet Members present and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To agree authority to market and dispose of the vacant 122 Back Church Lane site on a freehold basis
2. To authorise the Corporate Director, Place to determine the best route to market.
3. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment.

6.7 Town Hall IT Infrastructure

Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector, introduced the report on proposed new IT infrastructure for use at the new Town Hall.

The Mayor welcomed the report and noted the exempt appendix setting out financial information. He noted that these were costs the Council was likely to encounter regardless of whether it moved to the new Town Hall or stayed in the existing location. Finally, he moved the recommendations as set out in the report. These were unanimously approved by the Cabinet Members present and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To approve the competitive procurement of IT hardware, software and services to enable the move to the Town Hall in 2022.
2. To authorise the Interim Corporate Director Resources to enter into such agreements as are necessary to give effect to the matters referred to in this report subject to the Council's Procurement Procedures.

6.8 IT Recurring Contracts

Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector, introduced the report. She explained that the report was to allow for the continued procurement of a number of software systems as set out in the recommendations and detailed in the report. The total costs were as set out in the last recommendation.

The Mayor welcomed the report, he noted the exempt appendix setting out more details of the financial implications. He proposed the recommendations as set out in the report. These were unanimously agreed by the Cabinet Members present and it was:

RESOLVED

1. To approve the proposed procurement of:
 - a) Northgate housing, rents and benefits application support and hosting, starting from 01 April 2022 for 3 years, through a direct award or via a Crown Commercial Service (CCS) framework, aligning this with the wider housing and revenues project that has recently been approved and is commencing now to gather requirements and will take a considerable time get to the tender stage, award, implementation, and transition.
 - b) Bell Mitel/Wavenet telephony solution starting from 01 May 2022 for 3 years, through a direct award or via the Network Services 2 Framework.
 - c) The renewal of 18 further recurring IT contracts each with a total contract spend below £189K for direct renewal routes or via a procurement framework as applicable.
2. To authorise the Divisional Director of IT Service to award the 20 new contracts referred to above. The total annual value of these contracts is £1.682M and their lifecycle value over next 3-5 years with extensions is £5.307M.

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. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 6.46 p.m.

MAYOR JOHN BIGGS