

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET****HELD AT 5.40 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL 2023****COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL****Members Present in Person:**

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	
Councillor Maium Talukdar	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor))
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding)
Councillor Saied Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living)
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Equalities and Social Inclusion)
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care)
Councillor Abu Chowdhury	(Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Growth)

Officers Present in Person:

Stephen Halsey	(Interim Chief Executive)
Janet Fasan	(Director of Legal & Monitoring Officer)
Matthew Eady	(Director of Commissioning and Culture)
Susannah Beasley-Murray	(Divisional Director of Supporting Families)
Ann Corbett	(Director, Community Safety)
Kelly Duggan	HOS Youth Justice & Young People's Service • LBTH - Childrens Services
Sharon Godman	(Director, Strategy, Improvement and Transformation)
Jack Kerr	Strategy & Policy Manager
Ann Sutcliffe	(Corporate Director, Place)
Joel West	(Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee))
Matthew Pullen	(Infrastructure Planning Manager)
Michele Young	(Principal Development Coordinator)

Officers In Attendance Virtually:

William Jabang	(Head of Procurement)
Caroline Holland	(Interim Corporate Director, Resources)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

- Councillor Kabir Hussain
- Councillor Iqbal Hossain

- James Thomas, Corporate Director Children and Culture (Susannah Beasley Murray, Director Supporting Families was deputising).

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

None.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

DECISION

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 29 March 2023 be approved and signed by the Mayor 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

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Youth Investment Report

DECISION:

1. Endorse the proposed youth service operating model.
2. Agree to implement and operationalise the model.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND CULTURE (J. THOMAS)
Deputy Head of Service Development (L. Norberry)

Reasons for the decision

To provide the resources required to implement and deliver the transformation of the youth service, Young Tower Hamlets. This is a key priority within Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

Alternative options

The following two alternative options were considered:

Delivery of universal, targeted and detached youth work through a reduced number of specific youth hubs covering key areas of the borough. The proposed model ensures that there is a range of youth work opportunities for young people which is accessible as this will be provided at a ward level spanning the entirety of the borough. In the future should there be a need to tailor the scale of the offer consideration can be given to reconfiguring the model. In this circumstance there would be an impact on the staff structure depending upon amendments made.

Continue with a commissioned service delivery model covering universal, targeted, and detached youth work. Within the Strategic Plan there is a commitment to developing a flagship youth service primarily delivered by the Local Authority with aspects of commissioning included which forms the basis of the model. Within this paper there is provision for the commissioning of specialist services for young people which would be informed by a needs assessment.

6.2 Contracts Forward Plan 2022/23 - Quarter 4**DECISION:**

1. To note the contract summary at Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To authorise the appropriate Corporate Director in consultation with the Mayor to award those contracts set out in Appendix 1 to the report and not identified in accordance with recommendation 1 and following an appropriate procurement exercise
3. To authorise the Director Legal Services (Monitoring Office) to execute all necessary contract documents in respect of the awards of contract referred to at resolution 2 above subject to an appropriate award decision being achieved in accordance with resolutions 1 and 2 above.
4. Note the procurement forward plan 2022-2027 schedule detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

ACTION BY**CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES (C. HOLLAND)**

Interim Head of Procurement (W. Jabang)

Reasons for the decision

The Council's Procurement Procedures require submission of a quarterly forward plan of contracts for Cabinet consideration, and it is a requirement of the Constitution that "The contracting strategy and/or award of any contract for goods or services with an estimated value exceeding £1m, and any contract for capital works with an estimated value exceeding £5m shall be approved by the Cabinet in accordance with the Procurement Procedures" as

amended by the General Purposes Committee held on 05 October 2021. This report fulfils these requirements for contracts to be let during and after quarter four of the current financial Year.

Alternative options

Bringing a consolidated report on contracting activity is considered the most efficient way of meeting the requirement in the Constitution, whilst providing full visibility of contracting activity; therefore no alternative proposals are being made.

6.3 Adoption of the Code of Construction Practice 2023

DECISION

1. To approve the Code of Construction Practice (2023) for adoption, authorise officers to prepare an adoption statement and withdraw the current Code of Construction Practice (2006).
2. To authorise the Corporate Director of Place to make any necessary factual or minor editing changes prior to publishing the final Code of Construction Practice (2023).
3. To note the Equalities Impact Analysis Screening Tool as summarised in Paragraph 4 of the report (and included in Appendix C to the report).
4. To note the Consultation Statement summarising representations received during the public consultation and the responses to these representations as set out in Appendix D to the report.

ACTION BY:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE (A. SUTCLIFFE)

Development Coordination Manager (H. Horton)

Reasons for the decision

Cumulative construction activity across multiple development sites, especially in our growth areas, impacts on residents and businesses, affecting a range of health, social, environmental and economic indicators. Furthermore, if construction activity is not coordinated between the wide range of landowners and developers in the borough's growth areas, it leads to confusion, inefficiencies and delays to the delivery of development.

Tower Hamlets last published a Code of Construction Practice in 2006, the update proposed for decision reflects revisions to the following areas of legislation, policy and guidance:

- Environmental, Planning and Highways Acts
- London Plan 2021 and supporting documents
- Tower Hamlets Local Plan 2031

The Code is set up as a guidance document which refers to relevant legislation, policy and best practice which it is the responsibility of the

developer to adhere to. It outlines the primary means of enforcement via planning condition and Construction Management Plan (CMP) and Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) submissions.

The Code aims to clarify how the council, developers and contractors should coordinate and interact throughout the development process (post-planning permission) on matters concerning the environment, planning and highways. The Code describes the coordination services available from the council and the licensing processes and timeframes required for approval, enabling developers to plan more efficient delivery of development around the borough.

The Code has been subject to two rounds of public consultation. The first in January to February 2022 and the second in October to December 2022. Public and professional comments made during consultations have been supportive overall, with most queries requesting clarifications on details rather than any substantive changes.

However, the public are interested in how the council will enforce adherence to the Code. This is addressed through further measures the Development Coordination team has put forward (establishment of CMP Officers to coordinate the review, approval and monitoring of CMPs) to relevant Directorate leadership and is currently being pursued with colleagues within Public Realm.

Alternative options

The alternative option is to not adopt the Code of Construction Practice 2023. This would mean that planners and developers continue to use the 2006 version which no longer aligns with the latest legislation, policies and best practice guidance around construction. The revised version of the Code of Construction Practice introduces more stringent measures to mitigate the impacts of construction on both residents and the environment. For example, the revised Code includes more stringent and clearer requirements on permitted working hours for specific construction activities. In direct response to resident feedback from consultations held on the Code.

It emphasises the need for closer coordination with the council, via the newly set up Constructor Forums, Utilities Coordinators and Streetworks teams. It guides developers on how often (relative to site categorisation) sites must be communicating (effectively) their planned disturbances to the neighbourhood around them (not previously advised). These could provide information on road closures and changes in street layout or forewarning of noisy works and their planned duration.

Post planning approval, developers will now be required to sign a checklist, detailing the submissions required for describing their planned mitigations for environmental and logistical impacts on the public realm. By signing the checklist, they confirm adherence to the Code guidance and payment of relevant fees related to monitoring of their Construction Management Plans (CMP) and adherence to the Code.

Further updates have addressed issues related to the climate emergency (planning for flooding if in identified flood zones) and more stringent

requirements in place, via the London Plan, on how developers manage construction, demolition and excavation waste.

To continue using the 2006 version would be out of step with recently updated guidance developed by many other boroughs across London.

6.4 Equality Policy Refresh

DECISION:

1. To agree the council's Equality Policy 2023-27.

ACTION BY DIRECTOR STRATEGIES, TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT (S. GODMAN)

Head of Corporate Strategy & Communities (A. Hoque)

Reasons for the decision

The council's Equality Objectives have been updated in line with the 2022-26 Strategic Plan and as such the refreshed Equality Policy compliments the vision of Equality embedded in this strategic document. Further, the existing equality policy is due for a periodic refresh and the updated equality policy renews the Council's commitments to embed equality through its work and in line with the legal duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty (s.149 of the Equality Act 2010).

Alternative options

Make no changes, this is not recommended as the council's Equality Objectives have been updated (for 2022-26) based on evidence of the key challenges impacting residents. The borough has undergone significant population growth and demographic change which will need to be recognised under the council's refreshed Equality Policy 2023-27.

7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

None.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

None.

9. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

None.

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.