

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27 JULY 2022**

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

During the meeting the Council agreed to vary the order of business. To aid clarity, the Decision Sheet is presented in the order that the items originally appeared on the agenda

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Ohid Ahmed
- Councillor Amina Ali
- Councillor Maisha Begum and
- Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled

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

Councillor Nathalie Bienfait declared a Non - Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 5.1, Petition regarding the Antill Road vehicle filter. This was on the basis of the Councillor's involvement in setting up the Petition.

Councillor Iqbal Hossain declared a Non - Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 5.2, Petition regarding the Silvertown Tunnel. This was because he had recently attended an event held by the Stop the Silvertown Tunnel group.

**3. MINUTES**

**DECISION:**

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Annual General Council meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 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 minutes

## 5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

### 5.1 Petition regarding Keep Antill Road vehicle filter

Amanda Franco addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners, and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Kabir Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency 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)

### 5.2 Petition regarding the Silvertown Tunnel

Dr Jackie Applebee addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners, and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Kabir Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency, 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)

## 6. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Lutfur Rahman presented his report to the Council.

The Opposition Group Leader, Councillor Sirajul Islam then responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

Mayor Rahman provided concluding remarks

## 7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE REGARDING ADOPTION OF THE ASPIRE MANIFESTO

Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Jahed Choudhury **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to a vote and was **agreed**

**DECISION:**

This Council notes:

- The mandate given to Mayor Lutfur Rahman and the Aspire Group of Tower Hamlets to implement their manifesto.
- That this manifesto will radically restructure the balance of economic and social power in the Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- That the Mayor and the Aspire Party will aim to implement most – if not all – of the policies and pledges by the end of the current Mayoral term.

This Council believes:

- That the Aspire manifesto should serve as the basis of the Council's policy platform for the coming term.
- That this manifesto will enable the Mayor and his Council to:
  - Tackle the cost of living crisis
  - Build green, affordable and sustainable homes for the future
  - Accelerate and develop lifelong, educational opportunities in the borough
  - Make Tower Hamlets a hub of culture, business, jobs and leisure
  - Invest in public services
  - Empower the communities of Tower Hamlets, fight crime and make the Borough's streets a safe place to live.
  - Provide a cleaner, greener future for all residents.
  - Give residents a Council that listens to their needs, concerns and ideas

This council resolves:

- That this Manifesto should be incorporated into the London Borough of Tower Hamlets' official policy platform and programme for the full duration of this Mayoral term

**(Action by:** All Corporate Directors/Mayor's Office)

**8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE- REGARDING EMERGENCY BUDGET TO TACKLE THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

Councillor Marc Francis **moved** and Councillor Mufeedah Bustin **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Kabir Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Maium Talukdar **seconded** the following amendment as set out in the supplementary agenda

Additions underlined

Deletions struck through

**This Council notes:**

- The steep increases in the costs of energy and food since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022 and the impact this is already having on Tower Hamlets' poorest residents;
- Councillors agreed a woefully inadequate £200,000 increase in the Residents Support Scheme (Local Welfare Assistance) in the 2022/23 Budget meeting in March specifically to help residents struggling with their energy bills;
- Councillors also agreed an additional £370,000 in the same Full Council meeting for the continuation of the Food Distribution Hub in 2022/23;
- The People of Tower Hamlets were not impressed with the measures and voted for a new approach.
- With this resounding mandate, the Mayor has already agreed a Cost of Living package worth nearly £3 million at Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and agreed to incorporate his Manifesto into Council Policy at this Council Meeting.

**This Council believes:**

- This cost of living crisis demands an urgent response from both central, regional and local government if we are to prevent even worse levels of poverty and destitution;
- The Chancellor's statement on 26<sup>th</sup> May ~~only goes a small way is nowhere near sufficient~~ in easing the cost of living crisis, especially for those on the lowest incomes;
- Tower Hamlets Council is now set to receive income significantly higher than originally anticipated in February 2021 and even March 2022 ~~and that while.~~ While some of this is due to be allocated, enough remains to ~~give some scope for ringfence further measures funds to be reserved for future investment~~ to support Tower Hamlets' poorest residents over the next two years.

This Council therefore resolves:

- ~~To call on the Mayor of Tower Hamlets to bring forward a full Emergency Budget, including the following measures specifically designed to ease the financial burden on our poorest residents over the years 2022/23 and 2023/24:~~

- ~~To increase the “Standard Utilities Allowance” used in the calculation of Homecare charges from £5 a week back to £15 a week as of 1st April 2022 (estimated cost – £250,000);~~
- ~~To allocate a sum of £500,000 to top-up the Discretionary Housing Payment funding pot to the same level as 2021/22, so LBTH can help more tenants affected by the Tory Government’s “Bedroom Tax”, Benefit Cap and Local Housing Allowance (LHA) “freeze” on their Housing Benefit / Universal Credit entitlement;~~
- ~~To allocate a £500,000 Council Tax “Hardship Fund” for residents struggling with these bills, including self-employed residents affected by the use of DWP’s Minimum Income Floor in calculating their entitlement to Council Tax Support and disabled residents whose Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is included as “income”;~~
- ~~Set aside a total sum of £100,000 to award one-off grants to the voluntary food banks operating in Tower Hamlets in 2022/23 so that they are better able to ensure no one goes hungry in the East End this year;~~
- ~~Add a further one-off top up of £200,000 to LBTH’s own Residents Support Scheme pot to help those who are unable to afford essential white goods, utility bills or who are in difficulty with priority debts;~~
- ~~Allocate an additional sum of £150,000 to the School Uniform Grant funding to enable an increase in the £110 allowance per child agreed in 2019/20 and a second payment to be made for each eligible child, for example when starting Primary School;~~
- ~~Fully utilise the expected £1.75 million allocated from the Department for Education’s Holiday Activity & Food Programme (HAFP) in 2022/23 and aside an additional sum of £250,000 to cover the removal of contingency funding so as to ensure every child in receipt of free school meals has access to a nourishing lunchtime meal throughout the summer holidays;~~
- ~~Explore options for the immediate extension of Free School Meals from September 2022 onwards to the parents of secondary school children where they are in receipt of Universal Credit, but currently have a household income of more than £7,400.~~

**This Council therefore resolves:**

- To congratulate the Mayor on the historic win in the May elections and the clear mandate this gives him to implement his manifesto.
- To support all measures needed to implement the will of the People
- To give the Mayor the time and space to implement the Vision he put before the People of Tower Hamlets, outlined in the Aspire Manifesto and confirmed at this Full Council meeting.

- This includes:
  - Freezing Council Tax for four years
  - Investing in the provision of care for vulnerable members of the Borough, both adults and children
  - Providing sufficient remuneration for care workers to ensure they are adequately rewarded for their work and not left to struggle from day to day
  - Protecting tenants from revenge and unfair evictions
  - Establishing a homelessness fund to protect those living rough in the Borough and those in temporary accommodation
  - Establishing a fund to support young people who want to stay in education post 16, ensuring they are not punished for their family's income or background, or prevented from pursuing their ambitions and potential.

This Council also resolves to adopt and implement with urgency the Strategic Plan designed by the Mayor and Officers to be agreed at the next Cabinet on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, to accelerate the implementation of the above-mentioned measures

Following debate, the amendment **moved** by Councillor Kabir Ahmed was put to a vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as amended by Councillor Kabir Ahmed was put to a vote and was **agreed**

#### **DECISION:**

#### **This Council notes:**

- The steep increases in the costs of energy and food since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022 and the impact this is already having on Tower Hamlets' poorest residents;
- Councillors agreed a woefully inadequate £200,000 increase in the Residents Support Scheme (Local Welfare Assistance) in the 2022/23 Budget meeting in March specifically to help residents struggling with their energy bills;
- Councillors also agreed an additional £370,000 in the same Full Council meeting for the continuation of the Food Distribution Hub in 2022/23;
- The People of Tower Hamlets were not impressed with the measures and voted for a new approach.

- With this resounding mandate, the Mayor has already agreed a Cost of Living package worth nearly £3 million at Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and agreed to incorporate his Manifesto into Council Policy at this Council Meeting.

**This Council believes:**

- This cost of living crisis demands an urgent response from both central, regional and local government if we are to prevent even worse levels of poverty and destitution;
- The Chancellor's statement on 26<sup>th</sup> May is nowhere near sufficient in easing the cost of living crisis, especially for those on the lowest incomes;
- Tower Hamlets Council is now set to receive income significantly higher than originally anticipated in February 2021 and even March 2022. While some of this is due to be allocated, enough remains to ringfence further funds to be reserved for future investment to support Tower Hamlets' poorest residents over the next two years.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

- To congratulate the Mayor on the historic win in the May elections and the clear mandate this gives him to implement his manifesto.
- To support all measures needed to implement the will of the People
- To give the Mayor the time and space to implement the Vision he put before the People of Tower Hamlets, outlined in the Aspire Manifesto and confirmed at this Full Council meeting.
  - This includes:
    - Freezing Council Tax for four years
    - Investing in the provision of care for vulnerable members of the Borough, both adults and children
    - Providing sufficient remuneration for care workers to ensure they are adequately rewarded for their work and not left to struggle from day to day
    - Protecting tenants from revenge and unfair evictions
    - Establishing a homelessness fund to protect those living rough in the Borough and those in temporary accommodation
    - Establishing a fund to support young people who want to stay in education post 16, ensuring they are not punished for their family's income or background, or prevented from pursuing their ambitions and potential.
- This Council also resolves to adopt and implement with urgency the Strategic Plan designed by the Mayor and Officers to be agreed at the

next Cabinet on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, to accelerate the implementation of the above-mentioned measures.

(Action by: All Corporate Directors/Mayor's Office)

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

**9.1 Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-22**

The Council considered the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee setting out it's Annual Report

**DECISION:**

1. To note the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2021-22

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

**9.2 Report of the Standards Advisory Committee: Standards Advisory Committee Annual Report 2021-22**

The Council considered the report of the Standard's Advisory Committee setting out it's Annual report.

**DECISION**

1. To note the Annual Report of the Standards Advisory Committee for 2021-22.

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

**9.4 Report of the Corporate Parenting Board: Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2021**

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Parenting Board setting out it's Annual Report 2021

**DECISION**

1. To note the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board 2021-2022

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



**10. OTHER BUSINESS****10.1 Administrative Matters, Committee Chairs, Member Allowances Scheme**

The Council considered the report relating to Administrative matters.

Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury **seconded** a proposal that Councillor Jahed Choudhury be elected Chair of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal year. This proposal was put to a vote and was agreed.

**DECISION**

1. Agree to elect Councillor Jahed Choudhury Chair of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal year.
2. To agree to the following amendments to the Member Allowances Scheme:
  - a. To remove the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chief Whip
  - b. To agree the amendment set out in Paragraph 3.7 of the report clarifying the definition of a Co-opted Member in relation to the Member Allowances Scheme

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

**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.

- 11.1 Question from Councillor Jahed Choudhury on plans to alleviate the current cost of living crisis. No supplemental question was asked.
- 11.2 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam regarding the re-opening of the Rushmere One Stop Shop. No supplemental question was asked
- 11.3 Councillor Bodrul Choudhury on the Mayor's plans to safeguard young people from the cost of living crisis. No supplemental question was asked
- 11.4 Question from Councillor Marc Francis about social landlord performance issues.

Urgent Question from Councillor Peter Golds under Procedure Rule 10.4 regarding the police raid of the former Isle of Dogs Police Station on Sunday, 24th July.

Questions 11.5 to 11.22 were not put due to lack of time.

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

## 12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

### 12.1 Motion regarding the Council's Finances

Councillor Saied Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Jahed Choudhury **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda

Councillor James King **moved** and Councillor Rachel Blake **seconded** the following amendment as set out in the supplementary agenda

This Council notes that:

- Labour inherited a deficit from the previous Tower Hamlets First administration (now Aspire) when it won power of the Council in 2015.
- The Council at this time was run by Government Commissioners due to the mismanagement of finances by the Tower Hamlets First administration.
- The Labour administration worked hard under the guidance of the Commissioners to bring the budget under control.
- From 2015 the Government's spending review failed to fund Local Authorities adequately. Councils were told to manage within their means at times of great austerity, leading to a number of Councils filing for a Section 114 notice – essentially filing for bankruptcy. Despite this context, the Labour administration built up the Council's finances and healthy reserves.
- These reserves were built up by Labour to safeguard our residents from future Conservative government austerity, especially given the rhetoric displayed by the two candidates for the Conservative Party leadership.
- the Aspire Manifesto Priorities for 2022 to 2026 point to rebuilding Tower Hamlets and rebuilding our future building on the strong work of the previous Labour administration for the future of our residents.
- the Residents of Tower Hamlets overwhelmingly endorsed that vision.
- that progress on those aspirations can only be achieved in a stable financial environment, ~~which the inherited Council finances do not provide.~~ provided by the previous Labour administration.
- ~~the mishandling and mismanagement of the Council's accounts by the previous administration~~
- administration issues which occurred outside of the control of the previous Labour administration has led to:
  - o Outstanding Audit Certificates for the years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, thus rendering the Audits for those years incomplete

- The Audits for 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 remain incomplete -statutory deadlines have been missed.
  - The Audit for the last financial year (2021/2022) will not be completed by the statutory deadlines due to the unresolved backlog outlined above.
  - This year's audit (2022/2023) hasn't started due to the delay from previous years
- The external auditor has given draft qualified audit opinions for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 citing:
    - Insufficient appropriate quality supporting working papers for audit from management
    - Delays in receiving information and explanations in response to subsequent audit queries
    - Other technical accounting errors that have required correction
  - The Council received an independent expert report from Worth Technical Accounting Solutions which was presented to the Audit Committee in January 2021, and a finance improvement plan was subsequently put in place.
  - Progress on the finance improvement plan has been reported to the Audit Committee at every meeting since January 2021, and the update can be found in each agenda's report pack.
  - ~~the scale of the failure in the Council's financial accounts is so big and has been unresolved for so long that a 35 page appendix was required to outline the size of the task in reversing the decline.~~
  - ~~the financial limbo is having a serious impact on the performance of other departments. The overall quality of data is poor and unhelpful for management decisions. There are worrying instances of misplaced data. The finance issue does not sit in isolation but has a knock-on effect on other departments thereby creating an atmosphere of dysfunction and incompetence which requires immediate action.~~

This Council believes that:

- that the state of affairs with the Council's accounts may point to past ineffective political management and leadership which was resolved by the previous Labour administration and placed us in a healthy financial position from the chaotic times of the Tower Hamlets First administration. This resulted in the Local Government Association stating in 2021 that Tower Hamlets Council had made good progress on its improvement journey.
- this unprecedented financial situation warrants received immediate critical and immediate attention when this issue was first raised with the previous administration which is why an independent audit expert investigated this in 2021 and advised on a finance improvement plan, and that the Council cannot be seen as financially prudent or responsible if we allow it to persist any longer.

- to ensure nothing like this happens again in future, it is vital to understand the root cause and extent of the problem so we can rectify matters identify where governance and management issues may need to be addressed.
- current senior finance officers are working with the auditors to address their findings so the accounts can be signed off, and Council wishes to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our ~~current~~ Finance Officers Team who have worked incredibly hard over the past six years to assist the previous administration in achieving a balanced budget every year in these difficult economic times. However, Council remains concerned that the process of rectifying the situation is far from complete.
- the residents of Tower Hamlets, as well as the employees and businesses, deserve a speedy resolution of the issues and improvements in financial management processes to ~~restore~~ continue its confidence and secure our future.

This Council resolves to:

- Take note of the independent expert report from Worth in January 2021 and continue its work in following the finance improvement plan to ensure the Council's finances remain strong and do not go back into a deficit like it was prior to 2015.
- ~~Appoint an Independent Diagnostic Consultant able to assist this Council in understanding what went wrong and how to avoid it ever happening again The Independent Consultant will:~~
  - ~~○ build on previous work to give us reasons for the current situation~~
  - ~~○ especially, the unsigned accounts from 2016 to 2022.~~
  - ~~○ undertake a council-wide audit to ensure that there are no similar~~
  - ~~○ problems on the horizon~~
  - ~~○ give us the tools to implement a robust system which strengthens data~~
  - ~~○ quality issues and information management in the Council.~~
  - ~~○ will carry out an all systems review to help us develop a healthy~~
  - ~~○ organisation able to react quickly to the external environment, insulate itself~~
  - ~~○ from any negative consequences and deliver for the people of this borough~~
- Ring fence measures that tackle the Cost of Living Crisis and ensure that support for our most vulnerable residents, people and families struggling the most are protected and not neglected by the current administration for political reasons ~~affected by Council actions to address concerns about the finances.~~

- work with Community Organisations and businesses large and small to safeguard stakeholders' interests throughout the independent investigation.
- work with our unions to safeguard local jobs

Following debate, the amendment moved by Councillor James King was put a vote and was **defeated**

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

## **DECISION**

This Council notes that:

- the Aspire Manifesto Priorities for 2022 to 2026 point to rebuilding Tower Hamlets and rebuilding our future.
- the Residents of Tower Hamlets overwhelmingly endorsed that vision.
- that progress on those aspirations can only be achieved in a stable financial environment, which the inherited Council finances do not provide.
- the mishandling and mismanagement of the Council's accounts by the previous administration has led to:
  - Outstanding Audit Certificates for the years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, thus rendering the Audits for those years incomplete
  - The Audits for 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 remain incomplete - statutory deadlines have been missed.
  - The Audit for the last financial year (2021/2022) will not be completed by the statutory deadlines due to the unresolved backlog outlined above.
  - This year's audit (2022/2023) hasn't started due to the delay from previous years
- The external auditor has given draft qualified audit opinions for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 citing:
  - Insufficient appropriate quality supporting working papers for audit from management
  - Delays in receiving information and explanations in response to subsequent audit queries
  - Other technical accounting errors that have required correction
- the scale of the failure in the Council's financial accounts is so big and has been unresolved for so long that a 35 page appendix was required to outline the size of the task in reversing the decline.

- the financial limbo is having a serious impact on the performance of other departments. The overall quality of data is poor and unhelpful for management decisions. There are worrying instances of misplaced data. The finance issue does not sit in isolation but has a knock-on effect on other departments thereby creating an atmosphere of dysfunction and incompetence which requires immediate action.

This Council believes that:

- that the state of affairs with the Council's accounts may point to past ineffective political management and leadership.
- this unprecedented financial situation warrants critical and immediate attention, and that the Council cannot be seen as financially prudent or responsible if we allow it to persist any longer.
- to ensure nothing like this happens again in future, it is vital to understand the root cause and extent of the problem so we can rectify matters identify where governance and management issues may need to be addressed.
- current senior finance officers are working with the auditors to address their findings so the accounts can be signed off, and Council wishes to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our current Finance Officers. However, Council remains concerned that the process of rectifying the situation is far from complete.
- the residents of Tower Hamlets, as well as the employees and businesses, deserve a speedy resolution of the issues and improvements in financial management processes to restore confidence and secure our future.

This Council resolves to:

- Appoint an Independent Diagnostic Consultant able to assist this Council in understanding what went wrong and how to avoid it ever happening again. The Independent Consultant will
  - build on previous work to give us reasons for the current situation especially, the unsigned accounts from 2016 to 2022.
  - undertake a council-wide audit to ensure that there are no similar problems on the horizon
  - give us the tools to implement a robust system which strengthens data quality issues and information management in the Council.
  - will carry out an all systems review to help us develop a healthy

organisation able to react quickly to the external environment, insulate itself from any negative consequences and deliver for the people of this borough

- Note – implementation of these proposals to be discussed at the next available Cabinet meeting.
- Ring fence measures that tackle the Cost of Living Crisis and ensure that support for our most vulnerable residents, people and families struggling the most are not affected by Council actions to address concerns about the finances.
- work with Community Organisations and businesses large and small to safeguard stakeholders' interests throughout the independent investigation.
- work with our unions to safeguard local jobs

(Action by: Kevin Bartle, Interim Corporate Director, Resources and Section 151 Officer)

### 13. URGENT MOTIONS

#### 13.1 Urgent Motion regarding Youth Offending Services report

Under Council Procedure Rule 11.2, Councillor Maium Talukdar **moved** and Councillor Bodrul Choudhury **seconded** the motion as set out in the supplementary agenda.

Councillor Asma Begum **moved** and Councillor Mufeedah Bustin **seconded** the following amendment as set out in the supplementary agenda

Added text is underlined  
Deleted text is scored out

#### **This Council notes:**

- The ~~shocking~~ findings of the HM Inspection of Probation report: Inspection of youth offending services in Tower Hamlets and the City of London, published yesterday 26th July 2022.
- That this report represents ~~a serious failure~~ concerns in the Council's handling of crime and youth services over the past seven years.
- That the report outlines and highlights ~~failings~~ rooms for improvement at ~~all~~ some levels of the delivery process of the services offered by the Council.
- That the Chief Inspector of Probation Justin Russell has stated that: "It is clear to us that Tower Hamlets and City of London Youth Justice Service is not performing to the standards we expect – many areas of their work were separately rated as 'Inadequate'."

- That the report states that: 'The service does not have the stable workforce in critical roles and senior leadership has not been effective.'

**This Council believes that:**

- ~~This report is but the latest in a series of instances highlighting the functional, structural and bureaucratic failings of Council infrastructure.~~
- ~~These failings are preventing the Council from delivering an adequate service to the service users and are undermining its ability to provide them with the care and support they are entitled to expect.~~
- This report particularly outlines with great clarity the failings of improvement needed in the Council's Youth Justice Service in preventing their young service users from falling into criminal activity and protecting residents from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- If residents are to be protected against such problematic behaviour, these young people must be deterred from engaging in criminal activity.
- Serious improvements must be made in the service.

**This Council resolves that:**

- ~~This report strengthens the Mayor's call for an independent Council-wide diagnostic, performance review and investigation, to ascertain the root causes of these failures and ensure that these improvements can be made swiftly and comprehensively.~~
- ~~The Council's Youth Justice Service and Senior Management must present a full account of the measures, procedures and performative indicators in place during the period covered in the report, to aid this above-mentioned investigation.~~
- The Mayor and the Lead Member to read the report carefully and work with the previous Cabinet Leads, as the current Lead member requested, on an action plan going forward to resolve the concerns raised by the Inspector.
- Create a bipartisan Improvement Board to report on the progress.
- Work on relationships with our statutory partners and stakeholders.
- Support must be given to staff on the frontline so they can deliver the quality service the borough needs.

Following debate, the amendment **moved** by Councillor Asma Begum was put to a vote and was **defeated**.

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



**DECISION****This Council notes:**

- The shocking findings of the ***HM Inspection of Probation report: Inspection of youth offending services in Tower Hamlets and the City of London***, published yesterday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- That this *report* represents a serious failure in the Council's handling of crime and youth services over the past seven years.
- That the *report* outlines and highlights failings at all levels of the delivery process of the services offered by the Council.
- That the Chief Inspector of Probation Justin Russell has stated that: "It is clear to us that Tower Hamlets... Youth Justice Service is not performing to the standards we expect – many areas of their work were separately rated as 'Inadequate'."
- That the *report* states that: 'The service does not have the stable workforce in critical roles and senior leadership has not been effective.'

**This Council believes that:**

- This *report* is but the latest in a series of instances highlighting the functional, structural and bureaucratic failings of Council infrastructure.
- These failings are preventing the Council from delivering an adequate service to the service users and are undermining its ability to provide them with the care and support they are entitled to expect.
- This *report* particularly outlines with great clarity the failings of the Council's Youth Justice Service in preventing their young service users from falling into criminal activity and protecting residents from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- If residents are to be protected against such problematic behaviour, these young people must be deterred from engaging in criminal activity.
- **Serious improvements** must be made in the service.

**This Council resolves that:**

- This *report* strengthens the Mayor's call for an independent Council-wide diagnostic, performance review and investigation, to ascertain the root causes of these failures and ensure that these improvements can be made swiftly and comprehensively.

- The Council's Youth Justice Service and Senior Management must present a full account of the measures, procedures and performative indicators in place during the period covered in the report, to aid this above-mentioned investigation.
- Support must be given to staff on the frontline so they can deliver the quality service the borough needs.

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

Motions 12-2 - 12.5 were not considered due to lack of time.

The meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.