

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS****RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET****HELD AT TIME NOT SPECIFIED ON WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 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 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 Safer Communities)
Councillor Iqbal Hossain	(Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation)
Councillor Kabir Hussain	(Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency)
Councillor Abdul Wahid	(Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Growth)

**Members In Attendance Virtually:**

Councillor Saied Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living)
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**Other Councillors Present in Person:**

James Conway, MET Police	Metropolitan Police
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**Others In Attendance Virtually:**

Korkor Caesar	Integrated Care Board
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**Officers Present in Person:**

Onyekachi Ajisafe	(Strategy & Policy Officer, Strategy, Policy & Performance)
Susannah Beasley-Murray	(Divisional Director of Supporting Families)
Stephen Bramah	(Corporate Head of Strategy and Improvement)
Terry Bryan	(Service Head (Pupil Access and School Sufficiency))
Lisa Fraser	(Director of Education)
Joseph Leach	(Business Intelligence and Performance Lead)

Simon Baxter

(Acting Service Head, Public Realm, Communities  
Localities & Culture)

**Officers In Attendance Virtually:**

Jignesh Parmar

(Head of Procurement)

Jenny Pittam

Interim Head Contract Services

Caroline Holland

(Interim Corporate Director, Resources)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**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 21 June 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**

See the minutes.

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

**6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**6.1 Annual Strategic Delivery and Performance Reporting –2022/23**

**DECISION**

1. Note the strategic delivery and performance report for 2022/23;
2. Review the performance of the strategic measures, including those measures where the minimum expectation has been missed; and

3. Review progress in delivering the council's Strategic Plan.

**ACTION BY:**  
**DIRECTOR, STRATEGY, TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT (S. GODMAN)**

Head of Strategy and Improvement (S. Bramah)

**Reasons for the decision**

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 used by the council provides the mechanism 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 delivery and performance of strategic improvement.

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 Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan : 2023/24 Annual Delivery Plan**

**DECISION:**

1. Approve the Tower Hamlets Council Annual Delivery Plan for 2023/24 (Appendix 1 and 2 to the report).
2. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.
3. Delegate authority to the Director Strategy, Improvement and Transformation to finalise any targets for performance measures which remain provisional (Appendix 2 to the report), following consultation with the Mayor.

**ACTION BY:**  
**DIRECTOR, STRATEGY, TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT (S. GODMAN)**

Head of Strategy and Improvement (S. Bramah)

**Reasons for the decision**

It is important that the Council sets out how it plans to deliver on its key priorities in the year ahead and how it will measure progress against them.

**Alternative options**

The Mayor may choose not to progress the Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24. This course of action is not recommended as the plan is key to the council's annual business planning arrangements, and policy and budget framework. Not progressing would leave the council with a significant planning gap for the year ahead. It is important for the Council to articulate how it intends to embed the administration's commitments into its annual priorities and planning.

The Cabinet may choose to further amend the Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24. This would require further presentation to Cabinet at a later date, delaying the annual planning process and potentially the delivery of some actions. If the Plan is amended, regard would need to be given to the Council's medium term financial plan, as well as any impact arising from the changes.

**6.3 Budget monitoring report 2022-23 Outturn (inc Capital)****DECISION:**

1. Note the council's Provisional outturn position against General Fund, Dedicated Schools Budget, Housing Revenue Account and earmarked reserves for 2022-23, based on provisional outturn as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023;
2. Note the progress made against the 2022-23 savings targets, based on provisional outturn as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023;
3. Note the council's provisional outturn as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 against General Fund and Housing Revenue Account capital programme approved budgets for 2022-23, underspends to be released back into the general programme, the slippage into future years and the revised capital budgets for 2023-26;
4. Note that there are no equalities implications directly resulting from this report, as set out in Section 4 of the report.

**ACTION BY:****INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES, C. HOLLAND**

Interim Director of Finance, Procurement and Audit (J. Harrison)

**Reasons for the decision**

The council could choose to monitor its budgetary performance against an alternative timeframe, but it is considered that the reporting schedule provides the appropriate balance to allow strategic oversight of the budget by Members and to manage the council's exposure to financial risk. More frequent monitoring is undertaken by officers and considered by individual service directors and the council's Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) including approval of management action.

To the extent that there are options for managing the issues identified these are highlighted in the report in order to ensure that Members have a full picture of the issues and proposed solutions as part of their decision making.

### **Alternative options**

The regular reporting of Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring information through the year and the preparation of the provisional outturn position after the year end provides detailed financial information to Members, senior officers and other interested parties on the financial performance of the council. It sets out the key variances being reported by budget holders and the management action being implemented to address the identified issues.

Further information across the council's key financial activities is also included to ensure that CLT and Members have a full picture to inform their consideration of any financial decisions set out in this report and also their broader understanding of the council's financial context when considering reports at the various council Committees.

Set alongside relevant performance information it also informs decision making to ensure that Members' priorities are delivered within the agreed budget provision.

It is important that issues are addressed to remain within the approved budget provision or where they cannot be contained by individual service management action, alternative proposals are developed and solutions proposed which address the financial impact; CLT and Members have a key role in approving such actions as they represent changes to the budget originally set and approved by them.

## **6.4 Contracts Forward Plan 2023/24 - Quarter 1**

### **DECISION:**

1. To note the contract summary at Appendix 1 to the report
2. Authorise the appropriate Corporate Director in consultation with the Mayor to award contracts set out in Appendix 1 following an appropriate procurement exercise, except for the contract with ref/title 'St George's Leisure Centre Rebuild – Award of Main Contractor';
3. Request that the contract with ref/title 'St George's Leisure Centre Rebuild – Award of Main Contractor' is the subject of a separate report to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity;
4. Authorise the Director Legal Services (Monitoring Officer), to execute all necessary contract documents in respect of the awards of contract referred to at resolution 2.
5. Note the procurement forward plan 2023-2028 schedule detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

**ACTION BY:**  
**INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES, C. HOLLAND**  
Head of Procurement (J. Parmar)

**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 one 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.

**6.5 Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022/23**

**DECISION:**

1. Note the work that has been carried out by the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children's Partnership over the year 2022-23 and the outcomes that members would like to see from the THSCP over the next year
2. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

**ACTION BY:**  
**CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND CULTURE, (J. THOMAS)**  
Partnership and Strategy Manager, (L. Griffiths)

**Reasons for the decision**

The Working Together 2018 Arrangements stipulates in that safeguarding partners must publish a report within every 12-month period, and this should be shared through all agencies. Additionally, the report will be provided to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, and the What Works Centre for Children's within seven days of publication. The report will be signed off by the three partners including DCS for the Local Authority, Bourgh Commander for the Police and Chief Executive of the local Integrated Care Board as well as the Independent Scrutineer.

**Alternative options**

N/A

**6.6 SEND Improvement Annual Report 2022****DECISION:**

1. Note the contents of the SEND Improvement Board Annual Report 2022/23.

**ACTION BY:****CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND CULTURE, (J. THOMAS)**

Director of Education, (L. Fraser)

**Reasons for the decision**

Not applicable.

**Alternative options**

Not applicable.

**6.7 Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023 - 2028****DECISION:**

1. Approve the final version of the strategy following its progression through the council's decision making process.

**ACTION BY:****CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND CULTURE, (J. THOMAS)**

Director Supporting Families (S. Beasley-Murray)

**Reasons for the decision**

When a child comes into care, or is under 25 and was looked-after for a certain period of time, the Local Authority (LA) becomes their corporate parent. This is a shared responsibility and every member of staff (senior to front line) and elected members share this, and play a part in ensuring our young people thrive. This strategy will outline our approach to ensuring that the children and young people who are or have been in our care are given the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential.

**Alternative options**

The Council could choose not to have a Corporate Parenting Strategy but it will provide a framework for delivering on priorities for our care experienced children for the all council departments and partners. Without a strategy progress may be put at risk as there would not be an agreed vision and commitments that can steer work over the next five years.

## 6.8 Corporate Parenting Commitments

### DECISION:

1. Recognise that care experienced people are a group likely to face discrimination.
2. Agree to treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic, conducting Equality Impact Assessments for future services and policies.
3. Proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies.
4. Include care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and annual information relating to Protected Characteristics.
5. Call upon all other local organisations and partners to treat care experience as a Protected Characteristic and adopt corporate parenting principles.
6. Identify and review barriers impacting care experienced people in recruitment, offering guaranteed interviews for eligible applicants.
7. Encourage statutory partners and small businesses to adopt similar employment practices.
8. Establish a cross-council approach to creating opportunities for care experienced individuals, including training for recruiting managers and support into apprenticeships.
9. Report progress and achievements in the annual Corporate Parenting Board report and lobby central government for care experience to be a protected characteristic.
10. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment / specific equalities considerations as set out from Paragraph 4.1 of the report.
11. Note this report at the next Full Council meeting.

### ACTION BY:

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND CULTURE, (J. THOMAS)**

Director Supporting Families (S. Beasley-Murray)

### Reasons for the decision

Addressing Discrimination: Approving care experience as a protected characteristic shows the council's stance against discrimination and promotes equal rights for all individuals.



**Promoting Equality:** Extending protected characteristic status ensures equal legal protection for care experienced individuals, fostering fairness and equality in society.

**Reducing Disadvantages:** Recognition as a protected characteristic helps address challenges faced by care experienced individuals, improving their opportunities and well-being.

**Amplifying Voices:** Granting protected characteristic status values the perspectives of care experienced individuals and includes their input in decision-making processes.

**Fostering Inclusive Policies:** Treating care experience as a protected characteristic encourages inclusive policy development that considers the unique needs of care experienced individuals.

**Challenging Stigma:** Acknowledging care experience as a protected characteristic challenges stereotype and promotes a compassionate society.

**Demonstrating Leadership:** Approving care experience as a protected characteristic showcases the council's commitment to social justice and encourages other organisations to follow suit.

**Encouraging Accountability:** Protected characteristic status holds the council accountable for addressing discrimination and inequality faced by care experienced individuals.

**Aligning with National Efforts:** Recognizing care experience aligns with national efforts to provide legal protection and support for this group.

**Building Trust and Collaboration:** Extending protected characteristic status builds trust, promotes collaboration, and fosters positive social change within the community.

### **Alternative options**

The council could decide not to approve care experience as a protected characteristic. There is no legal requirement to do so, however doing so demonstrates a significant commitment as a corporate parent and can significantly benefit us reputationally as one of the first adopters in London. It is likely that this will also be a recommendation by the Department for Education National Advisor for Care Leavers Mark Riddell who has endorsed this campaign elsewhere and visited our Through Care service in May 2023

## **6.9 Land option – Neptune Wharf**

### **DECISION:**

1. Agree that the Neptune Wharf site allocation is not taken forward for the development of a new three form entry primary school.

### **ACTION BY:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND CULTURE, (J. THOMAS)**

Pupil Access & School Sufficiency (T. Bryan)

### **Reasons for the decision**

Current data on pupil migration, housing, cross border movement and school roll projections does not demonstrate there will be sufficient school place

demand in the planning area to support the development of a new school at this time.

In view of the current position in Tower Hamlets and the neighbouring boroughs adjacent to the Neptune Wharf development, it is evident that the pupil population projections do not support the need for a new primary school in this area.

**Alternative options**

The alternative option is to take the school, however, as set out in this report, there is currently no evidence to support the need for a new school in this part of the borough. In addition, the delivery and timing of the school is linked to the delivery and timing of the overall scheme and s106 agreement and therefore not within the full control of the Council should a school be required at a later date.

**7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

None.

**8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

A motion to exclude press and public was not required.

**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**

None.

**10.2 Any Exempt / Confidential Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

None.

**11. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

None.

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