

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET****HELD AT 5.45 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL 2024****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 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)

Officers Present in Person:

Menara Ahmed	(Hate Crime Policy & Partnership Manager)
Stephen Halsey	(Chief Executive)
Julie Lorraine	(Corporate Director Resources)
Dr Somen Banerjee	(Director of Public Health)
Steve Reddy	(Interim Corporate Director, Children's Services)
Ann Corbett	(Director, Community Safety)
Robin Beattie	(Acting Director of Strategy Innovation and Transformation)
Katie Cole	(Associate Director of Public Health)
Nicola Klinger	(Housing Companies Manager)
Craig Morbey	(Strategy and Policy Lead)
Simon Smith	Head of Community Safety
Joel West	(Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee))

Officers In Attendance Virtually:

Layla Richards	(Head of Strategy and Policy – Children and Culture)
Richard Ward	(Head of Commercial & Contracts)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

None.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RESOLVED:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 27 March 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

Nil items.

6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Community Engagement Strategy 2024-28

DECISION

1. Approve the Community Engagement Strategy as set out in Appendix 1.
2. Note the consultation with residents, partners, staff, and elected members to develop the strategy as set out in Appendix 2.
3. Note the result of the equality screening as set out in para 4.1.

Action by

DIRECTOR. OF STRATEGY, TRANSFORMATION & IMPROVEMENT (R BEATTIE)

Head of Corporate Strategy & Communities (A. Hoque)

Reasons for the decision

The Council has a priority in the Strategic Plan 2022-26 to be a 'council that listens and works for everyone.' The council does not currently have a Community Engagement Strategy. Agreeing this strategy will mean the council has an approach to engage with the community effectively until 2028.

Developing a new council Community Engagement Strategy was an action agreed in the council's annual delivery plan 2023/2024.

Alternative options

The council to further develop the Tower Hamlets Community Engagement Strategy based on suggestions provided by Cabinet.

6.2 Women's Safety Action Plan**DECISION**

1. Approve the women's safety action plan at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the following additions to the recommendations as underlined below:

Recommendation 1

The council and its strategic partners, including the Metropolitan Police, Faith Communities and the VCS to collaborate to improve the awareness of women of the programmes and help available directly that support women's safety on the streets.

Recommendation 2

The Council to review current funding arrangements and increase the capacity to support women's groups that offer domestic abuse services to the community. This to tie into a service-wide review of what is on offer to women of all communities.

Recommendation 4

The Council's Children and Education Service, in particular Young Tower Hamlets to design support for increasing capacity at schools on raising awareness of domestic abuse and support available.

Recommendation 5

The Council and Residential Social Landlord (RSL) partners should actively strengthen their partnership workings to focus on tackling women safety issues on RSL estates which will build on ongoing RSL work begun with the Ask the Ombudsman event.

Recommendation 6

The Police/THEOs to actively target and focus their recruitment and retention strategy to reflect recruiting representative women from the community in Tower Hamlets. This to be done in cooperation with faith communities and the Council.

Action by**CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES (S. BAXTER)**

Head of Community Safety (S. Smith)

Reasons for the decision

This paper submits the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the women's safety action plan for consideration and approval by Cabinet.

Alternative options

Take no action. This is not recommended as the recommendations set out recommendations and actions to improve women's safety in the borough.

6.3 New Social Housing Regulatory Functions and Nominees to Adopt Responsibilities

DECISION

1. Note the requirement for individuals to be appointed to two new functions to comply with new commitments and legislation related to social housing landlords:
 - a. **Responsible Person** to oversee the council's compliance with the new social housing Consumer Standards, as set out in the Charter for Social Housing Residents and Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023.
 - b. **Health and Safety Lead** to be responsible for monitoring and assessing the risk of failure to comply with health and safety requirements related to the council's social housing stock as set out in the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023.
2. Appoint the Director of Housing Asset Management to be the Council's Health and Safety Lead as set out in the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023.
3. Appoint the Corporate Director, Housing & Regeneration to be the Council's Responsible Person as set out in the Charter for Social Housing Residents.

Action by**CORPORATE DIRECTOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION (P. PATTERSON)**

Director of Housing (K. Swift)

Reasons for the decision

Under the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023, the council must nominate individuals to adopt a new function, namely a Health and Safety Lead and under the Charter for Social Housing Residents, the council should nominate a Responsible Person.

Compliance with the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 will be monitored by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) via an inspection regime which will commence from 1 April 2024.

The council must publish the names of the individuals who will take on the responsibilities as outlined in the functions mentioned in 1.1 by 1 April 2024.

Non-compliance with legislation set out in the Social Housing (Regulation) Act could lead to:

- the council facing unlimited financial penalty; and/or:
- The Regulator publicly admonishing the council for non-compliance.

Alternative options

Decision not to appoint a Health and Safety Lead overseeing compliance and risks of failure to comply with requirements (related to the council's housing stock).

Decision not to appoint a Responsible Person overseeing compliance with the Consumer Standards.

Further analysis of the alternative options is provided in the report submitted.

6.4 Tower Hamlets Young People's Supported Housing Pathway**DECISION**

1. Approve the recommissioning of the Young People's Supported Housing Pathway procurement that went live on 18th September 2023 and closed on 17th November 2023.
2. Approve the award of contract extensions to the four block contracts of three existing providers in the Young People's Supported Housing Pathway of 6 months each to allow for a suitable tender and mobilisation period of the reprocurement.
3. To note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4.1 of the report.

Action by

CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDRENS SERVICES (S. REDDY)

Covering Director Commissioning and Youth (L. Richards)

Reasons for the decision

To ensure the Tower Hamlets Young People's Supported Housing Pathway contracts are extended to enable a transformative recommissioning of the pathway and start of the new Young People's Supported Housing Pathway.

To allow the time to fully engage with the market, young people and social care practitioners to redesign the pathway so the interests of the key stakeholders are aligned and to ensure the continued and high-quality service for our most vulnerable children and young people.

Consultation undertaken during the tender process indicates that the market has changed considerably since the service was designed in 2023 and that the current pathway can be improved and redesigned to result in high quality bids.

Alternative options

To award all the lots and to manage the risks associated with the quality levels of the low scoring providers in the 3 lots of concern.

To award the contracts to the highest bidders for the 2 lots who were able to demonstrate that they have the requisite quality and experience to provide an excellent service.

6.5 Contract extension for School Health and Wellbeing Service and Integrated Young People's Health and Wellbeing Service (Safe East)**DECISION**

1. Approve the extension of the School Health and Wellbeing Service and Integrated Young People's Health and Wellbeing Service (Safe East) for a period of 8 months to allow for the continuation of the procurement process and mobilisation of the new contract during term time.

Action by

ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE (S. BANERJEE)
Associate Director of Public Health for Children and Families (K. Cole)

Reasons for the decision

The contract extension will comprise of two phases: four months to contract award, including market engagement, tendering, evaluation and contract award processes.

The second phase is a four-month mobilisation period. This is necessary because there are significant risks to changing provider when term-based programmes are underway. It is safer to change providers (if required) at the start of terms (in the Summer holidays as originally planned, in January (insufficient time to retender and mobilise) or in April (as proposed).

Most staff work on term-time only contracts and may need to be TUPE'd so the mobilisation stage requires a longer period to maximise engagement and retention of hard-to-recruit staff.

Alternative options

A shorter contract extension period.

Do not agree to an extension; these two core universal services will be suspended from 1st August until retendering is complete.

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 7.05 p.m.