

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.08 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Abdal Ullah.

Councillor Ayas Miah joined the meeting online.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

Ms Jill Bayley, Head of Safeguarding – Legal Services advised that the Standards Advisory Committee had agreed to a general dispensation to all Councillors in respect of matters relating to the Council Tax and also Housing where the Councillor (or spouse or partner) holds a tenancy or lease with the Council. Members did not therefore have to declare a DPI in respect of these matters.

3. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Jahed Choudhury stated that he would provide an update on his activities at the next ordinary meeting of the Council on 20th March 2024.

The Chief Executive made his announcements. (see minutes)

4. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

There were no petitions listed for consideration for this meeting.

5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2024/25

The Mayor Lutfur Rahman and Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and Cost of Living, **moved** the budget and council tax proposals of the Mayor and Executive as set out in the agenda pack, with Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning **seconding** the proposals.

Councillor Marc Francis **moved** the Labour group amendment set out in the supplementary agenda, which was **seconded** by Councillor Sirajul Islam. Councillor Nathalie Bienfait also **moved** her amendment which was **seconded** by Councillor Peter Golds.

Following debate, the amendments moved by Councillor Marc Francis and Councillor Nathalie Bienfait were put to a recorded vote and were rejected.

The substantive Budget for 2024-25, including the Council Tax Resolution, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Investment Statements as well as the Capital Strategy report submitted by Mayor Lutfur Rahman and Councillor Saied Ahmed were put to a recorded vote and were **AGREED**.

Decision:

Budget Motion:

Revenue 2024-27 and Capital 2024-27

1. To note a General Fund Revenue Budget of £462.606m and approve a Council Tax (Band D) of £1,204.11 (Council share) for 2024-25 as set out in the motion and Council Tax Resolution attached at Annex 1 to this report. This incorporates a 2.99% increase to the Tower Hamlets element of Council Tax and a 2% Adult Social Care precept for 2024-25.
2. To note the GLA precept as set out in the Council Tax Resolution is subject to the approval of the GLA Assembly at their meeting scheduled for 22 February, any changes as a result of that meeting will be made known to Council before the date of this meeting.
3. To note the change in the budget report appendices to reflect the final Local Government Finance Settlement grant allocation for the Social Care Grant, Services Grant and Public Health Grant. (Annex 2 Appendix 1A, 1B, 2, 3A and 6)
4. To note the Capital Programme, Housing Revenue Account budget and Dedicated Schools budget.
5. Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy and Capital Strategy 2024-25 5. To adopt the Treasury Management Strategy Statement set out in Annex 3 Appendix A attached to this report.
6. To adopt the Investment Strategy Report set out in Annex 3 Appendix B attached to this report.
7. To adopt the Capital Strategy Report (which incorporates the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement) set out in Annex 3 Appendix C attached to this report. Section 25, Local Government Act 2003
8. To note the Section 151 officer's view on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, set out in section 2 of this report. Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS)

9. To note that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme will remain unchanged for 2024-25.

**BUDGET COUNCIL
28 FEBRUARY 2024
COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT 2024-25**

That Council:

1. Approve the Council Tax Resolution, detailed in Appendix A to this motion.
2. Agree a General Fund revenue budget of £462.606m and a Council Tax Requirement for Tower Hamlets in 2024-25 of £138.168m.
3. Agree the Council's 2024-25 Budget Report and 2024-27 Medium Term Financial Strategy set out in Annex 2.
4. Agree the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Investment Strategy Report and Capital Strategy Report for 2024-25 set out in Annex 3.

Appendix A

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL 28 FEBRUARY 2024
COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION**

1. That the revenue estimates for 2024-25 be approved.
2. That it be noted that, at its meeting on 3 January 2024, Cabinet agreed 114,747 as its **Council Tax base** for the year 2024-25 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]
3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the council for the year 2024-25 in accordance with Section 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended and the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 2011:
 - a) £1,477,223,042 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of The Act. [**Gross Expenditure**]
 - b) £1,339,055,032 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of The Act. [**Gross Income**]
 - c) £138,168,010 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of The Act, as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of The Act). [**Council Tax Requirement**]
 - d) £1,204.11 Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of The Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. [**Council Tax**]
4. Being the amount given by multiplying the amount at 3(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of The Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of The Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. **Tower Hamlets Council Tax:**

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£802.74	£936.53	£1,070.32	£1,204.11	£1,471.69	£1,739.27	£2,006.85	£2,408.22

5. That it be noted that for the year 2024-25 the **Greater London Authority (GLA)** has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£314.27	£366.64	£419.02	£471.40	£576.16	£680.91	£785.67	£942.80

6. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 4 and 5 above, the council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of **Council Tax for the year 2024-25** for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£1,117.01	£1,303.17	£1,489.34	£1,675.51	£2,047.85	£2,420.18	£2,792.52	£3,351.02
7. That the council hereby determines in accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024-25

is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2024-25 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Action by: Julie Lorraine, Corporate Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer.

6. DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER

Mr Steve Halsey, Chief Executive asked Council to appoint a temporary Director for Legal Services following the departure of the previous Director for Legal Services.

The change in the order of business and the proposal for a new Director of Legal Services was **moved** by the Speaker and was **seconded** by Councillor Maium Talukdar. Members **AGREED** to:

1. Endorse the appointment of Linda Walker as the designated monitoring officer for the Council.

The meeting ended at 10.08 p.m.