



Meeting of the

Tower Hamlets Council

Agenda

Wednesday, 2 October 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

VENUE

Council Chamber,
Whitechapel Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road,
London E1 1BJ

Meeting Webcast

The meeting is being webcast for viewing through the Council's webcast system.
<http://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. The press and public are encouraged to watch the meeting on line.

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Chief Executive's Office

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To the Mayor and Councillors of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL** at **7.00 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2024**

Stephen Halsey
Chief Executive



Tower Hamlets Council
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BJ

Public Information

Viewing Council Meetings

Except where any exempt/restricted documents are being discussed, the public are welcome to view this meeting through the Council's webcast system.

Meeting Webcast and Public attendance

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Please note: It is also possible to attend meetings in person. Places in the public gallery are allocated on a first come, first served basis from the reception at the Town Hall on the day of the meeting.

Electronic agendas reports and minutes.

Copies of agendas, reports and minutes for council meetings can also be found on our website from day of publication.

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Agendas are available on the Modern.Gov, Windows, iPad and Android apps.



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users

Public Information

The meeting is being held at the Council's Town Hall.

Full Council is made up of the Mayor and the 45 Councillors. It's responsibilities include: deciding the Council's overall policies and setting the budget for the year. It also appoints the Council's Committees at the Annual Meeting. In addition, the Council provides opportunities to discuss local issues and is a means by which the Mayor and Cabinet can be held to account in public

The agenda for this ordinary Council meetings comprises:

- Apologies for absence from Members
- Declarations of Interests.
- Minutes of the previous meeting.
- Announcements from the Speaker or the Chief Executive of the Council.
- Petitions for presentation (over 30 signatures) or for debate (over 2000 signatures). A maximum of 4 Petitions that meet the criteria may be discussed taken in the order of receipt.
- Mayor's report followed by Opposition Leader's response. Written report (if any) to be published shortly before the meeting.
- Main Motion debates (including any amendments received)
- Reports requiring Full Council approval
- Member Questions (30 minutes). Questions not put to receive a written response.
- Motions from Members received on notice (including any amendments received). Consideration of these subject to time constraints.
- Any Urgent motions from Members.

Further details on the process for considering these items is set out on the covering reports in the agenda.

How can I watch the meeting?

Except when an exempt item is under discussion, the meeting will be broadcast live for public viewing via our Webcasting portal <https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. Details of the broadcasting arrangements will be published on the agenda front sheet.

Public Attendance and Conduct at Meetings

The public may also watch the Council meeting in the public gallery. To attend please collect a ticket from reception at the town hall. We request that you show courtesy to all present and do not interrupt the meeting. The intention is not to specifically webcast members of the public, however, it is possible that you may be filmed in the background. By attending the meeting you are agreeing to this condition.

Please also switch off mobile phones or turn them on silent.

If you are scheduled to present a petition in person at the meeting, please sit in the reserved seating in the front row. You will be called to address the meeting at the appropriate time

If the fire alarm rings please follow the instructions of the Facilities Staff who will direct you to the exits.



Procedure at the meeting.

Just before the start of the meeting, the macebearer will ask everyone to be upstanding for the Speaker. The Speaker of the Council is the Chair of the meeting and is in charge of the debate. Their role is to control the meeting, including the order of speakers, and to ensure that the business is carried out properly. The Speaker will confirm the expected meeting etiquette for Council meeting, including the following:

- The Speaker will determine the order of speakers - usually from a list of speakers.
- That any online participants must mute their microphones when not speaking.
- Such participants should also switch off their cameras when not speaking.
- All Members may contribute to the discussions, but only the Members physically present in the chamber may vote on items requiring a decision.

Order of business

The Speaker may agree to change the order of business at the meeting. In addition, the Speaker may adjourn the meeting for a period of time or agree an extension to the time limit for the meeting (by up to half hour beyond the three-hour limit). To change the order of business, a Member will need to formally move a motion seeking approval for the requested change. Any such motions will be put to the vote.

Voting

The items requiring a decision will normally be determined by a show of hands or an electronic vote (by Members present in the meeting room). If there are an equal number of votes for and against an item of business, the Speaker will have a second or casting vote.

Decisions and Minutes

The decisions will be published on the website 2 days after the meeting. The draft minutes will be published around 10 working days after the meeting.

Publication of Agenda papers.

Electronic copies of the Council agenda will be published on the Council's Website on the relevant Committee pages at least five clear working days before the meeting.

To view meeting papers and to be alerted when agendas have been published visit: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee. Council documents are also available on 'Mod.Gov' iPad, Android and Windows tablet apps downloadable for free from their respective app stores.

Publication of tabled papers

Any additional documents (such as the Mayor's report, amendments to motions and urgent motions) will normally be published on the Council meeting website either shortly before or during the meeting.



London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Council

Wednesday, 2 October 2024

7.00 p.m.

PAGE NUMBER

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

9 - 10

Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest, identified in the Code of Conduct for Members to determine; whether they have an interest in any agenda item and any action they should take. For further details, see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

Members are also reminded to declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it is the Members' responsibility to identify any interests and also update their register of interests form as required by the Code.

If in doubt as to the nature of an interest, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services.

3. MINUTES

11 - 42

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 17th July 2024.

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

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

43 - 46

The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of four petitions to be discussed at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The attached report presents the received petitions to be discussed. Should any additional petitions be received they will be listed to be noted but not discussed.



6. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.

A maximum of six minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the leaders of the opposition groups to respond for up to two minutes each should they so wish. Following those contributions, the Mayor may reply for up to two minutes.

7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE 47 - 50

To debate a Motion submitted by the Administration in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.

8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE 51 - 54

To debate a Motion submitted by the Opposition Group in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.

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

9.1 Report of the Standards Advisory Committee: Annual Report of the Standards Advisory Committee 2023-24 55 - 68

To consider the report of the Standards Advisory Committee setting out their Annual Report to Council 2023-24.

9.2 Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24 69 - 92

To consider the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee setting out their Annual Report to Council 2023-24.

9.3 Report of the Cabinet: Time Banded Collections (Waste Services) 93 - 142

To consider the report of Cabinet on time banded waste collection services and related matters.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Proportionality and Allocation of Places on Committees of the Council 2024/25 143 - 148

To consider the report of the Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer with new committee proportionality calculations.



11. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 149 - 154

The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 155 - 162

The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.



Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AT MEETINGS– NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Code of Conduct for Members at Part C, Section 31 of the Council's Constitution

(i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)

You have a DPI in any item of business on the agenda where it relates to the categories listed in **Appendix A** to this guidance. Please note that a DPI includes: (i) Your own relevant interests; (ii) Those of your spouse or civil partner; (iii) A person with whom the Member is living as husband/wife/civil partners. Other individuals, e.g. Children, siblings and flatmates do not need to be considered. Failure to disclose or register a DPI (within 28 days) is a criminal offence.

Members with a DPI, (unless granted a dispensation) must not seek to improperly influence the decision, must declare the nature of the interest and leave the meeting room (including the public gallery) during the consideration and decision on the item – unless exercising their right to address the Committee.

DPI Dispensations and Sensitive Interests. In certain circumstances, Members may make a request to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive.

(ii) Non - DPI Interests that the Council has decided should be registered – (Non - DPIs)

You will have 'Non DPI Interest' in any item on the agenda, where it relates to (i) the offer of gifts or hospitality, (with an estimated value of at least £25) (ii) Council Appointments or nominations to bodies (iii) Membership of any body exercising a function of a public nature, a charitable purpose or aimed at influencing public opinion.

Members must declare the nature of the interest, but may stay in the meeting room and participate in the consideration of the matter and vote on it **unless:**

- A reasonable person would think that your interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair your judgement of the public interest. **If so, you must withdraw and take no part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.**

(iii) Declarations of Interests not included in the Register of Members' Interest.

Occasions may arise where a matter under consideration would, or would be likely to, **affect the wellbeing of you, your family, or close associate(s) more than it would anyone else living in the local area** but which is not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests. In such matters, Members must consider the information set out in paragraph (ii) above regarding Non DPI - interests and apply the test, set out in this paragraph.

Guidance on Predetermination and Bias

Member's attention is drawn to the guidance on predetermination and bias, particularly the need to consider the merits of the case with an open mind, as set out in the Planning and Licensing Codes of Conduct, (Part C, Section 34 and 35 of the Constitution). For further advice on the possibility of bias or predetermination, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 - Declarations which restrict Members in Council Tax arrears, for at least a two months from voting

In such circumstances the member may not vote on any reports and motions with respect to the matter.

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.03 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Member)	Councillor Kabir Hussain (Member)
Councillor Faroque Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Kamrul Hussain (Member)
Councillor Kabir Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Shahaveer Shubo Hussain (Member)
Councillor Leelu Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Asma Islam (Member)
Councillor Musthak Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Sirajul Islam (Member)
Councillor Saied Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Ahmodul Kabir (Member)
Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled (Member)
Councillor Suluk Ahmed (Member)	Councillor Ahmodur Khan (Member)
Councillor Sabina Akhtar (Member)	Councillor Sabina Khan (Member)
Councillor Amina Ali (Member)	Councillor James King (Member)
Councillor Asma Begum (Member)	Councillor Amy Lee (Member)
Councillor Nathalie Bienfait (Member)	Councillor Abdul Mannan (Member)
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin (Member)	Councillor Ana Miah (Member)
Councillor Bodrul Choudhury (Member)	Councillor Harun Miah (Member)
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury (Member)	Councillor Amin Rahman (Member)
Councillor Jahed Choudhury (Member)	Councillor Rebaka Sultana (Member)
Councillor Abu Chowdhury (Member)	Councillor Maium Talukdar (Member)
Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury (Member)	Councillor Bellal Uddin (Member)
Councillor Marc Francis (Member)	Councillor Abdal Ullah (Member)
Councillor Peter Golds (Member)	Councillor Abdul Wahid (Member)
Councillor Iqbal Hossain (Member)	

Councillors in Virtual Attendance

Councillor Maisha Begum (Member)
Councillor Ayas Miah (Member)

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Saif Uddin Kahled in the Chair

The Speaker of the Council provided his update to the Council. He noted that he had attended the London Mayor's Association's induction event and had met with new civic colleagues across London.

He had visited his chosen charities, the Sick Children's Trust and the Osmani Trust and had the opportunity to see first-hand the work they do. Other highlights included:

- Attending a celebration event for a lifeboat from Sweden, built in 1868 by Messrs. Forrestt & Son of Limehouse; and
- Participating in a Democracy event with young Children in the Council Chamber;

The Speaker congratulated Councillor Rachel Blake for being elected as MP for Cities and Westminster and Councillor Nathalie Beinfait for coming a close second in her bid to become MP for Poplar and Limehouse.

The Speaker congratulated Aspana Begum MP on her re-election to Poplar and Limehouse and Rushanara Ali MP on her re-election to Bethnal Green and Stepney constituencies. He also congratulated Rushanara Ali MP for being appointed as the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Further congratulations were given to Uma Kumaran MP, elected as MP for the newly formed constituency of Stratford and Bow as well as congratulations to Sir Keir Starmer for being elected as Prime Minister and forming the next government.

Finally, the Speaker thanked the Acting Returning Officer and staff who had worked on the elections and count.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rachel Blake, Councillor Ohid Ahmed and Councillor Abdul Malik.

Councillor Ayas Miah and Councillor Maisha Begum joined the meeting online.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests declared by members.

3. MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Agree the minutes of the Annual General meeting of the Council of 15th May 2024, and approve them as a correct record of the proceedings, save for the correction at item number 2, that Councillor Suluk Ahmed was appointed as Deputy Speaker of the Council and not Councillor Saif Uddin Khaled who is the Speaker. The Speaker was authorised to sign the minutes accordingly.

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

Steve Halsey, Chief Executive provided an update to the Council meeting, highlighting the following issues:

- Steve Halsey thanked the Elections team, polling clerks and count staff for their work on the General Election and congratulated the MP's who had been appointed for their constituency.
- He congratulated Sir Keir Starmer as Prime Minister and said the Council had already been in contact with the new government.
- He highlighted the success of the Staff Conference and Awards held in early July and said almost 3,000 staff members had attended.
- He informed Members, that the new Corporate Director for Health, Adults and Social Care, Ms Georgia Chimbani would be joining the Council on the 29th August 2024; and lastly
- Interviews for the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer had been held and Ms Shupriya Iqbal had been appointed to the position.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition requesting the Council to re-open the Boundary Estate Community Launderette.

Johnathan Moberly, Lorraine Hart and Abdul Goffar presented their petition relating to the re-opening of the Boundary Estate Community Launderette. Mr Moberly said many people in the community had concerns about the closure of the launderette in February 2024. He said the launderette was a vital community hub and was used by many residents of the Estate. He said whilst they welcomed the re-opening of the launderette following negotiations with the Council, they were seeking a permanent solution regarding the location and status of the launderette. He said they'd like to see the premises designated to the 'community asset' portfolio and not as it is under the 'commercial asset' category.

Members asked questions of the petitioners before Council debated the matter as the petition had received over 2,800 signatures.

Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and Cost-of-Living responded to matters raised in the petition. He said a tenancy at will for a period of up to twelve months was granted on 26 March which allowed the Launderette to resume operations.

The property does not meet the criteria for additions to the community premises portfolio, one of which excludes retail properties. The criteria was agreed at Cabinet in 2021, however we are working closely with the charity and remain committed to dialogue with the Launderette to explore whether there are alternative options that would allow for it to continue occupation on a long-term sustainable basis.

The Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director for Communities for a written response within 28 days.

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

MOTION ON BANGLADESHI DIASPORA IN TOWER HAMLETS

Council considered a motion as printed in the agenda on the Bangladeshi Diaspora in Tower Hamlets that had been **moved** by Councillor Musthak Ahmed and **seconded** by Councillor Abu Talha Chowdhury.

Following debate, the motion moved by Councillor Musthak Ahmed was put to the vote and was unanimously **agreed**.

The Council **RESOLVED** to:

This Council notes:

- That Tower Hamlets has always been a place known for its tolerance and welcoming of communities from around the world.
- That one of the largest of these communities to make Tower Hamlets its home is the Bangladeshi community. Comprising over 1/3 of the borough's population, this community has made its home in Tower Hamlets for over 100 years.
- That they have continued the rich tradition of immigration to Tower Hamlets. Starting with the French Huguenots; and continuing through the Jewish; Irish; and the African Caribbean communities, the Bangladeshi population – alongside the more recent arrival of a thriving Somali community – has enriched the borough and left a lasting and positive legacy in the borough.
- The first Bangladeshis to come to Tower Hamlets were Lascars, seamen from the Indian subcontinent who served aboard European vessels. 896 of these Lascars were killed during the Great War, demonstrating the Bangladeshi community's pride in coming to Britain.
- That one of the oldest institutions of the Bangladeshi community was founded by one of these lascars, Shah Jalal Coffee House, which was

established in 1920 at 76 Commercial Street. This set the precedent for the vibrant and ubiquitous presence of Bangladeshis in the catering business – not only in Tower Hamlets, but across the UK.

- That the majority of the borough's Bangladeshi population came to London in the 1950s and 1960s, seeking better lives for themselves and their families following the partition of India. They worked in textile factories; car plants; and the rag trade, as well the now world-renowned curry-houses across the Country, and particularly in Tower Hamlets. They came to help rebuild Britain after the war.
- That this community stood against the violent racism espoused by the National Front in the 1970s that led to the tragic and callous murder of Altab Ali and continued violence and attacks against Bangladeshis. They stood alongside black; Jewish; and LGTBQ residents of Tower Hamlets to drive them out.
- That this continued against the BNP in the 1990s; and the EDL in the 2000s and 2010s.
- That this community has worked tirelessly through the voluntary and community sectors to support people – regardless of their background – to tackle poverty; inequality; and strengthen community cohesion.
- That by the 1980s and 1990s, Bangladeshis represented a key component of the cultural; social; political; and economic fabric of Tower Hamlets, with a booming business sector and representatives in Local and National government.
- That these local activists who went on to be elected representatives in Local Government in Tower Hamlets Council, contributed to the development and improvement of the social; economic; and cultural fabric of Tower Hamlets. They were and are trailblazers and provided leadership.
- That this community – just like all other immigrants who have made this borough their home alongside the working class Eastenders who accepted and coexisted alongside them – have together made a massive contribution to the cultural; social; and economic fabric – not only of Tower Hamlets and London – but the UK more broadly. They all represent what is best about Britain, and the benefits of diversity; multiculturalism; and bringing the best out each other.

This Council believes:

- That Tower Hamlets is the Capital of not only British Bangladeshis, with over 35% residents of Bangladeshi heritage – but of the Bangladeshi diaspora globally.

- It is also a community of firsts. The first British Bangladeshi member of the House of Lords was from Tower Hamlets. The first British Bangladeshi MP was from Tower Hamlets. And the first Executive Mayor from a non-white background in the whole of Europe was from Tower Hamlets and is of Bangladeshi heritage.
- That the innovation; entrepreneurial drive; and community spirit of the Bangladeshi people has contributed to making Tower Hamlets a 'go-to' borough – a place where visitors can enjoy the best food; sights; and cultural attractions that London has to offer.
- That this is embodied by the Brick Lane, Spitalfields and Banglatown area – the hub and heart of Bangladeshi industry and culture outside of Bangladesh in the world.
- This is reflected in the over £3billion that Bangladeshi businesses contributed to the borough's economy last year.
- That the community benefits brought by Bangladeshis to Tower Hamlets – their willingness to share; to be neighbourly; to offer support to young and old; and to work with other groups – demonstrates the best of our borough, and embodies the 'go-to' spirit that makes Tower Hamlets such a special place to live.
- That without the industry; culture; and spirit of the Bangladeshi community, Tower Hamlets – and Britain – would be much worse off.
- That we should celebrate and promote the history and contributions of the Bangladeshi community, and ensure that this promoted across Tower Hamlets; London; and the UK as a whole.
- Tower Hamlets – and all of the residents within it regardless of ethnic or religious background – are a microcosm of the best of Britain.

This Councils resolves:

- To host an exhibition in the Town Hall chronicling the history of Bangladeshis in Tower Hamlets, and celebrating the cultural capital they have brought to our borough.
- To thank them for their contributions to Tower Hamlets, and the social; community; and economic benefits they have brought and continue to bring.
- To continue to develop and strengthen the close community ties between all groups in the borough.
- To continue to oppose negative depictions of this and all other groups, as it has always done, and will always continue to do.

8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE

MOTION FOR DEBATE ON TACKLING POVERTY PROGRAMME

Council considered a motion as printed in the agenda on the Tackling Poverty Programme that had been moved by Councillor Asma Islam and seconded by Councillor Amy Lee. Council also considered an amendment proposed by Councillor Asma Islam and seconded by Councillor Amy Lee and an amendment proposed by Councillor Maium Talukdar and seconded by Councillor Abdul Wahid as set out in the tabled papers.

Amendment Proposed by Councillor Asma Islam and seconded by Councillor Amy Lee.

Additions Underlined

Deletions Struck through

This council notes:

- The United Kingdom is the sixth largest economy in the world and London is the fifth wealthiest city in the world. The Borough of Tower Hamlets has faced disproportionately high levels of child poverty and deprivation for decades.
- Currently 56% of children in our borough live in poverty, the highest percentage in the UK.
- Tower Hamlets unemployment rate is at 6.3% and has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment in London disproportionately affecting the BAME population.
- There have been several, high quality, pieces of research conducted on poverty in the Borough such as the LBTH 2021 Poverty Review and the Toynbee Hall Poverty Review.
- The 2021 Tower Hamlets Poverty Review found that the primary causes of poverty in our borough are:
 - Joblessness
 - Insecure, low paid work
 - Rising living costs
 - Housing costs, insecurity and undersupply
 - Inadequate and arbitrary social security system
- Pensioner Poverty has risen dramatically since 2014 especially those who live in private rental accommodation.
- It's estimated that residents of Tower Hamlets could have more than £110 million in unclaimed benefits and support.
- The 2023 O&S Review of Food Insecurity in our borough found that in 2023 there had been a rise of £643 to the annual average food shop.
- In work poverty has been on the rise since 2010 with more than 75% of children in poverty in 2023 living in a household where someone is in work.
- Over 60% of families in receipt of tax credits were in work and just under 50% of those in receipt of housing benefit were also in work.
- That 'Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis' is a key component of the Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan as well as other anti-poverty measures

such as Universal Free School Meals and 100% Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

- The socio-economic duty, section 1 of the Equality Act (2010) requires public bodies to adopt transparent and effective measures to address the inequalities that result from differences in occupation, education, place of residence or social class.

This council believes:

- That combatting child poverty/ poverty and deprivation should be its most important objective.
- Child poverty is linked to household income – Tower hamlets has the highest income earners (second highest in London) as well as the lowest earners or in unemployment.
- The austerity programme started under the previous government, weakened the social safety net and public services resulting in lower living standards and life expectancy for our residents.
- Brexit, Covid and the cost-of-living crisis added further economic shocks to the national economy and public services.
- Under successive governments there was significant reform of the welfare system with the introduction of Universal Credit, the ‘Under-Occupancy Charge’ (also known as the bedroom tax), the two-child benefit cap and other measures which have had a detrimental effect on the standard of living for families and individuals in our borough.
- That with political will and co-operation we can end the scourge of child poverty which is ultimately linked to tackling poverty for families in our borough.
- That this can only be achieved through long term planning and consensus building.
- That eradicating poverty is not only morally just, but also a logical way we can deliver best value for our residents.
- That this council should build on the work of successive political administrations and draw together existing work to form a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy with measurable targets and goals.
- That any comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy needs to bring together all of the council’s directorates, partner orgs (Met Police, Health and Care Partnership, Tower Hamlets Together, Faith Groups etc.) and VSCOs.
- That any strategy must centre the needs and voices of those who have experienced or currently experience poverty.
- That a comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy is complemented by the LBTH Partnership Plan and Strategic Plan.

This council resolves to:

- Adopt a 15-year tackling poverty strategy, with 3 phases for each 5-year milestone.

- Request that the Executive Mayor and Chief executive of Tower Hamlets explore the option for the council to begin a tackling poverty commission to produce the anti-poverty strategy.
- Request that the LBTH Overview and Scrutiny Committee, form a special 'Ending Child Poverty' Task and Finish Group that will draw membership from each scrutiny subcommittee to ensure that it's work is a collegiate and cross-party effort. T&F Group will be responsible for producing a comprehensive report and recommended strategy document to present to the Mayor and Cabinet upon completion. This will support the work of the commission as well as the overall strategy.
- Ensure the strategy is adopted at full council as an overarching policy for the entire council and our partners which should make the strategy a key priority for all council departments.
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- Ensure that the commission is asked to look at key indicators such as welfare, unemployment, debt management, council data on rent arrears, housing benefit, household money management education, mental health, substance misuse, in work poverty and education for adults and children.
- Empower council officers through education and training to look at ways to support the priority of rooting out poverty in the borough and be innovative and explore best practises from other councils and partners.
- Ensure that Tower Hamlets council will seek to work with public health, VCS, schools, residents and council to co-produce and influence tackle poverty strategy.

Amendment Proposed by Councillor Maium Talukdar and seconded by Councillor Abdul Wahid

Additions Underlined

Deletions Struck through

This council notes:

- The United Kingdom is the sixth largest economy in the world and London is the fifth wealthiest city in the world. The Borough of Tower Hamlets has faced disproportionately high levels of child poverty and deprivation for decades.
- Currently 56% of children in our borough live in poverty, the highest percentage in the UK.
- Tower Hamlets unemployment rate is at 6.3% and has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment in London disproportionately affecting the BAME population.

- There have been several, high quality, pieces of research conducted on poverty in the Borough such as the LBTH 2021 Poverty Review and the Toynbee Hall Poverty Review.
- The 2021 Tower Hamlets Poverty Review found that the primary causes of poverty in our borough are:
 - Joblessness
 - Insecure, low paid work
 - Rising living costs
 - Housing costs, insecurity and undersupply
 - Inadequate and arbitrary social security system
- Pensioner Poverty has risen dramatically since 2014 especially those who live in private rental accommodation.
- It's estimated that residents of Tower Hamlets could have up to £110 million in unclaimed benefits and support.
- The 2023 O&S Review of Food Insecurity in our borough found that in 2023 there had been a rise of £643 to the annual average food shop.
- In work poverty has been on the rise since 2010 with more than 75% of children in poverty in 2023 living in a household where someone is in work.
- Over 60% of families in receipt of tax credits were in work and just under 50% of those in receipt of housing benefit were also in work.
- That 'Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis' is a key component of the Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan as well as other anti-poverty measures such as Universal Free School Meals, Education Maintenance Allowance; a generous cost of living package to support residents; and 100% Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- The socio-economic duty, section 1 of the Equality Act (2010) requires public bodies to adopt transparent and effective measures to address the inequalities that result from differences in occupation, education, place of residence or social class.

This council believes:

- That combatting child poverty/ poverty and deprivation should be its most important objective.
- Child poverty is linked to household income – Tower hamlets has the highest income earners (second highest in London) as well as the lowest earners or in unemployment.
- The austerity programme started under the previous government, weakened the social safety net and public services resulting in lower living standards and life expectancy for our residents.
- Brexit, Covid and the cost-of-living crisis added further economic shocks to the national economy and public services.
- Under successive governments there was significant reform of the welfare system with the introduction of Universal Credit, the 'Under-Occupancy Charge' (also known as the bedroom tax), the two-child benefit cap and other measures which have had a detrimental effect on the standard of living for families and individuals in our borough.

- That with political will and co-operation we can end the scourge of child poverty which is ultimately linked to tackling poverty for families in our borough.
- That this can only be achieved through long term planning and consensus building.
- That eradicating poverty is not only morally just, but also a logical way we can deliver best value for our residents.
- That this council should build on the work of successive political administrations and draw together existing work to form a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy with measurable targets and goals.
- That while the Council currently has several mitigations in place to tackle poverty in Tower Hamlets – including the Holiday Activities Fund [HAF]; the Household Support Fund [HSF]; a £1.4million Residents Support Scheme; and the Accelerate programme which has a dedicated section to mitigate against and tackle poverty – more can always be done to address the challenges that economic insecurity poses to our residents.
- That any comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy needs to bring together all of the council's directorates, partner orgs (Met Police, Health and Care Partnership, Tower Hamlets Together, Faith Groups etc.) and VSCOs.
- That any strategy must centre the needs and voices of those who have experienced or currently experience poverty.
- That a comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy is complemented by the LBTH Partnership Plan and Strategic Plan.

This council resolves to:

- Adopt a 15-year tackling poverty strategy, with 3 phases for each 5-year milestone.
- Request that the Executive Mayor and Chief executive of Tower Hamlets explore the option for the council to begin a tackling poverty commission to produce the anti-poverty strategy.
- Ensure that these issues are properly reflected in the Equality Impact Assessments undertaken on policies and strategies proposed by the authority.
- Request that the LBTH Overview and Scrutiny Committee, form a special 'Ending Child Poverty' Task and Finish Group that will draw membership from each scrutiny subcommittee to ensure that it's work is a collegiate and cross-party effort. T&F Group will be responsible for producing a comprehensive report and recommended strategy document to present to the Mayor and Cabinet upon completion. This will support the work of the commission as well as the overall strategy.
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current and new initiatives are having impacts on our tackling poverty strategy.

- Ensure that the commission is asked to look at key indicators such as welfare, unemployment, debt management, council data on rent arrears, housing benefit, household money management education, mental health, substance misuse, in work poverty and education for adults and children.
- Empower council officers through education and training to look at ways to support the priority of rooting out poverty in the borough and be innovative and explore best practises from other councils and partners.
- Ensure that Tower Hamlets council will seek to work with public health, VCS, schools, residents and council to co-produce and influence tackle poverty strategy.

Following debate, Councillor Asma Islam confirmed that she was accepting both proposed amendments to her motion.

The Council therefore voted on the motion as amended which was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The Council **RESOLVED** to:

This council notes:

- The United Kingdom is the sixth largest economy in the world and London is the fifth wealthiest city in the world. The Borough of Tower Hamlets has faced disproportionately high levels of child poverty and deprivation for decades.
- Currently 56% of children in our borough live in poverty, the highest percentage in the UK.
- Tower Hamlets unemployment rate is at 6.3% and has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment in London disproportionately affecting the BAME population.
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always be done to address the challenges that economic insecurity poses to our residents.

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- Ensure that Tower Hamlets council will seek to work with public health, VCS, schools, residents and council to co-produce and influence tackle poverty strategy.

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

9.1 Market Designation (Columbia Road, Watney, Whitechapel)

Councillor Shafi Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency **moved** the report on Market Designation (Columbia Road, Watney and Whitechapel). Councillor Kamrul Hussain **seconded** the report.

Councillor Ahmed said Cabinet had considered the report on the 10th July 2024 and he was asking Council to approve the recommendations within the report. Members added their comments. Members requested Officers to consider the suggestion to allow market traders in Columbia Road market to extend their over-hung canopies over the pitch-size, of 3m x 3m to provide shelter to visitors from the weather and allow them to display their goods more prominently.

The Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the report; and
2. Agreed to the market improvements as set out in the Cabinet report for Columbia Road Market, Watney Market and Whitechapel Market and asked that Officers review the suggestion put forward by members in relation to pitches for Columbia Road Market.

9.2 Market & Street Trading Fees & Charges 2024/25

Councillor Shafi Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency **moved** the report on Market and Street Fees & Charges 2024/25. Councillor Abu Talha Chowdhury **seconded** the report.

Councillor Ahmed said Cabinet had considered the report on the 10th July 2024 and he was asking Council to approve the recommendations within the report. Members added their comments. Some members argued against the increase in fees however when put to the vote Council decided to approve the recommendation within the report.

The Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the consultation response; and
2. Agreed to the Option 2 set out in the report, namely to increase the street traders and market fees by 3.1% from September 2024.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 London Legacy Development Corporation - Interim Delegation Schemes

Councillor Kabir Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding **moved** the report and Councillor Amin Rahman **seconded** the report.

Members of the Council commented on the report.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Enter into the first Interim Delegation Scheme with the London Legacy Development Corporation (under Section 203 of the Localism Act) to perform planning functions on behalf of LLDC limited to determining planning applications on their behalf, as submitted from the 1 September 2024 to 30 November 2024 or until planning powers are formally transferred through legislation.
2. Enter into the second Interim Delegation Scheme with the London Legacy Development Corporation (under Section 203 of the Localism Act) to perform all planning functions on their behalf from 1 December 2024 until planning powers are formally transferred through legislation.

10.2 Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023/24

Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning **moved** the report. Councillor Bodrul Choudhury **seconded** the report.

Members of the Council commented on the report.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the contents of the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report

10.3 Proportionality and Allocation of Places on Committees of the Council 2024/25

Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning **moved** the report. Councillor Bodrul Choudhury **seconded** the report. Council also considered the tabled nomination of Councillor Sabina Akhtar to fill the ungrouped committee vacancy on the Licensing Committee.

Members of the Council commented on the report.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Consider the review of proportionality as at Section 3 of this report and the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2024/25 as set out at paragraph 3.6.
2. Note the Committees set out for the municipal year 2024/25 listed in paragraph 3.6 as agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 15 May 2024.
3. Agree the appointment of Cllr Sabina Akhtar to the vacant ungrouped position on the Licensing Committee.
4. To agree that the Monitoring Officer is delegated to approve the appointment of Councillors required to fill positions during the municipal year in line with the proportionality arrangements set out in this report on the nomination of the respective group leaders.

5. Agree that the Monitoring Officer be delegated to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council where there is only one application for the position (where there is more than one application these will be presented to Council for decision).

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 Amin Rahman

Could the Lead member provide an update on the council's outstanding accounts requiring sign off? These accounts were left unsigned for 6 years under the previous administration.

Response of Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost-of-living

All previous outstanding accounts from 2016/17 to 2019/20 have been prepared, published, inspected as required, and signed off by the external auditor. The accounts for 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23 have also been prepared and published and are now awaiting audit opinions. For the first time in several years, the 2023/24 accounts were published on time, meeting the statutory deadline of 31st May 2024.

Supplementary question from Councillor Amin Rahman

How long were the delays and what has been done to mitigate against this?

Response of Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost-of-living

The delays varied from year to year. For example, in 2020-21, the deadline for submission for the accounts was 31st July 2021 but they were submitted on the 27th February 2022. There were delays upon delays. However since then we now have a permanent Section 151 officer and have a very capable finance team who are working tirelessly to resolve the backlog.

11.2 Question from Councillor Mufedah Bustin

The Mayor's Budget for 2024-25 included targets for generating income from the island's parks and open spaces. Could the Lead Member provide an update on these plans including what resident engagement has taken place or what is planned?

Response of Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost-of-living

There is an income target of £522k for the Arts, Parks and Events (APE) team for 2024-25. These were approved as part of a three-year income target of £854k in line with the MTFS period. The APE team manage the parks and open spaces across the borough including the spaces on the Island.

The council does generate income from hiring out the sports pitches and this income contributes towards the income target as well.

The council has an events hire policy and a Major events policy to guide any larger events. These would have a consultation process as part of the licensing process, giving local residents 28 days' notice of any activity. Currently, there are no large event applications pending for any of the parks and open spaces on the Island.

Supplementary question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

In the budget, specific reference was made to Milwall Park and for concession stands for vendors in the Island parks. What is happening with these?

Response of Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost-of-living

Local residents will be consulted by the Arts, Parks and Events (APE) team in relation to any events planned. They will be consulted as part of the licencing process as well as other processes the APE follows. The Scheme was evaluated in 2017 and is a plan for the next 10 years. Local residents will be consulted in regard to any programmes or planned events.

Questions 11.3 to 11.24 were not put due to lack of time. The written responses are attached to at **Appendix A**.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no additional motions submitted for Council to consider.

The meeting ended at 10.03 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

Item 11: Member Questions and Answers

<p>11.1</p>	<p>Question from Councillor Amin Rahman</p>	<p>Could the Lead member provide an update on the council's outstanding accounts requiring sign off? These accounts were left unsigned for 6 years under the previous administration.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>All previous outstanding accounts from 2016/17 to 2019/20 have been prepared, published, inspected as required, and signed off by the external auditor. The accounts for 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23 have also been prepared and published and are now awaiting audit opinions. For the first time in several years, the 2023/24 accounts were published on time, meeting the statutory deadline of 31st May 2024. See table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="509 808 1498 1344"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Year</th> <th>Due date (for submission to the auditors)</th> <th>Publication date of draft</th> <th>Public inspection date completion</th> <th>Date audited accounts approved</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2023-24</td> <td>31/5/24</td> <td>31/5/24</td> <td>12/7/24</td> <td>With EY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-23</td> <td>31/5/23</td> <td>2/2/24</td> <td>15/3/24</td> <td>With Deloitte</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-22</td> <td>31/5/22</td> <td>18/1/24</td> <td>7/3/24</td> <td>With Deloitte</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>31/7/21</td> <td>27/2/22</td> <td>10/3/22</td> <td>With Deloitte</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-20</td> <td>31/8/20</td> <td>28/8/20</td> <td>12/10/20</td> <td>30/11/23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>31/5/19</td> <td>31/5/19</td> <td>12/7/19</td> <td>30/11/23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017-18</td> <td>31/5/18</td> <td>1/6/18</td> <td>13/7/18</td> <td>31/7/18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016-17</td> <td>30/6/17</td> <td>30/6/17</td> <td>11/8/17</td> <td>27/9/17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015-16</td> <td>30/6/16</td> <td>30/6/16</td> <td>11/8/16</td> <td>27/9/17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Year	Due date (for submission to the auditors)	Publication date of draft	Public inspection date completion	Date audited accounts approved	2023-24	31/5/24	31/5/24	12/7/24	With EY	2022-23	31/5/23	2/2/24	15/3/24	With Deloitte	2021-22	31/5/22	18/1/24	7/3/24	With Deloitte	2020-21	31/7/21	27/2/22	10/3/22	With Deloitte	2019-20	31/8/20	28/8/20	12/10/20	30/11/23	2018-19	31/5/19	31/5/19	12/7/19	30/11/23	2017-18	31/5/18	1/6/18	13/7/18	31/7/18	2016-17	30/6/17	30/6/17	11/8/17	27/9/17	2015-16	30/6/16	30/6/16	11/8/16	27/9/17
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<p>11.2</p>	<p>Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin</p>	<p>The Mayor's Budget for 2024-25 included targets for generating income from the island's parks and open spaces. Could the Lead Member provide an update on these plans including what resident engagement has taken place or what is planned?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>There is an income target of £522k for the Arts, Parks and Events (APE) team for 2024-25. These were approved as part of a three-year income target of £854k in line with the MTFs period. The APE team manage the parks and open spaces across the borough including the spaces on the Island.</p> <p>The council does generate income from hiring out the sports pitches and this income contributes towards the income target as well.</p>																																																		

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<p>11.3</p>	<p>Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir</p>	<p>Can the Lead Member feedback on progress with the recommendations following the LGA Corporate Peer Review that took place in September last year?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The Local Government Association undertook a Corporate Peer Challenge (LGA CPC) for the Council in September 2023. The report, published in December acknowledged the many positive aspects of the organisation's performance and the motivated and focused staff who work for it. The report made 18 core recommendations. These and over 70 suggestions for improvement or review embedded within the text of the LGA CPC report were brought together to comprise the content of the Council's response as set out in its LGA CPC action plan. This was also published in December.</p> <p>The Action Plan is a live document and additional actions can be identified and added at any time. All political groups and single representatives of Parties represented within the Council were briefed on the findings of the review and the action plan by the Chief Executive and all Parties continue to be free to suggest additional content. Following a suggestion by the LGA the Councils Transformation Advisory Board, Chaired by the Mayor, has taken on the role of advising and supporting the Council's CPC programme.</p> <p>A considerable amount of progress has and continues to be made in delivering against the actions identified. Priority focus fell on a number of critical problem areas of governance that had persisted for a number of years. These covered areas such as the backlog of council accounts awaiting external auditor sign off and the absence of published annual governance statements. These were critical issues that were prioritised by the LGA and identified in the Action Plan and have all now been addressed.</p> <p>58% of the total number of actions identified by the Plan have now been completed (up from 50% since the May 2024 update). All of the listed actions have been completed for 28% of the core recommendations (5 of 18). The Council is on track to have completed 73% of all currently listed actions by the end of August 2024. The LGA CPC team had been scheduled to return to review progress in August. They have recently advised of a delay as members of the review team will not now be available in August. We are looking to reschedule the revisit for the earliest date</p>

		possible. All target dates within the Plan may be subject to movement as individual projects develop.
11.4	Question from Councillor Marc Francis	<p>Further to the answer to my question at Full Council on 8th May confirming that the mayor cancelled the proposed changes at the junction of Fairfield Road and Tredegar Road to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, will be Lead Member now instruct the Highways Team to implement these changes?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Officers are aware that the existing layout at the Fairfield Road and Tredegar Road junction could potentially be improved to improve pedestrian and cycle safety. This location had been considered previously as part of the Liveable Streets programme for the Bow area. Further plans to implement changes at the junction are not currently on any work programmes. However, officers will continue to explore opportunities for progressing designs and subsequent delivery for improving this junction, subject to available funding.</p>
11.5	Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury	<p>I want to start by thanking the Mayor for delivering his manifesto pledge to create extra parking spaces in my ward Bromley South, especially on Devons Road and Empson Street. However, can the Lead Member tell us what he will do to help local residents who although grateful, have raised issues with the high curbs which can damage cars driving on to and off the raised parking spaces on Empson Street.</p> <p>Furthermore, I have seen there is more room for additional car parking spaces that could benefit my constituents.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>We have made good progress in rolling out additional residential parking spaces throughout the borough. In Bromley South we have completed additional parking facilities to Devons Road and Reeves Road in the Spring. Parking improvements in Empson Street have been designed and will be implemented on site from 22 July 2024. The project addresses the places where kerb height is excessively high by reducing this and making complimentary repairs to the adjacent footpaths.</p>
11.6	Question from Councillor Asma Islam	<p>Can the lead member update me on the progress of the changes being made to the housing options service?</p> <p>Response</p>

		<p>A full report was presented to cabinet on 10th July 2024, setting out the detail of the actions taken, and progress made to date following the additional investment of £1.93 million per annum agreed at the previous cabinet meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending 43 temp / fixed term contracts and moving to permanent. • Hosted a successful recruitment drive for 30 new frontline operational roles, this first of 2 planned events attracted more than 500 attendees. • Hosted a webinar with a further 47 attendees about careers in our housing team • Completing and publishing a full staff feedback document setting out clear actions with allocated owners • Recruited an interim dedicated homelessness director. • Launched an internal recruitment programme for 2 specialist operational management roles.
11.7	Question from Councillor Jahed Choudhury	<p>Can the Lead Member provide an update on the current Best Value Inspection?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>On 22nd February the Secretary of State (SoS) for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities instigated a Best Value Inspection in Tower Hamlets</p> <p>‘to provide direct, independent assurance that the Authority is continuing to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness’...</p> <p>More to follow</p>
11.8	Question from Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury	<p>There has been an increase in knife and gun crime incidents over the last few weeks, including in Mile End, could the lead member inform me what the council is doing to prevent this?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2021-24 focuses on tackling violence and the root causes, with a priority area of ‘safeguarding those at risk of violence and exploitation’.</p> <p>With regard concerns around increase in the number of incidents, we can report that knife crime in June has actually decreased by 5.8% (49 reports)</p>

compared to the previous month where there were 52 reports. Knife crime with injury has decreased by 56.3% with 7 reports compared to 16 in May.

In respect of gun crime – there have been 5 more offences in June than were reported in May (11 compared to 6) but only one report involved a lethal barrelled discharge. Other firearm offences may include possession of imitation firearms and the increased use of ‘gel guns’.

In terms of the work that has been recently undertaken to prevent these offences this has been focused on partnership work with our community and young people.

For example:

- The two MyEnds projects within the Isle of Dogs and Bethnal Green areas, led by a consortium of partnership agencies, and supported by the council works in those areas and with young people impacted by violence and knife crime to directly tackle some of the key issues they face.
- Weapon sweeps carried out by police and partnership teams to remove knives stored in parks and estates to be used by individuals and criminal gangs and knife bins are placed throughout the borough to take knives off the streets. This is supported by police Safer Schools Officers engaging with students regarding the dangers of knife crime and how to keep safe.
- A new Violence Reduction Unit funded initiative to tackle after school robberies will be launched within the next 4 weeks by the Council and will see the deployment of a range of resources from community safety, the youth service, schools and police to tackle this issue.
- The Hospital Navigator who is based in A&E at the Royal London hospital works with young victims of violence, their families, offenders and other key partners to mitigate the causative factors of violence and divert young people away from crime.
- We work closely with our police colleagues who hold fortnightly ‘Precision Focused Performance Knife Crime Meetings’ that tackles emerging issues through the Pursue, Prevent, Protect, and Prepare process.
- A knife summit, “Knives Down: A Tower Hamlets Summit for Preventing Knife Crime,” will be held soon. This will be a unique and groundbreaking response to knife crime, with a charter enacted to clearly commit the local authorities' response to knife crime.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operation Continuum, a police intelligence-led operation targeting drug dealing and associated criminality, extends into gun crime. Run by the police and fully supported by Tower Hamlets Council, it has led to numerous arrests and convictions across the borough.
11.9	<p>Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed</p>	<p>Can the Lead Member update the council on the work of the Women's Commission to date?</p> <p>Response</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Women's Commission was launched on 26th March 2024 2. The Commission has 4 key focus areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment ▪ Health ▪ Women's Safety ▪ Women's Leadership 3. The Women's Commission hosted IWD Achievement Awards on the same day (26th March 2024). Celebrating the contribution and achievement of local women and acknowledging their tireless work and dedication in supporting local communities. 4. A dedicated Women's Commission Webpage has been launched on Council website, which will provide update information on all Commission activities. 5. 8 Female Commissioners have been appointed by the Mayor Tower Hamlets 6. An open and extensive recruitment campaign was conducted to recruit 2 Resident Women Commissioners, to be the voice of local women and supporting commissioners in driving this initiative. 7. The first inaugural meeting of the Women's Commission was hosted by CEO Stephen Halsey and Cllr Wahid Ali Cabinet Member for Customer Service, Equalities and Social Inclusion. Baroness Pola Uddin has been appointed Chair of Commission 8. A second meeting with the Commission has been held to finalise the Women's Commission's ToR and fully agree on the work plan. 9. A commissioners away day is scheduled for 20th July. 10. The First Stakeholders Evidence Gathering session is to be held In late July or early September 2024. 11. Further details available from here: Women's Commission (towerhamlets.gov.uk)
11.10	<p>Question from Councillor Amy Lee</p>	<p>There have been recent reports of a harrowing and complex court case that received attention from the national press, in which the council was named and criticised by the East London Family Court for its conduct in failing to protect a mother and her children. Can the lead member inform me as to</p>

		<p>how the council is responding to the instructions of the court and what actions it is taking to ensure that an incident like this does not happen again?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>We have accepted the outcome of the court order regarding this difficult case and are complying with the court order. The safety and wellbeing of families is our priority, and we are continuing to provide suitable support and intervention.</p>
11.11	Question from Councillor Iqbal Hossain	<p>Can the Lead Member update the council on the delivery of the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance and University Bursaries for the next academic year. It is understood from various media sources these provisions have not been delivered to date.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>For the upcoming academic year 2024/25, the application window will open in September 2024, with grants scheduled to be awarded from March 2025. Since the 2022/23 academic year, through the current application round of 2023/24, all eligible students who have met the criteria for the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance and University Bursary have successfully received or will receive grants.</p>
11.12	Question from Councillor Sabina Khan	<p>Would the chief executive provide council with the membership list of the LBTH Women's Commission</p> <p>Response</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair - Baroness Manzila Pola Uddin 2. Vice chair - Cherifa Atoussi - Operational Manager at Account 3 3. Sufia Alom - Head of Programmes and Maryam Centre 4. Fatuma Hassan - Young Mayor Tower Hamlets 5. Safia Jama - CEO Women's Inclusive Team 6. Aneta Sabik - Special Needs Teacher & Community Organiser in TH 7. Kathleen McCarthy - Director of Queen Mary University Language Lab 8. Nazia Khatun - CEO of Fitness Reborn 9. Pamela Kakoy - Resident Women's Commissioner 10. Chiho Sharp - Resident Women's Commissioner
11.13	Question from Councillor Ahmodur Khan	<p>Can the Lead Member tell us how the council has ensured that the essential works required to Wood Wharf School will be completed on time and within budget given the historic issues with delivering these works?</p>

		<p>Response:</p> <p>LBTH Capital Delivery have undertaken a procurement process alongside the LBTH Procurement Team to ensure that a suitably sized contractor who is familiar with working within a distressed environment have been appointed. This contract has been agreed on a fixed price design and build basis.</p> <p>The contractor has commenced on site on the 17th June and is working collaboratively with both LBTH and Mulberry Trust (the School Operator) to ensure a phased occupation is achieved and therefore ensuring that the September 2024 pupil intake requirement is being facilitated.</p> <p>There is recognition from all parties that this programme is challenging, however, the contractor has had early and transparent engagement with the Approved Inspector who will be providing building control sign-offs to ensure all risks are mitigated so far as reasonably practical. The Capital Delivery Team continue to monitor this process with weekly progress meetings.</p> <p>A number of site visits between LBTH, the contractor and Mulberry Trust have taken place on site in order to ensure all items are being coordinated transparently. The most recent site visit took place the morning of Tuesday 9th July.</p>
11.14	<p>Question from Asma Begum</p>	<p>Would the lead member consider meeting with Victoria Park Friends in order to receive feedback and coordinate how they can work together during and after the summer festival season.</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The Lead Member will arrange a meeting with the Friends of Victoria Park in Autumn to talk about the various activities at Victoria Park including the summer festival and other opportunities.</p>
11.15	<p>Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan</p>	<p>Can the Lead Member update the council on what is being done to tackle the worrying levels of crime and ASB in and around Rounton Road?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Empowering Communities and Fighting Crime is one of the top priorities for the Mayor. As one of the lead agencies in tackling crime and ASB, the Council are at the forefront of ensuring safety, security, and quality of life for our residents and visitors.</p>

		<p>The ASB Team work very closely with a range of partners and key stakeholders, including the police, different council departments, drug and alcohol support agencies and registered social landlords to help us breakdown and resolve issues around ASB and Crime via a multi-agency approach.</p> <p>Each area has a designated THEO and SCO team to conduct local patrols in hot spot areas and locations of concern to identify alleged perpetrators and to take appropriate enforcement action against them and to prevent and deter ASB by conducting hi-visibility patrols within the area. THEO/SCO are tasked to the areas via the intel that we receive from our ASB reporting systems along with Police data, the information is then discussed in our cluster tasking meeting and tasked appropriately.</p> <p>We have received very few reports from residents or directly from our THEO patrols regarding ASB in the vicinity of Rounton Road and surrounding areas. However, in April 2024, the council received four enquiries from residents concerning an increase in crime and ASB on Swaton Road and nearby streets which covers Rounton Road area. The ASB officer initiated a formal investigation into these issues. The ASB officer completed preliminary assessments, conducted risk evaluations, and coordinated action plans in collaboration with Poplar Harca Housing Association, as the main problems were within their managed properties. Poplar Harca are exploring what action they can take to address the issues as the landlord responsible. Additionally, the designated THEO enforcement team were assigned to patrol the area, address any incidents, and share intelligence with relevant partners. The ASB officer also communicated with the local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team and requested increased patrols in the area which have been occurring over recent weeks.</p> <p>We strongly encourage all residents to report ASB/Crime to the Police and the council so we can take the appropriate action to resolve the issues as they arise.</p>
11.16	<p>Question from Councillor Amina Ali</p>	<p>Could the lead member inform me as to how many residents have been able to access the new council tax relief scheme?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>150 claims have been received with 144 processed and 39 awards made with a value of £1,102.91. 105 claims didn't qualify.</p>
11.17	<p>Question from Councillor Abdul Malik</p>	<p>Can the Lead Member update us on the decision taken last September to open up our roads?</p> <p>Response</p>

		<p>The decision that we took at September 2023 Cabinet to withdraw from aspects of the Liveable Streets programme is subject to a judicial review. The legal case was due to be heard in the Summer. This case has been deferred to November 2024.</p>
11.18	<p>Question from Councillor Rebakah Sultana</p>	<p>Could the lead member inform me how many bin collections have been missed in the last 12 months?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Waste services make 4,095,294 collections in a year, of which 99.6% are collected on time. There have been 15,119 missed collections in the last 12 months. The missed collections are attributed to various challenges including access to estates, access to bins and parked vehicles blocking access.</p>
11.19	<p>Question from Councillor Harun Miah</p>	<p>Can the Lead Member set out what action is being taken to address traffic issues on Whitethorn Street which is a very narrow two-way road with parking on both sides?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The revised options to improve traffic flow and for parking arrangements in Whitehorn Street and Fern Street are currently going through design and internal approvals. We aim to carry out a local consultation after which the preferred solution may be delivered later in the Summer/ Autumn 2024.</p>
11.20	<p>Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain</p>	<p>Many residents have contacted me worried about increased costs for their leisure services and loss of access to other leisure facilities – could the lead member inform me as to how many people have cancelled their memberships and does the council have any mitigation measures to retain customers who may consider leaving?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Since the Be Well leisure service came in-house on 1st May, 3,545 new members have joined (as of 5th July) with 1,999 leaving. This represents a net gain of 1,546 new members and a total of 17,730 total members across the 6 leisure facilities. This is better than expected and encouraging performance.</p> <p>The service is looking to set up a dedicated team to contact and encourage customers to remain as members as well as sign up new members.</p> <p>The prices of memberships have remained the same and represent better value for money for customers as they can be used at all of the council's</p>


		<p>leisure centres. Looking at the prices charged in neighbouring boroughs, prices in Tower Hamlets are between 15% and 30% cheaper for comparable memberships.</p> <p>We are also continuing to offer 1/3 discounts for a range of concession customers. This is in addition to the investing £248k on the new free-swimming programme for women and girls over 16 and men over 55 launched this month.</p> <p>Background information: - Price comparison information</p> <p>Be Well membership all facilities(adult): £42.50, concession: £32.90 LB Hackney (adult) all facilities (adult): £57.80, concession: £46.20 LB Newham (adult): £50.00, concession: £35.00 LB Islington (adult): £60.00, concession: £48.00</p>
11.21	Question from Councillor James King	<p>Could the lead member inform me as to whether there has been progress or discussions with the Tower Hamlets Archives regarding the need to protect the archives and ensure that they are in a suitable and secure space?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Discussions on the best way of ensuring the preservation of heritage assets for posterity at the Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives are ongoing. We are exploring a few options to ensure the balance between the financial investment and venue requirements are met. This includes exploring other sites to weigh up the option that would provide Best Value and meet the needs of the service.</p>
11.22	Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam	<p>Could the mayor inform me as to whether the council has been able to make progress on the release of LIF funding from TfL?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>We assume the question relates to Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding. Officers have been able to secure an increase in TfL LIP funding for 2024-25 compared to the previous year and are liaising regularly with TfL officers on securing further funding for 2024-25 and future years from LIP.</p>
11.23	Question from Councillor Nathalie Bienfait	<p>I was recently shocked to learn that in the period between 1 April 2022 and 28 February 2023, we employed a total of 335 individuals with an average of 5214.80 hours were worked by staff on zero-hours contracts per month. How is the Administration is supporting workers on zero-hours contracts to</p>

		<p>ensure that they are given proper notice of cancelled shifts and for them to receive sick pay, and how it is working to bring all staff onto safer and more appropriate contracts?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>The Council issues zero hours contracts for staff who work on a casual or sessional basis as, and when needed, for certain job roles, for example, music and lifelong learning tutors and holiday play scheme workers. 85% of casual/sessional workers are tutors. Where there is work available, the relevant service will offer work and it is the decision of the worker as to whether they take the work offered. There is no obligation to accept the work offered and staff can work elsewhere for other employers.</p> <p>With regard to the figures provided in the question, they have been reviewed and updated as follows:</p> <p>As at June 2024, 311 staff were engaged on a casual basis, which is a slight decrease in the numbers reported between April 2022 and February 2023.</p> <p>Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, the average number of hours worked by casual/sessional staff per month were as follows:</p> <p>Minimum per month: 3049 Maximum per month: 7124.08 Average per month: 5226.85</p> <p>In relation to pay, all casual/sessional workers receive holiday pay. Whilst it is the responsibility of the Service to advise the Payroll Team whether any casual worker has been unable to carry out work due to sickness absence, HR colleagues advise managers that casual workers are to be paid sick pay if they are unable to work as scheduled. Additionally, HR colleagues advise managers to provide sufficient notice if shifts have to be cancelled, although this may be due to reasons beyond the control of the Service.</p> <p>A review of the management of hours worked by casual/sessional workers will be undertaken by the HR Department in conjunction with relevant managers as soon as is practicable, to ensure that the contractual nature of the workers' engagement is appropriate.</p>
11.24	Question from Councillor Peter Golds	<p>Has the council met or arranged to meet representatives of Transport for London with reference to the provision of bus routes in the borough, and in particular the threatened D7 route which is a vital link for Poplar, Cubitt Town and Island Gardens and Burdett Road.</p> <p>Response</p>

		<p>During 2022 TfL had been considering making changes to the bus network across London, including within Tower Hamlets, as part of the Central London bus review. Following a consultation and subsequent feedback from officers, Members and other local stakeholders TfL decided not to proceed with changes to the D7 and other local routes – see Central London bus review 2022 report.</p> <p>Officers continue to liaise regularly with the TfL buses team regarding opportunities for developing the network (e.g. Superloop routes) on a regular basis.</p>
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Agenda Item 5

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 2 nd October 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out details of the valid petitions submitted for presentation and debate at this Council meeting. The text of the petitions received are set out in the attached report.
2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except those petitions for debate (in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.
 - a. There is one petition to be heard:
Petition to Save the Attlee Centre
 - b. There are no petitions to be debated or noted.

PETITIONS TO BE HEARD

3. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
 - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. Finally, the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
4. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.
5. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

5.1 Petition to Save the Attlee Centre

Statement:

We the undersigned petition the council to Renew the existing 25 year lease on peppercorn rent for the Attlee Centre.

Justification:

The Attlee Centre has been a cornerstone of our community, providing invaluable services and support to children, young people and families since 1982 as the first inclusive adventure playground in the borough.

Without a lease, the Centre is unable to secure funding to continue its services which are all free at the point of access. Without funding, it will have to close. Its closure would have a profound and negative impact on countless lives in the local community.

The Attlee Centre offers a wide range of programs and services, including:

- Youth Engagement: Creating opportunities for young people to engage in positive activities, develop skills, and build confidence.
- Community Support: Providing a safe and welcoming environment for community members to come together, share experiences, and support one another.
- Educational Programs: Offering educational resources and programs for children and teens, fostering lifelong learning and personal development.
- Health and Wellness Services: Promoting physical and mental well-being through play.

The closure of this vital organisation would not only deprive the community of these essential services but also dismantle the strong sense of unity and support that has been cultivated over the years.

We urge you to renew the Centre's lease to allow it to continue its mission of serving and uplifting our community. We believe that with the right support and investment, the Attlee Centre can continue to be a beacon of hope and opportunity for all.

Background info: we have been trying to discuss our lease renewal since June 2023 but have been met with some reluctance. We have been told that discussion of renewal will not happen until closer to expiry but no date / timeline has been provided. We have written to the Mayor numerous times and received zero response from him or his office. Cllr Kabir Hussain requested a members enquiry in June 2024; we still have not had a response to that. In order to get some sort of response, we are now forced to involve the community whom the centre's services affect.


As well as this e-petition, we also have a paper petition which we hope to submit at the same time.

Submitted by: Tania Shaikh

Date submitted: 02/08/2024

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Agenda Item 7

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 2 nd October 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by the Administration	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one specific Motion submitted by the Administration. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. The Administration Motion is submitted by the Aspire Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

ADMINISTRATION MOTION FOR DEBATE WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS REDRESS

Proposer: Cllr Saied Ahmed

Seconder: Cllr Kabir Ahmed

Council notes:

- The difficult position that many residents – especially pensioners – find themselves in when paying bills around wintertime.
- That many residents in Tower Hamlets could have to make the choice between eating and heating this winter.
- That the Council continues to do all it can to support residents through the ongoing cost of living crisis.
- That through schemes such as the Warm Hubs and Warm Packs, pensioners will be able to go somewhere warm for a hot drink and receive hats, gloves, socks, hot water bottles and other amenities to help keep them warm and save money on their bills.

Council believes:

- That while these measures and the forthcoming investment into universal free homecare in February will go some way to alleviating these pressures, a cold winter could see vulnerable, elderly residents choosing between heating and eating.
- That around 9,000 pension-age residents who would have been eligible for a winter fuel payment will now not be receiving one.
- That there are also 4,304 residents who are eligible for pension credit who appear to not be claiming.
- That no pensioner or household should have to choose between eating and heating.
- That the Council must therefore provide support for elderly and vulnerable residents in the months to come, to offset any financial strain that will impact those already among the 40% currently living in fuel poverty in Tower Hamlets.


Council resolves:

- To request the creation a *Mayor's Winter Emergency Fund*, to provide those pensioners without pension credit but struggling to make ends meet with financial support with their bills.
- To provide pensioners in a precarious financial position with a payment towards their winter fuel bills. This would see residents of pension age but ineligible for the scrapped *Winter Fuel Allowance* payments receive a payment.
- To launch this scheme at the earliest available Cabinet, with details of how to apply and eligibility in place by then.

- To write to the government requesting the reinstatement of the *Winter Fuel Allowance*.
- To actively promote through a borough-wide campaign how to access pension credit, so those 4,304 residents eligible for pension credit but not claiming it can understand how to do so.

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Agenda Item 8

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 2 nd October 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one Motion submitted by an Opposition Group. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, submission of the Opposition Motion for Debate will alternate in sequence between the opposition groups. This Opposition Motion is submitted by the Labour Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

OPPOSITION MOTION FOR DEBATE - SCRAP THE REVISED HOMELESSNESS

ACCOMMODATION PLACEMENT POLICY

Proposed by: Cllr Asma Islam

Seconded by: Cllr Sirajul Islam

This council notes:

- In July, the Mayor and Cabinet adopted a revised 'Homelessness Accommodation Placement Policy.'
- The revised policy removed the 90-minute journey time limit, allowing the council to place families and individuals experiencing homelessness in temporary accommodation beyond the Home Counties.
- This decision contradicted the 90-minute journey time limit established by the Supreme Court in the Westminster test case, which determined that families should not be placed in accommodation further than 90 minutes from their home.
- Under the policy, those in their final year of GCSEs or A-Levels are to be placed in temporary accommodation within the borough.
- Children in other school year groups can be placed anywhere within London.
- Families with very young children, who are not yet of school age, may be placed in temporary accommodation anywhere in the Home Counties.
- People with health needs, including mental health concerns, should be rehoused in temporary accommodation (TA) either within or close to the borough, to ensure they can access necessary support services.
- There has been a rise in Section 21 (no-fault) evictions over the past two years, leading to an increased number of residents declaring themselves homeless to the council.
- Placing working residents in temporary accommodation in distant areas, such as Zones C and D, risks forcing them to leave their jobs, further contributing to poverty among affected families.
- The Greater London Authority (GLA) has announced £40 million in new funding aimed at procuring homes for overcrowded and homeless families.
- Of this, £8.3 million from the Government has been allocated specifically to Tower Hamlets Council, with a mandate to purchase 32 homes for use as temporary accommodation.
- It is acknowledged that high rents in Tower Hamlets make it unaffordable for residents affected by the benefit cap to continue living here, putting additional strain on homeless families.

The Council believes:


- Relocating families away from their support networks can have a detrimental impact on the wellbeing and education of children.

- The best outcomes for families experiencing homelessness are achieved when they are placed in a locality where they can easily access support services and maintain existing social ties.
- The 90-minute journey time limit should be reinstated, and the revised 'Homelessness Accommodation Placement Policy' should be reversed.
- Introducing a ban on no-fault evictions would relieve pressure on homelessness and help stabilise rental prices.
- Homes purchased by the Council using GLA and Government funds should have rents capped at Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates, ensuring affordability for benefit-capped households.

This council resolves to:

- Recommend to the Mayor that a new report is presented at the next Cabinet meeting, reversing the 'Homelessness Accommodation Placement Policy' adopted in July.
- Explore ways to use GLA and Government funding to purchase properties where rents can be capped at LHA rates, ensuring more affordable housing for homeless and overcrowded families.

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Decision Report Cover Sheet: Council 2 October 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: (Cover report of Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services) Main Report of Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Cover report of: Standards Advisory Committee Annual Report to Council	

Wards affected	All Wards
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY


1.1 At its meeting on 26 June 2024, the Standards Advisory Committee considered their draft annual report to Council. Following discussion, it was agreed to forward the report to Council for presentation with the Chair of the Standards Advisory Committee agreeing to present the report in person at the Council meeting.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Review and note the Standards Advisory Committee Annual Report for 2023-24.

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Non-Executive Report of the: Standards Advisory Committee Wednesday, 26 June 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
Standards Advisory Committee Annual Report to Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Jill Bayley, Head of Legal Safeguarding and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Wards affected	(All Wards);

Executive Summary

This report sets out the Committee’s annual report to Council. The report covers the activities of the Committee over the last year as well as being an opportunity to highlight any relevant issues to Council.

The Committee are asked to consider the draft Annual Report and feed back on any last updates before the report is presented to Council.

Recommendations:

The Standards Advisory Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the activities of the Standards Advisory Committee for the municipal year May 2023 – May 2024 as set out in the Annual Report of the Standards Advisory Committee attached as Appendix 1.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 [It is considered best practice in many authorities for the full Council to receive an annual report in relation to the work of the Standards Advisory Committee and on issues around standards generally. The provision of an annual report of the Committee’s business ensures the profile of ethical standards across the organisation and affords the opportunity to highlight areas of good practice and identify any requirements for improvement.]

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Advisory Committee could decide not to submit an annual report but this course of action is not recommended.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Standards Advisory Committee is asked to consider the Annual Report attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The report contains an outline of the work and activities of the Standards Advisory Committee over the past year as well as highlighting any particular issues that Council should consider.
- 3.3 The Standards Advisory Committee is asked to note the list of topics for consideration over the next year and to advise whether any additional topics should be considered, and whether any of the topics should be given particular priority.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no immediate equalities implications arising out of this report.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

- 5.2 Robust ethical governance arrangements help to ensure the proper, efficient and effective discharge of the Council's functions and contribute to compliance with the requirement to achieve best value.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no financial implications of noting the activities of the Standards Advisory Committee for the municipal year May 2023 – May 2024.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority. Section 28 of the same act requires local authorities to adopt a Code of Conduct which is consistent with the Nolan principles of standards in public life.

7.2 This report and the appendix demonstrate this local authority's compliance with the above legislation.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

Terms of reference report 2024/25 (please see earlier report on the agenda)

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – annual report to council.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

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London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Standards Advisory Committee - Annual Report to Council
Year May 2023 to May 2024

Introduction

1. This is the regular Annual Report of the Advisory Committee. It sets out the key issues dealt with by the Committee during the past municipal year and identifies the priorities for 2024/5.

Membership

2. During the municipal year 2023/24 the Committee comprised 5 elected members and 5 independent co-opted members. The Council's Constitution provides that an independent co-opted member be appointed Chair of the Committee.

Elected Members:

- Cllr. Sirajul Islam
- Cllr. Shafi Ahmed
- Cllr. Amin Rahman
- Cllr. Abu Chowdhury
- Cllr. Sabina Akhtar

Independent Co-opted Members

- John Pulford MBE (Chair)
- Fiona Browne (Vice Chair)
- Elizabeth Marshall MBE
- Mike Houston
- Faham Sinan-Katamba (appointed 27 September 2024)

Independent Persons

3. The Council has appointed two statutory Independent Persons (IPs) under the Localism Act 2011. The IPs are Ms Rachael Tiffen and Ms Amanda Orchard. Both were appointed to their current term of office as IP at Council on 19 January 2022. Ms Tiffen's second term of office and Ms Orchard's first term of office both started on 20 January 2022 and last until 20 January 2026.

4. The principal role of the IP is to give an independent view on governance issues in general and specifically in relation to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members. Both IP's work closely the Monitoring Officer and her Deputies, considering all complaints and whether an alleged breach of the Code meets the criteria for investigation.
5. It is also a statutory requirement to consult the IP before deciding on the outcome of an investigation into a complaint and whether to impose any sanction. The Member complained about may also at any stage of the process seek a view from the IP. In order to avoid any conflict of interest the Council has appointed two IPs.
6. The Council is fortunate to have appointed IPs with a sound understanding of the ethical framework who both act as advocates for the Council in promoting ethical standards and of high standards of conduct. Although not members of the Standards Advisory Committee, they attend meetings and play an important role in the proceedings. Both IPs also contribute to and participate in the Council's mandatory Ethics & Probity training programme.

Officers

7. The Committee's lead officers were:
 - Janet Fasan – Director, Legal Services and Monitoring Officer (to February 2024)
 - Linda Walker – Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer (from February 2024)
 - Matthew Mannion – Head of Democratic Services and (from February 2024) Deputy Monitoring Officer
 - Jill Bayley - Head of Safeguarding and Deputy Monitoring Officer
 - Agnes Adrien – Head of Litigation and Deputy Monitoring Officer (to August 2023)

Terms of Reference

8. The current terms of reference for the Standards Advisory Committee are contained in Part B Section 19.18 of the Constitution, with the Committee's procedures set out in Part D. The terms of reference and procedures are attached as Appendix A to this report.

Meetings

9. The Standards Advisory Committee held four meetings during the 2023/24 municipal period on the following dates:
 - 22 June 2023

- 21 September 2023
 - 7 December 2023
 - A meeting was due to be held on 16 April 2024 but this had to be postponed. It took place on 26 June 2024 and will therefore be reported on through the next annual report.
10. The Committee met in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall with Members attending physically, although where attendance was not possible due to any specific urgent issues, Members were able to join virtually, providing a quorum attended physically.

Standards Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023/24

11. The Committee agreed a work programme at the first meeting of the municipal period on 22 June 2023. It was updated throughout the year. The key areas of business considered during the year are listed below.

Code of Conduct for Members – Complaint Monitoring:

12. The Committee received bi-annual monitoring reports on complaints of alleged breach of the Code of Conduct for Members. There were eleven complaints from May 2023 to May 2024.
13. Ten complaints were made by members of the public and one by an officer. Eight complaints were closed without investigation after consultation with the IP. One complaint is currently with the Monitoring Officer for a decision after full investigation. Two complaints are awaiting an initial response from the relevant Member. In addition, two complaints from the previous municipal year (2022/23) carried over into the year 2023/24. Both went to full investigation. In one, there was a finding that the Member was not acting as a Member at the time of the alleged incident. In this case, the complainant referred the matter to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman because of delays. The other matter has been closed after investigation with a finding of insufficient evidence to show that the Code of Conduct had been breached.
14. The Committee continues to monitor whether there are lessons to take from complaints monitoring. The Committee continues to monitor remedial actions and that outcomes are reported to the complainant, to give assurance that maintaining ethical standards is given full organisational support.

Dispensations:

15. The Committee received bi-annual reports on dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI's).

The meeting on 22 June 2023 noted that the Monitoring Officer had granted a continuing General Dispensation to all Members for their current four-year term to be present, speak and vote where they would otherwise have a DPI in the following matters:

- (a) Housing: where the Councillor (or spouse or partner) holds a tenancy or lease with the Council if the matter does not relate to the particular tenancy or lease of the Councillor (their spouse or partner);
- (b) Council Tax: setting the council tax or a precept;
- (c) Determining an allowance, travelling expense, payment or indemnity for Councillors;
- (d) Council Officer pay where this impacts on Member Allowances.

16. A specific dispensation may also be granted where the Monitoring Officer is satisfied that:

- (a) without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business;
- (b) without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business;
- (c) granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area; or
- (d) it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

Any grant of a dispensation must specify the duration of the dispensation up to a maximum of 4 years. The regular reporting to the Standards Advisory Committee allows Members to maintain oversight of any specific dispensations that are granted.

17. A specific Dispensation has been granted to specific Councillors, lasting for that Full Council meeting only, on one occasion during this municipal year.
18. A specific Dispensation was granted to specific Councillors for Full Council on 27 September 2023 for an Agenda Item regarding social housing in the borough. Two Councillors declared that they were Board Members of a relevant body. Six Councillors declared that they were tenants or leaseholders of a relevant body. One Councillor declared that a relative was a tenant or leaseholder of a relevant body. The Dispensation lasted for the Full Council meeting on 27 September 2023 only. The decision to grant the dispensation was made due to the significant number of Members who had a DPI because they had close connections to one of the relevant bodies:
- a) the representation of different political groups on the body conducting the business would be so upset as to alter the outcome of the vote on the matter; and
 - b) Granting the dispensation would be in the interests of persons living within the authority's area; and
 - c) The number of DPIs in the matter would impede the transaction of the business.

Gifts & Hospitality:

19. The Committee received quarterly reports on the requirement contained in the Code of Conduct to register gifts and hospitality received or declined with an estimated value of £25 or above.
20. In total 9 declarations were made within the reporting periods of the June 2023, September 2023, and December 2023 meetings.
21. During the year the Committee also monitored the speed of the declarations made, taking interest in whether declarations were made within the 28-day deadline. The Committee noted that one of the 9 declarations were made after the deadline and noted the reasons for the delay.
22. The Committee pays particular attention to any large donations received. The Committee would encourage all large gifts to be donated to the Speaker's Charity.
23. The Committee noted that acceptance of gifts and hospitality by councillors is not merely an administrative issue. Acceptance can impact on Member reputation and on the Council as a whole. Members need to show they are acting in the public interest and do not gain personally from receiving gifts.
24. The Committee received quarterly reports on the Register of Interests and noted that reminders were sent out to Members quarterly to update their Register of Interests.

Member Attendance

25. The Committee meeting in June 2023 received the annual report on Councillor and Co-optee attendance during the municipal year 2023-2024 at Council and Committee meetings. The report set out how attendance was recorded and provided details of attendance at meetings by the Mayor, Councillors and Co-optees.
26. It was noted that the Local Government Act 1972 currently forbids the holding of virtual council meetings. During the 2023-24 municipal year, council and committee meetings were held in a hybrid format. This allows members of committees to participate remotely in a committee meeting. However they do not count as present for quorum requirements and cannot vote.

Terms of Reference

27. At the meeting in June 2023 the Committee considered a report on the Committee's Terms of Reference. The existing Terms of Reference were agreed.

Member / Officer Relations Protocol

28. The updated Member / Officer Relations Protocol (the Protocol) was considered at the meeting in June 2023. It is closely connected to the Code of Conduct (the Code) and the Committee had agreed that, as the Code has been updated, the Protocol should be refreshed to reflect changes. The comments of Committee members were taken into account in the updated version.
29. The updated Protocol was approved at full Council on 15 November 2023.

Examples of Code of Conduct complaints from other Authorities

30. At the meeting on 21 September 2023 the Committee considered a report on Code of Conduct complaints from other Authorities, which included examples of complaints. The Committee noted the examples given.

Member Learning and Development Programme and the LGA Charter Mark

31. The December meeting of the Committee received the regular yearly report providing an update on the Member Learning and Development Programme listing events that had taken place since January 2023.
32. The report included details of member attendance at training.
33. In December 2022 a survey of members provided suggestions for training during the following year, which formed the basis for training during the year. The training provided covered Public Speaking, Chairing Skills, Managing Casework / Resident Issues, Community Leadership / Influencing / Engagement Skills, Dealing with abuse and intimidation, Computer Skills and Effective Scrutiny.
34. In addition to the training set out above, Members were encouraged to attend training provided by external providers such as the LGA.
35. In addition to the training provided for Members, get-togethers for Co-Optees took place on two occasions during 2023/4. The sessions focused on Ethics and Probity and gave the attendees a chance to network. Feedback from these sessions was positive.37.The Committee also received a separate report on the Council's plans to work towards achieving the LGA's Member Development Charter. Key benefits of achieving the Charter Mark (as stated by the LGA) include:
 - Councillor development needs are better understood and supported.
 - Demonstrates the value placed on councillors carrying out important, demanding and complex roles.
 - Councillors are more knowledgeable, skilled and effective.
 - Strengthens relationships with officers, residents and partners.

36. To support the work, the Council has established a Member Learning and Development Steering Group to oversee the project as well as Member Learning and Development more widely.
37. Achieving the Charter Mark will require the Council to demonstrate the effectiveness of its Member Training Programme to external assessors. It will also require the Council to undertake related work such as running a 'Be a Councillor' campaign in conjunction with the LGA's own work in that area. Support for young people such as through the Young Mayor programme will 38. The report set out that a key aim of the project was to develop a much more personalised training programme. General training for all councillors on issues such as Ethics and Probity or Committee Specific training are important but it is also vital to focus on the unique needs of each individual Councillor. To that end, Individual Member Training Budgets were being developed and these, linked to new Role Profiles and Personal Development Plans, would help guide provision of training options for all interested Councillors.
38. The report noted that Member Learning and Development had a £15k budget to support the training programme. However, the Committee are pleased to see that this has since been increased (at Budget Council) to £60k to better support Individual Member Training Budgets.
39. The Committee welcomed the project and asked that it be kept up to date on its progress and that it be brought in to discuss the work when appropriate.
40. For 2024/25 it was expected that individualised training developed as part of the Charter Mark project would be key as well as any priorities identified through the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge (whose final report was expected shortly).
41. A further event which had been identified was a repeat of the 'Speed Dating' evening which was one of the key sessions from the Member Induction Programme in 2022.
42. This will allow small groups of Members to meet key officers within each Directorate's Leadership Team and discuss priority issues within directorates.

Annual review of the Code of Conduct

43. This will be considered at the meeting in May 2024 and will be reported on in the next Annual Report.

Standards Advisory Committee Work Planning for 2024-25


44. The Committee intends to undertake a substantial work programme during 2024-25, including looking at the following items.

- Bi-annual monitoring of complaints of alleged breach of the Code of Conduct for Members.
 - Quarterly monitoring of gifts and hospitality registered.
 - Bi-annual reports on DPI dispensations.
 - Review of the Constitution
 - Members' training programme
 - Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference and procedures
 - Monitoring of DPIs
 - News on ethics matters elsewhere including areas such as good practice, case law, ombudsman and quasi-judicial proceedings and similar.
 - Members' attendance at meetings
 - Annual report to Council
 - Annual review of the Member Code of Conduct
 - Best practice guidance from the LGA for standards committees
45. The 2024/25 work programme aims to continue to embed behaviours that support the seven principles in public life described in the Nolan report, by encouraging Members to apply ethical standards in their day-to-day duties and to look at how these should influence their approach to discharging their responsibilities in their individual and collective capacities.

Conclusion

46. As Chair of the Committee I wish to thank my fellow committee members, the Independent Persons and the Monitoring Officer for their contributions to the Committee's business and their commitment to promoting and maintaining high standards of ethical conduct across the Council. I also wish to thank the officers of the Council for their work in supporting the Committee during the year.
47. I would particularly like to highlight how important it is that the Council has such dedicated co-opted Members who are active contributors to the Committee's discussions and have demonstrated commitment to the role of Standards in the authority. The involvement of co-opted Members should be considered as 'good governance'. We are ahead of many local authorities in this area.

John Pulford MBE
Independent Chair

Non-Executive Report of the: Full Council 2 nd October 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Julie Lorraine, Corporate Director of Resources	Classification: Open
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24	

Originating Officer(s)	Afazul Hoque Head of Corporate Strategy and Communities Filuck Miah Senior Strategy and Policy Officer
Wards affected	All Wards

Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the work that Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), it's sub-committees and scrutiny leads delivered in 2023-24 municipal year

Recommendations:

The Full Council is recommended to:

1. Note and comment on the OSC Annual Report.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The council's constitution requires that the OSC must report annually to Full Council on its work.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 To take no action. This is not recommended as the council's constitution requires OSC to report annually to Full Council on its work.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The council's constitution requires OSC to report annually to Full Council, evidencing the committees' activities during the past year and include the work of its sub-committees. The attached report provides a summary of the range of activities and work that scrutiny carried out last municipal year.

- 3.2 OSC and its sub-committees focused on areas of strategic priorities to ensure residents' concerns were reflected. OSC kept oversight of the council's budget and submitted recommendations for the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and strategic performance throughout the year. OSC carried out key scrutiny reviews focussing on current boroughwide issues including how the council can better support street markets and traders.
- 3.3 OSC also held spotlights examining topics of residents' concerns such as insourcing of leisure services, Mayor's Community Grants programme, Violence Against Women and Girls, parking management, community engagement and the Mayor and Cabinet Member spotlights.
- 3.4 The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee (CESSC) scrutinised key areas focusing on educational policies, including the implementation of universal free school meals and the support for children with special educational needs. The committee's focus on these areas is critical for ensuring that educational provisions are equitable and effective. CESSC carried out five site visits to local secondary schools to better understand key issues and inform their questioning at meetings. The Committee held a scrutiny challenge session and considered child healthy weight in the borough.
- 3.5 The Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee played a vital role in scrutinising healthcare access, particularly for disabled residents and those with long-term health conditions. Their work included examining hospital waiting times, accessibility of community diagnostic services, and the inclusivity of sports and fitness initiatives. The Committee met with a range of stakeholders to inform their review of provision for disabled residents, engaging with residents from the council's commissioned services such as disability people's network and older peoples reference group to understand their needs and views.
- 3.6 The Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee evaluated the performance of housing providers, the impact of new legislation, and the progress towards key housing goals such as building new homes and addressing fire safety. This scrutiny ensured that housing services were meeting the needs of residents and complying with new regulatory standards.
- 3.7 The Scrutiny Lead for Environment and Community Safety focused on how the Council can better support the markets in the borough. The review has made a number of recommendations on how this support can be enhanced.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In delivering the scrutiny work programme, the committee affirmed its commitment to addressing equality concerns including the significance of promoting fairness, inclusivity, and tackling disparities among diverse groups within the borough.

- 4.2 The Committee's work programme was informed by the Borough Equality Assessment (BEA) and the latest census data, which guided them on key equality issues to consider as topics for scrutiny. The data-driven approach allowed members to consider the unique challenges and requirements of various communities in the borough. The committee considered matters related to gender, ethnicity, age, disability, and socio-economic status. This enabled them to identify areas where particular communities might be at a disadvantage or experiencing underrepresentation.
- 4.3 Feedback from commissioned equality hub provision, including the disabled people's network, also helped to inform the committee's considerations such as the ongoing challenges related to access to health services and physical exercise for disabled individuals within the borough and included in the work programme. Members also recognised gender-related concerns such as women's safety provisions and the committee reviewed the new violence against women and girls' strategy. Members engagement with their constituents also highlighted some of the inequalities that BAME women faced with access to local maternity services. Moreover, the committee's focus on public health data and engagement with senior council officers revealed disparities in breast and bowel cancer screening uptake among BAME groups. This issue was incorporated into the committee's work programme to explore potential underlying health inequalities contributing to this trend.
- 4.4 A dedicated spotlight on the cost-of-living challenge was featured on the committee's work programme. Members questioned the effect of the council and partner support on disadvantaged communities, including policies like free school meals. As a critical friend, the committee addressed strategic concerns linked to housing access, overcrowding, and homelessness and include matters such as housing targets. The committee's scope also included education inequalities and university access for disadvantaged young people in the borough. The committee addressed the importance of fostering a reflective workforce and tackling underrepresentation or disadvantage within specific communities.
- 4.5 Integrating equality considerations into the scrutiny work programme enabled the committee to embrace the diverse needs and aspirations of residents and contribute to building a more cohesive and robust community in Tower Hamlets.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no direct financial arising from the recommendations in this report

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 This report complies with the Council's constitutional requirements.
- 7.2 There are no other legal issues arising directly from this report

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

Tower Hamlets Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2023/24

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Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2023/24. This report reflects the diligent efforts of the Committee and its Sub-Committees over the past year, as we continue to ensure transparency, accountability, and the delivery of essential services for the residents of Tower Hamlets.

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**Cllr Musthak Ahmed,
Chair of Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

This year has been one of both challenges and opportunities for the Council and our residents. As our community continued to grapple with the rising cost of living, we scrutinised the Council's response to these pressures and sought to ensure that support is reaching those most in need. Our commitment to addressing these financial challenges is mirrored in our broader scrutiny activities, where we robustly reviewed budget proposals and worked to ensure that all Council services are efficient, equitable, and responsive to the changing needs of our residents.

In addition to focusing on financial pressures, we have prioritised new key strategies to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing our borough. This includes our work on combatting drugs, the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy and Community Engagement strategy.

We have worked closely with key stakeholders to drive impactful change and hold decision-makers accountable. We engaged with the Mayor, Chief Executive, Borough Commander, and other vital partners to ensure decisions, new strategies and resident's concerns were addressed robustly and effectively implemented on the ground.

We also performed key reviews on childhood

healthy weight, disabled residents' access to sports, social landlord performance and support for markets and traders.

I would like to sincerely thank all members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Sub-Committees, and the wider Council for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. I am also grateful to the residents and community groups who have participated in our scrutiny processes, offering valuable insights and perspectives that have enriched our discussions and outcomes.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to continuing our work in holding the Council to account and driving forward improvements. We will persist in addressing the challenges faced by our borough, ensuring that the services provided by the Council meet the highest standards and deliver positive outcomes for all.

Scrutiny Members' Workshop 2023-24



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Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The OSC work programme played a pivotal role this year in ensuring robust governance and accountability across key areas of the Council's work, aligning with the strategic priorities of the borough. The Committee has also been working hard this year to ensure that the

Council and its leaders are held accountable and that decisions are made in the best interests of our community.

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Strategic Accountability: The committee conducted focused engagements with senior leadership, including the Mayor, Chief Executive, and Borough Commander, to rigorously assess their performance and decision-making processes, reinforcing the importance of accountability in leadership. Discussions with the Borough Commander included a focus on Women's safety and women from the borough were invited to discuss their lived experience with the Borough Commander and Committee members.

Addressing Community Priorities: OSC dedicated substantial efforts to address key areas of residents' concern, including parking management, the borough's response to the climate emergency, and measures to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. These spotlights were designed to ensure that council actions are responsive and aligned with resident priorities. In scrutinising the impact of cost of living, the Committee invited advice agencies and voluntary groups to discuss the challenges residents face and further support needed.

Review of Service Provision: Critical evaluations were undertaken on significant Council initiatives, such as the in-sourcing of leisure services and the implementation of the Mayor's Community Grants Programme. These reviews were instrumental in ensuring that service delivery enhancements are effectively meeting the needs of our diverse community. The Committee will continue to monitor the performance of the leisure service and will also ensure the Grants programme has the intended impact.

Scrutiny of Budget and Policy Frameworks

Comprehensive reviews were conducted on a range of budgetary and policy documents, including the Youth Justice Annual Plan, Local Plan, Licensing Policy, and budget proposals. The committee's scrutiny ensured that these frameworks are not only fiscally responsible but also strategically aligned with the borough's long-term objectives and are driving improvements for residents.

Ongoing Performance Monitoring

Through the quarterly review of performance and financial monitoring reports, the committee maintained vigilant oversight of the council's operational efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring that strategic goals are being met and resources are optimally utilised.



OSC carefully examined the council's budget for 2024-25 to ensure money is being spent wisely and vital services are protected, especially during these tough times when funding for local authorities is uncertain and many are facing significant financial challenges. The Committee's discussion emphasized the importance of financial resilience, inclusivity, and the need to protect our most vulnerable residents

We comprehensively examined the budget, its allocations, and the strategic decisions made to navigate key challenges, capitalise on opportunities, and steer Tower Hamlets towards a financially resilient future

OSC acknowledged several positive initiatives in the budget. The Committee is encouraged by the continued investment in Educational Maintenance Allowance and University Bursaries, the introduction of free swimming for women and girls over 16 and men over 55, funding for a Women's Resource Centre, and the creation of a Council Tax Cost of Living Relief Fund. In addition to this, the budget will support investment in a Somali Resource Hub, a culturally sensitive adult care home, a culturally sensitive Drug Misuse Treatment Centre, and an Institute of Academic Excellence.

We were also pleased with the reduced reliance on reserves and the detailed savings plans provided as part of the budget proposals.

The Committee highlighted risks, particularly around income generation, housing pressures, and the need for strong governance to ensure budget delivery. We made several recommendations to help preserve and enhance essential services that our community relies on and mitigate financial challenges they face.

Supporting Waste Services: We're pushing for the Council to ensure that the £5 million

investment in waste services is sustainable and truly benefits and improves our neighbourhoods. We want to receive regular updates to understand the impact of the funding.

Affordable Housing: With rent prices rising, we recommended that the Council puts a cap on rent increases—so residents won't pay more than £10 extra per week.

Parking Permits: We know every penny counts, so we've asked the council to reconsider proposed increases in resident parking permits to avoid putting more financial pressure on you.

Helping the Most Vulnerable: We're advocating for additional resources to be directed towards supporting those most in need, ensuring that everyone has access to help when they need it.

Health & Adults Sub Committee

The Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee have focused key community issues and ones that impact our most vulnerable residents including primary and acute care

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This year the Sub-Committee focussed its scrutiny energy on key community and public health issues.

The Sub-Committee examined some of the challenges on hospital waiting times for elective surgery and the pressures on accident and emergency services and the impact this had on residents particularly post covid and with the industrial action. The Sub-Committee also considered the accessibility and publicity of the local community diagnostic services and what more needs to be done.

The Sub-Committee considered the public health report on low take up for certain type of cancer screening such as bowel cancers and called upon NHS cancer screening programme to understand the significance of this and what actions were being undertaken to remedy this, in particular the level of comms investment to reach out to groups whose first language is not English.

A key focus for the Sub-Committee was the level of support for disabled people in accessing health services from primary care to acute care. The Sub-Committee heard crucial evidence from some of the residents living with autism about the challenges they face particularly becoming

frustrated in getting themselves understood within health services and wanted to see changes in attitudes towards autism.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the proposed housing with care strategy and as part of the wider transformation project and evidence gathering, members carried out a site visit to on how assisted technology can help people with disabilities live independently. The Sub-Committee also reviewed out of hours GP services in Tower Hamlets particularly around access for vulnerable residents and invited the GP Care Group to give evidence.

The Sub-Committee called upon local residents and community services that provided support with maternity to understand their experiences and challenges they faced. The Sub-Committee also followed up with the service to scrutinise how the service was responding to barriers particularly for Black African, Somali, Caribbean and Bangladeshi women around language barriers and timely access to maternity care.

Health & Adults Sub Committee

Finally, as the council opted to insource leisure, the Sub-Committee carried out a deep dive to examine disability and those living with long-term ill health conditions access to sports and exercise. Sub-Committee members also carried out a number of site visits to the local leisure centres, carried out engagement with residents from the council's commissioned services such as disability people's network and older peoples reference group to understand their needs and views. The Sub-Committee heard evidence from local community gyms such as Ability Bow and gathered further expert intelligence from Alternative Movement, Disability Sports Coach and local disability advocacy champions like REAL.

The Sub-Committee produced a number of recommendations which suggested improvements on disability representation, better data driven evidence on disability access and usage, developing trusted disability communication, develop a disability forum, collaboration with key partners, Primary Care, NHS and voluntary and community sector and creating transitional arrangements to mainstream facilities.

Cllr Ahmodur Khan,
Chair of Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee



Children's & Education Sub-Committee

The Children's & Education Committee had a productive year, holding five committee meetings, a challenge session on Child healthy weight and site visits to secondary schools.

A key focus of the Sub-Committee has been on Schools and Education, with items focusing on:

- **Universal Free School Meals for all secondary school pupils**

Tower Hamlets is the first local authority in the UK to introduce this and members reviewed the implementation of this policy, making recommendations on how to maximise accessibility and uptake.

- **Provision for those with Special Educational Needs**

The rapid increase in children requiring additional support is a key concern, having negatively impacted on key performance measures. Members were pleased to hear about the work going on in schools to support children with additional needs, but the issue remains a key concern for the committee moving into 2024-25.

- **The impact of PFI contracts on schools**

Schools expressed their concerns, and challenges managing budgets in the face of declining child population, and increasing costs linked to these contracts. The committee will continue to monitor this issue.

Committee members carried out site visits to five schools in the borough focusing on the

above items, speaking to pupils and teachers and even sampling some School Meals.



Cllr Bodrul Choudhury,
Chair of Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee

The Housing &
Regeneration Sub-
Committee had a met five
meetings and held
challenge session

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Cllr Abdul Mannan
Chair of Housing and
Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-
Committee

The Sub-Committee looked at the performance of registered housing providers on several occasions throughout the year by examining key performance data, such as repairs response times and complaint handling, and their performance against the targets that were set, and questioned the Tower Hamlets Housing Forum on how the data will drive forward improvements for residents of the borough.

The Sub-Committee also met with residents of registered housing provided to hear their concerns about housing services in the borough.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the impact of new legislation such as Renters Reform Bill and the Social Housing Regulation Act on the borough.

Following up on the Fire Safety scrutiny review in 2021, the Sub-Committee examined the progress made on the Fire Safety Action Plan and reviewed the impact in this borough of new legislation, such as the Building Safety Act 2022 and the Higher-Risk Building Regulations 2023, and the council's schemes to incorporate this new legislation on building schemes already underway and how the council's building control authorities will enforce their new powers.

The Sub-Committee also reviewed the council's Homelessness Strategy and examined what is being done to provide homeless people with

accommodation.

The Sub-Committee also scrutinised the Mayor on several key policies such as

- Progress toward meeting the climate net zero targets
- Progress on building 1000 new homes per year
- Bringing Tower Hamlets Homes back inhouse.

Environment & Community Safety



As the Scrutiny Lead for Environment & Community Safety, led on the OSC annual Borough Commander Spotlight to review delivery, achievements and policing priorities for 2024/25.

Following on from my focus on women's safety in the previous year, the session spotlighted local female residents to share their lived-experiences and potential solutions to community safety concerns with the Committee and Borough Commander.

The Committee also engaged the Borough Commander on the lack of resourcing within neighbourhood policing, abstraction of dedicated ward officers, and progress made in recruiting a diverse workforce in the MPS.

Additionally, scrutiny focused on policy development in key areas of the environment and community safety portfolio, feeding into the new Combatting Drugs Partnership Strategy and Parking Enforcement Plan.

Scrutiny also reviewed the refresh of the Violence Against Women and Girl's Strategy and I held the Community Safety Team to account on ensuring the recommendations made from my previous challenge session on Women's Safety was integrated into the strategy.

Scrutiny also reviewed the councils progress to becoming a carbon neutral council by 2025,

examining the approach to offsetting carbon, use of the net zero fund, and the impact caused by newly insourced services such as Tower Hamlets Home and the Leisure Centres.



Cllr Abdul Malik,
Scrutiny Lead Environment
& Community Safety



Scrutiny in Action: Empowering Disabled Residents: Accessible Sports and Fitness Initiatives

Empowering Disabled Residents: Accessible Sports and Fitness Initiatives



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The Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee used the resident feedback from the HASSC work programme to consider undertaking a deep dive on equality issues for people with disability and long-term ill health conditions.

The Sub-Committee was aware that the Council's objective was to insource leisure and that this would be an opportunity for the Sub-Committee to review of some the accessibility practices provide by the local leisure services for people with disabilities.

The Sub-Committee carried out a resident stakeholder engagement event inviting residents from the Disability People's Network (Apasen) and the Older People Reference (Age UK) to provide their views. Members of HASSC also undertook site visits to the local leisure centres (managed by former provider GLL) and some local community gyms that specialised in support for disability and people living with long-term ill health conditions such as Ability Bow.

The Sub-Committee also sought the views of local advocacy champions such as REAL and engaged with sports provision providers for people with disabilities such as Vallance Community Sports Association. Members also invited

expert witnesses such as Disability Sports Coaching and Alternative Movement that specialise in exercise programmes for people with disabilities. The Sub-Committee also scrutinise and sought assurance from the council's insourcing leisure project team and through the discussion the committee made the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: Disability

representation - The council should actively prioritise initiatives that will enhance visibility and representation of people with disabilities and or those living with long-term ill health conditions within the leisure sports and fitness centre workforce

Recommendation 2: Better data driven evidence on disability access and usage

The council should develop a comprehensive approach to the collection and analysis of disability access and usage led data that supports good governance and drives continuous improvements

Empowering Disabled Residents: Accessible Sports and Fitness Initiatives



Recommendation 3: Developing trusted disability communication channels and campaigns The council should engage community disability groups to co-design and develop robust campaigns that promotes physical activity and sports for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions

Recommendation 4: Create a sports and exercise disability forum that embeds a person-centred philosophy and empowers residents with disabilities and or those living with long-term health conditions to review provision and make recommendations for improvement. The council should work with disability groups and establish a sports and exercise disability forum that empowers residents with disabilities or those living with long-term ill health conditions to undertake activities such as accessibility audits on facilities, customer service, equipment, programmes to deliver on improvements.

Recommendation 5: Collaboration with primary care, NHS and healthcare partners and voluntary and community sector The council's

leisure service should establish joint working protocols with primary care, NHS, health partners and voluntary and community sector to support widening access and become a partner referral provider for people with disabilities and or long-term health conditions.

Recommendation 6: Creating transitional arrangements from specialised fitness gyms to mainstream leisure centre facilities The council should establish joint work protocols with community gyms (specialist in disability and long-term ill health condition) to support residents with disabilities and or those living with long-term ill health conditions to make the transition into mainstream leisure centre facilities.

[Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee Report \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/health-and-adults-scrutiny-sub-committee-report)



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Scrutiny in Action: Child Healthy Weight

Introductory Comments

The challenge session, focused on Child Healthy weight, particularly on reducing the prevalence of excess weight in the borough.

The Sub-Committee learnt about the correlation between excess weight and poverty and the wide range of work taking place in the borough on the issue.

In particular, Tower Hamlets is leading the way through the universal implementation of free schools' meals which is demonstrated to have a positive impact on excess weight and in piloting new approaches to communicating the results of the National Child Measurement Programme to ensure that parents understand when their child is overweight, the support that is available to them and do not feel stigmatised,

Recommendations focused on:

1 – Food

Fine tuning the implementation of FSMs.

Ensuring Healthy food is being accessed at our Youth Services

Engaging children in growing and cooking food

2 – Physical Activity

Ensuring access to Green Spaces, Sports Facilities and exercise classes

3 – Psychology and Culture

Involve food ambassadors

Contain fast food outlets

Consider children with special education needs and those who may be underweight or have disordered eating

Scrutiny in Action: Registered Social Landlords Performance

This scrutiny challenge session in March 2024 allowed the Sub-Committee to hear from the Regulator of Social Housing, Housing Ombudsman, leading social housing and tenant engagement organisations and RPs themselves.

The focus was to review RP performance, and the scope set out the following key questions:

- How is the RP performance aligned with the organisation's strategic priorities;
- What issues Registered Provided face when to providing RP performance data particularly at local level;
- How is the data used to drive improvement for residents;
- What impact the new Tenant Satisfaction Measures are having;
- How can Scrutiny best add value.

This scrutiny challenge session provided the HRSSC an opportunity to scrutinise RPs in the borough.

The Committee noted that the new powers given by the Social Housing (Regulation) Act are a welcome improvement over the previous ones, but it remains to be seen if they will be implemented in a robust manner.

The Committee have made the following five recommendations as they feel more need to be done to improve the standard of housing in the borough:

Recommendation 1: The Sub-Committee and key stakeholders to ensure Registered Providers (RPs) are invited to attend more committee meetings by conducting regular spotlight session at every Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting and inviting RPs to attend when their RP is being discussed.

Recommendation 2: Build in training provision and develop Committee Members with analysing performance data.

Recommendation 3: Invite Residents to give evidence at Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee adding value and making committee meetings more robust.

Recommendation 4: The Sub-Committee will review the management of council's own housing stock and ensure it is being well managed.

Recommendation 5: The Sub-Committee will work with stakeholders and ensure the council maximises its powers to improve the standards, and the services housing providers give to residents.



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Scrutiny in Action: Markets

Markets



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The challenge session focused on improving support for street markets and Market Traders.

Scrutiny members visited street markets, inside and outside of the borough to engage traders and collect evidence on how the council could support them better.

To gather evidence, scrutiny engaged expert witnesses from the London Street Trading Benchmarking Group and the National Association of British Market Authorities.

Throughout the challenge session, traders made it clear how the council could ensure the future sustainability of Markets, and this was reflected in the final recommendations.

The session found that traders wanted to see enhanced

facilities and infrastructure. This particularly included the provision of toilets, storage spaces and free WiFi.

Additionally, ASB and crime was raised as a key community safety concern for both traders and visitors. The report highlighted the need to address this through enhanced intelligence exchange between THEOs and traders, and more seamless crime reporting mechanisms for visitors.

Additionally, the separation of commercial waste,

market waste, and residential waste was highlighted as a key concern. The report highlighted that enforcement measures on businesses dumping on markets needs to be reviewed and addressed.

Furthermore, the trader population is ageing both nationally and locally. To ensure the sustainability of markets, the report recommends working with schools and young adults to attract young people to the entrepreneurial opportunities available in Market Trading

Lastly, Markets intersect between two portfolio areas. Scrutiny recommends the implementation of an effective and ongoing communication mechanism between both Lead Members to facilitate consistent exchange of information and collaboration on market-related issues

More information

How to get in touch with the scrutiny team

If you would like more information or wish to contact the scrutiny team. You can email the scrutiny team at:

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Decision Report Cover Sheet: Council 2 October 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: (Cover report of Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services) Main Report of Simon Baxter, Corporate Director, Communities	Classification: Unrestricted
Cover report of: Waste Regulation and Time Banded Waste Collections	

Wards affected	Shadwell, Spitalfields & Banglatown, Weavers Wards
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At its meeting on 11 September 2024 the Cabinet considered the report of the Corporate Director, Communities proposing to introduce time-banded collections of waste and recycling on selected high streets, town centres and main commercial areas in the borough.
- 1.2 Following discussion the Mayor in Cabinet agreed to forward the report to Council recommending that the changes be approved.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to agree:

1. Approve the introduction of Tower Hamlets Waste Regulations 2024 under section 20 and 22 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007. These are Household Waste Regulations 2024 (Appendix A of the report) and Commercial Waste Regulations 2024 (Appendix B of the report).
2. Approve the introduction of time bands for the collection of domestic and commercial waste on selected high streets, town centres, and main commercial areas in the borough. The list of streets are listed in Appendix C of the report and the proposed time bands are detailed in the Household and Commercial Waste Regulations 2024.
3. Set Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) amounts for the enforcement of non-compliance with time bands by residents by issuance of FPN under s.46A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, amended by s.58 of the Deregulation Act 2015. Proposed full amount of £80 payable within 28 days with a discounted rate of £50 if paid within 14 days of issue.
4. Delegate powers to the Corporate Director of Communities (or equivalent) to make any amendments to the Tower Hamlets Waste Regulations 2024 in consultation with the Mayor. Including the authority to revoke, expand and adjust the timing of the time bands and the streets to which the Regulations apply. Any amendments, revocation etc will be in line with any of the requirements in section 20 and 22 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007.

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Cabinet 11 September 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Simon Baxter, Corporate Director Communities	Classification: Unrestricted
Waste Regulations and Time Banded Waste Collections	

Lead Member	Councillor Shafi Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency
Originating Officer(s)	Azizul Goni, Environmental Services Manager
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	31 July 2024
Exempt information	None
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	1. Invest in public services 2. A clean and green future

Executive Summary

This report sets out proposals to introduce time-banded collections of waste and recycling on selected high streets, town centres, and main commercial areas in the borough. This will require businesses and residents to present their waste for collection within specified time periods. This is intended to:

- Keep the main roads and town centres free from bagged waste being present throughout the day.
- Reduce the amount of illegally dumped waste, and de-clutter the main roads and town centres of bins.
- Maintain a cleaner, safer environment for people living, working and shopping in our main roads and town centre areas.

Implementing this approach necessitates introducing new Household and Commercial Waste Regulations. These regulations will enable effective enforcement to ensure

compliance and offer comprehensive guidance to businesses and residents on waste and recycling management.

The scheme will be monitored for 12 months before options for expansion or continuation are considered.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to recommend that the Full Council:

1. Approve the introduction of Tower Hamlets Waste Regulations 2024 under section 20 and 22 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007. These are Household Waste Regulations 2024 (Appendix A) and Commercial Waste Regulations 2024 (Appendix B).
2. Approve the introduction of time bands for the collection of domestic and commercial waste on selected high streets, town centres, and main commercial areas in the borough. The list of streets are listed in Appendix C of the report and the proposed time bands are detailed in the Household and Commercial Waste Regulations 2024.
3. Set Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) amounts for the enforcement of non-compliance with time bands by residents by issuance of FPN under s.46A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, amended by s.58 of the Deregulation Act 2015. Proposed full amount of £80 payable within 28 days with a discounted rate of £50 if paid within 14 days of issue.
4. Delegate powers to the Corporate Director of Communities (or equivalent) to make any amendments to the Tower Hamlets Waste Regulations 2024 in consultation with the Mayor. Including the authority to revoke, expand and adjust the timing of the time bands and the streets to which the Regulations apply. Any amendments, revocation etc will be in line with any of the requirements in section 20 and 22 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Managing waste on main roads and in town centre areas is a common problem for councils throughout the country. Lack of suitable waste storage areas, sacks being placed out throughout the day, associated fly-tipping, torn bags and litter are the key issues being experienced.
- 1.2 Due to the high profile locations, the negative impacts upon the street scene are clearly apparent. One key issue contributing to the problem are the three or four waste collection times for businesses and residents due to a number of different waste operators servicing the area. This results in bags and bins being presented for collection throughout the week at different times of the day and/or evening.

- 1.3 To help maintain local environmental quality the council undertakes additional collections on main roads to quickly remove any waste put out on street. Many take advantage of the inconsistency in collections times and put their waste on-street throughout the day rather than using their scheduled collection slot. This system is labour intensive, expensive and encourages waste to be put on the streets, and left there if the collection companies fail to remove the waste.
- 1.4 In the period June 2023 to June 2024, the Council received 2,501 street cleansing reports through the Find It Fix It app under the thirty one streets being proposed to be time banded. These reports were for dirty street (1,948) and fly-tipping (512). Of the 1,948 dirty street reports, more than 90% were actually people reporting both residential and business waste on the pavements. The Environmental Services Team regularly patrol and investigate reports of fly-tipping on these streets. Within the same period above officers have issued 143 fixed penalty notices to businesses for fly-tipping waste on these roads.
- 1.5 While commercial waste dumping is addressed through relevant legislation, residents disposing of waste at any time, leading to the degradation of the local environment, has proven more difficult to manage.
- 1.6 Officers have identified that official time banded collections could provide a solution. This is where residents and businesses are required to put out their waste only at clearly defined periods of the day. The waste can then be removed effectively and the area remains clear of waste for the majority of the day.
- 1.7 Time banded collections have been implemented in other London Boroughs. Some of these Council's are Barnet, Enfield, Newham Hackney, and City of London. Most council's have introduced time banding on their busy roads and town centre areas. The Time Banding Schemes applies to both residential and commercial bagged waste (including recycling and loose cardboard), and only the City of London have introduced the timed banded collections across the City. Communication from all of these boroughs say that there is evidence to suggest that time-banded collections have contributed to a noticeable improvement in street cleanliness, reducing visual clutter. They have all had challenges with resident compliance: Ensuring consistent adherence to the time restrictions has been an ongoing challenge, leading to issues with waste being left out of designated times.
- 1.8 The introduction of Tower Hamlets Waste Regulations 2024 and time banded waste collections will strengthen the enforcement tools available to our enforcement teams, and also provide a very clear resource for businesses and residents to explain the requirements of them in terms of waste and recycling management and presentation.
 - Improve street scene through reducing bags and bins left out for collection during the day in core business hours.

- Provide better pedestrian access as stored waste will not block footpaths and pavements.
 - Enable enforcement action to ensure that private waste contractors service their customers.
 - Remove the hazards associated with waste left on the street, particularly for the partially sighted or persons who are infirm.
 - Remove a potential fire hazard from the street.
- 1.9 Time bands have been very successful in controlling waste in densely commercial areas when implemented in other councils because they are proven to work so well. As such, time bands is deemed a proven methodology for managing waste and recycling in the public realm for commercial areas.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 An alternative option to introducing the waste regulations is to do nothing and remain without them. This would mean that we would continue to rely on section 47 notices to inform businesses of their requirements and section 46 notices to inform residents of their requirements. This is not considered to be the most efficient option and introduces a process that would be unnecessary with Regulations in place. It also makes it more difficult to control waste.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 Rubbish dumping is a perennial problem in Tower Hamlets. Many residents persist in putting out rubbish and other bulkier items onto the public highway at any time of the day or night, rather than at the prescribed times.
- 3.2 The problem is not confined to household properties; rubbish dumping also occurs from commercial businesses. In this case, it can comprise waste that is paid for through a contract either with this Council (for up to three collections a day) or another waste collector, but presented at the wrong time; or, worse, waste that is unpaid for and simply dumped for the Council to collect.
- 3.3 Although this is a challenge for many authorities, it is particularly so for this borough because of its (probably unique) infrastructure. Most domestic properties on the main roads are flats above shops with little or no room for waste storage, either inside or outside the premises. Some residents find it more convenient simply to drop the waste onto the pavement on their way out, any time of the day or night.
- 3.4 Environmental Services Officers within Public Realm proactively inspect the borough's roads to check for various street scene issues, including (amongst many things) rubbish dumping. They also reactively respond to complaints. They search for evidence of the source of the waste and if found, endeavour to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to discharge liability under the relevant statute.

- 3.5 Currently the Council operates a pre-paid sack scheme (PPSS) route on all main roads. A total of 21 roads are included in this scheme which was introduced on 11 January 2010. The scheme sought voluntary agreements from all businesses within the scheme and all commercial waste contracts were converted to pre-paid sacks. As a result all bin storage were banned on the main roads. All businesses and residential properties were notified of time waste presentation and collection schedules. Private waste collectors were written to and requested to comply with the waste presentation and collection requirements.
- 3.6 The businesses on the time PPSS routes were issued with section 47 notices and the domestic properties were sent generic section 46 notices under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This lead to the removal of all bins from the public highway on the PPSS routes, which resulted in noticeable improvement in street cleanliness.
- 3.7 Ensuring adherence to the time restrictions was proven difficult, leading to issues with waste being left out of designated times. Over time the resources required to monitor and enforce the scheme could not be maintained. Both residents and businesses resorted to non-compliance and private waste collectors including the Council's waste collection contractor did not adhere to the three times a day collection schedules.
- 3.8 The PPSS scheme was not reviewed and since the time bands was not introduced in accordance with the requirements of the London Local Authorities Act 2007, failure to comply with the requirements could not be enforced.
- 3.9 As part of Waste Operations' collection Route Optimisation Project, it was decided that all commercial waste collections be segregated from other waste streams. This has given the council an opportunity to review the current time-bands for all services as part of wider changes taking place.

Time Bands

- 3.10 Time band schemes provide a means of ensuring that waste and recycling is placed out for collection, and therefore present on the public highway, for limited times during the day. Waste and recycling is then collected shortly thereafter, thus ensuring highways are kept clear as much as possible.
- 3.11 Businesses and residents are provided with two 2-hour time slots, one in the morning and one in the evening. They are applicable to every day of the week and are the same each day. Waste and recycling is then collected within 2 hours of the end of the time band. This means that waste is on the public highway for no more than 4 hours at each collection.
- 3.12 It is proposed to implement time banded collections in Tower Hamlets on 1st December 2024. Thirty one streets have been selected to be time banded as detailed in Appendix C. Within these thirty one time banded streets; timed waste presentation rules will apply to kerbside collection properties that have not been

provided with a receptacle (bin) for waste containment. These are mainly flats above shops and converted flats/houses fronting the main road with no internal waste storage facilities.

- 3.13 Section 20 of the LLAA 2007, requires that any authority wishing to enforce time banding must put in a sign, displayed on each side of the road, a description of the requirements of the periods (times) during which (waste) receptacles should be placed on the highway.
- 3.14 In line with section 20 and section 22 of the LLAA 2007 the Council is required to publish in at least two newspapers circulating in the borough notice of the making, amendment and revocation of the regulations. The notice will include:
- a) the date on which the regulations are to come into force,
 - b) the general effect of the regulations (or the amendment or revocation, as the case may be);
 - c) an address at which the regulations can be inspected during reasonable office hours and purchased for a reasonable amount; and
 - d) a website address at which the regulations can be viewed.
- 3.15 The date on which the time bands are to come into force, will not be earlier than the expiration of one month from the publication of the notice (as per the legislation).

Waste Regulations

- 3.16 In order to enforce the proposed time bands it will be necessary to implement new regulations under Sections 20 and 22 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007(LLA 2007). A copy of the proposed regulations are attached at Appendix A and B.
- 3.17 The proposed Household Waste Regulations (Appendix A) and Commercial Waste Regulations (Appendix B) aim to improve the quality of the local environment, and will help make our main roads and town centres a more attractive place to live, work and visit.
- 3.18 Tower Hamlets Waste Regulations 2024 would allow the Council to specify how, when and where recycling and waste containers should be placed for collection, as well as which containers should be used and what should and should not go in them.
- 3.19 The Regulations will provide guidance and waste management directions to all residents and businesses within the borough. The Council would help residents and businesses to comply with the new Regulations through targeted communications about what is required of them as part of the Regulations.
- 3.20 The Regulations will further underpin enforcement action taken against residents and businesses on the time banded streets and locations.
- 3.21 Enforcement Officers will continue to address the issue of unregulated waste and waste placed out at incorrect times by undertaking targeted patrols with

staff from waste operations. Enforcement action will be dependent on the nature of the offence(s) and the history of the engagement we have had with the business. The enforcement tools available to the Enforcement Officers include warnings, fixed penalty notices (FPNs), cautions and prosecution. Enforcement Officers will continue to undertake visits with operational staff from Environmental Services during the day, evenings and at night in an effort to reduce the impact of unregulated waste.

- 3.22 We propose to revisit the Regulations regularly to evaluate their success and appropriateness and we will listen to the points of view of residents and businesses with regard to time bands in their area. This may lead to the requirement to amend the Regulations in future, and as such there is a recommendation that powers are delegated to the Corporate Director of Communities (or equivalent) to make any amendments to the Tower Hamlets Waste Regulations 2024, including to revoke, expand and adjust the time bands in consultation with the Mayor.

Enforcement

- 3.23 Section 58 of the Deregulation Act 2015 decriminalised waste receptacle offences. It is no longer possible to prosecute a non-compliance with s.46 and, instead, it can be dealt with only by way of a fixed penalty and which is subject to an appeal in the First-tier Tribunal. Enforcement of commercial and industrial waste under s.47 is unaffected. This means that:

- The enforcement process for household waste is much lengthier and it is no longer possible to immediately take action for a first or one-off offence.
- An offence under section 46 is now committed only if:
- There has been a failure to comply with requirements under a section 46 notice; and
- The failure to comply:
 - has caused, or is or was likely to cause, a nuisance; or
 - has been, or is or was likely to be, detrimental to any amenities of the locality.

- 3.24 The new route for enforcing household waste and the unchanged route for enforcing commercial and industrial waste using the Environmental Protection Act 1990 are set out below:

S.46 Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Household waste only), as amended by the Deregulation Act 2015	S.47 Environmental Protection Act 1990 (commercial waste)
Route required from 15 June 2015 for household waste enforcement. It cannot be used for commercial or industrial enforcement.	S.47 notice is served on the occupier of the business premises
Offence committed – it must breach regulations set by the council and cause a	Offence committed in breach of requirements (S.47(2) and (4)).

nuisance or be detrimental to local amenities (see Section 46A(1)(b)).	
Local authority decides whether to issue a written warning. If the council intends to take further enforcement action, a written warning must be issued.	Opportunity to discharge criminal liability by paying a FPN, and avoid being taken to court. 14 days to pay. (Section 47ZA)
<u>If the failure to comply is continuous</u> the council must specify a date on the written warning for compliance (see Section 46A(3)(d)). If the person fails to comply, a Notice of Intent can be issued. The individual has 28 days to make representations to the council <u>If the failure to comply is not continuous,</u> only if an individual commits another same or similar offence within one year of the first offence can a Notice of Intent be issued (see Section 46A(7)). The individual has 28 days to make representations to the council.	No right of appeal against an FPN. Failure to pay will usually result in a referral to Legal Services to consider prosecuting for the s.47 offence.
If the representations are rejected by the council, a Final Notice is issued. The FPN is payable within 28 days or the individual can appeal. There is a reduced amount if paid within 14 days.	
Appeal possible to a First-Tier Tribunal, which either confirms FPN is payable or rejects it. 28 days to pay from ruling.	
Further appeal possible. If it reaches the High Court or county court, it is recoverable as a civil debt.	

- 3.25 The Deregulation Act 2015 reduces the previous level of FPN (previously £110) to a scale of between £60 and £80, with an early payment amount of no less than £40. London Boroughs and the City of London are able to set their own amount of penalty (within the range permitted) if they wish to continue using FPNs to enforce this legislation. If no level is set, the statute sets a default sum of £60.00.
- 3.26 Tower Hamlets Council did not previously set an FPN amount under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, amended by section 58 of the Deregulation Act 2015.
- 3.27 Officers propose that the Council sets FPN amount for the enforcement of non-compliance with the Household Waste Regulations 2024 (Appendix A) and time bands by residents by issuance of FPN under s.46A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, amended by s.58 of the Deregulation Act 2015. Proposed

full amount of £80 payable within 28 days with a discounted rate of £50 if paid within 14 days of issue.

- 3.28 Normally, a fixed penalty notice is a conditional offer – one can accept guilt, pay the fixed penalty, and close the matter; or reject the fixed penalty notice and be summoned to court. There is no formal route of appeal. However, the Deregulation Act 2015 has changed FPNs for household waste receptacles; they have introduced a route of appeal and any unpaid FPNs are recoverable as civil debt, and are no longer a criminal offence.
- 3.29 Businesses will be issued £110 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) if they do not follow the time-banded collection restrictions. If businesses continue to put rubbish out incorrectly, they can be issued with further FPNs or prosecuted.
- 3.30 The Environmental Services Officers working in partnership with the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) will be using the existing FPN database to issue FPNs under both sections 46 and 47 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Any unpaid FPNs will be followed up as per the process described in the table above in 3.24.

Operational Delivery Plan

- 3.31 At the time of writing this report the operational delivery plan is being tested and finalised to ensure that time bands are appropriate for the areas where they are being introduced, as well as ensuring that collections can be completed as efficiently and economically as is possible. Waste operations team have conducted test runs on the roads selected for Time banding as part of the route optimisations programme.
- 3.32 According to reports run on the council's Whitespace application which uses data from the Gazetteer; there are over 3,900 commercial properties and over 9,000 residential properties on the thirty one time banded streets. Most of these are flats within communal properties (blocks) and will not be impacted by time banded collections.
- 3.33 Officers have carried out an exercise to identify the range of property numbers (domestic and businesses) within the proposed time banded streets which will be required to comply with the time bands for waste presentation. The council's Property & GIS Team Leader used the Gazetteer and estimated that approximately 2,680 commercial properties and 3,842 residential properties which will be impacted by time banding. A mapping exercise is being carried out which will be available on the council's website for the residents and businesses to access for information.
- 3.34 Environmental Services Officers will be engaging businesses and waste collection companies to ensure all can prepare and make the appropriate arrangements in order to comply with the Commercial Waste Regulations 2024.

Communication and implementation plan

- 3.35 Following approval of the regulations and time banding, certain steps are required to be taken. At least one month before implementation the following statutory requirements of the LLA 2007 will be undertaken:
- Formal notice of the regulations placed in two local newspapers circulating in the affected area.
 - Copies of the regulations will be made available on website and in hard copy at Town Hall.
 - Signage confirming the new regulation is in force will be placed at appropriate locations on the time banded streets.
- 3.36 In addition to the statutory requirements the following will also be undertaken ahead of implementation:
Letters will be sent to all affected residents, businesses and private waste collectors confirming the new collection time bands and implementation date.
- A communication plan will be agreed to promote details of new time banding arrangements. This will make use of all communications channels including local press, posters and social media. We will ensure widespread communication with BAME communities affected by this change.
 - Briefing and FAQs will be sent to all Members. A short Explanatory Memorandum in respect of the Regulations will be provided to explain in simple terms the effect of the Regulation and the principal provisions.
 - Details of the changes including FAQs will be put on the Councils web site.
 - The Customer Contact Centre team will be briefed and updated scripts made available for them in order to answer enquiries from the public.
 - Managers, Supervisors and frontline operational staff will be briefed to ensure consistent messages are provided in response to queries.

Enforcement Approach

- 3.37 To reduce the level of enforcement action required; clear, widespread communications will be provided ahead of implementation. This will be backed up with permanent street signage at appropriate locations and officers on site to educate and assist customers immediately following implementation. However as we are seeking to change behaviour that has been in place for some time it is likely that some enforcement action may be required initially.
- 3.38 Following implementation officers will be:
- available in the time banded streets daily to provide assistance, monitor compliance and assess the need for enforcement action for the first month of the new system. The level of on-site monitoring will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary after this.
 - Analyse queries and complaints to identify trends and issues requiring specific attention.
- 3.39 If specific problems persist then enforcement officers will:
- Investigate to obtain evidence and identify where waste or bins are originating from.
 - Contact the person or organisation responsible for the problem and issue a warning letter if appropriate.

- If further problems occur issue a notice, and or a fixed penalty notice.
- As a final stage formal prosecution may be undertaken against businesses.

CONSULTATIONS

- 3.40 As per the legislation there is no requirement to consult before the introduction of the time bands or regulations. The legislation states that the Council must advertise the changes in at least two local newspapers and provide a website and location where the details of the changes can be read. Once the notices are published, time bands can only come into effect no sooner than one month from the published date of the notice.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- 3.41 High level risks and mitigating measures associated with the introduction of regulations and time banded collections are set out below.

Risk	Mitigation
Non-compliance with regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High levels of enforcement resource may be required if residents and businesses do not follow the requirements of the regulations. The educational approach with clear communications before and officers on site to support customers immediately after implementation will reduce need for enforcement. ● Informal warning letters ● Formal enforcement action, such as legal notices, financial penalties for residents and fixed penalty notices and or prosecution for businesses.
Potential impact on businesses with varying operating hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing AM and PM time bands will mitigate this issue to a large degree, however, through the advertising we will hopefully identify those businesses that will need extra consideration.
Residents and business not aware of time band arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In line with legislative requirements, if the introduction of regulations and time bands are introduced by Council then the time bands will be advertised shortly after the full council meeting, which will run for a month, and the decision will also be published in two local newspapers. It will also be promoted through other relevant Council communications channels (e.g. social media and website). ● The Council will also write to all businesses and residents on the time banded streets.
Waste carriers not complying with the time bands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All waste carriers known to be operating within Tower Hamlets will receive written notification of the changes. ● Enforcement Officers will contact any waste carriers that are not complying with the time band to discuss any barriers. Any that continue to be non-compliant will face enforcement action.

4 **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Equalities screening tool was completed, and it determined that an equalities impact assessment/analysis is neither relevant nor proportionate.

Is there a potential that the policy, proposal or activity covered by this FP1 disproportionately adversely impacts (directly or indirectly) on any of the groups of people listed below?	Yes	No
<p>Please consider the impact on overall communities, residents, service users and council employees. If you have answered Yes to one or more of the groups of people listed above, a full Equality Impact Analysis is required.</p> <p>This should include people of different:</p>		
▪ Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ Religion or Philosophical belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ Gender re-assignment status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ People who have a Disability (physical, learning difficulties, mental health and medical conditions)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ Marriage and Civil Partnerships status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
▪ People who are Pregnant and on Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>You should also consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents and Carers ▪ Socio-economic status ▪ People with different Gender Identities e.g. Gender fluid, Non-binary etc. ▪ Other 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Local authorities have a number of different statutory powers and responsibilities in relation to street cleaning, recycling and waste collection. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended), the Controlled Waste Regulation 1992 (as amended) the London Local Authorities Acts 2007 (as amended). These acts set out the duty of the Local Authority to ensure that land in its area for which it is responsible is kept clear of litter and refuse.
- 5.2 The proposals will support improvements to the public realm in shopping frontage locations and help encourage customers, visitors, and businesses to the Borough.
- 5.3 Introducing the waste regulations and time bands will allow the council to deliver more effective and efficient waste collection and street cleansing operations. With reduced amounts of illegal waste, increased revenue from legal commercial waste activities and more cost effective street cleansing our best value duties will be more easily achieved.

Best Value Benefits of Time-Banded Collections

- 5.4 Time-banded collections offer several potential benefits that can contribute to cost-effectiveness and improved service delivery:
- 5.5 Environmental Benefits:
- Reduced waste on streets: This can lead to a cleaner environment, potentially reducing costs associated with litter and fly-tipping.
 - Improved recycling rates: By managing waste presentation, it might encourage better recycling habits.
- 5.6 Operational Benefits:
- Increased efficiency: Time-banded collections fit in with the route optimisation of collection routes, reducing fuel consumption and vehicle emissions.
 - Reduced health and safety risks: Fewer obstructions on the streets can improve safety for both residents and collection crews.
 - Potential for reduced collection frequency: In some cases, effective time-banded collections might allow for less frequent collections, saving costs.
- 5.7 Economic Benefits:
- Cost savings: Reduced fuel consumption, fewer missed collections, and less time spent dealing with waste-related issues can lead to overall cost savings for the council.
 - Reduced fly-tipping: By limiting the time waste is accessible, it can deter fly-tipping and the associated disposal cost.
- 5.8 Social Benefits:

- Improved quality of life: A cleaner environment can enhance residents' quality of life and sense of community.
- Reduced anti-social behaviour: By addressing waste-related issues, time-banded collections can help to reduce anti-social behaviour.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This report is seeking approval to introduce the Tower Hamlets Waste Regulations 2024, enabling the introduction of time bands for the collection of domestic and commercial waste on selected high streets, town centres, and main commercial areas in the borough and the ability to enforce these time bands, introducing fixed penalty notices for non-compliance, set at £50 if paid within 14 days, increasing to £80 if paid within 28 days.
- 6.2 There are a number of costs associated with implementing time banded collections including advertising, sign-posting all streets subject to a time band, writing to businesses and residents on the new or adjusted time banded roads, additional officers required to monitor and enforce throughout the day and to deliver education and enforcement. These costs will be met from the £5m one-off growth for the Mayors Waste Improvement Programme in 2024/25.
- 6.3 There is no budget provision to meet any additional costs beyond 2024/25 and any increase in costs will need to be met from the Fixed Penalty Notice receipts received. There will be an expectation that the service will utilise the combined THEO and ESO resources within the budgeted establishment in order to minimise any ongoing revenue costs.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) imposes a duty on waste collection authorities to collect household waste (subject to certain exceptions) and, where requested to do so, to collect commercial waste. Tower Hamlets is a waste collection authority under EPA 1990. The manner and frequency of collections are a matter for each waste collection authority to determine.
- 7.2 Sections 46(1) and 47(2) of EPA 1990 allow the authority to serve notice on an occupier of premises to require waste to be placed in receptacles of a kind and number specified. S.46 applies to household waste and s.47 to commercial waste and the basis for serving such notices differs. Such notice may also make provision as to the size and construction of the receptacle, the placing of them, the substances or articles which may or may not be placed in them, and steps to be taken by the occupier of the premises to facilitate access to them. It would therefore be possible to introduce timed collections by way of the issue of individual s.46 and s.47 notices. However, a notice would need to be given to each individual premises and, as the notices do not run with the land, fresh notices would need to be served as and when changes in occupation came to the authority's attention. This would be administratively cumbersome and impracticable.

- 7.3 Part 2 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007 (LLAA 2007) permits the authority to make regulations that have effect on all occupiers as if the requirements imposed were requirements imposed in an s.46 or s.47 notice.
- 7.4 Sections 20(4) and 22(4) LLAA 2007 provide that any requirement in regulations relating to the period during which receptacles can be placed on the highway will not be enforceable on any side of a road unless they are described on a sign displayed on that side of the road. It will therefore be necessary to ensure that the signage complies with these requirements and is placed at sufficient intervals on both sides of the road. It may also be necessary to regularly check the signs for defacement or removal.
- 7.5 Prior to making any such regulations, ss.20(5) and 22(5) LLAA 2007 require that a notice is published in at least two newspapers circulating in the borough. The notice must state the making of the regulations, the date on which they come into force, and the general effect of the regulations. It must also state an address at which the regulations may be inspected during reasonable office hours and purchased for a reasonable amount and a website address at which they may be viewed. The regulations cannot come into force earlier than one month from the date of publication of the notice.
- 7.6 S.20(10) and s.22(10) provide that the making of regulations does not prevent an authority from issuing notice to an individual occupier of premises under s.46 or s.47 EPA 1990.
- 7.7 Breach of regulations made under LLAA 2007 allows the authority to issue a penalty notice. In the case of household waste, the penalty process is essentially the same as that under s.46 and criminal enforcement is not an available option in either instance.
- 7.8 The decision is a “local choice” function by virtue of Regulation 3 of and Schedule 2 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. The Council’s Constitution provides that all local choice functions are non-executive functions and remain the responsibility of the Council.
- 7.9 S.101 Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to delegate the discharge of its functions to a committee, sub-committee or officer.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

Appendices

- APPENDIX A - Household Waste Regulations
- APPENDIX B - Commercial Waste Regulations
- APPENDIX C - Timebands

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

Or state N/A

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HOUSEHOLD WASTE REGULATIONS 2024

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

WASTE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER
LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACT 2007



Tower Hamlets Council
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BJ

HOUSEHOLD WASTE REGULATIONS 2024

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4. Bulky waste

5. Non-Clinical waste/ offensive waste

6. Clinical waste

7. Notices under Section 46 Environmental Protection Act 1990

In these Regulations:-

“clinical waste” and “hazardous waste” has the meaning given to it by the 2012 Regulations.

“collection” means the emptying of bins or caddies or the collecting of recycling sacks.

“collection point” means any point where waste is placed by the waste producer for collection by the council.

“HMO” or “House in Multiple Occupation” means any property that is occupied by more than one person whereby the occupants are not part of the same family (or partners).

“household” for the purpose of this document refers to any property that is liable for council tax.

“non-time banded street” means any street or public highway where no specific time bands exist but where waste presented for collection on a public highway must be removed within 2 ½ hours of its deposit.

“Public highway” means any street maintainable at public expense for the purposes of the Highways Act 1980.

“receptacle(s)” means any permitted container for waste including sacks.

“recyclable” is defined for the purpose of these regulations as clean material accepted by the materials recovery facility through Tower Hamlets Council’s contract with North London Waste Authority via the green sack service.

“residual waste” means anything no longer wanted by a household that is not deemed reusable or recyclable.

“reusable” is defined for the purpose of these regulations as anything that is no longer wanted by a household that could still be used by another person.

“storage point” means any point where waste is stored prior to placement at the collection point.

“street” has the meaning given to it by section 343 of the Public Health Act 1936.

“time banded streets” means streets where the presentation of waste on the street or public highway to facilitate collection is limited to times specified on signs displayed in that street. (There will be two time bands lasting two hour each for each street and will apply only on the side of the street on which signs are displayed)

“waste” means all unwanted materials and residual waste - specifically unrecyclable black bag waste.

1. Street-level Properties

1.1 Definition of a kerbside collection property

1.1.1 If a household is required to present their waste in sacks on the pavement outside their property then it is by definition a 'kerbside collection property' for the purpose of these regulations.

1.1.2 There may be instances where households on 'kerbside collection property' provide their own receptacles where permitted to do so by the Council. These households are also defined as a 'kerbside collection property' for the purpose of these regulations.

1.1.3 **Any black sack placed out for collection should not be** excessively heavy, and or must not present a health and safety risk to our crew. Where the collection crew cannot safely pick up a bag it will not be collected. The householder, or person responsible for the waste storage, will be required to remove sufficient material from the bag so that it can be safely collected on the next scheduled collection day.

1.2 Type and numbers of receptacles for household waste from kerbside collection properties

1.2.1 All households on kerbside collection for residual waste are required to present their waste in their own black sacks made of robust quality so as not to allow any spillage or seepage onto the public highway or at the collection point.

1.2.2 In the instances that households are permitted to provide their own dustbins, the bin must be BS EN840 Standard compliant.

1.2.3 The Council will provide residents on kerbside collection properties with clear recycling sacks for disposal of the expected production of recyclable waste from their premises. Clear sacks are delivered twice yearly but residents can order more as required. All cardboard is to be broken down and flattened before placing it in your recycling sack/container.

1.2.4 The Council will provide recycling wheelie bins to ground floor kerbside collection properties with a front garden on request. The recycling bin must be stored within the curtilage of the property and not on the public highway.

1.2.5 **Currently, food waste collection is available to kerbside collection properties who live on the ground floor. The Council will provide residents with free receptacles for the disposal of food waste. This includes a 7 litre kitchen caddy for use within the property, a 23 litre kerbside caddy for presentation of waste for collection and disposable liners for the 7 litre caddy. These items will be delivered only on request by the household and remain the property of the Council at all times.**

1.2.6 Household waste receptacles shall be maintained by the occupiers of the relevant premises in a reasonable state for storage of waste without sharp edges or holes and with all handles in good condition. They should be fit for purpose and not pose any health and/or safety risk to Council operatives.

1.2.7 A household waste receptacle shall not be considered to be suitable if it allows waste or fluids of any kind to escape or cause litter.

1.3 Placing of receptacles for household waste from kerbside collection properties for the purpose of facilitating the emptying of them

1.3.1 Any container permitted for the presentation of waste or recycling should be presented for collection within the property boundary where the boundary wall/fence meets the highway unless otherwise stated by the council or where a pre-agreed assisted collection is in place. If properties are located down a private driveway/access road, then the containers must be presented within the property boundary where the private driveway/access road meets the adopted highway unless otherwise agreed/directed by an officer of the Council.

1.3.2 Any bin permitted for the presentation of residual waste must be presented for collection with the bin lid completely closed and all content contained within the bin. Placing residual waste out for collection outside of the bin is not permitted and may be subject to enforcement action.

1.3.3 Waste receptacles may be stored or presented for collection on the public highway only when and where permitted to do so by the Council.

1.3.4 No waste should be stored or presented for collection on the public highway unless specifically permitted by the Council.

1.3.5 Households with fences higher than 4ft or otherwise preventing sight of the receptacles on the property must place the receptacles out for collection on the public highway. They are permitted to do so from 21:00 pm the day before the scheduled collection and the bin must be out no later than 07.00 am on the day scheduled for collection by the Council. These bins must be moved off the public highway by 21:00 pm on the day that the collection has taken place.

1.4 The substances or articles which may or may not be put into kerbside collection property waste receptacles

1.4.1 Recyclable material must not be disposed of in residual waste receptacles. A list of materials that the Council accepts for recycling can be found on the Council's website recycling pages. Food waste must not be disposed of in residual waste bins.

1.4.2 Non-recyclable materials must not be placed in the recycling bags, including nappies and textiles. Food waste must not be disposed of in recycling bags.

1.4.3 Food waste must not be disposed of in any bin other than the food waste bin

1.4.4 Bulky and reusable items should not be disposed of through household bins.

1.4.5 Clinical waste must be disposed of as directed by the resident's GP or hospital.

2. Communal Waste Properties

2.1 Definition of a communal waste property

2.1.1 If a household disposes of their waste and recycling in a shared communal bin of any size, then it is defined as a 'communal waste property' for the purpose of these regulations.

2.2 Type and numbers of receptacles for household waste from communal waste properties

2.2.1 Where the Council, owners, occupiers, landlords or managing agents of premises provide communal bins for waste and recycling, they must comply with the Council's policies for such provision as per the Council's Household Recycling and Rubbish Collection Policy. This includes the number, size, construction and placement of the bins and this provision must be approved by the Council's Waste Strategy Team through the planning process.

2.2.2 All receptacles to be emptied or collected by the Council shall be hired or provided by the Council or sourced privately to the agreed BS EN 840 standard.

2.2.3 A communal food waste bin will be provided by the Council.

2.2.4 A household waste receptacle shall not be considered to be suitable if it allows waste or fluids of any kind to escape or cause litter.

2.2.5 All communal bins provided by the Council, either free of charge or through a hire agreement, remain the property of the Council.

2.2.6 You don't need sacks to recycle. Empty your recycling into the communal recycling bins loose or use any clear sack.

2.2.7 The Council will provide residents with free receptacles for the disposal of food waste. This includes a 7 litre caddy for use within the property and disposable liners for the 7 litre caddy. These items will be delivered only on request by the household and remain the property of the Council at all times.

2.2.8 Household waste receptacles shall be maintained by the providers/ hirers of the receptacle in a reasonable state for storage of waste without sharp edges or holes and with all handles in good condition. They should be fit for purpose and not pose any health and/or safety risk to Council operatives.

2.2.9 Waste should not be placed on the floor of the bins storage area. Waste on the floor will not be deemed to be presented for collection and will not be removed.

2.2.10 In all cases the storage point or collection point for any household waste must be physically separated from any storage point or collection point for trade waste.

2.3 Placing of receptacles for household waste from communal waste properties for the purpose of facilitating the emptying of them

2.3.1 The placement of communal waste and recycling bins must comply with the Council's policies as per the Council's Household Recycling and Rubbish Collection Policy document and be sited no further than 10 metres from the collection point.

2.3.2 If this is not possible then there must be a waste strategy in place explaining how the bins will be serviced that has been approved by the Council through the planning process.

2.3.3 As per the Council’s Household Recycling and Rubbish Collection Policy document, there must be an area provided in or near to the communal bins for the placement of bulky waste prior to collection.

2.3.4 All collection points for household waste shall be fully accessible to the Council.

2.4 The substances or articles which may or may not be put into communal household waste receptacles

2.4.1 Recyclable material must not be disposed of in residual waste receptacles. A list of materials that the Council accepts for recycling can be found on the Council’s website recycling pages.

2.4.2 Non-recyclable materials must not be placed in the recycling bins, including nappies and textiles. Food waste must not be disposed of in recycling bins.

2.4.3 Food waste must not be disposed of in any bin other than the food waste bin where the property receives food waste collection service.

2.4.4 Bulky and reusable items should not be disposed of through household bins.

2.4.5 Clinical waste must be disposed of as directed by the resident’s GP or hospital.

3. Time Banded Properties

3.1 Definition of a time banded property

3.1.1 If a household is located on a street designated as a time banded street and has not been provided with a receptacle for waste containment then it is defined as a ‘time banded property’ for the purpose of these regulations.

3.1.2 If a property on a time banded road has been provided with a receptacle for waste or is communal waste property then it is not a ‘kerbside collection property’ as per section 1 regardless of its location on a time banded road.

3.1.3 The streets where timebands are in place are shown in the table (it should be noted that they are subject to change to suit business needs and so Tower Hamlets Council’s website should be consulted for the most current version):

TOWER HAMLETS WASTE SERVICES LOOP VEHICLE COLLECTION TIMES AM&PM (MONDAY -SUNDAY)							
Street Name	Property Nos.	Business	Residents	Time Band AM	Collection AM	Time Band PM	Collection PM
East India Dock Road	4 -8, 10A-50	Y N	Y Y	05.25 - 07.25	07:25-09:25	16.05-18.05	18:05-20:05

Commercial Road	162-240, 378-382, 406, 410, 412, 490, 502-514, 526, 528, 536-548, 556-576	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	05.25 07.25	-	07:25- 09:25	16.10- 18.10	18:10- 20:10
Cannon Street Road	113-187 116-130 132-170 172-178	Y N Y Y	Y Y N Y	05.40- 07.40		07:40- 09:40	16.25- 18.25	18:25- 20:25
New Road	11-135 8-34	Y Y	Y Y	05.55- 07.55		07:55- 09:55	16.40- 18.40	18:40- 20:40
Commercial Road	30, 36A, 38-82, 86-160	Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y	05.55- 07.55		07:55- 09:55	16.40- 18.40	18:40- 20:40
Leman Street	15, 117-143 40, 52-70	Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y	06.05- 08.05		08:05- 10:05	16.55- 18.55	18:55- 20:55
Whitechapel High Street	122, 126-133,	Y Y	Y Y	06.15- 08.15		08:15- 10:15	17.05- 19.05	19:05- 21:05
White Church Lane	3-21 2-10 16-24	Y Y Y	Y Y N	06.15- 08.15		08:15- 10:15	17.05- 19.05	19:05- 21:05
Whitechapel High Street	65 -71	Y	Y	06.25- 08.25		08:25- 10:25	17.25- 19.25	19:25- 21:25
Commercial Street	41A, 43, 43A, 47, 79, 91, 103, 105A, 105, 107A, 109, 111A, 117, 137-143, 149-159, 167,	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y N N N N	06.40- 08.40		08:40- 10:40	17.30- 19.30	19:30- 21:30
Fashion Street	3-29 31-59	Y Y	N Y	06.55- 08.55		08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Middlesex Street	86-92 94-102	Y Y	Y N	06.55- 08.55		08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Cobb Street	1-9 2-18	Y Y	N N	06.55- 08.55		08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40

Bell Lane	1-39 6-16	Y Y	N N	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Wentworth Street	1-79 2-64	Y Y	Y N	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Middlesex Street	36-84	Y	Y	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
New Goulston Street	2-14 1-13	Y Y	N N	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Goulston Street	36-50 41-47	Y Y	N N	07.10- 09.10	09:10- 11:10	17.55- 19.55	19:55- 21:55
Whitechapel High Street	96-74, 101, 102-105,	Y Y Y	Y N N	07.10- 09.10	09:10- 11:10	17.55- 19.55	19:55- 21:55
Osborn Street	3 5-17, 29-33 2-20, 22-42	Y Y Y Y Y	Y N N N Y	07.10- 09.10	09:10- 11:10	18.05- 20.05	19:55- 21:55
Brick Lane (osborne to Bacon)	2-12 14-28 40-138 154-198 9-11 13-27, 35-39, 41-47, 53-57, 59, 61-63, 65-79, 81-95, 97-101, 125-141,	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y N Y Y N N Y Y Y Y N Y N N Y	07.25- 09.25	09:25- 11:25	18.05- 20.05	20:05- 22:05
Cheshire Street	1-19 2-40	Y Y	Y Y	07.25- 09.25	09:25- 11:25	18.05- 20.05	20:05- 22:05
Brick Lane	200-226 143-149	Y Y	Y Y	07.25- 09.25	09:25- 11:25	18.15- 20.15	20:15- 22:15
Bethnal Green Road	64-118 15-51	Y Y	N N	07.25- 09.25	09:25- 11:25	18.15- 20.15	20:15- 22:15
Redchurch Street (via Ezra St)	9-117 28-58	Y Y	Y Y	07.25- 09.25	09:25- 11:25	18.20- 20.20	20:20- 22:20
Hanbury Street	4-66 88-96 17-41 43-67 103-111	Y Y Y Y Y	Y N N Y N	07.40- 09.40	09:40- 11:40	18.40- 20.40	20:40- 22:40
Princelet Street	31-65 32-46	Y Y	Y Y	07.40- 09.40	09:40- 11:40	18.40- 20.40	20:40- 22:40
Bethnal Green Road	123-161 213-487	Y Y	Y Y	07.40- 09.40	09:40- 11:40	18.40- 20.40	20:40- 22:40
Cambridge Heath Road	339-341, 343, 349, 351-375, 385-399,	Y Y Y Y Y	N N Y Y N	07.40- 09.40	09:40- 11:40	18.40- 20.40	20:40- 22:40

Hackney Road	2- 12A 28, 114 - 152, 154, 176-184 186-200, 246-252, 254-288, 292-312, 322-328 332-340 388-390, 400 - 406C, 408-412, 430A, 472 [8 UNITS]	Y Y	Y Y Y Y N Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	07.40- 09.40	09:40- 11:40	19.25- 21.25	21:25- 23:25
Hackney Road	375, 389 -399, 443, 461-467, 469 -531,	Y Y Y Y Y	N Y Y Y Y	07.40- 09.40	09:40- 11:40	19.25- 21.25	21:25- 23:25
Cambridge Heath Road	475-505, 507 -513, 517A, 288 -280, 270, 274- 278, 256, 242-232, 204A, 204,	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y N N Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	07.40- 09.40	09:40- 11:40	19.25- 21.25	21:25- 23:25
Bethnal Green Road	120-160 216-492	Y Y	Y Y	08.25- 10.25	10:25- 12:25	19.40- 21.40	21:40- 23:40
Whitechapel Road	1-13, 15-19, 21-29, 31-45, 57-59, 75 -unit 3, 75 -Unit 4, 75 - Unit 2, 97-137, 183-195, 197 - 315, 333 -337	Y Y	N N Y N N N N N N Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	08.55- 10.55	10:55- 12:55	19.50- 21.50	21:50- 23:50

Mile End Road	1-25, 33-35, 39-43, 45-47, 53-67 69-89, 91-95, 169A, 169, 191, 193, 199-207 209-211, 213-223 241-243 245-253, 359-381B 383A-391 395 -399	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	N Y Y Y Y N N Y Y Y Y N Y Y N Y Y Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:25- 23:25
Bow Road	119-125, 161-175, 181-191, 199	Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:55- 23:55
Bow Road	50, 68-74, 116, 116B,	Y Y Y Y	N Y Y Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:55- 23:55
Mile End Road	560-566A 572A -588 630 -648	Y Y Y	Y N Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:55- 23:55
Burdett Road [Mile End Rd to Eric St]	1, 11, 21-25 27-107	Y Y	N Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:55- 23:55
Mile End Road	82-86, 88, 90-102, 104 106-110, 112-150, 154-158, 160-172, 182-184 186-230 422-426, 552-558,	Y Y Y N Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y N	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:55- 23:55
Whitechapel Road	2-32, 38-100, 102, 104-106, 108-146, 176 -178, 208 -208A, 214 -234,	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y N Y Y Y N Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	20.05- 22.05	22:05- 00:05
Vine Court	1-13 2-8	Y Y	N Y	09.55- 11.55	11:55- 13:55	20.05- 22.05	22:05- 00:05

Commercial Road	817-787, 667-653, 641-633, 595-601, 373-303, 275-269, 259-255, 237-231, 225-219, 199-193, 187-159, 151-93, 79, 33	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	10.05- 12.05	12:05- 14:05	20.05- 22.05	22:05- 00:05
Burdett Road	318 -334	Y	Y	10.25- 12.25	12:25- 14:25	20.25- 22.25	22:25- 00:25
Grove Road	2A - 10A 12, 12A-12B 51 - 53 101,	Y N Y Y Y	Y Y N N Y	10.25.12.25	12:25- 14:25	20.25- 22.25	22:25- 00:25
Roman Road (grove to St Stephens)	345-349, 351-369A, 371-389, 391-407, 409-425, 429-445, 449-471, 473-503,	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	10.25- 12.25	12:25- 14:25	20.25- 22.25	22:25- 00:25
Roman Road (Parnell to Cambridge)	511A -521, 531 - 577, 579 -597, 599 -613, 615-633. 510-630 414-468, 470-480, 462-506, 50, 80-100, 136-138, 140-170, 230-238, 19 - 35, 37-49, 87-141, 191-211,	Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y ? Y N Y N N N N Y Y Y Y Y Y N	10.40- 12.40	12:40- 14:40	20.25- 22.25	22:25- 00:25
Cambridge Heath Road	148-138 86-64, 28-18. 283-303 179-183	Y Y Y Y N	Y Y Y Y Y	10.40- 12.40	12:40- 14:40	20.40- 22.40	22:40- 00:40
East India Dock Road	159-185 187-195 197-267	Y Y Y	N N Y	10.50- 12.50	12:50- 14:50	20.50- 22.50	22:50- 00:50

3.2 Type and numbers of receptacles for household waste from time banded properties

3.2.1 Time banded properties are permitted to place their residual waste out for collection on the public highway (pavement) in black sacks/bin liners during the time bands for their street.

3.2.2 The Council does not provide residual waste containment to time banded properties.

3.2.3 Any residual waste sack placed out for collection should weigh no more than 5kg.

3.2.4 The Council will provide residents on time banded properties with clear recycling sacks for disposal of the expected production of recyclable waste from their premises. Clear sacks are delivered twice yearly but residents can order more as required.

3.2.5 Time banded properties are permitted to place their recycling out for collection on the public highway (pavement) in the Council-provided clear sacks or their own clear sacks during the time bands for their street.

3.2.6 Any recycling sack placed out for collection should weigh no more than 7kg.

3.2.7 Time banded properties are not permitted to place food waste on the public highway at any time unless specifically permitted by the council.

3.3 Placing of receptacles for household waste from time banded properties for the purpose of facilitating the emptying of them

3.3.1 Time banded properties are permitted to place their waste and recycling out on the public highway (pavement) for collection in the appropriate receptacles only during the time bands for their street.

3.3.2 The receptacle(s) should be placed on the highway close to the curb outside the address where the waste was produced. It should not be placed in such a location where it impedes movement of pedestrians on the pavement or access to business properties.

3.3.3 If the receptacle(s) have not been collected after 2 hours after the time band has ended then the receptacle(s) should be brought back in and placed out again for the next time band.

3.4 The substances or articles which may or may not be put into household waste receptacles from time banded properties

3.4.1 Recyclable material must not be disposed of in residual waste receptacles. A list of materials that the Council accepts for recycling can be found at the Council's website recycling pages.

3.4.2 Non-recyclable materials must not be placed in the recycling bins/sacks, including nappies and textiles.

3.4.3 Bulky and reusable items should not be disposed of through household bins.

3.4.4 Clinical waste must be disposed of as directed by the resident's GP or hospital.

4. Bulky waste collections

4.1 Unless otherwise agreed by the Council, when a request for collection of bulky waste from a premises producing household waste is made, the bulky waste shall be placed for collection either on the footway immediately adjacent to the front door/gate or entrance way of the premises (but not so as to block access to or exit from neighbouring premises and allowing safe passage on the footway for pedestrians to pass unimpeded) or visible and readily accessible within the door/gate or entrance way.

4.2. When a request is made to the Council to collect bulky waste, that waste must be readily removable by two operatives without the use of mechanical handling aids.

4.3 Where the Council agrees to collect bulky waste from a collection point not on the street immediately adjacent to the front door/gate or entranceway of the premises or readily accessible within the front door/gate or entranceway, then the occupier shall take such steps as are required to facilitate collection. Such steps may include the removal of obstructions and protecting fixed and mobile property from accidental damage.

4.4 Where the Council agrees to collect bulky waste from premises, the bulky waste shall be placed on the street no earlier than 21:00 pm the day before the scheduled collection and no later than 07.00 am on the day scheduled for collection.

4.5 Any bulky waste should be clearly marked with the order reference number. No waste other than that specified in the bulky waste collection order should be placed out for collection.

5 Non-Clinical waste/ offensive waste

5.1 Non-Clinical waste/ offensive waste describes healthcare and similar municipal waste, apart from clinical and hazardous waste. Examples include nappies, feminine hygiene products and incontinence waste. This is non-infectious waste and does not require specialist treatment or disposal.

5.2 The Council will collect non-clinical / offensive waste from residential properties where we have received a referral from either a GP or a hospital and the amount of offensive waste totals more than 7kgs per week.

5.3 If the total amount of offensive waste is less than 7kgs per week then the waste can be placed in the normal residential waste stream.

5.4 If a resident has more than 7kgs of offensive waste to dispose of but it will not be routinely produced, then the Council will likely collect it as a 'one-off' collection.

6 Clinical waste

6.1 Clinical waste is defined as any waste which may cause infection to any person coming into contact with it. This may consist wholly or partly of: human or animal tissue; blood or other body fluids; excretions; drugs or pharmaceutical products; swabs or dressings; syringes; needles or other sharp instruments. It is waste which unless rendered safe may prove hazardous to any person coming into contact with it.

6.2 This service is only available to residential households in Tower Hamlets, the Council cannot collect clinical waste without a referral from a GP or healthcare professional.

6.3 You can get referrals for the service from NHS surgeries in Tower Hamlets that have access to the online referral form via the EMIS system. Application information can be found on the council website - [Clinical and healthcare waste collections \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/clinical-and-healthcare-waste-collections)

6.3 Drugs or pharmaceuticals are not permitted in the regular waste or offensive waste collections; drugs or pharmaceuticals need to be returned to the GP or chemist where they came from.

6.4 Householders MUST NOT dispose of syringes, needles and other hazardous healthcare waste in either the general rubbish or recycling streams.

7. Notices under Section 46 Environmental Protection Act 1990

7.1 Where on or after 1st December 2024 the Council serves a notice on the occupier of any premises, then the specific requirements in such a notice shall take precedence over any conflicting provision in these regulations.

7.2 Where the occupier of a domestic property, a caravan or a moored vessel used wholly for the purposes of living accommodation is of the opinion that because of age or disability it is not possible to comply with any regulation, then that person or his agent may apply to the Council for exemption from specified requirements imposed by the Council to support the application for an assisted collection. If you do not have anyone to help you move your rubbish and recycling out for collection, we would like to help. To request an assisted collection or for more information please contact us on 020 7364 5000.

7.3 For the purposes of section 23(4) of the London Local Authorities Act 2007 (penalty charges) an application under regulations 3-8 shall be treated as a reasonable excuse until the Council either rejects the application in writing or issues a notice to take precedence over any or all of the specified provisions in these regulations for such period as the Council considers to be reasonable.

7.4 Compliance with these regulations shall not be taken to constitute compliance with other legislative provisions including those legislative provisions which relate to the licensed storage, treatment and disposal of controlled waste. In the event of conflict between these regulations and any statutory provision, the statutory provisions shall take precedence.

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COMMERCIAL WASTE REGULATIONS 2024

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

WASTE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER
LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACT 2007



Tower Hamlets Council
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BJ

In this document:-

“clinical waste” has the meaning given to it by the 2012 Regulations

“clinical commercial waste” means clinical waste and offensive waste as specified in the table at Schedule 1, paragraph 3, point 12 of the 2012 Regulations and other than household waste.

“collection point” means any point where waste is placed by the waste producer for collection by the registered waste carrier”

“commercial waste” means any commercial waste produced by or originating from a commercial business or premises

“controlled waste” has the meaning given to it in Schedule 1 of the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012

“non-time banded street” means any street or public highway where no specific time bands exist but where waste presented for collection on a public highway must be removed within 2 ½ hours of its deposit

“public highway” means any street maintainable at public expense for the purposes of the Highways Act 1980

“receptacle(s)” means commercial waste refuse sacks or commercial waste wheeled or bulk bins

“registered waste carrier” means a person or company who is authorized to receive and transport waste and who is registered with and licensed by the Environment Agency

“spoiling” means the rendering of waste unmanageable in the way intended

“storage point” means any point where waste is stored prior to placement at the collection point”

“street” has the meaning given to it by section 343 of the Public Health Act 1936

“time banded streets” means streets where presentation of waste on the street or public highway to facilitate collection is limited to times specified on signs displayed in that street. (There will be two time bands lasting one hour each for each street and will apply only on the side of the street on which signs are displayed)

“waste holder” means any waste producer, waste carrier, waste dealer, waste broker or waste manager (see Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice November 2018)

“waste producer” means a person or company who is responsible for a premises from which commercial waste is produced

“wheeled bin” means a two wheeled plastic bin of capacity under four hundred litres.

1. Time limits on placing of receptacles on non-time banded streets

1.1 On streets where no time bands are specified and no signs are displayed on the same side of the street as any premises where commercial waste is produced, waste must be collected within 2 hours of it being presented for collection on the street or public highway. Waste not collected within that 2 hour time frame must be removed from the street.

2. Time limits on placing of receptacles on time banded streets

2.1 The occupiers of premises where commercial waste is produced on time banded streets shall present their waste for collection within the time bands for their street in sufficient and suitable commercial waste receptacles that are clearly marked with the name or identifiable logo of their chosen registered waste carrier. If waste is not collected within 2 hours of the end of any time band, it must be removed from the street.

2.2 The streets where time bands are in place are shown in the table (it should be noted that they are subject to change to suit business needs and so Council's website should be consulted for the most current version):

TOWER HAMLETS WASTE SERVICES LOOP VEHICLE COLLECTION TIMES AM&PM (MONDAY -SUNDAY)							
Street Name	Property Nos.	Business	Residents	Time Band AM	Collection AM	Time Band PM	Collection PM
East India Dock Road	4 -8, 10A-50	Y N	Y Y	05.25 - 07.25	07:25- 09:25	16.05- 18.05	18:05- 20:05
Commercial Road	162-240, 378-382, 406, 410, 412, 490, 502-514, 526, 528, 536-548, 556-576	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	05.25 - 07.25	07:25- 09:25	16.10- 18.10	18:10- 20:10
Cannon Street Road	113-187 116-130 132-170 172-178	Y N Y Y	Y Y N Y	05.40- 07.40	07:40- 09:40	16.25- 18.25	18:25- 20:25
New Road	11-135 8-34	Y Y	Y Y	05.55- 07.55	07:55- 09:55	16.40- 18.40	18:40- 20:40
Commercial Road	30, 36A, 38-82, 86-160	Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y	05.55- 07.55	07:55- 09:55	16.40- 18.40	18:40- 20:40
Leman Street	15, 117-143 40, 52-70	Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y	06.05- 08.05	08:05- 10:05	16.55- 18.55	18:55- 20:55
Whitechapel High Street	122, 126-133,	Y Y	Y Y	06.15- 08.15	08:15- 10:15	17.05- 19.05	19:05- 21:05

White Church Lane	3-21 2-10 16-24	Y Y Y	Y Y N	06.15- 08.15	08:15- 10:15	17.05- 19.05	19:05- 21:05
Whitechapel High Street	65 -71	Y	Y	06.25- 08.25	08:25- 10:25	17.25- 19.25	19:25- 21:25
Commercial Street	41A, 43, 43A, 47, 79, 91, 103, 105A, 105, 107A, 109, 111A, 117, 137-143, 149-159, 167,	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y N N N	06.40- 08.40	08:40- 10:40	17.30- 19.30	19:30- 21:30
Fashion Street	3-29 31-59	Y Y	N Y	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Middlesex Street	86-92 94-102	Y Y	Y N	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Cobb Street	1-9 2-18	Y Y	N N	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Bell Lane	1-39 6-16	Y Y	N N	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Wentworth Street	1-79 2-64	Y Y	Y N	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Middlesex Street	36-84	Y	Y	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
New Goulston Street	2-14 1-13	Y Y	N N	06.55- 08.55	08:55- 10:55	17.40- 19.40	19:40- 21:40
Goulston Street	36-50 41-47	Y Y	N N	07.10- 09.10	09:10- 11:10	17.55- 19.55	19:55- 21:55
Whitechapel High Street	96-74, 101, 102-105,	Y Y Y	Y N N	07.10- 09.10	09:10- 11:10	17.55- 19.55	19:55- 21:55
Osborn Street	3 5-17, 29-33 2-20, 22-42	Y Y Y Y Y	Y N N N Y	07.10- 09.10	09:10- 11:10	18.05- 20.05	19:55- 21:55

Brick Lane (osborne to Bacon)	2-12	Y	Y	07.25-09.25	09:25-11:25	18.05-20.05	20:05-22:05
	14-28	Y	N				
	40-138	Y	Y				
	154-198	Y	Y				
	9-11	Y	N				
	13-27,	Y	N				
	35-39,	Y	Y				
	41-47,	Y	Y				
	53-57,	Y	Y				
	59,	Y	N				
	61-63,	Y	Y				
	65-79,	Y	Y				
	81-95,	Y	N				
	97-101,	Y	N				
125-141,	Y	Y					
Cheshire Street	1-19	Y	Y	07.25-09.25	09:25-11:25	18.05-20.05	20:05-22:05
	2-40	Y	Y				
Brick Lane	200-226	Y	Y	07.25-09.25	09:25-11:25	18.15-20.15	20:15-22:15
	143-149	Y	Y				
Bethnal Green Road	64-118	Y	N	07.25-09.25	09:25-11:25	18.15-20.15	20:15-22:15
	15-51	Y	N				
Redchurch Street (via Ezra St)	9-117	Y	Y	07.25-09.25	09:25-11:25	18.20-20.20	20:20-22:20
	28-58	Y	Y				
Hanbury Street	4-66	Y	Y	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	18.40-20.40	20:40-22:40
	88-96	Y	N				
	17-41	Y	N				
	43-67	Y	Y				
	103-111	Y	N				
Princelet Street	31-65	Y	Y	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	18.40-20.40	20:40-22:40
	32-46	Y	Y				
Bethnal Green Road	123-161	Y	Y	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	18.40-20.40	20:40-22:40
	213-487	Y	Y				
Cambridge Heath Road	339-341,	Y	N	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	18.40-20.40	20:40-22:40
	343,	Y	N				
	349,	Y	Y				
	351-375,	Y	Y				
	385-399,	Y	N				
Hackney Road	2- 12A	Y	Y	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	19.25-21.25	21:25-23:25
	28,	Y	Y				
	114 - 152,	Y	Y				
	154,	Y	Y				
	176-184	Y	Y				
	186-200,	Y	Y				
	246-252,	Y	N				
	254-288,	Y	Y				
	292-312,	Y	Y				
	322-328	Y	Y				
	332-340	Y	Y				
	388-390,	Y	Y				
	400 - 406C,	Y	Y				
	408-412,	Y	Y				
	430A,	Y	Y				
	472 [8 UNITS]	Y	Y				

Hackney Road	375, 389 -399, 443, 461-467, 469 -531,	Y Y Y Y Y	N Y Y Y Y	07.40- 09.40	09:40- 11:40	19.25- 21.25	21:25- 23:25
Cambridge Heath Road	475-505, 507 -513, 517A, 288 -280, 270, 274- 278, 256, 242-232, 204A, 204,	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y N N Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	07.40- 09.40	09:40- 11:40	19.25- 21.25	21:25- 23:25
Bethnal Green Road	120-160 216-492	Y Y	Y Y	08.25- 10.25	10:25- 12:25	19.40- 21.40	21:40- 23:40
Whitechapel Road	1-13, 15-19, 21-29, 31-45, 57-59, 75 -unit 3, 75 -Unit 4, 75 - Unit 2, 97-137, 183-195, 197 - 315, 333 -337	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	N N Y N N N N N Y Y Y Y Y	08.55- 10.55	10:55- 12:55	19.50- 21.50	21:50- 23:50
Mile End Road	1-25, 33-35, 39-43, 45-47, 53-67 69-89, 91-95, 169A, 169, 191, 193, 199-207 209-211, 213-223 241-243 245-253, 359-381B 383A-391 395 -399	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	N Y Y Y Y N N Y Y Y Y Y N Y Y N Y Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:25- 23:25
Bow Road	119-125, 161-175, 181-191, 199	Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:55- 23:55
Bow Road	50, 68-74, 116, 116B,	Y Y Y Y	N Y Y Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:55- 23:55

Mile End Road	560-566A 572A -588 630 -648	Y Y Y	Y N Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:55- 23:55
Burdett Road [Mile End Rd to Eric St]	1, 11, 21-25 27-107	Y Y	N Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:55- 23:55
Mile End Road	82-86, 88, 90-102, 104 106-110, 112-150, 154-158, 160-172, 182-184 186-230 422-426, 552-558,	Y Y Y N Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y N	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	19.55- 21.55	21:55- 23:55
Whitechapel Road	2-32, 38-100, 102, 104-106, 108-146, 176 -178, 208 -208A, 214 -234,	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y N Y Y Y N Y	09.25- 11.25	11:25- 13:25	20.05- 22.05	22:05- 00:05
Vine Court	1-13 2-8	Y Y	N Y	09.55- 11.55	11:55- 13:55	20.05- 22.05	22:05- 00:05
Commercial Road	817-787, 667-653, 641-633, 595-601, 373-303, 275-269, 259-255, 237-231, 225-219, 199-193, 187-159, 151-93, 79, 33	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	10.05- 12.05	12:05- 14:05	20.05- 22.05	22:05- 00:05
Burdett Road	318 -334	Y	Y	10.25- 12.25	12:25- 14:25	20.25- 22.25	22:25- 00:25
Grove Road	2A - 10A 12, 12A-12B 51 - 53 101,	Y N Y Y Y	Y Y N N Y	10.25.12.25	12:25- 14:25	20.25- 22.25	22:25- 00:25
Roman Road (grove to St Stephens)	345-349, 351-369A, 371-389, 391-407, 409-425, 429-445, 449-471, 473-503,	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	10.25- 12.25	12:25- 14:25	20.25- 22.25	22:25- 00:25

Roman Road (Parnell to Cambridge)	511A -521,	Y	Y	10.40- 12.40	12:40- 14:40	20.25- 22.25	22:25- 00:25
	531 - 577,	Y	Y				
	579 -597,	Y	Y				
	599 -613,	Y	Y				
	615-633.	Y	Y				
	510-630	Y	?				
	414-468,	Y	Y				
	470-480,	Y	N				
	462-506,	Y	Y				
	50,	Y	N				
	80-100,	Y	N				
	136-138,	Y	N				
	140-170,	Y	N				
	230-238,	Y	Y				
	19 - 35,	Y	Y				
37-49,	Y	Y					
87-141,	Y	Y					
191-211,	Y	N					
Cambridge Heath Road	148-138	Y	Y	10.40- 12.40	12:40- 14:40	20.40- 22.40	22:40- 00:40
	86-64,	Y	Y				
	28-18.	Y	Y				
	283-303	Y	Y				
	179-183	N	Y				
East India Dock Road	159-185	Y	N	10.50- 12.50	12:50- 14:50	20.50- 22.50	22:50- 00:50
	187-195	Y	N				
	197-267	Y	Y				

3. Type and numbers of receptacles for commercial waste

3.1 Receptacles must be suitable for the storage, transport and subsequent management by the waste producer and subsequent waste holder.

3.2 Receptacles must be robust and designed to prevent leakage and contamination or spoiling of waste.

3.3 Cardboard which is separated from other commercial waste should be presented for collection marked with a sticker clearly stating the name of the waste producer's chosen cardboard recycling waste carrier.

3.4 Wheeled bins and bulk bins may only be stored on the pavement on the public highway where the footway is at least 2 ½ metres wide to allow free, safe and uninterrupted passage on the footway for pedestrians to pass other pedestrians and wheelchair users without stepping into the carriageway.

3.5 Wheeled bins and bulk bins stored on the highway must be covered by the businesses public liability insurance.

3.6 Wheeled bins and bulk bins must be emptied frequently so as not to allow them to overflow. No side waste may be placed by bins and bin lids must be kept closed.

4. Placing of commercial waste receptacles for the purpose of facilitating the emptying of them

4.1 The occupier of any premises producing commercial waste shall provide suitable storage points within those premises for all waste originating from them. The storage point for such waste shall not be on any public land or public highway.

4.2 If commercial waste is to be presented for collection on the public highway, the collection point shall be directly outside the premises from which the waste is produced unless that is likely to cause a hazard to passers by, in which case the waste should be presented on the public highway as close as safely possible to the premises.

4.3 The occupier of any premises producing clinical commercial waste or hazardous waste shall provide safe and secure storage points and collection points within the originating premises. Such points shall be kept secure at all times with no access for the general public.

4.4 Waste sacks with a base colour of yellow complying with standard UN3291 shall only be used for the storage of clinical commercial waste as defined by the 2012 Regulations.

5. The steps to be taken to facilitate collection of commercial waste on time banded streets

5.1 All collection points for commercial waste shall be accessible to registered waste carriers.

5.2 Commercial waste must fit within the branded bin or refuse sack provided by your licensed collection organisation.

5.3 Your bin/container must not overflow; rubbish must not overhang, and be stacked on top of or beside the bin/container.

5.4 Your presented waste should not cause a problem, obstruction, or be harmful to the local facilities.

5.5 The bin/container should not be placed or stored on the Public Highway other than the time(s) specified or agreed by the local authority.

5.6 If your waste collector fails to collect the waste, it is your responsibility to remove it. You can remove the bags or push the bin back onto your property, from the Highway until the waste can be collected.

5.7 Failure to comply with the above may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued, or Court proceedings being taken against you.

6 Notices under Section 47 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

6.1 Where on or after 1st December 2024 the Council serves a Notice under the above Act on the occupier of any commercial premises, then the specific requirements in such Notice shall take precedence over any conflicting provision in these Regulations. Compliance with these Regulations shall not be taken to constitute compliance with

other legislative provisions including those legislative provisions which relate to the licensed storage, treatment and disposal of controlled waste. In the event of conflict between these Regulations and any statutory provision, the statutory provision shall take precedence.

TOWER HAMLETS WASTE SERVICES LOOP VEHICLE COLLECTION TIMES AM&PM (MONDAY -SUNDAY)


Street Name	Property Nos.	Business	Residents	Time Band AM	Collection AM	Time Band PM	Collection PM
East India Dock Road	4 -8, 10A-50	Y N	Y Y	05.25 -07.25	07:25-09:25	16.05-18.05	18:05-20:05
Commercial Road	162-240, 378-382, 406, 410, 412, 490, 502-514, 526, 528, 536-548, 556-576	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	05.25 -07.25	07:25-09:25	16.10-18.10	18:10-20:10
Cannon Street Road	113-187 116-130 132-170 172-178	Y N Y Y	Y Y N Y	05.40-07.40	07:40-09:40	16.25-18.25	18:25-20:25
New Road	11-135 8-34	Y Y	Y Y	05.55-07.55	07:55-09:55	16.40-18.40	18:40-20:40
Commercial Road	30, 36A, 38-82, 86-160	Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y	05.55-07.55	07:55-09:55	16.40-18.40	18:40-20:40
Leman Street	15, 117-143 40, 52-70	Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y	06.05-08.05	08:05-10:05	16.55-18.55	18:55-20:55
Whitechapel High Street	122, 126-133,	Y Y	Y Y	06.15-08.15	08:15-10:15	17.05-19.05	19:05-21:05
White Church Lane	3-21 2-10 16-24	Y Y Y	Y Y N	06.15-08.15	08:15-10:15	17.05-19.05	19:05-21:05
Whitechapel High Street	65 -71	Y	Y	06.25-08.25	08:25-10:25	17.25-19.25	19:25-21:25
Commercial Street	41A, 43, 43A, 47, 79, 91, 103, 105A, 105, 107A, 109, 111A, 117, 137-143, 149-159, 167	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y N N N	06.40-08.40	08:40-10:40	17.30-19.30	19:30-21:30
Fashion Street	3-29 31-59	Y Y	N Y	06.55-08.55	08:55-10:55	17.40-19.40	19:40-21:40
Middlesex Street	86-92 94-102	Y Y	Y N	06.55-08.55	08:55-10:55	17.40-19.40	19:40-21:40
Cobb Street	1-9 2-18	Y Y	N N	06.55-08.55	08:55-10:55	17.40-19.40	19:40-21:40
Bell Lane	1-39 6-16	Y Y	N N	06.55-08.55	08:55-10:55	17.40-19.40	19:40-21:40
Wentworth Street	1-79 2-64	Y Y	Y N	06.55-08.55	08:55-10:55	17.40-19.40	19:40-21:40
Middlesex Street	36-84	Y	Y	06.55-08.55	08:55-10:55	17.40-19.40	19:40-21:40
New Goulston Street	2-14 1-13	Y Y	N N	06.55-08.55	08:55-10:55	17.40-19.40	19:40-21:40
Goulston Street	36-50 41-47	Y Y	N N	07.10-09.10	09:10-11:10	17.55-19.55	19:55-21:55
Whitechapel High Street	96-74, 101, 102-105,	Y Y Y	Y N N	07.10-09.10	09:10-11:10	17.55-19.55	19:55-21:55
Osborn Street	3 5-17, 29-33 2-20, 22-42	Y Y Y Y Y	Y N N N Y	07.10-09.10	09:10-11:10	18.05-20.05	19:55-21:55

TOWER HAMLETS WASTE SERVICES LOOP VEHICLE COLLECTION TIMES AM&PM (MONDAY -SUNDAY)

Street Name	Property Nos.	Business	Residents	Time Band AM	Collection AM	Time Band PM	Collection PM
Brick Lane (osborne to Bacon)	2-12	Y	Y	07.25-09.25	09:25-11:25	18.05-20.05	20:05-22:05
	14-28	Y	N				
	40-138	Y	Y				
	154-198	Y	Y				
	9-11	Y	N				
	13-27,	Y	N				
	35-39,	Y	Y				
	41-47,	Y	Y				
	53-57,	Y	Y				
	59,	Y	N				
	61-63,	Y	Y				
	65-79,	Y	Y				
	81-95,	Y	N				
	97-101,	Y	N				
125-141	Y	Y					
Cheshire Street	1-19	Y	Y	07.25-09.25	09:25-11:25	18.05-20.05	20:05-22:05
	2-40	Y	Y				
Brick Lane	200-226	Y	Y	07.25-09.25	09:25-11:25	18.15-20.15	20:15-22:15
	143-149	Y	Y				
Bethnal Green Road	64-118	Y	N	07.25-09.25	09:25-11:25	18.15-20.15	20:15-22:15
	15-51	Y	N				
Redchurch Street (via Ezra St)	9-117	Y	Y	07.25-09.25	09:25-11:25	18.20-20.20	20:20-22:20
	28-58	Y	Y				
Hanbury Street	4-66	Y	Y	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	18.40-20.40	20:40-22:40
	88-96	Y	N				
	17-41	Y	N				
	43-67	Y	Y				
	103-111	Y	N				
Princelet Street	31-65	Y	Y	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	18.40-20.40	20:40-22:40
	32-46	Y	Y				
Bethnal Green Road	123-161	Y	Y	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	18.40-20.40	20:40-22:40
	213-487	Y	Y				
Cambridge Heath Road	339-341,	Y	N	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	18.40-20.40	20:40-22:40
	343,	Y	N				
	349,	Y	Y				
	351-375,	Y	Y				
	385-399,	Y	N				
Hackney Road	2- 12A	Y	Y	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	19.25-21.25	21:25-23:25
	28,	Y	Y				
	114 - 152,	Y	Y				
	154,	Y	Y				
	176-184	Y	Y				
	186-200,	Y	Y				
	246-252,	Y	N				
	254-288,	Y	Y				
	292-312,	Y	Y				
	322-328	Y	Y				
	332-340	Y	Y				
	388-390,	Y	Y				
	400 - 406C,	Y	Y				
	408-412,	Y	Y				
	430A,	Y	Y				
	472 18 UNITS1	Y	Y				
Hackney Road	375,	Y	N	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	19.25-21.25	21:25-23:25
	389 -399,	Y	Y				
	443,	Y	Y				
	461-467,	Y	Y				
	469 -531,	Y	Y				
Cambridge Heath Road	475-505,	Y	Y	07.40-09.40	09:40-11:40	19.25-21.25	21:25-23:25
	507 -513,	Y	N				
	517A,	Y	N				
	288 -280,	Y	Y				
	270,	Y	Y				
	274- 278,	Y	Y				
	256,	Y	Y				
	242-232,	Y	Y				
	204A,	Y	Y				
	204,	Y	Y				
	Y	Y					
Bethnal Green Road	120-160	Y	Y	08.25-10.25	10:25-12:25	19.40-21.40	21:40-23:40
	216-492	Y	Y				

TOWER HAMLETS WASTE SERVICES LOOP VEHICLE COLLECTION TIMES AM&PM (MONDAY -SUNDAY)

Street Name	Property Nos.	Business	Residents	Time Band AM	Collection AM	Time Band PM	Collection PM
Whitechapel Road	1-13, 15-19, 21-29, 31-45, 57-59, 75 -unit 3, 75 -Unit 4, 75 - Unit 2, 97-137, 183-195, 197 - 315, 333 -337	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	N N Y N N N N Y Y Y		08.55-10.55	10:55-12:55	19.50-21.50 21:50-23:50
Mile End Road	1-25, 33-35, 39-43, 45-47, 53-67 69-89, 91-95, 169A, 169, 191, 193, 199-207 209-211, 213-223 241-243 245-253, 359-381B 383A-391 395 -399	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	N Y Y Y Y N N Y Y Y Y Y N Y Y Y		09.25-11.25	11:25-13:25	19.55-21.55 21:25-23:25
Bow Road	119-125, 161-175, 181-191, 199	Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y		09.25-11.25	11:25-13:25	19.55-21.55 21:55-23:55
Bow Road	50, 68-74, 116, 116B,	Y Y Y Y	N Y Y Y		09.25-11.25	11:25-13:25	19.55-21.55 21:55-23:55
Mile End Road	560-566A 572A -588 630 -648	Y Y Y	Y N Y		09.25-11.25	11:25-13:25	19.55-21.55 21:55-23:55
Burdett Road [Mile End Rd to Eric St]	1, 11, 21-25 27-107	Y Y	N Y		09.25-11.25	11:25-13:25	19.55-21.55 21:55-23:55
Mile End Road	82-86, 88, 90-102, 104 106-110, 112-150, 154-158, 160-172, 182-184 186-230 422-426, 552-558.	Y Y Y N Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y N		09.25-11.25	11:25-13:25	19.55-21.55 21:55-23:55
Whitechapel Road	2-32, 38-100, 102, 104-106, 108-146, 176 -178, 208 -208A, 214 -234.	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y N Y Y Y N Y		09.25-11.25	11:25-13:25	20.05-22.05 22:05-00:05
Vine Court	1-13 2-8	Y Y	N Y		09.55-11.55	11:55-13:55	20.05-22.05 22:05-00:05
Commercial Road	817-787, 667-653, 641-633, 595-601, 373-303, 275-269, 259-255, 237-231, 225-219, 199-193, 187-159, 151-93, 79, 33	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y		10.05-12.05	12:05-14:05	20.05-22.05 22:05-00:05
Burdett Road	318 -334	Y	Y		10.25-12.25	12:25-14:25	20.25-22.25 22:25-00:25

Non-Executive Report of the: Council Wednesday 2 October 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Open (Unrestricted)
PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL 24/25	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

This report reviews proportionality as required by section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('The 1989 Act'); recommends the establishment of committees and sub-committees as set out in the Council's Constitution; and proposes the allocation of places on those Committees between the political groups represented on the Authority.

A change in the political composition of the Council has occurred following Councillor Kabir Hussain becoming an Independent (ungrouped) Member having previously been part of the Aspire Group and following Councillor Abdi Mohamed being elected as a new Councillor for Bow East Ward following the resignation of Councillor Rachel Blake.

Consequent to these changes, the Council must review the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The proposed committee allocations are set out at paragraph 3.6 overleaf. Note that on this occasion the changes to political balance do not result in any changes to committee allocations.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Consider the review of proportionality as at Section 3 of this report and the allocation of seats on Committees and Sub-Committees for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2024/25 as set out at paragraph 3.6.
2. Note the Committees set out for the municipal year 2024/25 listed in paragraph 3.6 as agreed at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 15 May 2024.
3. Agree any changes to the memberships (and substitutes) of those Committees as tabled at this Council meeting for approval.
4. To agree that the Monitoring Officer is delegated to approve the appointment of Councillors required to fill positions during the municipal year in line with the proportionality arrangements set out in this report on the nomination of the respective group leaders.
5. Agree that the Monitoring Officer be delegated to approve the appointment of ungrouped Councillors to any committee places not allocated by the Council to a political group, after consultation with those Councillors and the Speaker of the Council where there is only one application for the position (where there is more than one application these will be presented to Council for decision).

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Changes to the political composition of the Council require a review of the proportionality calculations for the Council's Committees.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Council could determine a different arrangement of Committees to perform the required decision making and scrutiny functions and could also agree different changes to the proportionality on specific Committees to meet the same overall proportionality rules.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 Section 15(1) of the 1989 Act requires the Council at, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting to carry out a review to determine the allocation to the political groups of seats on the Committees/ Panels of the Council. The principles which must be adopted are:
 - (i) that in relation to each body covered by the Act, all seats are not allocated to the same political group;

- (ii) that the majority of seats on each body must go to the political group with the majority on the Council (if any);
- (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary Committees/ Panels of the authority allocated to each group bears the same proportion as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council; and
- (iv) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary Committee of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council.

3.2 Once the political groups have been allocated their places in accordance with the above rules, the Council may appoint ungrouped members to any remaining positions.

3.3 Neither the Cabinet, any executive sub-groups of the Cabinet, nor the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

3.4 Following Councillor Sabina Akhtar's decision to become an Independent (ungrouped) Councillor, The political composition of the Council is as follows:

GROUP	SEATS (on Council)	PROPORTION ON COUNCIL	ENTITLEMENT (to seats on Committees)
Aspire	23	51.11%	39.36 (39)
Labour	17	37.78%	29.09 (29)
Ungrouped	5	0*	9 (remainder) – but see Para 3.5 below
	45		77

* Ungrouped Councillors are not included in the proportionality calculation. As two Councillors are required to form a group the Conservative, Green and Independent Councillors are included in the 'ungrouped' designation above.

Allocation of Places on Committees

3.5 According to the above calculation the Aspire Group would be entitled to 39 seats on these Committees, with the Labour Group being entitled to 29 and the remaining 9 being available for ungrouped Members. However, there is also a requirement in the above Act that the Aspire Group must have a majority on every Committee. This results in their allocation increasing to 43 and the ungrouped allocation consequently reducing to 5.

3.6 Applying the above principles, the proposed allocation of places on the Committees established by the Council for the remainder of the municipal year 2024/25 and covered by the requirement for proportionality, are listed

below. The allocations for the remainder of the municipal year or until the next review of proportionality, whichever is the sooner, is as follows:

Committee	Total	Aspire	Labour	Ungrouped
Licensing Committee	15	8	5	2
Overview and Scrutiny (plus 2 co-optees)	11	6	4	1
Strategic Development Committee	9	5	3	1
General Purposes Committee	9	5	3	1
Audit Committee	7	4	3	
Human Resources Committee	7	4	3	
Development Committee	7	4	3	
Pensions Committee	7	4	3	
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 5 co-optees)	5	3	2	
TOTALS	77	43	29	5

- 3.7 This will result in the allocation of all committee places amongst the political groups in accordance with the rules set out in the 1989 Act.
- 3.8 On this occasion, due to the requirements set out in Paragraph 3.5, the above calculations result in no changes to political proportionality.
- 3.9 It is for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree arrangements for its own sub-committees but no changes are required following the above and so the Sub-Committees remain:

Committee	Total	Aspire	Labour
Scrutiny Sub-Committee	7	4	3

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The purpose of the report is to ensure all political groups receive an appropriate allocation of Non-Executive Committee seats.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

- 5.2 None specific to this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications from the review of the proportionality calculations for the Council's Committees.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The principles of proportionality for allocation of places on committees are set out in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. These principles require that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority. Further detailed rules for the allocation of seats on committees are set out in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

- 7.2 At the Annual Meeting of Council on 15 May 2024, approval was given to the Director of Legal & Interim Monitoring Officer to approve appointments of Councillors in accordance with recommendation 4.

- 7.3 Part B, Section 24 (Functions of the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Chief Officers and Corporate Directors) authorises the Monitoring Officer to make appointments to the Council's Committees in line with agreed proportionality calculations as nominated by the Council's political groups.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None.

Appendices

- None.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 2 nd October 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee for this Council meeting.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 10.7 provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

25 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

11.1 Question from Councillor Amin Rahman

Following on from the Mayor's announcement in Cabinet regarding the Council's placement policy that no resident will be sent more than 90 minutes outside of the borough, could the lead member provide an update on what other work is ongoing to retain as many homeless residents in and around Tower Hamlets as possible?

11.2 Question from Councillor Abdi Mohamed

Now that the mayor has announced he is suspending homelessness allocation policy - Can he tell us how he plans to work with officers to put together a revised plan? Will he seek the opinions of staff from the homelessness team who have worked incredibly hard and under intense pressure over the last couple of years?

11.3 Question from Councillor Abdul Mannan

We are proud on this side of the chamber to have invested in policies to protect and enhance the opportunities on offer to our children. Given the decision to retain the two-child benefit cap, what measures can the Council take to ensure that we continue to support children across our borough?

11.4 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

Can the Mayor inform me whether he and his administration are concerned about the safety of children and this council's safeguarding responsibilities in regard to the proposed decision to house a drug rehabilitation/counselling centre above an early years nursery in Wapping? Can he confirm whether and how these issues were properly assessed before this site was chosen?

11.5 Question from Councillor Jahed Choudhury

Could the Lead member provide an update on the council's outstanding accounts requiring sign off? These accounts were left unsigned for 6 years under the previous administration?

11.6 Question from Councillor Amina Ali

Can the Mayor inform me as to whether he (as mayor), the council (as an institution) or any other senior officers, sought the advice of counsel in relation to the recent Best Value Inspection? If so, and in each case, have council funds been used to seek this advice?

11.7 Question from Councillor Ahmodul Kabir

Can the Lead Member provide an update on the Best Value Inspection that concluded in July?

11.8 Question from Councillor Mohammad Chowdhury

The law-and-order situation in Mile End ward is major concern. The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) has reported that they are lacking adequate resources, particularly in terms

of manpower, and are requesting additional hours. Could the cabinet member clarify what steps will be taken to support the SNT in improving law and order in the Mile End ward?

11.9 Question from Councillor Bodrul Choudhury

Given the Government's decision to remove the Winter Fuel Allowance from nearly 10 million pensioners (including many vulnerable people), and knowing that 40% of households in Tower Hamlets suffered from fuel poverty last winter, what steps is the Council taking to mitigate against this cut, which will most likely plunge even more of our residents below this poverty line?

11.10 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin

Will the Mayor share details of how CIL and Neighbourhood CiL has been used in the last two years and how it is being planned to be used on the Isle of Dogs this year?

11.11 Question from Councillor Iqbal Hussain

It has been a year since the LGA Corporate Peer Review which looked at various functions of the council, and areas for improvement. The LGA Peer Review team are about to return to check on progress against their recommendations. Can the Lead Member feedback on where we are in relation to this, and is there anything we should be worried about?

11.12 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Can the Mayor and Lead Member inform me what action is being taken to stop cars and mopeds using the new bridge at Monier road that is supposed to be for buses, cyclists and pedestrians only?

11.13 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

Can the lead member update me on the improvements being made to the housing options service?

11.14 Question from Councillor Amy Lee

Can the lead member provide a full update on the future of St George's leisure centre?

11.15 Question from Councillor Cllr Ahmodur Khan

Can the Lead Member explain how a Homecare provider under the previous Administration was awarded a contract initially valued at £5m which then ballooned to a staggering £62m – an increase of £57m!

11.16 Question from Councillor Sabina Khan

How many residents are currently placed in temporary accommodation?

11.17 Question from Councillor Bellal Uddin

Given the recent and continuing threats from the far right, what is the council doing to maintain community cohesion and protect at risk groups in the borough?

11.18 Question from Councillor Asma Begum

Can the Lead member inform me as a percentage how many secondary school children are taking up the free school meal offer from the council and whether the council has been made aware of any concerns regarding the quality of the meals?

11.19 Question from Councillor Abdul Malik

Given the Council's recent receipt of a Youth Justice SEND Quality Lead Status with a Child First Commendation from the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers, can the Lead Member update on what other progress has been made following the failed Youth Justice inspection of July 2022?

11.20 Question from Councillor Shubo Hussain

There have recently been an increased number of road accidents in Bromley South in recent months – particularly on Violet Road. Will the lead member commit to visiting the accident hotspot with me and ensuring this council puts in place measures to reduce road deaths?

11.21 Question from Councillor James King

Could the lead member inform me as to how the council would intend to enforce its proposed dog PSPO? Will THEOs begin patrolling dog walking hot spots?

11.22 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam:

Months ago council officers accompanied me on a walk around my ward and noted that there was an increased number of road traffic accidents on the Old Ford Road – Can the lead member confirm whether there has been any follow up on this and whether the council is planning to put in place any safety measures that would work to decrease the number of accidents?

11.23 Question from Councillor Rebecka Sultana

What progress is the council making in reducing the number of children being unable to get EHCPs within the legal time frame? What support is the council giving schools to be able to care for SEND children?


11.24 Question from Councillor Leelu Ahmed:

How many residents have qualified for the council's new council tax reduction scheme?

11.25 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

The government recently announced that they will follow the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's recommendation to offer Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans to Disabled and vulnerable residents of high-rise blocks. The Inquiry's report also recognises that associating risk with a particular height of building is arbitrary. Does the council plan to extend the offer of PEEPs to Disabled and vulnerable residents of all housing blocks in the borough?

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Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 2 nd October 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Linda Walker, Interim Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motions submitted by Members of the Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. The following motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11 for debate at the Council meeting.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, the motions alternate between the administration and the other Political Groups.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf is the motions that have been submitted.

12.1 CROSS PARTY MOTION – ETHNIC PAY GAP

Proposer: Cllr Abdi Mohamed

Seconder: Cllr Kabir Ahmed

Research from across civil society, including the GMB union shows that there is an Ethnicity Pay Gap, between Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic worker and non-Black Asian and Minority Ethnic workers who are otherwise equal in educational attainment. This is not only reflected in the pay of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic workers, but this disparity is also apparent in the promotion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic workers in the workplace.

This council notes that:

- One in six Bangladeshi residents across England and Wales live in Tower Hamlets. Locally, the Bangladeshi population remains by far the largest in the country in both proportionate (34.6%) and numerical (107,333) terms.
- Other significant ethnic groups include White British (22.9%), White Other (14.6%), Black African (5%), Chinese (3.3%) and Somali or Somalilander (2%)
- GMB Race, the union's self-organised groups in London, sent out a survey to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic London workers to collect information about their Pay, Terms and Conditions. GMB Race's survey results, while disappointing, unsurprisingly show the fact that only half of respondents thought they received equal treatment and access to bonuses, overtime, pension, and other plus payments compared to non-BAME staff.
- The TUC's own research shows that the Ethnicity Pay Gap for minority workers has shown that students who entered the workplace after GCSE are paid 11% less than their white counterparts. Whilst those who attained degrees, the pay gap more than doubled to 23%. The race pay gap impacts the standard of living of those affected and also worsens for people who have aspired and succeeded in further education.
- The Resolution Foundation has shown that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic workers lose out on £3.2bn a year in wages compared to white workers. It found Pakistani and Bangladeshi male graduates earned an average £2.67 an hour (12%) less, while among female graduates, black women faced the biggest pay penalty, of £1.62 an hour (9%).
- Within Tower Hamlets only 33.1% of the borough's top 5% of earners are BAME.
- The general reporting of the pay gap is poor and recent figures show so far only 3% of employers with over 250 employees are voluntarily reporting their ethnicity pay gap.
- The Government has acknowledged this weakness and that Ethnicity Pay Gap reporting should be mandatory. However, this has not happened.
- The Women's and Equalities Committee's (WESC) report Ethnicity Pay Gap in February 2022 recommended that the Government should introduce mandatory ethnicity pay gap reporting by April 2023. This should be for all organisations that currently report for gender and that legislation should include the requirement for employers to publish a supporting narrative and action plan.

- This call has been echoed by the TUC.

This council believes that:

- All those that live and work within Tower Hamlets should be equally able to flourish in their place of employment. Therefore, there should be no glass ceiling because of the colour of someone's skin. Pay, promotions, career development and progression and bonuses in all sectors should be underpinned by ability and fairness. This is vital in eradicating systemic racism and division in wider society and a cause acutely relevant to the diverse community in this borough.
- With a cost-of-living crisis hitting households hard, the diminishing earnings of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic workers will disproportionately push many of such workers further into work poverty.
- This disproportionately affects local authorities, like Tower Hamlets, who are proud of their diverse and multicultural communities.
- All public bodies within the borough should be committed to being open and transparent about publishing its data on employees, whilst running fair, open and inclusive promotion strategies within its public sector duties. Such public data is the first step in creating awareness of the ethnicity pay gap with a view to drive change.
- Other employers across all sectors should do the same and that there should be mandatory reporting of the Ethnicity Pay Gap for all employers with 250 or more staff members.

This council resolves to:

- Adopt GMB Race's campaign for an Ethnicity Pay Gap, including:
- Agree to annually report on the Ethnicity Pay Gap within its own organisation;
- Endeavour to regularly analyse strengths and weakness based on its own reporting, devising and implementing annual plans to proactively put in place measures to ensure there are no bars to recruitment, training, salary levels or promotion, including local schemes to give opportunities for ethnic staff to achieve promotion and occupy more senior positions within the Council;
- Work with the three recognised Councils unions locally and adopt GMB Race campaigns Ethnicity Pay Gap Charter;
- Work with council suppliers, contractors and partners to seek to do the same encouraging best practice through procurement rules as relevant, including in the contracting of any new services; and
- Call upon the Government to introduce mandatory pay gap reporting.

12.2 MOTION ON THE WINTER FUEL PAYMENT

Proposed by: Cllr Marc Francis

Seconded by: Cllr XX

This Council notes:

- The last Labour Government introduced the Winter Fuel Payment in 1999 in recognition that many older people were struggling with the costs of their gas and electric bills;
- By 2005, the sum paid was set at £300 for over-80s and £200 for those pensioners under-80 and that this figure has not increased for nearly 20 years;
- The new Labour Government has inherited a dire economic situation, which will require it to make difficult decisions;
- The Chancellor has announced that the Winter Fuel Payment will be stopped for older people who are not in receipt of Pension Credit;
- This will impact upon nearly 9,000 of the 15,913 Tower Hamlets residents who are in receipt of the Basic State Pension;
- Ministers have instructed the Department for Work & Pensions to undertake a 'take-up' publicity campaign to persuade those who are eligible but not in receipt of Pension Credit to apply, so they also get the Winter Fuel Payment too.

This Council believes:

- Tower Hamlets has many older people with small occupational pensions who are slightly above the £13,000 a year income threshold for Pension Credit and that these residents cannot be described as "wealthy";
- Against a backdrop of the dramatic increase in energy prices since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, many older people who are not in receipt of the Pension Credit will struggle with the costs of keeping their home warm without the Winter Fuel Payment;
- Tower Hamlets Council has sufficient financial resources to be able to enable it to cover the £1.5 million cost of a one-off payment to pensioners who are losing their Winter Fuel Payment.

This Council resolves:

- To call on the Executive Mayor to instruct officers to establish a local 'Tower Hamlets Winter Fuel Payment' scheme offering sums of £300 to those over-80 and £200 to those under-80, who are not in receipt of Pension Credit and write to local pensioners inviting them to apply;
- To back the public campaign by Age UK and other charities and the trade union movement to try to persuade the Labour Government to reinstate the Winter Fuel Payment.

12.3 Motion to Full Council on Violence, Abuse and Intimidation in Political Campaigning

Proposer: Cllr Mufeedah Bustin

Seconded: Cllr Amina Ali

This council notes:

1. That in the recent UK General Election campaign, parliamentary candidates reported an increase in abuse, intimidation, and harassment.
2. In Article 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998 that everyone has the right to freedom of expression.
3. Those targeted in our borough were disproportionately women of colour, with Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse Apsana Begum and Liberal Democrat candidate in Bethnal Green & Stepney Rabina Khan, receiving intimidation, harassment and abuse whilst campaigning.
4. MP for Bethnal Green and Stepney Rushanara Ali received death threats, intimidation and harassment during the campaign which resulted in her needing police protection when in public in her constituency.
5. In the last eight years, two MPs have been murdered in the United Kingdom, Jo Cox and Sir David Amess.
6. That political violence continues to rise with all politicians facing increasing levels of violence, harassment and abuse.
7. Research from Amnesty International found that women in politics are 27 times more likely to face online abuse compared to male counterparts.
8. On Tuesday 9th July 2023, LBTH Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed the safety of Women during election campaigns during item 9: 'Women's Safety Action Plan Response Progress'.
9. The Chair and members of LBTH Overview and Scrutiny Committee condemned the intimidation of Women during the general election campaign.

This council believes:

10. That the intimidation, harassment and threats against candidates in the recent UK General Election must be condemned.
11. That whilst we may disagree with individuals' political beliefs and stances, political violence of all types should not be tolerated or excused.
12. That the ability to freely debate and challenge each other's political views and opinions is a cornerstone of democracy.
13. That abuse, harassment and intimidation can act as a precursor to physical violence and leads to disenfranchisement and is therefore anti-democratic.
14. That Black, Asian and ethnically minority women in politics receive a disproportionate amount of online and public abuse.
15. Violence against women in politics discourages many women from entering the political arena.
16. As local leaders, council members have a responsibility to lead by example in our own behaviour as well as call out all forms of abuse and intimidation.
17. That social media companies should be doing more to curb the online abuse and harassment of political figures on their platforms.

This council resolves:

18. To provide bystander training to members and officers to strengthen their ability to call out abusive behaviour.
19. To sign up to the LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign and adopt the toolkit to create a culture of safety and respect.
20. To examine whether the council and its partners have robust enough processes to protect women from violence, intimidation and harassment during election campaigns.

12.4 Motion on Support the campaign to move the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) to an ethical investment model.

Proposer: Councillor Shubo Hussain

Seconder: Councillor Rebaka Sultana

This Council notes:

- The ongoing international legal cases regarding the occupation of Palestine and war between the State of Israel and Hamas, the illegal Russian Invasion of Ukraine and the ever-growing climate emergency has thrown a spotlight on how local authorities invest their pensions funds.
- Across the UK campaigns are building to press councils to divest millions of pounds from companies that are complicit in/profit from military occupation and the violation of human rights; invest in weaponry and surveillance technology and/or are involved in the exploration/processing of fossil fuels. Some councils, such as Waltham Forest and Islington, have already made concrete divestment commitments - demonstrating that where there is the will, there is a way.
- The threat posed by fossil fuelled climate change is real and urgent. Investments in fossil fuels are not only harmful to the environment but put the sustainable future of pensions at risk. Investing local government pension funds in fossil fuels is fuelling climate change and toxic air pollution, entrenching failing energy systems, fuelling repressive regimes, and contradicting political commitments to tackle climate change.
- The Tower Hamlets LGPS has millions of pounds of assets in a variety of investments. council staff and those working for admitted employers providing local public services pay into the LGPS over the lifetime of their employment. Employers also pay in contributions. This pot of money is invested by the council with oversight from the Pensions Committee who act as Trustees. On retirement workers draw their pension from the Fund.
- Most of the Fund is handed over to the London Common Investment Vehicle (CIV) who act as investment managers for the 32 London boroughs.

This Council believes:

- It is time for our council to disclose and divest its Pension Fund and ensure that the assets are ethically invested.
- That we all want to have a comfortable retirement at the end of a long working life – but retirement funds should not be being used to create a more unstable and damaged planet.
- That the TH LGPS fund (which is made up of public money and the deferred wages of public sector workers) should not be used to fund, prop up or profit from human rights violations, occupation, death and destruction.
- Properly planned ethical investment over time can ensure that the scheme is healthy and that its financial obligations are met.

This council resolves:

1. To support and commend the local community campaign that has recently formed to press the council to disclose its LGPS fund investments and for the Pensions Committee to bring forward a concrete roadmap to ensure that LGPS funds are being invested in an ethical investment scheme.