



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 1 March 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

Council Chamber, 1st Floor,
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

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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 the Tower Hamlets to be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER at the **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** on **WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2006** at **7.30 p.m.**

Christine Gilbert
Chief Executive

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2006

7.30 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992.

Note from the Chief Executive

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Members must declare any **personal interests** they have in any item on the agenda or as they arise during the course of the meeting. Members must orally indicate to which item their interest relates. If a Member has a personal interest he/she must also consider whether or not that interest is a **prejudicial personal interest** and take the necessary action. When considering whether or not they have a declarable interest, Members should consult pages 181 to 184 of the Council's Constitution. Please note that all Members present at a Committee meeting (in whatever capacity) are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests.

A **personal interest** is, generally, one that would affect a Member (either directly or through a connection with a relevant person or organisation) more than other people in London, in respect of the item of business under consideration at the meeting. If a member of the public, knowing all the relevant facts, would view a Member's personal interest in the item under consideration as so substantial that it would appear likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest, then the Member has a **prejudicial personal interest**.

Consequences:

- If a Member has a **personal interest**: he/she must declare the interest but can stay, speak and vote.
- If the Member has **prejudicial personal interest**: he/she must declare the interest, cannot speak or vote on the item and must leave the room.

When declaring an interest, Members are requested to specify the nature of the interest, the particular agenda item to which the interest relates and to also specify whether the interest is of a personal or personal and prejudicial nature. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and is also designed to enable a full entry to be made in the Statutory Register of Interests which is kept by the Head of Democratic Renewal and Engagement on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14th December 2005.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS, OR DEPUTATIONS

5 .1 A request to submit a petition has been submitted by Mr Abdul Mumin, Birchwood House, Rainhill Way, E3 on the subject of the transfer of the Devons Estate to Poplar HARCA

5 .2 A request to submit a deputation has been received from Ms. K Dickinson, Modling House, E2 on the subject of the Council's Housing Choice policies

5 .3 A request to submit a deputation has been submitted by Ms. C Merion, Derbyshire Street, E2 on the subject of support for co-operatives in the Borough

6. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(Maximum of 30 minutes allowed)

The questions which have been received are set out in agenda item 6.

7. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Maximum of 30 minutes allowed)

The questions which have been received are set out in agenda item 7.

8. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

Reports of the Cabinet of 8th February 2006

8 .1 General Fund Budget 2006/07 Budget Requirement and Council Tax

8 .2 2006/2007 Prudential Indicators

8 .3 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2006/07

8 .4 Children and Young People's Plan

8 .5 Draft Schedule of dates for Principal Meetings in the Municipal Year 2006/2007

Report of General Purposes Committee of 15th February 2006

8 .6 Review of Polling Places

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

There is no business to consider under this heading.

10. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Four motions have been submitted for consideration.

10 .1 Motion submitted by Councillor Richard Brooks regarding the promotion and purchase of Foods with the FAIRTRADE MARK

“Proposed: Richard Brooks

Seconded: Abdus Shukur

This Council believes:

1. That, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets as an important consumer and opinion leader, should research, develop, and support a strategy to facilitate the promotion and purchase of foods with the FAIRTRADE Mark as part of its commitment to the pursuit of sustainable development and to give marginalised producers a fair deal.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. To be recognised by the residents and business community of Tower Hamlets, suppliers, employees and other local authorities, as a borough that actively supports and promotes Fairtrade and to increase the sale of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark.
2. To establish a Fairtrade Borough Steering Group to:
 - To promote the concept of Fairtrade and increase the availability of Fairtrade products within Tower Hamlets.
 - To raise awareness of the FAIRTRADE Mark.
 - To ensure continued commitment and drive towards gaining Fairtrade Borough Status for Tower Hamlets, by achieving the five criteria of a Fairtrade Borough:
 1. The local council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in offices and canteens.
 2. A range of Fairtrade products must be readily available in the area’s shops and served in local cafés and catering establishments (targets are set in relation to population)
 3. Fairtrade products must be used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers etc) and community organisations (churches, schools etc)
 4. The council must attract popular support for the campaign.
 5. A local Fairtrade steering group must be convened to ensure continued commitment to Fairtrade Borough status.
 - To encourage workplaces, schools, universities and churches to work to promote and use Fairtrade products.
 - and to maintain the accreditation once it has been achieved.
3. To contribute to the campaign to increase sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark by striving to achieve Fairtrade status for Tower Hamlets as detailed in the Fairtrade Foundation’s Fairtrade Towns Initiative.

The initiative involves a commitment to:

- Widely offer FAIRTRADE Marked food and drink options internally

- Promote the FAIRTRADE Mark using Fairtrade Foundation materials in refreshment areas and promoting the Fairtrade Borough initiative in internal and communications and external newsletters
- Use influence to urge local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for residents
- Use influence to urge local business to offer Fairtrade options to their staff and promote the FAIRTRADE Mark internally
- Engage in a media campaign to publicise the Fairtrade Borough initiative
- Allocate responsibility for progression of the Fairtrade Borough initiative to a member or group of staff
- Organise events and publicity during national Fairtrade Fortnight - the annual national campaign to promote sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark”.

10 .2 Motion from Councillor Louise Alexander regarding Crossrail

“Cllr Louise Alexander

Secunder: Cllr Akik Rahman

This Council confirms that:

It is this Council’s duty to protect the community’s rights not to suffer damage to the environment, health and business.

This Council categorically rejects:

- Any Crossrail intervention shaft in the Brick Lane London E1 area, as contained in the present Crossrail Bill in the House of Commons;
- Crossrail plans for an additional tunnel surfacing in Allen Gardens;
- The use of a conveyor belt to take spoil to dump in Mile End Park; and
- The unsubstantiated, uneconomic and wasteful provision of a Crossrail station at Whitechapel which will necessitate digging an evacuation shaft in the Brick Lane London E1 area

This Council resolves to:

- Use the strongest possible terms when this Council presents the arguments and the evidence in support of any previously-submitted formally-timed petition to the Crossrail Select Committee in the House of Commons.
- Lobby within political parties and for the active attention of the Government to represent the interests of the residents of this Borough. This Council undertakes to take action in court and constitutionally to maintain, establish, reinstate and protect the community's right not to suffer the damage to environment, health and business which will be brought about by having an intervention shaft in this area”.

10 .3 Motion from Councillor Janet Ludlow regarding the Freedom of

“THIS COUNCIL NOTES:

It is one of the Council’s roles both to consult and inform residents on issues that will impact on their social and economic well-being.

That the Council has legal obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to ensure people’s right to any official information unless it can show that disclosure would cause real harm to the Authority’s essential interests.

That new regulations to amend the Local Government Act of 1972 that come into force on 1st March reduce from 15 to 7 the number of categories under which information can be withheld from the public.

That the role of Members, particularly in their capacity as scrutineers of the Council’s Executive, is crucial to the process of informing residents.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES TO:

Inform members of the full implications of the Freedom of Information Act and the recent amendments to the Local Government legislation in order to encourage greater rigour, openness and accountability to emerge from the scrutiny process.

Instruct officers to review the Council’s information policy and communication processes to ensure that they are compliant with the relevant legislation.

Ensure that the Council uses all the communication tools at its disposal to inform the public in an open and objective manner. This includes the Council’s weekly newsheet, *Eastend Life*, the Local Area Partnerships and the Council’s website”

10 .4 Motion from Councillor Simon Rouse regarding Policing in the Isle of Dogs Area

"This Council notes the petition that is currently being collected by local residents on the Isle of Dogs to the following effect -

We the undersigned petition the Metropolitan Police Authority to:

1. Recognise the growth in population and policing need on the Isle of Dogs.
2. Seek additional resources to allow the Manchester Road Police Station to open for longer hours, particularly in the evenings.
3. Find ways in which a more tangible police presence can be demonstrated to residents of the Isle of Dogs.

This Council resolves to:

1. Confirm that members support the aims of this campaign by Isle of Dogs residents.
2. Send a letter of support for the petition to the Metropolitan Police Authority.
3. Investigate other avenues through which additional resources can be found to increase the police presence at the Isle of Dogs police station on Manchester Road."

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11 .1 Review of the Constitution

419 - 716

The Standards Committee on 21st February,2006 is due to consider the Member/ Officer Protocol and the Committee's views will be reported to the meeting.

11 .2 Review of Proportionality