

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2006

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Rajib Ahmed, Barrie Duffey, Khaled Khan, Fanu Miah, Nigel McCollum, Tim O' Flaherty, and Helal Rahman.

DECISION

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Please see Minutes

3. MINUTES

DECISION

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 14th December, 2005 be confirmed as correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly subject to the inclusion of Councillor Simon Rouse's declaration that he had a personal interest in agenda item 10.2 – motion re Education White Paper, as a governor of a school in the Borough.

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

There were no announcements made under this heading.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS, OR DEPUTATIONS

5.1 PETITION RE TRANSFER TO POPLAR HARCA

Ms Jackie Turner spoke to the petition which was on the subject of the transfer of the Devons Estate to Poplar HARCA

DECISION

That the petition be referred to the Director of Housing Management for response within 28 days.

(Action by Maureen McEleney – Director of Housing Management)

5.2 DEPUTATION RE THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING CHOICE POLICIES

Mrs Carole Swords, on behalf of the deputation addressed the meeting on the subject of the Council's Housing Choice Policies.

DECISION

That the deputation's comments be referred to the Director Housing Management for response within 28 days.

(Action by Maureen McEleney , Director of Housing Management)

5.3 DEPUTATION RE CO-OPERATIVES

Miss Carolyn Merion, on behalf of the deputation addressed the meeting on the subject of support for co-operatives. The Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Partnerships agreed to facilitate a meeting between the Council's Third Sector Manager and Miss Merion and the Lead Member also agreed to arrange to provide for additional information on available support for co-operatives to be to Miss Merion.

DECISION

That the deputation's comments be referred to the Assistant Chief Executive for response within 28 days.

(Action by Assistant Chief Executive – Sharon McGilchrist– Third Sector Manager)

6. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

2.1 Question from Clair Hawkins, re Drug dealing on the Ocean Estate to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment.

2.2 Question from Jo Coles, re Young people's access to Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Education and Youth.

2.3 Question from Peter Thon That, re extending schools hours to Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Education and Youth.

2.4 Question from Brian Boag, re fly tipping to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment.

2.5 Question from Alibor Chowdhury re operation of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team in St Dunstan's and Stepney Green to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment

2.6 Question from Bill Turner re misuse of motorised scooters to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment

Questions 2.7 to 2.13 were not dealt with due to lack of time. A copy of the tabled responses to be forwarded to the questioners.

(Action by IHDR&E Tim Hogan)

7. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

2.1 Question from Councillor Brian Son to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment re assaults in the Aspen Way Underpass.

2.2 Question from Councillor Simon Rouse to Councillor Judith Gardiner , Lead Member for Environment re number of anti-social behaviour obtained in the year 2005-2006.

2.3 Question from Councillor Julian Sharpe to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment re spend on improving roads and pavements on the Isle of Dogs in 2005-2006.

2.4 Question from Councillor Ray Gipson to Councillor Shafiqul Haque , Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Partnerships re shopping facilities in Roman Road.

2.5 Question from Councillor Julian Mainwaring to Councillor David Edgar, Lead Member for Housing re affordable housing on the Isle of Dogs.

2.6 Question from Councillor John Griffiths to Councillor Michael Keith, Leader of the Council re investigation in to financial malpractice.

2.7 Question from Councillor Alan Amos to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment re road improvement schemes in Millwall Ward.

2.8 Question from Councillor James Sanderson to Councillor Abdul Asad, Lead Member for Social Services and Health , this question was responded to by the Leader of the Council.

2.9 Question from Councillor Martin Rew to Councillor Shafiqul Haque , Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Partnerships re development of Fish Island.

Due to lack of time questions 2.10 to 2.19 were not considered due to lack of time. Copies of the tabled responses to be forwarded to the questioners.

(Action by IHDR&E –Tim Hogan)

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

8.1 General Fund Budget 2006/07 Budget Requirement and Council Tax

DECISION

1. That a total budget requirement for the authority in 2006/2007 of £267,894,000 (not including Dedicated Schools Grant) be agreed; and
2. That there be no increase in Tower Hamlets' Council Tax for 2006/2007.
 - a) Resulting in a Council Tax at Band D for Tower Hamlets for 2006/2007 of £797.28, as detailed in the table below: -

	2005/06	2006/07
	£	£
Education	225,688,000	32,265,000
Social Services	107,110,000	113,316,000
Environment and Culture	70,219,000	62,760,000
Development and Renewal	6,199,000	6,514,000
Housing General Fund	7,027,000	7,794,000
Chief Executive	20,825,000	21,964,000
Corporate/Capital	(3,899,000)	18,335,000
	433,169,000	262,948,000
Corporate Contingency	-	2,089,989

Formula Grant 2004/05 & 2005/6	-	(128,989)
Local Public Service Agreement	-	(400,000)
Parking Control Reserve	(2,510,000)	(2,510,000)
Housing Choice Earmarked Reserve	5,000,000	3,206,000
E-Government Loan Repayment	689,000	689,000
Insurance Fund	500,000	500,000
General Balances	2,000,000	1,500,000
	438,848,000	267,894,000
Formula Grant	(379,122,871)	(205,777,237)
	59,725,129	62,116,763
Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit	(1,905,000)	(1,904,763)
	57,820,129	60,212,000
	72,522	75,522
	£797.28	£797.28

Band D Council Tax Increase

Amount - £
Percentage

NIL
NIL

b) Resulting in a Council Tax for all other band taxpayers with no discounts and excluding the GLA precept shall be as set out in the Table below:-

BAND	PROPERTY VALUE		RATIO TO BAND D	COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH BAND £
	FROM	TO		
A	0	40,000	⁶ / ₉	531.52
B	40,001	52,000	⁷ / ₉	620.11
C	52,001	68,000	⁸ / ₉	708.69
D	68,001	88,000	⁹ / ₉	797.28
E	88,001	120,000	¹¹ / ₉	974.45
F	120,001	160,000	¹³ / ₉	1,151.63
G	160,001	320,000	¹⁵ / ₉	1,328.80
H	320,001	upwards	¹⁸ / ₉	1,594.56

3. That for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 2006/2007:-

- (a) *The Council Tax for Band D taxpayers with no discounts and including the GLA precept shall be £1,085.89, as shown below: -.*

	£ (Band D, No Discounts)
LBTH	797.28
GLA	288.61
Total	<u>1,085.89</u>

- (b) *The Council Tax for taxpayers in all other bands with no discounts and including the GLA precept shall be as detailed in the table below: -.*

BAND	LBTH £	GLA £	TOTAL £
A	531.52	192.41	723.93
B	620.11	224.47	844.58
C	708.69	256.54	965.23
D	797.28	288.61	1,085.89
E	974.45	352.75	1,327.20
F	1,151.63	416.88	1,568.51
G	1,328.80	481.02	1,809.82
H	1,594.56	577.22	2,171.78

4. That the statutory calculations of this authority's budget requirement in 2006/2007, detailed in **Appendix D** to this Council report, undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the requirements of Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and referred to in paragraph 13.2 of the report (CAB 154/056) be approved.
5. That the Budget Pages shall constitute the London Borough of Tower Hamlets' 2005/2006 revised estimates and original budget for 2006/2007, and referred to in paragraph 13.2 of the report (CAB 154/056).

(Action by Martin Smith Director of Resources)

8.2 2006/2007 Prudential Indicators

DECISION

1. That the following Authorised Limits for External Debt be adopted:-

2006/2007	£597.000M
2007/2008	£591.000M
2008/2009	£597.000M
2. That the following Operational Boundaries for External Debt be adopted: -

2006/2007	£577.000M
2007/2008	£571.000M

2008/2009 £577.000M

3. Note the financial indicators set out below: -

	Actual 2004/2005	Estimate 2005/2006	Estimate 2006/2007	Estimate 2007/2008	Estimate 2008/2009
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream.	2.94%	3.24%	3.24%	2.67%	2.36%
Impact of Capital Investment Decisions on Annual Band D Council Tax		£2.32	£2.57	£2.18	£3.02
Capital Expenditure (£Million)	£95.602	£104.720	£81.794	£83.526	£50.701
Capital Financing Requirement (£Million)	£567.702	£553.092	£568.185	£584.900	£603.245

4. That the Director of Resources be authorised to revise the indicators as set out in recommendations 2.1 to 2.3 of this report to reflect any developments between this meeting and Council on the 1st March 2006.

(Action by Martin Smith Director of Resources)

8.3 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2006/07DECISION

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy as set out in Sections 4-9 and Section 10 respectively of Cabinet report to Council be adopted.

(Action by Martin Smith Director of Resources)

8.4 Children and Young People's PlanDECISION

That the Revised Children and Young People's Plan be approved.

(Action by Corporate Director Children's Services – Kevan Collins)

8.5 Draft Schedule of dates for Principal Meetings in the Municipal Year 2006/2007

DECISION

That the proposed dates for principal meetings of the Authority for the Municipal Year 2006/2007 as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

(Action by IHDR&E – Kairen Zonena)

8.6 Review of Polling PlacesDECISION

That two compartment portacabins be provided in Polling District BE1, Bow East Ward, that a portacabin be provided in the grounds of the Royal Foundation of St Katherines in Polling District SH4, Shadwell Ward in place of the Olgilvie Community Club Site , and Stepney Library, Polling District WH3 , Whitechapel Ward continue to be used if appropriate, but if necessary a portacabin to be located in the library car park.

(Action by Assistant Chief Executive (Legal) – Pat Parker.

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

No business under this heading considered.

10. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**10.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Richard Brooks regarding the promotion and purchase of Foods with the FAIRTRADE MARK**

Councillor Brooks' motion on Fairtrade Mark was agreed.

DECISION**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 and make them available for internal meetings
- 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.

(Action by Director of Environment & Culture- Graeme Peacock)

10.2 Motion from Councillor Louise Alexander regarding Crossrail

Councillor Alexander's motion following debate was subject to an amendment from Councillor Keith

DECISION

The Council confirms

The Council will exercise its powers of general wellbeing to the benefit of all communities in the borough.

The Council categorically rejects

The tunnelling strategy proposed by Crossrail that produces the need for the major intervention in Hanbury Street area, a conveyor belt to take spoil to Mile End Park and the use of Mile End Park for spoil handling.

The Council notes:

The work that the Labour run Council has commissioned on tunnelling strategy, safety, construction practice, and railway engineering to protect the interests of the people of the borough.

The work the Labour run Council has done to lobby Ministers, petition the House of Commons and campaign to protect the interests of the people of the borough.

The meetings that have been held with local community groups to work together on petitioning against Crossrail's proposals.

The Council resolves to

1- Use the strongest possible terms when this Council presents the arguments and the evidence in support of any previously-submitted formally-time petition to the Crossrail Select Committee in the House of Commons; and

2 – Work in partnership with local community groups to maximise the impact of our petitioning strategy by combining where possible – the position of the Council with the work done by local campaigning community organisations.

(Action by Emma Peters- Corporate Director of Development & Renewal)

10.3 Motion from Councillor Janet Ludlow regarding the Freedom of Information Act

Councillor Ludlow's motion was subject to amendment and debate and the following was agreed-

DECISION

It is one of the Council's roles both to consult and inform residents on the 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.

The 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.

RESOLVED

1 – Maintain its commitment to open and to continue to meet fully its responsibilities under Freedom of Information.

2 – Continue to encourage citizens to make requests for information, through the designated email address, the website and by providing guidance in all public-facing areas.

3 – To provide new training for Members on Freedom of information and Data Protection.

(Action by Assistant Chief Executive (Legal) – Isabella Freeman

10.4 Motion from Councillor Simon Rouse regarding Policing in the Isle of Dogs Area

Councillor Rouse's motion was subject to amendment and following debate the following was agreed - .

DECISION

This Council notes that 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 on the Isle of Dogs

2 – Seek additional resources to allow 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 on the Isle of Dogs.

This Council notes that :

1. The 2006/2007 GLA budget on safer stations and safer neighbourhoods, with resources to ensure every neighbourhood in London gets a dedicated beat police team, and extra British Transport Police to patrol our over-ground stations.
2. That the Conservative members of the Greater London Assembly have a record of seeking to block police funding and of calling for cuts.
3. That Yet again the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives have voted against the Mayor's Budget that has delivered extra police for London . The Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives have voted against every Budget that has paid for better policing since 2001.
4. That in Metropolitan police area the number of police officers has increased by 3,433 since 1997. The total number of police in the Metropolitan police force area now stands at 30,111.
5. That as a direct result of the actions of Tower Hamlets Council, there are now an additional six police and community support officers in every ward
6. This Council welcomes national initiatives which have allowed Councils and police to more effectively tackle crime and anti-social behaviour including;

Tough new powers to close down crack houses in 48 hours
Banning the sale of spray paints to under-18s and airguns to under-17's
Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
More Money for the police
Giving police the power to disperse gangs of youths
Curfews for people who cause trouble late at night

7 That such measures have proven to be both well guided and necessary and have directly led to better policing and more effective Council initiatives.

8 That in combination with the New Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the Council's programme of refurbishing and opening new youth centres and other community facilities, these powers will aid the Council and police in reducing anti-social behaviour and crime.

This Council resolves to –

- 1 – To support the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams on the Isle of Dogs; and
- 2 – To support the development of the localisation agenda on the Isle of Dogs and the development of Super Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

(Action by Head of Crime Reduction Services – Olivia McLeod.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Review of the Constitution

DECISION

That the revisions to the Constitution set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

(Action by Assistant Chief Executive (Legal) – Isabella Freeman.

11.2 Review of Proportionality

DECISIONS

1 – That the resignation of Councillors Khaled Reza Khan, Helal Rahman and Fanu Miah from membership of the Labour Group be noted;

2 – That the recalculation of proportionality be noted;

3 – That Councillor Julia Mainwaring be appointed to membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4 – That Councillors Julia Mainwaring and Ashton McGregor be appointed to membership of the Health Scrutiny Panel.

5 – That Councillor Julia Mainwaring be appointed to membership of the Licensing and Development Committees'

6 – That Councillor Julia Mainwaring's resignation from membership of the Strategic Development Committee be noted.

7 – That Councillor Ghulam Muhammad Mortuza be appointed to membership of the Human Resources Committee.

8 – That Councillor Kevin Morton be appointed to membership of the Pensions and Accounts Committee.

(Action by Tim Revell- IHDR&E)

Tim Hogan
For Interim Head of
Democratic Renewal
& Engagement

COUNCIL, 01/03/2006

SECTION ONE (UNRESTRICTED)

The meeting ended at 11.14 p.m.

Chair, (none)
Council