



# **ANNUAL MEETING OF TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL**

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**Wednesday, 24 May 2006 at 7.30 p.m.**

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## **A G E N D A**

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**VENUE**  
**Council Chamber, 1<sup>st</sup> 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

### Chief Executive's Directorate

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Dear Member,

You are summoned to attend the Annual Meeting of the Council of the London Borough of the Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** on **WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY 2006** at 7.30 p.m.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Gilbert  
**Chief Executive**

# LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY 2006

7.30 p.m.

1. **TO ELECT A MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN 2007**

(Note: Section 8 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act, 1972 provides that the election of Mayor shall be the first item of business transacted at the Annual Meeting of the Council and that in the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall give a casting vote to any other s/he may have.)

2. **TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN 2007**

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

4. **TO NOTE ANY 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. .

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 Interim Head of Democratic Renewal and Engagement on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

**5. MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 1st March, 2006 (Copy attached)

**6. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**7. TO ELECT THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**8. TO CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE CABINET AND TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE CABINET - TO FOLLOW**

**9. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES/PANELS OF THE COUNCIL - TO FOLLOW**

(Note: Part 4 of the Authority's Constitution provides for the Council annually to appoint Committees/Panels as may from time to time be determined and also provides for the Council to appoint up to 3 deputies for each elected Member)

**10. APPOINTMENT OF POLITICAL ASSISTANTS**

**11. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ASSOCIATION OF LONDON GOVERNMENT - TO FOLLOW**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2006  
AT 7.30 PM AT THE TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,  
LONDON, E14 2BG**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Doros Ullah, Mayor in the Chair

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Ashton McGregor
Councillor Manir U Ahmed	Councillor Kevin Morton
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Hilary Phelps
Councillor Louise Alexander	Councillor Akikur Rahman
Councillor Alan Amos	Councillor Ataur Rahman
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Richard Brooks	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Betheline Chattopadhyay	Councillor Martin Rew
Councillor Jainal Chowdhury	Councillor Simon Rouse
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Mohammed Abdus Salique
Councillor Judith Gardiner	Councillor James Sanderson
Councillor Ray Gipson	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor John Griffiths	Councillor Julian Sharpe
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Abdus Shukur
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Brian Son
Councillor Denise Jones	Councillor M Shahab Uddin
Councillor Michael Keith	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Janet Ludlow	Councillor Marian Williams
Councillor Julia Mainwaring	

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor Gardiner declared a personal interest in Item 5.1, petition about the Housing Choice ballot on the Devons Estate and its proposed transfer to Poplar HARCA, as one of the council nominees on the Board of Poplar HARCA.
- Councillor Ohid Ahmed declared a personal interest in Item 5.1, petition about the Housing Choice ballot on the Devons Estate and its proposed transfer to Poplar HARCA, as one of the council nominees on the Board of Poplar HARCA.

- Councillor Sardar declared a personal interest in Item 5.1, petition about the Housing Choice ballot on the Devons Estate and its proposed transfer to Poplar HARCA, as one of the council nominees on the Board of Poplar HARCA.
- Councillor Morton declared a personal interest in Item 5.1, petition about the Housing Choice ballot on the Devons Estate and its proposed transfer to Poplar HARCA, as one of the council nominees on the Board of Poplar HARCA.
- Councillor Salique declared a personal interest in Item 5.1, petition about the Housing Choice ballot on the Devons Estate and its proposed transfer to Poplar HARCA, as one of the council nominees on the Board of Poplar HARCA.
- Councillor Uddin Ahmed declared a personal interest in Item 5.2 Deputation re the Council's Housing Choice Policies, as a council representative on the Board of Tower Hamlets Community Housing.
- Councillor Gipson declared a personal interest in Item 8.1, General Fund Budget 2006/07 Budget Requirement and Council Tax, as a representative on the Board of Age Concern.
- Councillor Asad declared a prejudicial interest in Item 8.4, Children and Young People's Plan, as an employee of a service provider of youth services, and withdrew from the room during consideration of that item.
- Councillor Salim Ullah declared a personal interest in Item 10.2, motion on Crossrail, as he lived within an area that might be affected by works on Crossrail.
- Councillor McGregor declared a personal interest in Item 10.4, motion on Policing on the Isle of Dogs, as an employee of the Metropolitan Police Service.
- Councillor Doros Ullah declared a personal interest in Item 10.2, motion on Crossrail, as he was employed by a company that might be affected by works on Crossrail.

### 3. **MINUTES: RESOLVED:**

That, 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, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 be confirmed as correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

**Moved** by Councillor Simon Rouse and **Seconded** by Councillor Oliur Rahman that the order of business be amended in accordance with Rule

14.1.3 of the Council Procedure Rules, so that the Review of the Constitution (Item 11.1) was brought forward and considered after Item 8.4.

After discussion the motion was put to the meeting and **LOST**

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

None.

**5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS, OR DEPUTATIONS**

**5.1 Petition re transfer to Poplar Harca**

Ms Jackie Turner presented a petition on the subject of the transfer of the Devons Estate to Poplar HARCA. The Lead Member for Housing responded and it was

**RESOLVED:**

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

**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. After discussion the Lead Member for Housing responded and it was

**RESOLVED:**

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

**5.3 Deputation re Co-operatives**

Miss Carolyn Merion addressed the meeting on the subject of support for co-operatives. The Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Partnerships responded and it was

**RESOLVED:**

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

**6. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

13 questions had been submitted by members of the public to members of the Cabinet, set out at agenda item 6. The questions together with the draft responses in writing had been tabled on blue paper.

**(i) Question from Clair Hawkins of St Stephen's Road E3, re drug dealing on the Ocean Estate to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment**

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply. Ms Hawkins asked a supplementary question regarding measures to tackle drug dealers in cars and drug paraphernalia left in stairwells. Councillor Gardiner detailed a number of steps being taken, and emphasised the importance of local intelligence in helping police and the Council to tackle this issue.

**(ii) Question from Jo Coles, of Rainhill Way, E3, re young people's access to Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Education and Youth**

Councillor Ohid Ahmed referred to his written reply. Ms Cole asked a supplementary question regarding the length of journey that young people at Bromley-by-Bow would have to take to get to a Youth Centre, and Councillor Ahmed advised that the young people would be within a bus ride of a youth centre.

**(iii) Question from Peter Thon That, of Cartwright Street E1, re extending schools hours to Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Education and Youth**

Councillor Ohid Ahmed referred to his written reply. Mr Thon That then asked a brief supplementary question to which Councillor Ahmed replied.

**(iv) Question from Brian Boag, of Hollybush Gardens, E2, re fly tipping to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment**

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply. Mr Boag asked a supplementary question about measures to deal with fly tipping on open space, and Councillor Gardiner briefly detailed the measures taken variously by street sweepers or, if the open space was within an estate, caretakers. She highlighted the need to identify the perpetrators so that appropriate action would be taken against them, and added that any assistance from the public on this front would be most useful.

**(v) Question from Alibor Chowdhury of Shandy Street, E1, re operation of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team in St Dunstan's and Stepney Green to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment**



Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply. Mr Chowdhury asked a supplementary question about whether there were plans for Safer Neighbourhood Teams to work with young people, and Councillor Gardiner confirmed that there were.

**(vi) Question from Bill Turner of Commercial Street, E1, re misuse of motorised scooters to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment**

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply.

In accordance with Rule 11.2 questions 2.7 to 2.13 were not dealt with due to lack of time. A copy of the tabled responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

**7. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

19 questions had been submitted by members of the Council for response by members of the Cabinet, set out at agenda item 7. The questions together with the draft responses in writing had been tabled on yellow paper.

**(i) Question from Councillor Brian Son to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment, re assaults in the Aspen Way Underpass**

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply. Councillor Son then asked a supplementary question to which Councillor Gardiner replied saying that the longer term solution to this particular hotspot was to install pedestrian and cycle crossings at surface level. She regretted to hear that a member of staff had been subjected to a recent assault there and was sure she spoke for the Council when she asked for her good wishes to be conveyed to the victim.

**(ii) Question from Councillor Simon Rouse to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment, re the number of anti-social behaviour obtained in the year 2005/06**

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply. In response to Councillor Rouse's supplementary question that the year-end target of 80 ASBOs was unattainable, Councillor Gardiner replied that the approximate total by the year-end would be in the region of 70 ASBOs issued, which demonstrated that the target had been a challenging one which had stretched the service but not been completely unrealistic.

**(iii) 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 2005/06**

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply and undertook to pass on to the relevant officers Councillor Sharpe's proposal for a 20 mph zone at Steward Street and Manchester Road.

**(iv) Question from Councillor Ray Gipson to Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Partnerships, re shopping facilities in Roman Road**

Councillor Shafiqul Haque referred to his written reply. In response to Councillor Gipson's request that in the light of various studies which had been undertaken, some action would eventually be taken to regenerate the area, Councillor Haque confirmed that a number of initiatives were under way to do so.

**(v) Question from Councillor Julia Mainwaring to Councillor David Edgar, Lead Member for Housing, re affordable housing on the Isle of Dogs**

Councillor David Edgar referred to his written reply. In response to a supplementary question expressing concern about the overall percentage of new homes on the Isle of Dogs which were affordable, Councillor Edgar confirmed that a number of new developments were in the pipeline which would see the percentage rise, and also added that the target for family-sized homes was being met.

**(vi) Question from Councillor John Griffiths to Councillor Michael Keith, Leader of the Council, re investigation in to financial malpractice**

Councillor Michael Keith referred to his written reply. In response to a supplementary question, the Leader of the Council confirmed that he had been the Lead Member for Regeneration for approximately nine years, during which time he felt the Council had made great strides in terms of regeneration, while also rooting out fraudulent behaviour.

**(vii) Question from Councillor Alan Amos to Councillor Judith Gardiner, Lead Member for Environment, re road improvement schemes in Millwall Ward**

Councillor Judith Gardiner referred to her written reply.

**(viii) Question from Councillor James Sanderson to Councillor Abdul Asad, Lead Member for Social Services and Health, re prospects for the proposed redevelopment of the Barts and the Royal London Hospitals**

No written response had been tabled as efforts were being made to establish the latest official position. In view of the fact that the Leader of the Council had recently been involved in extensive efforts to ensure that this project went ahead, Councillor Asad invited the Leader to respond to the question.

The Leader said confirmation was awaited of newspaper reports to the effect that the redevelopment of the hospitals would now go ahead, and that the benefits of first class medical facilities would be coming to the borough. In response to Councillor Sanderson's supplementary question about how the alleged costs of delay of £600,000 per day could be mitigated (while recognising that the delay was in no way the Council's fault), the Leader said that the costs of poor medical facilities outweighed even the costs of delay.

**(ix) Question from Councillor Martin Rew to Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Partnerships, re development of Fish Island**

Councillor Shafiqul Haque referred to his written reply.

In accordance with Rule 12.9 questions 2.10 to 2.19 were not considered due to lack of time. A copy of the tabled responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

**8. REPORTS OF THE CABINET AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**

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

**Moved** by Councillor Richard Brooks, **Seconded** by Councillor Michael Keith and after discussion it was

**RESOLVED:**

- "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: -

	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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
	<b>433,169,000</b>	<b>262,948,000</b>
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
	<b>438,848,000</b>	<b>267,894,000</b>
Formula Grant	(379,122,871)	(205,777,237)
	<b>59,725,129</b>	<b>62,116,763</b>
Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit	(1,905,000)	(1,904,763)
	<b>57,820,129</b>	<b>60,212,000</b>
	72,522	75,522
	<b>£797.28</b>	<b>£797.28</b>

## 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	<sup>6</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	531.52
B	40,001	52,000	<sup>7</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	620.11
C	52,001	68,000	<sup>8</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	708.69
D	68,001	88,000	<sup>9</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	797.28
E	88,001	120,000	<sup>11</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	974.45
F	120,001	160,000	<sup>13</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1,151.63

G	160,001	320,000	<sup>15</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	1,328.80
H	320,001	upwards	<sup>18</sup> / <sub>9</sub>	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:-*

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

(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: -.*

<b>BAND</b>	<b>LBTH</b>	<b>GLA</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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 report to Council, undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the requirements of Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 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 be agreed".

## 8.2 2006/2007 Prudential Indicators

**Moved** by Councillor Richard Brooks, **Seconded** by Councillor Michael Keith and

**RESOLVED:**

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. That the financial indicators set out below be noted: -

	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

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

**Moved** by Councillor Richard Brooks, **Seconded** by Councillor Michael Keith and

**RESOLVED:**

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

### 8.4 Children and Young People's Plan

Councillor Abdul Asad, having declared a prejudicial interest as a result of his employment by a youth service provider, withdrew from the room during consideration of the item.

**Moved** by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, **Seconded** by Councillor Michael Keith and

**RESOLVED:**

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

**8.5 Schedule of Dates for Principal Meetings in the Municipal Year 2006/2007**

**Moved** by Councillor Michael Keith, **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur and after discussion it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposed dates for principal meetings of the Council for the municipal year 2006/2007 as set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

At this point Councillor Abdul Asad returned to the room.

**8.6 Review of Polling Places**

**Moved** by Councillor Ashton McGregor, **Seconded** by Councillor Rofique Ahmed and

**RESOLVED:**

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 be located in the library car park.

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

There was no business under this heading to be 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**

**Moved** by Councillor Richard Brooks, **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur and after discussion it was

**RESOLVED:**

**That 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.

## 10.2 Motion from Councillor Louise Alexander regarding Crossrail

**Moved** by Councillor Louise Alexander and **Seconded** by Councillor Akikur 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”.

**Moved** by Councillor Michael Keith and **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur that the motion be amended as follows

**“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**

- (delete the four paragraphs that follow and insert)
- The tunneling strategy proposed by Crossrail that produces the need for the major intervention in the Hanbury Street area, a conveyor belt to take spoil to Mile End Park and the use of Mile End Park for spoil handling.

Add

**The Council notes:**

- The work that the Labour run Council has commissioned on tunneling 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 current proposals.

**The Council resolves to:**

- Use the strongest possible terms: STET this paragraph
- Delete second paragraph
- Work in partnership with local community groups to maximize the impact of our petitioning strategy by combining – where possible – the position of the Council with the work done by local campaigning community organizations”.

After discussion **Moved** by Councillor Michael Keith, **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur and

**RESOLVED:**

That in accordance with Rule 14.1. 10 the question be now put.

The amendment was then put to the meeting and **AGREED**.

The amended motion was then put to the meeting and it was:

**RESOLVED:**

That this Council confirms that 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 the 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; and
- 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-timed 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.

### **Motion to Extend the Meeting**

During the debate on the Crossrail motion, at 10.26pm, **Moved** by Councillor Michael Keith, **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur and

**RESOLVED** That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1.13 (motion to extend the meeting under Rule 9) the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

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

**Moved** by Councillor Ludlow and **Seconded** by Councillor Griffiths

"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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Moved** by Councillor Michael Keith and **Seconded** by Councillor Richard Brooks that the motion be amended as follows

**“To add under “This Council resolves to”:**

1. Maintain it's commitment to open government 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 in May on Freedom of Information and Data Protection”.

**Moved** by Councillor Gardiner, **Seconded** by Councillor Shukur and

**RESOLVED:**

That in accordance with Rule 14.1. 10 the question be now put.

The amendment was then put to the vote and **AGREED.**

The amended motion was then put to the meeting and it was

**RESOLVED:**

That this Council notes:

That 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**That this Council Resolves:**

1. 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.
2. Instruct officers to review the Council's information policy and communication processes to ensure that they are compliant with the relevant legislation.
3. 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 newssheet, *Eastend Life*, the Local Area Partnerships and the Council's website
4. To maintain its commitment to open government and to continue to meet fully its responsibilities under Freedom of Information.
5. To 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.
6. To provide new training for members on Freedom of information and Data Protection.

#### **10.4 Motion from Councillor Simon Rouse regarding policing in the Isle of Dogs Area**

**Moved** by Councillor Simon Rouse and **Seconded** by Councillor Ataur Rahman.

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."

**Moved** by Councillor Michael Keith and seconded by Councillor Judith Gardiner that the motion be amended as follows:

"To add:

This Council notes that:

1. The 2006/07 GLA budget concentrates 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 Conservatives have voted against every Budget that has paid for better policing since 2001.
4. That in Metropolitan police force area the number of police officers has increased by 3,433 since 1997. The total number of police officers in 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.

To delete all below "This Council resolves to" and replace with:

1. To support the work of the Safer Neighbourhoods 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 Neighbourhoods Teams".

The amendment was put to the meeting and **AGREED**

**Moved** by Councillor Judith Gardiner and seconded by Councillor Michael Keith that the motion be further amended as follows.

- "1. This Council welcome 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 sale of spray paints to under-18's 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
2. That such measures have proven to be both well guided and necessary and have directly led to better policing and more effective Council initiatives.
3. That in combination with the new Safer Neighbourhoods 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".

The second amendment was put to the meeting and **AGREED**.

The amended motion was then put to the meeting and it was

**RESOLVED:**

"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 notes:

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, and the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives have voted against every Budget that has paid for better policing since 2001.
4. That in the 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-17s
  - 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:-**

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".

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **11.1 Review of the Constitution**

**Moved** by Councillor Michael Keith and **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur that the revisions to the Constitution be adopted.

**Moved** by Councillor Keith, **Seconded** by Councillor Shukur and

**RESOLVED** That in accordance with Rule 14.1.10 the question be now put.

The motion was then put to the meeting and it was

**RESOLVED:**

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

### **11.2 Review of Proportionality**

**Moved** by Councillor Michael Keith, **Seconded** by Councillor Abdus Shukur and

**RESOLVED:**

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 (to replace Councillor Khaled Khan);



4. That Councillors Julia Mainwaring and Ashton McGregor be appointed to membership of the Health Scrutiny Panel (to replace Councillors Khaled Khan and Helal Rahman);
5. That Councillor Julia Mainwaring be appointed to membership of the Licensing and Development Committees (to replace Councillors Helal Rahman and Khaled Khan respectively noting that this left a further vacancy on the Licensing Committee);
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 (to replace Councillor Helal Rahman);
8. That Councillor Kevin Morton be appointed to membership of the Pensions and Accounts Committee (to replace Councillor Fanu Miah).

**CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions, and closed the meeting at 11.04 p.m.

**COUNCILLOR DOROS ULLAH  
MAYOR**

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2006**  
**APPOINTMENT OF POLITICAL ASSISTANTS**  
**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10**  
**REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF**  
**DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL**  
**AND ENGAGEMENT**

## **SUMMARY**

- 1 This report concerns the appointment of political assistants to the political groups on the Council.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. That the Council is invited to consider the establishment of posts of political assistant in accordance with section 9 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

## **BACKGROUND**

3. The 1987 Widdicombe Committee produced a report entitled “The Conduct of Local Authority Business” and one of the issues it examined was that of political advisers, otherwise known as political assistants for political groups on authorities. The Widdicombe Committee recognised the existence and the reality of political organisations operating within the context of a local authority and found that political advisers were appointed by a small number of authorities “of all political colours”. The appointment of political assistants has now become standard practice across local authorities.
4. Widdicombe, whilst not advocating their general appointment found political assistants to be a useful means of broadening the basis of advice to councillors which led to positively promoting rather than damaging the role of the main officer hierarchy.
5. Widdicombe was of the view that political assistants should be differentiated from other officers, they should not enjoy delegated powers and that they should advise members directly rather than through an authority’s Chief Executive.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

6. The Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 (LGHA 89) set out the legislative framework for the employment of political assistants. It provides that, where the members of the authority are divided into different political groups, a political group shall qualify for a political assistant if:-
  - (a) the membership of that group comprises at least one-tenth of the membership of the authority;
  - (b) the number of the other groups (if any) which are larger groups does not exceed two; and
  - (c) where the number of the other groups which are the same size or larger than that group exceeds two, the authority have determined that group should be a group to which a post is allocated.

## **POSITION IN 2002-2006**

7. During the previous administration both the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Group enjoyed the service of a full-time (35 hours per week) political assistant.
8. The political composition of the Council following the Borough Elections is:-

Labour Group	-	26
Respect Group	-	12
Conservative Group	-	7
Liberal Democrat Group	-	6

9. The Council is asked to consider whether posts of political assistants should be established for the 2006/10 administration. If the Council decided to do this, posts would be allocated to the Labour, Respect and Conservative Groups.

#### **LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND**

10. Section 9 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 which incorporated a number of Widdicombe's recommendations, governs the appointment of political advisers to provide assistance in the discharge of functions of members of any political groups as members of the authority.
11. Political assistants must be appointed on a fixed term contract which will terminate shortly after the annual meeting in 2010. The appointment of political assistants must be one of no more than three posts the authority has decided to create. Each group may only have one political assistant. The appointment of political assistants must be in accordance with the wishes of the political group to whom the post has been appointed. The appointments process, however, must be conducted in accordance with the Council's procedures and statutory requirements.
12. The legislation prohibits the making of an appointment to any post allocated to a political group until the authority has allocated a post to each political group on the Council which qualifies for one.

#### **CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)**

13. The legal position is set out in the main body of the report.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

14. The current budget for Democratic Renewal & Engagement includes provision for two posts of full-time political assistants. If the cost of any new arrangements exceeded this provision, it would need to be met from existing provision by means of compensatory savings.

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