



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 21 June 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:

Tim Hogan, Democratic Services

Tel: 020 7364 4850, E-mail: tim.hogan@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Chief Executive's
Directorate

Democratic Renewal and Engagement
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London E14 2BG

Tel **020 7364 4850**
Fax **020 7364 3232**

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

**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, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at **7.30 p.m.** on **WEDNESDAY, 21 JUNE 2006**

Christine Gilbert
Chief Executive

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 21 JUNE 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 173 to 185 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 the proceedings of the unrestricted minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 24th May, 2006. **(Attached)**

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

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS OR DEPUTATIONS

No requests to receive petitions have been received.

Two deputation requests have been received.

5 .1 A request to submit a deputation has been received from Ms. P. Cottage, Sivill House, Columbia Road, E2, on the subject of Housing Choice.

5 .2 A request to submit a deputation has been received from Ms. L. Rogers, Columbia Road, E2, on the subject of Crossrail.

6. TO RECEIVE 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. TO RECEIVE 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 FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

Report of the Cabinet of 5th April 2006

8 .1 Youth Justice Plan 2006-2007: Key Proposals 37 - 116

Reports of the Cabinet of 7th June 2006

8 .2 Tower Hamlets Community Plan to 2010 Year 6 (2006/2007) Revision 117 - 200

8 .3 The Council's Strategic Plan 2006 to 2011: Year 1 Implementation Plan (2006/7) & Best Value Performance Plan 201 - 364

Report of the General Purposes Committee of 14th June 2006

8 .4 Controlled Drinking Zone (TO FOLLOW)

9. REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 .1 Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2005/2006 365 - 384

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

10 .1 Joint Arrangements

No business under this heading to be considered.

10 .2 External Organisations

No business under this heading to be considered.

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(A maximum of 30 minutes allowed)

Five motions have been submitted.

11 .1 Motion submitted by Councillor Phil Briscoe regarding crime reduction targets and Police Station provision in the Borough.

Proposed: Councillor Phil Briscoe

Seconded: Councillor Shirley Houghton

“This Council Notes:

1. In the year 2005/2006, the Tower Hamlets targets on crime reduction were missed in each of the top 10 categories, including domestic burglaries, violent crime, racial incidents, street robberies and vehicle crimes.
2. Neither the Tower Hamlets Council Community Plan 2006-2007, nor the Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan 2006-2011, make any mention of the existence or importance of Police Stations in the Borough.
3. That aside from the 2 main Police Stations in the Borough (at Limehouse and Bethnal Green), there are a further 4 recognised police stations in Tower Hamlets (Isle of Dogs, Poplar, Brick Lane, Bow). Out of a possible total weekly opening of 672 hours, these 4 stations currently open for only 133.5 hours per week (19.8%).
4. That the number of hours when local residents can visit an active Police Station in Tower Hamlets is one of the lowest figures across London Boroughs. In neighbouring Boroughs, Police Station opening hours are significantly longer in Newham, Hackney, Greenwich and Lewisham.
5. The success of the residents of the Isle of Dogs and their campaign to change the opening hours of the Manchester Road Police Station via the Metropolitan Police Authority and to ensure that this facility is open in the evenings when residents need access.

This Council resolves:

1. To review the stated Living Safely objectives to include a reference to Police Stations and their importance in the fight against crime.
2. To work with the Metropolitan Police and the Tower Hamlets Borough Police Commander to maximise the use of Police Stations to help counter crime and to reduce the fear of crime across the area.
3. To undertake meaningful consultation through the Local Area Partnership network to work with local residents and establish expectations around Police Station opening hours and how they can be improved to counter local crime issues.
4. To explore other possible options of sponsorship or partnership working to produce the resources to allow Police Stations to open for longer hours without detracting from frontline policing in the Borough.”

11 .2 Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Golds regarding the Ideas Store Programme and other issues relating to libraries in the Borough.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Golds
Seconded: Councillor Simon Rouse

“This Council Notes:

- The current Ideas Store Programme.
- The closure of Limehouse library and Bancroft library.
- Previous motions presented to this Council regarding Bethnal Green library and Blackwall and Cubitt Town library.
- The £6,545 cost of the opening ceremony for the Canary Wharf Ideas Store, including costs for Gospel singers and Tango dancers.

This Council Believes:

- That the uncertainty governing existing libraries needs to be ended.
- That the sale of historic public libraries should stop.
- That the millions of pounds associated with the Ideas Store programme are an unacceptable use of Council taxpayers money.
- That existing libraries are popular with residents and should be retained.

This Council instructs:

- That the Lead Member for Culture should make a clear and unequivocal statement as to the long term future of all libraries.
- That the Lead Member for Culture should specifically confirm that Bethnal Green library and Blackwall and Cubitt Town library will

Ideas Store programme.

- That the Ideas Store Programme be stopped and all budget allocated to re-investment in existing library provision.”

11 .3 Motion submitted by Councillor Simon Rouse regarding the Calendar of Council meetings and constitutional changes, to improve democratic engagement.

Proposed: Councillor Simon Rouse

Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer

“This Council Notes:

- The Calendar of Meetings for the 2006/7 Municipal Year.
- That the aforementioned calendar was agreed at the Council meeting on 1st March prior to the election of the current Council.
- That the current Council has a number of new members who have not had a chance to agree the Municipal Calendar.
- That the Constitution actually notes the Annual Council to be the normal body to agree the Municipal calendar.
- That the current calendar only provides for 5 meetings of the Full Council.
- That the full Council meeting on 1st March passed a number of changes to the Council Constitution and that those changes were not subject to any discussion as a motion to ‘move to the vote’ was passed before any Council discussion.
- That the amendments passed changed the time allocated to public questioning of the Council and motions presented by Members, as well as changes to Member access to information.

This Council Believes:

- That the new Members should have an opportunity to agree the Municipal calendar governing the new Council.
- That 5 Council meetings a year is inadequate to conduct the Council’s business in a timely way whilst ensuring maximum public engagement.
- That the Constitutional changes passed were of significance to the ability of the public and Members to exercise their right to express views and affect Council policy, as well as significantly altering Member access to information.

This Council instructs:

- That the Head of Democratic Renewal and Engagement table the Municipal calendar for formal agreement by the new Council at their meeting on 13th September.
- That the calendar presented should include full Council meetings to be held in October, November, January, March and April.
- That the constitutional changes passed on 1st May be revoked, pending a review by a cross-party constitutional working party. Pending the review, the constitution prior to the changes should be restated.”

11 .4 Motion submitted by Councillor Oliur Rahman regarding the Housing Choice process

Proposed: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconded:

“In view of widespread concerns at the process and impact of Housing Choice, and serious allegations of malpractice and abuses in the conduct of Housing Choice ballots, we agree to listen to the case put by tenants and:

- Stop the Housing Choice process
- Conduct a full investigation into allegations concerning the conduct of Housing Choice consultation and balloting
- Review available resources and assets, including regeneration funding, available to fund council housing repairs and improvements
- Request a full study on the implications of the Audit Commission ‘Financing council housing’ report (2005) recommendations of ‘solutions for those authorities that currently rely heavily on the [council housing subsidy] system ‘by relieving the HRA of historic debt costs
- Joint representations to government, with tenants, trade unions, and elected representatives, on the particular and acute needs of Tower Hamlets and the urgent need for direct investment in our council housing stock (the Fourth Option)”

11 .5 Motion submitted by Councillor Tim Archer regarding the Housing Choice process

Proposed: Councillor Tim Archer

Seconded: Councillor Simon Rouse

“This Council Notes:

- The 7 recent no votes against stock transfer.
- The £5 million being spent by the Council on supporting the Housing Transfer process.
- The £500 million required to bring the Council’s housing stock up to the Decent Homes Standard requirement by 2010.

This Council Believes:

- That the Housing Choice process has lost all credibility with local residents and voters.
- That public money is being spent on a propaganda exercise.
- That this Council has no effective contingency plan to deal with estates that do not transfer.
- That the Housing Choice process has become overly politicised.

This Council instructs:

- That the Housing Choice programme be immediately suspended.
- That a three-month review is conducted chaired by an independent party and involving local residents, to establish a

12. OTHER BUSINESS

**12 .1 Crossrail - Endorsement of the Submission of a Petition on the
Additional Provisions - May 2006**

385 - 404