

Meeting of the

# GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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Monday, 10 December 2007 at 6.30 p.m.

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## A G E N D A

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### VENUE

Committee Room, 1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove  
Crescent, London, E14 2BG

Members:	Deputies (if any):
Chair: Councillor A A Sardar Vice-Chair: Councillor Waiseul Islam	
Councillor Rajib Ahmed Councillor Philip Briscoe Councillor Carli Harper-Penman Councillor Lutfur Rahman Councillor M. Mamun Rashid	Councillor M. Shahid Ali, (Designated Deputy representing Councillors A. A. Sardar, Carli Harper-Penman, Waiseul Islam and Lutfur Rahman) Councillor Stephanie Eaton, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Rajib Ahmed) Councillor Peter Golds, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Philip Briscoe) Councillor Abjol Miah, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor M. Mamun Rashid) Councillor Fozol Miah, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor M. Mamun Rashid) Councillor Abdul Munim, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor M. Mamun Rashid)

[Note: The quorum for this body is 3 Members].

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: John S Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services,

Tel: 020 7364 4024, E-mail: [johns.williams@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:johns.williams@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

# LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Monday, 10 December 2007

6.30 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 195 to 198 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 Service Head, Democratic Services on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.

**3. MINUTES**

**1 - 6**

To agree as a correct record the draft minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

**4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**4 .1 Ocean Regeneration Trust Interim Board**

**7 - 10**

**Mile End &  
Globe Town;  
St Dunstan's  
& Stepney  
Green;  
All Wards**

**4 .2 Tower Hamlets Homes - appointment of Shadow Board Member (to follow)**

**11 - 14**

**4 .3 Appointment of Representative(s) to outside body(ies) (to follow):**

- (a) London City Airport Consultative Committee
- (b) Other appointments required (if any)

**4 .4 Filling of casual vacancies on committees and panels (if any)**

**5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next ordinary meeting of the General Purposes Committee is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 p.m.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2007**

**COMMITTEE ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE  
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

**Members Present:**

Councillor Shafiqul Haque (Chair)

Councillor Waiseul Islam (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Councillor M. Shahid Ali  
Councillor Peter Golds

**Officers Present:**

Isabella Freeman	– (Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services])
Minesh Jani	– (Interim Service Head Risk Management)
Kamini Rambellas	– (Service Head Children's Social Care, Children's Services)
Seema Shahnaz	– (Deputy Electoral Services Manager)
John Williams	– (Service Head, Democratic Services)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Philip Briscoe, Councillor Carli Harper-Penman and Councillor M. Mamun Rashid.

Councillor Peter Golds and Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali deputised for Councillor Briscoe and Councillor Harper-Penman respectively.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Lutfur Rahman declared a personal interest in agenda item 4.6 'Local Safeguarding Children's Board – Serious Case Reviews' as a non-executive member of the Barts and the London NHS Trust.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007 be agreed as a correct record.

### **4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **4.1 Review of Polling Places and Districts**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) setting out the Returning Officer's proposals for the review of polling districts and polling places.

An amended plan was tabled to replace Appendix D in the circulated report, showing the proposed revised polling districts and polling places in Mile End East ward.

Ms Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services), introduced the report. Ms Freeman and Ms Seema Shahnaz, Deputy Electoral Services Manager, provided further information on the process of the review and the consultation undertaken, and responded to a number of questions from Members of the Committee.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Committee note the consultative process and responses received as set out in the report; and
- (2) That the Council be recommended to adopt the Returning Officer's revised representations as set out in Appendix A to the report, subject to the revised Appendix D as tabled, and that the polling districts and polling places be formally designated.

#### **4.2 Establishment of Audit Committee**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive seeking agreement to a proposal to alter the composition of the Audit Panel to reflect CIPFA guidance by establishing an Audit Committee as part of the Council's formal committee structure.

Mr Minesh Jani, Interim Service Head, Risk Management, introduced the report and responded to questions from Members of the Committee.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Council be recommended:

- (1) To establish an Audit Committee with the following terms of reference:
  - 1 To consider the Audit Plan and review the performance of Internal Audit against this target;
  - 2 To review internal audit findings and the annual report from the Head of Audit and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary;
  - 3 To act as a forum for the Audit Commission (external audit) to bring issues to Members' attention including both specific reports and general item such as the Annual Audit Letter and the Annual Governance Report;
  - 4 To be satisfied that the authority's assurance statements, including the Annual Governance Statement properly reflect the risk environment and any actions required to improve it;
  - 5 To enable the Council to demonstrate a response to its fiduciary responsibilities in preventing fraud and corruption;
  - 6 To consider reports of audit activity together with specific investigations;
  - 7 To monitor the Authority's Risk Management arrangements and seek assurance that action is being taken on risk related issues identified by auditors and inspectorates;
  - 8 To make arrangements for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs and for the proper stewardship of public funds expect the appointment of the Chief Finance Officer which shall remain the duty of the Council; and
  - 9 To meet the obligations of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 and the various statutory requirements in respect of the duty to approve the Authority's Statement of Accounts, income and expenditure and balance sheet or record of payments and receipts (as the case may be).
- (2) To rename the Pensions and Accounts Committee, the Pensions Committee and transfer the second term of reference, that is "To meet the obligations of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 and the various statutory requirements in respect of the duty to approve the Authority's Statement of Accounts, income and expenditure and balance sheet or record of payments and receipts (as the case may be)" to the newly constituted Audit Committee.
- (3) That the composition of the Audit Committee be in proportion to the political composition of the Council and comprise 4 majority group

members and 3 minority group members, pursuant to the review of the proportionality to be determined at the Council meeting on 28 November 2007.

#### **4.3 Ocean Regeneration Trust Interim Board**

The Service Head, Democratic Services informed the Committee that this item had been **WITHDRAWN** from the agenda.

#### **4.4 Filling of casual vacancies on committees and panels (if any)**

There was no business to consider under this agenda item.

#### **4.5 Recommendations from the Review and Evaluation of the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Board**

The Committee considered a report on the process, outcome and recommendations of the review and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board following its first year of operation.

Ms Kamini Rambellas, Service Head, Children's Social Care, introduced the report and answered questions from Members of the Committee

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Committee note the outcome of the review undertaken and the recommendations arising out of that review with respect to the future functioning of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

#### **4.6 Local Safeguarding Children's Board - Serious Case Reviews**

The Committee considered a report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board which presented the executive summaries of two Serious Case Reviews undertaken during 2007.

Ms Kamini Rambellas, Service Head, Children's Social Care, introduced the report and answered questions from Members of the Committee.

Councillor Peter Golds asked what mechanisms were in place to ensure that the lessons arising from the Serious Case Reviews were learned and acted upon by all agencies concerned. He also expressed concern at the large number of different agencies involved in the cases as listed in the report.

Ms Rambellas reported that the involvement of each of the agencies listed was appropriate to the particular case. Some represented authorities that had previously provided services to the families concerned. In relation to learning



lessons from the cases, Ms Rambellas confirmed that that this was the purpose of the Serious Case Review and that a detailed action plan was in place arising from each review. The Serious Case Review Group would continue to meet throughout the year to monitor this and report back to the Local Safeguarding Children Board on action required.

**RESOLVED**

That the Committee note (1) the content of the report and the executive summaries attached which include recommendations as appropriate to the cases; and (2) that in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006), the Local Safeguarding Children's Board will oversee the implementation of the action plan in respect to these reports.

**5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**NOTED** that the next ordinary meeting of the General Purposes Committee is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008, at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 6.50 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Shafiqul Haque  
General Purposes Committee

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# Agenda Item 4.1

<b>Committee:</b> General Purposes	<b>Date:</b> 10 December 2007	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>Agenda Item:</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Corporate Director of Development & Renewal  <b>Originating officer(s)</b> Matin Miah – Head of Homes & Communities Renewal Programmes		<b>Title:</b> Ocean Regeneration Trust Interim Board  <b>Wards Affected:</b> St Dunstan's & Stepney Green, Mile End & Globe Town		

## 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 In June 2007 the Cabinet agreed the Ocean New Deal for Communities (NDC) Delivery Plan and the set up of the Ocean Regeneration Trust (ORT) as a special purpose vehicle for delivery of the future regeneration of the Ocean Estate, including the remainder of the NDC programme.
- 1.2 This report sets out the actions needed by the General Purposes Committee to establish an interim board of the ORT.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Nominate 2 Council representatives to the interim Board of ORT.

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### **Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended) List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of "back ground papers"

Name and telephone number of holder  
and address where open to inspection.

Ocean NDC files

Chris Holmes (ext 4987 and Niall McGowan (ext 2538)

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In April 2007 Cabinet agreed in principle to the revised delivery arrangements for the Ocean. The delivery mechanism needed to meet Communities and Local Government Department (CLG) requirements for revised governance arrangements that take forward both the NDC programme and transformational change of the housing estate.
- 3.2 A CLG independent review recommended consideration of a small strategic management group that could take over responsibility of the remaining non-housing NDC programme and provide the NDC input into a housing regeneration programme.
- 3.3 In June 2007 Cabinet agreed the details of the proposed ORT delivery arrangements and the outline of the governance structure. ORT will have a board comprised of 3 residents, 2 council representatives, 2 RSL/developer representatives and 5 specialist independent members. There will also be a number of sub-boards and fora to allow wider community participation and specialist input.
- 3.3 ORT will be an asset management vehicle, which will have the potential to make a significant future contribution to the wider area for the benefit of the local community. It will take on ownership and management of both the housing regeneration and the community facilities developed and funded by the NDC as part of the housing redevelopment programme.

### **4. ACTION TAKEN**

- 4.1 Since the Cabinet approval CLG have written to the Council agreeing the revised governance structure. In June 2007, Ocean NDC Board agreed to disband itself at the instruction of CLG to allow the establishment of the ORT.
- 4.2 Memorandum and Articles of Association for ORT have been drafted in accordance with CLG guidance and legal/tax advice. ORT has been registered and is to be a Community Interest Company (CIC) which is acceptable to CLG and fit for purpose.
- 4.3 Recruitment to the interim ORT board is progressing as planned. In conjunction with CLG a high profile interim independent (non voting) chair has been appointed (for a limited period only) to oversee the setting up of ORT. Once fully established, it is anticipated that the ORT will select a chair from among its voting members. An extensive community engagement/advertising campaign is underway on the estate and nationally to recruit the 3 resident and 5 independent specialist members of the interim board. Closing date for applications is 19 November with assessments/interviews scheduled for first week in December.

- 4.4 The 2 Council nominations are now required in order to set up the appointment panel for the resident and independent specialist members so that the interim board can be operational by the end of the calendar year. The full board will be established when the RSL/development partner has been appointed and nominates two representatives on the ORT board. This is likely to be December 2008, subject to the outcome of the competitive dialogue procurement process.

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

- 5.1 The costs of ORT will be covered by NDC funding in the short term, as this is the successor management vehicle, and will be covered in the longer term by the income derived from the investment programme for which development partners are currently being sought via competitive tender.

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

- 6.1 The terms of reference of the committee empower it to appoint to bodies on which the Council has representation yet outside the Council's formal committee structure. The ORT is such a body and the committee may appoint the Council's representatives to the interim board.

## **7. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The advertising was widely targeted to maximise participation. A commitment to equalities forms an essential part of the selection criteria.

## **8. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 None directly arising as a result of this report

## **9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 9.1 None specifically arising as a result of this report

## **10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The timely appointment of interim board members is essential for meeting CLG requirements and any delay or difficulties in recruitment could impact on this.

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## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

### GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007

### ADDENDUM REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

(i) **AGENDA ITEM 4.2**

#### **Tower Hamlets Homes – Appointment of Shadow Board Member**

On 18 October 2007 the General Purposes Committee appointed Councillor Sirajul Islam and Councillor Denise Jones as additional Council representatives to the Shadow Board of Tower Hamlets Homes (THH), joining Councillors Marc Francis, Alex Heslop and Shafiqul Haque who had been appointed to the Shadow Board on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

As a result of changes to Lead Member portfolios notified by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Sirajul Islam has now assumed Cabinet responsibility for Housing matters in addition to his role as Deputy Leader of the Council. It is therefore inappropriate for Councillor Islam to continue as a THH Shadow Board member.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee appoint a Councillor to serve as a Council representative on the Shadow Board of Tower Hamlets Homes, replacing Cllr Sirajul Islam.

(ii) **AGENDA ITEM 4.3**

#### **Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies**

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to appoint Councillors to represent the Council on the following outside organisations:

##### **(a) London City Airport Consultative Committee: 1 representative**

Pursuant to section 35 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982, the London City Airport Consultative Committee (LCACC) is established to facilitate consultation between the Airport management, users and local communities. The London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Greenwich and Bexley are represented on the LCACC.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007 Councillor Bill Turner was appointed as the Council's representative on the LCACC. Councillor Turner has now given notice that he will be unable to continue in this capacity. The Committee is therefore asked to appoint a replacement representative.

**(b) East London and The City University Mental Health NHS Trust: 1 representative**

East London and The City University (EL&TCU) Mental Health NHS Trust was established as a Foundation Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007. In accordance with the arrangements for such Trusts a Members Council has been established. The Members Council will meet formally 3-4 times per year to:

- Advise the Trust's Board of Directors on how the Trust can meet the needs of members and local communities;
- Be involved in the strategic and forward plans for the Trust;
- Act as guardians to ensure the Trust complies with its obligations; and
- Act as a link between the Trust and local communities

The Trust has held elections for public and staff members of the Members Council and each of the four local authorities covered by the Trust has an appointed representative. Local authority nominees do not need to be elected members, but their role on the Members Council is to provide a perspective of the wider community and be a knowledgeable source for Council Members to develop a better understanding of the environment in which the Trust operates.

The Committee is asked to nominate Tower Hamlets' representative on the EL&TCU Mental Health NHS Trust Members Council.

**(c) London Housing Consortium**

**(d) London Housing Unit Executive Committee and Sub-Committee**

**(e) London Councils Housing Forum**

Pursuant to the appointment of a new Cabinet Member by the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and subsequent changes to Cabinet portfolios, the Committee is recommended to appoint **Councillor Sirajul Islam** to replace Councillor Rupert Bawden on each of the bodies listed at (c) to (e) above.

**(f) Greater London Employers Forum**

Pursuant to the changes to Cabinet portfolios notified by the Leader of the Council, the Committee is recommended to appoint **Councillor Joshua Peck** as the Council's representative on the Greater London Employers Forum, with **Cllr Sirajul Islam** as his deputy.



(iii) **AGENDA ITEM 4.4**

**Filling of Casual Vacancies on Committees and Panels**

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to appoint Councillors to serve on committees and panels for the remainder of the current municipal year as set out below:

**(a) Audit Committee**

On 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007 the Committee recommended to the Council the establishment of an Audit Committee. As a non-executive full committee of the Council, the Audit Committee will be subject to the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act').

The Conservative, Respect and Liberal Democrat members of the Audit Committee were appointed by the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> November as follows:

Councillor Rupert Eckhardt (Conservative, deputy Councillor Tim Archer); Councillor Abjol Miah (Respect, deputies Councillor Shahed Ali and Councillor Harun Miah); and Councillor Louise Alexander (Liberal Democrat, deputy Councillor Stephanie Eaton).

The Committee is now invited to appoint the remaining four members of the Audit Committee in accordance with nominations to be received from the Labour Group.

**(b) Health Scrutiny Panel**

Further to Councillor Shafiqul Haque's appointment as a member of the Cabinet, he is no longer eligible to participate in the Overview and Scrutiny function.

The Committee is asked to appoint a Councillor to replace Councillor Haque on the Health Scrutiny Panel. This Panel is covered by the proportionality requirements of the 1989 Act and the appointment will therefore be made in accordance with the nomination to be received from the Labour Group.

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