

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2008

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

Councillor Lutfur Rahman (Chair)	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships)
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	(Lead Member, Culture and Leisure)
Councillor Anwara Ali	(Lead Member, Health & Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Lead Member, Employment and Skills)
Councillor Marc Francis	(Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Clair Hawkins	(Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Vice-Chair)	(Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Joshua Peck	(Lead Member, Resources and Performance)
Councillor Abdal Ullah	(Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor Abdul Asad	(Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	(Leader Liberal Democrat Group and Scrutiny Lead Member: A Healthy Community)
Councillor Fazlul Haque	
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	

**Others Present:****Officers Present:**

Ashraf Ali	– (Scrutiny Policy Officer, Equalities and Scrutiny, Chief Executive's)
Mohammed Choudhury	– (Executive Support Officer, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Kevan Collins	– (Corporate Director, Children's Services)
Luke Cully	– (Finance Manager, Communities, Localities & Culture)
Barbara Disney	– (Service Manager Commissioning, Adults Health

	& Wellbeing)
Alan Finch	– (Service Head Corporate Finance, Resources)
Tony Finnegan	– (Communications Officer)
Julian Francis	– (Political Adviser to the Conservative Group, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Stephen Halsey	– (Corporate Director, Communities, Localities & Culture)
Chris Holme	– (Service Head Resources, Development & Renewal)
Afazul Hoque	– (Acting Scrutiny Policy Manager, Scrutiny and Equalities, Chief Executive's)
Michael Keating	– (Acting Assistant Chief Executive, Chief Executive's)
Paul Leeson	– (Finance Manager, Development & Renewal)
Maureen McEleney	– (Director of Housing Management)
Chris Naylor	– (Corporate Director, Resources)
Charles Skinner	– (Service Head Communications, Chief Executive's)
Martin Smith	– (Chief Executive)
Andreas Sussilch	– (Interim Political Adviser to the Labour Group, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Helen Taylor	– (Service Head, Commissioning & Strategy, Adults Health & Wellbeing)
David Tolley	– (Environmental Health Commercial Service Manager, Communities Localities and Culture)
Owen Whalley	– (Service Head, Major Project Development, Development & Renewal)
Graham White	– (Interim Legal Team Manager, Legal Services, Chief Executive's)
David Williams	– (Development Manager, Development & Renewal)
Angus Taylor	– (Executive Team Leader, Democratic Services)

### **COUNCILLOR L. RAHMAN (CHAIR) IN THE CHAIR**

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of

Ms I. Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services), for whom Mr G. White, Interim Legal Team Manager, Chief Executive's, was deputising.

Mr J. Goldup, Corporate Director Adults Health and Wellbeing, for whom Ms H. Taylor, Service Head Commissioning and Strategy, Adults Health and Wellbeing, was deputising.

Mr P. Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, for whom Mr O. Whalley, Service Head Major Project Development, Development and Renewal, was deputising.

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor A. Ali, Lead Member Health and Wellbeing.

**Noted**

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Councillor O. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8.1 "London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Draft Bromley-by-Bow Land Use Design Brief". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation and Councillor Ahmed was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation.

**Councillor A. Ali** gave notification to the clerk prior to the Cabinet meeting that she had a personal interest in Agenda items 6.1 "Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2008/2009" and 7.1 "Recommissioning LinkAge Plus" on the basis that the report made reference to the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust. and Councillor Ali was an employee of the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust (partner in general practitioner's practice in Spitalfields).

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed requested that in the case of Members sharing a common family name that future minutes of the Cabinet meeting clearly differentiate between these Members, and in particular that his name be recorded as Rofique U. Ahmed.

**Noted**

## **3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, in referring to the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008 indicated that he had raised three matters of accuracy with the clerk, as set out below, prior to the commencement of the meeting; and proposed that the minutes be amended accordingly.

- Page 1 - Other Councillors Present: amendment of designated titles to reflect appointment of Scrutiny Lead Members in the Municipal Year 2008/9.
- Page 5 - Agenda item 4 "Declarations of Interest" paragraph 2: deletion of "Councillor Francis was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Old Ford Housing Association" and insertion of

“Councillor Francis was an independent member of the governing body of Old Ford Housing Association”.

- Page 7 - Agenda item 7.1 “Chairs advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Unrestricted Business to be considered” penultimate paragraph: deletion of “Councillor Francis” and insertion of “Councillor Asad”.

Councillor Hawkins, Lead Member Children’s Services, in referring to Page 14 - Agenda item 11.2 “Children’s and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) Review and 2007 Update” paragraph 4 observed that there was a reference to “Primary Strategy for Change” and this should be a reference to “Children’s and Young People’s Plan”, and proposed that the minutes be amended accordingly.

Councillor Peck, Lead Member Resources and Performance, in referring to Page 9 - Agenda item 9.1 “Housing Investment Programme 2008/09 to 2012/13” final bullet: observed that Malmsbury Estate was spelled incorrectly and required the insertion of the letter e, and proposed that the minutes be amended accordingly.

The Chair **Moved** (taking account of the proposed amendments from Councillors Francis, Hawkins and Peck); and it was: -

### **Resolved**

That subject to the amendments set out below the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cabinet held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair, as a correct record of the proceedings:-

Page 1 - Other Councillors Present: amendment of designated titles to reflect appointment of Scrutiny Lead Members in the Municipal Year 2008/9.

Page 5 - Agenda item 4 “Declarations of Interest” paragraph 2: deletion of “Councillor Francis was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Old Ford Housing Association” and insertion of “Councillor Francis was an independent member of the governing body of Old Ford Housing Association”.

Page 7 - Agenda item 7.1 “Chairs advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Unrestricted Business to be considered” penultimate paragraph: deletion of “Councillor Francis” and insertion of “Councillor Asad”.

Page 9 - Agenda item 9.1 “Housing Investment Programme 2008/09 to 2012/13” final bullet: correction of typographical error: Malmsbury Estate to Malmesbury Estate.

Page 14 - Agenda item 11.2 “Children’s and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) Review and 2007 Update” paragraph 4: deletion of “Primary Strategy for Change” and insertion of “Children’s and Young People’s Plan”.

#### 4. DEPUTATIONS & PETITIONS

The clerk advised that the Acting Assistant Chief Executive had received no requests for deputations or petitions in respect of the business contained in the agenda.

#### 5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

##### 5.1 Chair's advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Unrestricted Business to be considered

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that Councillor Asad, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, had **Tabled** a sheet of questions/ comments arising from the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, in respect of the unrestricted business contained in the agenda for consideration, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

Councillor Asad, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- Thanked Councillor Choudhury, Lead Member Employment and Skills for attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous evening for the "Scrutiny Spotlight"; outlined the key issues on which this discussion focused and noted that the Lead Member had indicated that he would take forward the suggestions arising.
- Also thanked Councillor Peck, Lead Member Resources and Performance for attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous evening to present the Corporate Complaints and Social Care Complaints Annual Report. Councillor Asad outlined the key issues on which this discussion focused including a disproportionate number of complaints from BME Communities and a high number of complaints in relation to assessment decisions by adult services and housing technical services, and informed members of the Cabinet that the Committee considered an action plan was needed to mitigate this phenomena.
- Informed members of the Cabinet that he had nothing to add to the questions/ comments raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the tabled paper regarding: -
  - Agenda item 6.1 "Food Law Enforcement Plan" (CAB 012/089)
  - Agenda item 7.1 "Recommissioning Linkage Plus" (CAB 013/089)
  - Agenda item 8.1 "London Thames Gateway Development Corporation Draft Bromley by Bow Land Use Design Brief" (CAB 014/089)
  - Agenda item 12.1 "Housing Revenue Account Provisional Outturn Report 2007/08" (CAB 016/089)

The Chair thanked Councillor Asad for presenting the contribution of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and then **Moved** and it was: -

### **Resolved**

That the questions and comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted, and that these be given consideration during the Cabinet deliberation of the items of business to which the questions and comments related.

## **5.2 Any Unrestricted Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

The Clerk advised that no provisional decisions made by the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008, had been "called in" for further consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, and accordingly none had been referred back to Cabinet for further consideration.

## **6. A BETTER PLACE FOR LIVING SAFELY**

### **6.1 Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2008/2009 (CAB 012/089)**

**Councillor A. Ali** gave notification to the clerk prior to the Cabinet meeting that she had a personal interest in Agenda items 6.1 "Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2008/2009" on the basis that the report made reference to the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust. and Councillor Ali was an employee of the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust (partner in general practitioner's practice in Spitalfields).

Mr Halsey, Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture, at the request of the Chair in introducing the report:

- Briefly summarised the salient points contained therein:
  - Drawing particular attention to paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 which outlined the Authority's responsibilities in relation to food law and the commercial premises in relation to which this regime was applied.
  - Highlighting in particular that National Indicator 184 measured the compliance of establishments with food hygiene law and 57% of Tower Hamlets premises were currently compliant and it was intended that this would be increased by 5% in the coming year.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheet of questions and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings.

Mr Tolley, Environmental Health Commercial Service Manager – Communities, Localities and Culture, at the request of the Chair, responded to requests for clarification/ assurance, in relation to a number of matters including:-

- With reference to Appendix 1, paragraph 4.1.3 and Table 5 contained therein: the budget available to staff for call allowances, in the context of the Authority's policies promoting low car usage, and steps being taken to reduce this.
- With reference to Appendix 1, paragraph 6.15.1: the usage of agency staff and if due to shortage of adequately qualified staff, the steps being taken to mitigate reliance on these.
- With reference to Appendix 1, paragraph 2.1.2 inclusion of Mile End Park and Weavers Fields in community events detailed.
- With reference to the take up of training referred to in the report: nature, availability, promotion of training.
- With reference to Appendix 1 page 54: specification of young workers in relation to which data being collected.
- With reference to paragraph 12.1 "Sustainable Action for a Greener Environment", and the context of the importance of recycling and waste management to the recently adopted Local Area Agreement, the ways in which the Authority was currently promoting the reduction of food waste and how this could be taken forward.

Councillor Ullah, Lead Member Cleaner, Safer, Greener, in welcoming the report and thanking the officer team for their contribution to its production:-

- Commented upon the prevalence of fast food outlets in High Street 2012, expressed concern that this encouraged an unhealthy lifestyle, primarily amongst young people, and requested that officers explore the options for limiting an expansion in their numbers and instead maintaining an appropriate mix of commercial premises.
- Considered that the availability of food and refreshments was needed at large and lengthy events, but emphasised the need for proper licensing and enforcement of the food law regime at these events.
- Informed those present that he had observed what appeared to be illegal food trading and certainly insanitary arrangements for dealing with associated utensils at the market in Truman's Brewery, Brick Lane and requested that officers ensure that these activities were subject to the Authority's food law enforcement regime.

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

**Resolved:**

That the Tower Hamlets Food Law Enforcement Plan 2008/2009 attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 012/09) be approved.

## 7. A BETTER PLACE FOR LIVING WELL

## 7.1 Re-commissioning LinkAge Plus (CAB 013/089)

**Councillor A. Ali** gave notification to the clerk prior to the Cabinet meeting that she had a personal interest in Agenda items 7.1 "Re-commissioning LinkAge Plus" on the basis that the report made reference to the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust. and Councillor Ali was an employee of the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust (partner in general practitioner's practice in Spitalfields).

Ms Taylor, Service Head Commissioning & Strategy, Adults Health and Wellbeing, at the request of the Chair in introducing the report:-

- Briefly summarised the salient points contained therein highlighting in particular:
  - The Authority's success as one of eight local authorities nationally piloting the Link Age Plus Programme.
  - The proposal that the Authority and the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust mainstream the funding for the project after the pilot phase, funded from other sources, completed.
  - Efficiency savings expected from the new governance and management model for the contract re-commissioning the service.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheet of questions and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings. Ms Taylor undertook to provide Members with written details of contract monitoring arrangements.

Ms Taylor, Service Head Commissioning & Strategy, Adults Health and Wellbeing, at the request of the Chair, responded to requests for clarification/assurance, in relation to a number of matters including:-

- Whether client side arrangements for the verification and assessment of the performance of the contractor side in relation to the provision of this service had been robust.
- The outcome of a tender exercise, in relation to the future contract for this service provision, limited to the current five contractor side organisations, would be their delivery of the same service as currently provided.
- Whether the four organisations which did not win the contract for coordination of the contract would have sufficient funding under the consortia arrangements to operate a project of the same capacity.
- Whether each of the five organisations currently operating the scheme would be in place after the tender exercise was complete.
- Whether the other seven pilot local authorities were allocating their resources to mainstream the project.

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

**Resolved:**



1. That a limited tender process be conducted for the coordination of the LinkAge Plus organisation;
2. That the Corporate Director Adults Health and Wellbeing be authorised to agree the contract with the successful organisation; and
3. That authorisation be given pursuant to Procurement Procedures paragraph 2.1.1 (b) for an exception to the general provisions of paragraphs 2.5.1 (requirement for 6 tenders) and 2.5.2 (requirement for public notice) of the Procedures in respect of the procurement process for this contract.

## **8. A BETTER PLACE FOR CREATING AND SHARING PROSPERITY**

### **8.1 London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Draft Bromley-by-Bow Land Use Design Brief (CAB 014/089)**

**Councillor O. Ahmed** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8.1 "London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Draft Bromley-by-Bow Land Use Design Brief". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation and Councillor Ahmed was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation.

Mr Whalley, Service Head Major Project Development - Development and Renewal, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report; briefly summarised salient points contained therein, and addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheet of questions and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings.

A detailed discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed for their potential to bring forward a good neighbourhood in an area of disuse, and which focused on the following issues:-

- Consideration that in the context of the large number of people on the Authority's housing waiting list and the acknowledged levels of overcrowding in the Borough that targets for affordable housing and family housing should be as ambitious as possible and all necessary steps be taken to encourage property developers to maximise the potential for this mix of accommodation. It was also considered that this message should be conveyed to the relevant planning authority in relation to proposed level of single and luxury housing units for the Olympic Village.
- Noted that the draft land use design brief was congruent with the sensitivity required in terms of development parameters, such as height

density and good design, in areas sensitive to development such as the historic Three Mills Conservation Area; particularly in the context of current poor design in the vicinity of Twelve Trees and Bow Flyover.

- Considered that It was important to emphasise the Borough's Interim Planning Guidance required any new development to include:
  - Between 35 to 50% affordable housing
  - 25% of private housing for larger units larger units and 45% of social rented and intermediate housing for larger units (3+ beds) and the proposals were in accord with these requirements.
- Considered that it was important to emphasise that developments should be consistent with the Brief and not comprise more than eight storeys.
- Noted that the draft land use design brief was consistent with the Authority's Bromley by Bow Masterplan.
- Considered that although the objectives of the draft land use design brief were laudable these were not sufficiently connected and there was a lack of synergy and community focus.
- Concern that the new primary school provision to be secured from redevelopment of the site, which was located to the east of the A12, was the designated provision for any residential development to take place on the St Andrew's Hospital Site, located to the west of the A12. Concern also that the only firm proposals in the brief for pedestrian connections between east and west involved enhancing the subways under the A12 and consideration that it was essential that other options be developed for pedestrians involving surface crossings . Mr Williams, Development Manager, Development and Renewal, undertook to provide Councillor Hawkins, Lead Member Children's Services, with a breakdown of the projected figures for attendees of the primary school from each side of the A12. Mr Williams also suggested that the consultation period was a good opportunity for further ideas on connectivity to come forward.
- Concern that whilst substantial open space in the area around the new primary school was welcome, there should not be a substitution of open space to the east of the A12 for that to the west, unless the inadequate connectivity was mitigated.
- Consideration of inclusive consultation was required given the strong views of stakeholders in the surrounding area; and that further clarity was required in relation to the implementation of consultation with religious and faith groups. Clarification was also sought as to the methodology and timetable for statutory consultation on the draft land use design brief and how the recent work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee around this area could contribute to the consultation. Mr Whalley confirmed that there would be a detailed Consultation Plan worked up with the LTGDC and the good practice consultation of the masterplan process would be continued. Officers would play a key role in the Consultation ensuring that the Corporate Consultation team was closely involved.
- Mr.Whalley confirmed that the feasibility for providing a multi-faith burial facility in the borough was being considered as part of the emerging Local Development Framework.

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

**Resolved:**

1. That the Draft Bromley-by-Bow Land Use and Design Brief, attached at Appendix 2 to the report (CAB 014/089) be approved for a 12 week period of statutory consultation to be carried out jointly between the Council and London Thames Gateway Development Corporation prior to its approval by the Authority as 'Interim Planning Guidance'; and
2. That the Corporate Director Development and Renewal be authorised, after consultation with the Lead Member Housing and Development, to make any appropriate and necessary minor amendments to the Bromley-by-Bow Land Use and Design Brief prior to statutory consultation from August 2008.

**9. A BETTER PLACE FOR LEARNING, ACHIEVEMENT AND LEISURE**

The Clerk advised that there were no business to be considered under this section of the agenda.

**10. A BETTER PLACE FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICES**

**10.1 General Fund Service Outturn and Strategic Plan Performance Information for 2007/2008 - (CAB 015/089)**

Mr Finch, Service Head Corporate Finance – Resources, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report summarised the salient points contained therein, and also advising members of the Cabinet that:-

- A further report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet, due to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008, regarding the annual financial review process which would comprise figures set out in the report contained in the agenda before them together with an assessment of the financial risks and pressures facing the Authority. Mr Finch also commented that the Authority's Budgetary performance to date placed it in a positive position to deal with these.
- Paragraph 7.2 of the report contained a typographical error and the figure should read £504,000 not £514,000 and therefore that in 2008/09 £10,000 less was available to the Authority for Child Care Court Costs than indicated.

Councillor Peck, Lead Member Resources and Performance, with reference to paragraph 5.1 of the report and the tabled contained therein setting out directorate requests for carry forward of 2007/08 funding to 2008/09, commented that he required clarification as to:

- Why it was necessary to carry forward funding in the Childrens Services Budget relating to the revaluation on school properties resulting in National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) rebate.
- The capacity to deliver the Corporate PC Refresh programme for the sum indicated.

Accordingly Councillor Peck proposed an amendment to the recommendation set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, as follows:-

“That the following carry forwards set out in the table contained within paragraph 5.1 of the report not be agreed, and that these be the subject of a further report submitted for the consideration of the Cabinet at its next meeting:

- Childrens Services - Re valuation on school properties resulting in National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) rebate carried forward £134, 000.
- Corporate – PC Refresh £224,000.”

Councillor Peck, Lead Member Resources and Performance:

- With reference to paragraph 10.1 of the report and the table relating to data collection contained therein, expressed concern regarding the indicated percentage collection rate for 2007/08 debt relating to major works and service charges.
- With reference to Appendix D “Efficiency Return – Backward Look 2007/08” to the report, commented that of the 2007/08 efficiency savings, agreed by the Cabinet, approximately £350,000 had not been delivered. These savings could be technically offset by under spends in directorate budgets elsewhere; however, had the agreed efficiency savings also been delivered the Authority’s financial position would be that much stronger. Councillor Peck further commented that examination and agreement of budget savings was a long, detailed and difficult process for all concerned, and expressed, on behalf of members of the Cabinet, their expectation that should the agreed 2007/08 efficiency savings not be delivered that they be rolled forward to 2008/09.

Ms McEleney, Director of Housing Management, undertook to examine the 2007/08 service charge debt collection rate indicated in the report as this appeared incorrect, and to inform members of the Cabinet and Leaders of the political groups of her conclusions, in writing.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations contained in the report (taking account of the amendment proposed by Councillor Peck), and it was:-

**Resolved:**

1. That the outturn position for 2007/2008 and the underspend of £6.2m against approved service budgets be noted;
2. That the technical target adjustment as detailed in Appendix A and explained in Section 6 of the report (CAB 015/089) be agreed;

3. That the Directorates' outturn and explanation for variances as detailed in Appendices B1-7 to the report (CAB 015/089) be noted;
4. That subject to (a) below the requests for carry forwards detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the report (CAB 015/089) be agreed;
  - (a) That the following carry forwards set out in the table contained within paragraph 5.1 of the report not be agreed and that these be the subject of a further report submitted for the consideration of the Cabinet at its next meeting:
    - Childrens Services - Re valuation on school properties resulting in National Non Domestic Rate (NNDR) rebate carried forward £134, 000.
    - Corporate – PC Refresh £224,000
5. That the transfers to earmarked reserves detailed in the Directorate reports and summarised at paragraph 5.2 of the report (CAB 015/089) be agreed;
6. That the efficiency statement for 2007/08 at paragraph 8.1 and Appendix D of the report (CAB 015/089) be noted;
7. That, in respect of the 2008/09 budget, £390,000 be allocated from the contingency established for the purpose of providing an increase in the budget for Child Care Court Costs, as set out in Section 7 of the report (CAB 015/089);
8. That the performance information for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 [as set out in Section 9 of the report (CAB 015/089)] be noted; and
9. That the Revenue Collection data for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 [as set out in Section 10 of the report (CAB 015/089)] be noted.

## **11. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

The Clerk advised that there were no business to be considered under this section of the agenda.

## **12. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

### **12.1 Housing Revenue Account Provisional Out turn Report 2007/08 (CAB 016/089)**

Mr Holme, Service Head Resources - Development and Renewal, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report; summarised salient points contained therein, and addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, in relation to the report; as set out

in the tabled sheet of questions and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings.

Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development:

- Commented that the outturn in the 2007/08 Housing Revenue Account (HRA), an under spend in excess of £4 million, was a reflection of the achievement of value for money and containing expenditure within the allocated budget by the Authority's Housing department, but also indicated a need to work harder to identify and mitigate, at an earlier juncture, any such future under spend.
- Informed members of the Cabinet that there were two options with regard to the identified under spend in the 2007/08 HRA. Firstly to add these resources to the HRA balances making further provision for unforeseen risks in future years; to "bank now and invest later". Secondly to recognise that the resources had been derived from tenant rents and leaseholder service charges and that these be invested for their benefit at the earliest opportunity "invest now".
- Considered the latter option to be preferable, and accordingly proposed the following additional recommendation, to that contained in paragraph 2.1 of the report, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet:-

"That in the context of the identified increase in the level of Housing Revenue Account reserves, by in excess of £4 million, the Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal after consultation with the Lead Member Housing and Development submit a further report to Cabinet, at the earliest opportunity, bringing forward costed proposals that accord with the priorities of the Cabinet to deliver early improvements in frontline housing services."

- Outlined the priorities of the Cabinet for early improvement in frontline housing services as follows:-
  - Developing the Estate Improvement Programme to deliver transformational change to local environments including painting, cleaning and landscaping.
  - A programme to achieve improved block and estate security.
  - Relieving overcrowding through small scale adaptations to flats and ancillary spaces, such as knock-throughs. Also through further incentivisation of tenants to take up smaller units or home ownership (enhanced resourcing of the Cash Incentive Grant) thereby freeing up more family accommodation.
  - Adaption of homes to better meet the needs of disabled residents.
  - Additional work be undertaken to achieve value for money in relation to leaseholder service charges and an additional rebate be brought forward in relation to the level of service provided to leaseholders in 2007/08
- Concluded by informing members of the Cabinet that he was pleased to report that the Department of Communities and Local Government had now given consent for the Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO), also known as Tower Hamlets Homes, to go live on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008; adding that much work had been undertaken by members of the

Shadow Tower Hamlet Homes Board and staff in Housing Services to improve the quality of the housing service and Government consent to progress the ALMO should be taken as an indication of their confidence that its objectives would be achieved.

Members of the Cabinet welcomed the proposal made by Councillor Francis.

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed, Lead Member Culture and Leisure, in referring to paragraph 5.2 of the report containing a reference to the appointment of a Strategic Partner on the Ocean Estate in the near future, reported, on behalf of constituents who had expressed concerns to him, regarding the capacity of the Interim Board of the Ocean Regeneration Trust to deliver the programme of works proposed for the Estate.

Ms McEleney, Director of Housing Management, at the request of the Chair, responded to requests for clarification/ assurance, in relation to the following:-

- The contribution to the under spend in the 2007/08 Housing Revenue Account arising from renegotiated contracts for energy supply, and the linkage of reduced energy costs/ energy related savings to a reduction in income accruing to the Authority from leaseholders. Ms McEleney undertook to provide further written clarification to Councillor Peck, Lead Member Resources and Performance.
- With reference to Appendix 1 "HRA Outturn Report 2007/08" and the increased expenditure detailed therein relating to provision for bad or doubtful debt. the age of the debt.

The Chair in **Moving** the recommendations contained in the report (taking account of the amendment proposed by Councillor Francis) requested that Mr Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, and the officer team in Development and Renewal, liaise with himself, Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member Regeneration Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed, Lead Member Culture and Leisure, appropriate Ward Councillors to address the concerns raised by local people in relation to the Interim Board of the Ocean Regeneration Trust.

and it was:-

**Resolved:**

1. That the 2007/8 provisional outturn for the Housing Revenue Account be noted; and
2. That in the context of the identified increase in the level of Housing Revenue Account reserves, by in excess of £4 million, the Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal after consultation with the Lead Member Housing and Development submit a further report to Cabinet, at the earliest opportunity, bringing forward costed proposals that accord with the priorities of the Cabinet to deliver early improvements in frontline housing services.

**12.2 Exercise of Corporate Director Discretions (CAB 017/089)**

The Chair **Moved** and it was: -

**Resolved:**

That the exercise of Corporate Directors' discretions, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 016/089), be noted.

**13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The agenda circulated contained no Section Two business (business containing information defined as exempt or confidential in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government, Act 1972. There was therefore no requirement to exclude the press and public, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, to allow for consideration of such business prior to the conclusion of the meeting.

**SUMMARY OF EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS****14. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

Nil Items.

**15. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****15.1 Chair's advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Exempt / Confidential Business to be considered.**

Nil Items.

**15.2 Any Exempt / Confidential Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Nil Items.

**16. A BETTER PLACE FOR LIVING SAFELY**

Nil Items.

**17. A BETTER PLACE FOR LIVING WELL**

Nil Items.

**18. A BETTER PLACE FOR CREATING AND SHARING PROSPERITY**



Nil Items.

**19. A BETTER PLACE FOR LEARNING, ACHIEVEMENT AND LEISURE**

Nil Items.

**20. A BETTER PLACE FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICES**

Nil Items.

**21. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

Nil Items.

**22. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

Nil Items.

The meeting ended at 6.50 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Lutfur Rahman  
Cabinet