

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.05 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 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 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 Abdal Ullah	(Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor M. Shahid Ali	
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	(Leader Liberal Democrat Group and Scrutiny Lead Member: A Healthy Community)
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader Conservative Group)
Councillor Ann Jackson	(Scrutiny Lead Member: One Tower Hamlets)
Councillor Denise Jones	
Councillor Abjol Miah	(Leader of the Respect Group)

Others Present:

Officers Present:

Agnes Adrien	– (Team Leader Enforcement and Litigation, Legal Services, Chief Executive's)
Andy Algar	– (Service Head Asset Strategy, Capital Delivery and Property Services, Development & Renewal)
Ashraf Ali	– (Scrutiny Policy Officer, Equalities and Scrutiny, Chief Executive's)
Lutfur Ali	– (Assistant Chief Executive)
Peter Allnutt	– (CCTV Manager, Community Safety Operations,

	Communities Localities and Culture)
Andy Bamber	– (Service Head Community Safety, Communities Localities and Culture)
Rachel Bielby	– (Leader's Executive Assistant, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Isobel Cattermole	– (Service Head, Resources, Children's Services)
Kevan Collins	– (Corporate Director, Children's Services)
Luke Cully	– (Finance Manager, Communities, Localities & Culture)
Mary Durkin	– (Interim Service Head, Youth and Community Learning, Children's Services)
Paul Evans	– (Interim Corporate Director Development & Renewal)
Alan Finch	– (Service Head Corporate Finance, Resources)
Tony Finnegan	– (Communications Officer, Media and Public Relations, Chief Executive's)
Julian Francis	– (Political Adviser to the Conservative Group, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Isabella Freeman	– (Assistant Chief Executive [Legal Services] and Monitoring Officer)
John Goldup	– (Corporate Director, Adults Health and Wellbeing)
Stephen Halsey	– (Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture)
Stephen Hartley	– Cabinet Executive Assistant, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Sue Hinds	– (Access to Employment Manager, Development & Renewal)
Chris Holme	– (Service Head Resources, Development & Renewal)
Afazul Hoque	– (Acting Scrutiny Policy Manager, Scrutiny and Equalities, Chief Executive's)
Minesh Jani	– (Service Head Risk Management, Resources)
Michael Kiely	– (Service Head, Development Control and Building Control, Development & Renewal)
Paul Martindill	– (Service Head Cultural Services, Communities Localities and Culture)
Chris Naylor	– (Corporate Director, Resources)
Charles Skinner	– (Service Head Communications, Chief Executive's)
Martin Smith	– (Chief Executive)
Alan Steward	– (Acting Service Head, Strategy and Performance, Chief Executive's)
Jon Underwood	– (Community Safety Partnership and Performance Manager, Community Safety, Communities Localities & Culture)
Kazim Zaidi	– (Political Advisor to the Labour Group, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)
Angus Taylor	– (Executive Team Leader, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)

COUNCILLOR L. RAHMAN (CHAIR) IN THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed the large number of young people present in the Public Gallery.

The Chair also welcomed Mr Lutfur Ali, Assistant Chief Executive, to the Authority and to his first meeting of the Cabinet. Mr Ali had been appointed during the Summer and taken up his position on 1st September 2008.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor O. Ahmed, Lead Member Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships.
- Councillor J. Peck, Lead Member Resources and Performance.

Noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M. Francis declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 17.2 “Roman Place (2 Gladstone Place) – Granting of Development Lease”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Roman Place site, the Old Ford Housing Association was an interested party in the acquisition of this site, and Councillor Francis was the an independent member the governing body of the Old Ford Housing Association.

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 “Resourcing Tower Hamlets Youth Service”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that:

- The report contained recommendations relating to the Ocean Estate and referred to the Ocean New Deal for Communities (Ocean NDC) and Councillor Ahmed was a resident in the Ocean NDC area and a representative of the Authority on the Ocean Regeneration Trust.
- The report contained recommendations relating to the Authority’s youth service provision in Local Area Partnership 1 area and Councillor Ahmed was a member of the LAP 1Steering Group.

Councillor A. Asad declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 “Resourcing Tower Hamlets Youth Service”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Authority’s youth service provision in Local Area Partnership 4 area, Bishop

Challoner School was a youth service provider in LAP 4, and Councillor Asad currently received remuneration from Bishop Challoner School in relation to its Youth Service provision.

Councillor M Francis declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 “Resourcing Tower Hamlets Youth Service”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report referred to Old Ford Housing Association and Councillor Francis was an independent member of the governing body of Old Ford Housing Association.

Councillor L Rahman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 “Resourcing Tower Hamlets Youth Service”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Spitalfields and Banglatown area and Councillor Rahman was a Ward member for Spitalfields and Banglatown.

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.2 “33-37 The Oval Bethnal Green Gasholders Site E3” (CAB 039/089) and the exempt/ confidential appendix thereto, Agenda item 17.1 (CAB 051/089). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that Councillor Ahmed was a former Chair of the Planning Committee/ Strategic Development Committee which had considered aspects of this matter relating to planning consent.

Councillor S. Eaton declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.2 “33-37 The Oval Bethnal Green Gasholders Site E3” (CAB 039/089) and the exempt/ confidential appendix thereto, Agenda item 17.1 (CAB 051/089). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Bethnal Green North area and Councillor Eaton was a Ward member for Bethnal Green North.

Councillor L Rahman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.3 “Capital Programme Approvals – Osmani Youth Centre and Victoria Park Masterplan”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Spitalfields and Banglatown area and Councillor Rahman was a Ward member for Spitalfields and Banglatown.

Councillor M Francis declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.3 “Capital Programme Approvals – Osmani Youth Centre and Victoria Park Masterplan”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to Victoria Park and Councillor Francis was a resident in this locality.

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8.1 “Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that Councillor Ahmed was a Board Member - Olympic Delivery Authority - Planning Decision Team.

Councillor M. Francis declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.1 “Working Neighbourhoods Fund/ Decisions on Budget Allocations and Projects”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to funding allocation for a programme

supporting residents into employment operated by Leaside Regeneration Company Ltd, and Councillor Francis was the Authority's representative on the governing body of Leaside Regeneration Company Ltd.

Councillor C. Hawkins declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.1 "Working Neighbourhoods Fund/ Decisions on Budget Allocations and Projects". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to funding allocation for training programmes operated by Tower Hamlets College and Councillor Hawkins was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Tower Hamlets College.

Councillor A. Ullah declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.1 "Working Neighbourhoods Fund/ Decisions on Budget Allocations and Projects". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to funding allocation for training programmes operated by Tower Hamlets College and Councillor Ullah was an independent member and Vice-Chair of the governing body of Tower Hamlets College.

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.3 "Capital Outturn Report 2007/2008". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report referred to resource allocation for repairs to housing stock and Councillor Ahmed was an LBTH Leaseholder.

Councillor A. Ullah declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.3 "Capital Outturn Report 2007/2008". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report referred to resource allocation for repairs to housing stock and Councillor Ullah was an LBTH Leaseholder.

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.5 "Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring 2008/2009 First Report – Housing Revenue Account". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report referred to resource allocation for improvements to housing estates and a Leaseholder Administration Charge Rebate and Councillor Ahmed was an LBTH Leaseholder.

Councillor A. Ullah declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.5 "Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring 2008/2009 First Report – Housing Revenue Account". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report referred to resource allocation for improvements to housing estates and a Leaseholder Administration Charge Rebate and Councillor Ullah was an LBTH Leaseholder.

Noted.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

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

Resolved

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cabinet held on 30th July 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair, as a correct record of the proceedings.

4. DEPUTATIONS & PETITIONS

The clerk advised the Chair that the Assistant Chief Executive had received no constitutionally valid requests for deputations or petitions in respect of the business contained in the agenda. However there had been expressions of interest in making a deputation on Agenda item 7.3 "Capital Programme Approvals – Osmani Youth Centre and Victoria Park Masterplan", and this had not been detailed on the Authority's Forward Plan, affecting the ability of interested parties to know in advance when the matter was to be considered by Cabinet, and give the required form of notice. In such an extenuating circumstance the Cabinet could, by resolution, waive constitutional requirements in order to receive deputations on this agenda item.

The Chair sought an indication from those present in the Public Gallery whether they wished to address the Cabinet in relation to the report. No indications were received.

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 9th September 2008, in respect of the unrestricted business contained in the agenda for consideration; and
- A sheet of advice/ comments arising from the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 9th September 2008, in respect of the Budget and Policy Framework report contained in the unrestricted agenda for consideration.

copies of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

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

- Thanked Councillor Ullah, Lead Member Cleaner Safer Greener and the Borough Commander of the Metropolitan Police, for attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the previous evening for the "Scrutiny Spotlight"; and outlined the key issues on which this discussion focused.
- Key Issues or Questions (Pre Scrutiny)
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 7.1 “Resourcing Tower Hamlets Youth Service” (CAB 038/089)
- Agenda item 7.2 “33-37 The Oval and Bethnal Green Gasholders Site, E3” (CAB 039/089)
- Agenda item 10.1 “Working Neighbourhoods Fund- Proposed Interventions” (CAB 042/089)
- Agenda item 12.5 “Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring 2008/09 – First Report - Housing Revenue Account” (CAB 048/089)
- Agenda item 12.6 “Treasury Management Outturn Report 2007/2008” (CAB 049/089).
- Budget and Policy Framework Matters
Reporting and expanding as appropriate upon the comments/ advice of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set out in the tabled paper regarding: -
 - Agenda item 8.1 “Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-2011” (CAB 041/089)

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/ comments/ advice 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/ comments/ advice related.

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

The Clerk advised that no requests had been received by the Assistant Chief Executive to “call in” for further consideration, by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, any provisional decisions taken by the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 30th July 2008.

6. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

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

7. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

7.1 Resourcing Youth Services - To Follow (CAB 038/089)

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 “Resourcing Tower Hamlets Youth Service”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that:

- The report contained recommendations relating to the Ocean Estate and referred to the Ocean New Deal for Communities (Ocean NDC) and Councillor Ahmed was a resident in the Ocean NDC area and a representative of the Authority on the Ocean Regeneration Trust.
- The report contained recommendations relating to the Authority's youth service provision in Local Area Partnership 1 area and Councillor Ahmed was a member of the LAP 1 Steering Group.

Councillor A. Asad declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 "Resourcing Tower Hamlets Youth Service". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Authority's youth service provision in Local Area Partnership 4 area, Bishop Challoner School was a youth service provider in LAP 4, and Councillor Asad currently received remuneration from Bishop Challoner School in relation to its Youth Service provision.

Councillor M Francis declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 "Resourcing Tower Hamlets Youth Service". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report referred to Old Ford Housing Association and Councillor Francis was an independent member of the governing body of Old Ford Housing Association.

Councillor L Rahman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 "Resourcing Tower Hamlets Youth Service". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Spitalfields and Banglatown area and Councillor Rahman was a Ward member for Spitalfields and Banglatown.

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that the special circumstances and reasons for urgency associated with the proposals were detailed on the front page of the report. The Cabinet subsequently agreed the special circumstances and reasons for urgency as set out on the front page of the report and also set out below:

- The report was unavailable for public inspection within the standard timescales set out in the Authority's Constitution, because of the detailed discussions that needed to take place with third sector organisations in respect of the 'myplace' application process and for each organisation to determine whether they wished to submit an expression of interest. The deadline for applying for 'myplace' funding is the 30 September so it is essential that Cabinet consider this matter no later than the 10th September 2008.

Mr Collins, Corporate Director Children's Services, at the request of the Chair in introducing the report:

- Summarised the salient points contained therein and in particular-
 - Commented that at its previous meeting the Cabinet had selected a preferred bidder to take forward the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Wave 5 Programme with its large scale investment in the Authority's School Estate. That the Authority's young people had in the Summer achieved the best ever A level

- and GCSE results in Tower Hamlets, including English and Mathematics. The report before the Cabinet proposed further investment in the young people of Tower Hamlets with a view to preparing them for adult life and enabling them to reach their full potential, including further improvement in academic achievement.
- Informed the Cabinet that the report addressed the four main elements of the Government “Aiming High Strategy” published earlier in the year: Positive Activities for Young People, Empowerment of Young People, Quality Assurance and Access to attractive Facilities.
 - Outlined the transformational nature of the proposals set out in the report including:
 - ◆ Investment in the physical infrastructure for youth service provision at the Osmani Youth Centre and prioritising the building of a top quality youth facility on the Haileybury Centre/ Dame Colet site as the Authority’s bid for Government ‘myplace’ funding. Acknowledging that still more was required to improve youth provision infrastructure and indicating the Authority’s intention that these proposals be aligned with the future build of youth facilities under the BSF programme, and also the regeneration activities of the Development and Renewal Directorate with a view to bringing forward schemes through those delivery vehicles. The development of St Paul’s Way School would for example deliver significantly improved youth and community facilities.
 - ◆ In principle agreement for an uplift in the Authority’s revenue funding of youth provision, to meet the demands created by new infrastructure, and increase the Authority’s reach to young people and in particular target young people in need or with disabilities.
 - Highlighted that in relation to the retendering of Youth Service Contracts for Local Area Partnerships 1,2 and 3, Officers were continuing to examine a number of issues and seeking guidance from Members; these contracts would only be commissioned once he, as the Chief Officer responsible for the Client side, was confident that the appropriate standard of youth service provision could be delivered by the Contractor side.
 - Advised that the recommendation contained at paragraph 2.3 of the report contained a typographical error: the further report to Cabinet would take place at the end of the year once the options appraisal had been undertaken and detailed estimates for the required work drawn up.
 - Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 9th September 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 Hawkins, Lead Member Children’s Services:

- Welcomed the proposals set out in the report as the embodiment of the aspirations of the Authority and the Administration in relation to the improvement of opportunities and outcomes for the children and young people of Tower Hamlets.
- Considered that the proposals should be seen in the context of the large and growing young population, the high levels of deprivation and need, but also the ambitious aspirations of the Authority to provide opportunities for these young people to demonstrate their enterprise and fulfil their potential. The latter demonstrated in huge levels of investment in secondary schools through the BSF programme and also the best ever academic results for Tower Hamlets in the Summer.
- Commented that the package of proposals aimed to comprehensively improve youth services across the Borough, linked to meeting local need, and also to link agreed capital investment with bids for further funding. The proposed investment was nothing less than that deserved by the young people of Tower Hamlets and aimed to maximise their opportunities.
- The Osmani Centre was well used and loved, but in poor condition. The investment proposed here would result in a fantastic centre for young people, but also much improved community resources.
- The Haileybury area was one of great need and the proposals would result in a hub of hubs, and a youth focus at the heart of the Borough, linking provision at nearby schools and enabling partnership with Third Sector organisations such as Barnardo's, thereby linking youth provision with the wider community.
- Commented that there had been several good potential bids for 'myplace' funding, and although it was considered the Haileybury/ Dame Colet bid should be prioritised, because it was best placed to secure funding from Government, the Administration hoped that there would be other opportunities to take some of these other schemes forward.
- Informed the Cabinet that a further report in relation to the future revenue funding of Youth Services would be presented to them in October 2008, and would propose further investment in the young people of Tower Hamlets.
- Concluded that together the proposals for the funding of the Youth Service would transform the reach and quality of the Council's offer to its young people and reflected the Administration's commitment to deliver excellent youth services across the Borough.

A detailed discussion followed, during which the proposals were broadly welcomed; in particular those relating to investment in the Osmani Youth Centre and progression of a 'myplace' bid for the Haileybury/ Dame Colet Scheme, and which focused on the following:

- The good work and positive activities provided at the Osmani Centre were noted, particularly in the context of the growing young population in the Spitalfields area. It was also noted that youth provision at the centre would also improve the offer to young people in the wider Bethnal Green, Whitechapel and Weavers area.

- Previous Government commitment to more than one 'myplace' facility in each Borough and consideration that the Authority should both endeavour to hold the Government to its commitment. It should also prepare a second bid for 'myplace' funding so that Tower Hamlets was in a good position to benefit, should the opportunity arise. The potential of the Parnell Road Centre in Bow was noted in this context. The limited nature of funding available under a second round of bidding for 'myplace' funding was also noted.
- The need for renewed focus on the needs of the Ocean Estate and the importance of the success of the 'myplace' funding bid for the Haileybury/ Dame Colet site to the future success of the Ocean Regeneration Trust was noted.
- The central location within the Borough of the proposed hub for youth provision at the Haileybury/ Dame Colet site, together with the indicated intention that this provision be accessible to all young people within the Borough was noted.
- Consideration that other schemes, such as that for the Malmesbury Estate and that of Poplar HARCA/ Langdon Park School which had formed the basis of possible 'my place' had been of high quality and great merit and should if possible be taken forward another way. The potential for progression through the BSF programme or a further 'myplace' bid was noted.
- Consideration that a cash injection for LAP based youth provision had been needed for some time and the prospect of this would improve the outcomes for young people and improve the Authority's position as a performing Council still further.

Mr Collins, Corporate Director Children's Services, at the request of the Chair, responded to requests for clarification/ assurance, in relation to a number of matters including:-

- With reference to Section 15.1 "Risk Management Implications", final bullet, which advised that the 'my place' bid may not be successful given oversubscription to the national scheme and likelihood that assessment would be very competitive: what implications this had for other schemes, such as that from Langdon Park, were the first 'myplace' bid successful and also what options would be available to the Council if the Haileybury/ Dame Colet bid were not successful.
- Whether previous reports to Cabinet, which appeared to highlight that per capita spend was greatest in the West of the Borough, where it was now proposed that further funds be invested, had been taken into consideration in developing the proposals.
- Why Officers were proposing investing in a part of the Borough which had already received support of several million pounds for youth facilities such as the Davenant Centre and Atlee Centre and other significant resources earmarked for the Osmani Centre.
- In the context that Government wanted centres of excellence but that Tower Hamlets was comprised of "villages" and it had been previously recognised that young people in Tower Hamlets liked to stay on their own patch and not travel far for leisure services. Also that Officers highlighted in the report at least 8 other youth centres that needed

investment to deliver quality services: had Officers considered drawing up an alternative proposal to invest smaller amounts into each of those centres, should the two centres of excellence not prove viable.

- Had Officers considered the equalities impact and the impact on social cohesion in the Borough to invest several million pounds on two centres that were used almost exclusively by the Bangladeshi population in the borough and no significant resources in youth provision for white, Somali and black young people in Tower Hamlets. Why was there no ethnic breakdown of the users of youth service provision in the report, nor any equality impact assessment.
- How would the suggested investment of funds into the youth service affect the Council's current Capital Programme plans.
- Whether there was a variance in the quality and take up of services and activities provided by the Osmani Centre.

A short dialogue ensued, following the clarification/ assurance given in relation to the points set out above, which included the following points:-

- Insufficient investment had been made in youth services under the previous administration.
- The premise that young people would not travel for leisure services and preferred to stay in their own village was unsubstantiated.
- Councillors, and Lead Members in particular, were charged with delivering the best services for the whole community and there should be a move away from the thinking of catering for specific elements within that community, as this contributed to the continuation of social division.
- Government sponsorship of centres of excellence should not be seen as a development which Tower Hamlets was being forced to adapt to, but rather as an opportunity, to secure huge inward investment in its youth service provision, to be grasped and to be proud of. Continued localised provision or provision for certain groups would underpin existing inequalities and contribute to social division.

The Chair in **Moving** the recommendations as set out in the report, taking account of the advice of the Corporate Director Children's Services, summarised that:

- Thirty five per cent of the population within the Borough was under the age of 25 years and the proposals contained in the report were an apposite demonstration of the commitment of his administration to that segment of the local community.
- The assumption that young people would not travel from different areas to a centre of excellence was not a sound basis for a strategic approach to youth provision.
- The proposals within the report were not aimed at providing services in geographical areas, but building opportunities for all the adults of tomorrow by securing welcome inward investment.

and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the allocation of additional funding for the youth service, set out in the body of the report, be agreed in principle and that it be noted that a further report setting out the detailed allocations of additional funding, including specified outputs and expected outcomes, will be submitted for Cabinet consideration in October 2008;
2. That the options for the Osmani Centre be noted; and it be agreed that a detailed options appraisal is commissioned at a cost of not more than £139,000, to be funded from Local Public Services Agreement Reward Grant as set out at paragraph 6.8.4 of the report (CAB 038/089);
3. That up to £3.3million from the Local Priorities Programme be earmarked for works to the Osmani Centre subject to the outcome of the options appraisal, referred to at resolution 2. above, and further consideration of this matter by Cabinet in late 2008;
4. That the priority to go forward as an application to the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) **myplace** fund for building a world class facility accessible to all young people in the borough should be on the Haileybury/Dame Colet House site;
5. That it be noted that a successful **myplace** application could require that the Haileybury Centre and the adjoining Dame Colet House be removed from its "surplus" status and from inclusion in the Ocean New Deal for Communities plans for site clearance and revert to educational use; and
6. That the issues surrounding the possible re-tendering of the youth service contracts for Local Area Partnerships (LAP s) 1,2 and 3 be noted; and it also be noted that further consideration of this matter will be included in the report submitted to Cabinet in October 2008.

7.2 33-37 The Oval & Bethnal Green Gasholders Site, E3 (CAB 039/089)

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.2 "33-37 The Oval Bethnal Green Gasholders Site E3" (CAB 039/089) and the exempt/ confidential appendix thereto, Agenda item 17.1 (CAB 051/089). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that Councillor Ahmed was a former Chair of the Planning Committee/ Strategic Development Committee which had considered aspects of this matter relating to planning consent.

Councillor S. Eaton declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.2 "33-37 The Oval Bethnal Green Gasholders Site E3" (CAB 039/089) and the exempt/ confidential appendix thereto, Agenda item 17.1 (CAB 051/089). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Bethnal Green North area and Councillor Eaton was a Ward member for Bethnal Green North.

Mr Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, at the request of the Chair in introducing the report:

- Briefly summarised the salient points contained therein:-
 - Outlining the background to this matter: planning consent granted to a developer, by the Authority, for a mixed business and residential use scheme for the site at 33-37 The Oval. The consent was vulnerable to challenge by the Health and Safety Executive due to an administrative oversight that resulted in failure to consult the HSE (the site being in close proximity to a notifiable National Grid gas storage installation).
 - Outlining the options open to the Authority and their associated implications, should the Authority's Strategic Development Committee determine that original planning consent should be revoked, now presented for Cabinet consideration:
 - ◆ To allow the Planning Process to take its course and eventually reach the point of statutory compensation to the developer.
 - ◆ To take action to acquire the land from the developer at a cost detailed in the confidential part of the agenda.
- On balance Officers considered that the latter option was a preferable course of action, leaving the Authority free to optimise the positive aspects of the site in due course.
- Addressing the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 9th September 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 he had found the contents of the report absolutely depressing, particularly when contrasted with the uplifting nature of the proposals contained in Agenda item 7.1 "Resourcing Youth Services" and when reflecting upon the opportunity cost of devoting resources to compensation payments rather than such improvements in service delivery.
- Acknowledged that a mistake had been made by an Officer of the Authority and the Council as a whole must take responsibility for that, and specifically for the liability resulting from it, in the same way it took credit for the good work of Officers, for example in maximising the benefits to the Community arising from the planning process (Section 106).
- Considered that of the options presented he preferred that of cutting the Authority's losses and paying the developer off, in return for which it would acquire the site, an asset that could be put to positive use and in the long term potentially generate a capital receipt.
- Acknowledged that Councillor Eaton had been correct to raise concerns regarding this matter at the Strategic Development Committee and to pursue these with vigour, although this would not have mitigated the Authority's position in any way.

Mr Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, and Mr Kiely, Service Head Development Control and Building Control – Development and Renewal, at the request of the Chair, responded to requests for clarification/ assurance, in relation to a number of matters as follows:

- Whether the circumstances of the case had been examined in detail, weaknesses in process identified, and measures were now in place to prevent the recurrence of such errors.
- Managerial accountability and the presence of Legal Services and Planning Services in the circumstances leading to the current position in relation to this matter.
- Consideration that although the Authority was responsible as a whole, for the administrative errors identified and any liability arising in this matter, the fault appeared to lie with the actions of an individual Officer and consequently the Authority should explore avenues to recoup any financial loss including the potential to secure compensation from sinkage funds maintained by professional bodies for the purposes of professional indemnity.

The Chair sought an absolute assurance from Mr Smith, Chief Executive, that appropriate lessons had been learned from what had happened in this case and that safeguards were now in place to prevent a repetition of such a serious mistake and opportunity costs of such magnitude, in the future.

Mr Smith, Chief Executive, responded by saying that Officers had outlined the background, current options and circumstances of the case, however he was conscious that three years had passed since the original investigation into this matter. He therefore suggested that the Cabinet may wish to instruct him to commission a comprehensive investigation to establish how this situation arose and to assure Members that all appropriate management action had been taken to put in place adequate controls to prevent a future recurrence of the errors set out in the report.

The Chair:

- Summarised that there was a consensus that, if possible, the Authority should act to acquire the site at 33-37 The Oval from the developer.
- Considered that the Authority should undertake the investigation suggested by the Chief Executive to protect the interests of the Community and future generations.
- **Moved** the following motion accordingly for the consideration of members of the Cabinet:
“
 1. That the recommendation set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report be agreed.
 2. That the Chief Executive be instructed to commission a comprehensive investigation to establish whether the Authority has put in place adequate controls to prevent a recurrence of the procedural errors, referred to in the report.”

and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the Corporate Director Development & Renewal be authorised, after consultation with the Lead Member for Resources and Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services), to enter into a conditional agreement (subject to the revocation [planning consent]) with the Developer to acquire land known as 33-37 The Oval, as identified on the plan attached at Appendix A to the report (CAB 039/089); and
2. That the Chief Executive be instructed to commission a comprehensive investigation to establish whether the Authority has put in place adequate controls to prevent a recurrence of the procedural errors, referred to in the body of the report (CAB 039/089).

7.3 Capital Programme Approvals - Osmani Youth Centre and Victoria Park Masterplan - To Follow (CAB 040/089)

Councillor L Rahman declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.3 "Capital Programme Approvals – Osmani Youth Centre and Victoria Park Masterplan". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to the Spitalfields and Banglatown area and Councillor Rahman was a Ward member for Spitalfields and Banglatown.

Councillor M Francis declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.3 "Capital Programme Approvals – Osmani Youth Centre and Victoria Park Masterplan". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to Victoria Park and Councillor Francis was a resident in this locality.

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that the special circumstances and reasons for urgency associated with the proposals were detailed on the front page of the report. The Cabinet subsequently agreed the special circumstances and reasons for urgency as set out on the front page of the report and also set out below:

- The report was unavailable for public inspection within the standard timescales set out in the Authority's Constitution, because of the continuation of discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the appropriate balance of funding needed to support the Council's Capital Bid. Heritage Lottery bids are subject to intense competition and it is vital that the Authority's bid and capital requirement reflects the very latest information and advice from the Lottery Fund. Bids for this round of funding need to be completed by the end of September 2008 and this is therefore the last opportunity for Cabinet to agree proposals prior to despatch of the Authority's bid.

Mr Naylor, Corporate Director Resources, at the request of the Chair, in introducing the report summarised the salient points contained therein and in particular:-

- Informed members of the Cabinet that at their last meeting, held on 30th July 2008, they had noted financial forces facing the Authority and agreed budgetary priorities for the three years to April 2011, together with a framework for the budget process in 2009/10. This had included targeted investment in local priorities, for the benefit of the local community, such as assets and infrastructure; and this formed the backdrop to the proposals contained in the report.
- Highlighted proposals contained in the report that two schemes be prioritised for Local Priorities Scheme funding ahead of the general budget process for 2009/10:
 - Osmani Youth Centre
 - Victoria Park Masterplan
- Drew the attention of members of the Cabinet to paragraphs 6.1 to 6.3 of the report, which detailed the availability of £14.51 million in capital receipts for the Local Priorities Scheme Capital Programme. £6.254 million of this had already been allocated, leaving a balance of £7.897 million unallocated.
- Advised that should the Cabinet agree the report's proposals that the Osmani Youth Centre and Victoria Park Masterplan schemes be prioritised for Local Priorities Scheme funding, this would result in a shortfall of £453,000 in the Local Priorities Capital Programme. However given the lead in time for the two schemes, and that funding was being allocated not committed at this point, it would be prudent to earmark the funding.

Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, commented that he was totally supportive of the proposed capital investment in the Osmani Youth Centre and the match funding of Heritage Lottery investment in the Victoria Park Masterplan, however he considered that together the investments comprised a considerable capital outlay and the Authority should remain flexible as to the sourcing of that funding. Section 106 developer contributions of £700,000 were already in place for the Osmani scheme from the Bishop Square programme, and there was potential for further drawdown of Section 106 funding in respect of developments in the Spitalfields area. He considered that Development and Renewal Directorate should examine similar potential in relation to the Victoria Park Scheme. Such funding might narrow the funding gap referred to and potentially enable other initiatives to be progressed.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report, and it was:

Resolved:

1. That the options for the Osmani Centre be noted and that a detailed options appraisal be commissioned at a cost of £139,000, to be funded from Local Public Service Agreement Reward Grant, as set out at paragraph 4.8.4 of the report (CAB 040/089);

2. That up to £3.3million be earmarked from the Local Priorities Capital Programme for works to the Osmani Centre, subject to the outcome of the options appraisal and consultations;
3. That resources in the Local Priorities Capital Programme be earmarked to deliver the Victoria Park Masterplan on the basis of a required capital contribution from the Authority of £5.05million over a four year period as detailed in the table at paragraph 5.6.3 of the report (CAB 040/089);
4. That it be noted that the delivery of the Victoria Park Masterplan will create a revenue requirement of £250, 000 which will need to be provided for in the General Fund revenue budget at the appropriate time; and
5. That the funding implications for the Authority's capital programme of the scheme proposals referred to at resolutions 2. and 3. above be noted.

8. A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

8.1 Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-2011(CAB 041/089)

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8.1 "Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that Councillor Ahmed was a Board Member - Olympic Delivery Authority - Planning Decision Team.

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:-
 - Informing members of the Cabinet that the Plan before them for endorsement and onward recommendation to full Council,, was a statutory document, which the Authority was now required to update annually, reflecting priorities facing the Borough and targets agreed by the Living Safely Community Plan Action Group, following extensive consultation with partners and local residents
 - Drawing the attention of members of the Cabinet to:
 - ◆ The developmental process for the Plan set out at paragraph 4.2 of the report.
 - ◆ The types of crime prioritised in 2008/09 following a strategic assessment of available data.
 - ◆ A Home Office review over the coming 6 months of Tower Hamlets Partnership governance arrangements and other matters which it was hoped would result in the Authority achieving exemplar status in this area.

- Addressing the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 9th September 2008, in relation to the report; as set out in the tabled sheet of Budget and Policy Framework advice and comments presented by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier in the proceedings.

A discussion followed, during which the proposed Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan was broadly welcomed, and which included the following points:-

- With reference to page 20 of the Plan “Our Priorities 2008/09 and Delivery Plan – Violent Crime” whilst the prominence given to domestic violence was welcome, additional clarity and detail was required in relation to the work to be undertaken with the perpetrators of such violence as well as that with the victims.
- Anecdotal evidence was relayed which appeared to indicate that information explaining how to establish a Neighbourhood Watch had not been forthcoming, from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team, to residents wishing to participate in such a scheme. It was considered that the Authority should facilitate the establishment and participation in such schemes and Chief Officers should ensure such information was readily available.
- With reference to Appendix 2 to the Plan “Our Performance 2005-2008” weak performance in relation to concern about crime was noted:
 - The target of reducing the proportion of residents that cited crime as a concern to 35% had an outturn of 55%.
 - The target of reducing the proportion of residents that felt unsafe in their area at night to 25% had an outturn of 45%.

It was considered that the indicators revealed a serious level of anti social behaviour bordering on crime, which was affecting resident perceptions of Tower Hamlets as a place, and that this phenomenon required examination and the development of options for mitigating measures. The Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture acknowledged the performance issues highlighted, commenting that he was acutely aware of public perceptions in relation to the maintenance of the Public Realm, and was intending to address these in a report that would shortly be presented to Cabinet. It was intended that these measures could be linked to localised services provided out of core hours.

- With reference to page 23 of the Plan “Our Priorities 2008/09 and Delivery Plan – Resilience and Counter Terrorism” consideration that Police activities necessary in this sphere should be carried out in a manner which did not divide the Community nor create a sense of victimisation or resentment and clarification was sought as to how the Police were working with the Community to address such concerns.
- Consideration that the Corporate Director Communities Localities and Culture was slow to respond to the identification, by Ward Councillors, of issues in the public realm impacting on public safety such as overgrown trees and undergrowth and poor lighting, with clarification sought as to whether this could be addressed as part of the Plan.

- The Council's activities in custodial institutions to give support to former offenders, with particular reference to prevention of homelessness, was commended, and the award of Beacon Council status in this area was noted.
- The Lead Member Cleaner Safer Greener commented that although the direction of travel in relation to crime was good, the Authority still needed to address the perceptions of residents. He informed members of the Cabinet that the Home Secretary had expressed a keen interest in the development in Tower Hamlets of a community safety award for residents contributing in this area. With regard to anti social behaviour such as littering he considered the way forward to be a uniformed presence on the part of the Authority alongside the police and Safer neighbourhood officers.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report and it was:-

Resolved:

That the Crime and Drugs Reduction Partnership Plan 2008-11, attached at Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 041/089), be endorsed and that Full Council be recommended to approve the plan.

9. A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

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

10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS

10.1 Working Neighbourhoods Fund Proposed Interventions - To Follow (CAB 042/089)

Councillor M. Francis declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.1 "Working Neighbourhoods Fund/ Decisions on Budget Allocations and Projects". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to funding allocation for a programme supporting residents into employment operated by Leaside Regeneration Company Ltd, and Councillor Francis was the Authority's representative on the governing body of Leaside Regeneration Company Ltd.

Councillor C. Hawkins declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.1 "Working Neighbourhoods Fund/ Decisions on Budget Allocations and Projects". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to funding allocation for training programmes operated by Tower Hamlets College and Councillor Hawkins was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Tower Hamlets College.

Councillor A. Ullah declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10.1 “Working Neighbourhoods Fund/ Decisions on Budget Allocations and Projects”. The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained recommendations relating to funding allocation for training programmes operated by Tower Hamlets College and Councillor Ullah was an independent member and Vice-Chair of the governing body of Tower Hamlets College.

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that the special circumstances and reasons for urgency associated with the proposals were detailed on the front page of the report. The Cabinet subsequently agreed the special circumstances and reasons for urgency as set out on the front page of the report and also set out below:

- The report was unavailable for public inspection within the standard timescales set out in the Authority’s Constitution, due to the need to undertake more evaluation of the programmes offered for allocation of funding to ensure the services offered meet the indicators and targets agreed.
- The Tower Hamlets Partnership has prioritised worklessness and skills within its Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets. The delivery plans now being prepared which set out how the contributions of all the partners through their main programmes will contribute to the delivery of those targets. Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) will be used to commission programmes of activity which address the local contextual issues identified in order to help us achieve the LAA targets.
- It was vital that detailed information was available on the programmes contribution in order to allow proper consideration of the report by Members.

Mr Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, at the request of the Chair in introducing the report:

- Summarised the salient points contained therein and in particular:-
 - Informed members of the Cabinet that:
 - ◆ They had previously agreed the criteria and framework for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, and requested the submission of specific proposals for consideration, in September, which were set out in the report.
 - ◆ The strategic framework for WNF, focused on programmes designed to support and encourage people into effective employment, as the Tower Hamlets Partnership had prioritised worklessness and skills within the LAA targets; and the deployment of WNF funding would be based on a commissioning approach.
 - ◆ It was proposed that a large proportion of WNF funding be used for programmes developed to explicitly support the delivery of LAA and Community Plan targets. To achieve this further time was needed to explore options and ensure a cross partnership approach.

- ◆ However leading up to the commissioning of new programmes Officers considered that a number of programmes merited transitional funding arrangements until the end of the 2008/09 financial year. These were focused strongly on the strategic objectives of the WNF Framework and either it was expected that the area of work would continue, although the method of delivery might change, or considered that funding should continue whilst issues of mainstreaming funding were managed out.
- ◆ Only a small number of specific programmes were being recommended for transitional funding and this would absorb approximately £2million [summarised in the table set out at paragraph 5.6 of the report] of the £25million WNF funding available over the next three years. Officers had only identified programmes where there were specific outcomes for the proposed spend, these were congruent with the strategic outcomes set for WNF, and there was a strong track record of delivery.
- Advised of an arithmetical error as follows: That the figure of £492,500 relating to the transitional funding to April 2009 for the programme stream Building Enterprise and Employment (page 11 of the report) should have been the figure detailed in respect of Specialist pre-employment programmes within the table contained in paragraph 5.6 of the report “Total funds recommended for commissioning until March 2009”. The figure currently detailed in the table of £342,500 was incorrect.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 9th September 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 Hawkins, Lead Member Children’s Services considered that it would be appropriate for the allocation of WNF funding to the programme for improving attainment in English and Maths at GCSE be continued until the end of the 2008/2009 academic year. Councillor Hawkins proposed, for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, that the recommendation contained in paragraph 2.1 of the report be revised accordingly.

The Chair considered that Councillor Hawkins proposed amendment to the recommendations contained in the report was sensible in the context of deliberations earlier in the proceedings, during which the commitment of the Administration to investment in and engagement of the young people of Tower Hamlets was emphasised, and also the context of services seen to contribute to that outcome.

Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, welcomed the proposals set out in the report as an appropriate use of WNF funding and emphasised that in the coming months, prior to the main round of commissioning of WNF funded programmes, Officers should only identify

programmes which met the strategic objectives set out in the WNF framework.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations as set out in the report (taking account of the proposed amendment from Councillor Hawkins), and it was:-

Resolved:

1. That, subject to (a) below, the allocation of Working Neighbourhood Funds (WNF) to the specific projects outlined in paragraph 5.3 of the report (CAB 042/089) and summarised in paragraph 5.6, limited to the period 1st October 2008 to 31st March 2009, be approved on the basis of offering a transitional arrangement for projects that are delivering outcomes in accordance with WNF criteria. Also that it be noted that the rationale for offering these projects for continued funding until March 09 is either:
 - The Authority expects the area of work to continue, although it may be delivered in a different method or by a different delivery agency once the project is submitted through the Community Plan Delivery Group.
 - The Authority needs to continue the funding whilst mainstream resources are considered.
- (a) That it be agreed that the allocation of WNF funding to the programme for improving attainment in English and Maths at GCSE, outlined in paragraph 5.3 of the report (CAB 042/089) and summarised in paragraph 5.6, be continued until the end of the 2008/2009 academic year and the allocation adjusted accordingly.
2. That it be noted that further budget allocations and projects to make use of the remaining WNF funding, following the completion of the work on the detail of the Local Area Agreement delivery plans, will be brought forward for Cabinet consideration in January 2009.

10.2 Strategic Plan and Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring 2008/2009 - Performance to 30th June 2008 (CAB 043/089)

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations, as set out in the report, and it was:-

Resolved:

1. That the performance information contained in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report (CAB 043/089) be noted;
2. That the projected outturn for Directorate service budgets and for the total General Fund net expenditure budget for 2008/2009, set out in Section 4.2 and detailed in Appendices 3A-G of the report (CAB 043/089), be noted;

3. That the budget target adjustments, as detailed in Section 6 and Appendix 4 of the report (CAB 043/089), be agreed;
4. That the Authority's performance against Service Improvement Growth targets, as set out in Section 7.1 of the report (CAB 043/089), be noted; and
5. That the 2008/09 Savings Targets, as detailed in Appendix 5, to the report (CAB 043/089), 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

Procedural Motion

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that there were seven unrestricted reports for information contained in the agenda and that:

- Lead Members had indicated that they wished to address the Cabinet in relation to:
 - Agenda item 12.1 "Outcome of Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review"
 - Agenda item 12.2 "CCTV Capital Projects Programme 2008-2009"
 - Agenda item 12.5 "Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring 2008/2009 – First Report – Housing Revenue Account"
- Matters had been raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 9th September 2008, 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 in relation to:
 - Agenda item 12.5 "Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring 2008/2009 – First Report – Housing Revenue Account"
 - Agenda item 12.6 "Treasury Management Outturn Report 2007/2008"
- He considered it appropriate that the remaining information reports be noted as a block and accordingly proposed the following motion for the consideration of members of the Cabinet, and it was:

Resolved

That the noting recommendations contained in the following reports be agreed:

- Agenda item 12.3 "Capital Outturn Report 2007/2008"
- Agenda item 12.4 "2008/09 Capital Programme: Capital Monitoring Report as at 30 June 2008"
- Agenda item 12.7 "Exercise of Corporate Director Discretions"

12.1 Outcome of Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review (CAB 044/089)

Mr Smith, Chief Executive, at the request of the Chair in introducing the report commented as follows:

- The formal reports of the Audit Commission and Ofsted, following the Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review of Children's Services, were appended to the Cabinet report.
- The Authority had performed exceptionally well, with its Children's Services being assessed as outstanding, and the Council as a whole assessed as a four star excellent authority. Only one other Council had achieved a better corporate assessment rating.
- The inspectors had been particularly impressed with the Authority's vision and ambition for Tower Hamlets, the strength of its resolve to tackle inequality and its embedding of partnership working. They had also noted that these in turn were underpinned by good leadership, a solid financial position and high staff morale.
- Discussion with the Audit Commission inspectors at the start of the process revealed that they thought the Authority, in its setting of challenging targets, risked damaging morale and motivation, also that a good result in the assessment process might encourage complacency. The Corporate Management Team had disagreed and neither of the risks had materialised. The Audit Commission had been impressed with the organisation's honesty in dealing with issues and their report acknowledged that being ambitious and challenging at the outset resulted in better performance and faster improvement.
- The outcome of the Corporate Assessment and JAR was good news for the Authority as well as the residents it served and a testament to Members, Officers and Partners past and present.

Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, commented that the outcome of the Corporate Assessment and JAR was an acknowledgement of the good motivation and performance of the Council's staff. However it was an indication of direction of travel and the ultimate destination had not yet been reached. There was a need to guard against complacency and to continue striving for excellence, as the assessment of its services by residents was not the same assessment as that detailed in the reports of the Audit Commission and Ofsted.

Councillor Hawkins, Lead Member Children's Services:

- Thanked the staff in Children's Services and across the Tower Hamlets Partnership who had contributed to the achievement of a fantastic and well deserved JAR assessment.
- Commented that the outcome was also a tribute to the young inspectors and she was pleased with the support given to them by the Authority.

- Considered that the Authority should be particularly proud in respect of the assessment relating to looked after children, as it reflected the Authority's ambition to do its best for this vulnerable element of the Community.
- Commented that the perceptions of residents was the most important assessment of the Council's performance and it needed to demonstrate its excellent service delivery to them in the same way it had communicated this to the inspectors.

The Chair summarised by:

- Congratulating all those who had contributed to the successful outcome of the Corporate Assessment and JAR; an achievement of the Council as a whole.
- Commenting that the biggest challenge for the Authority remained the gap between the experiences and perceptions of its residents and the assessment of the inspectors, on paper, that its services were excellent. The aspiration for the Authority must remain to close this gap.

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

Resolved:

That the successful outcome of the Council's Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review be noted.

12.2 CCTV Capital Projects Programme 2008-2009 (CAB 045/089)

The Chair informed members of the Cabinet that colour versions of the maps contained in the report contained in the agenda previously circulated had been **Tabled**, copies of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

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. Mr Halsey also informed members of the Cabinet that negotiations between the Authority and the London Borough of Newham for the facility to review footage from the CCTV cameras it operated had been concluded, and this would be productive in relation to the reduction of crime in the coming months.

Mr Halsey, Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture and Mr Bamber, Service Head Community Safety - Communities, Localities and Culture, at the request of the Chair, responded to requests for clarification/assurance, in relation to the following:

- Whether the CCTV cameras proposed for installation had Pan Tilt Zoom functionality.
- Citizen rights of access to footage from CCTV cameras, operated by the Authority, in order to defend themselves at Law.

- With reference to paragraph 5.2 of the report, whether the new CCTV camera scheme being developed for the Chicksand Estate would be rolled out at the same time as the other CCTV schemes detailed in the report.

Councillor Ullah, Lead Member Cleaner, Safer, Greener, commented that for the first time new CCTV cameras would be located on the basis of a combination of known crime hot spots and local knowledge mapped using CAD software. Councillor Ullah also thanked the CCTV team and Safer Neighbourhood teams for their contribution to the achievement of the proposals.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations, as set out in the report, and it was:-

Resolved:

That the contents of the report (CAB 045/089) be noted.

12.3 Capital Outturn Report 2007/2008 (CAB 046/089)

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.3 "Capital Outturn Report 2007/2008". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report referred to resource allocation for repairs to housing stock and Councillor Ahmed was an LBTH Leaseholder.

Councillor A. Ullah declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.3 "Capital Outturn Report 2007/2008". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report referred to resource allocation for repairs to housing stock and Councillor Ullah was an LBTH Leaseholder.

See procedural motion at Agenda item 12. above.

Resolved:

1. That the Capital Outturn of £61.932 million for the financial year ending 31 March 2008 be noted, and that it also be noted that sufficient resources are available to finance this;
2. That it be noted that the carry forward of approvals in the Local Priorities Programme [from 2007/08 to 2008/09], as detailed at Appendix 2 to the report (CAB 046/089) will be considered as part of the forthcoming budget process; and
3. That the requirement to provide resources of £0.446 million in 2008/09 to fund the Local Priorities Programme commitments of £9.830 million, not funded from resources carried forward of £9.384 million, be noted.

12.4 2008/09 Capital Programme: Capital Monitoring Report as at 30 June 2008 (CAB 047/089)

See procedural motion at Agenda item 12. above.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report (CAB 047/089) be noted.

12.5 Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring 2008/2009 - First Report - Housing Revenue Account (CAB 048/089)

Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.5 "Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring 2008/2009 First Report – Housing Revenue Account". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report referred to resource allocation for improvements to housing estates and a Leaseholder Administration Charge Rebate and Councillor Ahmed was an LBTH Leaseholder.

Councillor A. Ullah declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12.5 "Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring 2008/2009 First Report – Housing Revenue Account". The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report referred to resource allocation for improvements to housing estates and a Leaseholder Administration Charge Rebate and Councillor Ullah was an LBTH Leaseholder.

Mr Evans, Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal, at the request of the Chair in introducing the report:

- Briefly summarised the salient points contained therein and in particular highlighted that should the projected underspend in the Housing Revenue Account for 2008/09, detailed in the first quarter monitoring report, remain at the mid-year point, Officers would examine the underlying factors and identify mitigating measures.
- Addressed the matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 9th September 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, noted the small projected underspend in the Housing Revenue Account for 2008/09 and commented that:

- It was not prudent to allocate these resources at this point in the year.
- The position would be closely scrutinised and should it appear that an underspend was likely, he would ask the Interim Corporate Director Development and Renewal to identify options for the investment of the resources in the Administration's housing priorities by the close of the financial year.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations, as set out in the report, and it was:-

Resolved:

That the projected outturn in respect of the 2008/09 Housing Revenue Account, as detailed in Appendix A to the report (CAB 048/089), be noted.

12.6 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2007/2008 (CAB 049/089)

Mr Naylor, Corporate Director Resources, 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 9th September 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.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations, as set out in the report, and it was:-

Resolved:

That the contents of the report (CAB 049/089) be noted.

12.7 Exercise of Corporate Director Discretions (CAB 050/089)

See procedural motion at Agenda item 12. above.

Resolved:

That the exercise of Corporate Directors' discretions, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report (CAB 050/089), be noted.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

Resolved:

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the consideration of the Section Two business on the grounds that it contained information defined as exempt or confidential in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government, Act 1972.

14. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Minutes of Cabinet held on 30th July 2008 approved.

15. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15.1 Chair's advice of Key Issues or Questions in relation to Exempt / Confidential Business to be considered.

Sheet of questions and comments **Tabled.**

Motion from Chair agreed.

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

Nil items.

16. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Nil items.

17. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

17.1 33-37 The Oval & Bethnal Green Gasholders Site, E3 (CAB 051/089)

Exempt/ Confidential appendix to the unrestricted report "33-37 The Oval & Bethnal Green Gasholders Site, E3" (CAB 039/089) [Agenda item 7.2] noted.

17.2 Roman Place (2 Gladstone Place) - Granting of Development Lease (CAB 052/089)

Recommendations agreed.

18. A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Nil items.

19. A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Nil items.

20. ONE TOWER HAMLETS

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