



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 24th March 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

Council Chamber, 1st Floor,
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,
5 Clove Crescent,
London E14 2BG

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

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**TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at 7.30 p.m. on **WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH 2010**

Dr Kevan Collins
Chief Executive

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH 2010

7.30 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

**PAGE
NUMBER**

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1 - 2

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Chief Executive.

3. MINUTES

3 - 58

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27th January 2010, the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 3rd March 2010 at 7.00 pm and the Budget Council Meeting held on 3rd March at 7.30 pm.

**4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE
MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE
CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS OR DEPUTATIONS

59 - 62

The petitions and deputations that have been received for presentation to the meeting are set out in agenda item 5 attached.

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

63 - 66

The questions which have been received from members of the public are set out in agenda item 6 attached. There is a maximum time limit of 30 minutes for this agenda item.

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

67 - 74

The questions which have been received from Councillors are set out in agenda item 7 attached. There is a maximum time limit of 30 minutes for this agenda item.

8. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

8.1 Annual Report of the Standards Committee

The Independent Chair of the Standards Committee, Mr Barry O'Connor, to present the annual report of the committee.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)

There is no business to conduct under this agenda item.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Review of proportionality and appointments to committees 75 - 78

To carry out a review of proportionality and allocation of seats on committees as required following a change in political composition of the Council. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services is attached.

10.2 Programme of meetings 2010/11 79 - 84

To agree the dates of Council, committee and other meetings for the forthcoming municipal year. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services is attached.

10.3 Members' Allowances Scheme 2010/11 85 - 94

To adopt the Scheme of Members' Allowances for the financial year 2010/11. The report of the Assistant Chief Executive is attached.

10.4 Executive decisions taken under special urgency provisions 95 - 98

To note the attached quarterly report of the Leader of the Council on Cabinet decisions taken under the urgency provisions in the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 99 - 114

The motions submitted by Members of the Council for debate at this meeting are attached at agenda item 11.

Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This note is guidance only. Members should consult the Council's Code of Conduct for further details. Note: Only Members can decide if they have an interest therefore they must make their own decision. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending at a meeting.

Declaration of interests for Members

Where Members have a personal interest in any business of the authority as described in paragraph 4 of the Council's Code of Conduct (contained in part 5 of the Council's Constitution) then s/he must disclose this personal interest as in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Code. Members must disclose the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting and certainly no later than the commencement of the item or where the interest becomes apparent.

You have a **personal interest** in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- (a) An interest that you must **register**
- (b) An interest that is not on the register, but where the well-being or financial position of you, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association, is likely to be affected by the business of your authority more than it would affect the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision.

Where a personal interest is declared a Member may stay and take part in the debate and decision on that item.

What constitutes a prejudicial interest? - Please refer to paragraph 6 of the adopted Code of Conduct.

Your personal interest will also be a prejudicial interest in a matter if (a), (b) and either (c) or (d) below apply:-

- (a) A member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think that your personal interests are so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interests; AND
- (b) The matter does not fall within one of the exempt categories of decision listed in paragraph 6.2 of the Code; AND EITHER
- (c) The matter affects your financial position or the financial interest of a body with which you are associated; or
- (d) The matter relates to the determination of a licensing or regulatory application

The key points to remember if you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting:-

- i. You must declare that you have a prejudicial interest, and the nature of that interest, as soon as that interest becomes apparent to you; and
- ii. You must leave the room for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision unless (iv) below applies; and

- iii. You must not seek to improperly influence a decision in which you have a prejudicial interest.
- iv. If Members of the public are allowed to speak or make representations at the meeting, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, by statutory right or otherwise (e.g. planning or licensing committees), you can declare your prejudicial interest but make representations. However, you must immediately leave the room once you have finished your representations and answered questions (if any). You cannot remain in the meeting or in the public gallery during the debate or decision on the matter.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2010

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Abdul Munim
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Fazlul Haque	Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Clair Hawkins	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Alexander Heslop	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Waiseul Islam	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Ann Jackson	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

The meeting opened at 7.32 p.m.

The Mayor, Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Lutfu Begum and for lateness from Councillor Tim O'Flaherty.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest in items included on the agenda as follows:

Councillor	Item	Type of interest	Reason
Helal Abbas	5.2.1	Personal	East End Homes properties in my ward
Helal Abbas	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Helal Abbas	11.4	Personal	East End Homes properties in my ward
Helal Abbas	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Helal Abbas	11.10	Personal	Member of Tower Hamlets Credit Union
Ohid Ahmed	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Ohid Ahmed	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Ohid Ahmed	11.7	Personal	Leaseholder
Rajib Ahmed	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Rajib Ahmed	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Rajib Ahmed	11.12	Personal	Ocean Estate leaseholder
Rofique Ahmed	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Rofique Ahmed	11.2	Personal	Board member of ODA PDT
Rofique Ahmed	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Rofique Ahmed	11.7	Personal	Leaseholder - THH
Rofique Ahmed	11.12	Personal	Resident and Councillor
Dr. Anwara Ali	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Dr. Anwara Ali	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Mohammed Shahid Ali	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Mohammed Shahid Ali	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Shahed Ali	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Shahed Ali	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Shahed Ali	11.7	Personal	Council tenant

Abdul Asad	5.2.2	Personal	Work LAP4 Youth Service provider
Abdul Asad	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Abdul Asad	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Abdul Asad	11.10	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Abdul Asad	11.11	Personal	Work LAP4 Youth Service provide
Alibor Choudhury	11.10	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Alibor Choudhury	11.12	Personal	Ward Councillor
Stephanie Eaton	11.10	Personal	Husband a member of the Co-operative party
Marc Francis	11.5	Personal	Live in a block subject to a car free agreement
Fazlul Haque	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Fazlul Haque	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Fazlul Haque	11.7	Personal	Leaseholder of an RSL
Shafiqul Haque	5.2.1	Personal	East End Homes is in my ward
Shafiqul Haque	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Shafiqul Haque	11.4	Personal	East End Homes is in my ward
Shafiqul Haque	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Shafiqul Haque	11.7	Personal	Leaseholder
Shafiqul Haque	11.8	Personal	East End Homes is in my ward
Shafiqul Haque	11.10	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Carli Harper-Penman	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Carli Harper-Penman	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Carli Harper-Penman	11.10	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Alex Heslop	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Alex Heslop	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Alex Heslop	11.7	Personal	Tower Hamlets Homes leaseholder and Board Member

Alex Heslop	11.10	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party, Tower Hamlets Community Credit Union and Tower Hamlets Co-operative Development Agency
Sirajul Islam	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Sirajul Islam	11.3	Personal	Board member of the Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD)
Sirajul Islam	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Sirajul Islam	11.7	Personal	Council tenant
Waiseul Islam	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Waiseul Islam	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Denise Jones	11.4	Personal	Eligible for a Freedom Pass
Denise Jones	11.8	Personal	East End Homes houses in my ward
Abjol Miah	5.1.2	Personal	Shadwell Ward Councillor
Abjol Miah	5.2.2	Personal	Shadwell Ward Councillor
Abjol Miah	11.11	Personal	Shadwell Ward Councillor
Harun Miah	5.1.2	Personal	Shadwell Ward Councillor
Harun Miah	5.2.2	Personal	Shadwell Ward Councillor
Harun Miah	11.11	Personal	Shadwell Ward Councillor
Oliur Rahman	5.2.1	Personal	East End Homes has properties in my ward
Oliur Rahman	11.4	Personal	East End Homes has properties in my ward
Oliur Rahman	11.7	Personal	Resident of RSL
Oliur Rahman	11.10	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Oliur Rahman	11.12	Personal	Ward Councillor
Mamun Rashid	5.1.2	Personal	Shadwell Ward Councillor
Mamun Rashid	5.2.2	Personal	Shadwell Ward Councillor
Mamun Rashid	11.11	Personal	Shadwell Ward Councillor
Mohammad Abdullah Salique	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Mohammad Abdullah Salique	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Mohammad Abdullah Salique	11.7	Personal	Leaseholder
A. A. Sardar	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
A. A. Sardar	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
A. A. Sardar	11.7	Personal	Leaseholder

Rachael Saunders	5.2.1	Personal	Board member on East End Homes
Rachael Saunders	11.4	Personal	Board member on East End Homes
Rachael Saunders	11.7	Personal	Leaseholder
Bill Turner	11.10	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Bill Turner	11.12	Personal	Represent Ocean Estate
Abdal Ullah	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Abdal Ullah	11.7	Personal	Tenant
Abdal Ullah	11.12	Personal	Ocean Estate is in my ward
Salim Ullah	5.2.1	Personal	Leaseholder and East End Homes properties in my ward
Salim Ullah	11.1	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Salim Ullah	11.5	Personal	Council parking permit holder
Salim Ullah	11.7	Personal	Leaseholder
Motin Uz-Zaman	5.2.1	Personal	Council representative on East End Homes
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.4	Personal	Council representative on East End Homes
Motin Uz-Zaman	11.7	Personal	Leaseholder

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2009 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

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

(1) Haiti earthquake

The Mayor referred to the catastrophic earthquake that had taken place in Haiti on 12th January. Estimates suggested that up to three million people had been affected by this terrible event and the death toll may exceed 150,000. He asked Members to join him in expressing shock and sadness at the suffering caused to so many people and on behalf of the Council he sent

his deepest sympathy to those affected and to residents of the borough who may have family or other connections with the stricken area.

(2) Excellent rating by the Equalities Commission

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman, was pleased to inform Members that the Council had been rated as “excellent” by the Equalities Commission. The Council had also been ranked 7th best in the country in relation to promoting equality of opportunity for LGBT staff and work was on track to meet the workforce to reflect the community targets. He congratulated all the staff and Members that had been involved in this work.

(3) Extreme weather conditions

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman, said that even during the coldest winter for 40 years, the Council had kept schools open and roads gritted despite pressures on the supplies. Tower Hamlets had performed better than its neighbouring boroughs. He thanked staff and the Lead Member for their hard work.

(4) Knife crime

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman, said that over the last few weeks the borough had seen a spate of knife crime and sadly an 18 year old youth had died. Although levels of such crime were lower in Tower Hamlets than in some other parts of London, the Council was determined to do everything possible to combat knife crime and the growing issues around it. A scrutiny session on knife crime was to commence shortly.

(5) Holocaust Memorial Day

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman, informed the Council that the meeting was taking place on Holocaust Memorial Day. It had been 65 years since 12 million people were slaughtered by the Nazi regime in Germany. Many Jewish people had sought refuge in the borough and it was important both to commemorate those who died and to ensure that the terrible events could never be repeated. With the permission of the Mayor the Leader asked that the Council stand in a minutes silence in memory of the millions of victims of the holocaust as well as those who had lost their lives in the Haiti earthquake.

Members, officers and the public rose from their seats and observed a minute’s silence.

(6) Young Mayor elections

The Mayor introduced the new Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Landry Adelard, and his team of Deputy Mayors who had been elected the previous week. He invited the outgoing Young Mayor, Uma Akther, to address the Council about her year in office. Ms. Akther gave a presentation about her time as the Young Mayor and the opportunities it had given her and her

colleagues. The Mayor thanked Ms. Akther and her deputies on undertaking their roles with great success and presented certificates to each of them marking the end of their term of office.

Councillor Peter Golds then addressed the meeting. He echoed the Leader of the Council's comments regarding staff efforts during the extreme weather, and joined the Mayor in paying tribute to the outgoing Young Mayor and deputies.

Councillor Golds also informed the Council about the holocaust memorial ceremony that he had attended the previous day at City Hall. He endorsed the Leader's remarks on this subject and also referred to more recent events in other parts of the world that illustrated the importance of everyone involved in public life remaining vigilant and determined in their opposition to extreme ideologies that sought to divide communities.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS OR DEPUTATIONS

PETITIONS

5.1.1 Petition re: Broomfield Street proposed development

This petition was **withdrawn** and referred instead to the Development Committee as a planning application had been received in respect of the proposed development.

5.1.2 Petition re: the withdrawal of parking permits at 38 & 40 Horseferry Road and 53 Narrow Street

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms. Selda Bicer addressed the meeting in support of the petition. She then responded to questions from the Members of the Council.

Change to order of business

At this point, Councillor Ajbol Miah **MOVED** and Councillor Dulal Uddin **SECONDED** – "That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.5 to be considered after item 5.1.2."

On being to the vote, the procedural motion was **lost**.

Councillor Marc Francis, Leader Member for Housing and Development, said that following his own discussions with Ms Bicer last year, Council Officers had looked into the concerns of residents at 38-40 Horseferry Road. There was a section 106 legal agreement signed by the developer Newlon Housing which specified that the development is "car free". This was agreed and signed in 1999. The obligation is on the developer – Newlon - in these instances to inform potential occupiers that the development is car free and they will not be allowed on-street parking permits.

However, in the light of the concerns that these tenancies were not advertised by LBTH as being subject to a Car Free Zone agreement, the Lead Member had requested that officers review this matter. His personal view was that he did not think it was appropriate for the Council to enforce the CFZ on these tenants. However, the council clearly would need to ensure that any such decision was legally watertight. He hoped to have a report back on the way forward in the next month.

In the meantime, the Head of Parking Services had agreed that tenants would be entitled to re-new their Residents Street Parking Permits for another year.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.1.3 Petition re: Canton Street garages

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Declan Purcell addressed the meeting in support of the petition. Mr. Purcell and a colleague responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development, said that no planning application had yet been received in relation to the conversion of the garages in Canton Street into housing. However, Poplar HARCA had told the Council that they were proposing to convert these garages and that they were currently undertaking some more public consultation with local residents. If Poplar HARCA decided to apply for planning permission to convert these garages it would be dealt with in the normal way via the planning application determination route which would involve further consultation.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

5.1.4 Petition re: installation of CCTV in and around Parkview Estate

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms. Johanna Kaschke addressed the meeting in support of the petition and explained that the petition had originally been started by the mother of a child that had been molested twice on the estate. Ms. Kaschke responded to questions from the Members of the Council.

Councillor Abdal Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener thanked Ms. Kaschke for bringing the petition to the meeting. He explained that CCTV cameras needed to be targeted effectively and Police incident reporting

systems were used to decide where they were placed. Unfortunately at this point in time, cameras for the Parkview Estate were not proposed. The Council were not in a position to install CCTV inside estates or in blocks as this would normally fall under the responsibility of the Registered Social Landlord.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

DEPUTATIONS

Change to order of business

At this point, Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED** and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED** – “That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.4 to be considered after item 5.2.1.”

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

5.2.1 Deputation re: East End Homes Leaseholders & Freeholders Association

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mrs. Gloria Thienel addressed the meeting in support of the deputation. Mrs. Thienel then responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development, thanked Mrs. Thienel for bringing the deputation to the meeting. The Council itself accepted that the fair and equitable treatment of leaseholders was an absolute necessity. This was demonstrated by its support for an Independent Audit of the 2007/08 service charges. The Council agrees to work with RSLs to recognise and support democratic and representative resident structures that meet the reasonable recognition criteria agreed by the RSL Board Members.

Councillor Francis informed the Council that the Board of East End Homes had considered a request for the formation of a new leasehold structure from the Island Gardens Leaseholders Association in December 2007 and had agreed to seek the views of local boards in respect of separate leasehold representation. The result of this consultation was fed back to the Board and discussed in April 2008. The consensus from the consultation process suggested that the current inclusive arrangements for leaseholder involvement and representation at Local Board level should be maintained. It was further noted that leaseholders are well represented on all local boards and, on several, form the majority of the Board.

As a result of this feedback, East End Homes have formally advised the Chair of IGLA that a report is being prepared on local governance and resident involvement that will be considered at their next Board meeting at the end of January 2010. Part of that discussion will include the formation of the EEHLFA, and Mrs Thienel had been invited to make representations at that meeting. It was anticipated that following this meeting work could commence on developing a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with EEHLFA.

This would take account of the priority the organisation gives to local Boards and their requirements. Councillor Francis stated that councillors on his side of the Chamber welcomed this development and had confidence in its outcome.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

11.4 Motion proposed by Councillor Tim Archer regarding East End Homes Leaseholders and Freeholders Association

Councillor Tim Archer **MOVED** and Councillor Peter Golds **SECONDED** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Marc Francis **MOVED**, and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED**, an amendment to the motion to delete text after "This Council notes" and replace with:-

- "East End Homes is a resident-led housing association, with six tenants and two leaseholders on its Board;
- East End Homes took on some of those council estates suffering most from the historic under-investment in council housing;
- East End Homes has been assessed as being a Two-Star "Good" organisation by the independent Audit Commission;
- The dissatisfaction expressed by some leaseholders and freeholders of East End Homes;
- The formation of the borough-wide East End Homes Leaseholders and Freeholders Association (EEHLFA);
- That East End Homes is committed to working to establish a constructive relationship with EEHLFA and has invited representatives to its Board meeting on 28th January.

This Council believes that:

- Genuine engagement, transparency and accountability are the key to achieving a high quality housing management service and improving Value for Money for leaseholders and tenants alike;
- Democratically-elected local Estate Management Boards are an essential component of the governance arrangements at East End Homes;

- A good working relationship with other groups set up to represent residents of East End Homes would be a positive step forward;
- Increased involvement with EEHLFA would help address the concerns of some of East End Home's freeholders and leaseholders.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Encourage the Board of East End Homes to recognise the EEHLFA through an agreed Memorandum of Understanding with that organisation and work positively to resolve leaseholder/freeholder issues."

After debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- East End Homes is a resident-led housing association, with six tenants and two leaseholders on its Board;
- East End Homes took on some of those council estates suffering most from the historic under-investment in council housing;
- East End Homes has been assessed as being a Two-Star "Good" organisation by the independent Audit Commission;
- The dissatisfaction expressed by some leaseholders and freeholders of East End Homes;
- The formation of the borough-wide East End Homes Leaseholders and Freeholders Association (EEHLFA);
- That East End Homes is committed to working to establish a constructive relationship with EEHLFA and has invited representatives to its Board meeting on 28th January.

This Council believes that:

- Genuine engagement, transparency and accountability are the key to achieving a high quality housing management service and improving Value for Money for leaseholders and tenants alike;
- Democratically-elected local Estate Management Boards are an essential component of the governance arrangements at East End Homes;
- A good working relationship with other groups set up to represent residents of East End Homes would be a positive step forward;
- Increased involvement with EEHLFA would help address the concerns of some of East End Home's freeholders and leaseholders.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Encourage the Board of East End Homes to recognise the EEHLFA through an agreed Memorandum of Understanding with that organisation and work positively to resolve leaseholder/freeholder issues.

5.2.2 Deputation re: Pitsea Estate youth facilities

On the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Mahbud Alam and Mr. Abdul Malik addressed the meeting in support of the deputation. Messrs Alam and Malik then responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Abdul Asad, Lead Member for Children, Schools and Families, said the Youth & Connexions Service delivered a number of youth provisions in the vicinity of Pitsea Estate, in particular the Martineau Village Club (Lukin Street) which was walking distance from the Pitsea Estate. The Rapid Response Team also offered mobile provision in Lowood Street, Shadwell again walking distance from Pitsea Estate and also mobile provision on Monday and Friday between 6.00-9.00pm. The Youth Service also had a designated venue known as the Tower Project (Whitehorse Road) which had facilities for young people with Special Educational Needs.

The idea of having a youth facility on every street corner was good however it defeated the objective of creating a community who was willing to travel and also reinforced the territorial boundaries by creating clubs based on post codes which by default would create particular affiliations which the youth service was working hard to stop.

The Youth & Connexions Service understood the concerns of the residents of Pitsea Estate and would be happy to meet with the delegating parties to meet with the local youth provider, Bishop Challoner School, which the Council was happy to host and explore possibilities of linking and sign posting these young people into nearby Village club and also link the work with Connexions to support the young people into employment and training opportunities.

RESOLVED

That the deputation be referred to the Corporate Director, Children, Schools and Families for a written response on outstanding matters within 28 days.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

6.1 Question from Ms. Caroline Kerswell to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

“In light of my recent attack by a Rottweiler, I want to know what the council are doing about dangerous dogs. Apparently there are only four animal wardens in the area and you did not issue a single fine for the dog fouling last year. Is there any plans to re-examine this policy and put further budget aside? My police call was never even responded on and I had to contact the dog warden separately.”

Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Abdal Ullah

There are 4 Animal Wardens currently operating in Tower Hamlets dealing with the full range of animal welfare and control issues. Chief amongst those are dog-fouling enforcement, investigation of nuisance and anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog-ownership, picking up and receiving of stray dog and the maintenance of the dog-pound in Mile End Park. The team successfully enforced the law relating to dog-fouling by way of prosecutions and formal cautions against over 100 dog-owners last year. The enforcement figures have run around this level now for many years.

Over the last few years the Service has come under increasing pressure due to a significant change in dog-ownership in the Borough. This mirrors a nationwide trend with bull-terrier type dogs becoming the predominant breed and young, often disaffected, men often being the owners. These dogs are referred to as 'status dogs' which reflects the sense that many of the young men have low self-esteem and a feel they have no stake in society. The ownership of these large, aggressive and intimidating dogs affords them some status.

There has been and continues to be a steady increase in the number of dogs in the Borough, with a disproportionate number of them being potentially dangerous bull-terrier type breeds including pit bulls. Many of the dogs are thought to be banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act [DDA].

The expertise to identify 'banned breeds' is maintained by the Police Dog Legislation Officers although the Council is looking at the opportunities for our Wardens to develop this capability also. The DDA includes an offence of allowing a dog to be 'dangerously out of control' which again is primarily a matter for the Police to investigate. Although, as in the incident which precipitated this question, aggrieved parties will also notify our Officers.

As a result of the prevalence of these 'dangerous dogs' and the commensurate increase in both aggressive behaviour and public perception of such, our Wardens have become increasingly aware of the growing problems associated with their ownership and more involved in investigations relating to them.

The number of stray dogs has increased dramatically over the last 12 months as has the number of dogs 'gifted' to the Dog Warden Service for re-homing. This is as a direct consequence of the growth in ownership of status dogs and the Council taking over the responsibility to receive stray dogs outside of normal office hours. In addition, Battersea Dogs Home is now struggling to maintain it's historical role of accepting strays and finding homes for them and we often have to place dogs in private kennels prior to their subsequent destruction.

The Dog Warden team is engaging with colleagues in Community Safety, from the RSLs and the Police to begin to try and establish a unity of purpose relating to the problem and to establish effective partnership-working.

In recognition of the growth of the number of dangerous breeds at large and their frequent association with anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, the Met. Police set up its Status Dogs Unit [SDU] in March of last year. It has already taken over 1000 of these dogs out of circulation.

Due to the dimension of the local problem of status dogs, Members considered a report in December last year and committed significant additional resources to enable the Council to review the situation and develop a Dangerous Dogs' Strategy. The purpose of this is to establish an effective multi-disciplinary approach to the issue gaining the commitment of key partners and broadening the capacity of the Animal Warden Service to meet current demands. £180,000 has been allocated to the task and the strategy is now being developed.

The objective of the strategy is to reduce the number of these dogs at large and to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour caused by them. It is hoped that this in turn will address the perception issues relating to the presence of dogs. This will be achieved by robust enforcement of related legislation and education.

The Police SDU have given the Animal Warden team a commitment to addressing the problem in Tower Hamlets. This will include a 'day of action' likely to be scheduled early in the year and will involve the SDU making intelligence-based visits to addresses and locations in the Borough where it is believed 'Dangerous Dogs' are being kept or used.

Council Officers and other partners will be involved in gathering the necessary 'good intelligence' to ensure that the 'day of action' is successful. These actions and any ensuing prosecutions will be given maximum publicity thereafter. The SDU has made it clear that dealing with 'Dangerous Dogs' in the community is Police business and to that end a programme of training will be rolled out to all our SNTs in the near future.

The Animal Warden Pound is currently being upgraded to enable these large, powerful and dangerous dogs to be contained safely in emergency situations when the Police are not able to respond to an incident and when no other appropriate kennelling can be found for such a dog.

The Animal Warden Team is currently recruiting to increase staffing levels to build the necessary capacity to ensure that it is able to fully meet the challenges ahead and ensure that the Dangerous Dogs Strategy is effective.

Officers have had meetings with RSLs to discuss this shared problem and to encourage their participation in reviewing their use of anti-social behaviour legislation and tenancy agreements. This includes the possibility of requiring tenants to register and 'chip' their dogs for identification purposes; the interest shown has been very encouraging.

The Council will continue to offer free microchipping, free dog training and free neutering of bull terrier breeds.

There is an imminent meeting with the SNTs when the team will establish an understanding as to how respective roles can compliment each others and conjointly increase our effectiveness.

The Council's recently established THEO's have also committed to participating in the strategy and will assist in gathering intelligence as to where these dogs are kept or exercised and passing the information back to the Animal Warden Service for further investigation. Park Wardens will exercise the same level of vigilance in relation to activities in the parks associated with these dogs and will assist by passing this information to the team.

The team will also be carrying out a hard-hitting publicity campaign and will be putting information out in the press. An article is due for publication shortly which will explain what the strategic objectives are and how they will be achieved with emphasis on the partnership approach. The article will invite members of the public to contact the Council in confidence with information about dogs that they believe are either a banned breed or dangerously out of control in a public place.

Summary of supplementary question from Ms. Kerswell:

I have read in the East London Advertiser mention of a neutering programme. This helps to reduce testosterone levels in dogs and was launched in January 2009. Why have vets' bills not been paid to enable them to carry out this important free service?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

The RSPCA are the experts in this field and they classified the Tower Hamlets Dog Team and Wardens as exemplars. Almost £180,000 has been allocated to this work and I am sure we will address this issue and meet the needs of the dogs you mention.

6.2 Question from Mr. Terry McGrenera to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Adal Ullah

"Is the claim that recycling rates "rockets" over the past year just a lot of rubbish?"

Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Abdal Ullah

No, the authority has seen its recycling rate almost double since March 2008, we have seen a dramatic increase in the recycling rates from 13% in 2007/08 to a projected figure this year of 27% by March 2010.

This figure reflects the work and investment that the Council, its residents and officers have put into improving recycling. These figures compare with many outer London boroughs which have large rural areas with many affluent areas comprising, detached and semi detached properties, this makes recycling much easier than it is in Tower Hamlets, which has a very high proportion of high and low rise dwellings. We are committed to improving recycling further in the future and are in the process of developing a draft municipal waste strategy that will set out how we are going to manage our waste resources over the next 10 years.

Summary of supplementary question from Mr. McGreenera:

The levels of increase you quote are from a very low starting point. The recycling services are not working as intended. Rather than visiting schools with your robotic friend to promote recycling, is it not time that pupils, people and places were rewarded for recycling and is that not the way to recycle more?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

Thank you for your keen interest and I hope that the agenda that you take back from the meeting this evening and all Council meetings will be recycled and our figures will improve. I thank Members on this side and all colleagues for your hard work encouraging constituents to participate and recycle more.

6.3 Question from Mr. Azir Uddin to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

"Does this Council agree that where, as in John Smith Mews E14, the residents almost unanimously want to retain the existing parking regime involving a key and gate, the landlords One Housing Group, should not introduce unilaterally a new system involving pay permits and clamping and agree to write to One Housing Group expressing this opinion?"

This question was not put at the meeting as the questioner was not in attendance.

Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Marc Francis

There have been historical problems with parking on John Smith Mews as well as numerous other estates managed by Toynbee Housing Association over the years.

These problems have been alleviated by the introduction of a permit system and estate clamping schemes which, to date has been a service offered free of charge by the clamping.

Their fees have traditionally been made up by the number of cars they can clamp which has led to allegations from residents of unscrupulous practices.

Following these complaints, Toynbee HA consulted all residents on a proposal to instruct a new clamping firm to operate across their estates that would charge a flat fee of 58pw per resident, with the added assurance that their working practices would be more in line with best practice within the industry.

Most of the feedback received to date from other estates suggested residents are in favour of this approach. However, however, given the dissatisfaction now raised by the residents of John Smith mews, Toynbee HA has agreed to:

- Suspend implementation of the scheme on John Smith Mews until a further consultation exercise has been held with residents on this estate and their feedback analysed.
- Continue with the implementation of the new clamping system on the other Toynbee estates.
- Conduct a 6 month review of how the new clamping arrangements are working on the other Toynbee estates.

The Council asserts that decisions affecting how estates are managed, including local parking arrangements, are matters that landlords and residents should be working together on to establish what's best for residents.

Any decision made should be in line with best practice and should include full consultation to allow residents to have a meaningful input into the decision making processes.

6.4 Question from Mr. Md. Rahmet Ullah to the Lead Member for Employment and Skills, Councillor Oliur Rahman:

“This Council is investing considerable time and money in helping residents to find work in these tough times. But as the economy has changed, so have the jobs on offer. What is being done to ensure that those getting placements and training are being set up for the jobs that

are available today, and not those that were available before the recession?"

This question was not put at the meeting as the questioner was not in attendance.

Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Oliur Rahman

I welcome the recognition of the Council's considerable efforts and investment in helping its residents to succeed in the labour market.

Mr Ullah makes an interesting and relevant point and I am happy to advise that the services delivered by the Council to support the employment of local residents are designed to be responsive to changing labour market circumstances.

The Council commissioned Oxford Economics in November 2008, to research the effects of the economic downturn in Tower Hamlets and the findings from this research has informed decisions made about training and placements over the last to years.

For example;

- the Council's *Earn As You Learn* programme involves candidates completing a Pitman accredited course for two weeks and then completing an 8 week work placement with a company prepared to trial them for future opportunities. Typically the mix of companies selected for placements would have included those in the financial sector. Given the down-turn these have been replaced by opportunities in sectors that are recruiting – hospital trusts, council departments and charitable organisations. The programme is designed to ensure that this flexibility exists and thus placements are always selected based on current or emerging opportunities to justify the investment and ensure the best chance of employment at the end.
- the Council's Graduate Placement Programme has typically offered 40 local graduates the opportunity to gain relevant work experience for up to 16 weeks with leading companies. As data has consistently confirmed that graduate unemployment is a particular issue during the recession, the scheme has been extended to allow another 20 young people to access the scheme. Employer partners have included the Independent Police Complaints Commission and the Financial Ombudsman, as well as a range of small and medium local enterprises. Many have been retained for permanent employment.
- Our construction training offer within Tower Hamlets has broadened considerably over the past 18 months for young people and job seekers of all ages. This has ranged from increased provision in schools, NVQ provision, routes into

apprenticeships connected with London 2012 and continued pre-employment and brokerage services offered by Skillsmatch. Direct job vacancies from the Olympic Park, though lower than expected because of the downturn, have progressed from demolition and remediation to enabling works and now towards fit out and landscaping occupations. We have continued to be flexible in providing pathways into these opportunities, and preparing residents for wider industry opportunities as the economy recovers.

Overall the council remains committed to the principle of working with employers that have live or emerging job opportunities (across a wide range of sectors –including the public sector), and to investing time and resource to pre-employment interventions that deliver healthy job outcomes in the short, medium and long terms.

6.5 Question from Ms. Amy Whitelock to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

“To ask the Leader what action the Council has taken to support local residents’ campaign to persuade Transport for London to restore the door-to-door bus service between Bow and the Tesco supermarket at Bromley-by-Bow?”

Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Mayor Boris Johnson’s decision to scrap this service forced residents to undertake a long and dangerous walk. As a result of our campaigning this will no longer be necessary. On behalf of the Council’s Public Transport Consultative Forum, the Head of Transportation & Highways wrote to TfL’s Managing Director of Surface Transport, in August last year expressing frustration about the ongoing situation, highlighting the concerns of residents and offering a solution (not for the first time) by providing a bus stand on Hancock Road. This would allow the 488 bus to serve Bromley-by-Bow Tesco directly, rather than passengers having to change buses and/or travel to Twelvetrees Crescent on the way home.

I am pleased to confirm that TfL have now agreed (subject to formal consultation by them) to this arrangement which is expected to be introduced on 27th February 2010. This is the successful culmination of a long running campaign by local residents, assembly member John Biggs and local Councillors including myself.

Summary of supplementary question from Ms. Whitelock:

This news will be music to the ears of those that signed the petition. When will the new arrangements come into effect and how reliable will the service be?

Summary of Lead Member's response:

We expect by the end of February that the door to door service will be effectively re-instated. As a result of the improvements we expect passengers to return to use the service and we are calling for more buses to meet the increase in demand and improve the frequency.

Change to order of business

At this point, Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** – “That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.9 to be considered as next business.”

At this juncture, more than ten Members rose to request a recorded vote (Rule 17.4).

The procedural motion was put to the vote as follows:

For (49 Councillors)

Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali
Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Philip Briscoe
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Fazlul Haque
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Clair Hawkins
Councillor Alexander Heslop
Councillor Shirley Houghton
Councillor Ahmed Hussain
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Waiseul Islam
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Rania Khan

Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Mohammed Abdul Munim
Councillor Timothy O'Flaherty
Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Mohammed Mamun Rashid
Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Abdul Aziz Sardar
Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer (The Mayor)

Against (0 Councillors)

The procedural motion was therefore **agreed**.

11.9 Motion proposed by Councillor Harun Miah regarding Boris Johnson's fare rises

The motion as printed in the agenda was **MOVED** by Councillor Harun Miah and **SECONDED** by Councillor Abjol Miah.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman then **MOVED** and Councillor Abdal Ullah **SECONDED** an **AMENDMENT** – That all words in the published motion be deleted and replaced with:-

“This Council notes that:

Tory Mayor Boris Johnson has subjected Londoners to a huge above-inflation rise in bus fares.

This approach follows his refusal to intervene in support of those residents in Bow whose S2 bus he scrapped, forcing pensioners and mums with young children to carry their shopping through a dirty and dangerous underpass beneath the dual carriageway.

The overall increase in bus fares introduced from 2nd January 2010 was 12.7% however, a pay-as-you-go single bus journey increased by 20% from £1 to £1.20 (a rise of 20%).

Fare rises are substantial and particularly likely to affect infrequent, irregular users such as part-time workers. This will include the 18% of families in Tower Hamlets living on less than £15,000.

Raising bus fares impacts disproportionately on the poor as they are most likely to use buses as opposed to more expensive forms of public or private transport.

In the current economic circumstances this makes it difficult for many on low wages to get to and from work, dampening employment and growth in the capital.

That that Mayor continues to fight for lower taxes for the bankers who helped create the current economic crisis while placing a de-facto "transport tax" on those worst affected by the downturn and least able to afford it.

Despite the fare rise, the Mayor has scrapped the proposed western extension to the congestion charge and emissions based congestion charge, both of which could raise the revenue needed to offset bus fare rises.

That the current Mayor's stance stands in direct contrast to his predecessor, Labour Mayor Ken Livingstone, who cut bus fares significantly to help the young, the elderly, the unemployed and those on low wages to access public transport.

This Council believes that:

Accessible and affordable transport is vital to the economic wellbeing of the capital in general and the lowest paid workers in particular.

The Mayor's decision to raise bus fares while fighting for lower taxes and charges for the better off is contrary to the needs of most Londoners.

This Council resolves:

To instruct the Leader to write to the London Mayor and TfL to protest the increase.

To lobby London Assembly members to hold the Mayor to account for making public transport less accessible to Londoners.

To work with other Councils, the Minister for London and the Department for Transport to press the Mayor to share the burden of paying for London's transport infrastructure more fairly."

After debate, more than ten Members rose to request a recorded vote (Rule 17.4) on the amendment.

The amendment was put to the vote as follows:

For (38 Councillors)

Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Abjol Miah

Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali
Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali
Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Fazlul Haque
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Clair Hawkins
Councillor Alexander Heslop
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Waiseul Islam
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Mohammed Abdul Munim
Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Mohammed Mamun Rashid
Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Abdul Aziz Sardar
Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer (The Mayor)

Against (4 Councillors)

Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor Timothy O'Flaherty

Abstained (8 Councillors)

Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Philip Briscoe
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt
Councillor Shirley Houghton

Councillor Ahmed Hussain
Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor David Snowdon

The amendment was therefore **agreed**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the meeting.

More than ten Members rose to request a recorded vote (Rule 17.4) on the motion.

The motion was put to the vote as follows:

For (42 Councillors)

Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali
Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali
Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Fazlul Haque
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Clair Hawkins
Councillor Alexander Heslop
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Waiseul Islam
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Mohammed Abdul Munim
Councillor Timothy O'Flaherty
Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Mohammed Mamun Rashid
Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Abdul Aziz Sardar
Councillor Rachael Saunders

Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer (The Mayor)

Against (0 Councillors)

Abstained (8 Councillors)

Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Philip Briscoe
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt
Councillor Shirley Houghton
Councillor Ahmed Hussain
Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor David Snowdon

The motion was therefore **agreed** and accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes that:

Tory Mayor Boris Johnson has subjected Londoners to a huge above-inflation rise in bus fares.

This approach follows his refusal to intervene in support of those residents in Bow whose S2 bus he scrapped, forcing pensioners and mums with young children to carry their shopping through a dirty and dangerous underpass beneath the dual carriageway.

The overall increase in bus fares introduced from 2nd January 2010 was 12.7% however, a pay-as-you-go single bus journey increased by 20% from £1 to £1.20 (a rise of 20%).

Fare rises are substantial and particularly likely to affect infrequent, irregular users such as part-time workers. This will include the 18% of families in Tower Hamlets living on less than £15,000.

Raising bus fares impacts disproportionately on the poor as they are most likely to use buses as opposed to more expensive forms of public or private transport.

In the current economic circumstances this makes it difficult for many on low wages to get to and from work, dampening employment and growth in the capital.

That that Mayor continues to fight for lower taxes for the bankers who helped create the current economic crisis while placing a de-facto “transport tax” on those worst affected by the downturn and least able to afford it.

Despite the fare rise, the Mayor has scrapped the proposed western extension to the congestion charge and emissions based congestion charge, both of which could raise the revenue needed to offset bus fare rises.

That the current Mayor’s stance stands in direct contrast to his predecessor, Labour Mayor Ken Livingstone, who cut bus fares significantly to help the young, the elderly, the unemployed and those on low wages to access public transport.

This Council believes that:

Accessible and affordable transport is vital to the economic wellbeing of the capital in general and the lowest paid workers in particular.

The Mayor’s decision to raise bus fares while fighting for lower taxes and charges for the better off is contrary to the needs of most Londoners.

This Council resolves:

To instruct the Leader to write to the London Mayor and TfL to protest the increase.

To lobby London Assembly members to hold the Mayor to account for making public transport less accessible to Londoners.

To work with other Councils, the Minister for London and the Department for Transport to press the Mayor to share the burden of paying for London’s transport infrastructure more fairly.

Change to order of business

At this point, Councillor Marc Francis **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** – “That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.3 to be considered as next business.”

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

11.3 Motion proposed by Councillor Marc Francis regarding Olympic legacy and affordable housing

The motion as printed in the agenda was **MOVED** by Councillor Marc Francis and **SECONDED** by Councillor Lutfur Rahman.

Councillor Abjol Miah informed Members that he would be withdrawing his tabled amendment.

After debate, more than ten Members rose to request a recorded vote (Rule 17.4) on the motion.

The motion was put to the vote as follows:

For (49 Councillors)

Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali
Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali
Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Philip Briscoe
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Fazlul Haque
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Clair Hawkins
Councillor Alexander Heslop
Councillor Shirley Houghton
Councillor Ahmed Hussain
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Waiseul Islam
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Abdul Matin
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Mohammed Abdul Munim
Councillor Timothy O'Flaherty
Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Mohammed Mamun Rashid
Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Abdul Aziz Sardar
Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor David Snowdon

Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer (The Mayor)

Against (0 Councillors)

The motion was therefore **agreed** and it was accordingly:-

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- The commitment of the Government, Mayor of London and Olympic Delivery Organisation (ODA) to delivering a lasting legacy to the people of London resulting from the 2012 Games.
- The creation of the Olympic Legacy Company to deliver this pledge.
- The use of £1 billion of public money by the London Development Agency (LDA) to purchase land for the Olympic sites.
- That there are almost 100,000 households on council housing waiting lists in the five 'Olympic boroughs'.

Given this level of housing need, this Council believes:

- That the current policy of 35 per cent 'affordable' housing (split 50/50 between social rented and 'intermediate') is inadequate and unacceptable as only 17 per cent of the homes built are likely to be of benefit to those on housing waiting lists.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Call on the Government and Mayor of London to instruct the ODA and Olympic Legacy Company to require that 50 per cent of all new homes built on the Olympic site should be affordable (split 70/30 social rented, including council housing, and intermediate), in order to ensure a real housing legacy for Londoners.

Change in order of business

At this point, Councillor Abjol Miah **MOVED** and Councillor Dulal Uddin **SECONDED** – "That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.12 to be considered as next business."

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

11.12 Motion proposed by Councillor Abdul Munim regarding Ocean regeneration and business uncertainty

The motion as printed in the agenda was **MOVED** by Councillor Abdul Munim and **SECONDED** by Councillor Abjol Miah.

Councillor Abjol Miah then **MOVED** and Councillor Dulal Uddin **SECONDED** – “That the question be now put”. On being put to the vote the procedural motion was **lost**.

Councillor Oliur Rahman **MOVED**, and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **SECONDED**, an **AMENDMENT** to the motion – “To insert a new paragraph i) “that the local councillors have taken a strong lead in representing the interests of shop keepers” and to delete all words in the published motion after “This Council believes that” and replace with a) Shop keepers must be fully involved in the consultation about the future redevelopment plans for the Ocean estate; b) Council officers should continue to work closely with shop keepers on both a one-to-one and collective basis to try to ensure the continuation of those businesses; c) The Lead Member should report back to Full Council on the progress of negotiations with the shop keepers on Ben Jonson Road.”

Councillor Oliur Rahman then **MOVED** and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **SECONDED** - “That the question be now put”. On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

The amendment moved by Councillor Oliur Rahman was then put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

This Council notes that:

- a) the Ocean estate is to be the subject of a major regeneration project
- b) this regeneration will involve the demolition of some existing buildings
- c) demolition will include Marmora House on Ben Jonson Road which houses many local shops which provide essential services to the local community
- d) shop owners and keepers in Ben Jonson Road recently received letters from a developer informing them of a planning application to redevelop the site where they have their shops
- e) shop owners and keepers in Ben Jonson Road have spent many years building up their businesses and serving the community

f) the letter from the developer makes no reference to providing them with alternative facilities from which to operate after they have left the existing premises or for them to have the right to return to the newly established shop premises upon completion of the redevelopment

g) this is causing severe stress and concern to the business community in Ben Jonson Road and those residents who currently depend on these shops for important and vital services

h) shop owners and keepers have made submissions to the planning department asking that alternative premises from which their businesses can operate should be guaranteed and that they should have right of return once redevelopment has been completed

i) that the local councilors have taken a strong lead in representing the interests of shop keepers

This Council welcomes any development and regeneration that will benefit the residents

This Council believes that:

- a) Shop keepers must be fully involved in the consultation about the future redevelopment plans for the Ocean estate
- b) Council officers should continue to work closely with shop keepers on both a one-to-one and collective basis to try to ensure the continuation of those businesses
- c) The Lead Member should report back to Full Council on the progress of negotiations with the shop keepers on Ben Jonson Road.

7. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Due to the lack of time, questions 1 – 25 were not put. Written responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

8. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

There was no business under this agenda item.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)

There was no business under this agenda item.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no business under this agenda item.

11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Motions 11.3, 11.4, 11.9 and 11.12 had been considered at earlier points in the meeting.

The Mayor then closed the meeting in accordance with Rule 9 (Duration of meeting).

Motions 11.1, 11.2, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.10 & 11.11 as listed below were not considered due to lack of time, the meeting having closed in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 (Duration of meeting).

11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding parking policy in Tower Hamlets

11.2 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding reducing carbon emissions by 10% in 2010

11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding car free zones

11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Ohid Ahmed regarding reducing carbon emissions

11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Fozol Miah regarding Housing Policy

11.8 Motion submitted by Councillor Joshua Peck regarding increasing access to transport for older residents

11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the co-operative and social enterprise sector

11.11 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding youth facilities

The meeting ended at 10.32 p.m.

Chair,
Council

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 3 MARCH 2010

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Lutfa Begum	Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Fazlul Haque	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Alexander Heslop	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Waiseul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman

The Mayor, Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf Councillors Clair Hawkins, Abdul Matin and Mohammed Abdul Munim.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

No announcements were made.

4. NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS: PROPOSALS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The meeting considered a report of the Chief Executive which set out, following public consultation, draft proposals for a mayoral form of executive to be introduced from October 2010 subject to approval at the referendum on 6 May 2010. The report also recommended changes to the Council's Constitution necessary to implement the new Leader and Cabinet (England) form of executive as agreed by the Council from 6 May 2010.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report.

Following debate the recommendations were put to the vote and were unanimously **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That amendments to the Council's constitution required to introduce the new-style Leader and Cabinet (England) form of executive to take effect from 6 May 2010, be agreed as set out at Appendix A to the report;
2. That the results of consultation on the draft proposals for a Mayoral form of executive as set out at Appendix B, be noted;
3. That the proposals for executive arrangements including a Directly Elected Mayor, to be introduced with effect from 21 October 2010 subject to approval at the referendum on 6 May 2010, be adopted as set out at Appendix C;
4. That the fallback proposals based on the 'Leader and Cabinet (England)' model that will continue to operate if the Mayoral system is not approved at the referendum on 6 May 2010, be formally adopted as set out at Appendix D;
5. That the Council notes that the proposed new executive arrangements will be likely to assist in securing continuous improvement in the way in which the local authority's functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness; and

6. That the proposals and fallback proposals, together with a statement of the consultation undertaken, be sent to the Secretary of State, made available for inspection and advertised as required by statute.

The meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

Chair,
Council

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 3 MARCH 2010

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Fazlul Haque	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Clair Hawkins	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Alexander Heslop	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Waiseul Islam	

The Mayor, Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Abdul Matin and Mohammed Abdul Munim and for lateness from Councillor Clair Hawkins.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence and lateness be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declarations of interest on the item included on the agenda as follows:-

Councillor	Item	Type of interest	Reason
Helal Abbas	5.1	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Dr. Anwara Ali	5.1	Personal	Accelerated Growth Programme – NHS GP
Tim Archer	5.1	Personal	Co-opted Board member of Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Abdul Asad	5.1	Personal	I work as a Youth Service provider of LAP 4
Lutfa Begum	5.1	Personal	I work for the NHS
Shafiqul Haque	5.1	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Homes
Alex Heslop	5.1	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Homes
Ahmed Hussain	5.1	Personal	I work for the NHS
Sirajul Islam	5.1	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Waiseul Islam	5.1	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Denise Jones	5.1	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Homes and non executive board member, NHS Tower Hamlets PCT
Rania Khan	5.1	Personal	Poplar Harca Board member
Salim Ullah	5.1	Personal	Board member of Tower Hamlets Community Housing
Motin Uz-Zaman	5.1	Personal	I work for the NHS

3. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dispatches Programme – Monday 1st March 2010

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman, referred to a television documentary 'Dispatches' that had been broadcast by Channel 4 on Monday evening. He stated that members of the administration were not complacent about the issues raised but they would not be distracted from their work on behalf of the people of the borough. The Council was committed to the highest

standards of probity and the programme had contained no direct allegations of wrong doing about the allocation of funds nor any new issues regarding staffing. The Leader rejected those who sought to divide the community and stressed the Council's Members were committed to One Tower Hamlets.

4. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS OR DEPUTATIONS

There were no petitions or deputations.

5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2010/11

5.1 Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 10th February 2010

The Council considered the report of the Cabinet meeting on 10th February 2010 containing the proposals of the Executive for the Council's Budget and Council Tax for 2010/11.

Three amendments had been notified in advance in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules and these amendments, together in each case with officer comments, were circulated to the meeting in the pack of tabled documents.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Ohid Ahmed and **SECONDED** by Councillor Lutfur Rahman – "That the recommendations contained in the 10th February 2010 report of the Cabinet be agreed."

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Resources and Performance, introduced the report and recommendations of the Cabinet and outlined the key elements of the Executive's proposed budget for 2010/11.

MOVED as an **AMENDMENT** by Councillor Timothy Archer, **SECONDED** by Councillor David Snowdon – "That the motion be amended as per the tabled motion from Councillor Archer (attached at Appendix A).

MOVED as a further **AMENDMENT** by Councillor Abjol Miah, **SECONDED** by Councillor Dulal Uddin – "That the motion be amended as per the tabled motion from Councillor Miah (attached at Appendix B).

MOVED as a further **AMENDMENT** by Councillor Stephanie Eaton, **SECONDED** by Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan – "That the motion be amended as per the tabled motion from Councillor Eaton (attached at Appendix C).

The meeting then debated the budget proposals of the Cabinet and the respective amendments moved as above, in accordance with the Budget Council Procedure Rules.

Following debate, Councillor Abjol Miah **MOVED** and Councillor Harun Miah **SECONDED** – "That the question be now put".

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

Prior to the vote Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Resources and Performance addressed the meeting under his right of reply.

Following this, the amendment **MOVED** by Councillor Timothy Archer was first put to the vote and was **DEFEATED**.

The amendment **MOVED** by Councillor Abjol Miah was then put to the vote and was **DEFEATED**.

The amendment **MOVED** by Councillor Stephanie Eaton was then put to the vote and was **DEFEATED**.

The original motion moved by Councillor Ohid Ahmed was then put to the meeting.

At this juncture, more than ten Members rose to request a recorded vote (Rule 17.4). Accordingly the motion was put to the vote and Members voted as follows:

For (40 Councillors)

Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Stephanie Eaton
Councillor Helal Abbas
Councillor Ohid Ahmed
Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Rofique Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Mohammed Shahid Ali
Councillor Shahed Ali
Councillor Abdul Asad
Councillor Lutfu Begum
Councillor Alibor Choudhury
Councillor Marc Francis
Councillor Fazlul Haque
Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Clair Hawkins
Councillor Alexander Heslop
Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Waiseul Islam
Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Timothy O'Flaherty
Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Mohammed Mamun Rashid
Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique

Councillor Abdul Aziz Sardar
Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer (The Mayor)

Against (0 Councillors)

Abstentions (9 Councillors)

Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali
Councillor Timothy Archer
Councillor Philip Briscoe
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt
Councillor Shirley Houghton
Councillor Ahmed Hussain
Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor David Snowdon

The motion was therefore **agreed** and accordingly it was:-

RESOLVED

A. General Fund Revenue Budget Requirement and Council Tax 2010/2011

1. That a total Budget Requirement be agreed for Tower Hamlets in 2010/11 of £310,369,000.
2. That a Council Tax be agreed for Tower Hamlets in 2010/11 of £885.52 at Band D, as detailed in the table below: -

	2009/10	2010/11
	£	£
Adults Health & Wellbeing	89,547,000	90,217,000
Children's Services	96,795,000	93,896,000
Development and Renewal	17,702,000	12,424,000
Communities, Localities and Culture	74,499,000	74,911,000
Resources	15,904,000	18,363,000
Chief Executive's	10,871,000	13,368,000
Corporate/Capital	14,174,000	17,748,000
Total Directorate Budgets	319,492,000	320,927,000
Corporate Contingency	-	7,763,000
Provision for Future Growth	-	2,200,000
Contribution to Investment Reserve	-	2,900,000
Local Public Service Agreement	(660,000)	(700,000)
Parking Control Account	(3,040,000)	(3,310,000)
Housing Choice Earmarked Reserve	-	-
Efficiency Reserve	689,000	689,000
Funding for Accelerated Delivery Programme	-	(1,802,000)
Asset Management Reserve	-	-
Insurance Fund	500,000	500,000
Area Based Grant income	(19,055,000)	(18,798,000)
Council Net Budget	297,926,000	310,369,000
Formula Grant	(228,816,291)	(232,203,778)
Council Net Budget After Formula Grant	69,109,709	78,165,222
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	2,000,000	(3,478,000)
Net Budget Requirement	71,109,709	74,687,222
Council Tax Base	80,303	84,343
COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D	£885.52	£885.52

Resulting in a Council Tax for all other band taxpayers, before any discounts, and excluding the GLA precept, as set out in the Table below:-

BAND	PROPERTY VALUE		RATIO TO BAND D	LBTH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH BAND £
	FROM	TO		
A	0	40,000	⁶ / ₉	£590.35
B	40,001	52,000	⁷ / ₉	£688.74
C	52,001	68,000	⁸ / ₉	£787.13
D	68,001	88,000	⁹ / ₉	£885.52
E	88,001	120,000	¹¹ / ₉	£1,082.30
F	120,001	160,000	¹³ / ₉	£1,279.08
G	160,001	320,000	¹⁵ / ₉	£1,475.87
H	320,001	and over	¹⁸ / ₉	£1,771.04

3. That for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 2010/2011:-

(a) The Council Tax for Band D taxpayers, before any discounts, and including the GLA precept, shall be £1,195.34 as shown below: -.

	£
	(Band D, No Discounts)
LBTH	885.52
GLA	309.82
Total	1,195.34

- (b) The Council Tax for taxpayers in all other bands, before any discounts, and including the GLA precept, shall be as detailed in the table below: -

BAND	PROPERTY VALUE		RATIO TO BAND D	LBTH £	GLA £	TOTAL £
	FROM	TO				
A	0	40,000	$\frac{6}{9}$	£590.35	£206.55	£796.90
B	40,001	52,000	$\frac{7}{9}$	£688.74	£240.97	£929.71
C	52,001	68,000	$\frac{8}{9}$	£787.13	£275.40	£1,062.53
D	68,001	88,000	$\frac{9}{9}$	£885.52	£309.82	£1,195.34
E	88,001	120,000	$\frac{11}{9}$	£1,082.30	£378.67	£1,460.97
F	120,001	160,000	$\frac{13}{9}$	£1,279.08	£447.52	£1,726.60
G	160,001	320,000	$\frac{15}{9}$	£1,475.87	£516.37	£1,992.24
H	320,001	and over	$\frac{18}{9}$	£1,771.04	£619.64	£2,390.68

- 4 That the statutory calculations of this Authority's total Budget requirement in 2010/2011, as detailed in Appendix A to the motion and set out at pages 16-18 of the Document Pack, undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the requirements of Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, be approved.

B. Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2012/13

1. That the allocation of resources provided by the Government and other funding bodies for specific purposes, to support Directorate Mainstream Capital Programmes, be approved as set out in Appendix A to Annex 3 of the report of the Cabinet and summarised in the table below:-

Directorate	£ million
Adults, Health & Wellbeing	0.392
Children, Schools and Families (including Building Schools for the Future)	123.835
Communities, Localities & Culture	2.900
Development & Renewal	0.890
HRA	36.598
TOTAL	164.615

2. That the allocation of resources to the Local Priorities Programme, including pre-agreed projects and unavoidable capital schemes for 2010/11, be approved as set out in Appendix B to Annex 3 of the report of the Cabinet.

C. 2010/11 Prudential and Treasury Indicators

1. That the Operational Boundaries for External Debt be agreed as set out in section 10.3 of the report included at Annex 4 to the report of the Cabinet as follows:-

Operational Boundary for External Debt	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Borrowing	445.000	495.000	545.000	575.000	595.000
Other Long Term Liabilities	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	445.000	495.000	545.000	575.000	595.000

2. That the Authorised Limits for External Debt be agreed as set out in section 10.3 of the report included at Annex 4 to the report of the Cabinet as follows:-

Authorised Limit for External Debt	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£M	£M	£M	£M	£M
Borrowing	465.000	515.000	565.000	595.000	615.000
Other Long Term Liabilities	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	465.000	515.000	565.000	595.000	615.000

3. That the prudential indicators be agreed as set out in sections 8 – 11 of that report as required under the Prudential Borrowing Code.

D. Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provisional Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategies 2010/11

1. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, as set out in Sections 6 - 10 of the report attached at Annex 5 to the report of the Cabinet, be agreed.
2. That the Annual Investment Strategy, as set out in Section 11 of that report, be agreed
3. That the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, as set out in Section 12 of that report, be agreed.

4. That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Annual Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement as set out in the body of that report, be adopted and that officers involved in treasury management must follow these policies and procedures.

6. PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

This additional item was considered by the meeting on grounds of urgency. The Chief Executive advised the Council that the Mayor had agreed that the tabled report of the Service Head, Democratic Services should be taken as urgent business, and the Chief Executive had agreed under Council Procedure Rule 2A.2.6 that the item could be taken at the Budget Meeting, because the Council was required to carry out a review of proportionality as soon as practicable after a change in political composition of the authority.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report subject to a tabled amendment as follows:-

“This Council resolves:

To remove Councillor Anwara Ali as Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing.

To note that the Leader of the Council will take responsibility for this portfolio for the remainder of this administration.

To not pay out the SRA for this post for the remainder of the administration.

To allocate one seat currently occupied by the Labour Party on the Licensing Committee to the Conservative Party.

To allocate one seat currently occupied by the Liberal Democrat Party on the Appeals Committee to the Conservative Party.”

The Service Head, Democratic Services confirmed that should it be agreed, the proposed amendment would result in an allocation of committee places that was in accordance with the proportionality regulations.

After debate, Councillor Oliur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** – “That the question be now put.” On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

The tabled amendment moved by Councillor Lutfur Rahman was then put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive recommendations as amended were then put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED

1. That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 of the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services be noted, and the allocation of seats

on committees and panels for the remainder of the Municipal year 2009/10 be amended as follows:-

(a) the allocation of one seat currently occupied by the Labour Group on the Licensing Committee to the Conservative Group; and

(b) the allocation of one seat currently occupied by the Liberal Democrat Group on the Appeals Committee to the Conservative Group;

[Note from Clerk: The allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the 2009/10 municipal year is therefore agreed as follows]:-

Committee	Total	Labour	Conser- vative	Respect	Liberal Democrat
Development	9	6	1	1	1
Strategic Development	9	6	1	1	1
General Purposes	7	5	1	1	-
Human Resources	7	5	1	1	-
Appeals	9	6	2	1	-
Pensions Committee	9	5	2	1	1
Audit Committee	7	4	1	1	1
Overview & Scrutiny (plus 5 co-optees)	9	6	1	1	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	1	1	1
Licensing	15	8	4	2	1

2. That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on the committees and panels affected by the above changes in accordance with the nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Assistant Chief Executive;
3. That Councillor Anwara Ali be removed as Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing;
4. That the Council notes that the Leader of the Council will take responsibility for the Health and Wellbeing portfolio for the remainder of this administration; and
5. That the Special Responsibility Allowance for the post of Lead Member, Health and Wellbeing, be not paid out for the remainder of the administration.

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

Chair,
Council

APPENDIX A

COUNCIL 3rd March 2010

BUDGET REQUIREMENT & COUNCIL TAX 2010/11

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11

**AGENDA ITEM 5.1 REPORT OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON
10th February 2010**

**AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY: COUNCILLOR TIM ARCHER
AMENDMENT SECONDED BY: COUNCILLOR DAVID SNOWDON**

This Council

1. Notes that in the current economic environment Councils across London are trying to minimise the impact of the recession on residents by keeping Council Tax rises as low as possible and that efficient councils are able to offer residents a cut.
2. That the Labour Government has cut the ESOL budget for Tower Hamlets College by £1.2m
3. That the recent You Decide events have clearly highlighted the concerns that the community has regarding levels of crime and grime in the borough.
4. That there are some 23,000 people on the Tower Hamlets housing waiting list, a figure that is rising not falling.
5. Notes the waste of this council in spending millions on consultants, advertising and propaganda.
6. Notes the £54m black hole in the finances of the Council commencing 2011/2010.
7. Notes the budget proposals recommended by the Cabinet and amends them as set out below.
8. That the following additional savings be implemented;

Budget	Description of saving	2010/11 budget saving implication (£)
East End Life	Discontinue publication of East End Life and have a special supplement in the East London Advertiser and Bengali Press	589,000
Press Office	Reduce the size of the press office to the minimum level.	278,852
Members' Allowances	Reduce Members allowances by 10%	51,326
Lead Members	Reduce the number of Cabinet	42,081

	Members from 10 to 7 by merging the roles of Lead Member for Housing & Development and lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, merging the Resources Lead into the Deputy Leader's role, and merging Culture Lead with Cleaner, Safer, Greener.	
Deputy Mayor	Scrap last year's 50% pay raise for the Deputy Mayor	1,437
Special Responsibilities	Abolish Special Responsibility Payments for: Chairs of Licensing, Appeals, General Purposes, Audit, HR, Pensions Committees and Olympic Ambassador	49,635
Lead Members	Reduce special responsibility payment for each Lead Member to £8291	28,680
Other Special Responsibility Payments	Chair of Dev Committee, O&S, Leader of Gp with more than 6 cllrs, to be cut to basic SRA	8,700
Leader and Deputy Leader	Cut SRA by 25%	11,420
Senior Officers	Half the number of Assistant Chief Executives.	195,000
Subscriptions	Cancel membership of the Local Government Association and the Local Government Information Unit.	60,023
Advertising	Reduce advertising budget by 50%	225,000
Communications	Scrap the 'In the news' press cuttings service	7,500
Travel costs	10% saving on all staff travel costs.	35,000
Conferences	End all attendance at conferences	250,000
Food costs	Discontinue the serving of food at Council meetings save for Civic functions	16,000
Administrative support	Delete the post of Leaders executive assistant	52,000
Administrative support	Delete the posts of the political advisors	92,036
Administrative support	Remove administrative support to Lead Members	105,000
Fines	As a result of investment in more Animal wardens and litter wardens, increase revenue	17,000

	generated from fines	
Participation and Engagement Team	Reduce headcount of this team by 2	100,000
Consultants	Reduce spend on consultants (in excess of 80 are currently used) by 20%	247,346
Total additional savings		2,463,036

9. That the following additional growth be agreed;

Special Constables	Apply a 100% Council Tax discount for all Special Constables paying Council Tax in the Borough	88,000
Community Safety	Provide an extra 17 Police Officers, one extra per ward.	680,000
Wardens	Provide an additional 2 dog wardens, 2 park wardens and 2 litter wardens in the Borough	232,000
Recycling	Introduce a scheme to make pink recycling bags available at local shops	10,000
Housing	Double the budget for the Underoccupation scheme	103,071
Road Repairs	Double the budget for repairing pot-holes and carriageway maintenance	283,018
ESOL classes	Deliver an additional 368 ESOL class places (via TH College) for residents of the borough, free of charge.	329,019
Total additional growth		1,725,108

10. Dealing with Labour's £54m black hole:

Accommodation strategy

Given the £1.8m Accommodation strategy overspend, the lease on Anchorage House should not be renewed in two years time, saving £8m per annum.

Shared back office services

Officers should be asked to investigate the possibilities of setting up a shared back office function covering HR, Legal and Finance, the services of which can be sold to other boroughs, RSLs operating in Tower Hamlets and NHS Tower Hamlets. This could lead to sizable cost savings in future years from the existing £5m budget per annum for these items.

11. **200 New Council Homes/Henry Moore sculpture**

The borough owns an original sculpture by Henry Moore, entitled 'Draped Seated Women' which is currently located 200 miles away in Wakefield. The borough should either bring the sculpture back to the borough where it can be enjoyed by all the residents of the borough or it should be sold and the proceeds invested in social housing.

If sold the sculpture could reasonably be expected to fetch many millions. This dowry should be gifted to a local RSL together with the freehold ownership of the Renault showroom on the Commercial Road to build a minimum expected 200 new homes for social-rent, providing 1,000 new bedrooms for the 23,000 on the housing waiting list.

12. **Free school meals for all primary and secondary school children in the borough.**

Given that Tower Hamlets has the 2nd worst rates of childhood obesity of anywhere in the UK, the LBTH Schools Forum will be asked to agree to fund out of their budget surpluses free school meals for every child in the borough. Currently LBTH schools have £29m of surplus budget that they are holding, of which £9m is unallocated. The cost of providing free school meals from Sept 2010 onwards is circa £6-7m pa.

13. That in consequence of the above changes, the budget requirement for 2010/11 be amended to £309,631m

14. The remaining amount £738,000 be used to reduce the proposed Council Tax, so that the Council Tax for Tower Hamlets for 2010/11 is £876.77 at Band D, **a decrease of 1%.**

COUNCIL 3rd MARCH 2010

BUDGET REQUIREMENT & COUNCIL TAX 2010/11

**AGENDA ITEM 5.1 REPORT OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON
10th February 2010**

**AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY: Councillor Abjol Miah
SECONDED BY: Councillor Dulal Uddin**

This council notes that:

- 1) In a time of recession, it would be irresponsible and undesirable to raise council tax but with the threat of big cuts in government grant over the next few years it would also be irresponsible to cut council tax at this time
- 2) Nonetheless significant redeployment of resources from communications, including closing East End Life, would allow a boost to apprenticeships at the Olympics site where there has been a chronic lack of employment of Tower Hamlets residents and to raise the threshold for free school meals to improve healthy eating and combat obesity
- 3) The modest realisation of assets would allow for the pedestrianisation of Brick Lane making it more attractive to residents and tourists and boosting income to the borough and provide toilets for the Brick Lane market
- 4) There is the looming massive hole in the council's budget from the financial next year, currently estimated to be as high as £18 million in 2011/2012
- 5) There need to be urgent steps to boost and secure funding for the council's essential public service spending including, boosting the revenue base for the council needs by lifting the council tax cap on the highest value properties and making the council tax more progressive and related to ability to pay, returning control over the business rates to the council, lifting controls over the council borrowing to invest, boosting central government funding through a Robin Hood Tax, and by the council taking a pro-active role in encouraging foreign direct investment into socially beneficial projects.

This Council agrees:

The budget proposals recommended by the Cabinet and amends them as set out below;

That the following additional savings be implemented;

Budget	Description of saving	2010/11 budget saving implication (£)
East End Life	Scrap East End Life	743,000
Legal Services	Reduce total service costs by 5%	194,000
Communications Team	Reduce total service costs by 5%	165,000
Directorate Communications	Request all Directorates to save £40,000 by reducing the cost of communication and marketing within their Directorate	200,000
TOTAL ADDITIONAL SAVINGS		1,302,000

To pedestrianise Brick Lane at a cost of up to £2m, contingent upon the sale of surplus office accommodation at Underwood Road for a sum estimated at £2.5m.

To utilise the remaining estimated £500,000 from the sale of Underwood Road to fund planned capital expenditure, enabling the equivalent amount of revenue funding to be released on a one-off basis.

To provide £750,000 for the provision of additional Olympics apprenticeships and request officers to negotiate with the Olympic Delivery Authority and other Olympic bodies for a contribution to costs to target a total of 100 additional apprenticeships.

Noting proposals by the Government to increase the threshold for Free School Meals, request officers to investigate a further increase in the threshold to the value of the balance of funding available from savings and asset disposals (£1,052,000).

That in consequence of the above, the budget requirement for 2010/11 be as recommended by the Cabinet, at £310.369m

That the Council Tax for Tower Hamlets for 2010/11 is £885.52 at Band D, no increase in the figure for 2009/10.

9. That the proposed one year trial of universal provision in Tower Hamlets would evaluate the benefits to all children including benefits for those children whose parents are not currently eligible for free meals.
10. That government grants to local authorities are likely to reduce substantially from 2011/12, hence it is essential to establish now the benefits that free school meals to all primary school children.

This Council also notes:

The comments of Roberta Blackman-Woods MP (City of Durham) who stated last year

“For those who are not yet convinced of the benefits of free school meals - I am sure there are not many out there - I shall highlight a few of them. Throughout the pilot areas, children in our primary schools are receiving a hot, nutritious, free school meal at lunch time. Take-up is high. In addition to the nutritional benefits, and there are many, there is no longer any stigma in taking a free school meal, because all children have them. Even though the pilot has been running for only a few weeks, teachers are already reporting better concentration levels among pupils in the afternoon. The economic benefits of free school meals are substantial for parents. That has been particularly important because the project has been launched in a period of economic downturn. Not having to pay for their children's school meals saves parents £8.50 a week per child. Many local parents have told me that the pilot has made all the difference to their family weathering the recession. Many families with two children in primary school are saving £633 a year.

Much of the food is sourced locally, so local businesses and farmers are also benefiting from the programme and, as I said, additional jobs have been created. We are all terribly concerned about climate change, so we should note that food miles are also being cut, with enormous environmental benefits. Lastly, children are learning social skills and how to eat healthily, which will hopefully help us to tackle obesity in future.”

This Council agrees:

The budget proposals recommended by the Cabinet and amends them as set out below;

That the following additional savings be implemented;

Budget	Description of saving	2010/11 budget saving implication (£)
East End Life	Adopt a monthly format instead of the current weekly	553,000

	format at a cost of £190,000 a year.	
Planning Fees	Increase income from pre-application fees and administration fees by 10%, asking officers to ensure that full costs are recovered	15,000
Legal Services	Reduce costs by 5%	194,000
Communications Team	Reduce costs by 5%	165,000
Directorate Communications	Request all Directorates to save £40,000 by reducing the cost of communication and marketing within their Directorate	200,000
TOTAL ADDITIONAL SAVINGS		1,127,000

- (i). To seek to provide free school meals to *all* Primary School children for one year at a cost of up to £4.035m (assuming 90% take-up), and fund as follows;
- Council contribution from revenue savings above totalling **£1,127,000**.
 - By sale of vacant premises at Underwood Road, enabling £900,000 of capital spending currently planned to be funded from revenue to be funded from capital receipts, increasing the Council's total contribution to **£2,027,000**.
 - Initiate a dialogue with schools and the NHS to fund the balance representing less than half the cost.
- (ii). That in consequence of the above, the budget requirement for 2010/11 be as recommended by the Cabinet, at £310.369m
- (iii). That the Council Tax for Tower Hamlets for 2010/11 is £885.52 at Band D, no increase in the figure for 2009/10.



LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH 2010

PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. The Council's constitution provides that a maximum of six deputations and petitions in total are received at any meeting. These are taken in order of receipt within each category. This report sets out the valid petitions and deputations submitted by members of the public for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 24th March 2010.
2. The deadline for receipt of deputations and petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 18th March 2010. However at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of six items have already been received as overleaf.
3. In each case the members of the deputation/petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the deputation/petitioners for a further three minutes. The relevant Lead Member or Chair of Committee may then respond to the deputation or petition for up to three minutes.
4. Any outstanding issues will be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will respond to those outstanding issues in writing within 28 days.
5. Members should confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

5.1 PETITIONS

Three petitions have been received as set out below:-

5.1.1 Petition from Mr. Terry McGreenera and others regarding postal votes:

“We wish to petition Tower Hamlets Council regarding the matter of postal voting. This matter has particular urgency with the local elections being held in May as well as the general election. We are concerned that the system, as in 2006 will be abused unless every application is checked.”

5.1.2 Petition from Ms. Janet Wade and others regarding the future use of Habanos Wine Bar, Bonner St, E2:

“We, the undersigned, would like to complain about the lack of action by the Council in relation to the future use of Habanos wine bar (previously the City of Paris PH).

Residents would like to see the Council use their position as the freeholder of the premises, and as the relevant body for planning, licensing and enforcement, to secure a more appropriate future for the premises which will be sustainable and have a positive rather than negative impact on the area.”

5.1.3 Petition from Deborah Coughlin and others regarding use of 2 Jubilee Street, E1 by Turangalila:

“We believe that the best solution for the vacant Tower Hamlets Council building, 2 Jubilee Street, is a community solution.

We believe the best community solution that has been proposed to Tower Hamlets Council is by the organisation Turangalila who are uniquely placed to promote creativity in East London, focused on engaging the young, elderly and those with mental health issues.

2 Jubilee Street is a Tower Hamlets Building that has remained vacant since 2007.

In 2008, Turangalila engaged Tower Hamlets and proposed a unique scheme, created by the local community, including local creative professionals and businesses, with the support of partnership groups and community leaders.

This scheme would provide:

- 16 affordable artists/creative industries studios
- 2 large multi-use spaces for exhibition, performance and community groups
- Music, film, soft 3D and hard 3D workshops/studios

- A healthy affordable café with smaller meeting rooms for one to one help, reading programs etc.

Turangalila also sourced creative professionals willing to give their time for a programme of skills building workshops aimed at the young, elderly and those with mental health issues.

Turangalila provided Tower Hamlets with architectural plans, works schedule and funding strategy, yet 2 Jubilee Street remains disused, wasted and vulnerable to anti-social behaviour.

We want Tower Hamlets to give Turangalila short, mid-term or permanent use of 2 Jubilee Street so that our community can have these facilities, resources and to give more people the opportunity to gain skills, experience and the tools to work in the creative industries.”

5.2 DEPUTATIONS

Three deputations have been received as set out below:-

5.2.1 Deputation from Stephen Foster and others regarding resident parking permits for 62-80 Swaton Road, E3 (Motion 11.11 refers)

“We, the undersigned, want the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council to agree that the car free agreement should be discharged under Section 106 (1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and allow the relevant residents to continue to be granted permanent parking and visitors permits. Were they not to continue to be granted permits, the residents will suffer and have a significant impact on their livelihood.”

5.2.2 Deputation from Mr. Azur Uddin and others opposing a clamping system for John Smith Mews (Motions 11.5 and 11.18 refer)

“We, the undersigned residents of John Smith Mews, very strongly object to the car clamping system and permit regime that was to have been unilaterally introduced on John Smith Mews by One Housing Group from 16th January 2010. We are completely happy with the existing key and gate system and see absolutely no reason why this system should be changed. We also do not believe that proper consultation has taken place with residents over this matter by One Housing Group and that false information has been used by One Housing Group to justify the changes to the parking regime. We want the clamping system immediately and permanently withdrawn and a return to the original system pending further negotiations with One Housing Group.”

5.2.3 Deputation from Mr. Sid Shine and others regarding the Crown Estate
(Motions 11.8 and 11.10 refer)

“We, residents of the Crown Estate, oppose the sell off of our homes and call on Tower Hamlets Council to support us in our opposition.”

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH 2010

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the appropriate Cabinet Member or committee chair at the Council Meeting on 24th March 2010.
2. The Council's Constitution provides a maximum time limit of thirty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the thirty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Mayor decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration by the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

QUESTIONS

Seven questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Mr. Terry McGreenera to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Joshua Peck:

“Is the complaints procedure itself a cause for complaint?”

6.2 Question from Mr. Craig Aston to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

“Can the Lead Member inform me when security doors will be fitted on the entrances to 2 – 40 Rosefield Gardens and 1 – 31 Kemps Drive and when urgent decoration will be carried out on the ceilings in the public corridors of these blocks?”

6.3 Question from Ms. Francesca Preece to the Lead Member for Children, Schools and Families, Councillor Abdul Asad:

“What has the Lead Member or Ward Councillors done to provide youth services in Bow West and what is being done given the recent incident in Parnell Road when a youth was murdered? There is a lack of youth provision in Bow West and as a result youths have no activities to engage with and often resort to hanging out on the streets. We have also not seen any Youth Worker.”

6.4 Question from Mrs. Hazjera Khatun to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

“I am resident of Brodick House, Bow, E3 and I currently live in a 2 bedroom property which houses 7 people. I have been on the waiting list for 7 years. I visited Cllr Marc Francis at his surgery and was informed that he was unable to assist me. Can you tell me what is going to be done to assist families like myself with the overcrowding issue and not being able to get off of the waiting list?”

6.5 Question from Ms. Joanna Buckman to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

“Spitalfields surgery is leased by the practice from One Housing. There has been a problem with the sewage drainage since this was built and the sewage is now seeping into the basement and up the walls and the smell and odour is affecting the whole of the downstairs consulting rooms which nurses have to work in. Four of these rooms have been shut. One Housing has been informed several times and they have inspected but nothing has been done. The problem has now been there for the last 3 weeks and poses a health risk to both patients and staff and as a result staff have been off sick and unable to provide services. One Housing has a history of not responding to maintenance work in this public service premise and we would

ask the Lead Member and Ward Councillors to take this issue up on behalf of 13,000 patients and the 50 staff. If this continues, we may be forced to close the surgery down. Will you support us?"

6.6 Question from Ms. Sally Hone to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

"Are all planning application cases based on a 'priority' basis, as this is the information that we have frequently been told? However, the conditions following our full planning permission has exceeded the councils' practice of discharge by over three months (28 days from receipt of a validated condition). At what stage does this delay come into consideration to promote our case as a priority?"

6.7 Question from Mr. Adrian Lockwood to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis:

"When myself and others became tenants and home owners of Green Dragon Yard, E1 there was no mention or record from our landlord or Tower Hamlets Council that it would become a car free zone area. The Council has been issuing residents' permits for over eight years. Residents need their vehicles for many reasons including employment and I am asking the Lead Member when this decision was made and when will it be overturned to allow us to park in our resident area?"

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2010

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by Members of the Executive at the Council meeting on Wednesday 24th March 2010.
2. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted.
3. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. There is a time limit of thirty minutes for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any question not answered within this time will be dealt with by way of a written response. The Mayor will decide the time allocated to each question.
5. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

26 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

7.1 Question from Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique to the Lead Member for Children, Schools and Families, Councillor Abdul Asad

Can the Lead Member for Children, Schools and Families outline how educational achievement has improved in the last 4 years under this Labour administration for Key stage 1,2,3, GCSE and A-Levels, where there has been investment in the bricks and mortar of the borough's schools and where this money has come from?

7.2 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

"£300,000 of S106 money received in April 2007 from the redevelopment of the former Jaguar showroom on Limeharbour is being spent on street lighting. How was this decision made?"

7.3 Question from Councillor Alibor Choudhury to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Could the Leader of the Council tell us what has been achieved towards each of the Council's 6 political priorities in the last two years, giving a detailed breakdown by LAP of investment and delivery?

7.4 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis

Is the Lead Member aware that the Crown Estate is proposing to sell off homes in the borough without balloting residents who are very strongly opposed to this sell off and will the Lead Member agree with me that this sell off should be opposed as it threatens the rights of many tenants, to undermine the communities that have been built up on these estates over many years and, above all, the provision of vital homes for key workers in the emergency and other essential services?

7.5 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed

Can the Lead Member tell us what has been done over the last 4 years to protect and enhance the borough's heritage, concentrating on our historic buildings, parks and the celebration of our rich and diverse cultural history?

7.6 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

What is the Lead Member's response to the recent report of the Crown Prosecution Service inspectorate that found the overall performance of the CPS in Tower Hamlets to be poor, with outcomes for cases of sexual crimes described as poor and service to victims and witnesses rated as poor? How can the Borough work with the CPS to improve the criminal prosecution service for victims of crime?

7.7 Question from Councillor Bill Turner to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Rania Khan

Can the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships tell us how many people took part in this year's participatory budgeting event and give us a breakdown of the services they chose from LAP menus?

7.8 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Does the Council's budget have a financial black hole for the years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14?

7.9 Question from Councillor Waiseul Islam to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

What has the current Labour administration achieved for residents of Blackwall and Cubitt Town since 2006?

7.10 Question from Councillor Fazlul Haque to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Has the Lead Member been to the area around Columbia Road flower market in my ward on a Sunday to see the tow away vehicles circling like vultures ever ready to swoop on the cars of the unwary car owner to the Flower Market, that this is typical of the approach now being taken to parking enforcement in this borough, that this approach severely and unfairly penalises car owners whether they are resident or not in the borough and that it also discourages visitors to Tower Hamlets historic markets and thereby adversely affects local businesses and the local economy and will the Lead Member agree with me that towing away in this borough should be suspended pending a thorough-going review of parking enforcement to make it a fairer and more just and return it to common sense?

7.11 Question from Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Could the Lead Member advise how many kilometres of mandatory cycle lanes are in Tower Hamlets, and whether these are considered sufficient to keep cyclists safe from accidents and to promote cycling over car use in the Borough?

7.12 Question from Councillor Rupert Eckhardt to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed

Aside from the Henry Moore statue belonging to Tower Hamlets hidden in a field in Wakefield, and only recently uncovered by Councillors Archer and Snowdon, has the Council maintained a register of artwork worth more than £1,000 that it owns? In addition how many other assets owned by Tower Hamlets Council are located outside of the Borough?

7.13 Question from Councillor Dulal Uddin to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Will the Lead Member join with me in condemning the Dispatches programme which sought, entirely unfairly, to denigrate this council, senior officers in this council who are unable to reply to that denigration, and other respected residents of Tower Hamlets and would the Lead Member join with me in condemning those who co-operated in this witch-hunting programme and helped to inspire it, including the MP for Poplar and Canning Town and the Leader of the Conservative group on the Council and would he confirm the confidence the Council has both in its procedures for allocating money and in its senior officers and would the Lead Member also join me in condemning the anti-Muslim comments that have been made by the chair of the Labour Party in the aftermath of the Dispatches programme?

7.14 Question from Councillor Tim O'Flaherty to the Lead Member for Employment and Skills, Councillor Oliur Rahman

Could the Lead Member advise me of the current targets for National Indicator 151 '*Employment Rate*' and National Indicator 152 '*Working age people on out of work benefits*' and advise whether the Borough is liaising with the Government Office for London to negotiate a reduction in this target, and if so, what the new targets for '*Employment rate*' and '*Working age people on out of work benefits*' will be?

7.15 Question from Councillor Dr. Emma Jones to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Given the recent report to the environment audit committee concerning the number of deaths cause by exposure to air pollution, what initiatives will Tower Hamlets Council be undertaking to reduce air pollution caused by traffic?

7.16 Question from Councillor Salim Ullah to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Is the Lead Member aware of the severe restrictions in this borough on those who have blue badge disabled parking permits and that these restrictions lead to the absurdities such as disabled car owners having to park on yellow lines across from a shop, for example, that they wish to use rather than immediately outside it in a residents or business permit bay, that sometimes they have to park far away in a pay bay, and does the Lead Member agree that there needs to be an urgent review with a view to trying to relax the restrictions on disabled parking?

7.17 Question from Councillor Abdul Matin to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis

Could the Lead Member advise me of the current target for National Indicator 155 *Affordable Homes Delivered* and advise whether the Borough is liaising with the Government Office for London (GOL) to negotiate a reduction in this target, and if so, what the new target for delivery of affordable homes in 2009/2010 will be?

7.18 Question from Councillor Ahmed Hussain to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Will the Lead Member outline what road safety proposals are to be put in place in St Paul's Way?

7.19 Question from Councillor Mamun Rashid to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed

Would the Lead Member join with me in congratulating the Bethnal Green Stairways to Heaven campaign for having raised so much money to establish a fitting memorial to those who died so tragically in the Bethnal Green tube disaster in 1943 and would the Lead Member agree that the council should increase its promotion of the appeal for this memorial and also explore the possibility of increasing its own financial support for the memorial so that the project can be completed as soon as possible and within the lifetimes of the remaining survivors and their families?

7.20 Question from Councillor Shirley Houghton to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Lead Member set out all of the land parcels that have been transferred from Tower Hamlets Council to Registered Social Landlords in the last four years, detailing each site location, size and the receiving RSL, plus the amount of money received by LBTH in each case, and a comparable open-market sale valuation for each site? Will he also set out the steps that will be taken in future years to ensure council assets are not under-sold and that local taxpayers receive full value?

7.21 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman

Will the Lead Member investigate the issue of patients' rights in relation to GP practices and in particular the lack of rights patients have if GP practices decide to remove patients from their lists and will the lead member acknowledge that I raised this with the previous Lead Member for health and received entirely unsatisfactory responses on the matter?

7.22 Question from Councillor Philip Briscoe to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Rania Khan

In view of the urgent need to proceed with the redevelopment of Blackwall Reach, what additional sources has the Council identified for funding purposes?

7.23 Question from Councillor Harun Miah to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Joshua Peck

Is the Lead Member aware that a tender was put out for a four year contract to distribute East End Life, that three out of the four parties represented in this council are committed either to closing East End Life or radically reducing its frequency, that there is the ruling group which supports the weekly East End Life is very likely to lose its majority in the forthcoming local elections and would the Lead Member therefore agree that the tender for the distribution of the East End Life should be put on hold until after the results of the local elections in May are known?

7.24 Question from Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Will the Lead Member outline the administration's proposed future strategy for the enhancement of Roman Road Market?

7.25 Question from Councillor Abdul Munim to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah

Is the Lead Member aware that the painting of specific bays for resident and business permit holders to park in was supposed to be a trial pending consultation of resident and business permit holders and that the painting of bays has now been extended across the borough with little or no consultation and that many permit holders are concerned that the effect of painting bays has been to reduce rather than increase the availability of car parking space and are particularly upset that they may now receive a penalty charge notice for parking across the lines dividing bays even those this may enable more cars to park in a parking area and could the Lead Member explain why there was inadequate consultation?

7.26 Question from Councillor Peter Golds to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed

The decision to at last proceed with the redevelopment of Poplar Baths is based on the premise that sums will be available from Section 106 agreements. What if any contingencies have been made for the redevelopment if this source is not forthcoming or delayed?

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2010

REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A change in the political composition of the Council occurred on 11th March 2010 when Councillor Fazlul Haque and Councillor Salim Ullah each gave notice that they wish to be treated as members of the Respect Group on the Council for the purposes of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act').
- 1.2 Consequent on this change the Council must review the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in the 1989 Act.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 overleaf be noted and the Council agree the allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10 as set out at paragraph 4.2.
- 2.2 That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on the committees and panels affected by this change in accordance with the nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Assistant Chief Executive.
- 2.3 That the Council consider the appointment of Members to replace Councillor Fazlul Haque as Chair of the Audit Committee and Councillor Salim Ullah as Chair of the Appeals Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

3. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

3.1 Section 15(i) of the 1989 Act requires the Council as soon as practicable after a change in the political composition to carry out a review to determine the allocation to the political groups of seats on the committees/panels of the Council. The principles which must be adopted are:

- (i) that all seats are not allocated to the same political group;
- (ii) that the majority of seats go to the political group with the majority on the Council;
- (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees/panels of the authority allocated to each group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council; and
- (iv) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary committee/panel of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.

3.2 Neither the Cabinet and its executive sub-groups; nor the Standards Committee are covered by the requirement for proportionality.

3.3 Following the change described in Paragraph 1 to this report, the political composition of the Council is now as follows:

Group	seats	%
Labour	30	58.82
Conservative	9	17.65
Respect	8	15.69
Liberal Democrat	4	7.84
Total	51	100.00

4. ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2008/09 are listed below. There are a total of 88 places on these committees and panels, which will now be allocated as follows:-

Labour: 52 places
Conservative: 15 places
Respect: 14 places
Liberal Democrat: 7 places

- 4.2 Applying the principles in the Act as closely as is reasonably practicable the proposed allocation of places on the committees and panels for the remainder of the municipal year is as follows:-

Committee	Total	Labour	Conser- vative	Respect	Liberal Democrat
Appeals	9	5	2	2	-
Audit Committee	7	4	1	1	1
Development	9	6	1	1	1
General Purposes	7	4	1	2	-
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	1	1	1
Human Resources	7	4	1	2	-
Licensing	15	8	4	2	1
Overview & Scrutiny (plus 5 co-optees)	9	6	1	1	1
Pensions Committee	9	5	2	1	1
Strategic Development	9	6	1	1	1

- 4.3 The above allocation provides for the Respect Group to be allocated an additional seat (previously allocated to the Labour Group) on each of the Appeals, General Purposes and Human Resources committees, pursuant to the change in political composition of the Council.
- 4.4 Any nominations received from the political groups before the Council Meeting to appoint Members and/or deputies to the above committees/panels in accordance with the revised allocation of places will be tabled. The Constitution also provides for the Assistant Chief Executive subsequently to agree appointments to committees/panels in accordance with the nomination of the political group to which a position has been allocated by the Council.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- 5.1 Councillor Fazlul Haque was appointed by the Annual Council meeting in May 2009 as Chair of the Audit Committee, and Councillor Salim Ullah was appointed as Chair of the Appeals Committee.
- 5.2 Following the two Councillors' change of political group, the Council is asked to consider the appointment of a new Chair to each of these committees.

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

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

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 SECTION 100D (AS AMENDED)

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of background papers:	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice by Cllr A. Ali of a wish to be considered as a member of the Conservative Group, 22.2.10	John Williams x 4204, 1 st floor, Mulberry Place.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2010
PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2010/11
REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report requests the Council to agree the programme of Council, Committee and other meetings for the forthcoming municipal year.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Council approve the proposed programme of meetings for the municipal year 2010/11 as set out at Appendix A.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council Procedure Rules provide for the Council to agree a programme of meetings for each municipal year. This is traditionally agreed at the final Council meeting prior to the start of the municipal year to enable efficient agenda planning. A draft schedule of Council, Cabinet, main committee and panel meetings is therefore proposed for adoption at Appendix A.
- 3.2 In the event that there is a need to revise the programme of meetings following the election and referendum in May, Council Procedure Rule 1.1.11 provides that 'in an election year the schedule of meetings may be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting if it has already been agreed at Council prior to the first meeting in May'.
- 3.3 The draft programme attached follows the pattern established in previous years in terms of frequency of meetings, start times and meeting days for the various committees, adapted to address any issues that have arisen during the year and taking into account officer advice on service requirements.
- 3.3 Key points to note in relation to 2010/11 include:-
- Council meetings have been scheduled taking into account the timetable for Budget and Policy Framework items. There is no longer a requirement to produce a Best Value Performance Plan before 30th June so the first ordinary Council meeting has been scheduled for 14th July (in the last full week of the school term) to achieve a more even distribution of meetings through the year.

- The Budget Council Meeting is programmed for 2nd March 2011. As in the current year, an additional Council Meeting is scheduled (in early February) to conduct 'ordinary' business.
- As far as possible meetings are avoided during the school summer holidays and the major political party conferences. Ramadan falls from approximately 12th August to 10th September 2010. Meetings during Ramadan are minimised and where they are necessary a 5.30 p.m. start time is proposed to enable them to end before Iftar.
- The Licensing Sub-Committee and Appeals Committee have each been programmed to meet on a two- to three-weekly basis to avoid the need for numerous extraordinary meetings, and on various days of the week to accommodate Member availability. These committees and the Development/ Strategic Development committees, will continue to meet during August to avoid delay to the regulatory work of the authority.
- In accordance with Procedure Rule 5.1 the start time for most main committees has been standardised at 7.30 pm (7.00 pm in the case of the Overview & Scrutiny, Appeals and Strategic Development committees where meetings are often of relatively longer duration). Most sub-committees and panels are scheduled for 6.30 pm. The Procedure Rule provides for start times to be reviewed by the relevant Chair as necessary.
- Investment Panel meetings are held immediately before the Pensions Committee to facilitate Member attendance.
- Quarterly meetings have been scheduled of the King George's Field Charity Board.

4. Observations of the Chief Financial Officer

4.1 There are no specific financial comments arising from this report.

5. Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)

5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

6. Implications for One Tower Hamlets

6.1 In drawing up this schedule of meetings, consideration has been given where possible to avoiding school holidays, known religious holidays and other dates which could inhibit attendance or participation by one or more section(s) of the borough's community.

7. Anti-Poverty Implications

7.1 There are no anti-poverty implications arising from the proposals in this report.

8. Risk Management Implications

8.1 The Council needs to have in place a programme of meetings to ensure effective and efficient decision-making arrangements.

9. Strategic Action for a Greener Environment

9.1 No implications arising from this report.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Brief description of "background paper"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection
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None.

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APPENDIX A - DRAFT PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2010/2011 MUNICIPAL YEAR

	USUAL MEETING DAY	MAY '10	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY '11
COUNCIL	WEDNESDAY (7.30pm)	26 (Annual)		14		15			8		2	2 (Budget)	13	18 (Annual)
CABINET	WEDNESDAY (5.30 pm)		9	7	4	8	6	3	1	12	9	9	6	11
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	TUESDAY (7.00pm)		8	6	3	7 (5.30 pm)	5	2, 30		11	8	8	5	10
HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL	TUESDAY (6.30pm)		22	27			26			25			19	
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	THURSDAY (7.00pm)		17		5	16	28		9	20		3	14	12
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY (7.30pm)		16	13 (Tues)	18 (5.30 pm)	14 (Tues)	13	10	15	12	10 (Thurs)	10 (Thurs)	6	4
LICENSING COMMITTEE	TUESDAY (7.30pm)		7 (Mon)			21			7			29		
LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE	TUESDAY OR THURSDAY (6.30pm)		15, 24	6, 22	3, 19, 31	14, 30	12, 26	9, 25	9, 15 (Weds)	11, 27	10, 22	10, 22	7, 19	5, 17
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	TUESDAY (7.30pm)			20			12			18			12	

	USUAL MEETING DAY	MAY '10	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY '11
APPEALS COMMITTEE	MONDAY OR TUESDAY (7.00pm)		14, 29	12, 27	9, 31 (5.30 pm)	13	4, 19	8, 23	6, 20	17	7, 22	7, 24 (Thurs)	4, 21 (Thurs)	16
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY (7.30pm)		23			29			13 (Mon)			23		
AUDIT COMMITTEE	TUESDAY (7.30pm)		29			21			14			22		
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY (7.30pm)			28			13			19			27	
PENSIONS COMMITTEE	THURSDAY (7.30pm)		10		5			18			17			
INVESTMENT PANEL	THURSDAY (5.30pm)		10		5			18			17			
GRANTS PANEL	THURSDAY (6.30pm)		24				14					17, 24		
KING GEORGE'S FIELD CHARITY BOARD	WEDNESDAY (6.30pm)			28				24			23			4

NOTES:

- OTHER MEETINGS including Appointments Sub-Committee arranged on an ad hoc basis as required.
- BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX SETTING: Statutory deadline 11th March. Date of meeting set to enable receipt of GLA precept information.
- ELECTIONS: Possible Mayoral Election – 21st October 2010 (subject to outcome of Referendum to be held on 6th May 2010)
- EASTER 2011: Good Friday 22nd April 2011, Easter Monday 25th April 2011.
- RAMADAN provisional dates: 12th August 2010 to 10th September 2010
- EID-UL-ADHA provisional date: 17th November 2010, ASHURA: 16th December 2010
- YUM KIPPUUR – 18th September 2010

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2010

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2010/11

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Part 6 of the Council's Constitution sets out the Scheme of Members' Allowances. This provides for a Basic Allowance to be paid to all Councillors; Special Responsibility Allowances for specified member roles; Dependants' Carers' and Travel/Subsistence Allowances; and an attendance allowance for voting co-opted members of the Standards and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 By law the Council must agree a Scheme of Members' Allowances annually, before the start of the financial year to which it applies. The Scheme may include an annual index-linked adjustment of allowances, but it must be subject to a full review at least every four years, taking into account the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.3 The London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel last reported in 2006 and that report informed the Council's current scheme. The Independent Remuneration Panel will issue a further report during 2010. It is therefore recommended that the Members' Allowances Scheme be re-adopted without amendment at this stage to continue into the new financial year, subject to a review once the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel have been published.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Members' Allowances Scheme at Part 6 of the Constitution be re-adopted for 2010/11, subject to indexing of the amounts payable for the basic, special responsibility and dependants' carers' allowances as set out in paragraph 11 of the scheme;
- 2.2 That accordingly the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2010 be adopted as at Appendix 'A'; and
- 2.3 That the Members' Allowances Scheme be subject to review in accordance with the regulations following the publication of the London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel recommendations 2010.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance with Statutory Instrument (SI 1021/2003) the Council is required to agree a Scheme of Members' Allowances on an annual basis.
- 3.2 The current scheme is included at Part 6 of the Council's Constitution and it is proposed that this should be re-adopted, updated as necessary but with no substantive changes, for 2010/11 as set out at Appendix 'A' to this report. The Scheme includes provision for indexing of the Basic, Special Responsibility and Dependents' Carers' Allowances from 1st April each year in line with the local government pay settlement.

4. FURTHER REVIEW/INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are presented at this stage to satisfy the legal requirement to adopt the scheme prior to the start of the financial year and thereby enable Members' allowances to be paid from April 2010.
- 4.2 However, the regulations require the Members' Allowances Scheme to be subject to review at least every four years. In doing so the Council must have regard to (but is not required to adopt in full) the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel. Tower Hamlets, in common with many London boroughs, uses the Panel established by London Councils. This last reported in 2006 and is scheduled to issue a further report during 2010.
- 4.3 Therefore it is proposed that the Scheme be re-adopted unchanged at this stage pending a review to take place later in 2010, once the Independent Panel's recommendations have been published.
- 4.4 Currently Tower Hamlets' rates of Special Responsibility Allowances are significantly below those recommended by the Independent Panel in its previous report (December 2006) but are around the median for London.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 5.1 The scheme includes provision for indexing Members' Allowances in line with the local government pay settlement. Costs arising from this will be met from within existing budgets.

6. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 6.1 Legal comments have been incorporated within the body of the report.

7. IMPLICATIONS FOR ONE TOWER HAMLETS

- 7.1 The payment of Members' Allowances helps to ensure that people from all parts of the community within the borough are able to serve as elected members. This promotes effective community leadership and accountability, to the benefit of the whole borough and all its communities.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT (SAGE)

- 8.1 There are no direct SAGE implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97)

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"	Name/telephone number of holder
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None.

APPENDIX 'A'

London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Members' Allowances Scheme

(Part 6 of the Council's Constitution)

This Scheme is made by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended.

1. This Scheme shall be called The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2010 and it shall come into effect on 1 April 2010.

Basic Allowance

2. Subject to paragraph 8, a basic allowance of £10,065* shall be paid to each Councillor for each year.
3. The basic allowance of £10,065* shall be payable with effect from 1 April 2010.

*[*Note: The figures shown are those payable during 2009/10. In accordance with Paragraph 11 of this scheme the amounts marked * will be adjusted with effect from 1st April 2010 to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government staff when this is agreed.]*

Special Responsibility Allowance

4. Subject to paragraphs 5-8, a special responsibility allowance shall be paid for each year to those Councillors who hold a position of special responsibility as specified in Schedule 1.
5. The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against the respective special responsibility in Schedule 1 and it shall be payable with effect from 1 April 2010.
6. Any special responsibility allowance payable under paragraphs 4 and 5 shall be in addition to the basic allowance payable under paragraph 2 above.
7. Any Councillor who holds more than one position of special responsibility shall receive only one special responsibility allowance which shall be at the higher level.

Part-Year Entitlement

8. If, in the course of the year, this scheme is amended or a Councillor's entitlement changes, the relevant basic and/or special responsibility

allowance shall be calculated and paid pro-rata during the particular month in which the scheme amendment or entitlement change occurs.

Dependants' Carers' Allowance

9. A maximum of £7.26* per hour shall be paid to those councillors who necessarily incur expense in arranging for the care of their children or other dependants to enable them to undertake any of the activities specified in Schedule 2 to this Scheme.
10. The following conditions shall apply:
 - payments shall be claimable for children aged 15 or under or for other dependants where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required;
 - only one weekly payment shall be claimable for the household of each Councillor, unless the Council's Standards Committee considers there are special circumstances;
 - the allowance shall be paid as a re-imbusement of incurred expenditure against receipts;
 - the allowance shall not be payable to a member of the claimant's own household;
 - any dispute as to entitlement and any allegation of abuse shall be referred to the Council's Standards Committee for adjudication.

Indexation

11. The Basic, Special Responsibility and Dependants' Carers' Allowances shall be adjusted annually to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government. The adjustment shall take effect on 1 April in each year, or the date on which the settlement takes effect, if later.

Travel and Subsistence Allowance

12. An allowance shall be paid to any Councillor for travelling and subsistence undertaken outside the Borough in connection with any of the duties specified in Schedule 2.
13. An allowance shall be paid to a co-opted member of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council for travelling and subsistence in connection with any of the duties specified in Schedule 2, irrespective of whether the meeting or duty is inside or outside the Borough.
14. The amounts payable shall be the amounts which are for the time being payable to officers of the Council for travelling and subsistence undertaken in the course of their duties.

Co-optees' Allowance

15. Subject to paragraph 16, a co-opted member of the Standards Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Health Scrutiny Panel may claim a co-optees' allowance of £117 and the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee may claim a co-optees' allowance of £240, for attendance at any meeting of the Committee or the Panel or attendance at any conference or training event, where attendance is on behalf of and authorised by the Council.
16. A claim for co-optees' allowance shall be made in writing within two months from the date of attendance at the meeting, conference or training event.
17. Where a member is suspended or partially suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as a co-opted member under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000, any co-optees' allowance payable to him or her for the period for which he or she is suspended or partially suspended, may be withheld by the Council.

Suspension of Allowances

18. Where a Councillor is suspended or partially suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as a member of the Council under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000, or Regulations made under that Part, the part of the basic and special responsibility allowance or any travelling or subsistence allowance payable to him or her for the period for which he or she is suspended or partially suspended, may be withheld by the Council.

Recovery of Allowances Paid

19. Any allowance that has been paid to a Councillor whilst on suspension or after he or she has ceased to be a member of the Council, or is for some other reason not entitled to receive the allowance for a specified period, may be recovered.

Claims and Payments

20. Subject to paragraph 22, payments shall be made for basic and special responsibility in instalments of one-twelfth of the amounts respectively specified in this Scheme, paid on the last working day of each month.
21. Where a payment of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme for a basic or special responsibility allowance will result in the Councillor receiving more than the amount to which he or she is entitled, the payment shall be restricted to such amount as will ensure that no more is paid than the amount to which he or she is entitled.

22. A claim for travelling and subsistence or dependants' carers' allowance;
- shall be made in writing within two months from the date of the performance of the duty for which the claim is made;
 - shall be accompanied by receipts and/or any relevant evidence of the costs incurred.
 - shall be subject to such validation and accounting procedures as the Council's Corporate Director Resources may from time to time prescribe.
23. Travelling and subsistence and dependants' carers' allowance shall be paid on the last working day of each month for any claim received not less than 14 days before that date.

Pensions

24. Any Councillor under the age of 75 shall be entitled to join the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Local Government Pension Scheme. Both basic and special responsibility allowances shall be treated as pensionable pay for the purposes of the scheme.

Records of Allowances and Publications

25. The Council shall keep a record of payments made by it under this Scheme, including the name of the recipients of the payment and the amount and nature of each payment.
26. The record of the payments made by the Council under this Scheme shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection at no charge. A copy shall also be supplied to any person who requests it on payment of a reasonable fee.
27. As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the year to which this Scheme relates, the Council shall make arrangements to publish the total sums paid by it to each recipient for each different allowance.
28. A copy of the Scheme shall be supplied to any person who requests it on payment of a reasonable fee.

Renunciation

29. A member may at any time and for any period, by notice in writing given to the Chief Executive, elect to forego any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

Interpretation

30. In this scheme:

- “Councillor” means an elected member of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets who is a councillor;
- ‘Member’ means any person who is either a councillor or a co-opted member;
- “Co-opted member” means any person who is not a Councillor but who sits on a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council.
- “Year” means the 12 months ending on 31 March in any year;

Revocation

31. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members’ Allowance Scheme 2009 is hereby revoked.

SCHEDULE 1

Special Responsibility Allowance

The following are specified as the special responsibilities for which special responsibility allowances are payable and the amounts of those allowances:

	£
Leader of the Council	29,348 *
Deputy Leader of the Council	16,335 *
Leader of Group with over 6 Councillors	11,274 *
Leader of Group with up to 6 Councillors (subject to having at least 10% of the Council)	6,130 *
Cabinet/Lead Members (x8)	14,027 *
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny	11,274 *
Chair of Health Scrutiny Panel	8,374 *
Lead Members for Scrutiny (x5)	8,374 *
Chair of Development Committee	11,274 *
Chairs of Licensing, Appeals and General Purposes Committees (x3)	8,374 *
Chairs of Audit, Human Resources and Pensions Committees (x3)	6,130 *
Olympics Ambassador	6,130 *
Mayor	8,374 *
Deputy Mayor	4,186 *

*[*Note: The figures shown above are those payable during 2009/10 (except for the Leader of the Council, whose allowance was subject to a 25% reduction; and the Deputy Leader, who requested to receive only the same SRA as a Lead Member; for that year). In accordance with Paragraph 11 of this scheme the above amounts will be adjusted with effect from 1st April 2010 to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government staff when this is agreed.]*

SCHEDULE 2

Dependants' Carers' and Travelling and Subsistence Allowances

The duties for which these allowances are payable include:

- the attendance at a meeting of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee of the Council or of any other body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations, or of any committee or sub-committee of such a body;
- the attendance at any other meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the Council, or a committee or sub-committee of the Council, or a joint committee of 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee, provided that –
- where the Council is divided into two or more political groups it is a meeting to which members of at least two such groups have been invited; or
- if the Council is not so divided, it is a meeting to which at least two members of the Council have been invited
- the attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the Council is a member;
- the attendance at a meeting of the Cabinet or a meeting of any of its committees, where the Council is operating executive arrangements;
- the performance of any duty in pursuance of any standing order under section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened;
- the performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the Council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Council to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises.
- the performance of any duty in connection with arrangements made by the Council for the attendance of pupils at any school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996 (approval of non-maintained special schools); and
- the carrying out of any other duty approved by the Council, or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Council or any of its committees or sub-committees.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2010

**EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL
URGENCY PROVISIONS**

**REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FOR
INFORMATION**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Authority's Constitution (Part 4.2, Access to Information Procedure Rules) provides that the Leader shall submit a quarterly report as necessary to the Council on any Executive (Cabinet) decisions taken during the preceding three months under the Special Urgency provisions at Access to Information Rule 19.1.
- 1.2 Rule 19.1 applies to key decisions where prior notice of the decision has not been included in the Forward Plan but it is nevertheless necessary for reasons of urgency to take the decision at the Cabinet meeting, and where it has additionally not been possible to provide notice of the decision in accordance with the General Exception provisions in Access to Information Rule 18.
- 1.3 During the period 2nd December 2009 to 10th March 2010, three decisions were taken by the Executive (Cabinet) under the Special Urgency provisions at Access to Information Rule 19.1. A brief summary of the matters in respect of which the decisions were made is included overleaf for information.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER SPECIAL URGENCY
PROVISIONS – 2nd December 2009 to 10th March 2010

1. Housing Revenue Account First Budget and Rent Setting report (CAB 103/090) – Cabinet meeting 13th January 2010, agenda item 10.5

The Cabinet approved the initial assessment of the Government's Draft Housing Revenue Account (Item 8) and Draft Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determinations 2010/11, and their likely HRA implications. This report was unavailable for public inspection within the stated timescales set out in the Authority's constitution because of the late publication of the Government's Draft HRA Subsidy Determination for 2010/11. That Determination sets out the Government's guideline rent increase and was not made available until 9 December 2009 (some two months later than usual). The Determination is a complex document that requires investigation and assessment by the Council, as a consequence of which it has not been possible to finalise this report until 8 January 2010. The report proposed rent increases that needed to take effect from 1 April 2010, having regard to the need, referred to in the report, to keep the housing revenue account in balance. Taking into account the call-in period and the requirement for the Council to give four weeks' notice to tenants of a rent increase, the latest meeting at which Cabinet could prudently determine the rent increase in order to achieve implementation from 1 April 2010 was at the meeting on 13 January 2010.

2. Housing Revenue Account 2009/10 - Update (CAB 104/090) – Cabinet meeting 13th January 2010, agenda item 12.1

The Cabinet noted the projected outturn in respect of the 2009/10 Housing Revenue Account as detailed in Appendix A to the report (CAB 104/090), and its implications for 2010/11, as outlined in paragraph 4 of the report. The report was unavailable for public inspection within the stated timescales set out in the Authority's constitution because it was an urgent report requested by Cabinet at its meeting on 2 December 2009. Cabinet requested the preparation of an urgent report to the meeting of 13 January 2010 in light of a significant projected deficit on the housing revenue account. The preparation of the report had required joint working with the Council's ALMO, Tower Hamlets Homes, using where possible information available as at the end of December 2009. The time necessary to prepare an accurate update with recent information prevented earlier publication.

3. Ocean Estate Regeneration Compulsory Purchase Order – Proposal to include additional land interests (CAB 119/090) – Cabinet meeting 10th February 2010, agenda item 11.1

The Cabinet authorised the Corporate Director of Development and Renewal in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal) to include the additional interests set out in Appendix 1 of the report (CAB 119/090) in

Compulsory Purchase Orders authorised by Cabinet on 7 October 2009 and 2 December 2009 and rights as are disclosed during the land referencing exercise which the Corporate Director of Development and Renewal in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal) deem it necessary to facilitate the delivery of housing regeneration of the Ocean Estate. The need for acquiring the additional interests in land which were the subject of the report only came to light during the land referencing process for the compulsory purchase orders (CPOs) approved by Cabinet on 7 October 2009 and 2 December 2009 and following the submission of the planning application by East Thames Consortium on 18 December 2009. New information regarding the land requirements became available as recently as 28 January 2010. The making of the CPO in respect of the additional interests in land was key to meeting the milestones agreed with the Homes and Communities Agency in order to facilitate the Ocean Estate Regeneration. If Cabinet did not determine this matter at its meeting on 10 February 2010, then the delivery of the project could have been adversely affected.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH 2010

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SUMMARY

1. Eighteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for the Council meeting on Wednesday 24th March 2010.
2. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the order in which the motions are listed is by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months unless notice of motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

11.1 Declassify Old Ford Road as a designated route for heavy goods vehicles

Proposed: Councillor Stephanie Eaton

Seconded: Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan

This Council notes:

- a) That Old Ford Road is a narrow residential street with many period properties that are very close to the road;
- b) That vibrations from HGV lorries cause damage to residential properties;
- c) That the noise from HGV lorries in close proximity to homes disturbs residents living on Old Ford Road;
- d) That more suitable routes are available for HGVs to travel through Bethnal Green;

This Council resolves:

1. To investigate alternative designated routes for heavy goods vehicles through Bethnal Green;
2. To classify Old Ford Road as a residential road, and not suitable for HGV lorries;
3. To ensure that satellite navigation systems, maps and other guidance for drivers are amended to reflect this change.

11.2 Support for the co-operative and social enterprise sector

Proposed: Councillor Alex Heslop

Seconded: Councillor Denise Jones

This Council recognises that there is a diverse and healthy co-operative sector in Tower Hamlets with a combined turnover of approximately £50 million and also appreciates the important role that co-operatives and other social enterprises can play in community and economic regeneration initiatives. Although there are many successful co-operative enterprises operating in Tower Hamlets such as Tower Hamlets Community Credit Union, Tower Hamlets CDA and Greenwich Leisure (effectively a workers co-op), as well as several food co-ops and housing co-operatives, there is not a single Council officer with a specific remit or indeed expertise for working with the co-operative & social enterprise sectors.

This Council resolves to do the following:

- Allocate responsibility for supporting the co-operative & social enterprise sectors to the Lead Member for Regeneration as well as a designated Council officer who will promote and support new mutual models for the provision of

community services, including housing, pre-school childcare, residential and home care, recycling and leisure. Made possible through service reviews, externalising, or re-contracting services and procurement procedures.

- Organise an annual event to celebrate International Co-operatives Day in partnership with the local Co-operative Movement; this could also involve the Tower Hamlets Partnership and its Creating and Sharing Prosperity Community Plan Action Group.
- Develop procurement strategies that make a direct link between the Community Plan and other strategic objectives and contract specifications ensuring that community benefits can be fully integrated into the procurement process.
- Work with the Co-operative Sector and London Development Agency to improve access to finance and support for socially and mutually owned businesses.
- Work with staff and unions on a partnership basis in the creation of new cooperative services

11.3 Sale of Henry Moore Sculpture

Proposed: Councillor Rupert Eckhardt

Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer

This Council notes: -

- The original Henry Moore sculpture entitled *Draped Seated Woman* is worth several million pounds and is currently housed in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Wakefield, a 400 mile round trip from Tower Hamlets.
- The 23,000 families on the Tower Hamlets housing waiting list

This Council resolves: -

- To sell the sculpture at auction in order to raise capital funds with which to build new homes for social rent on the Renault showroom on the Commercial Road
- To hand over the proceeds of the sale and the ownership of Renault garage to the local RSL that can build the most housing for social rent.

11.4 Facilities for cricket

Proposed: Councillor Abjol Miah

Seconded: Councillor Salim Ullah

1) This Council notes:

- a) the current first class cricket tour by the England team of Bangladesh
- b) the establishment of Bangladesh as a first class international cricket team
- c) the tour of England of the Bangladesh cricket team beginning in May
- d) the widespread interest in and enthusiasm for cricket amongst young people in all sections of our community
- e) the acute lack of cricket pitches or cricket facilities of any kind in Tower Hamlets
- f) that young people have to travel a long way out of the borough to find first class cricket facilities
- g) the nearest grounds at which we will be able to see the Bangladesh cricket team play during its tour are Chelmsford, the Oval and Lord's
- h) the recent excellent development of cricket facilities at Old Ford Primary School

2) This Council believes:

- a) an interest in and enthusiasm for cricket should be encouraged amongst young people in Tower Hamlets from all sections of the community and both boys and girls
- b) the Council should encourage schools to follow the initiative of Old Ford Primary school in finding ways to develop their own cricket facilities
- c) schools should be encouraged to take advantage of the Bangladesh cricket tour to arrange trips to see cricket with their pupils
- d) the Council should organise a civic reception for the Bangladesh and England cricket teams when Bangladesh are on tour in England to encourage interest in cricket in this borough
- d) urgent investigation should be made into the possibility of improving and providing cricket facilities in Victoria Park as part of its regeneration sufficient at least to enable professional cricketers to provide exhibition matches

11.5 Parking in John Smith Mews

Proposed: Councillor Waiseul Islam

Seconded: Councillor Rajib Ahmed

This Council notes:-

The tenants of John Smith Mews are happy with the existing arrangement which has been in place since 2001 when their tenancies were signed that they will be allowed to park their vehicles in their small estate of 14 houses without any parking restrictions.

ONE Housing Group / Toynbee Housing Association has been threatening to impose parking enforcement without consultation and against the wishes of the residents of John Smith Mews, who are happy to open and lock the gate themselves.

That the development is not a car free development but instead it had free car parking without any condition for tenants of Toynbee Housing Association living in John Smith Mews, E14 2DP.

This Council resolves:

To oppose any move by ONE Housing Group to forcefully impose any form of parking enforcement in John Smith Mews without full consultation and agreement with tenants and representatives of the John Smith Mews Tenants Association.

Support and empower the residents of John Smith Mews as residents of London Borough of Tower Hamlets to continue to enjoy the parking facilities originally supplied by Toynbee Housing Association and agreed in writing.

Support residents of John Smith Mews to manage the parking and security aspect of their vehicles by being allowed to lock the gate themselves.

Urge ONE housing group and all housing associations/RSLs to thoroughly consult residents before bringing in any parking enforcement policy.

11.6 Display of Henry Moore sculpture

Proposed: Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali

Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer

This Council notes that:

- The original Henry Moore sculpture entitled *Draped Seated Woman* is worth several million pounds and is currently housed in the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in Wakefield, a 400 mile round trip from Tower Hamlets.

This Council resolves: -

- To commence negotiation with Canary Wharf PLC to move the sculpture to the Canary Wharf Estate where it will be put on permanent and public display.

11.7 Anti-Social Behaviour

Proposed: Councillor Fazlul Haque

Seconded: Councillor Dulal Uddin

1) This Council notes that:

a) anti-social behaviour blights the lives of many in our community

b) the report of the Chief Inspector of Constabulary Denis O'Connor that many police forces are failing to deal with anti-social behaviour adequately or appropriately

c) the dissatisfaction of many residents with the performance of the police in general and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in particular

d) residents' dissatisfaction concerns being unable to speak to anyone on the SNT phone numbers, the failure to call back when messages are left on SNT phone numbers and the slow response of the police when they do respond

e) sightings of Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers by residents of this borough are only a little more frequent than sightings of the firecrest or common crane

2) This Council believes that:

a) dealing with anti-social behaviour requires a serious and co-operative approach between a number of agencies, including the council, schools, parents, police and voluntary agencies

b) there is not much point in seeking a boost to police numbers if they are not taking the right approach to anti-social behaviour reports

c) there needs to be close monitoring of the performance of the police in relation to reports of anti-social behaviour, including a record of phone calls unanswered, phone calls not responded to, the speed of response to complaints and, crucially, the accurate recording of anti-social behaviour complaints

d) there needs to be a comprehensive review of anti-social behaviour strategies involving the police, council officers and representatives of other relevant bodies and voluntary agencies to ensure best practice on these issues are adopted in this borough.

11.8 Crown Estate residents

Proposed: Councillor Joshua Peck

Seconded: Councillor Lutfur Rahman

This Council notes that:

- The Crown Estate announced on 25 January its intention to sell the freeholds of 1,300 properties on the Victoria Park Estate in Tower Hamlets and Hackney, and the Millbank, Cumberland Market and Lee Green estates in other London Boroughs
- Tenants of these homes include people who have lived there for over 60 years, young families and key workers
- Many residents are on shorthold tenancies which could be ended with as little as two months' notice
- The Crown Estate has given residents an eight-week consultation period but has refused to tell residents whether it is proposing selling the properties to a Registered Social Housing Provider or a commercial landlord; or to give them any guarantees about their security of tenure or levels of rent; or to make any commitment to the homes staying as affordable and key worker housing in the future.

Further notes that:

- In advance of this announcement the Crown Estate had temporarily stopped housing key workers, leading many to believe that they expect any new owner to cease providing key worker housing on the estates altogether
- In meetings with residents and Meg Hillier MP, and in response to inquiries from Tower Hamlets Council, the Crown Estate has refused to give any more details of its plans, or give any commitments about the protection of residents' tenancies or the future provision of affordable and key worker housing and has been unable to point to any positive benefits for residents
- As a result, many residents are extremely worried about what will happen to their homes and whether they will find themselves evicted or priced out.

This Council believes:

- That as a public body the Crown Estate has, in failing to give residents any details of the proposed sale or any reassurance about their futures, has fallen far short of the standard it should uphold.

This Council resolves:

- To oppose any sale that doesn't legally guarantee all of the rights and safeguards of tenants' current tenancies, including security of tenure and levels of rents; and that doesn't also guarantee continuing provision of affordable and key working housing at current levels.

11.9 Hermitage Memorial Garden

Proposed: Councillor Dr. Emma Jones

Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer

This Council notes:

- The importance of the Hermitage Memorial Garden in commemorating the civilian deaths of the Second World War;
- The damage to the Hermitage Memorial Garden and the sculpture on Wapping High Street; and
- The lack of CCTV to protect the gardens

This Council resolves to:

- Install CCTV to monitor and protect the gardens; and
- Repair the damage to the sculpture and restore the gardens to their former glory.

11.10 Crown Estate sell off

Proposed: Councillor Dulal Uddin

Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah

1) This Council notes:

a) the intention of the Crown Estate to sell off residential properties in a number of estates across London

b) property they intend to sell off includes a significant number of homes around Victoria Park on the Tower Hamlets side

c) this sell-off appears to be intended directly or indirectly to finance a project in Lower Regent Street and is part of a Crown Estate strategy to redefine their core strategy focussing on commercial properties which has included loss-making investment in retail parks

d) Crown Estate residential property provides essential housing for key workers

e) there has been an excellent campaign by residents against this sell off

f) the Crown Estate is refusing even to ballot residents on whether or not they want to be sold off

g) George Galloway MP has put down an Early Day Motion opposing the sell off, Frank Dobson has held an adjournment debate and Treasury Select Committee MPs have subjected both the Chief Executive of the Crown Estate and the minister responsible to a grilling over the sell off

2) This Council believes:

a) it would not be in the interests of the residents or the wider interests of society for these properties to be sold off to property speculators or others

b) at the very least the Crown Estate should ballot the residents about the sell off and that this is required of them under their obligation to promote good management

c) the Government does have the legal power to direct the Crown Estate not to sell off these properties and should exercise that power if the Crown Estate does not abandon this sell off voluntarily

3) This Council demands:

a) the Crown Estate ballots all residents on the sell off and agrees to be bound by the result of that ballot

b) the Government should direct the Crown Estate not to sell off these properties if the Crown Estate refuses to ballot its residents and intends to proceed with the sell off

11.11 Parking permits for 62-80 Swaton Road

Proposed: Councillor Rania Khan

Seconded: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

This Council notes:

That the residents of 62-80 Swaton Road have been granted parking permits since 2004.

That in 2009 the Council informed residents that the development was a car free zone.

That the fact the development is “car free” was not made clear to residents when they moved into the properties.

That many of those living in this development rely on their cars for their livelihoods and may well not have moved there if they had been informed about its car-free status.

That the development in question does not suffer from excessive pressure on car-parking spaces.

That a similar case was brought to the attention of the Council in January in a petition from residents of Horseferry Road, Shadwell who have experienced similar problems.

This Council resolves:

To allow the residents of this development to continue to apply for parking permits in the usual manner.

To oppose the imposition of “car-free” status on this development in view of the fact that occupants were not informed of this when they moved into the properties.

11.12 Rosefield Gardens

Proposed: Councillor David Snowdon

Seconded: Councillor Tim Archer

This Council notes:

- the shocking state of Rosefield Gardens in Limehouse, where paint is peeling off the ceiling.

- that residents have reported problems of anti-social behaviour, especially in the warmer months, caused by youngsters hanging around the stairs of their blocks.

This Council resolves:

- to undertake urgent redecoration of Rosefield Gardens
- to install security doors to 2-40 Rosefield Gardens and 1-31 Kemps Drive

11.13 Dispatches programme and slurs against the Council

Proposed: Councillor Fozol Miah

Seconded: Councillor Harun Miah

1) This Council notes:

- a) the recent Dispatches programme presented by Andrew Gilligan which sought to denigrate this council and other organisations and individuals in Tower Hamlets
- b) the active participation in the making of this programme of Jim Fitzpatrick MP
- c) the active participation in the programme of the Leader of the Conservative group Peter Golds
- d) the utterly unfair denigration of a hard-working senior council officer who did not and does not have the power to answer back to that cheap unfair denigration
- e) the subsequent remarks by the chair of Tower Hamlets Labour Party that the Town Hall was a “centre of Islamic Fundamentalism”

2) This Council believes:

- a) the Dispatches programme gave a completely unfair and distorted impression of Tower Hamlets and its Council
- b) no attempt was made by the makers of this programme to produce a balanced, fair and objective analysis of the Council and its decision-making
- c) this programme and its active participants have fuelled antagonism towards members of the Muslim community

3) This Council deplores:

- a) the participation in this programme of Jim Fitzpatrick MP and the comments he made

b) the participation in this programme of Peter Golds, the Leader of the Tory group, and the comments he made

c) the slur against this Council made by the chair of Tower Hamlets Labour Party

4) This Council reaffirms:

a) its commitment to its integrity in decision-making with regard to allocation of funds and other matters

b) its confidence in its senior officers

c) its commitment to One Tower Hamlets, to ensuring harmony and respect between and within communities and its wholehearted opposition to any attempt to divide the Muslim from the non-Muslim community or to divide the Muslim community itself.

11.14 Reducing Carbon Emissions

Proposed: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Seconded: Councillor Lutfur Rahman

This Council notes:-

Climate change is having severe consequences around the world and in particular having devastating effects in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Climate change is already happening in the UK – the ten hottest years on record have all been since 1990 and this winter has been the coldest for 30 years.

The Labour Government's 2008 Climate Change Act made Britain the first country in the world to set a legally binding 'carbon budget', aiming to cut UK emissions by 34% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050 through investment in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

The leadership shown on this issue at the Copenhagen conference by Gordon Brown and Ed Milliband

The Labour Government has more than doubled spending on flood protection since 1997 and developed a heat wave plan in the NHS.

That action by local authorities is critical to the achievement of the Government climate change objectives and is uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to the local communities by raising awareness and influencing behaviours.

This Council is already committed to:

Local Area Agreement indicator 186 – aiming for a reduction of 10 per cent per capita in CO2 emissions for residents.

A 25 per cent reduction of its own carbon emissions by 2012, 40 per cent by 2016 and 60 per cent by 2020.

This Council resolves:

To formally pledge its support for the 10:10 campaign, the aims of which it is already working towards

To increase awareness among residents of the importance of reducing carbon emissions – especially where doing so can also save money by reducing gas and heating bills.

To use the lessons learned in improving recycling from 7 per cent to over 30 per cent in just 3 years to encourage behavioural change from residents of all backgrounds.

11.15 Bethnal Green Stairway to Heaven war memorial

Proposed: Councillor Mamun Rashid

Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah

This Council notes:

a) the fantastic achievements of the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust in getting planning permission for the memorial to those who tragically died in the Bethnal Green tube disaster on 3 March 1943 when 173 people were killed in the worst loss of civilian life in Britain during the Second World War

b) so far the Council has committed £100,000 to support the project which needs over £600,000

c) the Trust has done brilliantly in raising tens of thousands more through their fund-raising efforts

d) the campaign is still a long way short of their target

e) the completion of this excellent project will be of great benefit to everyone in Tower Hamlets

2) This Council believes:

a) the Council should do even more to support the project through publicity and promotion of the campaign to raise funds

b) the Council should seek to increase the Council's funding of this project.

11.16 Respite breaks for carers

Proposed: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah

1) This Council notes:

a) a Freedom of Information enquiry from the Princess Royal Trust for Carers and Crossroads Care has revealed that money promised for carers to get respite breaks is instead being used to plug holes in the NHS budget

b) carers do a fantastic job of caring for the elderly and disabled

c) carers are particularly important in areas of the community where there is not an extended family to act as support for the elderly and disabled

2) This Council believes:

a) there should be an urgent review by the Council with its partners in the Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust to ensure that carers are getting funding for respite breaks they desperately need

b) if funding promised for carers is being diverted to plug holes in the NHS budget in Tower Hamlets, urgent measures should be taken to ensure carers do get the funding promised and that holes are plugged by the government and efficiency savings.

11.17 Transport for London cuts

Proposed: Councillor Salim Ullah

Seconded: Councillor Abjol Miah

This Council:

1) is alarmed at impending cuts at Transport for London to fill a £460 million spending gap.

2) notes that these cuts come on top of the fare increases announced by London Mayor Boris Johnson in the New Year, which include a 20 percent rise to the basic bus fare – a move that will disproportionately hit the poorest travellers in Tower Hamlets and London as a whole.

3) is opposed to plans to cut 800 jobs on the London Underground, which will mean more unstaffed stations and threaten passengers' safety and their sense of safety on the network.

4) is opposed to further public transport cuts across London, which will force more people to use cars and undermine a coherent transport and environmental policy

- 5) believes that part of the funding shortfall is due to the current Mayor's abandonment of his predecessor's policy of extending the Congestion Charge Zone to cover the richer areas of Central London.
- 6) recognises that the immediate cause for the shortfall is the PPP scheme to refurbish the Tube, which Gordon Brown as chancellor imposed on the capital against the opposition of Underground unions, passenger groups and Ken Livingstone who was elected as an independent in 2000 opposing the scheme.
- 7) believes that the PPP scheme does not give value for money and is resulting in large amounts of public funding going into the pockets of private contractors such as Bechtel.
- 8) calls on TfL and Mayor Johnson to find alternatives to cuts to public transport and on Lord Adonis, the transport minister, to allow TfL to borrow to cover the shortfall, to recognise that the PPP scheme has been an expensive fiasco and to investigate ways of bringing the tube upgrade fully into public control and ownership, as has in effect happened through the collapse of Metronet's piece of the PPP upgrade.

11.18 John Smith Mews residents objections

Proposed: Councillor Abdul Munim

Seconded: Councillor Dulal Uddin

This Council notes:

- a) the very strong objections to the car clamping system and permit regime that was to have been unilaterally introduced on John Smith Mews by One Housing Group from 16th January 2010
- b) residents are completely happy with the existing key and gate system and see absolutely no reason why this system should be changed
- c) proper consultation has not taken place with residents over this matter by One Housing Group
- d) incorrect information has been used by One Housing Group to justify the changes to the parking regime
- e) residents want the clamping system immediately and permanently withdrawn and a return to the original system pending further negotiations with One Housing Group

This Council supports the residents in these demands.

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