

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET**

**HELD AT 5.35 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2012**

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

**Members Present:**

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	(Mayor)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	(Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills)
Councillor Rabina Khan	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Cabinet Member for Children's Services)

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor Ann Jackson	(Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Carlo Gibbs	
Councillor Amy Whitelock	
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Executive Advisor to the Mayor and Cabinet)
Councillor Gulam Robbani	

**Officers Present:**

Louise Russell	– (Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equalities, Chief Executive's)
Isobel Cattermole	– (Acting Corporate Director, Children, Schools & Families and Adult Health and Wellbeing)
Alison Thomas	– (Acting Joint Service Head, Strategy Innovation and Sustainability, Development & Renewal)
Jackie Odunoye	– (Head of Strategy, Innovation & Sustainability, Development & Renewal)
Stephen Halsey	– (Corporate Director Communities, Localities & Culture and Interim Head of Paid Service)
Chris Naylor	– (Corporate Director, Resources)
David Tolley	– (Service Head Community Service, Communities Localities & Culture)
Aman Dalvi	– (Corporate Director, Development & Renewal)
David Galpin	– (Head of Legal Services (Community), Legal Services, Chief Executive's)
Anne Canning	– (Service Head Learning & Achievement,

	Children's Services)
Ellie Kuper-Thomas	– (Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer - Executive Mayor's Office, One Tower Hamlets, Chief Executive's)
Ross Archer	– (Political Adviser to the Conservative Group, Chief Executive's)
Numan Hussain	– (Political Advisor to the Mayor, Executive Mayor's Office, Chief Executive's)
David Courcoux	– (Political Adviser to the Labour Group, Chief Executive's)
Martin Ling	– (Housing Policy Officer)

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Rania Khan (Cabinet Member for Culture)
- Councillor Shahed Ali (Cabinet Member for Environment)
- Isabella Freeman (Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services))

**Noted.**

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

None were declared.

## 3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 November 2012 were presented for information.

## 4. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

## 5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Four pre-scrutiny questions in relation to Agenda Item 6.1 (Tenancy Strategy) were **tabled**. The **Mayor** thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the questions and noted those and the responses that officers had provided.

In addition, Councillor Ann Jackson, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee provided the Cabinet with an update on their meeting the previous evening. She reported on a number of issues that had been considered including that:

- The Committee had heard from the Borough Commander on his community safety priorities including on youth violence, anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and prostitution. They were also provided details on the police's action on crime hotspots.
- The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Rabina Khan, updated the Committee on housing matters and the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Alibor Choudhury, provided an update on budget and performance monitoring.
- The Scrutiny review on youth unemployment and the review into the accountability of housing providers had now begun work. A review of post-16 attainment and a review of the mainstream grants process would begin in the new year.

The **Mayor** thanked Councillor Ann Jackson for her update.

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

The Clerk advised that no requests had been received by the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) to 'call-in' for further consideration, by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, any provisional decisions taken by the Mayor in Cabinet, at the Cabinet meeting held on 7 November 2012.

## **6. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE**

### **6.1 Tenancy Strategy**

Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing, introduced the report. She highlighted the requirement under the Localism Act to develop a new Tenancy Strategy and that the Council were looking to use this to help maintain strong local communities. She highlighted the extensive consultation exercises that had been undertaken including with Members and residents.

A discussion followed during which Members explored issues around how to encourage Housing Associations to keep lifetime tenancies for residents. Councillor Rabina Khan reported that she was meeting with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to emphasise to them the desire of the Council to keep lifetime tenancies.

The **Mayor** stated that he agreed with the concerns expressed and asked officers to look at strengthening the strategy as much as possible in this area and to emphasise to RLSs the Council's desire to maintain lifetime tenancies.

### **Resolved**

1. To approve the final tenancy strategy attached at appendix 1.

## 6.2 Olympic Impact Planning Review

Robin Beattie, Service Head Strategy and Resources, introduced the report. He explained that it contained an overview of the impact on the Council of the Olympics and the legacy improvements achieved. He highlighted the focus on maintaining a close relationship with the other host boroughs into the future and on looking at possible support for Small to Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The Mayor welcomed the report and thanked Councillor Rania Khan and all the officers who had been involved. He stated that he agreed with the need to maintain links with the other host boroughs but would keep that under review to ensure its effectiveness.

### **Resolved**

1. To agree the Council should continue to participate in and support the Growth Borough (6 Host Borough) group to maintain a coordinated lobby group for investment in East London and continued focus on legacy and regeneration.
2. To agree the Council should review the promotion of Small and Medium sized businesses in the Borough with a view to improving it further
3. Note the outcomes of the Impact Planning process outlined in the report.

## 6.3 Saturation Policy - Brick Lane

The report was introduced by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, the Deputy Mayor. He thanked officers for their work on the policy. He stated that the Council shared the concerns expressed by the Borough Commander and had listened to the local community when formulating the policy.

In response to questions, officers confirmed that having a saturation policy was an important tool in helping to restrict licenses in that area.

The **Mayor** thanked all involved and accepted the recommendations in the report.

### **Resolved**

1. To consider and comment on the proposal for the area defined in the draft policy to become a "Cumulative Impact Zone"
2. To consider and comment on the draft policy.
3. To agree that consultation on the draft policy may commence.

## **7. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY**

### **7.1 Establishing a Local Health Watch**

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Abdul Asad. He highlighted the consultation that had taken place including with the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.

Members discussed the extent to which local residents were engaged with particular reference to marginalised groups. Officers reported that they were aware of the issue and would be looking to make progress in this area.

The **Mayor** thanked all involved, stated that the Council would look to learn from experience and accepted the recommendations in the report.

#### **Resolved**

1. To agree to the establishment of Healthwatch Tower Hamlets and authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) to enter into contract with the preferred bidder which will be known as Healthwatch Tower Hamlets.
2. To agree that the Council enter into a pan-London Framework Agreement for the provision of NHS Independent Complaints Advocacy Service and authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) to enter into contract with the preferred bidder.

## **8. A SAFE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY**

### **8.1 Reviewing the impact of the Children's Centres restructure - report of the scrutiny working group**

Councillor Amy Whitelock, the Lead Scrutiny Member for Children, Schools and Families introduced the report. She thanked the officers who took part for their full and frank engagement. She then highlighted the recommendations that had been produced.

She praised the efforts of staff at the Children's Centres for their good work and the efforts to protect front line services from the effects of cuts but did highlight those areas where there was evidence of problems.

In response Councillor Oliur Rahman, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services thanked Councillor Amy Whitelock and the other Scrutiny Members involved for their work. He reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to the Children's Centres and highlighted that all were still open despite the financial

pressures the Council was facing. He also gave reassurances as to his own commitment to monitor the service.

The **Mayor** added his thanks for the work done and confirmed his intention to note the report and reflect on the recommendations.

### **Resolved**

1. To note the report.

## **9. A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY**

### **9.1 Food Law Enforcement Plan 2012/13**

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, the Deputy Mayor, introduced the report. He highlighted the excellent work done by officers in dealing with the over 2,500 premises in the borough and the improved inspection completion rate over previous years.

The **Mayor** accepted the report and agreed the recommendation.

### **Resolved**

1. To approve the Tower Hamlets Food Law Enforcement Plan 2012/2013 and Food Sampling Policy attached at the Appendix of the report.

## **10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS**

### **10.1 In House Temporary Resourcing Report**

After introducing the report a number of Cabinet Members expressed their thanks for the work completed on the report and welcomed it as an important benefit to the local economy.

Following questions from Members, officers confirmed that the new processes would help to support the Mayor's goal of having a workforce that reflected the community.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and accepted its recommendations.

### **Resolved**

1. To agree the establishment of the In-House Temporary Worker Resourcing Service (ITRES) as described in this report .

2. To agree the establishment of the Council Resourcing Team to lead and manage this Service.
3. To note outline plans for cross-directorate working between Resources and Development & Renewal to further promote employment opportunities within the Borough for local residents.

## **10.2 Strategic Performance, General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2012/13 Q2**

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Alibor Choudhury, introduced the report highlighting the improvement plan and the good news stories contained within it.

The **Mayor** accepted the report and agreed its recommendations.

### **Resolved**

1. To review and note the Quarter 2 2012/13 performance; and
2. To note the Council's financial position as detailed in sections 3 and 4 and Appendices 1-4 of this report.
3. To approve the transfer of £808,000 from the Olympic reserve set aside to fund additional expenditure as a result of the Olympics as set out at section 3.4 and 3.6 of this report.

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

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

### **12.1 Exercise of Corporate Directors' Discretions**

#### **Resolved**

1. To note the exercise of Corporate Directors' discretions as set out in Appendix 1.

### **12.2 Expressions of Thanks to the Corporate Director Resources**

The Mayor led all Members of the Cabinet in thanking Chris Naylor for his hard work on behalf of the Council. In particular, Members highlighted his efforts to manage the difficulties associated with the significant budget cuts that the Council was having to implement.

On behalf of the whole Administration the Mayor wished him all the best at his new role at the London Borough of Barnet.

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

#### **Resolved**

That pursuant to regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting:

- (a) As it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted in Section Two of the agenda, that if members of the public were present during consideration of this business there would be disclosure of exempt information.
  - Exempt information is defined in section 100I and, by reference, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the 1972 Act”). To be exempt, information must fall within one of the categories listed in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Schedule 12A, must not fall within one of the excluded categories in paragraphs 8 and 9 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption must outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information.
    - Agenda item 14. “Exempt/Confidential Minutes” (of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 November 2012) contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). In particular information relating to the financial affairs of the Council.
- (b) As although there is a public interest favouring public access to local authority meetings, in this case the Cabinet concluded that given the information contained in:
  - Agenda item 14. “Exempt/Confidential Minutes” (of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 November 2012) contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). In particular information relating to the financial affairs of the Council.

that the public interest in maintaining the exemption on the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

### **14. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The Exempt/Confidential minutes (Cabinet 7 November 2012) were presented for information.

### **15. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



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

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

**16. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE**

Nil items.

**17. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY**

Nil items.

**18. A SAFE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY**

Nil items.

**19. A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY**

Nil items.

**20. ONE TOWER HAMLETS**

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

Chair, Mayor Lutfur Rahman  
Cabinet