



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 26th June 2013 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

Democratic Services 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, 26TH JUNE 2013**

Stephen Halsey
Head of Paid Service

Public Information

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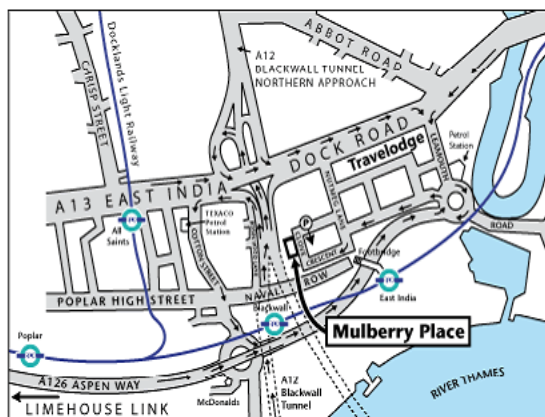
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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 26TH JUNE 2013

7.30 p.m.

**PAGE
NUMBER**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

1 - 4

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 Monitoring Officer.

3. MINUTES

5 - 72

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 17th April 2013 and the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 22nd May 2013 (draft minutes attached).

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS

73 - 74

The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of three petitions to be presented at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The deadline for receipt of petitions for this Council meeting is Thursday 20th June 2013. However, at the time of agenda despatch three petitions have already been received as set out in the attached report.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC **75 - 78**

The questions which have been received from members of the public for this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 20 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.

A maximum of five minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the respective political group leaders to respond for up to one minute each if they wish.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL **79 - 84**

The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.

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

9.1 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee **85 - 98**

The Council's Constitution states that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall report annually to the Council on its work. The Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2012/13 is attached.

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

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Localism Act 2011 Standards Regime: Appointment of 'Independent Person' **99 - 106**

To appoint an Independent Person, as required by the Localism Act 2011, in connection with the Council's arrangements for dealing with any complaint of a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, setting out the recruitment process followed and the recommendations of the interview panel for appointment of an Independent Person and a Reserve Independent Person, is attached.

11 .2 Report of the Executive in accordance with section 20 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules **107 - 112**

Section 20 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules at Part 4.2 of the Council's Constitution sets out a procedure under which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may, if they consider a Key Decision has been made which was not treated as such, require the Executive to report to the Council giving the reason(s) why the decision was not considered to be a Key Decision.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee made such a request at its meeting on 9th April 2013 and the report of the Executive is attached.

11 .3 Delegation of Powers to the Head of Paid Service - Disciplinary Policy and Procedure for Chief Officers **113 - 114**

The recommendations of the Human Resources Committee are set out in the attached reference.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL **115 - 132**

The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.

Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services), 020 7364 4801; or
John Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services, 020 7364 4204

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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Agenda Item 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.45 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2013

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

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Mizan Chaudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Zara Davis	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Gulam Robbani
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Gloria Thienel
Councillor Judith Gardiner	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Carlo Gibbs	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ann Jackson	Councillor Amy Whitelock

The meeting commenced at 8.00 p.m.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Rajib Ahmed, in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Harun Miah, Carli Harper-Penman and Oliur Rahman.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Anwar Khan **moved**, and Councillor Bill Turner **seconded**, a procedural motion – “That under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business

be altered such that when Item 12 is reached the following motions be the first to be considered, Motions 12.9, 12.1, 12.2, 12.7, 12.4 in that order.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were made.

3. **MINUTES**

Councillor Anwar Khan **moved** and Councillor Denise Jones **seconded** the following amendments to the draft unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23 January 2013:-

Under: Summary of Councillor Alibor Choudhury's response to the Supplementary Question

Delete:

"Unfortunately confidentiality rules mean I cannot confirm those matters." -
Due to inaccuracy

And replace with:

"[Officer note: In responding to the supplementary question Cllr Choudhury proceeded to name a member of the Council and alluded to the identify of a member of staff so as to make them easily identifiable and set out what was a highly inaccurate account of a confidential employment matter to which he, as a member of the executive, was party.

Confidentiality rules prevent the replication of Cllr Choudhury's answer verbatim.]"

Under: Summary of Supplementary Question from Ms Clare Harrison

Add before the current:

"I don't see how my time at university has any bearing on my right to come to this council as a resident of Tower Hamlets and to be honest I am accustomed to members of the public being afforded a little more respect by Councillors and members of the executive."

The amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The Speaker suggested to the Council that if there were no queries in relation to the accuracy of the draft restricted (Part 2) minutes of the Council meeting of 23rd January, then the Council may wish also to agree those draft minutes

under the current agenda item so as to avoid the need to move into confidential session later in the meeting. The Council agreed the draft restricted minutes accordingly.

RESOLVED

That subject to the amendments above, the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 January 2013 and of the Budget Council Meetings on 27 February 2013 and 7 March 2013; and the restricted minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 January 2013, be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

[Note: The following Councillors each requested that their vote be recorded against the amendment of the draft minutes:- Councillors Kabir Ahmed, Ohid Ahmed, Shahed Ali, Abdul Asad, Lutfu Begum, Alibor Choudhury, Shafiqul Haque, Aminur Khan, Rabina Khan, Rania Khan, Maium Miah and Gulam Robbani.]

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

There were no announcements.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS

5.1. Petition from Mr Dan McCurry and others regarding 'Putting the Bang back into Banglatown'

Mr Dan McCurry addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, responded to the matters raised in the petition. He welcomed ideas from anyone who had enthusiasm for the area although stressed that consultation with residents would be required before any big changes such as light displays were introduced. He highlighted the money that the Mayor had already allocated and the work being done to invest in and improve the Brick Lane area.

RESOLVED

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

5.2. Petition from Mr George Morgan and others asking the Council to stop Vodafone from erecting six mobile phone masts on James Hammett House

The petitioners addressed the meeting in support of their petition and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. She emphasised that the Council had not entered into any contract with Vodafone and did not intend to do so. In light of the failed planning applications and strong local feeling the Council had decided not to pursue the matter and is under no obligation to proceed with a new lease to Vodafone at James Hammett House. Under the 1984 Telecommunications Act a telecommunication operator has the right to apply to the courts for a lease upon any property although Councillor Khan understood that had never happened to date.

RESOLVED

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

5.3. Petition from Mr Ahmed Osman and others against the closure of East End Life

The petitioners addressed the meeting in support of their petition and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He highlighted that local communities rely on the advice and information contained in the newspaper and that a review was to be undertaken to ensure residents views were taken into account before any action was taken.

RESOLVED

That the petition be referred to the Head of Paid Service, for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

6.1 Question from Mr Koyes Uddin

Can the Mayor tell us how many jobs will be lost as a result of the Labour-Conservative party's decision to close East End Life, and can he provide a breakdown of the possible equalities implications this will have?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

East End Life currently employs 8.6 full-time equivalent staff. The closure of East End Life would affect at least ten members of staff in total. Of these ten staff, the majority (seven) are women, two of whom are currently on Maternity Leave. Four of the total number of staff are from a BME background.

East End Life is delivered to 83,000 households with its total distribution points taking circulation to almost 100,000 every week. One of its key roles is to promote community cohesion and race equality in the borough. There are dedicated pages in East End Life which are translated into Bengali and Somali, making information about key council services as widely accessible to local people as possible.

A key part of the Mayor's decision to undertake a review into the implications of the closure of East End Life is to allow proper consideration of the equalities implications of its closure by Tower Hamlets Tory-Labour coalition. This will include undertaking a full Equalities Impact Assessment. In order to comply with the relevant procurement and organisational review procedures, this review will take between 9 and 12 months.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Mr Koyes Uddin

Do you consider the proposal is an attempt to score political points at the expense of residents and a valuable community resource.

Summary of Councillor Alibor Choudhury's response to the Supplementary Question

I suggest this highlights the disregard of the opposition who wish to keep the community in the dark.

6.2 Question from Mr Fazleh Elaahi

Dame Colet House has been closed and in a state of disrepair for many years. What plans does the Mayor have to bring this site back into community use?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

This facility has been unfit for use for many years, and I'm proud to be part of the administration that is bringing it back into use.

The council has entered into a development agreement with Guildmore Ltd for the regeneration of the Haileybury Youth centre and Dame Colet house. This redevelopment will see a new Youth and Community centre being built on the site, alongside 40 residential housing units.

The residential housing units will be socially rented and will be managed by Tower Hamlet Homes. The programme for starting works on site is December 2013, with complete in spring 2015.

This is subject to a planning consent being received by the developer and final legal agreements being completed.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Mr Fazleh Elaahi

Can you reassure me that there will not again be a misuse of Town Hall funds as seen in 2003?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

I can't comment on past events but under the current Leadership we hope to bring changes for the young and families who need housing and use our assets to benefit the community.

6.3 Question from Mr Abu Ahsan

What plans does the Mayor have to regenerate Whitechapel?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

The Whitechapel Vision was launched on 11th March 2013 by the Mayor following a competitive tender process under which Building Design Partnerships (BDP) were successfully procured to produce a masterplanning framework for regeneration across the Whitechapel area until 2025.

The main objectives of the Vision are to ensure the Council can positively promote the regeneration of Whitechapel by maximising the development opportunities that will arise from the opening of the new Crossrail station in 2017. The project seeks to promote inward investment through the delivery of new affordable homes, new jobs, skills and training opportunities, together with high quality public realm improvements across the area.

The masterplan will seek to build on Whitechapel's rich and diverse character, by enhancing the existing vibrant street market, support the world class facilities at the Royal London NHS hospital and Queen Mary University research institution and protect the unique historic built environment. A key role of the masterplan will be to balance the introduction of striking new architecture.

A series of consultation forums with local stakeholders and groups are scheduled to take place at the Whitechapel IDEA Store in the last week of April 2013 with a wider 6 week statutory public consultation commencing in the early Summer.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Mr Abu Ahsan

There is some concern over the future of Whitechapel Market. How will traders and small businesses be involved?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

There is a rich heritage of traders at the market and we want to work with businesses and the local people to enrich the area. As the area grows we want to ensure that local businesses and residents have a stake.

6.5 Question from Mr Abdul Azad

Can the Mayor tell us what he plans to do with the £800k allocated in his budget proposal for borough's street cleaning?

Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

This administration is committed to keeping this borough clean. We were delighted to have won two awards recently including the Keep Britain Tidy Award.

However, we are not complacent. To build on this good work our additional investment will focus on:

- More litter pickers to assist with cleaning during the summer months
- Additional graffiti and chewing gum removal
- Additional 'Find it Fix it' team
- More hot spot sweepers
- Dedicated education and awareness programme
- Find it Fix it apprentice initiative, and
- Additional waste disposal

From talking to residents we know that what makes a real difference to how clean they see their streets is:

- Having hard to reach areas.
- Targeting areas more regularly which attract a lot of rubbish
- Making sure that hard to clean graffiti and chewing gum is tackled
- Keeping parks clean in summer
- Being able to easily tell us about problems they want us to fix.

No supplementary question arising from the above question or response was asked.

6.6 Question from Ms Pawla Cottage

Will you guarantee that no Tower Hamlets Council tenants (whose homes are managed on your behalf by THH) are threatened with eviction due to arrears caused by the Bedroom Tax and other benefit cuts?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Eviction is always an absolute last resort and approval to evict is only granted when all available methods of support and assistance from relevant internal and external agencies have been exhausted. Tower Hamlets Homes have been working closely with the Council to actively pursue a number of initiatives to advise and help residents affected by the changes introduced in the Welfare Reform Bill, including one-to-one interviews with those most seriously affected to advise the options available to them and where appropriate to make referral to other agencies.

An additional pre-eviction protocol was introduced in 2012 at the point in the recovery process immediately before approval for eviction is sought. This additional measure is designed to avoid evictions by inviting residents who are in danger of being evicted to meet with a senior officer in a final attempt to seek payment and/or resolve any outstanding issues before approval for eviction is sought.

Some financial assistance may be available to residents experiencing severe difficulties through the Discretionary Housing Payment Scheme, however it should be noted that the fund for this scheme has an overall annual cash limit per Local Authority and therefore each application will need to be carefully considered against the criteria.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Ms Pawla Cottage

Research suggests that over 70% of those classified as under occupying have lived there a long time and also that there are no single bed flats to move into, can this work?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

Residents have a connection to their home and that is important. We are working with people affected to explore options and avoid evictions.

6.7 Question from Mr Marcus O'Mara

In which ways will this Council use its Strategic Housing role to protect tenants of RSLs and tenants of private landlords from eviction due to benefit cuts?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

The Council has been working closely with tenants and landlords in preparing for the impact of benefit cuts in the borough.

On April 2 2013 the reduction in Housing Benefit to households in Council and Housing Association properties, who have extra bedrooms came into force. Households will lose 14% of their rent if they have 1 extra bedroom and 25% of their rent if they have 2 or more extra bedrooms. The restriction on benefits is intended to pull social housing into line with private sector housing where restrictions already exist.

The reduction in benefits will affect over 3000 social housing tenants in Tower Hamlets. A significant amount of these households are likely to have a disabled person who may require a separate bedroom or require a room for a care on a temporary basis. In addition the changes from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) migrating to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) from June 2013 will also have an impact on these households. It is estimated that around 20% of current claimants of Disability Living Allowance may eventually lose their entitlements to disability benefits as a result of this change, which is estimated to be around 1,384 people in Tower Hamlets.

The Council launched a Prepare and Act Now Campaign to ensure that residents are aware of all the welfare changes and can seek advice and assistance from the Council and third sector organisations. Five events were held across the borough in November where residents could speak to Housing staff, Benefit Team staff, Skillsmatch and Job Centre Plus staff, as well as staff from third sector advice agencies. There are a further four events planned during the summer.

Private sector tenants will be impacted by the benefit cap of £500 which will be introduced later this year as a large proportion of their benefit will be required to pay their rent. The Council has been visiting these residents to explain the changes and offer advice on budgeting and alternative housing options.

The Council does have access to a discretionary housing payment fund to assist in alleviating the impact of the welfare reform changes. However the total loss from benefits will not be covered by the fund. The Council is in the process of developing its policy on how best to use the discretionary housing payment fund.

Where tenants fall into arrears and their landlords seek eviction it will be up to the Court to decide whether to serve an eviction notice. The Council will continue to work with all partners to provide advice and support for all tenants who will face financial hardship as a consequence of the welfare reform change to benefit in order to minimise evictions across the borough.

No supplementary question arising from the above question or response was asked.

6.8 Question from Mr Suluk Ahmed

Why did Peter Golds and the Tories propose to remove the contribution of British-Bangladeshis from Tower Hamlets electoral map?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Perhaps Councillor Golds did this because, and I quote him direct:-

'What will happen if every single tiny group in the country suddenly decides they want their local government ward named after it. What are we going to have, Earls Court and Kangaroo Valley for the Australians?'

That says all that we need to know about Councillor Peter Golds and the Tories.

Point of Order/Point of Personal Explanation

At this point Councillor Craig Aston rose to make a Point of Order and Councillor Peter Golds then rose to make a Point of Personal Explanation. Councillor Golds stated that he had been misquoted and asked why this question had been directed to another person as only he was in a position to answer it.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Mr Suluk Ahmed

Will Councillor Golds say sorry to the people of Banglatown?

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

I cannot answer for Councillor Golds but I am glad that the proposal was rejected.

6.9 Question from Ms Lillian Collins

I am proud to have lived in Poplar for over 50 years, and I couldn't understand why it was proposed to remove the legacy of East End icon, George Lansbury, from the map of Tower Hamlets?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Some people are laughing because they were not born at the time when George Lansbury led and united the Labour Party locally and probably do not understand his importance. He was an iconic figure who played a key role in

Poplar and went to prison along with other Councillors fighting for a fair and just society to benefit all, not just the few, and we should honour him.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Ms Lillian Collins

I also think it's a shame that the East India part of East India and Lansbury is not being retained, but George Lansbury went to prison as part of the Poplar Rates revolt in 1921. As he was a Labour Councillor and MP I would have thought the Labour Party would have recognised his importance. I think that children should learn about local history as there is so much to learn.

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

I see that people are laughing opposite. I your sentiments and I am surprised that the Labour Group does not take this issue seriously.

6.10 Question from Mr Ruhel Miah

Will the Mayor join me in reminding all Councillors, who are elected by the residents of this borough, to uphold the highest levels of personal and professional integrity when reporting concerns to the authorities?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

The Council adopted a new code of conduct for members in June 2012 to comply with the Localism Act. The code of conduct continues to require members to be guided by general principles of conduct in all aspects of their roles as members.

The principles require selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. The Mayor is happy to remind all members of the requirements of the code.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Mr Ruhel Miah

[Note by Clerk:- Mr Ruhel asked a supplementary question in which he quoted from a local blog an account of alleged events which he felt was evidence that a Councillor had not maintained integrity.]

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

I have seen that story and I would again refer to the principles that I mentioned earlier which should be followed by all Councillors.

Point of Personal Explanation

At this point a Councillor who was named in the supplementary question above rose to make a Point of Personal Explanation and refuted any allegation in relation to his conduct.

Public Question 6.4 was not put at the meeting as the questioner was not present. A written response to the question was provided after the meeting and this is included in Appendix A to these minutes.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council meeting extending a welcome to all present. He began by expressing condolences to those who had family or friends who had been injured or killed in the Boston Marathon bombing.

When the Mayor had completed his report, the Leader of the Majority Group and the Leaders of the Minority Groups then each responded briefly.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

8.1 Question from Councillor David Edgar

Could the Mayor provide an update on the consultation arrangements with local residents on the work associated with the refurbishment and redevelopment of Poplar Baths?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

The consultation carried out to date regarding the Poplar Baths includes:

- A meeting with (Poplar Baths Steering Group) on Wednesday 27th March 2013 to brief on the scheme. A second meeting is to be scheduled over the next two weeks with the developer so they can present further details.
- A meeting with Neighbours in Poplar & SPLASH, St. Matthias Tenants and Residents Association including 7 local residents was held on Monday 8th April 2013 to brief the TRA on the scheme. A second meeting is to be scheduled with the developer so they can present further details. A number of local impact queries have been raised by the TRA group to which we are currently preparing a response for.
- We have devised a Communication and Engagement Strategy outline, which identifies the process in which we will carry out the necessary consultations with an indicative time frame (ranging from March – June), this includes meetings with local residents/key stakeholders and the developer, local exhibitions, planning forums and newsletter updates. The exact dates are yet to be confirmed by the developer

(Guildmore), we hope to confirm this schedule in the coming weeks and we welcome feedback and views on that consultation.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor David Edgar

I would highlight my own involvement in the campaign over a number of years. I can provide the Cabinet Member with a copy of my election leaflet from 2010 including a commitment on this subject. Given the importance of the scheme for local residents can I have reassurance that the consultation will continue and will be thorough?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

I thank you for your part in the campaign but I would highlight that it is the current Mayor who is delivering this long awaited project for the community. Many residents in the area of Poplar Baths have already been included in the consultation and this will continue as I have outlined.

8.2 Question from Councillor David Snowdon

On how many occasions over the past year has Tower Hamlets council conducted testing of food at restaurants to ensure that the meat served to customers is the same meat as has been ordered?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

No problems have been encountered.

The food safety officers routinely carry out traceability audits on the origin of foodstuffs when they carry out food standards or food hygiene inspections. These checks are carried out to ensure that customers are not being misled and follow the product back through the supplier chain.

During 2012/13 the Council has carried out 1007 food hygiene inspections and 597 food standards inspections to ensure retail standards are maintained locally.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor David Snowdon

I understand that many Councils only check the genome against a limited range of other animals. Can you provide me with a list of how many and which animals are tested against in Tower Hamlets?

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

I don't have that information to hand but I will collate it information and forward it on to you.

8.3 Question from Councillor Lesley Pavitt

What is happening to Old Flo? Where is she? Has the question about who owns her been resolved and what is the Mayor's plan for her?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

There has been no legal challenge to the Council's ownership and we remain certain that we do own it. Anything to the contrary was nothing more than a publicity stunt

The plan remains as stated in the Cabinet decision to sell this asset and reinvest the funds for the benefit of Tower Hamlets residents.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Lesley Pavitt

Even in the face of the outcry you will be selling the statue. When will this plan be implemented?

Summary of Councillor Rania Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

A poll of local people showed a majority were in favour, only the cultural elite are unhappy and if they want the statue they are welcome to buy it.

8.4 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Can the Mayor tell us his opinion on the Boundary Commission changes?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

We are delighted that the Commission has seen sense and rejected all the divisive proposals and reinstated Banglatown on the electoral map.

We are equally pleased that the historic contribution of East End and Labour movement icon, George Lansbury, has been reinstated along with St Dunstan's - a name that means so much to Stepney residents and we could never understand why the Labour group wanted to get rid of it.

We are proud to have led a campaign that has seen local people standing together to defend the modern inclusive borough that we take pride in.

We are grateful to everyone who has supported us. This is truly a victory for community spirit.

No supplementary question arising from the above question or response was asked.

8.5 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

What plans does the Mayor have to transfer the old caretaker building on Arbery Road to Old Ford Housing?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

The Mayor has no plans to transfer the unit at this time.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

If that is the case, why was Old Ford Housing told the building would be transferred and why would you want to sell the site rather than allow them to build nine social housing units there?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

The Mayor is currently considering options for the site for future housing. When the Parkside Estates were transferred to Old Ford in 2007 the documents stated that the Council would give due consideration to the association's proposal for 73 Strahan Road to be transferred for use as a community hall once it was no longer used for office purposes. The office remains in the Council's ownership. No commitment was ever made to transfer it at nil value to Old Ford Housing.

8.6 Question from Councillor Zara Davis

Will the Mayor join me in encouraging Tower Hamlets schools to bid for a share of Boris Johnson's £24m London Schools Excellence Fund, which has been created to help drive up standards across the capital? With the first round of applications for the funding closing at the end of April, will you be actively promoting the fund to schools in our borough?

Response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

[In the absence of Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services]

We have an excellent family of schools in the borough delivery some outstanding GCSE and A Level results.

The council has already alerted schools to this opportunity and schools and the council have attended briefings from the Mayor's office about the fund.

The council is encouraging schools to group together to bid for the excellence fund. The bid needs to come from the schools rather than the council.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Zara Davis

The Schools Excellence Fund is part of a wider Mayor of London scheme called the Gold Club to encourage schools to share best practice and help other local schools. Will Tower Hamlets encourage schools to take part?

Summary of Councillor Rania Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

Please write to the Lead Member for Children's Services with details, I am sure he will be interested.

8.7 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan

Has the Mayor applied to DCLG for an exemption from the new rules allowing conversion from business to residential use without planning permission?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Yes the Council has submitted an exemption application.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Anwar Khan

Do you accept that the loss of business units to residential use would reduce job opportunities for local people? What lobbying are you undertaking to secure the exemption?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

We are lobbying and I would hope that you are lobbying too. We have applied for a blanket ban highlighting the number of town centres in the borough.

8.8 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed

Now that the Electoral Commission, Police and the Council have completed their investigations into alleged electoral fraud, can the Mayor tell us what their findings were and how much this has cost the ratepayers?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

The Electoral Commission published a 46-page report few weeks ago setting out its conclusions and recommendations based on the investigation carried out by the Metropolitan Police Service.

Of the astonishing 154 allegations of electoral fraud reported by Opposition councillors, the Police found no evidence of any offences having been committed.

The Electoral Commission made some recommendations for action by the Council, the Police, elected representatives and others involved in the political process in Tower Hamlets.

We estimate that the cost for the investigation by three agencies to be at least 100k of public funds; money anyone could ill afford at a time of austerity.

This is yet another distraction from the work of the mayor to deliver for the residents of this borough.

The Council is not complacent and we know it is vitally important to make sure our processes are robust. But at the same time it is simply not good enough for people to bring the entire electoral process into disrepute when results don't go their way.

No supplementary question arising from the above question or response was asked.

8.9 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson

Following the recent landmark vote to legalise gay marriage will the Mayor confirm that, once the Bill is enacted, he will allow gay marriages to take place in appropriate council premises?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

There has never been any suggestion that the Mayor would do otherwise and I wonder what has prompted Cllr Jackson to ask this question. The legislation would apply to all our venues and we welcome it.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Ann Jackson

I am pleased to hear it confirmed. The Mayor has regularly supported other equality issues and I would like to hear from him personally that he supports gay marriage.

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

As the Lead Member I and the Executive fully support all forms of equality.

8.10 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor please inform the council what additional posts are to be created (both directly employed and contractors) within the Mayor's Office as a result of the Mayoral Decision to increase the budget of his office by £296,000 against the democratic will of Full Council?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

You are asking the wrong question to the wrong person! I think what you should be asking is Boris Johnson about his advisers who have costs Londoners hundreds of thousand of pounds to no benefit. In contrast let me confirm for the record that our advisers actually add value to the business of the Council, playing an important part in the delivery of local services and the Mayor's priorities. Advisers cover public policy, localism, regeneration and there is more to come and I am happy to make you fully aware of what they do.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Peter Golds

I have an agenda for a Mayoral meeting held in the Town Hall which shows that one of his advisors was organising the election campaign. Are these funds to be used for the next election campaign?

Summary of Councillor Alibor Choudhury's response to the Supplementary Question

You cannot prove that what you have there is authentic.

8.11 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

What action the Mayor is taking to deal with the persistent problems of anti-social behaviour in Grove Hall Park?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

Thanks for bringing this matter to our attention Marc.

There have been few reports to the Council regarding ASB in Grove Hall Park in the past twelve months.

If you know of other incidents, please encourage the victims to report them so the police and Council have a greater body of evidence to act on.

The issue was also raised at the senior operations with the Police last week.

In addition to the patrols planned by the local Bow East SNT, the THEOs have been tasked to patrol the park and local area and engaged with a group of 15 young people found in the park after closing last week.

The officers will continue to patrol the location for the next two weeks and youth services are proactively engaging with local youngsters in the area as a priority to help the local community address this issue.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Marc Francis

I am surprised that there are few reports. I would highlight that there are significant numbers of incidents including for example the war memorial being vandalised and Bow East Safer Neighbourhood panel have consistently said it is a priority. Will you consider installing temporary CCTV in the park to tackle the problem?

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

I would urge people to report incidents to the police or they do not know there are problems. CCTV can help and if we become aware of more incidents then we will respond.

8.12 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Following the recent allegations and reports of an attempted break-in on the first floor of the Town Hall, can the Mayor update us on progress with the inquiries?

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

On the morning of 12th March officers identified that the locked door to an office in Mulberry Place may have been interfered with.

An investigation has been completed and no conclusive evidence was found to confirm that a break-in had been attempted.

Nevertheless, the Mayor shares the concern of officers and members that effective security is essential in all parts of council buildings and especially in areas where private and sensitive material may be stored.

Officers are therefore considering options as to how security in that particular part of the building, might be improved. Initial proposals have been shared with and endorsed by the Police.

May I just say this is yet another example of crying wolf, on the part of the opposition councillors, and going public before reporting any alleged wrong doing to the relevant authorities.

No supplementary question arising from the above question or response was asked.

8.13 Question from Councillor Abdal Ullah

With crime reported to be increasing in the borough can the Mayor say what steps he has taken to ensure that burglary and theft from homes and small

businesses is reduced? These are crimes which can have a devastating impact on those affected.

Response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

The Mayor is increasing the number of police officers and enforcement officers on the streets of Tower Hamlets.

The Mayor has funded 34 additional police officers and 10 enforcement officers.

But Boris Johnson's policing plan shows he has cut the number of police in Tower Hamlets by 93 since 2010.

The Mayor is campaigning against these mindless cuts.

The Mayor also supports the Police in their fight against Crime by:

- Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Drug intervention team,
- Providing funding for additional targeted operations that address the priorities of local people. Prime examples are The Dealer a Day initiative which led to over 365 arrests a year and the partnership task force which led to 800 arrests and 200 vehicle seizures
- Providing civil enforcement officers to deal with ASB problems and therefore freeing up the Police to focus on Crime.
- Linking the Police through the Councils CCTV network in order that an immediate response can be made.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Abdul Ullah

I am glad you note my success from my time as the Lead Member. There is an outcry that the CCTV cameras installed to target crime are now being used to issue fixed penalty notices.

Summary of Councillor Ohid Ahmed's response to the Supplementary Question

Officers can respond on any detailed queries. As a borough we are committed to CCTV which has been very successful. Many people come here to see our CCTV operation.

8.14 Question from Councillor Tim Archer

Will the Mayor detail how the Council is supporting the community right to acquire principles as enshrined in the Localism Act?

Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

We have of course fulfilled our obligations towards this new government policy.

You will of course be aware that this is not so much a right to acquire, as a right to bid.

Any individual or organisation is free to nominate a building or place to be included in the Assets of Community Value register, which is held at the Town Hall and available for inspection.

They can do this by contacting the Asset Management Team and following the advice on the “my community rights” website.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor Tim Archer

Have any potential assets been detected and are we in any discussions with local groups? Do you regret the previous sale of assets for knock down prices?

Summary of Councillor Alibor Choudhury’s response to the Supplementary Question

The policy is very new and so it is just bedding in. I can provide more information in due course if you would like.

8.15 Question from Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE

How many people in Tower Hamlets will be affected by the Government’s Benefit Cap and what impact does the Mayor expect this to have?

Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing

Based on data provided by the DWP in January, the Benefit Cap will impact on approximately 1,355 households – though we need to treat this estimate with some caution given our experience of issues with previous DWP information.

We anticipate an average shortfall of £101.00 per week for these households. The Mayor and I have been campaigning against this measure and working to prepare residents for the changes.

Summary of Supplementary Question from Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE

What actions has the Mayor taken to ensure good quality advice is being given to families affected by the cap?

Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the Supplementary Question

We have run a Prepare and Act Campaign to alert residents. We have worked with voluntary and Women's organisations and have carried out around 1000 home visits. Next Tuesday we are meeting with the Fawcett Society to discuss the impact of the reforms on women. You are welcome to join us.

Members' Questions 8.16 to 8.24 were not put at the meeting as the time allowed for Members' Questions had expired. Written responses were provided to the questions after the meeting and are included in Appendix A to these minutes.

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

Procedural Motion

Councillor Anwar Khan **moved** and Councillor Joshua Peck **seconded** a procedural motion: - That under Procedure Rule 14.1.12 the meeting be adjourned for a period of half an hour to allow for officer advice to be obtained.

The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The meeting adjourned at 21:55 and resumed at 22:35.

9.1 Gambling Act 2005 - Three year review of Gambling Policy

The Council considered the report of the Head of Paid Service and Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture on the review of the Gambling Policy.

Councillor Anwar Khan **moved** and Councillor Ann Jackson **seconded** an amendment to the recommendations to the report:

"To add to the report recommendations section:

That the Council note:

- That the Sustainable Communities Act allows councils to put forward proposals to Government for their consideration.
- That Mayor Jules Pipe of Hackney has written to borough leaders asking their support for a proposal to re-establish a specific planning class for betting shops which would allow local authorities greater opportunity to shape their high streets in accordance with the wishes of local residents.

- Currently the London boroughs of Hackney, Barking and Dagenham, Brent, Camden, Greenwich, Haringey, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Redbridge, Southwark, Sutton, Waltham Forest and Westminster have already signed up to support this joint proposal.
- Were this proposal enacted the Council would be granted additional powers to protect against the proliferation of gambling establishments which could damage the economic viability of our high streets by restricting the available retail space.
- That legislation also allows Council's to adopt 'no casino' policies as part of their policy frameworks

This Council resolves:

- To call upon the Mayor to support Mayor Pipe's initiative and to sign the Council up to joint application under the Sustainable Communities Act
- To call upon the Mayor to conduct a review of evidence on the social and economic impact of casinos as well as a consultation on whether to adopt a ban as part of the Licensing Policy review currently underway.

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

The recommendations in the report, as amended, were then put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

1. To agree the proposed Gambling Policy for adoption.
2. That the Council note:
 - That the Sustainable Communities Act allows councils to put forward proposals to Government for their consideration.
 - That Mayor Jules Pipe of Hackney has written to borough leaders asking their support for a proposal to re-establish a specific planning class for betting shops which would allow local authorities greater opportunity to shape their high streets in accordance with the wishes of local residents.
 - Currently the London boroughs of Hackney, Barking and Dagenham, Brent, Camden, Greenwich, Haringey, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Redbridge, Southwark, Sutton, Waltham Forest

and Westminster have already signed up to support this joint proposal.

- Were this proposal enacted the Council would be granted additional powers to protect against the proliferation of gambling establishments which could damage the economic viability of our high streets by restricting the available retail space.
- That legislation also allows Council's to adopt 'no casino' policies as part of their policy frameworks

3. This Council resolves:

- To call upon the Mayor to support Mayor Pipe's initiative and to sign the Council up to joint application under the Sustainable Communities Act
- To call upon the Mayor to conduct a review of evidence on the social and economic impact of casinos as well as a consultation on whether to adopt a ban as part of the Licensing Policy review currently underway.

9.2 Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park - Proposed Byelaws

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Communities Localities and Culture and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) on proposed by-laws for the Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park.

Councillor Ann Jackson **moved** and Councillor Joshua Peck **seconded** an amendment to the report recommendations:-

"To add to the report recommendations section:

This Council Notes:

- that some of our smallest 'pocket parks' are made unsuitable for use by residents, particularly children, as a result of dogs and their use as dog toilets
- that despite requests from members over many years, the Council continues to have no bye-laws that enables it to prohibit the use of unsuitable parks for the exercise of dogs.

This Council Resolves:

- To ask officers to develop and consult upon suitable bye-laws that would enable the consideration, on a case-by-case basis, of the prohibition of dog exercising in small pocket parks which, through

consultation with local residents, are deemed unsuitable, and to bring this forward for decision by Council within six months.”

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

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

RESOLVED

1. To approve the making of the two sets of byelaws for Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park which are set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report of the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services).
2. This Council Notes:
 - that some of our smallest ‘pocket parks’ are made unsuitable for use by residents, particularly children, as a result of dogs and their use as dog toilets;
 - that despite requests from members over many years, the Council continues to have no bye-laws that enables it to prohibit the use of unsuitable parks for the exercise of dogs.
3. This Council Resolves:
 - To ask officers to develop and consult upon suitable bye-laws that would enable the consideration, on a case-by-case basis, of the prohibition of dog exercising in small pocket parks which, through consultation with local residents, are deemed unsuitable, and to bring this forward for decision by Council within six months.

9.3 Local Development Framework (LDF): Managing Development - Development Plan Document Adoption

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director Development and Renewal on the Local Development Framework.

During discussion a number of Members expressed disappointment that the Council’s proposal for an Affordable Rent Policy had not been accepted. There was support expressed for officers to review this at the earliest opportunity and requests for Members to lobby in support.

Following debate, the recommendations in the officers’ report were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

1. To agree the recommendations stated in the Inspector's Report.
2. To adopt the MD DPD, including the main modifications recommended by the Inspector and the minor modifications, as a Development Plan Document which forms part of the Council's 'Local Plan'.
3. To authorise officers to prepare and publish an Adoption Statement as set out in regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
4. To agree to the removal from the Council's Local Plan of the superseded:
 - § Unitary Development Plan (1998), its retained policies and Proposals Map (as stated in Appendix 5 of the Core Strategy (2010)); and
 - § Interim Planning Guidance Core Strategy and Development Control Plan and Proposals Map (2007), City Fringe AAP (2007), Leaside AAP (2007) and Isle of Dogs AAP (2007).
5. To agree to the name change from 'Managing Development – Development Plan Document' to the 'Managing Development Document' to ensure compliance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

9.4 Localism Act 2011 - Pay Policy Statement 2013/14

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Resources on the Pay Policy Statement 2013/14.

Following debate, the recommendations in the officers' report were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

To adopt the authority's Pay Policy Statement for the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 as recommended by the Human Resources Committee and attached at Appendix 1 to the report of the Corporate Director, Resources.

9.5 Review of Virement Rules

The Council considered a **tabled** reference about the Council's virement rules from the General Purposes Committee. The reasons for urgency as stated in the reference were accepted, namely that:

"This report was not circulated with the Council agenda nor available for inspection within the timescales set out in the Authority's constitution because

of the short period available to compile the report following the meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 10th April 2013. The report is nevertheless recommended for consideration at this meeting in order to fulfil the instructions of the General Purposes Committee and ensure that there is no delay to the review of Virement Rules previously agreed by Members.”

A number of Members expressed concern that in the absence from the meeting of the Monitoring Officer, they understood that the meeting did not have access to an officer with delegated powers to advise on behalf of the Monitoring Officer on any proposed changes to the Constitution.

Councillor David Edgar **moved** and Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed **seconded** an amendment to the report recommendations:-

“To delete recommendation 2 in the report and replace with:

- Refer recommendations 1 to 4 in paragraph 2.3 of the report and the issue of virement limits more generally to a working group as previously agreed by the Council.
- The working group to be composed on a proportionate basis with expert input from a CIPFA advisor and an LGA advisor.
- The report from the working group to be received by the General Purposes Committee on 17th June with recommendations going to Council on 26th June.
- To refer the issue of virement rules to the LGA governance review.”

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

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

RESOLVED

1. That the Council consider the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee as set out paragraph 2.3 (1-10) of the reference from the Committee in the light of the officer advice at sections 5-8 of the reference.
2. To refer recommendations 1 to 4 in paragraph 2.3 of the report and the issue of virement limits more generally to a working group as previously agreed by the Council.
3. The working group to be composed on a proportionate basis with expert input from a CIPFA advisor and an LGA advisor.

4. The report from the working group to be received by the General Purposes Committee on 17 June 2013 with recommendations going to Council on 26 June 2013.
5. To refer the issue of virement rules to the LGA Governance review.

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

There was no business under this heading.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Calendar of Meetings 2013/14

The Council considered the report, and tabled amended update report, of the Service Head, Democratic Services proposing a Calendar of Committee meetings for 2013/14.

RESOLVED

To approve the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2013/14 as set out at Appendix A to the updated amended report of the Service Head, Democratic Services and as attached to these minutes at Appendix B.

11.2 Members' Allowances Scheme 2013/14

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services proposing the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14.

RESOLVED

That the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2013 be adopted as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

12.9 Motion regarding the bedroom tax

Councillor Rania Khan **moved** and Councillor Aminur Khan **seconded** the motion as printed on the agenda.

Councillor John Pierce **moved** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded** an amendment to the motion:-

“Under ‘This Council notes that’:

Add a bullet point which reads:

Some Councils around the country are investigating the redesignation of homes, where practical, in a bid to stop residents being penalised for living in ‘under-occupied’ homes.”

Under ‘This Council resolves’:

Add a bullet point which reads:

To call upon the Mayor to investigate the cost of redesignating homes, where possible, and the impact that this would have on the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's ability to build new homes in the future, and to report back to Council at its next ordinary meeting.”

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

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

RESOLVED

This Council notes that:

- On April 2 2013 another of the Government’s Welfare Changes came into effect.
- The Bedroom Tax is a reduction in Housing Benefit to households in Council and Housing Association properties, who are deemed to have extra bedrooms.
- Households will lose 14% of their rent if they have 1 extra bedroom and 25% of their rent if they have 2 or more extra bedrooms.
- The Bedroom Tax will affect thousands of residents in Tower Hamlets.
- Last month the government U-turn exempted Foster Carers, families of disabled siblings and families of service men and women from the tax.
- The Government’s own figures suggest that 420,000 disabled adults will be affected by this tax.
- The Council has launched a Prepare and Act Now Campaign to ensure that residents are aware of all the welfare changes and can seek advice and assistance from the Council and third sector organisations. Five events were held across the borough where residents could speak to Housing staff, Benefit Team staff, Skillsmatch and JCP staff, as well as staff from third sector advice agencies. There are a further four events planned during the summer.

- Some Councils around the country are investigating the redesignation of homes, where practical, in a bid to stop residents being penalised for living in 'under-occupied' homes.

This Council believes that:

- The government's U-turn demonstrates that this is a misguided policy
- These measures will have an adverse and disproportionate effect on Tower Hamlets residents, especially those already living on a low income.
- The Bedroom Tax disproportionately affects disabled residents, many of whom need an additional bedroom for medical reasons as well as due to large medical equipment and supplies.
- These measures will increase poverty, and reduce the ability for residents to adequately heat their homes and feed and clothe their children.

This Council resolves:

- To lobby against the coalition's policies which clearly have a discriminatory affect on the residents of Tower Hamlets.
- To call on the government to also except disabled adults from the Bedroom Tax.
- To continue to offer support and guidance to any families who find themselves in financial difficulties due to these changes
- To call upon the Mayor to investigate the cost of redesignating homes, where possible, and the impact that this would have on the Housing Revenue Account and the Council's ability to build new homes in the future, and to report back to Council at its next ordinary meeting.

12.1 Motion regarding Car Free Developments

The Legal Officer advised the Council that the existing Car Free Developments Policy was part of the Council's statutory Development Plan. The Permit Transfer Scheme was an operational change to that policy which was made following an investigation by officers of the perceived need and the impact it would have on the Council's parking network. It was likely that any extension of the Permit Transfer Scheme would need to be subject to a similar investigation.

Councillor M.A. Mukit MBE **moved** and Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed **seconded** the motion as printed on the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- The Permit Transfer Scheme (PTS) which allows some families to move to larger social rented homes in car free developments by allowing them to retain one on-street resident car parking permit.
- This scheme is designed to help to reduce the levels of overcrowding in social rented housing in the borough by enabling residents to move to properties which were previously off limits as they need access to a car.
- The Permit Transfer Scheme is only eligible to residents moving to three+ bedroom social rented car free homes

This Council further notes:

- According to the Tower Hamlets Housing List there are:
 - o 11,532 residents in need of a one bed property
 - o 5,093 residents in need of a two bed property
- Together these two categories represent 69% of those on the borough's housing waiting list.
- The Budget amendment presented by Councillors Khan and Gibbs in 2012 that proposed extending some Car Free Development permits to 1 and 2 bedroom properties
- That the Council resolved at the 2012 Budget meeting:
 - o That the Council further notes that residents are often forced to refuse much needed new homes in Car Free developments because they need a car.
 - o That the Council resolves to call on the Mayor to implement extended car free developments to one and two bedroom properties.

This Council Believes:

- The excluding one and two bedroom properties from the Permit Transfer Scheme means that many residents have to turn down one and two bedroom homes due to the lack of parking provision.
- That the inequality of access to the Permit Transfer Scheme between one/two bed properties and three+ bedroom families unnecessarily penalises smaller families.

- Extending the PTS would help to enable more residents to move into more appropriate property including downsizing, which in turn would create new opportunities to house larger families as well.
- That residents needing one and two bedroom properties may have as great a need for a car - because of age, disability, ill health, work or children for example - as those needing larger properties and is therefore discriminatory

This Council Resolves:

- To reissue our call on the Mayor to extend the Permit Transfer Scheme to one and two bedroom properties.

12.2 Motion regarding Mayor's Group Meeting

Councillor Peter Golds **moved** and Councillor David Snowdon **seconded** the motion as printed on the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

This Council notes the Minutes of the Mayor's Group Meeting, as published on a recent local blog, held in the Mayor's Office on 19th May 2012.

This meeting also notes:

- That the substantive subject of the Group Meeting regarded the organisation and funding for the 2014 election campaign.
- That the Mayor is asking each ward councillor "to seek out, identify local level multicultural issues and, in the words of the agenda, deliver", and that this group is to be a "parallel campaign for the ward councillors and Mayor"
- That the Mayor's Community Liaison Officer, a PO6 grade council employee, on the staff of the Mayor's office is listed as campaign Leader whose tasks include "identifying a team to collect data and identify Vote ID", preparing calling cards and literature "per ward" and setting up a bank account.
- That 10 ward supporters/stakeholders are to be identified in each ward and that the Mayor is to "lead induction/training" for these stakeholders.
- This Council further notes that it is illegal to use council facilities and staff for electoral and partisan political purposes.

The Council calls upon the Head of Paid Service to appoint an independent investigator into this and subsequent meetings of this group in order to identify all misuse of public funds by using council facilities and officers for political campaign activity.

The Council expects this investigation be undertaken promptly and a full report, including recommended actions be submitted for consideration by the full council.

That a copy of the Agenda for the 19th May Mayoral Group Meeting be sent to the District Auditor along with this resolution, to ensure that any potentially improper use of facilities and officers is fully investigated."

12.7 Motion regarding the Women's Library

Councillor Denise Jones **moved** and Councillor Rachel Saunders **seconded** the motion as printed on the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

This Council notes:

- In 1997, the Council agreed to the disposal of land at Oldcastle Street to the London Guildhall University/Fawcett Library to support the conversion of the old Bath Houses into the Women's Library building. The Fawcett Library collection then expanded into the new building.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund donated over £4 million, being 75% of the costs of the land and development of the building. The council donated 25% of the land value and the University paid the balance of 25%.
- As a result of this financial support and commitment, the Council is represented on the Women's Library Council. It was agreed that Library facilities should be made available free of charge at all opening times to Members and officers of the Council, local school use, students in the Borough, a defined list of Local History Societies and Charities in the Borough, all residents with Library/Leisure passes for 20 days a year. The disposal was conditional upon a separate agreement to ensure the University provided the existing Barrow Store for Petticoat Lane market and the Community School.
- In the spring 2012, London Metropolitan University Trust (previously Guildhall University) agreed they could no longer find the revenue costs to operate the Women's Library and started a process to dispose of the Collections. Most Members of the Women's Library Council were not

informed of the process until the press carried the announcement that LSE had agreed to take the collections.

- In mid-summer, MPs, Lords, London Assembly Members, Local Councillors, Residents, Trade Unions, Academics, Architects and local residents formed the 'Save the Women's Library Campaign' with the campaign objective of keeping the collections in the building.
- Save The Women's Library Campaign called on the Heritage Lottery Fund to intervene, in line with the original objectives of its grant, to keep the library in its home. To date the Heritage Lottery Fund has not intervened to this effect.
- While the collections have been preserved, London Metropolitan University made no attempt to keep them in its own building.
- The Women's Library collections have now been taken on by London School of Economics and are currently being transferred there.
- Whilst the Women's Library building has been registered as a Community Asset with the council, the future of the building in Oldcastle Street is uncertain.

This Council believes:

- The Women's Library collections belong in Tower Hamlets with its proud women's history.
- The Women's Library Council, on which Tower Hamlets Council is represented, was not adequately consulted about the disposal of the collection or the future of the building.
- The Council made an investment in the Women's Library building in good faith that the building would remain in women's and community use.
- It would be wholly inappropriate for the investment made by Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund to be lost and for the Women's Library building to revert to generic university use.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund should be asked to intervene to ensure that the Women's Library Building retains a community use.

This Council resolves:

- To formally investigate the conditions attached to the sale agreement of the old bath houses by Tower Hamlets Council.
- To call on the Heritage Lottery Fund to claw back the grant that it made in the building, should the building revert from women's and community use.

- To recognise the Women's Library as a community asset for women's and community use.

12.4 Motion regarding Open Spaces Strategy

Councillor Amy Whitelock **moved** and Councillor Carlo Gibbs **seconded** the motion as printed on the agenda.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

This Council Notes:

- The motion passed by Council on the 16th May 2012 which resolved:
 - o To amend the Open Spaces Strategy to include a section on Commercial Events in parks, to reflect the prior decisions of Council, that:

In regards to Victoria Park:

- Limits the number of large commercial music events in the park to six days each year;
- Prevents the park being used for commercial events on consecutive weekends throughout the summer, with at least two weekends free after a weekend of events;
- Sets a closing time for events to 10pm;
- Sets a reduced noise levels for commercial events.

In regards to Sir John McDougal Gardens, Millwall Park and Island Gardens:

- Prevents the holding of commercial events.

In regards to the gardens at Trinity Square:

- Allow the use for weddings but prevent the holding of other commercial events.

- o To exclude the Live Site events in Victoria Park in 2012 from the above.
- The resolution of Council on 8 December 2010 calling on the Mayor to put limits on the use of Victoria Park for commercial events, whilst still recognising that some events should still be allowed
- The resolution of Council on 21 December 2011 asking that Sir John McDougal Gardens, Millwall Park and Island Gardens should not be made available for commercial events.

- That over 400 residents signed a petition presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, calling for the number of events to be reduced.
- That no amended Open Spaces Strategy has been presented to Council even though it is included in the list of policies reserved for Council who have expressed a will to see the policy amended.
- The serious damage done to the park by last Summer's commercial events and the continued degradation of the park.

This Council Believes:

- That the Mayor should respect the democratic mandate of the Council and the wishes of residents and bring forward a revised Open Spaces Strategy which reflects the stated position of Council.
- That a failure to do so not only fails to show regard for the Council's democratic ruling but also leaves the Council open to unnecessary legal challenge.
- That the adoption of this amendment would be in the interests of local residents and those visiting the borough as it would provide a sustainable and manageable basis on which to hold commercial events.
- The events in excess of the cap proposed by Council will have a detrimental effect on local residents and users of the park.

This Council Resolves:

- That the Mayor should bring forward a renewed Open Spaces Strategy to the next ordinary Council meeting including within it the amendments set out above.

[Note: Motions 12.3, 12.5, 12.6, 12.8, 12.10, 12.11, 12.12, 12.13 and 12.14 were not considered due to lack of time.]

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No motion to exclude the press and public was passed.

14. EXEMPT MINUTES

The Exempt minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 23 January 2013 had been agreed under Item 3 above.

The meeting ended at 11.40 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

APPENDIX A – WRITTEN ANSWERS TO PUBLIC AND MEMBERS' QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT PUT AT THE MEETING

6.4 Question from Ms Denisa Limani

Will the Mayor tell us the impact of Labour party's decision to cut funding to engage with disable, elderly and hard-to-reach community groups will have on the council's long term finances?

[This question was not put at the meeting as the questioner was not present.]

Written response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

In amongst Labour's chaotic response to the Mayor's budget, was the decision to reduce the funding for events for the disabled, the elderly and the third sector from £150k to £39k. They chose to make this cut instead of using money available for this purpose from Council reserves. The £111k they've taken out represents 0.3% of reserves and 0.03% of the overall Council budget. And will have very little impact on the council's long term finances.

It will play absolutely no role in helping to solve the so called "black hole", which will instead be managed by sensible long term financial planning. What it will do is reduce the ability to deliver high quality events to the most vulnerable and isolated in our community.

This is not an outcome we would ever advocate, but you will have to ask our colleagues on the Labour benches, why they chose this course of action.

8.16 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum

Given the draconian welfare reform measures the Tory-led Government has introduced from 1st April, can the Mayor tell us what he is doing to support Tower Hamlets residents?

Written response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

The Mayor has established a Tower Hamlets Welfare Reform Task Group. Led by the Local Authority, it brings together representatives of services from within the Council and from partners from across the borough, including the NHS, housing providers and advice and support agencies. We have also formed strong links with local colleagues from DWP with regular engagement and attendance from JobCentre Plus at the Task Group and in delivering outcomes for residents.

This has allowed us to coordinate key actions and initiatives across the local area, which will allow us to be well placed to lead on a local response to the wider reforms.

Key actions so far include;

- home visits to every household significantly affected by the benefits cap,
- all households impacted by the under occupation charge otherwise known as the “bedroom tax” have been contacted by the Benefits Service,
- the Benefits Service have also liaised with all Social Sector Housing providers to notify them of the households affected,
- an ongoing range of welfare benefits drop in events, where residents are able to seek advice from a range of Council and third sector services;
- a training programme for front line Staff and practitioners across health, social care and education;
- a range of localised resources on our dedicated website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/welfarereform; and close working with JobCentre Plus on helping residents to get residents into work.

8.17 Question from Councillor John Pierce

What locally based provision will be delivered by the Mayor through the newly devolved Social Fund?

Written response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

Crisis & Support Grants have replaced the DWP’s Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants. The criteria for eligibility and awards have not been changed, so residents can apply in the same circumstances to receive support with no need to repay anything.

To qualify, applicants must be 16 or over and not subject to immigration controls. Usually they must also be resident in the borough and receiving Housing Benefit and they must not be subject to welfare sanctions (unless their application is submitted by a support worker from the council or one of its partners).

Crisis & Support Grants are targeted at the most financially vulnerable residents who find themselves under additional pressure, and need support so they and their families can continue to live safely and independently. Although many of these people will be affected by the government’s wider welfare reforms, Crisis & Support Grants will not replace any lost benefits and are only awarded according to individual circumstances.

For further information and online applications, please see www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/crisisandsupport or email enquiries to crisisandsupport@towerhamlets.gov.uk

8.18 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel

What is the Mayor doing to prevent and clear up Dog Fouling on the Isle of Dogs?

Written response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Environment

The Council street sweeping contractor clears all dog fouling from our streets. All incidents of dog fouling should be reported to the Council's 'Streetline' number on 0207 364 5004.

The Council's animal wardens deal with stray dogs and enforce legislation concerning fouling. Patrols are targeted in areas where fouling is persistent. Education initiatives are undertaken to improve behaviour, and awareness roadshows have been undertaken on the Isle of Dogs. Island Homes also commissions the service to provide extra patrols and initiatives on the Island.

Dedicated Children's play areas in Borough Parks are designed as dog free and Park Wardens seek to educate dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs.

8.19 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

What impact does the Mayor expect his decision to cut 5% from the staffing budgets of the borough's adults and children's social workers, to have on the delivery of services to the most vulnerable in the borough?

Written response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

The vacancy factor is an adjustment to budgets to reflect the actual level of vacancies that exist at any point during the year. There is no reduction in the number of posts on the establishment. It is not expected that the introduction of a 5% vacancy factor in the staffing budgets for the Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate will have any impact on the delivery of services to the most vulnerable in the Borough. Firstly, the vacancy factor has been introduced across the entire Directorate, i.e. support staff as well as operational staff and secondly, over the course of a year, vacancies in operational social work posts are usually in excess of 5% as a consequence of normal staff turnover. This initiative simply removes the flexibility that has previously existed in staff budgets and discourages the excessive use of agency staff for cover during the recruitment process, although it has been set at a level that acknowledges that in certain services this is unavoidable. There will be no reduction in posts as a result of this saving.

8.20 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

With the Tory-Labour coalition's continued obsession with the Mayor; what steps is the Mayor taking to ensure that he continues to deliver for the residents of this borough, which he was overwhelmingly elected to do, despite the divisive rhetoric from the opposition?

Written response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Deputy Mayor

While the Tower Hamlets Tory-Labour coalition work hand in glove against the democratic wishes of the people of Tower Hamlets, this Mayor is getting on with the business of delivering on his priorities.

Here is an overview of what the Mayor is doing to improve residents' quality of life:

1. a new £1 million scheme to protect vulnerable residents in temporary accommodation from the impact of central government's welfare reforms.
2. free school meals for all reception and Year 1 pupils in primary schools for two academic years starting from September 2013, providing free and healthy lunches for an extra 3,943 children.
3. a new higher Mayor's education bursary worth more than £1 million in total, to help students with the burden of university costs.
4. 10 extra THEOS – Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers – and additional CCTV surveillance for two years.
5. £200,000 to repair potholes on roads across the borough to make roads safer for cyclists.
6. £100,000 for measures to promote cycling safety, with cycle routes for example.
7. £3million towards a multi-faith burial site, to reduce the financial burden residents currently face when burying loved ones outside the borough.
8. £1 million towards the borough's Community Faith Buildings scheme, to fund building improvements and repairs to places of worship of all faiths.
9. £800,000 for a borough-wide deep clean and education programme to include extra litter pickers and a greater focus on removing graffiti and chewing gum.
10. £355,000 to improve four of the borough's business and shopping areas: Roman Road market, Brick Lane, Bethnal Green market and Burdett Road.

8.21 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs

Does the Mayor believe a £1m discretionary payments fund will be sufficient enough to mitigate the impact of welfare cuts?

Written response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

No-one knows what the impact of welfare cuts will be, although it is estimated that the amount of benefit lost to residents in the Borough will be around £14.7m. There is a real risk that many of the most vulnerable residents of the Borough are among those likely to be hardest hit. The intention is not to assist every household affected, which would be unaffordable, but to target the most exceptional cases.

The Mayor's allocation focuses on the impact on households in temporary accommodation and involves a decision to set aside funding for various actions to bridge the gap between households' disposable income and rental payments. Spending will be directed towards those people who occupy temporary accommodation in consequence of the Council having accepted a housing duty under Part 7 of the Housing Act. The funding would be directed towards rental bridging in the most exceptional cases and is expected to assist on average two in every fifteen households.

There are two other 'pots' available to support those affected by welfare reform;

- Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) funding of £2.2m, provided through the benefits system in special circumstances to support those entitled to housing benefits who are unable to pay their housing costs. This funding from the Government has been increased in recognition of benefits reform but is not considered to be in any way adequate to the purpose.
- Crisis and Support Grants (Social Fund) of £1.4m, which is a responsibility taken over from DWP for providing 'stop-gap' funding for essentials to those in need of emergency support. This is not new money but more of it is likely to be directed towards those affected by welfare reform.

The Mayor is also funding the Council Tax Support scheme at the level of the former Council Tax Benefit Scheme, despite the £2.7m cut in Government funding. Finally the budget also earmarked £1m of the authority's general contingency with a view to using this to support the impact of welfare reform.

It needs to be emphasised that this funding may prove inadequate in the face of the impact of benefits change but the Council can- only do so much in the face of Government policy while dealing with a reducing budget itself. It is important that the funding we have available is targeted at those who are

most in need. In the event that further costs arise for the Council as a result of welfare reform, which may include indirect costs arising from the impact on, for example, family breakdown and child welfare, Council contingencies and reserves would need to be called upon.

8.22 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Why is the Mayor carrying out a second costly review of East End Life, which Government legislation will abolish before the end of the Parliament, given one was carried out in 2011, and how much will this review cost?

Written response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources

The Council adheres to Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, which was published by the Government in 2011.

Further to the publication of this Code, a review was taken into East End Life which found that 72 per cent of respondents supported the publication. It also concluded that a weekly publication was the most cost effective way of fulfilling the council's legal duty to inform the local community and promote race equality, healthy lifestyles and positive change such as recycling.

At the close of this review, the council stated that it would continue to monitor the financial performance of East End Life to ensure that it continues to fulfil the needs of our local community.

A new review of the paper will specifically respond to the issues raised as a result of the Budget Council decision in March 2013 to cut funding to the paper. This includes undertaking an Equalities Impact Assessment on the options, considering the financial and contractual implications of closure, consulting with staff and unions, considering alternative procurement arrangements and considering the impact of the change on the council's duty to promote social cohesion.

In order to comply with the relevant procurement and organisational review procedures, this review will take between 9 and 12 months.

It is not currently anticipated that there will be any additional costs for this review to be undertaken.

8.23 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

The Women's library is an important community resource and one which the Council actively supported when negotiating the transfer of the Old Baths building to house the collection. Does the Mayor agree with me that now the London Metropolitan University Trust have decided to give the collection to

the LSE the building should be retained as a community and specifically women's resource?

Written response by Councillor Rania Khan, Cabinet Member for Culture

Yes the Mayor agrees that the building should be retained as a community resource for women.

The Council successfully listed the building as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011 which means it cannot be sold by London Metropolitan University Trust without first giving community interest groups an opportunity to buy it at market value.

8.24 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones

Will the Mayor please comment on the High Court's decision on March 8 that Tower Hamlets council was following an unlawful policy in discriminating against family and friends carers as they were not eligible to be paid the fee/reward part of the fostering allowance paid to professional carers?

Written response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Tower Hamlets has a published policy and schedule for the remuneration of foster carers approved by the council and caring for children looked after by the council. These will have been some of the documents considered by Ofsted when they inspected the fostering service in May 2012 and evaluated the service to be "good" with outstanding features. In common with other local authorities, the policy sets out eligibility for the payments described within the schedule which contains a number of elements which are related to the needs of the child and the status of the foster carer. Also, in common with other local authorities, the policy and schedule differentiate between foster carers who are approved to look after children in general (i.e. children that are not related to them) and those who are approved for specific children who are related to them. The Tower Hamlets schedule includes the following elements:

- the boarding out allowance (an age related payment made per child and intended to cover the costs of the day to day care of the child);
- enhanced allowance (which may be paid in recognition of ongoing additional needs of the child, e.g. a disability);
- additional allowances paid for a specified reason (holiday, birthday, celebration);
- a reward (the fee paid to unrelated foster carers in recognition of them taking in unrelated children, attending training courses, availability etc).

The boarding out allowance paid to all foster carers by the council is in line with the minimum payment recommended by the Department for Education and intended to cover the total payment to a foster carer for the care of a

looked after child. In addition, foster carers all receive enhanced / additional payments according to the needs and circumstances of the child. The payment of the reward to unrelated foster carers is intended to provide an incentive to those carers to encourage them to develop their skills and expertise in looking after vulnerable children and in recognition of their availability to look after these children. The council believes that, whilst it is appropriate to support those who are assisting with the care of children from their extended family, it is appropriate to reward those who are willing and able to look after children from the community in general and to treat that as a career.

The decision of the court in this case concerns the interpretation of government regulations which, the court acknowledged, are by no means absolutely clear. The court has ordered that the council review the remuneration policy in order that it does not distinguish between foster carers solely on the basis of whether or not they are related to the children that they are looking after. Whilst officers have commenced this work, consideration is also being given to an appeal against the decision of the High Court on the basis that the council believes that it is appropriate to be able to reward those who are extending their role to providing a service to the community in general.

APPENDIX B - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2013/2014 MUNICIPAL YEAR

	USUAL MEETING DAY	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Audit Committee	7.00 pm Tuesday		25			17			17			18				
Cabinet	5.30 pm Wednesday	8	5	3 24		11	2	6	4	8	5	5	2	28*	25*	
Council	7.30 pm Wednesday	22	26			18		27		22	26	6 (Thu)% 26		14 (AGM) *	11 (AGM) *	
Development Committee	7.00 pm Wednesday	15	19	17 (5.30 pm)	14	12 (Thu)	9	14 (Thu)	11	15	12	12	9	7	4	
Appeals/Sub Committee	6.30 pm Monday	14 (Tue)	10, 24	22	19	23	14	18	16	20	17	24	28	12	16	
General Purposes Committee	7.00 pm Wednesday		17 (Mon)			25			18			19				
Health Scrutiny Panel	6.30 pm Tuesday		11			3		19		28		11				
Human Resources Committee	7.30 pm Wednesday			2 (Tue)			30			29		12				

	USUAL MEETING DAY	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
King George's Field Charity Board	6.30 pm Wednesday		12				16			29		19				
Licensing Committee	7.00 pm Tuesday		4				8		10			11				
Licensing Sub Committee	6.30 pm Tuesday or Thursday	2 (Thu) 16 (Thu) 30 (Thu)	11 25	16 23	6 20	3 17	1 17 (Thu) 29	12 26	12 (Thu) 19 (Thu)	14 28	11	4 13 (Thu) 25	8 22	8 (Thu) 20	3 17	1
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7.30 pm Tuesday	7	4	2 23 (5.30 pm)		10	1	5	3	7 20 (Mon) ^	4	4	1	27*	24*	
Pensions Committee	6.30 pm Thursday		13			19		14			25 (Tue)					
Standards (Advisory) Committee	7.30 pm Tuesday		18				24 (Thu)			14		18				
Strategic Development Committee	7.00 pm Thursday		13	18 (5.30 pm)	29		10	21		9	25 (Tue)		10	15		3
Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board	Dates set by the Board		20 (Thu)			30 (Mon)			19 (Thu)							

Key to Symbols

* These dates are dependent on the date of the 2014 local elections

^ Additional Overview and Scrutiny Meeting specifically to consider the draft budget proposals

% Provisional second budget Council date if budget not agreed at first meeting

NOTES:

- OTHER MEETINGS including Appointments Sub-Committee arranged on an ad hoc basis as required. Investment Panel meetings will be scheduled on the same day as Pensions Committee (after Pensions Committee on 13 June and before it on the other dates)
- BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX SETTING: Statutory deadline 10th March. Date of meeting set to enable receipt of GLA precept information.
- ELECTIONS: Local Government Elections – 1st May 2014 or combined with European Elections (likely 22nd May 2014)
- RAMADAN provisional dates: 9th July 2013 – 8th August 2013 (to be confirmed) and 18th June – 17th July 2014 (to be confirmed)
- ROSH HASHANAH - 5th & 6th September 2013; YOM KIPPUR – 14th September 2013
- EID-UL-ADHA provisional date: 15th October 2012, ASHURA: 13th November 2012
- EASTER 2013: Good Friday 18th April 2014, Easter Monday 21st April 2014.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND MAY 2013

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

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	Councillor Anwar Khan
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Lesley Pavitt
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Mizan Chaudhury	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Zara Davis	Councillor Gulam Robbani
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Gloria Thienel
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Carlo Gibbs	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Kosru Uddin
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Ann Jackson	Councillor Amy Whitelock

The meeting commenced at 7.35 p.m.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Rajib Ahmed, in the chair

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Judith Gardner, Sirajul Islam, Rabina Khan, Oliur Rahman and David Snowdon.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

3. ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Rajib Ahmed, addressed the meeting about his year in office. He thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity of being Speaker in a busy and rewarding year which included major events such as the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympic Games.

He stated that he had been extremely fortunate to attend over 350 wonderful events and meet the energetic and vibrant Tower Hamlets community. Amongst many other experiences the Civic Awards Ceremony had been a highlight of the year. He also enjoyed attending the citizenship ceremonies and urged all Councillors to take part to welcome new citizens to the borough.

Councillor Ahmed reported that he had worked hard to raise over £22k for his charities and he thanked everyone who had supported him in those endeavours. Finally he thanked colleagues and residents for their support and enthusiasm, thanked the civic office staff and his drivers for their hard work, and wished his successor good luck in the role.

Councillor Rachel Saunders thanked and congratulated Councillor Rajib Ahmed for his year in office. In particular she highlighted his work to raise the profile of Bangladeshi music and culture and his general work in promoting unity. Councillors Peter Golds, Fozol Miah and Ohid Ahmed also spoke to thank Councillor Rajib Ahmed for his work as Speaker, in particular praising his charitable fund raising.

The Speaker then called for nominations to serve as Speaker of the Tower Hamlets Council for the coming year.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Rachel Saunders, **SECONDED** by Councillor Abdal Ullah and

RESOLVED

That Councillor Lesley Pavitt be elected to serve as Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council until the Annual Council Meeting in May/June 2014.

Councillors Rachel Saunders and Abdal Ullah then came forward to witness the Speaker of the Council signing the statutory declaration of office.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Lesley Pavitt, in the Chair

The incoming Speaker thanked Councillor Rajib Ahmed for his hard work over the last year and in particular for supporting her as Deputy Speaker. She stated it was a real honour to be elected and she looked forward to working with Councillors from all parties.

Councillor Pavitt stated that she saw the role of Speaker as having three main elements. Firstly, chairing the Council meeting. In that role she would expect

proper behaviour from all Councillors and from public attendees and for her part she intended to ensure that all views were able to be heard and where possible to alternate speakers between the political groups. Secondly, it was important for the Speaker to highlight the good work in the borough. Councillor Pavitt was anticipating visiting many organisations across the local community to hear about, and thank them for their efforts and she would have a particular focus on older residents of the borough. Thirdly, Councillor Pavitt was looking forward to her role representing the borough to the wider world.

In addition to the above she also intended to take part in welcoming new citizens to the borough at the Citizenship Ceremonies and she encouraged all Councillors to make themselves available to help at these events.

Finally, the Speaker announced that she had chosen two charities based in the borough to support during her year in office. These were Magic Me, which aims to bring different generations together through creative activity; and Cardboard Citizens, which changes the lives of homeless and displaced people through theatre and the performing arts.

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Speaker sought nominations to serve as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year. It was **moved** by Councillor Rachael Saunders, **seconded** by Councillor Joshua Peck and

RESOLVED

That Councillor M. A. Mukit MBE be elected to serve as Deputy Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council until the Annual Council Meeting in May/June 2014.

5. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

There were no announcements.

6. MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Mayor's report, setting out the Executive Scheme of Delegation and the arrangements for executive decision making by the Mayor and Cabinet Members, was circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Mayor's Executive Scheme of Delegation be noted.

7. PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services, setting out the review of proportionality and proposing the establishment of the Council's committees and panels for 2013/14.

RESOLVED

1. That the review of proportionality be noted.
2. That committees and panels be established for the Municipal Year 2013/14, and places be allocated on those committees and panels, as set out in the table below:-

	Total	Labour	Conser- vative	Respect	Un- grouped
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	1	1	2
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	1		2
Appeals Committee	9	5	1		3
Audit Committee	7	4	1		2
Development Committee	7	4	1	1	1
Strategic Development Committee	9	5	2		2
General Purposes Committee	7	4	1		2
Human Resources Committee	7	4	1		2
Licensing Committee	15	8	2	1	4
Pensions Committee	7	4	1		2
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 7 co-optees)	7	4	1	1	1

8. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL

A schedule was tabled setting out the nominations received from the political groups and independent Councillors to serve as (a) chairs and (b) members of the committees and panels established by the Council.

RESOLVED

1. That the chairs of committees for 2013/14 be appointed as listed at Appendix A attached to these minutes.
2. That the members and deputy members be appointed to the committees and panels of the Council and other bodies for the

municipal year 2013/14 as set out at Appendix B attached to these minutes.

3. That in relation to any unfilled places within the seats allocated to a particular political group, the Council note that the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) has delegated authority subsequently to agree the appointments to those places in accordance with nominations from the relevant political group.
4. That in relation to any 'ungrouped' positions remaining unfilled, the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) be authorised to invite expressions of interest from the ungrouped Councillors and to make appointments to those positions following consultation with the Members concerned and the Speaker of the Council.

The meeting ended at 8.09 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

APPENDIX A**Appointment of Committee Chairs 2013/14**

Article 8 of the Council's Constitution states that 'the Council will appoint a Member to serve as Chair of each Committee that it appoints under this Article. If the Council does not, the Committee may appoint a Chair from amongst the Members appointed to the Committee by the Council. Each Committee may appoint a Vice-Chair from amongst its Members.'

In accordance with the above, the Council on 22nd May 2013 appointed the Chairs of the committees listed below, to serve for the remainder of the municipal year 2013/14 (or until either they resign the position, are no longer a member of the Council or the Committee concerned or a successor is appointed, whichever is the sooner).

Committee	Chair
Appeals Committee	Cllr Bill Turner
Audit Committee	Cllr Mizanur Chaudhury
Development/Strategic Development Committee	Cllr Helal Abbas
General Purposes Committee	Cllr Shiria Khatun
Human Resources Committee	Cllr Carlo Gibbs
Licensing Committee	Cllr Carli Harper-Penman
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman
Pensions Committee	Cllr Zenith Rahman

APPENDIX B

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS - COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 2013-2014
APPOINTMENTS AGREED AT THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 22ND MAY 2013**

APPEALS COMMITTEE (Nine members of the Council)			
<i>Labour Group (5)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (3)</i>
Cllr Bill Turner (Chair) Cllr Khales Uddin Ahmed Cllr Mizan Chaudhury Cllr John Pierce Cllr Helal Uddin Deputies:- Cllr Lesley Pavitt Cllr Kosru Uddin Cllr Joshua Peck	Cllr Gloria Thienel Deputies:- Cllr Zara Davis	n/a	Cllr Oliur Rahman (Ind) Cllr Lutfa Begum (Ind) (1 vacancy)

AUDIT COMMITTEE			
(Seven members of the Council)			
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (2)</i>
Cllr Mizanur Chaudhury (Chair) Cllr Carlo Gibbs Cllr M A Mukit MBE Cllr Kosru Uddin Deputies:- Cllr Judith Gardiner Cllr Denise Jones Cllr Zenith Rahman	Cllr Craig Aston Deputies:- Cllr Tim Archer Cllr David Snowdon	n/a	Cllr Stephanie Eaton (LD) Cllr Shafiqul Haque (Ind)

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Seven members of the Council)			
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (1)</i>	<i>Others (1)</i>
Cllr Helal Abbas (Chair) Cllr Judith Gardiner Cllr Anwar Khan Cllr Kosru Uddin Deputies:- Cllr Rajib Ahmed Cllr Carli Harper-Penman Cllr Denise Jones	Cllr Tim Archer Deputies:- Cllr Zara Davis Cllr Peter Golds	(1 vacancy)	Cllr Gulam Robbani (Ind) Deputy:- Cllr Maium Miah (Ind)

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(Nine members of the Council)

<i>Labour Group (5)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (2)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (2)</i>
<p>Cllr Helal Abbas (Chair) Cllr Rajib Ahmed Cllr Marc Francis Cllr Carli Harper-Penman Cllr Denise Jones</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Carlo Gibbs Cllr Joshua Peck Cllr Helal Uddin</p>	<p>Cllr Dr Emma Jones Cllr Zara Davis</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Tim Archer Cllr Peter Golds</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Cllr Kabir Ahmed (Ind) Cllr Maium Miah (Ind)</p> <p>Deputy:- Cllr Shahed Ali (Ind)</p>

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (Seven members of the Council)			
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (2)</i>
<p>Cllr Shiria Khatun (Chair) Cllr Rajib Ahmed Cllr Marc Francis Cllr John Pierce</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Khaless Uddin Ahmed Cllr M A Mukit MBE Cllr Bill Turner</p>	<p>Cllr Craig Aston</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Peter Golds Cllr David Snowdon</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Cllr Alibor Choudhury (Ind) Cllr Aminur Khan (Ind)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (Seven members of the Council)</p>			
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (2)</i>
<p>Cllr Carlo Gibbs (Chair) Cllr David Edgar Cllr Shiria Khatun Cllr John Pierce</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Sirajul Islam Cllr M A Mukit MBE Cllr Rachael Saunders</p>	<p>Cllr Gloria Thienel</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Craig Aston Cllr Peter Golds</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Cllr Alibor Choudhury (Ind) Cllr Oliur Rahman (Ind)</p>

LICENSING COMMITTEE			
(Fifteen Members of the Council) (No Deputies permitted)			
<i>Labour Group (8)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (2)</i>	<i>Respect Group (1)</i>	<i>Others (4)</i>
Cllr Carli Harper-Penman (Chair) Cllr Rajib Ahmed Cllr Khales Uddin Ahmed Cllr David Edgar Cllr Marc Francis Cllr Ann Jackson Cllr Denise Jones Cllr Joshua Peck	Cllr Peter Golds Cllr David Snowdon	(1 vacancy)	Cllr Maium Miah (Ind) (3 vacancies)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(Nine members of the Council plus six co-opted members)

Labour Group (5)	Conservative Group (1)	Respect Group (1)	Others (2)	Co-opted Members (for information – to be appointed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
<p>Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman (Chair) Cllr Rachael Saunders Cllr Helal Uddin Cllr Abdal Ullah Cllr Amy Whitelock</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Helal Abbas Cllr Khaled Uddin Ahmed Cllr Judith Gardiner</p>	<p>Cllr David Snowdon</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Tim Archer Cllr Peter Golds</p>	<p>Cllr Fozol Miah</p> <p>Deputy:- Cllr Harun Miah</p>	<p>Cllr Stephanie Eaton (LD) (1 vacancy)</p>	<p>Mr Mushfique Uddin – Muslim Community representative</p> <p>Vacancy – Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster representative</p> <p>Dr Phillip Rice - Church of England Diocese representative</p> <p>Parent Governor representatives:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory Kampiyamo • Nozrul Mustafa • Revd James Olanipekun

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL (Nominations for information - Panel to be appointed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee) (Seven members of the Council)			
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (2)</i>
Cllr David Edgar Cllr M A Mukit MBE Cllr Zenith Rahman Cllr Rachael Saunders Deputies:- Cllr Anwar Khan Cllr Bill Turner Cllr Amy Whitelock	Cllr Dr Emma Jones Deputies:- Cllr Peter Golds	n/a	Cllr Lutfa Begum (Ind) Cllr Gulam Robbani (Ind) Co-opted Members:- To be appointed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

PENSIONS COMMITTEE (Seven Members of the Council)			
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (0)</i>	<i>Others (2)</i>
<p>Cllr Zenith Rahman (Chair) Cllr Judith Gardiner Cllr Ann Jackson Cllr Shiria Khatun</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr David Edgar Cllr Marc Francis Cllr John Pierce</p>	<p>Cllr Craig Aston</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Tim Archer Cllr David Snowdon</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Cllr Oliur Rahman (Ind) (1 vacancy)</p> <p>Co-opted Members:-</p> <p>Mr Frank West (non-voting trade union representative)</p> <p>Mr John Gray (non-voting admitted bodies representative)</p>

STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Seven Members of the Council (who may not include the Mayor or more than one other Cabinet Member) - plus up to seven co-opted members, one of whom shall chair the Committee)				
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group (1)</i>	<i>Others (1)</i>	<i>Co-opted Members</i>
<p>Cllr David Edgar Cllr Judith Gardiner Cllr Sirajul Islam Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Mizanur Chaudhury Cllr Ann Jackson Cllr M A Mukit MBE</p>	<p>Cllr Zara Davis</p> <p>Deputies:- Cllr Dr Emma Jones Cllr Gloria Thienel</p>	<p>Cllr Fozol Miah</p> <p>Deputy:- Cllr Harun Miah</p>	<p>Cllr Abdul Asad (Ind)</p> <p>Deputy:- Cllr Rofique U Ahmed (Ind)</p>	<p>Mr Matthew Rowe (Chair) Mr Eric Pemberton (Vice-Chair) Ms Salina Bagum Mr Denzil Johnson Mr Barry Lowe (2 vacancies)</p>

ADOPTION PANEL

(To comprise two Social Workers, one elected Member, three Independent Persons and to include one man and one woman, up to a maximum of ten persons)

<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>	<i>Respect Group</i>	<i>Others</i>
Cllr Bill Turner Deputies:- Cllr Ann Jackson Cllr Shiria Khatun	n/a	n/a	n/a

FOSTERING PANEL

(To comprise two Social Workers, one elected Member and four Independent Persons, up to a maximum of ten persons)

<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>	<i>Respect Group</i>	<i>Others</i>
Cllr Lesley Pavitt Deputies:- Cllr John Pierce Cllr Shiria Khatun	n/a	n/a	n/a

CORPORATE PARENTING STEERING GROUP			
(Cabinet Member for Children's Services, other Councillor(s), a Corporate Director and two Young People's Representatives)			
<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>	<i>Respect Group</i>	<i>Others</i>
Cllr Bill Turner Deputies:- Cllr David Edgar Cllr Zenith Rahman	n/a	n/a	Cllr Oliur Rahman

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)			
(To comprise members appointed by the LEA)			
<i>Labour Group (2)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Respect Group</i>	<i>Others</i>
Cllr Zenith Rahman (1 vacancy) Deputies:- Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman Cllr Shiria Khatun	Cllr Peter Golds	n/a	n/a

TO NOTE POLITICAL GROUP APPOINTMENTS

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Labour Group | - | Leader of the Labour Group | - | Councillor Sirajul Islam |
| | | Deputy Leader of the Labour Group | - | Councillor Rachael Saunders |
| Conservative Group | - | Leader of the Conservative Group | - | Councillor Peter Golds |
| | | Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group | - | Councillor David Snowdon |
| Respect Group | - | Leader of the Respect Group | - | Councillor Fozol Miah |
| | | Deputy Leader of the Respect Group | - | Councillor Harun Miah |

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2013

PETITIONS

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

SUMMARY

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be received at each Council Meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 26th June 2013.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 20th June. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. In each case the petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the petitioners for a further four minutes. Finally, the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair of Committee may respond to the 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 Petition against the closure of the Isle of Dogs Police Station (Petition from A.Sheridan and others)

We, the undersigned residents of Isle of Dogs, are writing in support of Mayor Lutfur Rahman and local Cllr. Maium Miah, to protest Boris Johnson's decision to cut police funding across the capital that will lead to the closure of the Isle of Dogs Police Station. The police station is a valued community resource and we believe that its closure will put the safety and wellbeing of thousands of residents in jeopardy. We call on Boris Johnson to reverse his decision.

5.2 Petition against Casinos and Betting Shops in Tower Hamlets (Petition from Kelly Begum and others)

We, the undersigned, are concerned about the large number of betting shops and adult amusement arcades being opened in the borough and their impact on children and vulnerable adults as a result. We are also worried about the effects this may have on the level of crime in the borough.

We urge the Council to proactively work to minimise any adverse effects this may have. We also urge the Council prevent 'casinos' being established in Tower Hamlets.

5.3 Petition regarding benefit cuts and the 'bedroom tax' (Petition from Eileen Short on behalf of Tower Hamlets Benefit Justice).

The bedroom tax will hit at least 4,000 households in Tower Hamlets, benefit caps another 3,264. The Council say this will cause more poverty, rent arrears, homelessness, overcrowding and force some people to move out of London.

Disabled people face the end of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with the government aiming for a 28% cut in support.

1. We oppose all benefit cuts. The government is trying to scapegoat and divide people so they can make the poor pay for the economic crisis we did not cause.
2. We oppose any evictions and legal action for arrears due to these benefit cuts.
3. Tower Hamlets Council should help and support those affected and commit not to evict anyone in arrears due to benefit cuts. It should call on other local landlords to do the same.
4. Councillors must link up across London and nationally to support campaigns for Benefit Justice and to actively oppose benefit cuts.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2013

**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 Mayor or appropriate Cabinet Member or committee chair at the Council Meeting on 26th June 2013.
2. The Council's Constitution sets a maximum time limit of twenty 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 question 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 twenty 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 Speaker of Council 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

Nine questions have been submitted as set out below:-

6.1 Question from Mr Muhammad Haque, Organiser, the KHOODEELAAR! Campaign in Defence of the Community in the East End of London

What is Tower Hamlets Council's Constitutionally installed and transparently DEMOCRATICALLY active audit procedure for overseeing the conduct of those bodies especially the ones that have been allowed to take over the control of formerly Council-owned and Council controlled Housing stock in the context of the clear and the express undertaking given by LBTH Council to the Community and parts of the Community in the Borough on the relevant estates affected by the implications of the stock transfer procedures that were put into operation?

6.2 Question from Ms Janet Wade

Can the Mayor please tell us why he has still failed to bring forward the amended Open Spaces Strategy to full council, despite Full Council twice passing a motion on 16 May 2012 and 17 April 2013 to limit the number of events in Victoria Park to 6 days each year, prevent the park being used for commercial events on consecutive weekends, set a closing time for events to 10pm and a reduced noise limit for commercial events, and to prevent commercial events being held in Sir John McDougal Gardens, Millwall Park, Island Gardens and the gardens at Trinity Square?

6.3 Question from Mr Steven Barthram, Branch Chairman, Newham and Tower Hamlets Multiple Sclerosis Society

Recently I was pleased to learn that our high streets including Roman Road Market will receive a cash injection of some £355K following your recent budget, to encourage local economic growth. But, Mr Mayor, residents are unaware how an earlier more substantial investment was utilised to regenerate the Roman Road market area. Can you therefore give us a complete breakdown of how the £1.6 million was spent, and will you please undertake a full Mayoral Inquiry into the spending of this vast sum of money?

6.4 Question from Mr Syed Akamot Ali, Tower Hamlets Traders Business Association UK

Can the Mayor explain why he removed the gangway between stalls in Whitechapel? When will he reinstate the lavatory in Whitechapel Market for stall holders and residents? When will he improve the Whitechapel Market surface and provide decent permanent stall infrastructure?

6.5 Question from Mr Nic Bentley

Could the Mayor of Tower Hamlets tell me what public consultation the council has taken around Thames Water's proposal to use the Highway Business Park, Heckford St as a potential site for a tunnelling site of the Thames Tideway Tunnel?

6.6 Question from Ms Kathy McTasney

As the community begin to feel the full impact of the Tory government's Bedroom Tax. Can the Mayor update this meeting and the community what the Council is doing to support residents who are and will be adversely affected.

6.7 Question from Mr Omar Sharif

What is the council doing to address the conduct of councillors during council meetings?

6.8 Question from Mr Yousuf Khan

Is the mayor aware of the work of the Students Rights organisation on university campuses?

6.9 Question from Mr Abjol Miah

Will the council join me in condemning the abhorrent murder in Woolwich and the subsequent reprisals by the Far Right EDL?

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2013

**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 the Executive at the Council meeting on Wednesday 26th June 2013.
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 Speaker 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

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

8.1 Question from Councillor Mizanaur Choudhury

Referring to Boris Johnson's proposed fire station cuts the Mayor said in East End Life recently, and I quote "its essential that we take every chance to support the campaign against these cuts". Can he then tell the Council why he failed to turn up to the crucial public consultation on fire station closures on the 7th May and why he has consistently missed key London Councils meetings on police and fire station closures?

8.2 Question from Councillor Zara Davis

In the Mayor of London's '2020 Vision' for the city, he cited the City Fringe as an opportunity area. What collaboration between the Council and the Mayor's office has already taken place, and is planned to take place, to develop a cohesive vision and generate jobs in this area?

8.3 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed

Does the Mayor think it is right that after he urged the Boundary Commission to cut the number of councillors, Tower Hamlets will now have one councillor per 4,417 residents yet Kensington and Chelsea will have only 2,270 per councillor? Why should poorer areas like Tower Hamlets have fewer councillors?

8.4 Question from Councillor Fozol Miah

Could the lead member say what the council is doing to monitor the impact of the bedroom tax on those renting homes in Tower Hamlets and in receipt of benefit?

8.5 Question from Councillor Motin Uz Zaman

Market stalls are fantastic examples of our community's small businesses and we should be supporting them. Recently I met market traders in Whitechapel who told me you have cut pitch sizes for traders in Whitechapel and across the borough. Why have you done this?

8.6 Question from Councillor David Snowdon

How much has been spent over the past year within the Mayor's Office on Communications and Marketing related activities?

8.7 Question from Councillor Denise Jones

At our last ordinary meeting the Council passed a motion asking among other things for the Mayor to investigate the status of the investment made by Tower Hamlets in the Women's Library building and to recognise the building as a community asset. We have since learnt that London Metropolitan University have appointed architects to redesign the interior of the Women's Library so that they can use it as lecture space. Can the Mayor update the Council on what action he and his officers have taken since the Council motion in April?

8.8 Question from Councillor Maium Miah

Is the Mayor aware that the Far Right EDL are planning to march in Tower Hamlets in August, and what steps has he taken to ensure that these extremists do not come to our borough?

8.9 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock

Local residents from the Longnor Estate have been raising concerns via their Tenants and Residents Association and through councillors about cars speeding round the corner from Bancroft road, which is a dangerous blindspot and suffers increased congestion from both Queen Mary University and Mile End Hospital. Can the Mayor please advise what traffic calming and road safety measures are under consideration for the Longnor Estate, given the high number of families and pensioners living in the area, in response to these concerns?

8.10 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

How many staff are employed in the Communications and Marketing Team at Tower Hamlets Council?

8.11 Question from Councillor John Pierce

How much has the Mayor spent on the road works/changes on Bethnal Green Road near the junctions of Chilton Street and St Matthew's Row? What is the aim of these works? What consultation was had with local residents and stakeholders?

8.12 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Could the lead member say if the council has made any assessment of the likely impact of the PFI payments for the new Royal London Hospital on the financial situation of the local health economy in Tower Hamlets?

8.13 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

What plans does the Mayor have to extend the pilot food waste recycling service in blocks owned by East Thames Housing, Poplar HARCA and THCH to other housing associations and private developments?

8.14 Question from Councillor Gloria Thienel

Given the prolonged disruptions caused by roadworks on the Isle of Dogs, what is the Mayor doing to ensure that utility companies complete works within a reasonable period?

8.15 Question from Councillor Helal Abbas

Residents have received letters telling them that the Mayor and his deputy are taking enforcement action in Cudworth St to remove illegally parked taxis. The situation is back to normal again and therefore could the Mayor outline a long term plan for dealing with problems in this area?

8.16 Question from Councillor Kabir Ahmed

I would like to congratulate the Mayor for his leadership on the UNITE partnership project, and ask what does he envisage for the future of the community centre?

8.17 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam

The Tory bedroom tax is now doing real harm to many of our residents, and the benefit cap will have a major impact very soon. What real practical steps is the Independent Mayor taking to protect residents from these Tory attacks? How many Tower Hamlets households have been moved out of the borough in the last year, and how many are in bed and breakfast accommodation?

8.18 Question from Councillor Dr Emma Jones

What are the Council's plans for alterations to Wapping Woods?

8.19 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders

The Independent Mayor signed the Time to Change Pledge. What has he done to implement it?

8.20 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

Was the Mayor aware of Baroness Estelle Morris's recent column in the Guardian, singing the praises of our local schools? Will he join me in congratulating our teachers, parents and pupils for their remarkable achievements?

8.21 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck

How many pubs have closed in the borough in each of the last five years?

8.22 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Evidence has been given to me indicating Tower Hamlets Homes leaseholders are being charged £135 each time bulk waste is collected from their estates. Can the Mayor give me an explanation why this is?

8.23 Question from Councillor Carlo Gibbs

What will the council do to prevent a repeat of the unlicensed "Canalival" event last month?"

8.24 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

Does the Mayor agree with me that the recent opening of Watney Market Idea Store, in contrast to other boroughs such as Brent which has closed six libraries, shows that Tower Hamlets is truly leading the way in offering an alternative to austerity and Tory cuts?

8.25 Question from Councillor Anwar Khan

How many people has Skillsmatch placed into work in each of the last five years, and what postcode areas did the people who got jobs live in?

8.26 Question from Councillor Tim Archer

Can the Mayor please reassure us that he would oppose any plans to build on Sir John McDougall Gardens, or develop the park in any way not in keeping with its status as a park?

8.27 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson

Can the Independent Mayor tell me what costs were incurred in putting Victoria park to rights as regards ground damage last year after Lovebox and live nation; and what costs were reclaimed from promoters.

8.28 Question from Councillor Lutfa Begum

What is the Mayor doing to ensure that our young people are supported in going on to further and higher education?

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2013

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
(LEGAL SERVICES)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Council's Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) must report annually to the Council documenting the Committee's activities during the past year.
- 1.2 The OSC considered and approved its annual report for the year 2012-13 at the meeting of the Committee held on 7th May 2013. The annual report is attached for Members' information.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council note the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2012-13 as attached.

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

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

Background paper	Name and telephone number of and address where open to inspection
None	n/a

3. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair's Foreword – Councillor Ann Jackson

- 3.1 The Committee worked exceptionally well this year, gaining a degree of comfort on its position as an apolitical reviewer, and on its ability to debate issues well and thoroughly. We continued to promote the borough's interests at all times during our reviews and call-ins, and strove to not get drawn into the increasingly heated political issues and fights surrounding Tower Hamlets. Members have continued to be constructive despite these difficulties.
- 3.2 The complexity, seriousness and sensitivity of call-ins this year has increased; due to continuing budget constraints and disputed mayoral decisions. The committee has been exemplary in its attempts to respond positively, thoughtfully, and in depth – offering alternatives where at all possible. All members have been strenuously careful to consider all business on its merits and our co-optees have made a great leap forward in their contribution too, bringing their invaluable advice and local insight to the committee. This has been helped by the committee's overall expectation that all will contribute. The reception of OSC's responses by the Mayor and Cabinet have continued to be disappointing and have not been as constructive as could have been hoped for, and expected, given last year's promise to consider our recommendations in more detail.
- 3.3 Our model for scrutinising the budget continued to work well and will continue. We have changed the committee's agenda methods to take account of the changes in how the Cabinet and Mayor consider business. Scrutiny can now respond to executive decisions, reviews, and call-ins, as well as Cabinet. It can also organise spotlight discussions on areas of concern or interest, not just standard and regular presentations, thus offering insight and critical friend observations where needed. In all, this is an efficient and comprehensive scrutiny model. Alongside this, members working party reviews are due to conclude this month and promise to offer excellent recommendations for change in the council, as was the case last year. We have acknowledged that scrutiny finds it hard to work well where there is no measured reception for its conclusions, but nevertheless the work has been done, and must continue to be done.
- 3.4 Finally, I would like to once again give thanks to officers and OSC members for all their hard work and perseverance in continuing to do what was needed this past year; we worked as a team, we again weathered the storms, produced an excellent budget response, both gained and contributed further invaluable expertise in many portfolio areas as well as the council's constitution. My thanks to you all.

Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny

- 3.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has a range of functions which enable it to be a key part of local democratic accountability by holding the executive leadership and other local partners to account. The committee scrutinises key decisions referred by other councillors through the call-in process; reviews all the main strategic documents, and contributes to policy development through the scrutiny review process. One of its most important roles is in reviewing the budget put forward by the executive, ensuring value for money and equality of opportunity for all residents.
- 3.6 2012-13 was another challenging year for OSC. The council remains under significant pressure to meet its savings targets, with further cuts in Government funding looming. The impact of welfare reforms on the borough and its residents is significant and damaging, as they are for many households in London, squeezing incomes further and making Tower Hamlets completely unaffordable for many. How the council responds to these changes, understanding their impact and working with partners to support residents is crucial. Furthermore, supporting residents to be successful in education and employment is more important than ever. With this in mind, the OSC has overseen two scrutiny reviews into important issues this year – youth unemployment and post-16 attainment.
- 3.7 To help draft this annual review, all OSC members have reflected on those things that have gone well, and those less well, as well as their key challenges and priorities for 2012-13. Their responses have been incorporated in this report.

Membership of OSC

- 3.8 Reflecting the changing political balance of the council the committee's membership changed in July 2012. The number of Labour councillors changed from six to five and one position was allocated for an independent councillor. The committee now comprises five Labour councillors, and one councillor each from the Conservative, Respect and Liberal Democrat parties and one independent councillor. The independent councillor role has been vacant since July 2012. Cllr Judith Gardiner served as the sixth Labour councillor from May 2012 to July 2012.
- 3.9 As well as councillors there are six education co-optee positions on the committee including three positions for parent governors, and one each for the Church of England Diocese, the Roman Catholic Diocese and the Muslim community. In 2012-13 two of the parent governor representative positions were renewed: Revered James Olanipekun was re-appointed and one new parent governor representative, Nozrul Musafa, was appointed. Also in 2012-13, Canon Michael Ainsworth, who has been the Church of England Diocese representative for some years, stepped down from the Committee. He was replaced

immediately by Dr Philip Rice. Therefore all of the co-optee positions were filled with the exception of the Roman Catholic Diocese representative.

3.10 Six committee members were designated scrutiny leads and assigned a portfolio aligned to each directorate. The committee membership for 2011-12 was as follows:

- Cllr Ann Jackson (Labour), Chair
- Cllr Rachael Saunders (Labour), Vice-Chair and scrutiny lead for Adults Health and Wellbeing
- Cllr Amy Whitelock (Labour), scrutiny lead for Children Schools and Families
- Cllr Helal Uddin (Labour), scrutiny lead for Resources
- Cllr Sirajul Islam (Labour), scrutiny lead for Development and Renewal
- Cllr Judith Gardiner (Labour), scrutiny lead for Communities, Localities and Culture (May – July 2012)
- Cllr Tim Archer (Conservative), scrutiny lead for Chief Executive's
- Cllr Stephanie Eaton (Liberal Democrat), scrutiny lead for Communities, Localities and Culture
- Cllr Fozol Miah (Respect)
- Rev James Olanipekun (parent governor)
- Nozrul Mustafa (parent governor)
- Memory Kampiyawo (parent governor)
- Dr Philip Rice (Church of England Diocese)
- Mushfique Uddin (Muslim community representative)
- Vacant (Roman Catholic Diocese)

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012-13

3.11 The committee agreed its work programme following a workshop to discuss a range of options. The committee agreed to undertake three scrutiny reviews, and then to use different, less resource intensive, methods to investigate other issues of concern and interest.

Budget

3.12 Following the success of the budget scrutiny process in 2011-12, OSC was keen to ensure it played a key role in the budget setting process in 2012-13. Rather than meeting with each directorate before the budget proposals were announced, as was the case last year, OSC held two extraordinary meetings in January to consider the budget proposals in detail. This enabled scrutiny members to gain a good understanding of the budget position of each directorate, the cost pressures they faced and the likely impact that savings proposals would have. The Committee's comments were finalised at their meeting in February and fed back to Cabinet. Following amendments to the budget proposals at that Cabinet meeting, OSC held another extraordinary meeting to

consider the proposals before the budget was considered by full Council.

- 3.13 In May 2013 the Committee considered the impact of some of the budget decisions on two services – adult social care and communications.
- 3.14 *Youth unemployment*
This year Cllr Jackson is leading an important review into youth unemployment and the barriers that young people face in securing employment. This review spans different directorates and has involved working closely with a range of stakeholders including schools, Tower Hamlets College, and Skillsmatch.
- 3.15 The review started by looking at the two scrutiny reviews which had been undertaken on youth unemployment in previous years, examining the delivery of the recommendations which emerged from these pieces of work and their impact on levels of unemployment. In addition to this review work, the views of young people from the borough were sought and a number of suggestions on how young people themselves, schools and other organisations, and employers could improve preparedness for the world of work, were identified.
- 3.16 An exercise to identify the various providers of post-16 support for young people in order to both map the support they provide and appraise their impact was undertaken. The review paid particular attention to apprenticeships as a key routeway for young people into work, focussing on how the apprenticeship offer can be made clearer and more accessible to young people. The review is due to be completed by May 2013 and will report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June.
- Children Schools and Families*
- 3.17 Scrutiny of the Children, Schools and Families Directorate, now part of the Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate, focused this year on post-16 attainment. This has been identified as an issue, and a priority area for action by a number of stakeholders, including the Mayor and the directorate, and it was felt that the focus of a scrutiny review could add value to the efforts to improve attainment at this level. The outstanding progress that has been made with GCSE results in Tower Hamlets has not been seen in post-16 and members were keen to understand more about why this is and what could be done to address it.
- 3.18 The review is being led by Cllr Amy Whitelock and the review group have worked closely with officers from Education, Social Care and Wellbeing. The review began by looking in detail at the data in relation to post-16 attainment, by subject and school, and then considered some of the factors which influence good attainment at this level and progression to a good quality and appropriate higher education course.

So far the review group have heard from headteachers, higher education institutions, consultants working in other local area on post-16 and higher education, and sixth form students themselves. The review aims to report on its recommendations at OSC in June 2013.

- 3.19 In 2011-12 Cllr Whitelock led a review on the impact of the restructure of Children's Centres. The recommendations of that review were agreed at Cabinet in 2012-13 and in April 2013 OSC received a report updating the Committee on progress against those recommendations. It welcomed the fact that almost all recommendations had been implemented, in particular the review of job description and therefore pay scale of the administrative officers in children's centres, who provide a vital role within each centre which should be recognised.

Communities Localities and Culture

- 3.20 In her scrutiny of the CLC directorate Cllr Eaton has focused on the use of data in understanding and improving community safety, undertaking a desktop research based review. It considers the ways in which crime is measured, and some of the limitations of considering only the number of crimes reported to the Police. The review also considers the way crime data is used locally, particularly looking at data over time. It suggests that more use could be made of trend data and of data from different partners which illustrates the impact of crime.

- 3.21 Crime and policing has also been considered by the Committee a number of times in its monthly meetings. In July 2012 Andy Bamber, Service Head for Community Services gave a presentation to OSC on the changes to the way Police services are commissioned in London. He set out the likely impact of the abolishing of the Metropolitan Police Authority and the introduction of the Police and Crime Commission, on policing in Tower Hamlets. Members raised a range of questions on how this would impact on addressing local priorities such as anti-social behaviour and drug-related crime.

- 3.22 In December 2012 the new Borough Commander spoke to the OSC for the first time, presenting the latest crime statistics and discussing his policing priorities. Discussions focused on tackling anti-social behaviour, and violent crime and violence against women and girls.

Development and Renewal

- 3.23 In 2012-13, scrutiny of the Development and Renewal concentrated on some of the changes to housing regulation introduced in the Localism Act, through a scrutiny review, led by Cllr Sirajul Islam, on co-regulation and tenant scrutiny. The overall aim of the Review was to get a clearer understanding of how Registered Housing Providers (RPs) are held to account and performance managed through co-regulation and how Elected Members can best support this framework. The review will be addressing three key questions:

- § How is co-regulation working across RP's and what are the current strengths, gaps, challenges and opportunities?

- § How can Elected Members work effectively with tenant scrutiny members in holding housing providers to account?
- § What is the appropriate role of councillors in the new co-regulation framework particularly in relations to dealing with tenant complaints as set out in the Localism Act?

- 3.24 In working towards addressing these questions, a series of evidence gathering meetings were held, both formal and informal, with a range of witnesses. These included; senior officers from five local partner RP's and internal RSL Partnerships Officers. It took evidence from the Housing Ombudsman Services and the Tenant Participation Advice Service (TPAS). In addition to this, the lead scrutiny officer went and observed a full tenant scrutiny panel meeting organised by Tower Hamlets Homes.
- 3.25 The review is due to be completed by May 2013 and will report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June with a set of recommendations.
- 3.26 Members also chose to undertake a challenge session as part of their work programme, focused on housing and lettings for those with mental health problems. The aim of the challenge session was to investigate the issues that people with mental ill health face in relation to housing, particularly in relation to prioritisation on the grounds of health need. It explored whether the current lettings process discriminates against people with mental health problems by not treating mental health need equally with physical health need in prioritisation decisions. Members highlighted and addressed aspects of the lettings process that have a disproportionate impact on people with mental health issues accessing housing in the borough via the Common Housing Register. Members put forward a number of recommendations for consideration as part of discussions around the future direction of the Housing Service.
- 3.27 In addition to the scrutiny reviews, D&R services were considered in other ways this year by the Committee. In July 2012 the Service Head for Resources in Development and Renewal updated the Committee on progress with both the employment and enterprise strategies. In December 2012, the Lead Member for Housing and relevant officers gave OSC members an update on strategic housing issues. This included the achievements through the 2009-12 Housing Strategy, the new tenancy strategy, efforts to address under-occupation, co-operation with RSLs and activities by the service going forward.
- 3.28 In March 2013, the committee considered progress taken to implement the findings of the Scrutiny review into Asset Management lead by Cllr Islam in 2011. This review made a number of recommendations relating to potential savings, increased transparency and energy efficiency. In response to the review, Cabinet agreed an action plan which addressed the recommendations. In March 2013 the Committee received an update report on progress made in implementing these

recommendations. The Committee welcomed actions taken to date especially in relation to the mapping of Council assets to identify those which were surplus to requirements and could be made available to community groups through flexible lease arrangements. Questions were raised by members of the Committee about whether a statement on usage of safe and sustainable materials was needed to ensure that a commitment to environmental sustainability informs all procurement decisions. Officers present highlighted the recent decision by Cabinet to include a requirement to use sustainably produced timber in its procurement policy.

- 3.29 The Committee received a presentation on the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy consultation document. The Committee raised questions about the current level of corporate social responsibility activity by businesses in the borough, particularly by Canary Wharf businesses and suggested that these should be further developed to have greater impact. It was also noted that the findings of the 2011 scrutiny review into Asset Management were particularly relevant to the voluntary and community sector and that these issues should be addressed in the final strategy.
- 3.30 In March 2013 the Committee received a presentation on the Faith Buildings Support Scheme. This was a new project which various Committee members were keen to discuss, following concerns raised by different community groups. The co-opted member representing the Church of England diocese in particular was able to represent the views of the church community and convey those concerns. Overall the committee welcomed the scheme but raised questions about governance and indicated this was something they would like to consider again in 2013-14.
- 3.31 Cllr Helal Uddin led on a review of the Mainstream Grants process and a scoping document was agreed by the review group. This review was originally planned to take place in early 2013. However due to delays in the grants allocation process this review was delayed.

Adults Health and Wellbeing

- 3.32 Scrutiny of adult social care and health services was chiefly done through Health Scrutiny Panel (see below). However, scrutiny of the adult social care budget position was an important concern for members this year, and following the budget setting process, the committee had a focused discussion on this part of the Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate, in May 2013.

Chief Executive's

- 3.33 Scrutiny of the Chief Executive's Directorate focused on a range of issues this year. Firstly, the committee was keen to understand more about Election Services, the impact of changes in regulation and the efforts to tackle electoral fraud in the borough. This was done through a series of presentations by the Assistant Chief Executive for Legal Services and the Service Manager for Election Services.

- 3.34 Secondly, the committee considered the Financial Inclusion Strategy, a major piece of work which has been led by the Corporate Strategy and Equality Service. This is a partnership strategy and has the aim of making Tower Hamlets a financial inclusive borough.
- 3.35 In October 2012 the committee received an update on the scrutiny review of supporting new communities which was undertaken in 2010-11. The original review was led by Cllr Omer and the update was provided by the One Tower Hamlets team. The update focused mostly on the success of the New Resident and Refugee Forum, run by local organisation Praxis on behalf of the council, to understand and address some of the challenges faced by new communities within the borough.
- 3.36 Cllr Archer continued his scrutiny of the role East End Life and the costs associated with it. The committee was keen to understand the impact and implementation of the full Council budget decision in relation to East End Life and the Service Head for Communications discussed this with the Committee in May 2013.
- 3.37 Finally, Cllr Archer has undertaken scrutiny review work which considers the role of the Chief Executive and how this works in other councils, in particular those who also have a directly elected Mayor.
- 3.38 *Resources*
Following on from the 2011-12 budget scrutiny process, the Committee sought to track progress on the implementation of savings in a number of areas, including the strategic partnership for IT service with Agilisys. The Corporate Director for Resources presented a six month update. The Committee welcomed the assurance from officers that all staff who had transferred to Agilisys had had their terms and conditions protected and were benefiting from expanded development opportunities.
- Call-ins*
- 3.39 There was a fall in the number of call-ins in 2012/13 with six compared to ten in 2011/12. The following reports were called-in:
- Review of Tower Hamlets Artwork
 - Mainstream Grants Programme
 - Review of East End Life
 - Budget Implementation 2013/14 No1 (East End Life)
 - Budget Implementation 2013/14 No 2 (Mayoral Advisors)
 - Sutton Street Depot – successful bidder request for amendment of terms of lease
- The Review of Tower Hamlets Artwork, chiefly concerned with the future of the Henry Moore sculpture *Draped Seated Woman* was referred back to Cabinet. The Mainstream Grants Programme was called in twice – once after the first set of grant allocations were published and discussed at Cabinet in October 2012, and again when

revised allocations were agreed. An extraordinary meeting of OSC was held in December 2012 to consider this call-in the second time.

Policy Framework

- 3.40 The committee plays an important role in scrutinising policy framework items, making comments and recommendations in relation to such items before they go to Cabinet and then full council. However, the committee considered only one such report this year, the Gambling Policy in March 2013.

Scrutiny 'spotlights' and presentations at meetings

- 3.41 The committee were able to scrutinise and comment on a range of key policy and service issues through specific presentations and discussions, as well as the regular scrutiny 'spotlights', question and answer sessions with the mayor and lead members, senior officers and partners. In 2011-12 the committee heard from the following:
- The Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets
 - Borough Commander on local crime and policing issues

Other regular items

- 3.42 The committee receives a series of regular reports which support its performance management function and provide an overview of council activities. These are an important source of information for the committee which inform future work planning. These reports include:
- Complaints and Information Annual Report and a new Enforcement Report.
 - Strategic performance and corporate revenue and capital budget monitoring report, received quarterly;

Health Scrutiny Panel 2012-13

- 3.43 Given the scale and pace of on-going changes in the health sector, Health Scrutiny Panel continued to face a significant challenge in understanding what these will mean for local service provision. However they were also keen to take a strong overview of the responsiveness of local providers to the views of residents, and their overall contribution to addressing health inequalities and increasing the wellbeing of local people. With this in mind, HSP identified three main workstreams for 2012-13:
- Scrutiny of Barts Health NHS Trust
 - Accountability
 - Understanding health promotion across the life course
- 3.44 One of the most significant changes locally was the formation of the new Barts Health NHS Trust in April 2012. Senior managers from Barts Health presented to HSP regularly throughout the year on a range of issues including their Quality Accounts, the vision and strategy for the newly formed trust, their engagement work with patients and the steps they will need to take to become a Foundation Trust. Health Scrutiny Panel members also visited the New Royal London Hospital.

- 3.45 In terms of accountability the panel considered the engagement strategies of different providers and focused in particular on the development of Healthwatch and the commissioning process for that provision by the council. They were also keen to hold the new Health and Wellbeing Board to account, through scrutiny of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the borough.
- 3.46 To understand health promotion across the life course, as advocated by Sir Michael Marmot, the panel undertook a range of activities including two scrutiny reviews and by dedicating meetings to a stage in the life course and understanding how partners work together to promote health for that group. The November 2012 HSP meeting focused on children and early years and it is the intention that the first meeting of 2013-14 focuses on young adults.
- 3.47 The Panel undertook two reviews this year: a review of the Healthy Borough Programme which came to an end in 2011 and an investigation into the potential for a Community Assets approach to health promotion to improve health outcomes in the borough. The Panel were keen to understand how the transfer of public health to the local authority could be best managed to benefit local people. The Healthy Borough programme was the single largest health promotion programme ever delivered by the Council and was embedded across the organisation. The review sought to evaluate the success of its constituent projects as well as the lessons learned from work to embed health promotion across a wide range of Council services to generate recommendations to inform plans to inform the transfer of public health to the Council. The review group heard from a wide range of stakeholders from the voluntary sector as well as Council services and the NHS.
- 3.48 The Community Assets review also offered the potential for the Panel to develop its understanding of effective health promotion in the context of the transfer of public health to the Council. The review looked at the role of 'community assets' in promoting health and wellbeing. Research has shown that working at a neighbourhood level to strengthen community assets and empower local people to be active partners in the development of local health programmes can have a positive impact on health outcomes. The review involved conducting a mapping exercise of community assets in St Paul's Way and holding interviews with key community leaders and organisations. This case study provided the evidence for recommendations about how a community assets approach to health promotion could help strengthen the work of public health following the transition to the Council.

Conclusions and looking ahead to 2013-14

- 3.49 Feedback from OSC has indicated a broad agreement that, despite the challenges, 2012/13 has been a productive year with good quality

debate on a broad range of issues. Issues and topics were addressed in a number of different ways, including spotlight sessions during OSC meetings, one off Challenge Sessions and Reviews supported by officers from the Corporate Strategy and Equality Service. This flexible approach has proved an effective way to utilise the resources available to support scrutiny.

- 3.50 The Committee welcomed the engagement of the Mayor and Cabinet members with the OSC in early part of the year and noted that the attendance of Lead members and Mayor at OSC meetings had enabled the Committee to play its scrutiny role effectively. Conversely, where issues were discussed without the Lead members present the Committee felt they were less able to fulfil their role. It was noted that the Mayor had not attended the Committee in relation to the Call-Ins of Executive Decisions.
- 3.51 In identifying priorities and challenges for the year ahead, members emphasised how important it will be for OSC to hold the Mayor to account effectively. They hoped to have the opportunity to discuss issues directly with him and his Cabinet members in the new municipal year. They also proposed that the OSC reinstate Directorate spotlight sessions in the forward plan of Committee meetings.
- 3.52 For 2013-14 a variety of issues and topics have already been suggested by members for consideration by OSC and the HSP when developing their work programmes. These include:
- Monitoring the implementation of savings in the Council's medium term financial plan and Budget for 2013-14 and their impact on service delivery and performance
 - Review the Council's approach to Mainstream Grants and how this relates to the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy
 - On-going monitoring of work to address the findings of the Electoral Commission investigation into the conduct of elections in Tower Hamlets
 - The functioning of the new Education, Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate.
 - The projected shortage of school places
 - The impact of recent and upcoming changes to welfare benefits on local residents
 - Financial management of the council beyond 2014
 - The transfer of public health into the local authority

4. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 4.1 Article 6.03 (d) of the council's constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to full council on its work. The report submitted to council following this consideration will fulfil that obligation.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 5.1 This report provides a summary and review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work in 2012-13.
- 5.2 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Reducing inequality, promoting community cohesion and building community leadership are all central to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A number of pieces of work raised specific equalities issues including scrutiny of the budget, the scrutiny review of children's centres and the work to map consultation and engagement with service users in adult social care.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no direct risk management actions arising from this report.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 The content of this report has no implications for a greener environment.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The content of this report has no implications for crime and disorder reduction.

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 10.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee contributes to the efficiency of the council, particularly through its scrutiny of the budget process where the committee ensures services are achieving value for money.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

26th JUNE 2013

**LOCALISM ACT 2011 STANDARDS REGIME:
APPOINTMENT OF 'INDEPENDENT PERSON'**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A key element in the new standards regime introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and incorporated into the Council's own arrangements with effect from 1st July 2012, is the appointment of at least one 'Independent Person' who will provide advice to the Council on any allegation it is considering, and may also provide advice to a member facing an allegation who has sought the views of that person.
- 1.2 The Independent Person(s) must be appointed following a public advertisement and recruitment process and his/her appointment must be confirmed by the majority of Councillors at the full Council meeting.
- 1.3 In accordance with transitional arrangements introduced by Regulations issued under the Localism Act, the Council on 18th June 2012 appointed Barry O'Connor, former Independent Chair of the Standards Committee, to serve as the interim Independent Person. By law this interim appointment may run only until 30th June 2013 and from that date onwards the Independent Person may not be someone who has served as a member, co-opted member or officer of the authority within the previous five years.
- 1.4 The Standards Advisory Committee on 12th July 2012 agreed a process for advertisement and recruitment of an Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person. That process is now complete and this report recommends the Council to make the appointments.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Ms Elizabeth Hall be appointed as the Independent Person with effect from 1st July 2013 for a term of office of three years.
- 2.2 That Ms Ezra Zahabi be appointed as the Reserve Independent Person with effect from 1st July 2013 for a term of office of three years.

- 2.3 That the remuneration for the Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person be set at the level of £117 for each matter on which they are required to provide advice and for each attendance at a committee meeting or training event that is required in connection with the role, as set out at section 6 to this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 required the Council to adopt a new Code of Conduct consistent with a number of principles set out in the Act, and arrangements for dealing with any alleged breach of the Code.
- 3.2 The arrangements adopted by the Council must include provision for the appointment by the Council of at least one Independent Person. The statute states that the Independent Person must be appointed through a process of public advertisement and appointment by a positive vote of a majority of all members of the Council (not just of those present and voting). The Act sets out specific statutory prohibitions on who can be an Independent Person and excludes previous and current members and Co-optees, their relatives and close friends.
- 3.3 The Independent Person must be consulted by the authority before it makes a finding as to whether a member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct or decides on action to be taken in respect of that member. They may be consulted by the authority in respect of a standards complaint at any other stage. Independent Persons may be invited to attend meetings of the Standards (Advisory) Committee, but are unlikely to be co-opted onto the Committee. Instead their role is one of consultation in respect of any investigation of an alleged breach of the Code before the Council takes a decision in relation to the allegation.
- 3.4 The Act provides that the former co-opted Independent Members of Tower Hamlets' Standards Committee, together with members and officers of the authority, cannot serve as Independent Persons for a period of 5 years. However, transitional measures included in the Localism Act 2011 (Commencement No.6 and Transitional, Savings and Transitory Provisions) Order 2012 allow a local authority, if it so chooses, to appoint a person who is currently the Independent Chair or an Independent Member of the existing Standards Committee as its 'Independent Person' for an interim period extending no later than 30th June 2013. Accordingly the Council agreed on 18th June 2012 that to provide continuity, the former Chair, Barry O'Connor, would be appointed as the Independent Person from 1st July for a temporary period until the recruitment process was complete.

4. A RESERVE INDEPENDENT PERSON

- 4.1 As stated previously the Independent Person may be consulted by a member or co-opted member of the Council against whom a complaint has been made. This causes some problems, as it would be inappropriate for an Independent Person who has been consulted by the member against whom

the complaint has been made, and who might as a result be regarded as prejudiced on the matter, to be involved in the advisory role at the investigations stage of that complaint.

- 4.2 The Act gives discretion to appoint one or more Independent Persons, but provides that each Independent Person must be consulted before any decision is taken on a complaint which has been investigated. Accordingly, there would appear to be little advantage in appointing more than one Independent Person or the process will be unwieldy. The Standards Advisory Committee has therefore agreed that a Reserve Independent Person should be appointed who can be consulted in the event that the Independent Person is unable to discharge the function for any reason.

5. RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- 5.1 The Council on 18th June 2012 agreed that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make arrangements to advertise for, and together with a panel drawn from the Standards Advisory Committee in accordance with proportionality to take the necessary action to appoint, an Independent Person and a reserve Independent Person, whose appointments shall be confirmed by the Council.
- 5.2 The Standards Advisory Committee on 12th July 2012 agreed a recruitment process to include the advertisement of the position, initial longlisting of applications received by the Monitoring Officer, Chair of Standards Advisory Committee and Interim Independent Person, interviews by the proportionate panel of members and finally a report to the Council and confirmation of appointment(s).
- 5.3 The advertisement was placed as agreed in late September 2012 but no applications were received at that time. A subsequent advertisement in April 2013 in East End Life and another local newspaper, accompanied by publicity to local community groups and businesses, was more successful and 12 applications were received.
- 5.4 The standard of the applicants was high and the longlisting panel identified five candidates for consideration by Members, of whom three were shortlisted for interview.
- 5.5 The interview panel comprised of Mr Matthew Rowe (Independent Chair, Standards Advisory Committee); Councillors David Edgar, Judith Gardiner, Motin Uz-Zaman and Zara Davis (Councillor Abdul Asad was unfortunately unwell and sent his apologies for absence); the Interim Independent Person and the Monitoring Officer.
- 5.6 The panel met on Tuesday 11th June 2013 and interviewed the three shortlisted candidates. The panel agreed that Ms Elizabeth Hall should be recommended for appointment as the Independent Person and that Ms Ezra Zahabi should be recommended for appointment as the Reserve Independent Person.

5.7 Further information on the two successful candidates is set out below:-

Ms Elizabeth Hall

Elizabeth Hall is currently vice-chair of the council of Queen Mary University (voluntary position), where she is also independent chair of the Research Ethics Committee and a member of the Audit and Risk Committee. She has continuing active involvement with the Bar Standards Board, Standards and Quality Assurance Committees; the Church of England; and a range of local charities and third sector organisations. Ms Hall was previously a non-executive director of the Standards Board for England until its abolition in 2012. Prior to her retirement she had a successful career with the Financial Services Authority. She is a Tower Hamlets resident and a former Chair of Governors of St Paul's Way School.

Ms Ezra Zahabi

Ezra Zahabi is a qualified solicitor, specialising in regulatory law with a London legal practice. Ms Zahabi has professional experience in examining claims of misconduct and identifying issues that require further investigation; and a keen interest in contributing to the maintenance of high ethical standards in local institutions. She is a Tower Hamlets resident of more than ten years' standing.

6. REMUNERATION

- 6.1 As the Independent Person is not a member of the authority or of its Committees or Sub-Committees, the remuneration of the Independent Person does not come within the scheme of members' allowances and can therefore be determined without reference to the Independent Remuneration Panel. It may however be relevant to consider the level of payments that the Panel has recommended for related functions previously.
- 6.2 The London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel report of 2010 recommended, in relation to Standards Committee independent members, that the annual payment to the Chair and Members of the committee should be based on an estimate of the number of meetings anticipated, which should be used as a multiplier of the co-optees' allowances proposed of £256 and £127 per meeting respectively. This is broadly in line with the rates paid in Tower Hamlets (240 and £117 per meeting respectively.).
- 6.3 Initial research shows that most London Boroughs which have determined the matter are proposing to pay the Independent Person an allowance of up to approximately £1k p.a.. As the workload for the post will vary depending on the number of complaints the Independent Person is required to advise on, it is suggested that an allowance is paid of £117 for each matter on which they are required to provide advice and for each attendance at a committee meeting or training event that is required in connection with the role

7. INDEPENDENT PERSON - ROLE DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

- 7.1 Consistent with the statutory provisions and guidance, a role description and person specification was agreed by the Standards Advisory Committee for use during the recruitment process for the Independent Person(s). These are attached at Appendix A.

8. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 8.1 The costs of the recruitment exercise and the Independent Person's remuneration will be met from within existing budgets in the Chief Executive's Directorate.

9. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 9.1 The legal implications arising from this matter are set out in the body of the report.
- 9.2 The Localism Act 2011 provides that the appointment of any Independent Person shall not have effect unless approved by a majority of the members of the authority.

10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The recruitment exercise was designed to attract the most diverse range of candidates possible and the selection criteria against which candidates were assessed included demonstrating a commitment to promoting equality and an awareness of the issues affecting a diverse community in an inner London borough

11. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 11.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

13. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

14. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 14.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

15. APPENDIX ATTACHED

Appendix A - Role Description and Person Specification for Independent Person

**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.
Localism Act 2011	
Letter from Bob Neill MP to Local Authority leaders, 28 th June 2012	John Williams, 020 7364 4204, Mulberry Place, E14 2BG

APPENDIX A

INDEPENDENT PERSON: ROLE DESCRIPTION

Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council must promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority.

To this end the Council has adopted a Code of Conduct for Members and has agreed arrangements for dealing with any allegation that a member or co-opted member has breached the code.

In accordance with the requirements of the 2011 Act, these arrangements include the appointment of an Independent Person to advise on breaches of the Member Code of Conduct.

The Independent Person will:

- Be available for consultation if an allegation of breach of the Members' Code of Conduct is received by the Council.
- Liaise as necessary with the Council's Monitoring Officer to consider complaints against Members and offer his/her impartial views on the case, including any investigations undertaken.
- Advise the Council prior to any decision to investigate an allegation or complaint relating to whether a member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct.
- Attend meeting of the Standards Advisory Committee and/or its sub-committees as required
- Contribute to any review of the operation of the standards arrangements and complaints procedure established by the Council under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

The Independent Person may:

- Be consulted by the Council's Monitoring Officer in respect of an allegation against a Member in other circumstances.
- Be consulted by a member or co-opted member of the Council against whom an allegation or complaint has been made.

The views of the Independent Person will be considered by the Council's Standards Advisory Committee, who are responsible for recommending on the outcome of any complaints and any remedial action.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The Independent Person will possess the following attributes, to be assessed through an application and interview process:

- Personal integrity and honesty
- A keen interest and commitment to maintaining high standards in public life.
- A wish to serve the local community and uphold local democracy

- An interest in and awareness of the functions of local government relating to ethical governance, in particular the role of elected Members and the relevant Codes of Conduct.
- Independence, impartiality and experience of exercising sound objective judgements in relation to complex matters
- Excellent questioning, analytical and evaluation skills in order to advise whether a breach of the Code of Conduct or complaint should be investigated.
- A commitment to promoting equality and an awareness of the issues affecting a diverse community in an inner London borough
- Excellent communication skills in particular the ability to provide clear rationale for advice and to explain decision making when required.
- Experience of dealing with private and sensitive issues, exercising discretion and maintaining confidentiality of information received.
- Flexibility to deal with urgent requests.
- Aged 18 or over and with a mature and sound temperament

The Independent Person will not be:-

- A Member, co-opted member or employee of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets; or have held such a post within the previous 5 years.
- A relative or close friend of such a person; or
- An active member of a political party.

Agenda Item 11.2

Committee: Council	Date: 26 th June 2013	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No:	Agenda Item:
Report of: The Mayor and Executive Originating officer(s) John Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services		Title: Report of the Executive in accordance with section 20 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules Wards Affected: All Wards		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 On 26th March 2013 the Mayor published decisions to vire funds to maintain publication of East End Life until a review had been completed and to maintain funding for the Mayor's Office whilst considering his options for that service. These decisions were called in and reviewed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9th April 2013.
- 1.2 Whilst reviewing the decisions, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested:-
- a) That the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer report to the Executive in accordance with section 7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules at part 4.3 of the Council's Constitution, with their advice as to whether the Mayor's virement decisions were either contrary to the policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the Council's budget; and
 - b) that the Executive report to the Council in accordance with section 20 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules at part 4.2 of the Constitution on the reasons for the Mayor's opinion that the virement decisions were not Key Decisions as defined in Article 13 of the Constitution.
- 1.3 The report of the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer at (a) above was considered by the Executive on 8th May 2013. The conclusion of the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer was that the Mayor's decisions were not contrary to the policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the Council's budget. In accordance with Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rule 7.2, the report was copied to each Member of the Council and was reported by the Executive to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4th June.

- 1.4 This report deals with the issue at (b) above in relation to the Access to Information Procedure Rules, and informs the Council of the reasons for the Mayor's opinion that the virement decisions do not represent Key Decisions.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The original Executive Mayoral Decisions to vire funding to East End Life and the Mayor's Office to allow for review periods were published on 26th March 2013. Both decisions were subsequently called-in.
- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the call-ins at its meeting on 9th April 2013 and, supporting the call-ins, referred both decisions back to the Mayor for further consideration. The Mayor confirmed his original decisions on 17th April 2013.

4. KEY DECISIONS

- 4.1 Article 13 of the Council's Constitution defines a 'Key Decision' as 'an executive decision which is likely:-
- a) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the borough.'
- 4.2 This definition is the same as that set out in the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) Meetings and Access to Information Regulations 2012. Article 13 further states that:-
- (i) A decision taker, when making a decision may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution; and
 - (ii) The Council has not adopted a financial threshold for key decisions but these are subject to financial regulations. However, the criteria that the Mayor, Councillors and officers will have regard to in determining what amounts to a key decision include the following:

- Whether the decision may incur a significant social, economic or environmental risk.
- The likely extent of the impact of the decision both within and outside of the borough.
- Whether the decision is likely to be a matter of political controversy.
- The extent to which the decision is likely to result in substantial public interest.

4.3 Key Decisions are subject to certain statutory and constitutional requirements including publication both in advance of the decision being made and subsequently.

5. ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

5.1 Section 20 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules sets out that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can require a report if it thinks that a key decision has been taken which was not either included in the forward plan, or the subject of the general exception procedure, or the subject of an agreement with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, or the Speaker of the Council under Rule 19 (urgency procedure).

5.2 The Executive's report shall be submitted to the Council and shall set out particulars of the decision, the individual or body making the decision, and if the Mayor is of the opinion that it was not a key decision, the reasons for that opinion.

5.3 During discussion of the call-ins on 9th April 2013, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered that the Mayor's decisions in relation to the two virements should have been treated as Key Decisions, and required the Executive to report under section 20.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

East End Life

6.1 The Budget Council on 7th March 2013 agreed a budget motion to take savings of £433,000 from advertising for public notices, choice based lettings and general advertising, for the purpose of causing East End Life to cease publication. The Mayor did not wish to cease publication without due consideration and on 22nd March he made a decision to make a virement of £433,000 from unallocated reserves to the Chief Executive's directorate budget in order to ensure sufficient resources were available to continue the production of East End Life pending

consideration of the options for the service and the implications of ceasing production of the paper.

- 6.2 In making his decision in respect of East End Life the Mayor stated that he had considered whether or not the matter was a Key Decision under Article 13 and that when making the decision he did not consider the virement of £433,000 was a significant amount in respect of the local authority's overall budget for the communication services and publicity budget of £4.1m (representing 10.8%), nor was the virement decision significant in terms of the effects upon the community living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the borough.
- 6.3 The Mayor went on to say that 'it would not incur significant risk socially, economically or environmentally and indeed would act to mitigate such risks. The impact of the decision to vire the money will not be significant inside or outside the borough. I am content that the decision to vire £433,000 is a non-key decision and I require officers to put it into effect.'

Funding the Mayor's Office

- 6.4 The Budget Council on 7th March 2013 agreed a budget motion to take savings of £296,000 for Mayoral Advisors. The costs of the Mayor's Office are part of the Democratic Services budget. The Mayor decided that he wanted to keep the advisors whilst he considered his options and the implications of reducing the expenditure and on 22nd March he made a decision to make a virement of £296,000 from unallocated reserves to the Democratic Services budget in order to ensure sufficient resources were available to continue the current arrangements pending consideration of the options and the implications to his office of reducing the expenditure.
- 6.5 In making his decision in respect of Democratic Services the Mayor stated that he had considered whether or not the matter was a Key Decision under Article 13 and that when making the decision he did not consider the virement of £296,000 was a significant amount in respect of the local authority's overall budget for Democratic Services of £2.97m (representing 10.0%), nor was the virement decision significant in terms of the effects upon the community living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the borough.
- 6.6 The Mayor went on to say that 'it would not incur significant risk socially, economically or environmentally and indeed would act to mitigate such risks. The impact of the decision to vire the money will not be significant inside or outside the borough. I am content that the decision to vire £296,000 is a non-key decision and I require officers to put it into effect. The reports of the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer confirm that I had took the appropriate considerations into account in respect of my decision that they were not Key Decisions. The Executive accepts the reports and has nothing further to add.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 The reports to the Executive on 8th May 2013 in respect of the virement decisions were prepared by the Section 151 Officer in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer and contain his full comments.

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

- 8.1 The reports to the Executive on 8th May 2013 in respect of the Virement decisions were prepared by the Section 151 Officer in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer and contain her full comments.
- 8.2 Ultimately, a decision is only a Key Decision if it falls within the definitions set out at paragraph 4.1 above. The fact that it is likely to be a matter of 'political controversy' or result in substantial public interest is a matter to which the decision-maker should have regard, and the implication is that the potential for such controversy or interest may in some cases be evidence of it being a decision which will have significant effects. However a decision is not a Key Decision simply because it is politically controversial or of public interest. In this case the Mayor had regard to these matters and acknowledged that his decision may be of public and/or political interest.
- 8.3 The question of whether a particular decision is a Key Decision is one for the decision-taker (the Mayor) provided that all relevant considerations are taken into account and a rational conclusion is reached. In the view of the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer, the Mayor did have regard to relevant considerations and reached the conclusion (that it was not a Key Decision) to which he was entitled to come. The Mayor was not referred specifically to the Secretary of State's guidance on Key Decisions contained in Chapter 7 of the New Council Constitutions, but the matters referred to in that guidance are similar to those which the Mayor took into account.
- 8.4 In conclusion, in making the decision as to whether the matter was a Key Decision the Mayor did take into account the specified matters under Article 13.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 None directly related to this report.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

10.1 Not applicable to this report.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Any risk management issues in relation to the decisions are dealt with in the Mayor's report above.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Not applicable to this report.

13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

13.1 Not applicable to 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.
None	N/A

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING - 26th JUNE 2013

**DELEGATION OF POWERS TO THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE -
DISCIPLINARY POLICY AND PROCEDURES
FOR CHIEF OFFICERS**

REFERENCE FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To propose the delegation to the Head of Paid Service of certain powers and functions allocated to the Chief Executive for the purposes of the Disciplinary Policy and Procedures for Chief Officers.

2. RECOMMENDATION OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- 2.1 That the Council be recommended to delegate to the Head of Paid Service power to exercise the functions of the Chief Executive for the purposes of the agreed Disciplinary Policy and Procedures for Chief Officers.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 ('the 2001 Regulations') require a specific procedure for the determination of disciplinary/capability issues in respect of certain statutory Chief Officer posts. Under this procedure disciplinary/capability allegations are referred to a Designated Independent Person (DIP).
- 3.2 The Council on 18th June 2012 adopted a revised Disciplinary Policy and Procedure for the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer, the provisions of which are consistent with the requirements of the 2001 Regulations. The Policy and Procedure is an ancillary document to the Council's Constitution. The policy does not form part of the officers' contract of employment and may be varied or revoked by the Council at any time. A separate disciplinary procedure applies in respect of other Chief Officers, consistent with that set out in the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for Chief Officers of Local Authorities.

4. PROPOSALS OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The Human Resources Committee on 26th February 2013 considered certain matters subject to the disciplinary policy and procedure, pursuant to a Council motion of 11th July 2012.
- 4.2 The Committee noted that delay had occurred in the consideration of those matters, in part because the disciplinary policy and procedure allocates certain functions to the Chief Executive and that post was currently vacant. The Council had decided not to fill the post of Chief Executive until October 2014 and the Committee therefore proposed that to avoid delay in any future cases, the Head of Paid Service should be allocated the powers of the Chief Executive for the purposes of the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

5. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 5.1 The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 set out appointment and dismissal procedures that apply to all Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer posts, and a Designated Independent Person (DIP) procedure that applies to the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer only. Any disciplinary policy and procedure adopted by the Council in respect of Chief Officers must meet the requirements set out both in those Regulations and in any nationally agreed conditions of service (JNC for Chief Executive or JNC for Chief Officers as the case may be).
- 5.2 The JNC for Chief Executive provides a useful commentary and guidance notes on how to operate the DIP procedures and in particular what constitutes an 'allegation' which requires investigation. The Council's policy is our locally agreed mechanism by which that 'filter' can be applied.
- 5.3 The Disciplinary Policy and Procedure must also comply with the principles of natural justice and good management practice, and full regard must be had to the principles and standards of the ACAS code of Discipline and Grievance.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee.

Local Government Act, 2000 (Section 97)

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations
2001
JNC Conditions

John Williams
Town Hall, Mulberry Place
Telephone 020 7364 4024

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2013

**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 debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 26th June 2013.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21st May 2008, the motions are listed by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) whose motion(s) were 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; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the 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.

12.1 Motion regarding Education in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Fozol Miah

Seconder: Councillor Harun Miah

This Council notes that

1. Over 50% of Tower Hamlets school pupils are in receipt of free school meals
2. Seven out of ten Tower Hamlets pupils have parents for whom English is not their first language
3. Tower Hamlets has a higher than average number of pupils with special educational needs
4. Despite these potential difficulties, Tower Hamlets schools consistently perform better at end of Primary and GCSE level than many schools in more affluent neighbourhoods and are significantly above the national average
5. All of Tower Hamlets secondary schools and 90% of its primary schools are considered good or outstanding by Ofsted
6. These extraordinary results have been achieved through strong local partnerships, a collaborative approach to the borough's children and an excellent working relationship with the local authority, and not by dismantling that system through schools opting to become academies
7. The success of Tower Hamlets schools has been recognised by the former Labour Education Secretary Lady Estelle Morris in an article in the Guardian on 27th May 2013
8. The success of Tower Hamlets schools has been consistently ignored by the current Conservative Education Secretary Michael Gove.

This Council congratulates the Mayor, his education team, Tower Hamlets teachers, parents and pupils for these extraordinary achievements in the education of Tower Hamlets children.

This Council believes:

1. There is no room for complacency in the education of our children and the council should continue to build on these achievements
2. The director of Ofsted should stop denigrating teachers and pupils
3. The road forward in Tower Hamlets does not lie down the route that the current Education Secretary intends through academisation but rather the route that has already been tried, tested and proved in Tower Hamlets

12.2 Motion regarding the EDL

Proposer: Councillor Sirajul Islam

Seconder: Councillor Rachael Saunders

This Council:

- Offers its sympathies to the family and friends of Lee Rigby. To try to use a warped view of any religion or faith to justify his murder is wrong, and cannot be tolerated.
- Calls for unity against the EDL, BNP and others who seek to stir up hatred and division. We are at our strongest when we are united, as we must be in the face of this attack in our neighbouring borough of Greenwich.
- Is deeply concerned about attacks on Islamic buildings and threats to the safety of individuals and communities.
- Notes the EDL threat to demonstrate in Tower Hamlets on the 26th August 2013 and that the Labour Group immediately wrote to the Mayor and all Group leaders asking them to join with us in opposing the march.
- Notes that John Biggs AM, Labour Group and local MPs have written to the Home Secretary and Borough Commander raising their concerns and asking for support for a ban on any march.
- Supports a ban on the EDL marching through our borough.

This Council resolves:

- To write to the Home Secretary in support of Rushanara Ali MP's request that she take steps to ban the EDL march and ensure that our community is fully protected from the EDL and other extremists.
- To work with community organisations, faith groups, local people and the police to maintain calm and safety in our community.
- To call on the independent Mayor and all councillors to unite against all forms of extremism and racism.

12.3 Motion regarding use of public money

Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds

Seconder: Councillor David Snowdon

This Council notes that the Government have supported Tower Hamlets with £77million of additional funds for the Decent Homes Programme, £350 million for the Schools Building Programme and is supporting the Blackwall Reach Regeneration Project with public money.

The Council also notes the proliferation of banners, hoardings and unsolicited letters/leaflets with airbrushed pictures of the Mayor implying that he has personally provided this funding.

The Council therefore reminds the Mayor that he should use public money for public service rather than self promotion.

12.4 Motion regarding the EDL

Proposer: Councillor Alibor Choudhury

Seconder: Councillor Kabir Ahmed

This Council agrees:

- There can be no justification for the brutal murder of Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich on 22 May. We send our condolences to his family and friends.
- Racist and fascists are attempting to exploit the actions of a few to whip up racism and direct hatred against all Muslims. Since Woolwich there has been a 700% increase in the numbers of reported Islamophobic incidents, including the burning down of the Islamic Cultural Centre in Muswell Hill.
- We do not hold Norwegian Christians responsible for the actions of the fascist Anders Breivik, whose 2011 rampage left 77 dead.
- We do not hold white people collectively responsible for Timothy McVeigh, the US neo-Nazi whose 1995 Oklahoma City bomb killed 168 people, or for David Copeland, the former BNP member who planted bombs across London in 1999. Nor should anyone suggest that Britain's Muslims are collectively responsible for the 22 May attack.
- We call on the media and politicians to stop using inflammatory language that feeds the fascists and racists. We must challenge Islamophobia wherever it raises its head.
- We must reject those who want to divide our communities and set them against each other, and stand fast to the ideals of anti-racism, multiculturalism and respect for all.

12.5 Motion regarding The Rise of Islamophobia

Proposer: Councillor Harun Miah

Seconder: Councillor Fozol Miah

This Council notes

1. There has been a dramatic rise in Islamophobic attacks in London since the murder of Lee Rigby in Woolwich
2. These attacks have included arson attacks on mosques and Islamic schools, the tearing of headscarfs from women, spitting and verbal insults

This Council deplores the murder of Lee Rigby and the Islamophobic attacks that have followed that murder

This Council asks the Mayor

1. To do all in his power to ensure that the authorities, including the police and the government, deter these Islamophobic attacks and seeks to counter this tide of Islamophobia
2. To declare that the EDL and the BNP continue to be unwelcome in Tower Hamlets as they seek to inflame racial hatred
3. To declare that he will seek to secure a ban against any attempts by racist organisations like the EDL and BNP to march in Tower Hamlets

12.6 Motion regarding 4 in 10 Campaign for London's Overcrowded Children

Proposer: Councillor Abdal Ullah

Seconder: Councillor John Pierce

This Council notes that:

- 391,000 children are estimated to be growing up in overcrowded conditions in London – a quarter of the Capital's children, including tens of thousands living in Tower Hamlets;
- This figure has risen by around 80,000 in the past decade and it set to get worse as the supply of new social housing dries up.
- The Conservative led government has led a sustained attack on social housing, including cutting funding for building and attacking social security.
- Only 134 of the 1,618 applicants for four bedroom social housing in the borough were catered for in 2012, with only 16 of those in properties owned by Tower Hamlets Council directly.
- Research has shown that overcrowding undermines a child's health, education and well-being, damaging their long-term life chances;
- The Mayor of London "Overcrowding Action Plan" sets a target to reduce the number of severely overcrowded households by just 5,500 by 2016;
- Save the Children's 4in10 campaign is calling on the Mayor of London to commit to halve the number of children growing up in overcrowded conditions by 2020.

This Council believes,

- The only solution to London's housing crisis is a significant and sustained increase in investment in new social rented housing, including council housing, for overcrowded and homeless families;
- The 4in10 campaign is right to focus political attention on the Mayor of London as his "Action Plan" is an inadequate response and fails to make tackling overcrowding a real political priority.

This Council resolves,

- To support the 4in10 campaign and call on the Mayor of London to make a commitment to halve the number of children in overcrowded homes by 2020;
- To publicise the campaign to local Labour Party members and residents to help raise public awareness of this problem and pressure on the Mayor of London to act.
- To call on the Independent Mayor of Tower Hamlets to keep his promises to local people, and deliver family sized homes.

12.7 Motion regarding the 100th Anniversary of the First World War

Proposer: Councillor David Snowdon

Seconder: Councillor Craig Aston

This Council notes that the 4th August 2014 will be the one hundredth anniversary of the commencement of the First World War.

Tower Hamlets, in common with the rest of the country, suffered grievously during this conflict which saw the deaths of thousands of local people in the front and in the 103 German Bombing raids that were launched on London and Britain.

The Council requests the Mayor to provide details of his commemorative programme for 1914 will be and how this will be undertaken in the Borough.

12.8 Motion against Boris Johnson's Tower Hamlets Fire Cuts

Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman

Seconder: Councillor Aminur Khan

This Council notes:

1. The deplorable decision by the Mayor of London to proceed with budget cuts that could potentially close two fire stations in Tower Hamlets
2. That on 18 October 2012, Mayor Lutfur Rahman, issued a press statement 'Save Our Fire Stations'
3. The Mayor's meeting with the FBU on 26th November 2012 to discuss how best he can support their campaign to save the fire stations.
4. The mayor supports the FBU's campaign from Tower Hamlets to City Hall on 14 June 2013

This Council believes:

1. That the Mayor of London's plans to shut 17 fire stations and axe 600 jobs will have a devastating impact on fire safety across London and Tower Hamlets.
2. That the plans to close of stations in Bow and Whitechapel, putting residents' safety at risk.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on the residents of Tower Hamlets, and politicians from across all political parties, to join with the Mayor of Tower Hamlets in supporting the Fire Brigades Union's campaign to stop these cuts.

12.9 Motion regarding Commerical Events in Victoria Park

Proposer: Councillor Amy Whitelock

Seconder: Councillor Marc Francis

This Council Notes:

1. The motion passed by Council on the 16th May 2012 which resolved to amend the Open Spaces Strategy to include a section on Commercial Events in parks, to reflect the prior decisions of Council, that limits the number of events in Victoria Park to 6 days each year, prevents the park being used for commercial events on consecutive weekends, set a closing time for events to 10pm and a reduced noise limit for commercial events, and prevents commercial events being held in Sir John McDougal Gardens, Millwall Park, Island Gardens and the gardens at Trinity Square;
2. That over 400 local residents signed a petition presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, calling for the number of events to be reduced;
3. That no amended Open Spaces Strategy has been presented to Council even though it is included in the list of policies reserved for Council who have expressed a will to see the policy amended;
4. The serious damage done to the park by last summer's commercial events and the continued degradation of the park during Field Day and AS ONE in May 2013;
5. The Mayor has allowed an increased 50,000 capacity for this year's commercial events, which has resulted in even more of the eastern half of the park being cordoned off from use by the public and damage to the park's fabric and grassed areas for the rest of the summer;
6. More than 400 criminal offences were recorded at Field Day and Lovebox events last year;
7. The Mayor has recently authorised a tendering process to rent out Victoria Park for up to ten events each year in 2014, 2015 and 2016;
8. The London Borough of Hackney recently decided against agreeing a programme of multiple events on Hackney Marshes each summer after a majority of residents there opposed those plans.

This Council Believes:

1. That the Mayor should respect the democratic mandate of the Council and the wishes of residents and bring forward a revised Open Spaces Strategy which reflects the stated position of Council;
2. That the Mayor's failure to do so is clearly designed to circumvent the Council's democratic process and commit this authority to contractual arrangements with commercial companies without proper scrutiny;

3. The Mayor has no mandate to commit LBTH to a contract for the hiring of Victoria Park for commercial events beyond May 2014;
4. LBTH should use the full force of the law to recover any legal costs incurred in renegotiating a three-year contract entered into by the Mayor and Cabinet Members from those authorising it.

This Council Resolves:

1. That the Mayor should immediately suspend the tendering process for commercial events in Victoria Park;
2. The Mayor should authorise meaningful consultation with residents and other stakeholders about the scale of commercial activity within Victoria Park;
3. The Mayor should in the meantime bring forward a renewed Open Spaces Strategy to the next ordinary Council meeting, including within it the amendments set out above, to ensure a more balanced approach to commercial events while the consultation is being carried out.

12.10 Motion regarding Parks and Open Spaces

Proposer: Councillor Tim Archer

Seconder: Councillor Gloria Thienel

This Council notes the increasing commercialisation and encroachment on the Borough's parks.

This Council notes the increasing concerns of residents from Bow, The Isle of Dogs, Bethnal Green and Wapping about the future of their parks as community open spaces in an increasingly densely populated borough.

The Council calls upon the Mayor to introduce and approve an updated strategy that will be adhered to, preserving our parks and open spaces for future generations.

12.11 Motion against Boris Johnson's Tower Hamlets police cuts

Proposer: Councillor Maium Miah

Seconder: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

This Council notes:

1. That on 24 March 2013 Boris Johnson published his Police and Crime plan for London
2. That this plan will result in Tower Hamlets having lost 93 officers since 2010
3. That across London, nearly half of PCSOs will be cut
4. That Bow, Isle of Dogs, Poplar and Limehouse police stations are under threat from the Conservative mayor
5. That Safer Neighbourhood teams, whose knowledge of the local area is vital to effective policing, will be dismantled and replaced by the out-moded sector policing model.
6. The petition by Cllr Maium Miah, supported by the Mayor, against the closure of the police station on the Isle of dogs
7. That in the budget proposals published on 9 January 2013, the Mayor of Tower Hamlets has allocated funds for 17 extra police officers.

This Council believes:

1. That the Conservative mayor's proposals are both a breach of his electoral pledges and his responsibility to ensure the safety of London's citizens
2. That the Conservative mayor's policing policies are driven by an asset-stripping mentality rather than the need to keep people safe

This Council resolves:

To call on all group leaders to join the Mayor, protesting in the strongest possible terms with the Conservative Mayor of London, to reverse these cuts and save Tower Hamlets Police Stations.

12.12 Motion regarding Garment Workers

Proposer: Councillor Rachael Saunders

Seconder: Councillor Sirajul Islam

This Council notes the terrible loss of life in the recent factory collapse in Bangladesh. While there may be many underlying reasons for this disaster, and the Government and its agencies in Bangladesh need to continue to investigate and to hold those responsible to account, and while the rapid economic growth in sectors such as the garment industry in Bangladesh is to be welcomed, and is an important provider of wealth and employment, the event also highlights the challenging working conditions of workers in many developing economies.

This Council resolves:

1. To support and encourage closer relationships between local government bodies in the UK and Bangladesh in order that good practice and experience can be shared.
2. To ensure that it follows ethical procurement policies in its contracts, and to support campaign organisations and trade unions that promote ethical procurement and which can help to promote good employment practice and safe working conditions without stifling economic growth.
3. To encourage others, more widely but in particular in our borough, and including in Tower Hamlets schools, to follow ethical procurement guidelines.
4. To congratulate those bodies and individuals in Tower Hamlets and beyond who have helped to raise funds and support to assist those affected by the disaster.

12.13 Motion on Tax Avoidance/Evasion and the G8 Summit 2013

Proposer: Councillor Rania Khan

Seconder: Councillor Oliur Rahman

This Council Notes:

- That the UK currently occupies the rotating chair of the G8 and that David Cameron last week hosted this year's summit at Loch Erne, Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.
- That top of the agenda of the meeting was the profound need to tackle the growing problem of tax evasion and avoidance.
- That household names such as Google, Starbucks and Amazon have, over the course of the last year, been exposed as some of the worst offenders.
- That two weeks ago it emerged that Thames Water paid zero corporation tax in the last financial year, despite the company recording profits of £550million, hiking bills by 7%, increasing its boss's pay to £450,000 and incompetently flooding hundreds of Londoners' homes with sewage over the same period.
- The Tax Justice Network estimates that there is £120bn of avoided, evaded and uncollected Tax.
- The Department of Work and Pensions estimates that there Benefit Fraud of a value of £1.25bn.

This Council Believes:

- That the double-standards evident in the starkly different approaches of Central Government to desperate benefit "cheats" and wealthy tax cheats show the unfairness and immorality at the heart of this government.
- That tax evasion and avoidance is a scourge on society, particularly at a time when this Tory government and its austerity regime are forcing the poorest to pay for the excesses of the super-rich.
- That whilst international agreement on tackling this blight is to be welcomed, Central Government should also be taking measures within the UK above and beyond what was agreed at the G8.

This Council Resolves:

To support the calls by Margaret Hodge, the Chair of the Public Accounts Select Committee, for the government to take decisive action at home to put right this gross unfairness and stop corporations enriching themselves at the expense of hardworking taxpayers.

12.14 Motion regarding Child Poverty

Proposer: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

Seconder: Councillor Lutfu Begum

This Council notes

- According to the DWP An additional 900,000 people were plunged into poverty during the first year of the coalition government, including 300,000 more children.
- The entire increase in children counted as in poverty in 2011-12 came from working households.
- Children living below the poverty line were now twice as likely to come from working families than those without employment.
- The situation is likely to get worse because the statistics covered the period before a range of austerity measures and welfare cuts – including the bedroom tax and the abolition of council tax benefit – were introduced.
- The findings of the Institute for Fiscal Studies that real wages in Britain have suffered their biggest drop in over one hundred years.

This Council agrees:

- It is unacceptable that in the seventh richest nation in the world that the number of people living in poverty can increase by one million.
- Despite all the talk about 'scroungers' and generations of families never working, the in-work poverty figures expose the government myth that the main cause of poverty is people choosing not to work.
- Coalition measures threaten to reverse the positive work done in Tower Hamlets in the last decade to reduce child poverty.
- That government austerity is causing the economy to contract and wages to drop thereby increasing the numbers in work forced to rely on welfare benefits to supplement declining household income.
- Wages that people can't live on will drag a society into recession and hold it there, whether the state subsidizes those wages or not.
- Government austerity has failed. We need urgent investment not cuts to revive economic growth, reverse the decline in wages and downward spiral of people forced into poverty.

This Council resolves:

- To intensify campaigning against government austerity, support The Peoples Assembly.
- To commend the Mayor's implementation of the Living Wage in Tower Hamlets and encourage all other mayor local employers to pay the London Living Wage.

12.15 Motion in support of the London Living Wage

Proposer: Councillor Abdul Asad

Seconder: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

This Council notes:

- That in November 2008, the then Leader of the Council and now Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, instituted the London Living Wage in the Council.
- That the Council is seeking to extend the Living Wage into its agreements with sub-contractors to ensure that they too pay a fair and decent wage to workers.
- That the Labour Leader Ed Milliband pledged to bring in a living wage for all government contracts.
- That with the Government's wholesale war on the welfare state and the rights of the poorest, the living wage is more important now than ever.

This Council believes:

- That paying a living wage is a cornerstone of social and economic justice.
- That in these times of Tory-led economic stagnation, cuts and devastating welfare reform, it is more important than ever to ensure that the incomes of the most vulnerable are protected.

This Council resolves:

- To reaffirm its commitment to the London Living Wage
- To support the Mayor in the battle to continue to ensure the Council's contracting practices use every measure within the law to widen the agreement to deliver the London Living Wage.

12.16 Motion regarding Energy Co-operatives

Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan

Seconder: Councillor Shahed Ali

This Council notes:

1. That the Mayor has launched an initiative to sign people up to an energy co-operative that will allow them to purchase gas and electricity much more cheaply than through mainstream providers.
2. That to date over 3000 people have expressed interest in joining the co-op.
3. That following the success of our initiative, London Councils have now created The Big London Energy Switch; a scheme backed by 20 other London boroughs.
4. Following an Auction in April, residents who have signed up to T.H.E. Community Power, could save an average of £122 on their annual energy bills.
5. Residents can still sign up to the scheme and will receive savings through future auctions.

This Council believes:

That encouraging residents to sign up to the energy co-op is an effective way to ease the burden of Tory-led cuts, economic stagnation and welfare reform.

This Council resolves:

To call on Group leaders to work with the Mayor to publicise the Energy Co-op and the benefits it could bring to residents, especially those on low incomes.

12.17 Motion regarding the State Pension

Proposer: Councillor Kabir Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Gulam Robbani

This Council notes:

- Older people have paid into the State pension throughout their working lives.
- State pensions constitute around half of the national welfare budget.
- That the Tory-led government has not included the State pension in the overall cap on welfare spending.
- That the Shadow Chancellor stated that a future Labour Government would not rule out including the State pension in the overall cap on welfare spending.

This Council believes:

- That no government current or future should take away the State pension after people have spent all their working lives paying into it.
- That the State pension should not be capped and should continue to rise annually in accordance with inflation.

This Council resolves:

- To support the Mayor in opposing any proposal to cap the State pension.
- To join the Mayor in campaigning with residents, local groups, the National Convention of Pensioners and the unions to oppose any proposal to cap the State pension in the welfare budget cap

12.18 Motion regarding Recorded Votes

Proposer: Councillor Ohid Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Shafiqul Haque

This Council notes:

1. That Council's constitution includes a provision for 'Recorded Votes'.
2. That this provision is designed to allow for maximum accountability.
3. That until 25 January 2012 the threshold of members required to trigger a Recorded Vote in Full Council was 10.
4. That on 25 January 2012 a motion was carried by a majority in Full Council increasing the threshold from 10 members to 20.
5. That this threshold is unreasonably high without precedent in Tower Hamlets and elsewhere.
6. That in Camden, the threshold is 7 members, in Barnet it is 10 members, in Newham it is 6 members, in Westminster it is 10 members, and in Greenwich it is 5 members.

This Council further notes:

1. The recent report by the electoral commission on voter fraud in Tower Hamlets that found no evidence of widespread fraud as alleged by some in the opposition.
2. That the report cited a "breakdown of trust" between politicians in this chamber and that this heightens the need for public accountability.

This Council believes:

1. That the 'Recorded Vote' thresholds are generally low so that a minority can make their views known when votes go against them, to communicate to the public that whilst something they did not support may be Council policy, it is not unanimous and the minority opposed it.
2. That having a threshold of 20 members defeats the object of this provision, since (assuming whipping) recorded votes can only go ahead if the majority group is in favour.
3. That raising the threshold from 10 to 20 members was a backward step as regards the health of local democracy, and a grave mistake.
4. That having the highest threshold in the land, particularly when compared to the other aforementioned London boroughs, is deeply embarrassing for this authority.

This Council resolves:

To lower the threshold of support required to trigger a recorded vote from 20 members to 7 members.

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