

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 5.36 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2014

**C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Economic Development (Jobs, Skills and Enterprise))
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Community Safety)
Councillor Shahed Ali	(Cabinet Member for Clean and Green)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	(Cabinet Member for Culture)
Councillor Rabina Khan	(Cabinet Member for Housing and Development)
Councillor Aminur Khan	(Cabinet Member for Policy, Strategy and Performance)
Councillor Gulam Robbani	(Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Md. Maium Miah	
Councillor Joshua Peck	
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	

Officers Present:

Aman Dalvi	(Corporate Director, Development & Renewal)
David Galpin	(Service Head, Legal Services, Law Probity & Governance)
Stephen Halsey	(Head of Paid Service and Corporate Director Communities, Localities & Culture)
Chris Holme	(Acting Corporate Director - Resources)
Kevin Kewin	(Service Manager, Strategy & Performance, Chief Executive's)
Abdul J. Khan	(Sustainable Development Manager, Strategy Innovation & Sustainability, Development and Renewal)
Ellie Kuper-Thomas	(Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer - Executive Mayor's Office, One Tower Hamlets, DLPG)
Robert McCulloch-Graham	(Corporate Director, Education Social Care and Wellbeing)

Kevin Miles	(Chief Accountant, Resources)
Poppy Noor	Project Manager - Mayor's Office
Jackie Odunoye	(Service Head, Strategy, Regeneration & Sustainability, Development and Renewal)
Takki Sulaiman	(Service Head Communications, Law, Probity and Governance)
Matthew Mannion	(Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services, LPG)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Robin Beattie, Service Head Strategy and Resources, Communities, Localities and Culture).

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None were declared.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 3 September 2014 were noted.

Action by:

SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (J. S. WILLIAMS)
(Committee Services Manager, M. Mannion)

4. PETITIONS

Petition on the Public Consultation on Savings Proposals

The petitioners addressed the Cabinet meeting, the Cabinet discussed the issues raised and Councillor Alibor Choudhury the Cabinet Member for Resources responded to the points raised in the petition.

DECISION

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

Action by:

ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (C. HOLME)

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Unrestricted Business to be Considered

Pre-Scrutiny Questions in relation to Agenda Item 8.1 'Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report'

Councillor Joshua Peck, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, **tabled** a number of pre-scrutiny questions in relation to the Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report. The Corporate Director, Education, Social Care and Wellbeing responded to the questions during consideration of the main report later on the agenda.

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

Nil items.

6. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

6.1 Local Biodiversity Action Plan

It was requested that a Lead Member Foreword be added to the report to follow on from the Mayor's Foreword.

DECISION

1. To approve the Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-19 as attached in Appendix 1.

Action by:

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL (A. DALVI)

(Service Head for Strategy, Regeneration and Sustainability (J. Odunoye)

Reasons for the decision

Due to a range of factors such as climate change, overexploitation and habitat loss, biodiversity is declining across Britain and throughout the world. In Tower Hamlets, rapid growth and development is the main pressure facing the borough's wild plants and animals, but also provides a big opportunity to enhance biodiversity.

Under the Section 40 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies, including local authorities, must have regard to biodiversity conservation in the exercise of their functions. For local authorities, this is of most significance for planning and land management.

Through this action plan, the council can demonstrate local leadership, and demonstrate that it is meeting its responsibilities under the NERC Act, by setting out what is required to ensure that important biodiversity is conserved and enhanced in Tower Hamlets.

Alternative options

The council could choose to retain the existing Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-14. However, most of the existing action plan has already been delivered, some of the actions are no longer relevant, and the current plan does not provide the detailed specific guidance required by planning policies or the Tower Hamlets Green Grid Strategy.

The council could also choose not to have a Local Biodiversity Action Plan at all. However, the detailed specific guidance required by planning policies or the Tower Hamlets Green Grid Strategy would then be lacking, and it would be difficult for the Council to demonstrate how it would carry out its duty under the NERC Act to have regard to biodiversity conservation in the exercise of its functions.

7. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

Nil items.

8. A SAFE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY**8.1 Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report****DECISION**

1. To note the content of the Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report and the appointment (3-year contract) of an Independent LSCB Chair by the Head of Paid Service.

Action by:

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING
(R. McCULLOCH-GRAHAM)**

Reasons for the decision

In accordance with DfE Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, LSCBs are required to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding arrangements and promoting the welfare of children in their localities. Tower Hamlets LSCB seeks to ensure the annual report is available within the professional and public domain.

Alternative options

No alternative options have been considered as the LSCB Annual Report is presented only for Cabinet's information and oversight.

9. A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Nil items.

10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS**10.1 Strategic Performance, 14/15 General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring Q1****DECISION**

1. To note the Council's financial performance compared to budget for 2014/15 as detailed in Sections 3 to 7 and Appendices 1-4 of this report.
2. To review and note the 2014/15 quarter 1 performance for strategic measures in Appendix 5.

Action by:**ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (C. HOLME)**

(Chief Accountant (K. Miles)

(Service Head, Corporate Strategy and Equality (L. Russell)

Reasons for the decision

Good financial practice requires that regular reports be submitted to Council/Committee setting out the financial position of the Council against budget, and its service performance against targets.

The regular reporting of the Strategic Performance and Corporate Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring should assist in ensuring that Members are able to scrutinise officer decisions.

Alternative options

The Council reports its annual outturn position against budget for both revenue and capital net spend. It also reports its strategic performance.

Significant variations, trends and corrective action are reported in the body and appendices of the report. No alternative action is considered necessary beyond that included below and this report is produced to ensure that Members are kept informed about decisions made under the delegated authority.

10.2 Welfare Reform: Research Findings and Next Steps**DECISION**

1. To note the update on the impact of welfare reform in the borough in section 4.
2. To note the action taken to support residents through welfare reform, including the provision of financial support (section 5).
3. To note the CESI report and recommendations (section 7)
4. To agree the development of the approaches outlined (section 8)

Action by:**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL (A. DALVI)****ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (C. HOLME)**

(Service Head for Corporate Strategy and Equality (L. Russell))

Reasons for the decision

Central government reforms to welfare support, including Universal Credit, the transition from Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independence Payments and the reduction in Central Government funding for financial support, including Crisis Loans and Discretionary Housing Payments mean that a new approach to supporting resident through welfare reform is required.

This is also against the backdrop of the Council's own reducing resources which limit's the Council's ability to provide ongoing financial assistance to affected residents.

The approach suggested in this report and the recommendations in section 8 refocusing support from immediate actions which inform, prepare and mitigate, towards longer term programmes of support to address these new challenges.

Alternative options

Cabinet could choose to continue with our current approach, however this is not recommended as there are not sufficient resources to continue this approach.

Cabinet could choose not to undertake the proactive employment and housing support suggested in section 8, however this is not recommended as this will reduce the support available to residents affected by reforms.

11. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

12. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

12.1 Exercise of Corporate Directors' Discretions

DECISION

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

Action by:

ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (C. HOLME)

(Accountant, Financial Planning (A. Kadir)

(Deputy Financial Planning Manager (R. Ebaretonbofa-Morah)

Reasons for the decision

Financial Regulations require that regular reports be submitted to Council/Committee setting out financial decisions taken under Financial Regulation B8.

The regular reporting of Corporate Director's Discretions should assist in ensuring that Members are able to scrutinise officer decisions.

Alternative options

The Council is bound by its Financial Regulations (which have been approved by Council) to report to Council/Committee setting out financial decisions taken under Financial Regulation B8.

If the Council were to deviate from those requirements, there would need to be a good reason for doing so. It is not considered that there is any such reason, having regard to the need to ensure that Members are kept informed about decisions made under the delegated authority threshold and to ensure that these activities are in accordance with Financial Regulations.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil items.

14. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

Nil items.

15. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Exempt / Confidential Business to be Considered.

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

16. A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Nil items.

17. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY

Nil items.

18. A SAFE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY

Nil items.

19. A HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Nil items.

20. ONE TOWER HAMLETS

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

22. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 6.31 p.m.

John S Williams
SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES