

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS****RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET****HELD AT 5.31 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 2015****C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,  
LONDON, E14 2BG****Members Present:**

Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Economic Development (Jobs, Skills and Enterprise))
Councillor Shahed Ali	(Cabinet Member for Clean and Green)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services)
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 Joshua Peck

**Officers Present:**

Andy Bamber	(Service Head Safer Communities, Crime Reduction Services, Communities, Localities and Culture)
Colin Cormack	(Service Head Housing Options, Development & Renewal)
Stephen Halsey	(Head of Paid Service and Corporate Director Communities, Localities & Culture)
Chris Holme	(Acting Corporate Director - Resources)
Robert McCulloch-Graham	(Corporate Director, Education Social Care and Wellbeing)
Niall McGowan	(Housing Regeneration Manager)
Poppy Noor	Project Manager - Mayor's Office
Jackie Odunoye	(Service Head, Strategy, Regeneration & Sustainability, Development and Renewal)
Dean RiddickMcGregor	(Political Adviser to the Labour Group)
Louise Russell	(Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equality, Law Probity & Governance)
Rachael Sadegh	(DAAT Manager, Community Safety Service, Communities Localities & Culture)
Robin Sager	(Project Development Officer)
Meic Sullivan-Gould	(Interim Monitoring Officer, Legal Services, LPG)
Matthew Mannion	(Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services, LPG)

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Mayor, Councillor Ohid Ahmed (Cabinet Member for Community Safety), Councillor Alibor Choudhury (Cabinet Member for Resources), Robin Beattie (Service Head, Strategy and Resources) and Aman Dalvi (Corporate Director, Development and Renewal).

The Deputy Mayor stated that as the Mayor was unavoidably absent, he would be Chairing the meeting and determining the reports presented. This was in line with Paragraph 1(7) of Schedule A1 of the Local Government Act 2000 which provided that 'If for any reason the elected Mayor is unable to act..., the deputy mayor must act in the in the elected Mayor's place.'

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

None were declared.

## **3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

The unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 February 2015 were noted subject to the addition of Councillor Joshua Peck in the list of attendees.

## **4. PETITIONS**

### **Threat of Closure of SEN Unit at Cambridge Heath**

Sarah Jennings presented the petition on behalf of the petitioners. After a question and answer session with Members, the Deputy Mayor responded to the points raised.

### **DECISION**

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Education, Social Care and Wellbeing, for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

#### **Action by:**

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

## **5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

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

### **6.1 The Allocations Scheme 2015 and Lettings Plan**

#### **DECISION**

1. To agree to amend the Allocations Scheme to provide capacity to place homeless applicants on autobid in the circumstances set out in section 4.10 – 4.14 of the report.
2. To authorise the Corporate Director Development Renewal to set quotas for the proportion of lets to be made to homeless households.
3. To agree the revised priority target groups for the Lettings Plan set out in section 5.3 of this report.

#### **Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL (A. DALVI)**  
(Service Head, Housing Options (C. Cormack))

#### **Reasons for the decision**

Some important changes were introduced when the Allocations Scheme was last amended in 2013. These principally included bid limits, penalties for refusal of offers and the adoption of residency criteria for joining the housing list. In addition, the choice based lettings IT system was enhanced to enable applicants to place bids using mobile technology, to see property outcome information and, significantly, to gain real time queue positions at the point of bidding, thus enabling applicants to make informed choices.

The recommendations in this report are designed to ensure that the council and its partners continue to make best use of the supply of available social housing.

Some minor policy amendments are proposed as well as revisions to the Lettings Plan. This report recommends the adoption of all of these. The alternative is to either not amend the Policy or to adopt some, but not necessarily all, of the recommended amendments.

In April 2013, non-IT dependent amendments were applied to the Allocations Scheme with those changes needing IT reconfiguration being adopted in the October of that year. The primary aim was to make the service more efficient and accessible for residents by reducing the number of offer refusals thus affording other priority need applicants the opportunity to be rehoused.

Early indications are that the changes have had the desired effect. The aim of the report's recommendation is to build on this success. However, the report

also identifies one unintended consequence that has had an adverse impact on homeless applicants.

Finally, the Lettings Plan as agreed by Cabinet in 2013 has also been revised and is outlined in this report for Cabinet to consider and agree.

### **Alternative options**

Some minor policy amendments are proposed and revised Lettings Plan. This report recommends the adoption of all of these. The alternative is to either not amend the Policy or to adopt some, but not necessarily all, of the recommended amendments

## **6.2 Disposal of Land Interests acquired by Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to and on behalf of Swan Housing (Hackworth Point & Mallard Point).**

### **DECISION**

1. To confirm the transfer to Swan Housing at nil consideration, of the following land interests acquired under Compulsory Purchase Order, for the purpose of delivering the Crossways Regeneration Scheme (Single Regeneration Budget 6):
  - No. 10 Hackworth Point, Rainhill Way, E3 3ET;
  - No. 91 Hackworth Point , Rainhill Way, E3 3EX;
  - No's. 6,12,16,26,31 Mallard Point, Rainhill Way E3 3JE;
  - No's 53,56,59,68,91 Mallard Point Rainhill Way, E3 3JF
2. To note that any transfer of property to Swan will require the consent of the Commissioners appointed by the Secretary of State.

### **Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL (A. DALVI)**  
(Regeneration Schemes Co-ordinator (R. Sager))

### **Reasons for the decision**

The Council made the CPO on behalf of Swan, in support of its regeneration programme. The decision to transfer the land interests only arises because they have been vested in the council on making the General Vesting Declaration (GVD). All costs involved are being met separately by Swan and the Council does not have any interest in retaining these sites, since they form part of a major regeneration on an Estate owned and managed by Swan, following large scale voluntary stock transfer in 2005.

There is a contractual requirement for the Council to transfer these interests to Swan, as part of the estate transfer/regeneration agreement in 2005.

### **Alternative options**

There is no alternative option. These properties have only been technically vested with the council. Any delay in handover will have critical cost implications for the Registered Provider. The regeneration work carried out by

Swan has fulfilled commitments made to the local community and to the council, when the estate was approved for stock transfer.

## **7. A PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY**

### **7.1 Determining the School Admission Arrangements for 2016/17**

#### **DECISION**

1. To agree the arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to Community Nursery Schools/Classes in 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 1.
2. To agree the arrangements, oversubscription criteria and catchment areas for admission to Community Primary Schools in 2016/17, as set out in Appendices 2 and 3.
3. To agree the arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to Community Secondary Schools in 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 4.
4. To agree the schemes for co-ordinating admissions to the Reception Year of primary school and Year 7 of secondary school for 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 5.
5. To agree the scheme for co-ordinating 'In-Year' Admissions for 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 6.
6. To agree the planned admission number for each School in Tower Hamlets in 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 7.

#### **Action by:**

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

#### **Reasons for the decision**

The Council decides and implements its school admission arrangements through local consultation, enabling it to fully understand and meet circumstances in its area. In doing so, the Council seeks to provide a clear framework intended to ensure arrangements are lawful, reasonable and minimise delay to children accessing education.

The proposed schemes, consultation and recommendations in this report are consistent with the Council's statutory duties as set out in the most recent revision of the School Admissions Code (Dec 2014).

The Council is addressing the rising need for school places and ensuring that both its school admission and school place planning arrangements work in harmony. 14.5FE of additional primary capacity has been created in the school years 2008/09 to 2013/14. This equates to 435 more places available for the Reception year and 3045 places when the additional capacity is filled in all year groups.

The co-ordination of arrangements together with school catchment areas provide a framework to plan the provision of school places more coherently, taking account of existing and future school locations; travelling distance; pupil migration and changes in neighbouring boroughs.

### **Alternative options**

The Council has a statutory duty to annually determine the arrangements for admission to its community schools and to formulate a complying scheme for co-ordinating admissions at the main points of entry (i.e. reception, Year 3 for junior schools and Year 7 for transfer from primary to secondary school). If Cabinet fails to take such action the Council would be acting contrary to the law.

The recommendations in this report have been prepared with regard to the need for arrangements to be clear, objective and fair. Due consideration has been given to alternative admission arrangements, but any alternative action could lead to inequality and leave the Council open to legitimate complaint and legal challenge. If Cabinet wished to consider adoption of alternative arrangements, then full consideration would need to be given to the guidance provided in the report, particularly as to the legal requirements.

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

Nil items.

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

### **9.1 DAAT Commissioning Intentions Update**

#### **DECISION**

1. To agree to the continued commissioning of the services outlined in the report.
2. To agree the proposal to commence consultation around the decommissioning of the Harbour Recovery Centre.
3. To note a reduced funding envelope for drug / alcohol treatment services in the borough.
4. To authorise the commencement of the treatment system procurement exercise.

#### **Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES, LOCALITIES AND CULTURE  
(S. HALSEY)**

(Service Head, Community Service (A. Bamber)

(DAAT Co-ordinator (R. Sadegh)

**Reasons for the decision**

In July 2014, the Mayor in Cabinet agreed to re-procurement of the drug / alcohol treatment system in line with a specified model (Option 3). This paper highlights additional services that need to be procured within that system in order that the system may operate effectively and improve outcomes for Tower Hamlets residents

In order to secure cost effective residential treatment services and improve outcomes for drug users in treatment, LBTH should undertake a consultation process regarding the future of the Harbour Recovery Centre.

There are considerable financial pressures across LBTH which necessitate a review of spend across all projects. The proposed reduction in funding across drug / alcohol services is considered achievable via re-procurement without a significant impact upon frontline services.

The drug / alcohol treatment system has not been subject to competitive procurement for a number of years and there is a commitment within the substance misuse strategy to review the structure of the treatment system to improve outcomes and increase cost effectiveness.

**Alternative options**

Reject the re-procurement proposals and restart the design process.

Continue with current commissioning arrangements – subject to legal challenge and worsening outcomes.

**10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS****10.1 Digital Inclusion Strategy****DECISION**

1. To agree the Digital Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan (Appendix 1).
2. To note the partnership approach and consultation activity, outlined in section 3, which has helped develop the Digital Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan (Appendix 1);

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

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

(Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer (E. Kuper-Thomas)

**Reasons for the decision**

This paper fulfils the commitment made by Cabinet in April 2014 in the “Response to the Tower Hamlets Fairness Commission” report and in the Council’s Strategic Plan to create and implement a Digital Inclusion Strategy.

Supporting our residents to be digitally included is becoming increasingly important due to Central Government's *Digital by Default Agenda*; the range of financial, educational, employment and health benefits of being online and the growing preference of service providers to move more transactions online.

Demand for digital inclusion support is increasing and without a co-ordinated partnership strategy there is a risk that residents will be excluded from the benefits of digital inclusion, and may possibly risk losing access to some benefits and services.

### **Alternative options**

The Mayor in Cabinet may choose not to agree the strategy. This course of action is not recommended as the need for a more co-ordinated and targeted partnership approach to tackling digital exclusion has been identified, particularly as demand for digital inclusion support services is increasing in response to the Government's digital by default agenda and the evidenced benefits digital inclusion can provide.

The Mayor in Cabinet may choose to amend the strategy prior to approval. Should he wish to do so, any amendments should reflect local needs. The resource and equality implications of any changes will also need to be considered.

## **10.2 Contracts Forward Plan 2014/15 Q4**

### **DECISION**

1. To confirm that all reports listed in Appendix 1 to the report can proceed to contract award after tender subject to the relevant Corporate Director who holds the budget for the service area consulting with the Mayor and the relevant Lead Member prior to contract award.
2. To authorise the Head of Legal Services to execute all necessary contract documents in respect of the awards of contracts referred to at Recommendation 1 above.

### **Action by:**

**ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES (C. HOLME)**

(Head of Procurement (Z. Ahmed))

### **Reasons for the decision**

The Council's Procurement Procedures require submission of a quarterly forward plan of contracts for Cabinet consideration, and it is a requirement of the Constitution that "The contracting strategy and/or award of any contract for goods or services with an estimated value exceeding £250,000, and any contract for capital works with an estimated value exceeding £5,000,000, shall be approved by the Cabinet in accordance with the Procurement Procedures". This report fulfils these requirements for contracts to be let during and after the period Q4 of the Financial Year.



**Alternative options**

Bringing a consolidated report on contracting activity is considered the most efficient way of meeting the requirement in the Constitution, whilst providing full visibility of contracting activity; therefore no alternative proposals are being made.

**10.3 Best Value Plan**

The Deputy Mayor noted the tabled amendments.

**DECISION**

1. To approve the Best Value plans in relation to Property and Communications;
2. To approve the Publicity Plan
3. To note the remaining Best Value Plans.

**Action by:****HEAD OF PAID SERVICE (S. HALSEY)**

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

**Reasons for the decision**

The Council is required to agree these plans to comply with Secretary of State Directions.

**Alternative options**

The Council is required to comply with Secretary of State Directions.

The actions within the plans have been the subject of consultation with a range of parties and the Commissioners which has considered alternative options.

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

Nil items.

**12. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

Nil items.

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

No motion to exclude the press and public was passed.

**14. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The exempt/confidential minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4 February 2015 were noted.

**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 6.07 p.m.

John S Williams  
SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES