

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 30 JULY 2014

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

NOTE - AGENDA ORDER

During the meeting the Council agreed to vary the order of business. To aid clarity, the Decision Sheet is presented in the order that the items originally appeared on the agenda. Urgent Motions, moved with the agreement of the Council without notice, are listed at item 15.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harun Miah.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were made.

3. MINUTES

DECISION

That the unrestricted minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 11 June 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

(**Action by:** John S. Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services)

4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL

Please see minutes.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition regarding Saturation Zone Policy in the Brick Lane area

Mr Jon Shapiro addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION

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

(Action by: Stephen Halsey, Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture)

5.2 Petition regarding Tenants' Rights

The petitioners addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development, then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION

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

(Action by: Aman Dalvi, Corporate Director, Development and Renewal)

5.3 Petition regarding protection of Lincoln Estate and surrounding residents and traders from violence and abuse

Ms Syeda Choudhury addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, then responded to the matters raised in the petition.

DECISION

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

(Action by: Stephen Halsey, Corporate Director, Communities Localities, and Culture)

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following questions and in each case (except where indicated) a supplementary question were put and were responded to by the relevant Executive Member:-

- 6.1 Question from Mr Muhammad Haque regarding candidates seeking election to the Council.
- 6.2 Question from Mr John Wright regarding monitoring and enforcing Construction Management Plans.
- 6.3 Question from Mr Raihan Islam regarding car free zones (no supplementary question was put).
- 6.4 Question from Mr Ashok Kumar regarding the Eric Pickles instigated Council inspection.
- 6.5 Question from Mr Gary Reddin regarding saving Doctors surgeries.

Questions 6.6 to 6.8 were not put due to a lack of time. Written responses would be provided to the questions.

(Action by: John S. Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services – to arrange written responses)

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council meeting. The Leaders of the other political groups each then responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following questions and in each case (except where indicated) a supplementary question were put and were responded to by the relevant Executive Member:-

- 8.1 Question from Councillor John Pierce regarding continued funding of ASB dog patrols.
- 8.2 Question from Councillor Mufti Miah regarding educational achievement of local students
- 8.3 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman regarding the Mayor's most recent meeting with One Housing

- 8.4 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin regarding youths congregating in the Devons Road area
- 8.5 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam regarding protecting local GP surgeries.
- 8.6 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood regarding the implementation of the Openness of Local Bodies Regulations 2014 and provision of a permanent table for the press.
- 8.7 Question from Councillor Denise Jones regarding the proposed disposal of 'Old Flo'.
- 8.8 Question from Councillor Maium Miah regarding the Speaker's engagements (no supplementary question was put).
- 8.9 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill regarding the response to a violent homophobic attack.
- 8.10 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake regarding the old bath houses and the Women's Library.
- 8.11 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah regarding the progress of the Whitechapel Vision.
- 8.12 Question from Councillor Peter Golds regarding the disposal of land at 111-113 Mellish Street, E14 (no supplementary question was put).
- 8.13 Question from Councillor Amina Ali regarding support for people coming off the drug Khat.

Questions 8.14 to 8.24 were not put due to a lack of time. Written responses would be provided to the questions.

(Action by: John S. Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services – to arrange written responses)

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

There was no business to transact under this agenda item.

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

There was no business to transact under this agenda item.

11. OTHER BUSINESS**11.1 Appointment of a Co-opted Member to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services on the appointment of a co-opted member to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Council agreed a tabled amendment that Councillor Joshua Peck **moved**, and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded**. The motion, as amended, was duly approved.

DECISION

1. That the Council approve the appointment of Mr Shaynul Khan as a non-voting co-opted member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee representing the Muslim Community in the borough, for the remainder of the administration (until May 2018), subject to confirmation of the acceptability of the appointment by the Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques.
2. That in future the principal consultation when filling this post will be the Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques.

(**Action by:** John S. Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services)

11.2 Review of proportionality and allocation of places on committees

The Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services on the allocation of places on Committees and other bodies covered by the proportionality requirements in Local Government and Housing Act 1989 following the delayed election in Blackwall and Cubitt Town Ward held on 3 July 2014.

The Council agreed a tabled amendment that Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Khaled Ahmed **seconded**. The amendment as shown below replaced the table on page 31 of the report with the figures in brackets being the only changes from the original report to Council:

Committee/panel	Total	Labour	Tower Hamlets First	Conservative
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	3	1
Health Scrutiny Panel	7	4	2	1
Appeals Committee	9	4 (-1)	4 (+1)	1
Audit Committee	7	3	3	1

Development Committee	7	3	3	1
Strategic Development Committee	9	5 (+1)	3 (-1)	1
General Purposes Committee	7	3	3	1
Human Resources Committee	7	4 (+1)	2 (-1)	1
Licensing Committee	15	7 (-1)	7 (+1)	1
Pensions Committee	7	4	3	-
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 7 co-optees)	7	3	3	1
TOTAL		45	36	10

A further tabled amendment, **moved** by Councillor Oliur Rahman and **seconded** by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, was not agreed

The recommendations, as amended, were put to the vote and were **agreed**.

DECISION

1. That the review of proportionality be noted and the Council approve the above amended table showing the allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2014/15.
2. That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on committees and panels in accordance with nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Service Head, Democratic Services.

(**Action by:** John S. Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services)

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

12.1 Motion regarding Space for Cycling Campaign

Councillor Rachel Blake **moved**, and Councillor Amy Whitelock-Gibbs **seconded** the motion as printed on the agenda.

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

DECISION

This Council notes:

- That 40 of the 42 councillors elected on 22nd May had signed up to support the London Cycling Campaign's 'Space for Cycling' initiative.

- That the 'Space for Cycling' campaign called upon candidates to commit to supporting a number of local measures if they were elected.
- That the measures, identified by local residents and promoted by the Space for Cycling campaign listed by ward are:
 - **Bethnal Green:** Protected Space for cycling on Mile End Road
 - **Weavers:** Make Columbia Road Market a Liveable Town centre with cycle and pedestrian access to, and through the area
 - **Spitalfields:** Allow two way cycling on Brick Lane
 - **St Peter's:** Protected space for cycling on Cambridge Heath road with a safe junction at Bethnal Green
 - **Bow West:** Protected Space for cycling on Bow Road
 - **Bow East:** Remove through traffic from Tredegar Road and the surrounding area
 - **Whitechapel:** Remove through motor traffic from Vallance Road, New Road and Cannon Street Road
 - **Stepney Green:** Safe cycle access to Sir John Cass Redcoat School and Stepney City Farm
 - **St Dunstons:** Safe cycle access to schools around Ben Jonson Road
 - **Shadwell:** Protected Space for Cycling on Cable Street
 - **St Katherine's and Wapping:** Allow 24-hour access on the Greenway through King Edwards Park
 - **Limehouse:** Protected Space for cycling on Horseferry Road (E14)
 - **Mile End:** Protected space for cycling on Burdett Road
 - **Bromley North:** Protected Space for cycling at Bow Roundabout
 - **Bromley South:** Install protected space for cyclists along both Devons Road and Devas Street
 - **Lansbury:** Safe and convenient route from all of Lansbury ward to Lea River Park
 - **Poplar:** Provide a safe, inviting and clear route for Cycle superhighway S3 in Bromley South centre
 - **Canary Wharf:** Reinstall the riverside path at West Ferry Circus and create a cycle crossing across South Dock.
 - **Blackwall and Cubitt Town:** Protected Space for cycling on Manchester Road and Preston's Road
 - **Island Gardens:** Protected Space for cycling on Manchester Road and Preston's Road
- The motion previously passed by Council on the LCC Safer Lorries campaign included and ask that the Council "strongly encourage contractors used by the Council to meet its Safer Lorries conditions".

This Council believes:

- That all of the councillors who signed up to the Space for Cycling Campaign should now work with the campaigners to further develop the feasibility of the commitments and then deliver the changes needed to make cycling in the borough safer.

- That while the pledges are an incredibly welcome development some will be more challenging than others and there is potential for officers, councillors and cyclists to develop the plans and, in some limited cases, propose alternative actions which would achieve the aims in a different, potentially more effective manner.
- That the number of councillors who made these commitments, and the support the electorate gave them, shows a clear mandate for action to improve cycling infrastructure.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To call on the Mayor and relevant Cabinet Member, following consultation with ward councillors, to bring a plan to the September Council meeting detailing the budget feasibility and impact of each of the specific ward based asks set out above and that this plan should include potential options for implementation.
- Following the aforementioned report from the Mayor, that councillors should consult with residents and cycling campaigners in their wards to prioritise and agree a course of action to best deliver the strategic aims of each pledge.
- To welcome the Labour GLA campaign to improve the safety of the Cycle Superhighways and in particular their lobbying work on the Bow Roundabout.
- To call on Boris Johnson to immediately look at further steps to protect cyclists using CS2 along the full length of Mile End Road and Bow Road, and the Bow Roundabout.

Motions 12.2 to 12.10 were not debated due to lack of time.

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION

That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the business to be transacted contains information defined as Exempt in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

14. HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The report of the Service Head, Human Resources and Workforce Development regarding the statutory position of Head of Paid Service was

considered by the meeting. The Council agreed the reasons for urgency as set out in the report.

Following debate the Council agreed one of the options set out in the report.

(Action: Simon Kilbey, Service Head, Human Resources and Workforce Development)

15. URGENT MOTIONS (NB: THE URGENT MOTIONS WERE DEBATED ON PART ONE OF THE MEETING (PUBLIC SESSION))

The Council agreed to suspend Procedure Rule 13.1 to enable the following urgent motions to be debated without notice:

15.1 Motion on violence in Gaza

Councillor Shiria Khatun **moved**, and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded** the motion as tabled.

During debate an amendment was moved that was accepted by Councillors Khatun and Saunders, who altered their motion accordingly. The revised motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

DECISION

This Council notes:

- The latest escalation of violence in Gaza, which is part of an on going conflict.
- The humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the appalling standards of living faced by the people of Gaza, prior to this latest escalation of violence.
- The rapidly rising death count of hundreds killed in recent weeks and thousands who have been displaced.
- The calls by local MPs, Rushanara Ali and Jim Fitzpatrick, on the British Government to show leadership in working to end this conflict.
- Condemnation by Ed Miliband and other leading politicians of the Israeli incursion into Gaza.
- The gesture of solidarity with the people of Gaza by Tower Hamlets Council in raising the Palestine flag at Tower Hamlets Town Hall.
- The unity of Councillors and the Mayor in condemnation of the conflict.

This Council believes:

- The UK now must urgently take a lead role in bringing together the international community to ensure humanitarian law is upheld.
- The Prime Minister needs to show international leadership, working with the EU and the USA and help bring an end to the conflict.
- The horrendous images of innocent civilian casualties from Gaza over the past weeks show the profound urgency of the situation.

This Council resolves:

- To condemn the violence in which innocent civilians are being killed and displaced.
- To call on our MPs to continue to place pressure on our Government to take action to end the humanitarian crisis, secure a ceasefire and set upon the path to peace.

15.2 Motion on the situation in Gaza

Councillor Oliur Rahman **moved**, and Councillor Maium Miah **seconded** the motion as tabled.

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

DECISION

This meeting notes:

- Since Israel commenced military operations in Gaza on July 8 some 1,200 Palestinians and 55 Israelis have been killed in the conflict.
- Most of the Palestinian deaths have been civilians, a large number women and children.
- In the last 24 hours over 100 Palestinians have been killed. These include 15 people who died as a result of an Israeli attack on a UN-run school, housing refugees. The UN stated they informed the Israeli's in advance there were civilians in the building.
- A delegation of Tower Hamlets Councillors recently visited the Occupied Territories as part of the Tower Hamlets Jenin Friendship Association. Tower Hamlets Council has also agreed to a request from Unison to facilitate a collection among staff for the charity Medical Aid to Palestine.

This meeting agrees:

- To support the Prime Minister's call for an immediate ceasefire.
- The killing of innocent civilians, Palestinian and Israeli, deepens hatred on both sides and makes conflict resolution more difficult to attain.
- The experience of conflict resolution in Northern Ireland and South Africa demonstrates that any lasting solution must entail negotiations with all partners to the conflict.
- That the Prime Minister should use his influence, and the UK's experience of engagement in the peace process in Northern Ireland, to aid a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- To write to the Prime Minister expressing the above concerns.
- To encourage residents to support humanitarian aid relief for all victims of the conflict.

The meeting ended at 10.49 p.m.