

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (BUDGET MEETING)

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2015

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

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Clare Harrison
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Mahbub Alam	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Julia Dockerill	Councillor Gulam Robbani
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Andrew Wood
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor M. A. Mukit, MBE in the Chair

The Speaker stated that everyone's thoughts were with the families of the three local girls who were currently missing and believed to have travelled to Syria. On behalf of the Council, he extended their sympathy to the families and their prayers for the girls' safe return; and the Council's commitment to work together to stop such events happening again in the future.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Amina Ali, Andrew Cregan and Abjol Miah.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were made.

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

There were no announcements.

4. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

4.1 Petition “to denounce £100m cuts in Police & Fire Services by tory Mayor Boris Johnson – Call on Mayor Lutfur Rahman and Tower Hamlets First to stand up for the safety of Tower Hamlets residents and protect local policing”.

Mr Athaur Rahman 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. He agreed that these should be brought to the Mayor of London’s attention. He added that the Administration were strongly committed to protecting the safety of residents and had invested heavily in services to ensure this, including funding for the provision of additional Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers.

RESOLVED

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

5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2015/16

Mayor Lutfur Rahman introduced, and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **moved**, the budget proposals of the Mayor and Executive as set out in the agenda pack. Councillor Oliur Rahman **seconded** the proposals.

Two amendments were tabled and moved as follows:

- (i) Amendment **proposed** by Councillor Rachael Saunders and **seconded** by Councillor Ayas Miah.
- (ii) Amendment **proposed** by Councillor Andrew Wood and **seconded** by Councillor Craig Aston.

Following debate the amendment proposed by Rachael Saunders was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Councillors recorded their votes on the amendment as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Khales Uddin Ahmed	x			
Ohid Ahmed		x		
Rajib Ahmed	x			
Suluk Ahmed		x		
Mahbub Alam		x		
Shah Alam		x		
Amina Ali				Absent
Shahed Ali		x		
Abdul Asad		x		
Craig Aston			x	
Asma Begum	x			
Rachel Blake	x			
Chris Chapman			x	
Dave Chesterton	x			
Alibor Choudhury		x		
Gulam Kibria Choudhury		x		
Andrew Cregan				Absent
Julia Dockerill			x	
David Edgar	x			
Marc Francis	x			
Amy Whitelock Gibbs	x			
Peter Golds			x	
Shafiqul Haque		x		
Clare Harrisson	x			
Danny Hassell	x			
Sirajul Islam	x			
Denise Jones	x			
Aminur Khan		x		
Rabina Khan		x		
Shiria Khatun	x			
Abjol Miah				Absent
Ayas Miah	x			
Harun Miah		x		
Mohammed Maium Miah		x		
Mohammed Mufti Miah		x		
Mohammed Abdul Mukit	x			
Muhammed Ansar Mustaquim		x		
Joshua Peck	x			
John Pierce	x			
Oliur Rahman		x		
Gulam Robbani		x		

Candida Ronald	x			
Rachael Saunders	x			
Helal Uddin	x			
Andrew Wood			x	
Total Votes	20	17	5	3

Following debate the amendment proposed by Andrew Wood was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

Councillors recorded their votes on the amendment as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Khales Uddin Ahmed		x		
Ohid Ahmed		x		
Rajib Ahmed		x		
Suluk Ahmed		x		
Mahbub Alam		x		
Shah Alam		x		
Amina Ali				Absent
Shahed Ali		x		
Abdul Asad		x		
Craig Aston	x			
Asma Begum		x		
Rachel Blake		x		
Chris Chapman	x			
Dave Chesterton		x		
Alibor Choudhury		x		
Gulam Kibria Choudhury		x		
Andrew Cregan				Absent
Julia Dockerill	x			
David Edgar		x		
Marc Francis		x		
Amy Whitelock Gibbs		x		
Peter Golds	x			
Shafiqul Haque		x		
Clare Harrisson		x		
Danny Hassell		x		
Sirajul Islam		x		
Denise Jones		x		
Aminur Khan		x		
Rabina Khan		x		
Shiria Khatun		x		
Abjol Miah				Absent
Ayas Miah		x		
Harun Miah		x		
Mohammed Maium Miah		x		

Mohammed Mufti Miah		x		
Mohammed Abdul Mukit		x		
Muhammed Ansar Mustaquim		x		
Joshua Peck		x		
John Pierce		x		
Oliur Rahman		x		
Gulam Robbani		x		
Candida Ronald		x		
Rachael Saunders		x		
Helal Uddin		x		
Andrew Wood	x			
Total Votes	5	37	0	3

The substantive budget proposals as amended were then put to the vote and were **defeated**.

Councillors recorded their votes on the amended budget as follows:-

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Khales Uddin Ahmed		x		
Ohid Ahmed		x		
Rajib Ahmed		x		
Suluk Ahmed		x		
Mahbub Alam		x		
Shah Alam		x		
Amina Ali				Absent
Shahed Ali		x		
Abdul Asad		x		
Craig Aston			x	
Asma Begum		x		
Rachel Blake		x		
Chris Chapman			x	
Dave Chesterton		x		
Alibor Choudhury		x		
Gulam Kibria Choudhury		x		
Andrew Cregan				Absent
Julia Dockerill			x	
David Edgar		x		
Marc Francis		x		
Amy Whitelock Gibbs		x		
Peter Golds			x	
Shafiqul Haque		x		
Clare Harrisson		x		
Danny Hassell		x		
Sirajul Islam		x		

Denise Jones		x		
Aminur Khan		x		
Rabina Khan		x		
Shiria Khatun		x		
Abjol Miah				Absent
Ayas Miah		x		
Harun Miah		x		
Mohammed Maium Miah		x		
Mohammed Mufti Miah		x		
Mohammed Abdul Mukit		x		
Muhammed Ansar Mustaquim		x		
Joshua Peck		x		
John Pierce		x		
Oliur Rahman		x		
Gulam Robbani		x		
Candida Ronald		x		
Rachael Saunders		x		
Helal Uddin		x		
Andrew Wood			x	
Total Votes	0	37	5	3

RESOLVED

- (i) That the budget proposals of the Mayor and Executive be not adopted;
- (ii) That the Mayor and Executive be informed of the Council's objections to their budget proposals as set out in the amendment agreed by the Council as set out below; be requested to reconsider their proposals in the light of those objections; and in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules submit revised proposals for consideration at a further Budget Council Meeting to be held on 5th March 2015.

This Council believes:

- That Lutfur Rahman is failing the people of Tower Hamlets on the basics – he cannot keep the streets clean. Bulk waste charges have increased fly-tipping and he has proposed to cut monitoring of clean streets this year.
- Residents regularly complain that they are unable to report antisocial behaviour and noise nuisance out of hours, leaving their families suffering throughout the night.

- That Lutfur Rahman claimed he would not cut front line services. This budget contains multiple cuts to front line services to the most vulnerable.
- That these cuts include closing the council's in house homecare service, which has been opposed by this Labour Group at repeated budget meetings, and which has already been implemented, with swingeing redundancies.
- Lutfur Rahman is failing on community safety, with a fall in the number of police officers being funded by the Council, adding insult to the injury of Tory cuts to the police. Local people expect better, with concerns expressed to us about burglary and anti-social behaviour on the rise.
- That the Mayor must stop wasting public money on hopeless legal battles which are for his own personal benefit, with no thought for the needs of local people.
- That the Mayor's attempt to close four public-run nurseries was shameful and typifies his failure to protect vital frontline services.
- That we must tackle poverty. Tower Hamlets has the highest child poverty in the UK. It is the mission of the Labour Party that that must stop.
- That there is a great need in Tower Hamlets to bring people of different backgrounds together. That services to children are a great place to find common ground between parents and begin lifetime friendships for children.
- A Labour government elected in May 2015 would extend the hours of free childcare available for three and four year olds from 15 to 25 hours.
- That Lutfur Rahman's council has failed in delivering the current 15 hour 2 year old entitlement.
- That the Leaving Care Service is a vital frontline support to young people and should be protected from cuts.
- That increased resources are needed to respond to the unprecedented number of planning applications in Tower Hamlets as the borough goes through huge change and a further review of planning charges needs to be carried out to increase planning capacity.
- That the Labour Group recognises the vital importance of cultural provision in the borough and that the grants process is the appropriate route for provision at Kobi Nazrul.

This Council notes:

- The proposed cut of £140,000: 'Deliver more Streetcare monitoring through Champions and Volunteers' (Ref: CLC010).
- That there were 896 reported refuse and recycling missed collections in January 2015. This has risen from 456 in December 2014.
- That the number of Council funded police officers in the Partnership Task Force will fall from 25 to 16 from January 2016:
 - o Calendar year-end 2012: 25 officers
 - o Calendar year-end 2013: 25 officers
 - o Calendar year-end 2014: 25 officers
 - o Calendar year-end 2015: 25 officers
 - o Calendar year-end 2016: 16 officers
- The proposed cut of £427,000: 'Reduce Duplication in Leaving Care Service' (Ref: ESCW057).
- That two-thirds of two year olds in the borough are not receiving the 15 hours of free childcare that they are entitled to.

This Council resolves to adopt the following amendment to the Mayor's budget for 2015/16:

- Delete the funding for Mayoral advisers, saving the Council £350,000.
- Scrap the Mayoral car, saving £15,000.
- Implement a departmental top slice for communications spending (across CLC, D&R, ESWB), saving £200,000.
- Save £100,000 from the legal services budget.
- Delete the budget for Kobi Nazrul, saving £100,000.
- Save an additional £150,000 from the smoking cessation budget.
- Increase planning charges in order to increase in-house capacity and improve consultation.
- Reverse the cut to 'Deliver more Streetcare Monitoring through Champions & Volunteers', costing £140,000.
- Reverse the cut to 'Reduce duplication in Leaving Care Service', costing £427,000.
- Impose a 50% cut to the recurrent budget for the Annual Residents Survey – from £45,000 to £22,500.

- Invest £110,000 into a 24 hour noise service.
- Invest £10k into safe cycle storage
 - £5,000 for officers to identify sites for safe-cycle storage
 - £5,500 for implementation
- Provide £250,000 funding and support to incentivise schools to provide additional places for childcare provision for two year olds, so that more children receive the 15 hours of childcare they are currently entitled to.

#	Saving Proposal	Saving	Dir.
1	Delete funding for Mayoral advisers	£350,000	LPG
2	Scrap the Mayoral car	£15,000	LPG
3	Implement a top slice across departmental communications budgets	£200,000	LPG
4	Legal Services Budget	£100,000	LPG
5	Delete funding for Kobi Nazrul	£100,000	CLC
6	Additional savings from the smoking cessation budget	£150,000	ESW
7	Halve Annual Residents Survey Budget	£22,500	LPG
	Total	£937,500	

#	Spending Proposal	Cost	Dir.
8	Protect funding for street care monitoring	£140,000	CLC
9	Protect funding for the Leaving Care Service	£427,000	ESW
10	Invest in a 24-hour noise service	£110,000	CLC
11	Safe cycle storage – site identification and implementation	£10,500	CLC
12	Invest in Childcare Budget	£250,000	ESW
	Total	£937,500	

6. APPROVAL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS' COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) CHARGING SCHEDULE

The Council considered the report of the Mayor in Cabinet regarding the adoption of the Charging Schedule for a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in Tower Hamlets. The Service Head, Democratic Services advised that it was required by law that in order for the Charging Schedule to be adopted, the majority of the total Members present must vote in favour, not just the majority of those voting.

Councillor Rabina Khan **moved**, and Councillor Ohid Ahmed **seconded**, the recommendations as set out in the report. Councillor Khan thanked Council staff for all their hard work in preparing the proposed charging scheme.

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Dave Chesterton **seconded**, a tabled amendment to the recommendations, to require officers to report annually to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the governance arrangements for the CIL; and to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee on CIL spending.

The Speaker adjourned the meeting at 21:45 to allow Members to consider the tabled amendment. The meeting reconvened at 21:50.

Councillor Rabina Khan informed the Council that she accepted the amendment proposed by Councillor Rachael Saunders; and with the consent of the seconder she altered her recommendations accordingly.

Following debate the recommendations as amended were put to the vote and were **agreed** unanimously.

RESOLVED

1. That the Tower Hamlets CIL Charging Schedule, as modified by the Independent Examiner's report, be approved as attached at Appendix A to the report, for adoption on the 1st April 2015.
2. That the CIL Examination Report, attached at Appendix B to the report, be noted.
3. That the documents which support the proposed Charging Schedule, for adoption alongside it, be noted as follows:-
 - A Regulation 123 List, attached at Appendix C to the report.
 - An Instalments Policy, attached at Appendix D.
 - A Payment in Kind and Infrastructure Payments Policy, attached at Appendix E.
4. That the CIL Charging Schedule Explanatory Notes document, attached at Appendix A1 to the report, be noted.

5. That an annual review of the Charging Schedule be approved, to establish whether an update is necessary and appropriate.
6. That CIL income information within the Capital Programme be referred to the Budget Setting Full Council every year.
7. That officers be required to report annually to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on:-
 - Governance arrangements for CIL; and
 - CIL spending
8. That officers be required to report annually to the Audit Committee on:-
 - CIL spending

7. SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2015/16

The Council considered the report of the Service Head Democratic Services regarding the Scheme of Members' Allowances 2015/16.

The recommendation set out in the report was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

RESOLVED

That the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2015 be adopted as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services.

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No motion to exclude the press and public was passed.

9. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Council considered the report of the Service Head Democratic Services regarding the appointment of Co-opted Members to the Standards Advisory Committee

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were **agreed**.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council note that a vacancy exists for a co-opted member on the Standards Advisory Committee following the resignation of Mr Denzil Johnson.
2. That in view of the information at paragraphs 3.5 to 3.7 of the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services regarding non-attendance by Mr Barry Lowe, co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee, Mr Lowe's membership of the Committee be terminated, thereby creating a second vacancy on the Committee.
3. That Ms Nafisa Adam and Mr Michael James Houston be appointed as co-opted members of the Standards Advisory Committee, to serve for a term of office of four years from the date of appointment.
4. That in the event of any further vacancy arising for a co-opted member on the Standards Advisory Committee during the current municipal year to May 2015, Mr Daniel McLaughlin be appointed to that position, also for a term of office of four years from the date of appointment.

The meeting ended at 9.55 p.m.

Speaker of the Council