



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Thursday, 5th March 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

SECOND BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING

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 **THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH 2015**

Stephen Halsey
Head of Paid Service

Public Information

Attendance at meetings.

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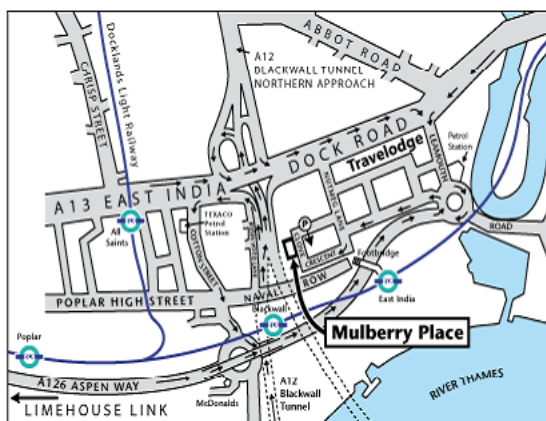
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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

SECOND BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH 2015

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

4. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of three petitions to be presented at a meeting of the Council. At the Budget Council Meeting, only petitions that relate to the Council's budget or the setting of the Council Tax may be presented.

The deadline for receipt of petitions for this Council meeting is noon on Friday 27th February 2015. At the time of agenda despatch no petitions had been received.

5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2015/16 - FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

5 - 10

To consider the revised proposals of the Mayor and Executive in relation to the Council's Budget and Council Tax 2015/16.

The first Budget Council Meeting on 25th February 2015 did not agree the Mayor's budget proposals. The Council agreed an amendment moved by Councillor Rachael Saunders and seconded by Councillor Ayas Miah containing a number of proposed changes to the Mayor's budget. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and statutory provisions, the Mayor has been formally advised of the

Council's objections to his proposals and within a period of five working days must reconsider those proposals in accordance with the Council's objections and submit his revised budget proposals to the second Budget Council Meeting. Those revised proposals may at the Mayor's discretion include some or all elements of the amendment agreed by the Council at the first budget meeting.

The attached report sets out the amendment agreed by the Council on 25th February 2015. The Mayor's revised budget proposals will be circulated to Councillors as soon as they are available.

Officer advice on the Mayor's budget proposals and on each element of the agreed budget amendment has been received by Members in the agenda for the first Budget Council Meeting and papers tabled at that meeting. **Members are requested to bring those documents with them to this meeting.**

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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:-

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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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
SECOND BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 5th MARCH 2015
BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2015/16:
FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL
REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the Budget Council Meeting on 25th February 2015, the Council considered the Mayor and Executive's budget proposals approved on 4th February and two amendments to those proposals, from the Labour Group and the Conservative Group respectively.
- 1.2. The Council did not approve the Mayor's budget proposals. The amendment proposed by the Labour Group members was agreed. The amendment proposed by the Conservative Group members was defeated.
- 1.3 The process to be followed in circumstances where the Council does not approve the budget proposals of the Executive is set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001, the provisions of which are incorporated into the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution. The regulations provide that, in respect of an authority with a Mayor and Cabinet executive, the authority must "inform the elected mayor of any objections which it has to the executive's estimates or amounts and must give to him instructions requiring the executive to reconsider, in the light of those objections, those estimates and amounts in accordance with the authority's requirements" (Part III, paragraph 9).
- 1.4 The authority must then specify a period of at least five working days within which the elected mayor may either submit a revision of his budget proposals in accordance with the authority's requirements; or inform the authority of any disagreement that he has with any of its objections, giving reasons in each case.

2. MAYOR TO RESPOND TO THE AUTHORITY'S OBJECTIONS

- 2.1 In accordance with the above requirements, the Mayor has been formally advised of the Council's objections to his budget proposals in the form of the Labour Group amendment that was agreed at the Budget Council Meeting. Within a period of five working days the Mayor must reconsider those budget

proposals in accordance with the objections and submit his final budget proposals to the second Budget Council Meeting. Those revised proposals may at the Mayor's discretion include some or all of the elements of the amendment agreed by the Council at the first budget meeting.

- 2.2 The Mayor's revised budget proposals will be circulated to Councillors as soon as they are available.
- 2.3 The Mayor's revised proposals will form the Motion for debate at the second Budget Council meeting and the amendment agreed on 25th February as attached, will again represent the amendment for that debate. For the amendment to succeed at the second Budget Meeting it will require two-thirds of those Members present and voting to vote in favour of the amendment.
- 2.4 Officer advice on the Mayor's budget proposals and on each element of the agreed budget amendment has been received by Members in the agenda for the first Budget Council Meeting and papers tabled at that meeting. Members are requested to bring those documents with them to the second Budget meeting and to take account of the information therein in making their decision.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

Appendix 1 – Budget amendment proposed by Labour Group Councillors, agreed by majority vote at Council on 25th February 2015 and forming the proposed amendment to the budget for debate on 5th March 2015.

APPENDIX 1:-

Labour Group Budget Amendment - agreed at Budget Council Meeting, 25th February 2015

Proposer: Cllr Rachael Saunders

Seconder: Cllr Ayas Miah

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	