

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH APRIL 2015

**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 13.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed
- Councillor Ayas Miah.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Councillor John Pierce declared a personal interest in agenda item 13.1, motion regarding Save Our Homes, as he was employed by a Trade Association.

Councillor Shafiqul Haque and Councillor Rachael Saunders each declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.2, motion regarding a New Deal for Leaseholders, as Leaseholders within the borough.

3. MINUTES

DECISION

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary Council meeting held on 21st January 2015 and the budget Council meetings held on 25th February 2015 and 5th March 2015 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

There were no announcements.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**5.1 Petition entitled 'Save Our Homes – Enough is Enough – Brune, Bernard, Carter & Barnett House.'**

Mr Shamsur Rahman addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners 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)

5.2 Petition regarding Globe Town Mosque and Cultural Centre, E2 OPG

The petition was not presented to the meeting due to the absence of the petitioners.

5.3 Petition regarding the Watts Grove development

Mr Terry McGrenera addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners 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)

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:-

- 6.3 Question from Ms Shuily Akthar about the Community Safety walkabouts and Mobile Police Station.
- 6.5 Question from Mr Aulad Miah about the Kobi Nazrul Centre.
- 6.6 Question from Mr Jamir Chowdhury about services for supporting elderly and isolated groups in the community.
- 6.7 Question from Mr Shamim Miah about the the Smoking Cessation Service in Tower Hamlets.
- 6.8 Question from Mr Aser El Saqqa about the Rich Mix Centre.

In relation to question 6.10 regarding the Cambridge Heath Sixth Form Centre, with the permission of the Speaker Ms Emma Price made a statement about the services provided by the Special Educational Needs Unit at the centre and in support of a campaign to keep the unit open.

Questions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.4 were not put due to the absence of the questioners.

Questions 6.9 to 6.13 were not put due to lack of time. Written responses would be provided to these 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 then responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following question and a supplementary question were put and were responded to by the relevant Executive Member:-

- 8.1 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam regarding a new deal for leaseholders.

Questions 8.2 to 8.25 were not put due to 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**9.1 Pay Policy Statement 2015/16 - Reference from the Human Resources Committee**

Council considered a reference from the Human Resources Committee (19th February 2015) regarding the Pay Policy Statement 2015/16.

DECISION

1. To adopt the authority's Pay Policy Statement for the year 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 as attached at Appendix 1 to the reference from the Human Resources Committee.
2. To agree that if any minor changes to the 2015/16 policy statement are required as a result of future government guidance, authority to make such amendments be delegated to the Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Service Head (Human Resources and Workforce Development), the Chair of the Human Resources Committee and the Monitoring Officer. Should any fundamental changes be required, then the Pay Policy Statement be referred back to the Human Resources Committee for consideration.

(Action by: Chris Holme, Interim Corporate Director, Resources)

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 Calendar of meetings 2015/16**

Council considered the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services on the proposed calendar of Council and Committee meetings for 2015/16.

A revised 'Appendix A' to the report, setting out an amended draft programme of meetings was tabled.

DECISION

That the Council approve the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2015/16 as set out in the revised Appendix A to the report of the Service Head, Democratic Services as tabled at the meeting and appended to this decision sheet.

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

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

12.2 Motion regarding a New Deal for Leaseholders

Councillor John Pierce **moved**, and Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs **seconded**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

During the debate Councillor Rabina Khan indicated that she wished to move an amendment to the motion. However, due to time constraints the amendment was not considered and the motion as printed in the agenda was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

DECISION

This Council notes:

1. The hard work done by MPs Rushanara Ali and Jim Fitzpatrick to support leaseholders in the borough
2. Leaseholders across Tower Hamlets have been sent bills by Tower Hamlets Homes for as much as £40,000 for major works as part of the Decent Homes Programme
3. Leaseholders have been given 12 months to repay these hefty and unmanageable bills
4. Leaseholders feel that Tower Hamlets Homes and Tower Hamlets Council have not adequately engaged, consulted or responded to their concerns

This Council believes that:

1. It is unacceptable for leaseholders to be hit with such extreme bills and under such a short repayment timescale
2. The repayment period for major works should be extended to 10 years
3. Greater transparency is necessary, particularly relating to all charges and proposed works
4. There needs to be an open and fair dialogue between leaseholders and Tower Hamlets Homes

This Council resolves to call on Tower Hamlets Homes and Tower Hamlets Council to:

1. Extend the current repayment period for major works from 12 months to 10 years

2. Provide much greater transparency on all charges and proposed major works
3. Adopt a pro-active approach when responding to, engaging with and consulting leaseholders

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

12.5 Motion regarding Barts Health NHS Trust

Councillor Asma Begum **moved**, and Councillor Rachel Blake **seconded**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Abdul Asad **moved** and Oliur Rahman **seconded** an amendment that:-

“The Council recognise, support and help build on the hard work that the Council and CCG are doing to:-

Oppose Conservative detrimental policy – such as the removal of the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee;

Open more GPs surgeries to ensure that residents have access to a GP; and

Secure funding to provide routine and urgent care access to Primary Care 12 hours a day, 7 days a week in the future.”

Councillor Asma Begum indicated that she accepted the amendment proposed by Councillor Asad and altered her motion accordingly.

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

DECISION

This Council notes that:

1. Barts Health NHS Trust has been put into special measures, after a Care Quality Commission found a culture of bullying and low morale among staff at Whipps Cross Hospital
2. The coalition government scrapped Labour’s guarantee of a GP appointment within 48 hours
3. The coalition government cut funding for Labour’s GP extended opening hours scheme, and as a result fewer practices are open at evening and weekends
4. Over 20,000 signed the petition to ‘Save our Surgeries’ – calling on NHS England to reverse the withdrawal of the minimum practice

income guarantee, which changed the funding formula and is taking money away from deprived areas

5. The Labour Group is fighting locally for local workers and to ensure that the best talent is available to the Trust

This Council believes that:

1. Labour's policy to guarantee that you can get a GP appointment within 48 hours is vital
2. Barts Health NHS Trust should employ more local workers, creating local jobs and using local skills
3. The Tories have wasted £3 billion on a top-down reorganisation which puts competition and profits before co-operation and patient care, and ties hospitals up in competition law
4. The unaffordability of housing is becoming a barrier to recruitment and retention of key NHS workers

This Council resolves to:

1. Call on Barts Health NHS Trust to use trust assets to enable the provision of affordable, local housing for local staff
2. Call on Barts Health to fully utilise the resource of local workers
3. Call on Barts Health to work with housing providers and the council to prioritise provision of local housing for key workers

That the Council recognise, support and help build on the hard work that the Council and CCG are doing to:

1. Oppose Conservative detrimental policy – such as the removal of the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee;
2. Open more GPs surgeries to ensure that residents have access to a GP; and
3. Secure funding to provide routine and urgent care access to Primary Care 12 hours a day, 7 days a week in the future.

(Action by: Robert McCulloch – Graham, Corporate Director, Education Social Care and Wellbeing)

12.10 Motion regarding Cambridge Heath Sixth Form Centre Special Educational Needs Unit

Councillor Danny Hassell **moved**, and Councillor Marc Francis **seconded**, the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Gulam Robbani **moved** and Councillor Rabina Khan **seconded** an amendment:-

“That the Council recognizes that transition units for SEN is a nation-wide issue and whilst the amendments to the Children’s and Family’s Act recently does not still meet the needs of SEN children and young people;

That this Council shares the sentiments of the parents and carers campaigning for a quality transition SEN unit to remain within the borough;

In particular to explore how the Sixth Form unit might be able to keep the SEN provision open;

That a delegation of a cross party group support the campaign group meeting with each of the school’s Governing Body and their Chairs;

That, whilst the Council has no direct power to ensure that the unit stays open, the Mayor will explore how best to ensure there is appropriate provision for SEN students in the borough.”

Councillor Danny Hassell indicated that he accepted the motion moved by Councillor Robbani and altered his motion accordingly.

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

DECISION

This Council notes:

1. The Cambridge Heath Sixth Form Centre was founded to provide a centre for further education for 16-18 year-olds from Morpeth, Swanlea and Oaklands Secondary Schools with the support and encouragement of LBTH;
2. The centre currently includes a separate unit for 21 youngsters with Special Educational Needs, which is based in two of the classrooms;
3. Parents of these children have been told that the SEN Unit will be closed from April and that there has been no consultation with those parents over this proposal, only very belated discussion over alternative arrangements for the continuing education of individual children.

This Council believes that:

1. Good quality teaching for children with Special Educational Needs within a strong learning environment is a vital part of our educational system;

2. Parents and other stakeholders, including LBTH should be consulted meaningfully before any decision is taken to reduce education provision.
3. The impact of these proposals on affect pupils and their families could be incredibly damaging to their education and their wider wellbeing.
4. Tower Hamlets schools should be leading London with high quality provision for children and young people with a range of needs.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on the Heads and Governing Bodies of Morpeth, Oaklands and Swanlea Schools to reconsider the decision to close the Cambridge Heath Six Form SEN Unit;
2. To call on the Mayor to support the campaign by parents to keep the Cambridge Heath SEN Unit open.
3. To request officers engage with Cambridge Heath Sixth Form to explore support for the SEN unit. For officers to provide proactive support to young people and their families who could be affected by these proposals.

That the Council recognizes that transition units for SEN is a nation-wide issue and whilst the amendments to the Children's and Family's Act recently does not still meet the needs of SEN children and young people.

That this Council shares the sentiments of the parents and carers campaigning for a quality transition SEN unit to remain within the borough.

In particular to explore how the Sixth Form unit might be able to keep the SEN provision open,

That a delegation of a cross party group support the campaign group meeting with each of the school's Governing Body and their Chairs.

That, whilst the Council has no direct power to ensure that the unit stays open, the Mayor will explore how best to ensure there is appropriate provision for SEN students in the borough.

(Action by: Robert McCulloch – Graham, Corporate Director, Education, Social Care and Wellbeing)

Motions 12.1, 12.3, 12.4, 12.6 – 12.9 and 12.11 – 12.13 were not debated due to lack of time.

13. URGENT MOTIONS

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

13.1 Motion regarding Save Our Homes

Councillor Rabina Khan **moved**, and Councillor Gulam Robbani **seconded**, a tabled motion on the above matter.

Following debate Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved** and Councillor Shiria Khatun **seconded** an amendment to the tabled motion.

Following further debate the amendment moved by Councillor Saunders was put to the vote and was **agreed**. The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed** unanimously.

DECISION

The Council notes

The petition submitted by residents on Bruce, Bernard, Carter and Barnett Houses expressing strident opposition to the proposed demolition of their homes

The allegation by residents that East End Homes are in breach of the stock transfer agreement signed with the Council and considerable turnout at a march opposing demolition last week

The importance of consultation and involvement of residents in all decisions made that affect them

This Council believes

That where redevelopment occurs, it should always occur in the interests of residents

That the petition brought to Council and action by BBC Residents shows the strength of feeling and community among many residents on this estate

This Council resolves

To support the residents of Bruce, Bernard, Carter and Barnett Houses in asking that East End Homes sticks to the terms of the stock transfer agreement

To insist upon transparent and genuine consultation in keeping with government guidelines

To continue both supporting and holding to account all Social Landlords that we work with

To ask the Lead Member to meet with EEH and representatives of petitioners to discuss the situation

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

The meeting ended at 10.35 p.m.

SECTION ONE (UNRESTRICTED)

Agenda Item 11.1 - Revised Appendix A: Draft programme of meetings 1 May 2015 - 30 June 2016

	(Usual Day)	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Appointments Sub-Committee	5:00 pm Monday			14, 28		28	12	23	7		1, 15		25	9	
Audit Committee	7.00 pm Tuesday		30			24			8			22			
Cabinet	5.30 pm Wednesday	13*	24	29		2	7	4	2	6	3	2	6	11	22+
Council	7.30 pm Wednesday	20 (AGM)		22		16		18		20	24	3, 23		18 (AGM)	
Corp. Parenting Steering Group	N/A			9			8			14			21		
Development Committee	7.00 pm Wednesday	14*	10	8	6	3, 30	28	25	16	13	10	9	6, 27		1+
Employee Appeals/ Sub Committee	6.00 pm Monday	11*	15	27		7	12	16	14	18	22		11		
General Purposes Committee	6.30 pm Wednesday		24			24(Th)			9			16			
Health Scrutiny Panel	6.30 pm Tuesday		10 (W)			9 (W)			9 (W)		17 (W)		20 (W)		
Human Resources Committee	7.30 pm Wednesday			1			28			27			13		
King George's Field Charity Board	Afternoon Wednesday			29			21			13			6		
Licensing Committee	7.00 pm Tuesday		9				6		8			8			
Licensing Sub Committee	6.30 pm Tuesday	12*	2, 16, 30	14, 28	18	1, 15, 29	13, 27	10, 24	3 (Th), 15	12, 26	9, 23	10 (Th), 22	5, 19	10, 31+	
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	7.15 pm Tuesday	12*	23	28		1	6	3	1	5, 18^	2, 8^	1	5	10	21+
Pensions Board	Same night as PC		11			17		26				10			
Pensions Committee	7.00 pm Thursday		11			17		26				10			
Standards (Advisory) Committee	7.30 pm Tuesday		2			8		24				15			
Strategic Development Committee	7.00 pm Thursday		4	16	27		8	19		7	18	31		12	23+
Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board	5.00 pm Tuesday		16			15		17		12		15			
Provisional Member Development Training Dates	6:30pm Tuesday			7	11	22	20	10	15	19	9	29	19		

