



Meeting of the

# TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

---

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

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## A G E N D A

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### VENUE

Council Chamber, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Town Hall, Mulberry Place,  
5 Clove Crescent,  
London E14 2BG

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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 **WEDNESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

Stephen Halsey  
**Head of Paid Service**

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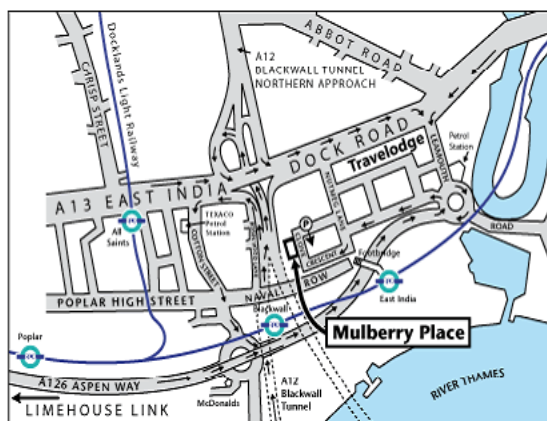
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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 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. MINUTES**

**5 - 68**

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 and the budget Council meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The draft minutes are attached.

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

**5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**

**69 - 72**

The Council Procedure Rules provide for a maximum of three petitions to be presented at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The deadline for receipt of petitions for this Council meeting is noon on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015. However at the time of agenda despatch, the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out in the attached report.

- 6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** **73 - 76**
- The questions which have been received from members of the public for this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 20 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.
- 7. MAYOR'S REPORT**
- The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.
- A maximum of five minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the respective political group leaders to respond for up to one minute each if they wish.
- 8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL** **77 - 82**
- The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.
- 9. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**
- 9.1 Pay Policy Statement 2015/16 - Reference from the Human Resources Committee** **83 - 92**
- To adopt the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16 as required by the Localism Act 2011. The draft statement is set out in the attached reference from the Human Resources Committee (19<sup>th</sup> February 2015).
- 10. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS/EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)**
- 11. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 11.1 Calendar of meetings 2015/16** **93 - 98**
- To agree the programme of Council, Committee and other meetings for the municipal year 2015/16. The report of the Service Head, Democratic Services is attached.

**12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF  
THE COUNCIL**

**99 - 116**

The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.

# 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**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2015**

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

**Members Present:**

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Clare Harrison
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Mahbub Alam	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Andrew Cregan	Councillor John Pierce
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

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

During the meeting the Council agreed to vary the order of business. To aid clarity, the Minutes are 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. The order the business was taken at the meeting was as follows:

- Item 12.3 – Motion regarding solidarity with French citizens.
- Item 1 - Apologies for absence.
- Item 2 – Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- Item 3 – Minutes.
- Item 4 – Announcements.
- Item 5 – Petitions.
- Item 6 – Public Questions.

- Item 7 – Mayor’s Report.
- Item 13.1 - Urgent Motion regarding Waste Management Strategy.
- Item 8 – Members Questions.
- Item 13.2 - Urgent Motion regarding Wasted Public Money.
- Item 9.1 – Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on matters referred by the Council.
- Item 12.2 - Motion regarding Docklands Sailing Centre.
- Item 13. 3 - Urgent Motion regarding Circle Housing Group & Old Ford Housing Association.

The Speaker of the Council opened the meeting and welcomed the Secretary of State Commissioners to the Council meeting.

Prior to commencing the Council’s formal business, the Speaker of the Council referred to the terrible events that took place in Paris two weeks earlier, when twelve people lost their lives as a result of terrorist actions. He invited the Council to stand and observe a minute’s silence in memory of those who died and in solidarity with the people of Paris.

### **Procedural Motion**

Councillor Shiria Khatun **moved** and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded** a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that Motion 12.3 ‘Motion regarding solidarity with French citizens’ be considered as the next item of business”. The motion was put to the vote and, subject to an amendment was **agreed**.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Abdul Asad and Councillor Oliur Rahman.

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

Councillor Marc Francis declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the Urgent Motion regarding Circle Housing Group & Old Ford Housing (item 13.3). This was on the basis that the Councillor was a Board Member of Old Ford Housing Association. The Councillor left the meeting for the consideration of this motion.

**3. MINUTES****RESOLVED**

That the unrestricted minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

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

There were no announcements.

**5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS****5.1 Petition regarding licensing in Poplar High Street, E14 .**

Mr Dulal Uddin addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners, presenting their revised petition as set out in the supplementary agenda; and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety responded to the matters raised in the petition. Whilst sympathising with the petitioners cause, he explained that the matter had been determined by the Council's Licensing Sub-Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

With the Speaker's permission, Councillor Amina Ali, the Chair of the Sub-Committee, explained that, in considering the application, the Sub-Committee had carefully considered all of the representations including those from the petitioner.

**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.

**5.2 Petition entitled 'Stop G4S bidding contracts in Tower Hamlets'**

Ms Tahsin Ahmed addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He expressed sympathy for the issues raised and explained that the Council was reviewing its ethical procurement policy to ensure that it was robust.

**RESOLVED**

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

**5.3 Petition entitled 'Count Tower Hamlets' Votes in Tower Hamlets!'**

The Petition was not presented at the meeting due to the absence of the petitioner.

**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 Ms Margaret Bradley:**

Why are the leaseholder services provided by Tower Hamlets Homes so dreadful?

**Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing and Development.**

Thank you Margaret for your question. First of all apologies on behalf of myself and the Administration for the way Tower Hamlets Homes have conducted themselves with you. The Leasehold Services Department at Tower Hamlets Homes has been performing poorly but when the Leasehold Service was with the Council it was quite severe as well. I understand your concerns about Tower Hamlets Homes' services particularly in light of the major works charges. I've already received 2 petitions in relation to the major works charges and how we can rectify our current policies to ensure people like yourselves are able to pay on a long term plan as well.

In terms of transparency and the quality of work that's taking place within Tower Hamlets Homes in relation to major works charges, I wanted to cite you an example. Previously before I became a Councillor, there was a particular block near where I lived where decent homes work took place under the pilot project. Subsequently those leaseholders came to see me a year and a half later and I instructed a surveyor to inspect the property and to make sure that the work that took place and the major works was correct.

Unfortunately it was found that the work that took place needed to be redone again because the repointing and several other things were not carried out by the contractor. Subsequently I pulled that contractor back in to address the concerns of the leaseholders and we're looking forward to actually addressing the fact that they can be compensated but that's a little example of the things that we're doing. In terms of service charges, that is also something that the Mayor and I discuss and as part of that pledge we're also developing the

dispute resolution panel which was actually in the borough at one time but got disbanded a few years ago well before I became a Councillor.

In terms of the dispute resolution panel this is something for you to take your service charges including the major works charges so that you can put your case forward as well. Including on top of that we also will be holding a referendum which is part of the Mayor's pledge to see whether or not leaseholders and tenants will judge whether or not the ALMO should stay outside or be bought back into the Council. And finally I hold surgeries; I would welcome you to come to my surgery so I can look at your concerns and make sure that you are charged correctly.

### **Summary of supplementary question from Ms Bradley**

When you took over from the GLC which was in 1986 I believe up until we had the work done in 2011, you done nothing to our block. Absolutely nothing, although when I bought my flat it was down on there that you were supposed to do the work that we got charged for by about 2004. It's not the only thing I went and saw Councillor Aston last year about. I'm getting constant leaks from upstairs. Our Estate Officer doesn't seem to have a clue what her responsibilities are. I've had a leak now going on for about 7 months which is just about being sorted out finally. How do you expect us to pay a service charge when we get very little service?

### **Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the supplementary question**

Thank you Margaret for the supplementary you were quite right. The GLC leases were very complex at the time and when it came to the Council it became more complicated as well. As an ex leaseholder myself, I understand the problems that you're facing in terms of service charges and major works charges as well.

In terms of the leak that you've experienced, one of the things I've realised is that with the Right to Buy that's been introduced in the borough again and all over the country, there is an increase of leaseholders. And the fact is we also need to look at policies whether or not we should have policies for resident leaseholders and an alternative policy for absentee leaseholders. Because it is often the commercial leaseholders who leave their tenants and who are responsible for the tenants. And it could be in your case it's an ex leaseholder who's got a tenant upstairs but in that case we do ought to look at policies whereby there is a different policy for resident leaseholders and commercial leaseholders as well.

And as I said before in terms of the service charges and in terms of what you're facing I would be more than willing to sit with you and go through the form of transparency that needs to be adhered to. And particularly the fact there may be the possibility of an additional surveyor to inspect the properties and why the work didn't take place since 1986.

**6.2 Question from Mr P.B. Prasad:**

We believe that the East End Homes (EEH) have not met their responsibilities under the terms and spirit of the transfer of stock agreement as outlined in the 34 clauses of the main documents which they signed back in 2006. They seem to have flouted the promise to make improvements to the Holland Estate. Despite this blatant disregard, the company – EEH – wishes to now demolish our homes to make a profit which we fully oppose and will fight against. We know that the Mayor Rahman and Tower Hamlets First is a listening administration and have a strong track record on housing related matters nationally. With this in mind, could the Executive Member shed some light on the conduct of EEH and their plans and whether the Council think that it is the right approach by East End Homes to deal with our housing stock and the local residents in such an irresponsible way?

**Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing & Development.**

Thank you Mr Prasad for bringing this petition to the Council. I understand from East End Homes that they are actually carrying out a survey and a consultation process in line with advice that they received from their Board that residents wanted regeneration to take place. This exercise has been continuing with a survey to consult with residents and leaseholders and East End Homes were asked to initiate that exercise in early 2014. While it was being undertaken, it emerged that many of the residents didn't want this to take place, that demolition wasn't wanted on the estate and we've been following this closely.

As I understand of today, no decision has been made in terms of demolition or regeneration of the Holland Estate. And I think what ought to be remembered is in our transfer document we did not agree to any demolition. It was only regeneration and that is the promise they ought to adhere to. And I promise you today, working with Councillors Robbani and Suluk, to ensure that we work with the residents of the Holland Estate so that your concerns are brought to light. And if you don't want the demolition that ought to be what was promised in the transfer document, that is what you ought to be entitled to.

**Summary of supplementary question from Mr Prasad**

Yes I'm very grateful to you for that but just about 3 weeks ago, there was a local board meeting and there were 15 board members present there. Out of 15, 13 people voted against that. This was recorded and still it was made very clear that we do not want any demolition and we wanted the withdrawal of Section 20 Notice. But they disregarded and they kept on saying that some residents want the demolition. We do not know who because you know we have conducted house to house meeting with all the residents and every single person, every single resident, leaseholder or the tenant they do not want the demolition. So if they have the board meeting and 13 members out of 15 voted against it, then the matter should have been dropped.



**Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the supplementary question**

I will be writing to East End Homes following this Council meeting to put the Council's viewpoint that, in the transfer document demolition was not agreed. It would only be regeneration. Demolition can only be agreed if the residents, leaseholders and tenants want it there as well. But as far as we're concerned from the Council, the transfer document clearly states no demolition, only refurbishment. So I hope that they will listen to us, but we will also be making sure that we have a meeting with them and make sure that your petition is submitted to them.

**6.4 Question from Mr Mark Taylor:**

Forced evictions when reporting or asking for repairs, unacceptable standards and rogue landlords continue to pose serious problems for tenants and renters and are negatively affecting many lives. The Coalition Government's welfare reform has exacerbated the situation. A great majority has experienced problems in their homes of damp, mould, leaking roofs or windows, electrical hazards, animal infestations and gas leaks. In its current state, the private rental market does not function to ensure that homes are let in a decent condition.

Could the Executive Members provide an update in relation to Tower Hamlets and the Council's Licensing Scheme to ensure such issues are being looked at and addressed in Tower Hamlets on a priority basis?

**Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing & Development**

Thank you Mark for bringing this important question to light. The fact that the law allows for a tenant to be thrown out of their home is simply disgraceful and I would further remark of how shameful it was to see the issue of Section 21 revenge evictions come before parliament in November and be filibustered away by wealthy Tory backbenchers so that a vote could not even be held. That was Tory class war in action and we need to remember that too many of our politicians will side with rogue landlords over ordinary people. However there ought to be a further debate actually between the responsibilities of the management agents as well as the landlords because currently the management agents are not regulated. We can't change the national situation but we can use whatever powers we have to ensure that we can do something better for the private rented sector in Tower Hamlets. It was agreed in September that consultation would begin on a Landlord Licensee Scheme and trials in pilot areas will be in operation this year. That consultation has already begun.

**Summary of supplementary question from Mr Taylor**

Rather than have your budget cut by millions, do you think that the Government should provide funding for local councillors to provide a tenancy

relation service to help vulnerable tenants and renters have a fair chance against unfair rogue landlords? How can a landlord register function without money to enforce it? Housing Benefit money paid to private sector renters has doubled in the past 10 years. The Government seems to be prepared to pay this money to private landlords. Will you ask the Mayor to write to the minister concerned to highlight the plight of affected people in Tower Hamlets?

### **Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the supplementary question**

Thank you Mark indeed I agree with you. And in particular the Mayor and I will write as you requested. But it is important to remember that the current Tory Government doesn't seem to acknowledge the fact that they have the Bank of England Governor in a home which he gets an allowance for of about £1/4m and yet we have people in the private rented sector suffering so severely and yet there's no legislation to be able to challenge rogue landlords.

### **6.5 Question from Mr Azizur Rahaman:**

How are the Government cuts affecting the people and Tower Hamlets Council? Could you give a full breakdown of cuts since 2010 by the Government and other funding bodies for the Council?

### **Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources**

Thank you Mr Rahman. I want to start by reminding the chamber that this Government has failed everybody, especially the people of Tower Hamlets. It's economic policy has got us absolutely nowhere. There's been no growth whatsoever, businesses are suffering, employees are losing their jobs and people out there aren't getting a service. Furthermore their social policies stink.

They talked about Big Society. All we've got is broken society. They talked about rolling back the state so people could be independent. Instead they're rolling back the state so they can dish out contracts to big business at the expense of local business and small business. It's clear Mr Rahman that welfare reform hasn't worked. The NHS has been cut, people are out on the streets, people are starving, people are dying because of this Government.

But when it comes to this Council, I can set out for you what the budget cuts have looked like over the last 4 years. So in 2011/12 we recieved a budget cut of 11.3% which is £28.9m. You can imagine what impact that was. In the following year we faced a 7.8% budget reduction which meant £23.7 million was taken out of the kitty. In 13-14 we faced an 11.2% budget reduction which was another £26m away from our budget. In 14-15 we had 18.5% taken from us which equated to around £6.7m that year. Moving forward we have to find savings in the region of £28m. I will leave it to your imagination Mr Rahman what this means for local people and if we in Tower Hamlets will

survive the onslaught.

(No supplementary question was put)

#### **6.6 Question from Ms Eileen Short:**

On January 31<sup>st</sup> tenant organisations, trade unions and housing campaigners from all over London will come together on the March for Homes. As the general election approaches, we want to make sure politicians don't forget the millions of people - many of them in Tower Hamlets - who are in housing need. Everyone deserves a decent home. We demand investment in council housing, rent control and security of tenure. Can the Lead Member for Housing please state if the Council will support the March for Homes and welcome it to the borough if it passes through Tower Hamlets?

#### **Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing & Development**

Thank you Eileen for this question. The housing crisis is an issue in this country and it is at the core of the general election at the moment. It's a pity some of the parties didn't speak about this about 3 years ago but then hence we are facing a general election. The importance of decent affordable housing for Londoners is one of the key things of our Fairness Commissioner's report. Much of what the March for London wants to achieve are recommendations within our Fairness Commission, including improving the standard of the private rented accommodation creating rent models based on the principle that social rent should relate to the income of tenants, not market rents.

Campaigns against Government funding restrictions which prevent the building of affordable housing including the HRA debt cap. There is only 7% of the population which currently opposes capping of rent. I've often brought this up in the Council chambers and have been working towards whether or not we could develop a rent that enables people to live in their homes and enjoy their homes.

The statistics exist for a reason. Because the Tories and the New Labour have sat back for a number of years and watched social housing disintegrate while prices spiral out of control. London is already unaffordable for most because of the housing benefit cap, bedroom tax and similar callous policies which are displacing people from their homes and communities.

The Mayor and I fully support the March and we are aware it will be beginning at Shoreditch Church, its route taking it through the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. And I will be therefore marching with you and I will welcome the March for Homes to Tower Hamlets on January 31 and I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations and support to all those who have worked on it.

**Summary of supplementary question from Ms Short**

You said earlier that we can't change the national situation, would you agree with us that we can have a good go at it if we stand together?

**Summary of Councillor Rabina Khan's response to the supplementary question**

Thank you Eileen. Yes if we stand together we will most certainly and on that basis if I may bring up the procedural motion under Rule 14.1.3 to debate our motion on the March for Homes.

Question 6.3 was not put due to the absence of the questioner. Questions 6.7 to 6.9 were not put due to lack of time. The Service Head, Democratic Services stated that written responses would be provided to these questions. (Note: The written responses are set out in Appendix 'A' to these minutes).

**Procedural Motion**

Councillor Rabina Khan **moved** and Councillor Abjol Miah **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that Motion 12.1 'Motion regarding March for Homes be taken as the next item of business.'" The motion was put to the vote and was **defeated**.

**7. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor made his report wishing all present a belated Happy New Year. He updated the Council on key events and achievements within the Borough, and congratulated the Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioner Group (CCG) on being awarded best CCG of the year. .

The Mayor also echoed the Speaker's sentiments about the tragedy in Paris and reported that he had attended a multi faith meeting last night with community, religious leaders and the Borough Commander in respect of community safety

When the Mayor had completed his report, at the invitation of the Speaker the Leaders of the other political groups each then responded briefly to the Mayor's report.

**Procedural Motion**

After Councillor Rachael Saunders' response to the Mayor's report and before Councillor Peter Golds' response, Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs **moved**, and Councillor John Pierce **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.5, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion

regarding Waste Management Strategy to be considered". The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

## **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 or Committee Chair:-

### **8.1 Question from Councillor Asma Begum**

As Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, how many of the meetings did the Mayor attend in 2014? Does this reflect his commitment to the important issue of Health in the borough?

#### **Response from Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources**

Thank you Councillor Begum. I'd say that he has attended all of them really because he attends them through us. He has four Councillors on the Committee; they include Councillor Gulam Robbani, myself and Councillor Asad who chairs the meeting as well as our Executive Advisor, Councillor Mahbub Alam. The Mayor is clearly committed to the health agenda and he will do everything he can to make sure that we improve people's health and wellbeing in the borough.

#### **Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Asma Begum**

It's a shame that the Mayor has not prioritised the health of the Borough; it's his Vice-Chair that's chairing it, not the Mayor. And will the Mayor commit to attending any other meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board?

#### **Summary of response from Councillor Alibor Choudhury**

I remember sitting and observing the contribution of my opposition Councillor, Councillor Denise Jones who is happy to turn up to some of these meetings, sometimes for 10 minutes, sometimes for a bit more than that. But she hardly says anything. So I think it is quite hypocritical for you to have a pop at the Mayor and a pop at us when we make a valuable and meaningful contribution.

### **8.2 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah**

Could the Mayor highlight any steps, policies or initiatives that he has taken to put money in people's pockets in this Borough despite huge Tory cuts?

**Response from Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources**

Thank you Councillor Miah, I'll go straight into the initiatives shall I? The Mayor has helped in many ways. He has provided Council Tax discounts for pensioners and those that are on low incomes so they equated to £245,000 in 2012/13 and a further £575,000 in 2014/15. He froze Council Tax for the last five years. He absorbed the 10% cut to our Council Tax benefit reduction scheme which cost us £2.7m. He provided free school meals and then he rolled them out to benefit more primary school children.

He provided the Mayor's educational allowance which is something that the government took away. He provided university bursaries which were to the tune of £1,500 for each student and this benefitted 400 university students.

His DHP (Discretionary Housing Payments) continued to be supported and that cost us £1m and helped a variety of people in poor or dire housing situations. And he has set aside a further £1.3m over the next 2 years to help women back into work.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Abjol Miah**

Can the Mayor highlight, provide steps or policies that the opposition Tory-Labour coalition have actually done in order to take money out of Tower Hamlets' residents' pockets.

**Summary of response from Councillor Alibor Choudhury**

Thank you Mr Miah I don't want to repeat everything that I said about what the Tory Government and their partners, the Labour Party in Tower Hamlets have done to us over the last 5 years in terms of budget reductions. But I can say that because of the opposition, mainly the Labour opposition and their co-defendants the Tories, in Tower Hamlets, we have seen £1m taken out of our budget to pay for the PWC investigation. We have had hundreds of thousands of pounds in litigation costs to pay and again this would have benefitted many of our residents and kept a lot of people in work and again and again. I've got to say this Councillor Saunders, it is because of your behaviour that we end up seeking Judicial Reviews.

**8.3 Question from Councillor Craig Aston**

Will the Mayor inform the Council as to how much money the Council wasted on failed judicial reviews and other failed legal cases in 2014?

**Response from Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources**

I think Councillor Aston, wasted is a harsh word. I think it's prudently spent to be honest with you and I'll list you everything that we spent money on in relation to judicial reviews.



So the first one is the permitted developments rights challenge that we did with Islington as the Lead Council. The second was the Mayor of London's affordable housing policies. Again we went in a consortium led by Islington Council. The third was the fire station closures. Again these are all Tory policies that we had to fight because of you. People would have been in trouble and we had to act. The fourth one was the Best Value inspection which cost £38,000. There's the disrepair case and the possession action all a lot less than £10,000. So that's your list for you.

### **Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Craig Aston**

I think the one the Lead Member missed out was £70,000 on the Judicial Review against DCLG's intervention, a case that the Judge dismissed as hopeless and the Lead Member says that's prudently spent. Well I beg to differ.

Mr Speaker, the Deputy Mayor isn't with us but he always reminds us quite rightly that as Councillors, we should defend and protect officers and that's quite right.

Councillor Choudhury will also be aware that no group of officers perhaps work harder in this borough than our Legal staff; so hard that our Monitoring Officer was nominated recently for the King's Bench Walk Chambers Monitoring Officer of the Year Award.

I think the Lead Member will join us in congratulating the Monitoring Officer on that. So will the Lead Member then take the opportunity to apologise to the Monitoring Officer and the legal staff for wasting their precious and valuable time on forcing them on them on these spurious trumped up legal cases that have no chance of succeeding from the start.

### **Summary of response from Councillor Alibor Choudhury**

The Executive Member has no intention of apologising and we still maintain our line that we have not wasted any money.

Will you apologise for Eric Pickles spending £76,000 on biscuits?

Will you apologise for him spending £500,000 on limousines?

Will you apologise for his China flight where he spent £4,000 in a couple of nights? And will you also apologise for Eric spending £90,000 fighting the Trade Unions?

Is that a good use of money? I don't think it is Councillor Aston.

### **8.4 Question from Councillor John Pierce**

Can the Mayor tell me how many times he has visited the Rich Mix Arts Centre in the previous year?

**Response from Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Culture**

The Mayor has not visited Rich Mix in the past year.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor John Pierce**

Given the lack of visits to the Rich Mix, can the Mayor explain why he has personally requested legal action to be taken by officers, including the spending of £29,000 of council tax payers' money on external barristers, even though the Rich Mix has in September 2014 made a public offer to pay the sum in full of £850,000 and can he explain why he is the only elected member to have been consulted about this offer according to the Service Head for Legal Services, given that a significant part of the legal dispute to be implemented is regarding the Strategic Development Committee decision which, as has been noted by PWC, falls without the powers of the Executive Mayor?"

[Note: At this point the Interim Monitoring Officer indicated that he wished to address the meeting. At the Speaker's invitation, Mr Sullivan-Gould advised the Council as follows.]

**Advice from Mr Meic Sullivan-Gould, Interim Monitoring Officer**

Mr Speaker, Members of the Council need to be aware that there are current proceedings going on, with a case management conference next week, to deal with the claim by the Council for repayment of a loan and also a counter claim by the Rich Mix for payment of an extra grant, so from that point of view I caution members discussing the merits of that because that would be prejudicial.

In response to a question from Councillor Rachael Saunders, Mr Sullivan-Gould confirmed that the case was currently sub-judice.

**8.5 Question from Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim**

Since the beginning of the year the national Labour Party has been ensuring that the electorate are given a proper choice at the general election. Will the Mayor join me in calling the local Labour Party to stop acting in coalition with the local Tory Party against the Mayor - and his left wing policies - that any Labour Council will be proud of?

**Response from Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources**

It is indeed strange that while the Labour Party are at war with the Tory party nationally, locally they seem to be hand in glove with them. Unfortunately in Tower Hamlets we have a Labour Party that operates hand in glove with the Tory group who fully support the Government's assault on Local Government. They fully support a Government that is destroying our National Health Service. They fully support a Government busy blaming the poorest and most



vulnerable in our society for an economic mess caused by the richest and most powerful.

So I join with you in calling on Tower Hamlets Labour Party to try and rediscover its founding principles which it's long forgotten and I'm sure it won't be able to connect to them again, not now anyway. I also join with this Administration in supporting progressive policies in this Borough. I also call on the Labour Party to stop its colluding with the Tory group in supporting its reactionary politics in this Borough.

(No supplementary question was asked)

### **8.6 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill**

On 8 December a motorcyclist tragically died after a collision with a lorry at the junction of Dock Street and the Highway. This junction has become of increasing concern to residents in Wapping, many of whom cross it to take their children to school in Aldgate. Will the Mayor inform the council as to what, if any, discussions he has had with Transport for London regarding safety improvements here, particularly in view of the proposed construction of a new school next to this junction associated with the London Docks Development?

### **Response from Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Clean & Green**

Thank you for your question Councillor Dockerill. First of all can I say that it's obviously incredibly upsetting for any member in this chamber and indeed the general public in general to have witnessed yet another collision and fatality on our roads. It is a TfL road, but obviously that's no excuse to the responsibility we have as a Council and my sincere condolences to family and friends of the victim.

The junction has been a source of concern for many years going back to the days when I actually used to work in Wapping, but I won't go into that story now. We have always constantly consistently lobbied for improvements to various areas in The Highway. And you'll be pleased to know that very recently this meant that they have introduced a pedestrian countdown feature on the traffic lights at that particular junction, and the phasing of the traffic signalling was also remodelled. The Police investigation into this particular incident is still ongoing and therefore it would be premature for me to comment on that aspect of the cause of the actual incident itself at this moment in time.

But obviously and naturally there are concerns of parents that live either side of the highway I would say no doubt that includes myself. I have children that go to school on the road that is parallel to The Highway, Cable Street. Although your question doesn't focus on cyclists, it does obviously relate to collisions on the road if you like. So I think we also have a duty to educate our cyclists out there as well who tend to feel that cycle lanes also do not

have to adhere to the normal traffic rules and regulations that motorists are expected to adhere to.

You'll also be pleased to know that we have managed to secure an additional £200,000 from the London Dock Development towards further improvements to the pedestrian crossings onto The Highway and that will be located just west of the junction of The Highway and Wellclose Street. And also no doubt that will go towards further pedestrian improvements to that vicinity including Dock Street and Vargen Way.

I'm obviously very familiar with the ward as my colleagues Councillors Aminur Khan and Asad are. We represent the area obviously north of The Highway and therefore we have residents constantly bringing and raising these concerns so I'm glad that you've raised them yourself tonight as well.

And finally I hope that you will continue to highlight to us any concerns that you have from your constituents on the other side of The Highway and we will best work together to make sure that we address any safety concerns because I think regardless of whichever political spectrum we come from, safety is an uppermost concern for every single member in this chamber.

#### **Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Julia Dockerill**

I'm just glad to hear about that funding, I was not aware of it and I don't know whether that includes the possibility of a bridge given that we've got a school that's going to be coming on line. Could you clarify whether a bridge would be given consideration as part of that £200,000.

#### **Summary of response from Councillor Shahed Ali**

Very briefly, at this moment in time that isn't a consideration that has come to light. However there is other work that's going on conducted by TfL. You'll have heard recently that one of the Mayor's pledges was to introduce 20mph zones throughout the Borough. As part of that exercise there is a lot more extensive work going on to do with The Highway itself. So again it would be premature for me to comment on specifics at this time no doubt although the Highway is a major concern and we are doing everything we can in our powers to make sure we can make it as safe as possible within the constraints we have.

#### **8.7 Question from Councillor Ayas Miah**

In St Dunstan's ward, particularly in the new development area, residents are having difficulties getting a new parking permit or renewing their existing permit because of the car free zone. According to PTS (2011) parking transfer scheme - if some families move to 3 bedroom or larger social rented car free homes they will get at least one permit but the reality is that they do not get a permit even if they have a 3 or more bedroom house. Can the Mayor explain this please?

**Response from Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing & Development**

Thank you Mr Speaker. First of all I'd like to remind you that the Car Free Development Policy is not a Tower Hamlets policy. It is a London policy which we have to comply with. The Mayor has gone further than any other Council to try to support residents who require a car parking space to meet the mobility needs of their family. The Permit Transfer Scheme which is known as the PTS was introduced to allow overcrowded families in the Borough moving to a car free social rented 3 plus bedroom home to transfer one existing on street resident car parking permit, if they held their on-street permit for at least one year prior to moving. This was to help more residents in the borough to move into more suitable homes and to alleviate the overcrowding register as well. Additionally disabled drivers living in car free homes are eligible for on street resident parking permits.

Residents who already live in a car free development, cannot apply for a transfer permit. But they should be advised before moving into that development that it was a car free development. Should you Councillor Ayas have any further queries, I'm quite willing to sit and talk to you and discuss them, but I would say that the PTS is under review to see what we have learnt in the past and how we can improve it in the future.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Ayas Miah**

Even if there is a gap of one week or over to renew their existing permit, while someone moves in on the Ocean Estate from outside, the Council normally disallows them to renew their permit if they move from outside even if they have an existing permit for a number of years they are using. So I think there is a contradiction.

**Summary of response from Councillor Rabina Khan**

Councillor Ayas, I have stated before that this is under review and I would welcome any particular cases that you need to speak to me about. But let me remind you of something. That it was under Councillor Julia Mainwaring the then Leader of the Labour Party and Council to introduce the policy and was adopted in 1998. The Policy Number is ST28 and the UDP Policy which was the first introduction of the Car Free Zone policy. It was further approved in the Council's Local Plan Core Strategy Document in 2010 whilst Councillor Abbas was the Leader of the Council under a Labour Administration. So you see Councillor Ayas, Mayor Rahman has had to pick up the pieces in order to benefit the residents of this Borough.

**8.8 Question from Councillor Mohammed Maium Miah**

Recently, Sir Michael Wilshaw raised concerns about the educational attainment of White British Free School Meals Pupils. Does the Mayor have any plan to tackle this issue in Tower Hamlets?

**Response from Councillor Gulam Robbani, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services**

Good evening Mr Speaker and thank you Councillor Miah for bringing this important issue to the forefront. As you know education is very dear to us and we do everything in our ability to make sure all our children get the best education in the Borough. Tower Hamlets even though we are one of the high performing Authorities in terms of achieving locally and nationally in terms of comparing with the London average and the national average. We are performing much higher than the London average and the national average. However there is a group of pupils we understand they are not achieving as we would like them to.

Therefore as soon as I was given the job of Lead Member for education, I had a meeting with the Corporate Director and Head of E-School and Learning Achievement and gave them an instruction to make sure that we have a strategy to address some of those students who are not achieving as the rest of the Borough are achieving.

To this end, we want to have a conference very soon inviting national speakers and national people who have expertise as well as going to our local expertise to make sure all our schools perform to the highest standard. We will be looking in detail in terms of how we could improve the school standard for all our pupils. And therefore I would give an assurance to my Council and all the Councillors in this chamber that we will do everything in our capacity to make sure all our students perform and all our students achieve the highest and best to their ability.

(No supplementary question was asked)

**8.9 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman**

Will the Mayor comment on the two separate and independent reports from Thames Water and the external consultants LUC which confirm that the that the Isle of Dogs will suffer from low water pressure and possibly run out of drinking water in the summer as well as suffer from 'more frequent and severe back surging of the sewage' network because of overdevelopment overwhelming the existing capacity of the water network on the island?

**Response from Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing & Development**

Thank you Mr Speaker. Happy New Year Councillor Chapman. The Council will continue to meet with Thames Water as a key stakeholder and statutory consultee to discuss detailed applications and policy guidance in order to ensure comprehensive understanding of the water infrastructure issues affecting the island. It is important to note that water provision is considered a key piece of infrastructure and utility service which affects the plans beyond the South Quay area as it is a matter for the Isle of Dogs Opportunity Area Framework will aim to address this in further detail.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Chris Chapman**

Yes thank you and Happy New Year to you. There was a lot there but not an answer. What I would say is may I ask the Executive Member if this is such a priority why there is no mention of it in the South Quay Masterplan Document which my colleague Andrew Wood has done considerable work on and has scrutinised. He can find no reference to this provision or this issue. Does it in fact demonstrate that this is very much business as usual in terms of the way this Administration has treated the residents of the Isle of Dogs which is pretty much with total disregard and disdain.

Is it not the fact that this Administration is continuing to treat these very hard working residents who've had to suffer multiple longstanding infrastructure issues? Are they not just attempting overdevelopment on the Island on a quite severe level and use residents as a cash cow?

**Summary of response from Councillor Rabina Khan**

Forgive me Councillor Chapman. Maybe I didn't quite explain myself so let me rephrase it again to you. Thames Water is a statutory consultee and therefore plays a key role in offering advice and steer on planning and other strategic matters at a local and regional level. Therefore those matters fall under the GLA and under the Mayor of London's responsibilities.

Let me give you an example of how this works Councillor Chapman. The Coalition Government and Mr Pickles approved the proposed Thames Tideway Sewer for a super sewer at the cost of King Edward Memorial Park and the unfairness of this on residents, despite local campaigners and the Administration working together to identify an alternative site, so your own Government supports Thames Water over residents.

**8.10 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin**

Does the Mayor have any plan to improve community cohesion in the borough further?

**Response from Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

Thank you Helal for your good question. Thank you. Just to say it's a very straightforward answer. I hope you'll agree that this Borough has a very strong track record on community cohesion. Over 80% of residents in this Borough according to the Annual Residents Survey, not my ward or your ward, our residents are saying 80% of people are saying that people from different backgrounds get on well together in our Borough and this is what our Residents Survey said. This is a 10% increase from 5 years ago when someone I don't want to even name who is not here anymore, he was the Leader. But 10% increase from that time and we are working hard. We just want to increase more and more.

And I just want to ensure that our people get on well together. We work together for the betterment of our residents despite as I said before what the outside world said, despite what Eric Pickles said. Our people when there is a problem in our Borough we stand together. When the English Defence League made a threat everyone came together on the street to defend our Borough. When Eric Pickles with all due respect decided to send Commissioners a lot of people came out and demonstrated against the decision and it was not Bengali people it was more or less everybody. That shows that when there is a crisis, when there is a problem when there is a cut we are together and will be together in the future.

#### **Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Helal Uddin**

Yes Mr Speaker of course considering the current climate in this Borough there is a lot of exclusion and I find that the difficulty is to have that community cohesion in this Borough. I just wanted to know whether the Lead Member has any sort of idea what sort of mechanisms are in place to address and tackle social exclusion in the Borough. It would be very helpful to know what sort of mechanism he is planning, that people are working together to make it happen, if he could say some kind of example in place? Thank you.

#### **Summary of response from Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

As I said before I don't want to repeat but we have three central themes

- Tackling inequality;
- Strengthening Community cohesion; and
- Building community leadership

And I think that if we can work on these areas we can build more community cohesion and we are working on it.

#### **8.11 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibriya Choudhury**

Can the Mayor highlight how he plans to fight the unprecedented and ideologically driven Tory cuts?

#### **Response from Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources**

Thank you Councillor Choudhury. The Mayor and Tower Hamlets First have made our opposition clear to the Government's plans for austerity and to this end the Mayor has been very prudent with Council resources, he will protect public services where they matter to people. He will invest in community development. He will stimulate the local economy which the Government failed to do by promoting trade with local businesses and suppliers. He will foster growth and support the business sector and he will build more homes to increase our Council Tax base.

(No supplementary question was asked)



**8.12 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood**

Will the Mayor inform the Council what work has been undertaken following the 2014 disclosure of a decline in the percentage of primary school pupils attending local authority schools rated by OFSTED as Outstanding in Tower Hamlets, which according to the most recent OFSTED inspection has shown has continued.

**Response from Councillor Gulam Robbani, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services**

Can I just thank Councillor Wood for asking this question. Can I just remind him that with the latest Tower Hamlets annual OFSTED report shows that the percentage of students attending a Good or Outstanding primary school in the Borough has risen since last year. We are one of the best performing local authorities in this measure. Those students who go to a Good or Outstanding school is 91% compared to the London average of only 85%. And the National average Councillor is 91%. Therefore we are massively ahead of the local and national level. Therefore stop painting a negative picture of our students. We are excelling in education and therefore you should be joining us in supporting all our schools including the primary and secondary schools.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Andrew Wood**

I'm going to pass the Lead Member the actual statistics just to make it clear in Bethnal Green & Bow Primary Schools, only 9% of pupils go to a school rated as Outstanding. It was 29% 5 years ago. Lewisham's percentage is 27%. Camden 33%. Newham is 24%. And just to make clear this is not ideologically driven, in Tower Hamlets Secondary Schools 53% of pupils go to schools rated as Outstanding so the secondary schools in Tower Hamlets are performing extremely well. Ok but what's happening in Bethnal Green and Bow? Why is it that there has been a decline down from 29% to 9%? It's the only Council in London where I can find this decline. Ok. I've raised this for the second time OK. What are you doing about it?

**Summary of response from Councillor Gulam Robbani**

Councillor I think I remember last time you were comparing us with Richmond. I'm clearly not doing that tonight. In terms of Government the way they measure us, they don't just measure Outstanding. They measure with Good and Outstanding so he can forget the brief to add the Good. So if you look at the Good and Outstanding he will see our performance is 91%. In terms of secondary education yes he's right. We are performing at 91% and yes in terms of what we are doing we are working very closely with the schools and we are working with the teachers and the parents and the governors. And this Council has a very strong track record of working with teachers, governors, the schools and everyone. And therefore don't throw all these rubbish statistics at us.

Questions 8.13 to 8.22 were not put due to lack of time. The Service Head, Democratic Services stated that written responses would be provided to the questions. (Note: The written responses are included in Appendix 'A' to these minutes.)

### **Procedural Motion**

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.5, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion regarding Wasted Public Money to be considered". The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

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

### **9.1 Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on matters referred by the Council**

Councillor Joshua Peck, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, moved the report. In doing so however, he stated that he had not seen the report prior to publication and did not believe that it was fully accurate in conveying the findings of the Committee on the matter.

### **RESOLVED**

That the report, and the observations of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee thereon, be noted.

### **Procedural Motion**

Councillor Rachael Saunders, **moved**, and Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.5, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion regarding 'Circle Housing Group & Old Ford Housing Association' to be considered". The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

### **Order of Business.**

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed **seconded**, a procedural motion that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied as follows:

- Item 12.2 - Motion Regarding Dockland Sailing Centre
- Item 13.3 - Urgent Motion regarding Circle Housing Group & Old Ford Housing Association
- Item 12.8 - Motion regarding public access to information
- Item 12.11 - Motion regarding New Schools
- Item 12.12 - Motion regarding homelessness in Tower Hamlets



Item 12.13 - Motion regarding tax dodging

This motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

**Extension of time limit for the meeting**

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Danny Hassell **seconded**, a procedural motion that “under Procedure Rule 15.11.7 the meeting be extended for up to an additional 15 minutes to enable the consideration of the Urgent Motion regarding Circle Housing Group & Old Ford Housing Association.”

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

**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 (IF ANY)**

There was no other business.

**12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**12.2 Motion regarding Docklands Sailing Centre**

Prior to the debate on this motion, the Interim Monitoring Officer advised the Council. He stated that members of the Strategic Development Committee would be aware that they had a duty to consider any planning application that came before the Committee on its merits and on the basis of all the information presented to the Committee. Those Members should therefore not make any contribution to the current debate that could indicate that they were predetermined in relation to any potential planning application. The Interim Monitoring Officer also advised the meeting that the Council could not bind the Strategic Development Committee in its consideration of a planning matter and therefore in the event that the second proposed resolution was agreed, this would not have effect.

Councillor Dave Chesterton **moved**, and Councillor Andrew Wood **seconded**, the motion as set out in the agenda.

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

**RESOLVED**

## This Council Notes:

1. The developers of the Westferry Printers site are currently going through pre-application public consultations.
2. The Sailing Centre is concerned about the potential effect development alongside the Millwall Dock may have on the wind and the detrimental impact this may have on sailing and other watersports.
3. The Sailing Centre has made a number of representations to the developers; so far the Sailing Centre's concerns have been largely ignored.
4. The Sailing Centre is the borough's premier watersports centre and among the largest public open space in Tower Hamlets. Pressures on public infrastructure as a result of population increases arising from new developments are well understood. The Council must protect its public open spaces for use by current and future generations.

## This Council Believes:

1. Pressures on public infrastructure as a result of population increases arising from new developments are well understood.
2. The Council must protect its public open spaces for use by current and future generations.
3. Council should continue to recognise the importance of the Docklands Sailing Centre in enabling use of one of the largest areas of open space in Tower Hamlets by the whole community for sport and recreation, with unique opportunities for education and employment.

## This Council resolves:

1. To protect the Docklands Sailing Centre from the consequences of property development which may prevent the continued use of the Millwall Docks for those uses and the charitable purposes of the Docklands Sailing Centre Trust.
2. To exercise its powers as local planning authority, to ensure any development on the West Ferry Printers site does not cause any detriment to sailing and use of the Millwall Docks from Docklands Sailing Centre.

[Note: Members of the Strategic Development Committee wished it recorded that they abstained from voting on the above motion.]

### 12.3 Motion regarding solidarity with French citizens

Councillor Chris Chapman **moved**, and Councillor Julia Dockerill **seconded**, the motion as set out in the agenda.

Councillor Shiria Khatun **moved**, and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded**, an amendment to insert 'and citizens at the Jewish supermarket' under the third paragraph.

Following debate the amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed** unanimously.

### RESOLVED

This Council Notes:

- In this year of Magna Carta, original copies of which were circulated throughout the Country in Anglo Norman French, The Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets reaffirms the principles of freedom of speech, which have been hard won over successive centuries and condemns the atrocities in France this month.
- That London is the sixth largest French City in the world and that we support the loss shared by our French neighbours in this Borough, City and those just twenty one miles across the Channel.
- The wickedness of those who brutally murdered journalists, police officers and citizens at the Jewish supermarket will not divide the people of Europe, who have fought for the basic freedoms of speech and assembly, regardless of our different nationalities.

This Council resolves that the Speaker of Tower Hamlets writes to Her Excellency Madame Sylvie Bermann, Ambassador of the Republic of France to show our solidarity with our French fellow citizens over this tragedy.

Motions 12.1, 12.4–12.13 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 motions to be debated without notice:

### 13.1 Motion regarding Waste Management Strategy

Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs **moved**, and Councillor John Pierce **seconded**, a tabled motion on the above matter.

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

## **RESOLVED**

This Council notes:

- that the Cabinet Paper making significant proposals about the future of waste management in Tower Hamlets was withdrawn on 7<sup>th</sup> January without any public discussion
- that the proposals have concerning implications for the cost, scrutiny and efficiency of rubbish and recycling collection in the borough, including multiple contracts with variable prices and no local depot which could lead to delays in collection and fewer local jobs
- that the proposals fail to investigate all options, such as whether costs could be reduced and scrutiny of services improved by bringing waste management services in-house

This Council further notes:

- that there are already problems with waste management in the borough, with local residents regularly raising concerns about dirty streets, missed rubbish collections and flytipping hotspots
- that this has been exacerbated by the Mayor bringing in charges for bulk rubbish collection back in June 2012
- that residents rightly expect the council to deliver on basic services and ensure our streets are kept clean
- that despite improvements in recycling rates, many residents still struggle to recycle as much as they could, due to inadequate purple bin capacity and lack of facilities to recycle food waste in many blocks
- that the Budget includes worrying cuts to monitoring of street cleaning

This Council believes:

- that there is an urgent need to get a grip on clean streets and recycling rates
- that the waste management strategy must be used as an opportunity to tackle these problems while ensuring value for money for local taxpayers
- that all options for waste management must be thoroughly considered and openly discussed in public

This Council resolves:

- to call on Mayor Lutfur Rahman to protect local waste services including a local depot
- to call on the executive to thoroughly investigate the option of bringing waste services in house
- to instruct officers to explicitly identify how the new waste management proposals will improve street cleaning, flytipping collection and

recycling rates, including more options for recycling for those living in blocks

### **13.2 Motion regarding Wasted Public Money**

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved**, and Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed **seconded**, a tabled motion on the above matter.

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

#### **RESOLVED**

This Council notes:

- The £38,735 of taxpayers' money spent by the Mayor on judicial review of the government's decision to send in PwC inspectors.
- The £81,924.70 of taxpayers' money spent by the Mayor to employ the law firm Taylor Wessing in response to the Panorama program.
- The £41,144 of taxpayers' money spent by the Mayor to employ the communication consultancy company Champollion in response to the Panorama program.

This Council further notes:

- The Mayor's intention to begin judicial review of directions from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

This Council believes:

- that public money has been wasted.
- that any further legal action should be funded by the Mayor personally, rather than from public funds.

This Council resolves:

- to call on Mayor Lutfur Rahman to stop wasting public money.
- to call on the Mayor to personally fund any further legal action.

### **13.3 Motion regarding Circle Housing Group & Old Ford Housing Association**

Councillor Amina Ali **moved**, and Councillor Joshua Peck **seconded**, a tabled motion on the above matter.

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

**RESOLVED**

This Council notes that:

- Old Ford Housing Association was established in 1998 as the successor body to the Tower Hamlets Housing Action Trust, which had been responsible for the redevelopment of the Tredegar, Monteith and Lefevre estates in Bow;
- OFHA was a subsidiary of Circle 33 Housing Trust for financing purposes, but was accountable to its own Board of tenants, leaseholders and independent members;
- OFHA completed this redevelopment programme to a good standard and generally enjoyed high levels of satisfaction from residents;
- In 2005, Circle 33 merged with Anglia Housing to form Circle Anglia. Other housing associations have been merged into the group since then to form Circle Housing Group;
- In 2007, LBTH transferred the “Parkside” estates – Lanfranc, Locton, Ranwell and McCullum – to OFHA under the Housing Choice programme to bring them up to the Decent Homes Standard within five years;
- OFHA fitted all tenants’ homes with new kitchens and bathrooms by 2012, but other promises within the “Offer Document” have not been kept, including external works to at least a dozen blocks, environmental works on other parts of the estates and the Overcrowding Reduction Initiative;
- In 2013, Circle Housing Group required Old Ford to terminate its Repairs & Maintenance contract with Mears and Major Works contract with Apollo to sign up to a new group-wide contract with Kier. The performance of this contractor has been exceptionally poor in the 15 months since then, with appointments repeatedly missed, phone calls going unanswered and repairs not being carried out to a satisfactory standard, leading to hundreds of complaints;
- Circle Housing Group is now taking forward a restructuring programme, which involves the closure of Old Ford’s offices in Bow and Stratford. When questioned on this by staff, a member of Circle Housing Group’s Senior Management Team is reported to have said that Old Ford could use a stall in Roman Road market;
- Despite repeated promises by Circle Housing Group that an action plan was in place, the Repairs & Maintenance service remains inadequate and most of the major works committed to by Circle are now more than two years overdue;
- The Homes & Communities Agency regulator is now investigating these failings.

This Council believes that:

- By terminating the contract with Mears, Circle Housing Group has undermined Old Ford’s ability to provide an adequate Repairs & Maintenance service, resulting in “Serious Detriment” to its residents;

- By terminating the contract with Apollo, Circle Housing Group has significantly delayed Old Ford's major works programme of external works to the Parkside estates, leaving it in breach of the promises made to tenants and leaseholders in the 2005 "Offer Document" and listed as "Qualifying Works" in Schedule 17 of the Transfer Agreement;
- The proposed closure of Old Ford's offices is also a breach of the specific promises made to tenants and leaseholders on the Parkside estates in the 2005 "Offer Document".

This Council resolves:

- To write to the Homes & Communities Agency, calling for the regulator to investigate whether residents have suffered serious detriment as a result of the failings of the Repairs & Maintenance contract;
- To support Old Ford residents in preparing their own submission to the Homes and Communities Agency
- To call on the Mayor to suspend Circle Housing Group as a Preferred Development Partner in Tower Hamlets with immediate effect;
- To call on the Mayor to instruct officers to explore options for legal proceedings against Circle Housing Group for breach of Schedule 17 of the Transfer Agreement and to report back to Full Council on the possibility of such proceedings by 15th April.

The meeting ended at 10.44 p.m.

Speaker of the Council



**APPENDIX 'A' – WRITTEN RESPONSES TO PUBLIC AND MEMBERS'**  
**QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT PUT AT THE MEETING**

**6.3 Question from Ms Ghulshana Begum**

In November 2014, women in Tower Hamlets and up and down the country, proudly celebrated White Ribbon Day to eliminate violence against women and to hope for a world where women and girls can live free from the fear of violence. Could the Executive Member please provide an update about what Tower Hamlets Council is doing to promote this important initiative in the Borough?

**Written response by Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

The White Ribbon Campaign in Tower Hamlets was officially launched at the Whitechapel Idea Store on 25 November 2014. The launch marked the start of a 2 week borough wide awareness raising campaign to highlight violence against women and girls.

Awareness raising events were held at all the Ideas Stores, Queen Mary's University, local schools, supermarkets and across council sites. The campaign saw over 500 White Ribbon pledges signed and over 300 residents attending community events.

Idea Stores across the borough trained all their front line staff in domestic abuse awareness so they can help offer residents support if they need it. Staff members from other organisations are now being trained, to become Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) champions.

Residents were encouraged to report domestic violence to the Police and for those seeking advice and guidance on domestic violence, to contact the council's helpline on 0800 279 5434 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm).

This is part of the Council's wider work to address historic under-reporting of domestic abuse – a national problem caused by lack of confidence in the reporting system.

A key component of the Council's approach to tackling this issue is to recruit Violence Against Women and Girls champions to help enable more people in raising awareness and offering victims support.

**6.7 Question from Mr Lukman Miah:**

Could you tell us what powers actually the so-called Pickles' Commissioners have and how does it affect service delivery by the Council. Can they stop the Mayor or Executive Members from their duty of serving the residents?



**Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources**

Pickles' bark was considerably worse than his bite, and that's because he has very little evidence of anything. He can shout about a 'culture of cronyism' under the protection of parliamentary privilege and claim to be taking us over, but in reality he's unable to take full control of a high-performing council like ours.

The commissioners are able to oversee certain parts of processes around grants making and property disposals and appoint some election officials. The overwhelming majority of the council's functions and £1.4bn budget are untouched.

If the commissioners do attempt to impose a political position on us, we will resist that vigorously. As it is, we hope we can work with them where we agree that improvements need to be made.

We remain resentful that the three commissioners will cost Tower Hamlets residents £1600 a day.

**6.8 Question from Mr Khairul Alam:**

Considering the fact that St Dunstan's has the most new houses built, what is the Council doing to fulfil the promise made in the increased parking manifesto?

**Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Clean & Green.**

Since May 2014, 244 new parking bays have been installed to support the Mayor's manifesto commitment to increase the availability of parking within the Borough.

We have also identified 200 further potential spaces that, subject to statutory consultation, will be installed over the next 12 – 18 months.

Officers are also looking to create 300 prioritised resident bays in Fish Island, through installation of a permanent Controlled Parking Zone. This means that parking spaces will be prioritised for residents - helping residents who are finding it increasingly difficult to find parking nearby, especially when large events are on at the Olympic Park.

It is anticipated that the remainder of the 1000 bay target will be implemented incrementally, which is explained in the Parking Policy Review on the Council's Forward Plan.

**6.9 Question from Ms Momina Begum:**

As a result of budgetary pressure and Government cuts, the Council was considering closing some nurseries in the Borough. Some residents, especially mothers of those affected, were not happy with that option and rightly so.

Have you taken the time to listen to these concerns of the effected residents or not? And could you provide an update please?

**Response by Councillor Gulam Robbani, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services**

Thank you for your question. I am very pleased to that our community nurseries will be staying open.

For over months the Council has conducted a community consultation on the future of our community nurseries and the Mayor had a personal meeting with some of the users.

After giving careful consideration to the views of users, parents, nursery workers, trade unions and other members of the community, we decided to keep all four nurseries open.

As the outcome of this community consultation exercise demonstrates, we are committed to working with the community to protect front line services.

I would like to thank everybody who took part in our community consultation exercise and reaffirm our commitment as Mayor that we will work with the community to best protect our borough from the impact of government cuts.

**8.13 Question from Councillor Candida Ronald**

Does the Mayor have any plans to tackle the growing problem of buy-to-leave properties in the borough?

**Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing & Development**

Thank you for your question. This is an issue the Mayor is aware off and extremely concerned about.

The Fairness Commission, commissioned by the Mayor, reflected this concern, especially the impact of large foreign direct investment in the London housing market, which is simply creating safety deposit boxes in the sky for foreign investors and not solving London's housing crisis.

The Mayor also committed, at the London Citizen's Mayoral Assembly, to investigate ways of penalising buy to leave owners.

We are currently undertaking the Strategic Housing Market Assessment which will provide us with an understanding of the number of homes which aren't in occupation in the borough. This will help to guide our response.

In addition we are watching with interest the outcome of Islington's current consultation on potential options for preventing such wasted housing supply in the future, through a draft Supplementary Planning Document which proposes use Section 106 agreements to ensure that new-build housing in major developments is not left empty.

Once the extent of the issue in the borough has been identified the Mayor will consider all the options for ensuring such valuable housing resources are used effectively to meet the needs of the borough's growing population.

#### **8.14 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam**

Could the Lead Member please provide an update about residents' satisfaction levels overall and which areas do we need to focus more on, especially as result of recent politically motivated campaign by Eric Pickles against the people of Tower Hamlets who had the audacity to falsely accuse us of funding bias whilst saving the most affluent Tory-run authorities from the impact of cuts?

#### **Response by Councillor Oliur Rahman, Deputy Mayor**

The recent Annual Residents' Survey, a large scale public consultation, leaves our borough with much to be proud of.

79% of residents are satisfied with the borough as a place to live, and 78% see it as a place where people from diverse backgrounds get on well and live together in harmony. Concern about crime was at its lowest since the survey began sixteen years ago.

Tower Hamlets First are particularly pleased that many more residents not only feel that the council is doing a better job, but also that residents feel that that they have more of an influence over what the council does.

In 2012 we took the decision to freeze council tax and ensure more money stayed in the pockets of less well-off residents. Accordingly concern about council tax is at a ten-year low. Concerns about employment have already fallen, with Mayor Rahman having identified decent jobs as a priority. The council received its Living Wage accreditation this year and the Mayor has pledged to create 20,000 sustainable jobs this term.

Concerns of course remain over a range of issues including the council's accessibility by phone and some prevailing anti-social behaviour. Tower Hamlets First representatives will be working with Council officers to address these concerns and have drawn up a clear action plan.

As the Mayor said “I am pleased that even in the context of savage Tory cuts, we are still delivering great local services for our residents and community relations remain excellent. But we’re far from complacent – where residents have raised concerns we are taking them into account and doing all we can to resolve them.”

### **8.15 Question from Councillor Peter Golds**

Will the Mayor inform the council and local residents as to why he is removing the ancient rights of English citizens enshrined in law since 1832 to protect the amount of light entering their home in order to deliver more profit to the private sector developer of the City Pride development?

### **Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing & Development**

Thank you for your question Cllr Golds. I must say I am, as always, gobsmacked at the gall of your question.

You accuse us of wanting to deliver more profit to the private sector.

Let me remind you what your Tory led Government has done to local Government finance and housing provision since it came into power:

- Huge budget reductions, aimed at the poorest councils
- A massive reduction in grant available for public housing
- No movement on the HRA debt cap, so we can’t borrow to build
- welfare reforms which price residents out of the borough and make housing financing more unstable.

Our only way of providing the affordable housing our resident need is through sec106 arrangements with private developers.

We aren’t feathering their nests. We’re playing the very rigged game your party devised.

Moreover, your Tory London Mayor supports the growth on the isle of dogs, welcomes foreign investors in London and doesn’t even care about how much affordable housing or community benefits they bring.

Now let me be clear. This is not a decision the Mayor or Cabinet entered into lightly.

We have ensured that every element of the relevant sections of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 have been satisfied.

This means we can only undertake this if we think the proposed development is likely to improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of LBTH’s area.

In this case it is justified. Due to the provision of 243 much needed affordable and family homes.

It will also help fulfil a number of the Council's strategic and policy objectives regarding new housing provision and regeneration in its area.

Moreover, we are clear that those residents impacted will still be eligible for compensation

The balancing of public benefits and human/private rights sits at the heart of the decision making process of Section 237 schemes.

We are satisfied that in this particular case, that the public, well-being, benefits outweigh the infringement of private rights and that the level of infringement is no more than necessary than to enable the development to proceed.

### **8.16 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell**

How many children are on the borough's missing children register and what actions are being taken to ensure the safety of these children?

#### **Response by Councillor Gulam Robbani, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services**

The Council does not have a general register of missing children – the police are the authority who keeps the missing person's register.

However, preventative work is incredibly important in ensuring that young people do not go missing from care – by making sure they have access to various sources of support and forums to voice their concerns. For that reason, we currently have no children missing from care in the borough.

When a child does go missing from care, we take it incredibly seriously and there are a number of actions that take place to ensure the safety or location of that child. We immediately report these cases to the police, and effort is taken up on part of social workers and the police to identify and visit any possible locations where the child might be.

We also may meet with police and other organisations to agree the best possible set of actions in relation to that particular young person, and to decide, for example, whether an application for court orders needs to be taken out to try to ascertain the whereabouts of the young person.

When a child or young person is located and returns to their placement, they will be interviewed by social work staff / police in an attempt to assess the level of risk to which they may have been exposed and to consider what actions may be necessary to prevent any reoccurrence. If they are thought to be particularly vulnerable or at risk of sexual exploitation and / or there is a

concern that they may go missing again, arrangements may be made for a placement to be made in a secure unit when they are located.

### **8.17 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed**

Leading up to Christmas and New year when many were busy buying presents and celebrating with their family and friends, it was appalling to see many vulnerable people sleeping rough. Can the Mayor shed some light on what the Council is doing to reduce rough sleeping in the Borough and is there scope to work with other stakeholders and partners in this area?

### **Response by Councillor Rabina Khan, Cabinet Member for Housing & Development**

Thank you for your question. Whilst even one rough sleeper is one too many, I do not quite agree that there are “many people sleeping rough” in the borough but I understand and agree with your general point overall and I think that is what you meant.

The last independent formal street count, undertaken during a night in November found just 6 people sleeping rough.

Tower Hamlets has been singled out as providing the best service in London in its work to assist rough sleepers. Indeed, that has been acknowledged recently through a £250,000 grant from the Single Homelessness Fund (awarded by Eric Pickles’ CLG). And an additional £80,000 from the GLA. Indeed, the Tower Hamlets’ bid took all of the GLA allocation.

We do currently rely on our partners, and our residents to provide support to rough sleepers. This council piloted the “No Second Night Out” initiative whereby every person sleeping rough received a service offer on the first night out with our Street Outreach Team partner. We are about to embark on a major publicity campaign to encourage residents to notify of any rough sleepers to aid this work.

They can do so by contacting the National Rough Sleeping Reporting Line (“Streetlink”) at [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) or by telephoning 0300 500 0914

As a final comment, the Housing Options Service’s work received an important accolade in the recent prestigious Andy Ludlow Awards for its work with single homeless people.

### **8.18 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders**

Does the Mayor intend to improve the cleanliness of the borough’s streets in his new waste strategy?

**Response by Councillor Shahed Ali, Cabinet Member for Clean & Green**

Of course the Mayor is committed to improving the cleanliness of this borough.

He has done an excellent job so far – which is why we have won so many awards for how clean our streets are! And with almost 100% of our streets free of litter, it is no wonder that we have received such accolades!

But we will keep on improving, and so yes, of course, the Mayor is intending to keep on improving.

**8.19 Question from Councillor Shah Alam**

Given that nationally there has been reductions and severe pressure on library services as a result of coalition cuts, will the Lead Member join me in celebrating our local success of idea stores in Tower Hamlets and how this helps local residents?

**Response by Councillor Shafiqul Haque, Cabinet Member for Culture**

Thank you for your question. I am very pleased to use this opportunity to highlight the fantastic services being provided in our Ideas stores.

As you rightly highlight the provision of library services across London have been threatened by government cuts. I am proud to say that while other boroughs are closing libraries and restricting services, here in Tower Hamlets we are opening libraries and extending services.

The latest comparative public library statistics were published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in December 2014. These show the success of Idea Store in attracting visitors.

- Idea Stores had 2 c ,159,372 visitors in the year ending March 2014. This is the third highest in London.
- Making adjustments for population size our Idea Stores are the 5th most visited libraries in the whole country
- The Idea Store in Whitechapel is the 9th busiest library out of 180 authorities in England, Scotland and Wales.

This performance is exceptional given the socio economic profile of the Borough and the model continues to demonstrate that it is one of the most powerful engines for engagement not only in the UK but also internationally.

I am sure I can speak for everyone here in congratulating our Ideas Stores staff for the fantastic job they are doing.



**8.20 Question from Councillor Dave Chesterton**

The Mayor will recognise that, as a result of regular CITRIX failures, it is a possibility that some councillors might resort to using alternative providers such as AOL, hotmail and gmail when working from home. Is the Mayor aware that if alternative providers are used, electronic correspondence would be sent outside the council's data protection systems and will he please resolve the contractual issues with Agilisys and ensure councillors are provided with a reliable and secure e-mail system that can be easily accessed from home?

**Response by Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources**

The Council's internet and email security policy requires all council business to be conducted using the Council's email system and not by private email accounts. This is required to ensure the Council manages its affairs in line with the Data Protection Act and to ensure confidential and sensitive information is managed securely.

All members were invited to training around information governance in May 2014 and both sessions were well attended.

There have been intermittent issues in accessing the Council's Citrix platform. These are regrettable but limited in occurrence and officers continue to work with Agilisys to resolve these and ensuring remedial action is taken.

Separately, we are reviewing the ICT infrastructure as part of the planned contractual arrangement with our provider.

**8.21 Question from Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah**

The London Ambulance Service has been receiving very high numbers of calls in recent weeks and came under severe pressure over the Christmas and New Year period. The air ambulance for the Capital is reported to be shut down for a few weeks because they cannot afford a second helicopter. The A&E waiting times are at a 10 year high. Can the Lead Member inform us how the Conservative-led Government cuts are affecting the key public services Londoners and people in Tower Hamlets rely on, especially when it comes to A&E waiting times at local hospitals and ambulance services?

**Response by Councillor Abdul Asad, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing**

There have been tonnes of reports that agree with the sentiment that this government's cuts are taking us back to levels of inequality that mirror the 1930s.

And it is really starting to show in our public services.



Current performance at the Royal London is that only 83% of A&E attendances are meeting the 4 hour wait target -12% below the national target of 95%.

This is driven by increased length of stay of patients admitted (which reduces bed capacity) and increased attendances at A&E. And with our own GPs practices affected by cuts to their funding, it is no wonder that there are more people going to A&E.

These cuts are affecting the ability of local health services to meet the health care needs of the population.

And whilst the CCG and the council are doing all they can, it is distressing to see the effects that these cuts are having on the health of our society, especially the most vulnerable. This is a national issue and one that everyone should care about – I don't want to live in a society where your chances, your happiness and your health in life are decided by profit.

### **8.22 Question from Councillor Harun Miah**

Could the Cabinet Member tell us what the Council is doing to improve the child protection in Tower Hamlets and how can we ensure that officers are doing whatever to support so that no vulnerable child slips through the net and is safe?

### **Response by Councillor Gulam Robbani, Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services**

The Council takes its responsibilities for protecting vulnerable children very seriously.

Vulnerable children and young people are supported by a range of early help services (such as children's centres, health visitors and schools) as well as the specialist social work services provided by the council.

Child protection services are the subject of continuous monitoring, quality assurance and improvement. Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Board (THSCB), Children and Families Partnership Board and ESCW Managers monitor services on a regular basis; both the THSCB and the Department quality assure the work that is being done through regular audits; a comprehensive training and development programme, innovations in social work practice (such as the Department for Education funded "Signs of Safety Project" working with Professor Eileen Munro) and engagement with centres of excellence ensure that we are at the forefront of practice and doing the best by our vulnerable young people.

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**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 Harrisson
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:-

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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	
<b>Total Votes</b>	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:-

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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			
<b>Total Votes</b>	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:-

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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	
<b>Total Votes</b>	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 5<sup>th</sup> 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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£937,500</b>	

#	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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£937,500</b>	

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (SECOND BUDGET MEETING)**

**HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015**

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

**Members Present:**

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	Councillor Shafiqul Haque
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Clare Harrison
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Mahbub Alam	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Craig Aston	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Md. Maium Miah
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Chris Chapman	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Dave Chesterton	Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaquim
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Andrew Cregan	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

The meeting opened at 7.35 p.m.

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

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Marc Francis.

No apologies for absence were received.

**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**

The Speaker informed the Council that on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Commonwealth Day, he would be taking part in a ceremony to commemorate the centenary of the First World War, in common with Civic Heads up and down the country. A candle would be lit, and a symbol of that candle kept alight for 12 months, as a reminder of the sacrifices made during that war and the conflicts since; and a symbol of hope for peace and understanding between peoples.

**4. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**

There were no petitions.

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

The Mayor's response to the budget amendment agreed by the Council at the Budget Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 was tabled.

Mayor Lutfur Rahman introduced, and Councillor Alibor Choudhury **moved**, the reconsidered budget proposals of the Mayor and Executive as set out in the tabled report. Councillor Oliur Rahman **seconded** the proposals. The Mayor stated that he and the Executive were unable to accept any part of the amendment agreed by the Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015, with the reasons set out in the tabled report.

Councillor Rachael Saunders **moved** and Councillor Ayas Miah **seconded** the budget amendment as agreed at the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and as set out in the agenda.

Following debate a recorded vote was conducted on the amendment. The amendment did not achieve the necessary two-thirds majority of those present and voting as required by regulations, with 22 Members voting in favour, 18 against and 5 abstentions as set out below:-

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Khales Uddin Ahmed	x		
Ohid Ahmed		x	
Rajib Ahmed	x		
Suluk Ahmed		x	
Mahbub Alam		x	
Shah Alam		x	
Amina Ali	x		
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	x		
Julia Dockerill			x
David Edgar	x		
Marc Francis	x		
Amy Whitelock Gibbs	x		
Peter Golds			x
Shafiqul Haque		x	
Clare Harrison	x		
Danny Hassell	x		
Sirajul Islam	x		
Denise Jones	x		
Aminur Khan		x	
Rabina Khan		x	
Shiria Khatun	x		
Abjol Miah		x	
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
<b>Total Votes</b>	22	18	5

The Mayor and Executive's budget proposals were therefore **adopted**. Accordingly it was:-

## RESOLVED

### General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax Requirement 2015/16

1. To agree a General Fund revenue budget of £291.362m and a total Council Tax Requirement for Tower Hamlets in 2015/16 of £69,814,540 as set out in the table below.

Service	Revised Base 2014-15 £'000	Approved £'000	Savings New £'000	Growth £'000	Adjust £'000	Total Budget 2015-16 £'000
Education, Social Care and Wellbeing	192,709	(10,810)	0	2,865	(796)	183,967
Public Health	31,590	(3,112)	0	(25)	1,050	29,503
Communities, Localities and Culture	81,123	(753)	0	3,113	(554)	82,930
Development and Renewal	15,849	(1,027)	0	1,847	296	16,965
Resources	7,755	(1,583)	0	4,184	(43)	10,313
Law, Probity and Governance	9,352	(284)	(200)	646	(167)	9,347
<b>Net Service Costs</b>	<b>338,377</b>	<b>(17,569)</b>	<b>(200)</b>	<b>12,630</b>	<b>(214)</b>	<b>333,024</b>
<b>Other Net Costs</b>						
Capital Charges	11,712	(750)	0	(2,155)	(451)	8,356
Levies	1,672	0	0	25	0	1,697
Pensions	16,622	0	0	2,000	0	18,622
Other Corporate Costs	(14,578)	(4,102)	0	(887)	(1,050)	(20,617)
<b>Total Other Net costs</b>	<b>15,428</b>	<b>(4,852)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,016)</b>	<b>(1,501)</b>	<b>8,059</b>
<b>Public Health</b>	<b>(32,261)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(32,261)</b>
<b>Core Grants</b>	<b>(27,017)</b>	<b>(3,000)</b>	<b>(2,156)</b>	<b>8,899</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(23,274)</b>
<b>Reserves</b>						
General Fund	(1,498)	0	0	0	1,745	247
Earmarked	(875)	0	0	0	1,434	559
General Fund (Smoothing)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Inflation</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,500)</b>	<b>4,365</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>5,010</b>
<b>Total Financing Requirement</b>	<b>293,933</b>	<b>(25,421)</b>	<b>(3,857)</b>	<b>24,878</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>291,362</b>
<b>Government Funding</b>	<b>(122,580)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(83)</b>	<b>33,970</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(88,693)</b>
<b>Retained Business Rates</b>	<b>(102,429)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(12,310)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(114,738)</b>
<b>Section 31 Grant (BR)</b>	<b>(3,137)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(85)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,222)</b>
<b>Council Tax</b>	<b>(66,396)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,419)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(69,815)</b>
<b>Collection Fund Surplus</b>						
Council Tax	0	0	(2,131)	0	0	(2,131)
Retained Business Rates	0	0	(4,922)	0	0	(4,922)
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>(294,541)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(22,950)</b>	<b>33,970</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(283,521)</b>

2. To agree a Council Tax for Tower Hamlets in 2015/16 of £885.52 at Band D resulting in a Council Tax for all other band taxpayers, before any discounts, and excluding the GLA precept, as set out in the table below:-

BAND	PROPERTY VALUE		RATIO TO BAND D	LBTH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH BAND
	FROM £	TO £		
A	0	40,000	$\frac{6}{9}$	£590.35
B	40,001	52,000	$\frac{7}{9}$	£688.74
C	52,001	68,000	$\frac{8}{9}$	£787.13
D	68,001	88,000	$\frac{9}{9}$	£885.52
E	88,001	120,000	$\frac{11}{9}$	£1,082.30
F	120,001	160,000	$\frac{13}{9}$	£1,279.08
G	160,001	320,000	$\frac{15}{9}$	£1,475.87
H	320,001	and over	$\frac{18}{9}$	£1,771.04

3. To agree that for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 2015/16:-

- (a) The Council Tax for Band D taxpayers, before any discounts, and including the GLA precept, shall be £1,180.52 as shown below: -

	£
	(Band D, No Discounts)
LBTH	885.52
GLA	295.00
Total	1,180.52

- (b) The Council Tax for taxpayers in all other bands, before any discounts, and including the GLA precept, shall be as detailed in the table below: -

<b>BAND</b>	<b>PROPERTY VALUE</b>		<b>RATIO TO BAND D</b>	<b>LBTH</b>	<b>GLA</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>				
	£	£		£	£	£
A	0	40,000	$\frac{6}{9}$	590.35	196.67	787.01
B	40,001	52,000	$\frac{7}{9}$	688.74	229.44	918.18
C	52,001	68,000	$\frac{8}{9}$	787.13	262.22	1,049.35
D	68,001	88,000	$\frac{9}{9}$	885.52	295.00	1,180.52
E	88,001	120,000	$\frac{11}{9}$	1,082.30	360.56	1,442.86
F	120,001	160,000	$\frac{13}{9}$	1,279.08	426.11	1,705.19
G	160,001	320,000	$\frac{15}{9}$	1,475.87	491.67	1,967.53
H	320,001	and over	$\frac{18}{9}$	1,771.04	590.00	2,361.04

4. To approve the statutory calculations of this Authority's Council Tax Requirement in 2015/16, detailed in **Appendix A** to this minute, undertaken by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the requirements of Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
5. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Annual Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement as presented to Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015.
6. To approve the General Fund Capital and Revenue Budgets and Medium Term Financial Plan 2015-2018 as amended by the alternative options as agreed by the Mayor in Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> February and as set out in the report of the Mayor in Cabinet and summarised in the tables below.

### Summary Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2015-18

	2014-15 £'000	2015-16 £'000	2016-17 £'000	2017-18 £'000
<b>Net Service Costs</b>	295,732	293,933	291,362	296,716
<b>Growth (Incl Public Health) Savings</b>	6,619	11,612	7,949	3,223
Approved	(6,692)	(22,421)	(4,000)	0
New	0	(200)	0	0
<b>Inflation</b>	4,842	2,865	5,500	5,500
<b>Core Grants (incl Public Health)</b>	(4,266)	3,743	(3,764)	(713)
<b>Earmarked Reserves (Directorates)</b>	(804)	1,829	(331)	0
<b>Contribution to/from Reserves</b>	(1,498)	0	0	0
<b>Total Requirement Funding</b>	<b>293,933</b>	<b>291,362</b>	<b>296,716</b>	<b>304,726</b>
<b>Government Funding</b>	(122,580)	(88,693)	(66,879)	(48,947)
<b>Retained Business Rates</b>	(105,566)	(117,960)	(126,202)	(132,052)
<b>Council Tax</b>	(66,396)	(69,815)	(71,909)	(74,066)
<b>Collection Fund Surplus</b>				
Council Tax	0	(2,131)	0	0
Retained Business Rates	0	(4,922)	0	0
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>(294,541)</b>	<b>(283,521)</b>	<b>(264,990)</b>	<b>(255,065)</b>

Detailed analysis of the Medium Term Financial Plan by service area 2014/15 to 2017/18

Service	Total	Savings		Growth	Adjustments	Total	Savings		Growth	Adjustments	Total	Savings		Growth	Adjustments	Total
	2014-15 £'000	Approved £'000	New £'000	£'000	£'000	2015-16 £'000	Approved £'000	New £'000	£'000	£'000	2016-17 £'000	Approved £'000	New £'000	£'000	£'000	2017-18 £'000
Education, Social Care and Wellbeing	192,709	(10,810)	0	2,865	(796)	183,967	0	0	2,146	0	186,113	0	0	582	0	186,695
Public Health	31,590	(3,112)	0	(25)	1,050	29,503	0	0	(891)	(1,050)	27,562	0	0	(892)	0	26,670
Communities, Localities and Culture	81,123	(753)	0	3,113	(554)	82,930	0	0	2,024	(199)	84,755	0	0	1,144	0	85,899
Development & Renewal	15,849	(1,027)	0	1,847	296	16,965	0	0	(714)	(510)	15,741	0	0	0	0	15,741
Resources	7,755	(1,583)	0	4,184	(43)	10,313	0	0	250	0	10,563	0	0	250	0	10,813
Law, Probity & Governance	9,352	(284)	(200)	646	(167)	9,347	0	0	0	154	9,501	0	0	0	0	9,501
<b>Net Service Costs</b>	<b>338,377</b>	<b>(17,569)</b>	<b>(200)</b>	<b>12,630</b>	<b>(214)</b>	<b>333,024</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,815</b>	<b>(1,605)</b>	<b>334,234</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>335,318</b>
<b>Other Net Costs</b>																
Capital Charges	11,712	(750)	0	(2,155)	(451)	8,356	0	0	397	0	8,753	0	0	(419)	0	8,334
Levies	1,672	0	0	25	0	1,697	0	0	0	0	1,697	0	0	0	0	1,697
Pensions	16,622	0	0	2,000	0	18,622	0	0	1,500	0	20,122	0	0	1,500	0	21,622
Other Corporate Costs	(14,578)	(4,102)	0	(887)	(1,050)	(20,617)	(4,000)	0	3,237	1,050	(20,330)	0	0	1,058	0	(19,272)
<b>Total Other Net costs</b>	<b>15,428</b>	<b>(4,852)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,017)</b>	<b>(1,501)</b>	<b>8,058</b>	<b>(4,000)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,134</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>10,242</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,381</b>
Public Health Grant	(32,261)	0	0	0	0	(32,261)	0	0	0	0	(32,261)	0	0	0	0	(32,261)
Core Grants	(27,017)	(3,000)	(2,156)	8,899	0	(23,274)	0	(5,000)	1,236	0	(27,038)	0	(5,000)	4,287	0	(27,751)
<b>Reserves</b>																
General Fund (Corporate)	(1,498)	0	0	0	1,745	247	0	0	0	25	272	0	0	0	0	272
Earmarked (Directorate)	(875)	0	0	0	1,434	559	0	0	0	199	758	0	0	0	0	758
General Fund (Smoothing)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inflation	1,780	0	(1,500)	4,365	365	5,010	0	(1,500)	7,000	0	10,510	0	(1,500)	7,000	0	16,010
<b>Total Financing Requirement</b>	<b>293,933</b>	<b>(25,421)</b>	<b>(3,856)</b>	<b>24,877</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>291,362</b>	<b>(4,000)</b>	<b>(6,500)</b>	<b>16,185</b>	<b>(331)</b>	<b>296,716</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(6,500)</b>	<b>14,510</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>304,726</b>
<b>Government Funding</b>	<b>(122,580)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(83)</b>	<b>33,970</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(88,693)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(145)</b>	<b>21,959</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(66,879)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(163)</b>	<b>18,095</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(48,947)</b>
Retained Business Rates	(102,429)	0	(12,310)	0	0	(114,738)	0	(11,464)	0	0	(126,202)	0	(5,849)	0	0	(132,052)
Section 31 Grant (BR)	(3,137)	0	(85)	0	0	(3,222)	0	0	3,222	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax	(66,396)	0	(3,419)	0	0	(69,815)	0	(2,094)	0	0	(71,909)	0	(2,157)	0	0	(74,066)
Collection Fund Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax	0	0	(2,131)	0	0	(2,131)	0	2,131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retained Business Rates	0	0	(4,922)	0	0	(4,922)	0	4,922	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>(294,541)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(22,950)</b>	<b>33,970</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(283,521)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(6,650)</b>	<b>25,181</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(264,990)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(8,170)</b>	<b>18,095</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(255,065)</b>

**APPENDIX A – BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX STATUTORY  
CALCULATIONS****SETTING THE AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX FOR THE  
COUNCIL'S AREA**

1. That the revenue estimates for 2015/2016 be approved.
2. That it be noted that, at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015, Cabinet calculated 78,840 as its Council Tax base for the year 2015/2016 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)]
3. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2015/2016 in accordance with Section 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended and the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 2011:
  - (a) £1,156,583,740 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of The Act. [Gross Expenditure]
  - (b) £1,086,769,200 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of The Act. [Gross Income]
  - (c) £69,814,540 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of The Act, as its council tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of The Act). [Council Tax Requirement]
  - (d) £885.52 Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of The Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. [Council Tax]

(e)	<b>VALUATION BAND</b>	<b>LBTH £</b>
	A	590.35
	B	688.74
	C	787.13
	D	885.52
	E	1,082.30
	F	1,279.08
	G	1,475.87
	H	1,771.04

Being the amount given by multiplying the amount at 3(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of The Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of The Act, as the amount to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 the Greater London Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:-

<b>VALUATION BAND</b>	<b>GLA £</b>
A	196.67
B	229.44
C	262.22
D	295.00
E	360.56
F	426.11
G	491.67
H	590.00



5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(d) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

<b>VALUATION BAND</b>	<b>TOTAL COUNCIL TAX £</b>
A	787.01
B	918.18
C	1,049.35
D	1,180.52
E	1,442.86
F	1,705.19
G	1,967.53
H	2,361.04

6. That it be noted that new government regulation now requires a local authority to conduct a referendum where if compared with the previous year, they set council tax increases that are "excessive". Under current legislation and in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council tax set by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for 2015/16 is not deemed to be excessive.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015**

**PETITIONS**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

## **SUMMARY**

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be received at each Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. The texts of the petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report. In each case the petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the petitioners for a further four minutes. Finally, the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair of Committee may respond to the petition for up to three minutes.
4. Any outstanding issues will be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will respond to those outstanding issues in writing within 28 days.
5. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.

**5.1 Petition entitled ‘Save Our Homes – Enough is Enough – Brune, Bernard, Carter & Barnett House.’ (Petition from Mr Shamsur Rahman and others)**

We, the undersigned, local residents of Brune, Bernard, Carter and Barnett House – in conjunction with the BBC Community Centre – request the Mayor and the Executive Cabinet Member for Housing to intervene and help us stop the proposed demolition of our homes by East End Homes (EEH).

EEH took over the Estate from the Tower Hamlets Council to provide improvements in 2006 but this agreement was not for demolition and to make a profit at the expense of the destruction for our homes, livelihood and families.

The Estate represents rich local history and is a testament of good, vibrant, harmonious and multicultural ethos of Tower Hamlets. EEH were trusted to provide good management, improvements and better services but have clearly not done so.

We believe that they have flouted the promises, terms and condition and spirit of the agreement – particularly the essence of 34 clauses in the transfer documents signed by them in November 2006. This is pure greed and utter disregard of their responsibilities as registered Social Landlord.

**5.2 Petition regarding Globe Town Mosque and Cultural Centre, E2 0PG (Petition from Mr Suayb Ullah and others)**

We, the undersigned, local residents and stakeholders, request the Tower Hamlets Council and Mayor to ensure that the Globe Town Mosque and Cultural Centre (100 Roman Road, E2 0PG) abide by their responsibilities. The Council need to insist on the following conditions that must be fulfilled when the lease comes to an end on 7 July 2015. Before renewing the lease, the Council must ensure that:-

1. The lease is not given to a person who does not live near to the mosque but to a representative local residents committee consisting of members of local charity – Vision for Globe Town (Registered Charity) that serves local elderly people over 60, drug rehabilitation and provide advocacy and advice for disable people and cultural and activities for young people including Christmas parties.
2. Premise is not used as a personal property, as is the case by the current.
3. There is a new transparent and fully consulted constitution – not the current version that is written and support a fiefdom and support from certain people. The Constitution need to be rewritten as the current version is not fit for purpose and it discriminates against people. A copy of the constitution can be provided to substantiate this.
4. In order to provide a clear and true representation, there is – at least – a membership of 200 local people that live on the streets adjacent to the

mosque, such as Globe Road, Oldford Road, Grove Road and Mile End Road – the square where the Mosque is situated.

5. The unauthorised kitchen and erected in the basement should be taken down. People are staying overnight or longer in the basement without adequate facilities and safety arrangements.
6. A current Committee member of the management Committee attacked a local person in the mosque and the police was called and arrested him which shows how out of touch and unrepresentative they are.

We would like and urge the Council and Mayor to ensure that above fair and reasonable conditions are met before any renewal of the lease or the lease be awarded to local charity based and rooted in the local community.

### **5.3 Petition regarding the Watts Grove development (Petition from Mr Terry McGreenera and others)**

During the consultation process for the Watts Grove development residents requested that the plans include a community hall (residents regret that there was no consultation prior to the plans being drawn). This petition believes that a community hall should be integral to the development of Watts Grove.

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015**

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

## **SUMMARY**

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by members of the public, for response by the Mayor or appropriate Cabinet Member at the Council Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015.
2. The Council's Constitution sets a maximum time limit of twenty minutes for this item.
3. A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one brief supplementary question without notice to the Member who has replied to his or her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Supplementary questions and Members' responses to written and supplementary questions are each limited to two minutes.
4. Any question which cannot be dealt with during the twenty minutes allocated for public questions, either because of lack of time or because of non-attendance of the questioner or the Member to whom it was put, will be dealt with by way of a written answer.
5. Unless the Speaker of Council decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member of the Council may move, without discussion, that the matter raised by a question be referred for consideration by the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee.

## **QUESTIONS**

13 public questions have been submitted as set out below:-

### **6.1 Question from Ms Kathy McTasney:**

Who made the decision to remove personalised disabled bays, and are they aware of the Equality Act and the right of the person with disability to access, especially to their home? I understand from officers that, I quote, "It was the Councillors that made the decision". So who was the person responsible for this?

I have a personal issue that officers were responsible for removing my daughter's bay because I have a front drive. They clearly weren't interested in the adaptations for the car. As officers made clear there were people not using their bays. Then common sense would be to write a letter and if no response at all, remove the bay. Not threaten disabled people that can't speak for themselves.

In conclusion I ask that you withdraw the removal of all personalised disabled bays and send out letters for reply instead of reapplying, as personally there was never an application made as LBTH (Social Services) and the Ambulance service many years ago applied for this to be allocated because of my daughter's disability?

### **6.2 Question from Miss Ghulshana Begum:**

Some commentators have dubbed the long-term BAME (ethnic minority) youth unemployment figures as the "race penalty" facing young people from BAME communities in modern Britain. Is it not shameful that BAME unemployment for young people soared under Labour Government earlier and has now risen to 50% under Tories, since 2010. How does the Mayor intend to address equality concerns with his plan for secure jobs?

### **6.3 Question from Ms Shuily Akthar:**

Can the Lead Member update us about the effectiveness and the success of the Community Safety walk-abouts? How successful is the Council innovative initiative "Mobile Police Station"?

### **6.4 Question from Mr Musthak Ahmed:**

Could the Mayor or the Lead Member update us about the impact of Tory Government's welfare reforms as well as cuts to Education Maintenance Allowance and other funding for Tower Hamlets in general, and particularly, in relation to its impact on unemployment in Tower Hamlets?



**6.5 Question from Mr Aulad Miah:**

As a local resident, I, and others in the Spitalfields and Banglatown Ward were astonished to learn that Labour Party Group in Tower Hamlets Council wanted to cut funding for our much loved local cultural and community asset, the Kobi Nazrul Centre.

Could the Executive explain why would Labour want to unfairly attack, cut funding for Kobi Nazrul Centre with potential consequences for people who work there, their jobs and the service users - local residents and stakeholders - in such a disrespectful way? Would it be true to say that once you start going down such a slippery slope as proposed by Labour, the future of the Centre could be put at risk in future years?

**6.6 Question from Mr Jamir Chowdhury:**

What is the Tower Hamlets First administration doing to support elderly and isolated groups in the community and does the Mayor find time to visit some of these groups in person?

**6.7 Question from Mr Shamim Miah:**

Could the Executive help explain why Tower Hamlets Labour Group think that cutting funding for Smoking Cessation Service in Tower Hamlets is a good idea when it is one of the biggest – if not the biggest – concern and potential killer for the people of Tower Hamlets and has the Council under this administration done anything to help our residents to quit smoking?

**6.8 Question from Aser El Saqqa:**

Is the Council aware of the important role played by Rich Mix in the life of the Borough and of the high regard of it from artists, audiences and other public funding stakeholders? And is the administration aware of the large number of people have signed a petition calling on the Council not to put Rich Mix at risk as a result of the Council-instigated litigation?

**6.9 Question from Mr Koyes Ahmed:**

Why is Sir John Cass adopted a new policy disallowing female visitors to the School (parent, guardians) from wearing a face veil? The safety element to this would be to ask visitors to show their faces at the front desk, which parents are happy to do?

**6.10 Question from Ms Emma Price:**

Will the Council save Cambridge Heath sixth form for young people with special needs?

### **6.11 Question from Mr Gilbert Linsdell**

Many of the Borough's disabled tenants were helped to live fulfilling lives by the independent living fund, which the Tories have scrapped and Labour have refused to promise to return. Will councillors be pressuring central government to reinstate this vital support fund?

### **6.12 Question from Raihan Islam:**

A brochure for parents on "Keeping children and young people safe against radicalisation and extremism" was produced last month. It was based on the three school girls who left for Syria. The leaflet is a disgusting way to isolate Muslims and has created fear within the community. It almost suggests that parents should prevent children from being good citizens or prevent children from embracing their religion peacefully without being harassed. A key point in this brochure:

"Sometimes those at risk may be encouraged, by the people they are in contact with, not to draw attention to themselves. As part of some forms of radicalisation parents may feel their child's behaviour seems to be improving: children may become quieter and more serious about their studies; they may dress more modestly and mix with a group of people that seem to be better behaved than previous friends".

Tower Hamlets Council has faced its fair share of Islamophobia and racism so it's such a shame that they have given into far right agendas to produce offensive literature like this. Was the lead cabinet member Cllr Gulam Robbani consulted because it seems that the council felt the right to intervene in a manner that is cringe worthy for the community and extremely divisive?

### **6.13 Question from Mr Steve Westlake**

Many leaseholders on the Parkview Estate have received very large estimates from Tower Hamlets Homes for refurbishment work - for example in the region of £27,000 in my case.

The basis of these estimates seems to be deeply flawed, highly inflated and inaccurate. Much of the work that purportedly needs to be done bears no resemblance to the condition of the buildings, indicating the estimating process has not been carried out with any level of appropriate diligence or professionalism.

Most, if not all, of the figures appear to be wildly inflated and inappropriate to the level of work that needs to be done. Would you agree that this disregard for correct process and accuracy is unacceptable, and that estimates should be produced by independent surveyors, rather than contractors who have an obvious interest in charging as much as possible for works?

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015**

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

## **SUMMARY**

1. Set out overleaf are the questions submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Speaker, the Mayor or the relevant Committee/Sub-Committee Chair at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015
2. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted.
3. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. There is a time limit of thirty minutes for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any question not answered within this time will be dealt with by way of a written response. The Speaker will decide the time allocated to each question.
5. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

## **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

25 questions have been received from Members of the Council as follows:-

### **8.1 Question from Councillor Sirajul Islam:**

Does the Mayor support Rushanara Ali and Jim Fitzpatrick's campaign to secure a new deal for leaseholders – including calling for an extension to the current repayment period for major works from 12 months to 10 years and providing much greater transparency on all charges and proposed major works?

### **8.2 Question from Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah:**

Does the Cabinet Member for Resources accept a local Labour politician's comments in the Court that Tower Hamlets Council is a 'generally well-run council' and has 'some good policies'?

### **8.3 Question from Councillor Craig Aston:**

Would the Mayor confirm that his executive decision of March 6th, which was completely restricted, was to continue to contest the case with the London Borough of Bromley over ownership of 'Old Flo', that the hearing is taking place today (April 15th), and if so what the total costs of this case will be to the borough?

### **8.4 Question from Councillor Asma Begum:**

TfL is carrying out works along Whitechapel, Mile End and Bow Roads to implement the CS2 Cycle Superhighway upgrade. These works have put the safety of pedestrians at risk. What is the Council doing to resolve this and will Council officers meet with TfL urgently to address the risks to pedestrians?

### **8.5 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury:**

Could the Lead Member for Housing inform us as to when did the Mayor request you to investigate longer repayments for leaseholders in relation to Major Works Charges?

### **8.6 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill:**

Is the Mayor aware that a significant number of major developments are either underway or at planning stage on both sides of the Highway, including the London Dock, the Topps Tiles and Alan Day sites, Tobacco Dock Hotel and the Thames Tideway Tunnel. Is the Mayor also aware that at peak construction, the Thames

Tideway tunnel alone will lead to an extra 82 HGV movements per day. What work has the authority carried out with TfL to assess the cumulative impact of major construction works over the next five years on the Highway in terms of traffic volume and access to Wapping, and is a clear timeline of those works available?

**8.7 Question from Councillor Amina Ali:**

At a meeting of the Audit Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, members heard that the review of the council's contract with Veolia found there were no key performance indicators included. Does the Mayor accept that the lack of performance indicators has contributed to failings in local waste management provision?

**8.8 Question from Councillor Mohammed Ansar Mustaqim:**

Can the Deputy Mayor update us on the work of the appointments Committee in complying with the Secretary of State's direction on appointing the 3 statutory officers of the Council?

**8.9 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood:**

Last year government launched a fair funding consultation for schools; the result is that Tower Hamlets gets more money per pupil in the next financial year than any other borough in the country at £7,007 per pupil, which is 5% or £334 more than the next highest borough Hackney. How is the Mayor intending to use the highest funding per pupil in the country?

**8.10 Question from Councillor Joshua Peck:**

How much income was made from the use of Victoria Park for commercial events in 2014?

**8.11 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah:**

Since Labour's shameless proposals to cut funding to our valuable smoking cessation service, what actions has the Lead Member taken to promote and encourage residents to quit smoking?

**8.12 Question from Councillor Chris Chapman:**

Would the Mayor inform the council how many residents used FiFiLi in the last six months, and how that compares to expectations when it was set up?

**8.13 Question from Councillor Clare Harrison:**

Does the Mayor support the Labour Group's campaign to ensure proper, local provision of waste management services and does he agree with the Labour Group that all options should be considered, including the possibility of bringing some parts of the waste management contract in-house?

**8.14 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam:**

Will the Lead Member for Resources note that after the criticism made about organisations receiving grants that allegedly did not meet council criteria, only three of these thirty organisations, have now judged to be underachieving, and the Commissioners have agreed to continue funding twenty-three of them?

**8.15 Question from Councillor Peter Golds:**

Will the Mayor comment on the purpose of 4 Tower Hamlets First councillors visit to Greece, and further inform us as to why the Greek government is taking lessons in economic illiteracy from members of the Mayors economically and morally bankrupt administration?

**8.16 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell:**

Can you confirm how many young people including those over 18 the council believe are in Syria from Tower Hamlets – what steps are being taken to prevent young people from travelling to Syria?

**8.17 Question from Councillor Shah Alam:**

Can the Cabinet Member for Resources update us about council services provision for residents on Fish Island area of the borough?

**8.18 Question from Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs:**

What are the levels of council tax arrears experienced by families in Tower Hamlets and what measures has the lead member put in place to safeguard children from damaging debt collection practices?

**8.19 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed:**

Will the Lead Member concerned commend the Council for upholding the Joiners' Arms Asset of Community Value status in spite of reported pressure from external bodies, and reaffirm this administration's commitment to preserving the heritage of all communities in our borough?

**8.20 Question from Councillor John Pierce:**

What investigations have the Council carried out on the impact of providing another 1,000 parking spaces on its pledge to make Tower Hamlets London's most cycle friendly borough?

**8.21 Question from Councillor Mohammed Maium Miah:**

Could the Lead Member for Housing inform us if there is a relationship between the major repair works and other issues being faced by Leaseholders and Housing Stock Transfer decision taken by a previous Council administration in the Borough?

**8.22 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin:**

Does council have any predictions of how many families will be affected once Universal Credit is operating in the borough?

**8.23 Question from Councillor Marc Francis:**

Will the Lead Member for Housing & Development set out the action she has taken since the Full Council meeting in September 2014 agreed that it did not support Gateway Housing's proposed redevelopment of Vic Johnson House and what the outcome has been?

**8.24 Question from Councillor Rachel Blake:**

What has the Mayor done to secure a supermarket on Roman Road at the former Safeways/Morrisons site?

**8.25 Question from Councillor Rachael Saunders:**

What more can the Mayor do to stop constant fly tipping on glass, bricks and other building materials at the corner of Ropery Street, very near a local school?

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

**LOCALISM ACT 2011 – PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2015/16**

**REFERENCE FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
MEETING ON 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Under Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to adopt a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year.
- 1.2 The Human Resources Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015 agreed the proposed Pay Policy for 2015/16 and it is now presented to Council for final approval.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1 To adopt the authority's Pay Policy Statement for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 as recommended by the Human Resources Committee and attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 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.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Under Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to adopt, prior to the start of each financial year, a Pay Policy Statement for the forthcoming year which must be published on the Council's website.

- 3.2 The Pay Policy Statement must set out the Authority's policies for the financial year relating to the remuneration of its officers. This must include:
- A policy on the level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer
  - A policy on the remuneration of lowest paid employees (together with a definition of 'lowest paid employees' and reasons for adopting that definition)
  - A policy on the relationship between the remuneration of chief officers and the remainder of the workforce
  - A policy on other specific aspects of chief officers' remuneration (remuneration on recruitment, increases and additions to remuneration, use of PRP and bonuses, and the approach to termination payments).
- 3.3 Additionally, the Council must have regard to other statutory guidance or recommendations e.g. relating to pay multiples, but it should be noted that the statutory guidance emphasises that each LA has the autonomy to take its own decisions on pay and pay policies.
- 3.4 The Human Resources Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015 agreed the Council's proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2015/16 and this is now presented to Council for final approval. The proposed statement for 2015/16 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 In previous years the Department for Communities and Local Government has produced supplementary guidance to be read alongside existing accountability guidance, which governs Pay Policy Statements. Should supplementary guidance be published after the 2015/16 Pay Policy has been considered by the Council, which requires minor amendments to be made to the Pay Policy Statement, it is proposed that 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, the Pay Policy Statement will be referred back to the Human Resources Committee for consideration.

#### **4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications of publishing a Pay Policy Statement, which describes current practice. Should any changes to pay policy be proposed (that result in an amended statement being published in future), the financial implications will be assessed at the point that changes are proposed.

#### **5. CONCURRENT REPORT OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 5.1 Guidance on Section 40 of the Localism Act was published in February 2012. Relevant authorities (which includes a London Borough Council) are required by section 38(1) of the Act to prepare Pay Policy Statements which set out a range of issues relating to the Authority's policy towards a range of issues

including that of its highest and lowest paid workers. The policy must be prepared for each financial year, approved by full Council and published for transparency.

- 5.2 Under Section 40 (1) of the Act the Authority must have regard to the guidance which sets out key policy principles which underpin the accountability provisions of the Act. The Council is still bound by relevant employment (and other) legislation as the employer and any changes which may be proposed by the policy must bear in mind the requirements of such legislation.
- 5.3 The Act and the guidance requires that Councillors take a greater role in ensuring that the remuneration, particularly that of the most senior staff, is appropriate and commensurate with their responsibility and within the wider context of the pay of the workforce as a whole. This requires the publication of data in respect of the remuneration of chief officers.
- 5.4 The Council can amend the Pay Policy on an annual basis as required by the Act but may also amend the policy as needed to take into account changing legislative requirements.
- 5.5 Given the requirement that the policy be approved by full Council, care must be exercised when seeking to delegate any authority to approve changes which are made to the policy subsequent to its approval by full Council.

## **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 An equality analysis will be carried out on the draft policy statement, but it should be noted that the statement describes existing policies and practice rather than proposing new ones. Should there be amendments, further advice on the impact will be given.

## **7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 7.1 There are no implications.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The draft statement describes existing policies and practice. Any risks, e.g. from proposing changes in the future to pay and benefits, would be assessed at the time.

## **9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no implications.

**10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

10.1 No changes to service delivery or the use of resources are proposed.

**11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Draft Pay Policy Statement 2015/16

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Background Papers: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

NONE

**London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
Draft pay policy statement 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016**

**1 Introduction**

The Localism Act 2011 requires Local Authorities to produce a pay policy statement every financial year. This requirement is part of the Government's drive towards public sector transparency.

The Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's current policies and practice in relation to pay for all parts of the workforce. The statement excludes school based employees. The Statement is made available on the Council's website, which also includes separately published salary information for senior managers as part of the Government's Transparency Code.

**2 Scope**

The policy addresses the requirements of the Localism Act and addresses key areas of pay and remuneration.

The Localism Act defines senior executives, and in this statement they are the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, Corporate Directors, the Monitoring Officer (Corporate Management Team).

**3 Pay and grading structure**

The majority of employees' pay and conditions of service are agreed nationally either via the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services, or the Joint National Council (JNC) for Chief Officers, with regional or local variations.

The Council also employs some staff on Soulbury conditions of service, some on conditions determined by the Joint National Council for Youth & Community Workers, some staff covered by the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and some staff on locally agreed terms and conditions for Lecturers and Tutors.

It is the practice of the Council to seek the views of local trade unions on pay related matters, recognising that elements are settled within a national framework.

The Council uses national pay scales up to grade LPO8, and determines the appropriate grade for each job in accordance with the Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) job evaluation scheme.

Above LPO8, local grades are in place for senior staff as follows:

- LP09 - evaluated under a local variation to the GLPC job evaluation Scheme
- Chief Officers, Deputy Chief Officers (Service Heads and senior executives) and Key Chief Officers -evaluated under the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers job evaluation scheme

The Council signed a Single Status agreement in April 2008 with trade unions.

This brought former manual grades into the GLPC job evaluation scheme, and replaced spot points with narrow grade bands. One of the key aims of the agreement was to eliminate potential pay inequality from previous pay structures and ensure that new pay structures are free from discrimination.

New and changed jobs are evaluated using the relevant job evaluation scheme, with the appropriate grade being determined using a range of factors.

The scale point on which an individual is appointed to the post is normally the lowest of the grade but will depend on skills and experience.

#### **4 How the Council's management team is structured**

The Council's Corporate Management Team is led by the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, supported by a number of Chief Officers reporting to the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service. All statutory roles are at this level of the organisation.

Service Heads (Deputy Chief Officers) in each Directorate report to a member of the Corporate Management Team.

#### **5 Senior Executive remuneration**

Pay for senior executives who are members of the Corporate Management Team is made up of three elements:

- Basic pay (defined by a locally agreed grade)
- London weighting allowance
- Travel allowance payment

Service Heads (Deputy Chief Officers) receive basic pay (defined by a locally agreed grade).

Senior salary data is published on the Council's website as part of the Government's transparency agenda. For details, please see [http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgs/800001-800100/800043\\_transparency.aspx](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgs/800001-800100/800043_transparency.aspx)

## **6 Senior appointments**

All salary packages for posts at Chief Officer, Key Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer level are in line with locally agreed pay scales.

## **7 Lowest paid employees**

The Council's lowest paid staff are those who are paid on the Council's lowest scale point.

The Council has resolved that its lowest paid staff should not be paid less than the level of the London Living Wage. As a consequence, in 2011, 2012 and 2013, the pay levels for the lowest paid employees was moved up to Scale 1, (spinal column point 5 in 2011, point 6 in 2012 and point 7 in 2013), to ensure the rate was above the London Living Wage.

When the London Living Wage was increased in November 2014, further work was done to ensure the lowest paid employees had the pay increase reflected in their pay. As a consequence, the pay levels for the lowest paid employees, was moved up to Scale 1 (spinal column point 8), which is above the rate of the 2014 London Living Wage. The Council's Apprentices are paid at the London Living Wage rate.

As the London Living Wage rises in future years, the Council will continue to increase pay levels for the lowest paid staff to ensure that they are paid the nearest scale point above the London Living Wage.

## **8 National pay bargaining**

Annual pay increases across the Council's grades are set through the process of national pay bargaining which the Council subscribes to.

The Council contributes to the negotiation process by providing an employer view through the annual Local Government Employers' regional pay briefings. The employers' side then negotiate with trade unions at a national level.

National pay rates are set using a number of factors, including:

- The sector's ability to pay
- Movement in market rates
- Inflation levels
- Other pay awards
- The Government's policy position regarding public sector pay

## **9 Incremental progression**

Incremental progression is on an annual basis for those staff who are not at the top of their grade. As per national conditions of service, progression is automatic for all staff (subject to general satisfactory performance) except

Service Heads and Chief Officers who have to demonstrate satisfactory performance through a formal annual appraisal before being awarded incremental progression.

## **10 Additional payments and allowances**

A range of allowances and payments are paid as appropriate to the nature and requirement of specific posts, groups of posts and working patterns. These include car and travel allowances, overtime, standby, weekend and night work, shift and call-out payments.

Acting up and honoraria payments are made to individual staff as appropriate using clear criteria, and where a clear business need is identified.

The Council has a staff relocation package, available to new entrants to the Council's employment, but subject to tight eligibility criteria.

The Council also has the ability to pay market supplements for recruitment purposes, where there is a strong business case and appropriate criteria are met.

The Council does not operate a performance related pay scheme or bonus scheme.

## **11 Pensions**

All employees (with the exceptions set out below) of the Council up to 75 years of age and who have a contract of more than 3 months' duration are entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Decisions on delegated provisions are agreed by the Pensions Committee. The LGPS is a contributory scheme, whereby the employee contributes from their salary. The level of contribution is determined by whole time salary and contribution levels are set by Government who then advise the employer.

All employees of the Council from 18 to 75 years of age and who are employed on Teacher, Youth Work or Tutor/Lecturer terms and conditions are entitled to join the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The Teachers' Pension Scheme is a contributory scheme, whereby the employee contributes from their salary and contribution levels are set by Government.

## **12 Compensation for loss of office**

### *12.1 Financial terms for redundancy*

The Council has a policy linked to its policy for Handling Organisational Change which sets out the terms for redundancy and early termination of staff (subject to qualifying criteria), which apply to Chief Officers and to all staff. In certain circumstances, individuals may also qualify for early release of their pension.



### *12.2 Redundancy packages*

When it is proposed to delete a post at Chief Officer, Key Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer level, a report is submitted to the Council's HR Committee for consideration. If the proposal will result in a postholder receiving a severance package, the costs of such a package are included in the report.

### *12.3 Ill health*

Where termination of employment arises from ill health, payments will be made in accordance with the contract of employment. In certain circumstances, individuals may also qualify for early release of their pension.

### *12.4 Negotiated exits – settlements*

If it is determined that a negotiated settlement is appropriate for a senior executive in circumstances which do not amount to a dismissal, the Service Head (Human Resources & Workforce Development) will deal with the detail, and the Council's Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service after consultation with the Monitoring Officer (or in circumstances where it is not appropriate for one or other to be involved, the Chief Financial Officer) will consider whether the terms of the offer constitute value for money and are appropriate, fair and reasonable in the circumstances, and the proposed settlement shall then be subject to the agreement of the Human Resources Committee.

### *12.5 Re-employment following redundancy/early retirement*

Any member of staff who has left the Council by reason of redundancy or early retirement and received a severance payment is required to have a gap before reemployment. The gap should be at least 1 year after the date of termination for staff who left due to compulsory redundancy or a gap of at least 2 years after the date of termination for staff who left due to voluntary redundancy before they can return, either as a directly employed member of staff, an agency worker or a consultant. This does not prevent them from working in Tower Hamlets Schools during this period.

To allow for exceptional circumstances, when it might be necessary to reemploy someone sooner than set out above, a Corporate Director, in conjunction with the Service Head HR and WD, and after consultation with the Chair of the Human Resources Committee, has authority to waive the 1 or 2 year requirement (as appropriate), provided there is justification.

## **13 Pay multiples / comparisons**

The Council's pay and grading structures reflect a wide range of job requirements and levels of responsibility across the organisation, with pay and grading being determined by the Council's job evaluation schemes.

The pay ratio demonstrating the relationship between the Council's highest paid employee (total salary package) and the median (mid-point between the highest and lowest) salary position of the non-schoolsworkforce is 1:5.8.

The pay ratio demonstrating the relationship between the Council's highest paid employee (total salary package) and the lowest salary of the non-schools workforce is 1:9.6.

The Council will have regard to its pay ratios and keep them under review, seeking to balance the following:

- Ensuring appropriate reward mechanisms which value knowledge, skills and experience at a senior level, and ensure that the Council can recruit and retain the best talent
- Addressing its commitment to matching the London Living Wage for our lowest paid staff, and encouraging the developmental progression for staff in the lowest graded roles.

#### **14 Equality issues**

The policy elements described in this report derive from national terms and conditions and bargaining, or local discretion. The Council has a keen regard for equality issues and should any changes be made to the pay policy in the future, proposals would go through an Equality Analysis. One of the key aims of Single Status agreement was to eliminate potential pay inequality from previous pay structures and ensure that new pay structures are free from discrimination.

#### **15 Review**

The Localism Act 2011 requires relevant authorities to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each subsequent financial year. The Council's next Statement is scheduled to be for 2016/17 and will be submitted to Full Council for approval by 31 March 2016.

Should changes to pay policy be contemplated that would result in an amended statement being published in the year that it applies, these would be subject to a detailed consultation process before an appropriate recommendation was made to Full Council.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015**

**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2015/16**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report requests the Council to confirm the calendar of Council, committee and other meetings for the forthcoming municipal year.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Council approve the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2015/16 as set out at Appendix A.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Council Procedure Rules provide for the Council to agree a programme of meetings for each municipal year.
- 3.2 The schedule of Council, committee and other meetings is therefore submitted for confirmation by the Council. The draft calendar is attached at Appendix 'A' and follows the pattern set in previous years in terms of frequency of meetings, start times and meeting days for the various committees, adapted to address any issues that have arisen during the year and taking into account service requirements.

**4. Points to note**

- 4.1 As in previous years, efforts have been made to avoid holding meetings during school holiday periods, with particular reference to August. However, it is necessary for a small number of meetings to be held, particularly regulatory committees where time limits apply for the determination of applications.
- 4.2 Other key points to note in relation to the proposed calendar are:
- Full Council Meetings have been scheduled taking into account the reporting timetable for Budget and Policy Framework items. The last Ordinary Council meeting of the year has been moved to late March due to a number of items now requiring sign off before April each year.
  - The Budget Council meeting is programmed for 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016. This will allow time for a second Budget Council meeting to be arranged on 3<sup>rd</sup> March if necessary. Additional Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings have been scheduled for

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February specifically to scrutinise the budget proposals.

- One fewer Cabinet meetings have been scheduled in the May to July period as having two meetings in July (to avoid an August meeting) was proving to be more than required. There will continue to be 12 Ordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. Eleven will shadow Cabinet meeting dates as usual and discussions will take place with the Chair to agree to the date of the 'spare' meeting.
- Appeals Committee has been programmed to meet on a monthly basis.
- Reflecting the continuing high number of hearings, the Licensing Sub-Committee will continue to be scheduled fortnightly.
- A number of Appointment Sub-Committee meetings have been scheduled. However, depending on workload, these meetings may be cancelled or additional meetings arranged.
- The Investment Panel was wound up during this last municipal year, however, the new Pensions Board will take its place in the calendar, meeting on the same evening (but just before) the Pensions Committee meetings.
- The Health Scrutiny Panel meetings are to be moved to a Wednesday with the Pensions Board and Committee meeting on Thursdays.
- As far as possible meetings have been minimised during other school holidays, major religious festivals and major political party national conferences. Where it is necessary to programme meetings during Ramadan, these are generally scheduled to begin at 5.30 p.m. to avoid continuing beyond Iftar.
- Officers are looking to keep the week of 25<sup>th</sup> May free of Committee meetings to allow space for all the mandatory member training sessions in relation to Committee memberships to be run in that week. Members will be provided with advance notice of the days that week where the different training sessions will be run. Provisional regular Member Development Training Dates have also been scheduled throughout the year.

## **5. Start times of meetings**

- 5.1 In accordance with Members' wishes, Cabinet meetings continue to be programmed for a 5.30 p.m. start. Full Council Meetings are scheduled for 7.30 p.m.
- 5.2 In relation to other committees and sub-committees, a range of different arrangements have developed over recent years and the arrangements reflect the differing requirements of particular meetings and are therefore included unchanged in the draft calendar.

## **6. Observations of the Chief Financial Officer**

- 6.1 There are no specific financial comments arising from this report.

**7. Legal Comments**

7.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

**8. Implications for One Tower Hamlets**

8.1 In drawing up this schedule of meetings, consideration has been given where possible to avoiding school holidays, known religious holidays and other dates which could inhibit attendance or participation by one or more section(s) of the borough's community.

**9. Anti-Poverty Implications**

9.1 There are no anti-poverty implications arising from the proposals in this report.

**10. Risk Management Implications**

10.1 The Council needs to have in place a programme of meetings to ensure effective and efficient decision-making arrangements.

**11. Strategic Action for a Greener Environment**

11.1 No implications arising from this report.

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (SECTION 100D)**

**LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Brief description of "background paper"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection
None.	

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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)	17			16		18		20	24	3, 23		18 (AGM)	
Corporate 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		

**Notes**

\* - These dates are from this municipal year for information

+ - These dates are provisional dates from the following Council year.

^ - OSC dates to allow for consideration of the Executive's Budget Proposals.

Ramadan - meetings during Ramadan (expected to be 18 June to 17 July) will usually begin at 5:30pm

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015**

**MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

## **SUMMARY**

1. Thirteen motions have been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 13 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015.
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the protocol agreed by the Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008, the motions are listed by turns, one from each group, continuing in rotation until all motions submitted are included. The rotation starts with any group(s) whose motion(s) were not reached at the previous meeting.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

## **MOTIONS**

Set out overleaf are the motions that have been submitted.

## **12.1 Motion regarding ISIS/Tragic disappearance of local schoolgirls**

**Proposer: Councillor Rabina Khan**

**Seconder: Councillor Oliur Rahman**

### Council notes

- The tragic disappearance of local schoolgirls who are assumed to have joined ISIS in Syria
- The ongoing threat of ISIS to all of us

### Council believes

- That we continue to hope our young people are returned safely
- That safeguarding our young people is of paramount importance

### Council resolves

- To extend all our sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of the missing girls during this extremely difficult period
- To reaffirm our commitment to resisting the politics of hatred and division in all its forms, and in this specific case, the vile ideology of ISIS
- To welcome the distribution of the council's counter-terrorism guide for parents at schools and places of worship, and to continue to develop this strategy based on effectiveness and resident feedback

## **12.2 Motion regarding a New Deal for Leaseholders**

**Proposer: Councillor John Pierce**

**Seconder: Councillor Rachel Blake**

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

### **12.3 Motion regarding the Constitutional Working Group**

**Proposer: Councillor Craig Aston**

**Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds**

#### **This council notes that:**

1. Since October 2010 the council has operated under an Executive Mayoral model in which most functions of the council are in the hands of the Executive Mayor
2. The size of the council was reduced from 51 to 45 in 2014, in part due to arguments about how the work of councillors and the structure of the council could be revised with fewer members.
3. Apart from necessary changes to the constitution to account for the transfer of executive powers, no thorough revision of the structures of the council was carried out, and no such revision has been carried out since.
4. Tower Hamlets is one of only 9 boroughs in London out of 32 with a single Overview and Scrutiny Committee as opposed to a number of scrutiny bodies.

#### **This council notes further:**

1. Although a formal scheme of delegation exists, executive powers have never been formally delegated. Responsibility for executive actions therefore rests exclusively with Lutfur Rahman.
2. Lutfur Rahman has not answered a single question at Full Council since 2012 and usually his only interaction with Full Council meetings is his 5-minute report, where he generally talks about matters irrelevant to his duties as Executive Mayor.
3. Lutfur Rahman has attended just 4 Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings since becoming Executive Mayor in 2010.

#### **This council notes further:**

1. The intervention of the Department for Communities and Local Government in sending the auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, to this council.
2. The subsequent report of PricewaterhouseCoopers, which made severe criticisms of the actions and lack of accountability of the administration.
3. The further intervention of DCLG in sending Commissioners into this borough to exercise certain executive powers.

#### **This council believes that:**

1. The structures left in place at the transfer to an Executive Mayoral model in 2010 are, and were, not sufficient to ensure genuine scrutiny and accountability of an Executive Mayoral administration.
2. Those structures have plainly failed, resulting in DCLG intervention.

3. A revision of those structures is both necessary and desirable.

**The council resolves that:**

1. The Constitutional Working Group be convened to consider revisions to the constitution which would strengthen scrutiny, oversight, and executive accountability.
2. The legal department provide all necessary assistance to the Constitutional Working Group.
3. That proposals for revisions to the constitution should be brought back to Full Council not later than 30 September 2015.

## 12.4 Motion regarding Tower Hamlets 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Proposer:** Councillor Abdul Asad

**Seconder:** Councillor Ohid Ahmed

### Council notes

- That 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 marked the fiftieth anniversary of Tower Hamlets Council
- That several events have taken place in order to mark this occasion, including the launch of the '50 Years in Pictures' campaign
- That an exhibition of memories of the Borough will be displayed in June with a view to a potential tour of this exhibition across LBTH

### Council believes

- That the endurance and progress of our community for half a century is an occasion worth celebrating
- That people of all backgrounds and walks of life from Tower Hamlets have contributed untold amounts to both their immediate community and the wider world
- That what unites us as a borough is stronger than any differences

### Council resolves

- To support the continuing planned programme of events
- To encourage residents to engage actively in sharing their memories of the borough and hopes for its future
- To use the views gathered from resident participation in future discussions and policymaking around the shape this borough takes
- To encourage that residents whose work is displayed in the exhibition or mentioned by the Council receive appreciation letter
- To support the initiative of a dedicated anniversary webpage [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/50](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/50) which includes an interactive forum where people can contribute their own memories and thoughts about what makes our borough great, under the heading 'Your Tower Hamlets in 50 words' under the theme of '50 reasons why you love Tower Hamlets'
- To support a Summer photographic exhibition to celebrate all the fantastic photographs from people and from local historical archives, as well as, residents' own artistic representations of their views on the borough
- To encourage and develop the idea of 'Artwork for the Future' (photographic images; creative expressions of the borough through art forms such as poetry, digital art, painting, sculpture, dance, theatre; memories of the borough; and opinions about what makes our borough so special and that could be turned into a

piece of art) which will showcase Tower Hamlets' history, its story over the last fifty years and the residents and locations which have shaped it into the borough we know today

- To tap into the Arts Council England/BBC campaign [Get Creative](#) – which is trying to encourage people to take part in something creative every day

## **12.5 Motion regarding Barts Health NHS Trust**

**Proposer: Councillor Asma Begum**

**Seconder: Councillor Rachel Blake**

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



## **12.6 Motion regarding the Borough's Leisure Facilities**

**Proposer: Councillor Julia Dockerill**

**Secunder: Councillor Andrew Wood**

That this council recalls with pride the role this borough played in the success of the London 2012 Olympics, and the appetite residents demonstrated for wider community and sporting participation.

Notes with concern that the quality and upkeep of a number of sports facilities in the borough are not a fitting sporting legacy of the Olympics.

Further notes that a number of council sports premises are under-utilised and regret the lost opportunity this represents in providing first class leisure and community facilities to borough residents.

Further notes that the GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), contract to provide borough leisure services is shortly due for renewal.

Calls for a candid assessment of GLL's performance in running that contract and further debate on how our borough leisure facilities are run and what opportunities are available to raise substantially the quality of provision.

## 12.7 Motion regarding Greek Solidarity Movement

**Proposer: Councillor Oliur Rahman**

**Seconded: Councillor Mahbub Alam**

This Council notes

- The London Borough of Tower Hamlets has the highest level of child poverty in the country and is being heavily hit by austerity.
- That austerity both across Europe and UK has failed to deliver significant growth in seven years.
- Austerity has had particularly devastating effects in Southern Europe. In Greece the number of unemployed increased from approximately 360,000 in 2008 to 1.4 million in 2013 and there has been an alarming increase in poverty. Unicef reported in 2014 that some 686,000 children, or 35.4% of the total, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion.
- The proposal from the new Syriza-led Greek government for a European Debt Conference modelled on the London Debt Conference of 1953, when half of Germany's post-World War Two debt was written off, leading to a sharp increase in economic growth.
- What Syriza aim to negotiate, as a result of debt conference, is cancellation of a substantial part of the debt, with repayment of the remaining debt tied to economic growth and the purchase of Greek sovereign bonds under the European Central Bank's €60bn monthly programme of quantitative easing.
- The comments of US President Barack Obama that "You cannot keep on squeezing countries that are in the midst of depression. At some point, there has to be a growth strategy in order for them to pay off their debts to eliminate some of their deficits."
- The recent solidarity delegation to Greece led by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Oliur Rahman, which visited Syriza politicians, migrant workers' groups, community organisations and trade unions.

This Council agrees

- To invite a representative of the Greek Solidarity Campaign to a future meeting to discuss what we can do in Tower Hamlets to help build the European movement against austerity.
- To invite a Greek delegation to this Town Hall.
- To learn lessons from Greek situation.

## **12.8 Motion regarding Social Landlords**

**Proposer: Councillor Dave Chesterton**

**Seconder: Councillor Amina Ali**

This Council notes:

1. That as a result of a stock transfer there are now a number of Registered Providers managing stock that was previously managed by Tower Hamlets Council
2. That under current legislation, tenants of stock transferred properties have no right to a re-ballot and choose an alternative Registered Provider

This Council believes:

1. That some Registered Providers of stock transferred properties are performing poorly; failing in their responsibilities for maintenance, repair and general services for tenants and leaseholders. Among these are One Housing Group and Circle Housing,
2. That tenants should have a choice and where Registered Providers are performing poorly they should have the right to demand a re-ballot and chose an alternative landlord
3. That while holding a re-ballot and changing Registered Provider should be an option available to tenants, this should not simply be a reversal of a stock transfer

This Council resolves to:

1. Support Jim Fitzpatrick MP in his efforts to change legislation, enabling tenants to have a choice in their Registered Provider and where these are performing poorly to have the right to a re-ballot

## **12.9 Motion regarding Young People and Syria**

**Proposer: Councillor Peter Golds**

**Secunder: Councillor Chris Chapman**

That this council notes that a number of young people from schools in our borough have left their homes and families to support the Islamic State terror group in Syria.

Believes this to be a cause of deepest concern, sadness and alarm.

Recognises the challenging work now being undertaken by our borough's education, social service and Prevent teams to understand why and how these young people have been recruited by this terror group.

Notes the council's apology for misleading the High Court with regards to teenage girls from our borough feared to be in danger of fleeing to Syria.

Further recognises that while it may take some time to get the full background to these events, it is vital that community leaders, councillors and council officers are given as detailed a picture as possible about the types of young people at risk and the methods by which they are recruited from our borough.

Calls for a detailed report to be provided at the next Full Council on these issues so councillors can properly scrutinise borough services on their preparedness in both preventing and tackling similar episodes in future.

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

**Proposer: Councillor Danny Hassell**

**Seconder: Councillor Marc Francis**

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.

## 12.11 Motion regarding TfL and CS2 Cycle Superhighway Upgrade

**Proposer: Councillor Joshua Peck**

**Seconder: Councillor Rachael Saunders**

This Council notes:

1. That TfL is currently carrying out works along Whitechapel Road/Mile End Road/Bow Road to implement the CS2 Cycle Superhighway upgrade
2. that these works are due to last until Spring 2016
3. that these works have included the temporary removal of traffic lights and pedestrian crossings outside Mile End tube, Coborn Road/St Clements and Coborn Street/British Estate
4. that the Coborn Street/British Street crossing is used every day by hundreds of pupils of Malmesbury Primary and Central Foundation secondary school
5. that the temporary lights at this crossing are poorly sited and ignored by some cars, and that this crossing is therefore unsafe
6. that the Mile End tube crossing is used every day by thousands of people to access the underground
7. that the Mile End tube crossing was totally removed at the start of the works, leaving many pedestrians to dodge fast-moving traffic as they crossed the busy four-lane road
8. that a temporary crossing was only reintroduced outside the tube after the intervention of the GLA member and local councillors but that this crossing is too narrow, leaving pedestrians stood in the busy road at peak times
9. that the temporary traffic lights and pedestrian signals at this crossing are unreliable and have been out of order for long periods, again leaving pedestrians at risk as they try to cross the road.

This Council believes:

1. That TfL has not properly taken into account the needs of pedestrians in its planning of these major works and that as a result it has put pedestrians at serious risk of harm.

This Council resolves:

1. to call on TfL to urgently review the pedestrian safety measures on the full length of the CS2 upgrade works to address its failings, and to urgently widen the Mile End tube pedestrian crossing point, to repair the temporary lights and to monitor them more regularly to ensure that they are swiftly repaired should they break down on future
2. to request Council Highways officers to meet urgently with TfL to make the concerns of Council clear and to agree an action plan to address the serious pedestrian safety risks on the route.

## 12.12 Motion regarding Homelessness in Tower Hamlets

**Proposer: Councillor Marc Francis**

**Seconder: Councillor Sirajul Islam**

This Council notes:

1. Under Labour's Leadership after 1994, the London borough of Tower Hamlets had a strong track record of supporting homeless households, from bringing those placed outside the borough by the Lib Dem administration to back into Tower Hamlets to ending the long-term use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation for families with children ahead of schedule and halving the numbers in temporary accommodation by 2010;
2. From 2002 onwards, LBTH in common with many other London boroughs increasingly offered homeless households a move into a home in the private rented sector on a voluntary basis to prevent their homelessness;
3. Since 2010, the Coalition Government's reduction in the subsidy levels for temporary accommodation and caps on Local Housing Allowance have seriously affected LBTH's ability to source such accommodation from private landlords in Tower Hamlets;
4. As a consequence, dozens of homeless families have been forced to stay in B&B longer than the six week legal limit, which is totally unsuitable for children, and others are now being placed in B&B "annexes", which while legal, are almost as bad;
5. More recently, the Mayor has allowed council officers to discharge the authority's duty to homeless households through the offer of an Assured Shorthold Tenancy in the private rented sector, and that as of 30<sup>th</sup> June, this had happened to 50 households
6. The Homelessness Statement 2013-17 agreed by the Mayor and Cabinet notes that the Government had changed the law to allow such a discharge of duty, but does not make clear either that this is a power, not a duty, or that LBTH would be adopting such a policy
7. LBTH has published no criteria explaining the circumstances in which a homeless household will be made such an offer
8. LBTH's bid for additional funding of £270,000 from the Government's "Gold Standard" initiative to tackle the growing use of B&Bs was rejected by ministers, while other Conservative-led authorities facing much less housing pressure were awarded funding.

This Council believes:

1. Homeless families are potentially vulnerable and should not be forced to accept the offer of a tenancy in the private rented sector, which lacks security of tenure and which is often at rent levels that can only be afforded with Housing Benefit,

creating a “poverty trap”;

2. This policy was introduced by the Conservative Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government and Housing Minister in response to lobbying by Conservative-led Westminster City Council and other Tory boroughs, who have long argued against the legal safety net for homeless people;
3. Statutorily homeless families in Tower Hamlets should not have their rights eroded
4. The Coalition Government’s reasons for denying LBTH funding from the “Gold Standard” scheme to help reduce the use of B&B were spurious.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on the Mayor to revoke the authorisation for council officers to discharge this authority’s duty to homeless households through the offer of a private sector tenancy;
2. To call on the Mayor and our local Members of Parliament to make representations to the Department for Communities & Local Government for an investigation into the process by which local authorities were awarded “Gold Standard” funding;
3. To call on the Mayor to participate actively in London Councils’ efforts to persuade this and any future Government to restore full Housing Benefit subsidy for homeless households in temporary accommodation and to agree a protocol for co-operation rather than competition between authorities over the lease of such accommodation;
4. To call on the Mayor to take further steps to comply with the legal requirement that for homeless families are not forced to stay in B&Bs longer than six week and also reduced the use of B&B “annexes”, and to report back to Full Council on progress by the first ordinary Council meeting of 2015/16.



## **12.13 Motion regarding Tax Dodging**

**Proposer: Councillor Clare Harrisson**

**Seconder: Councillor John Pierce**

The Council notes:

1. It has been estimated that the UK Treasury loses as much as £12 billion to tax dodging by multinational companies every year. Developing countries lose three times more to tax dodging than they receive in aid each year – enough to give a basic education to the 57 million children currently missing out.
2. The UK has a particular responsibility to end tax dodging, as it is responsible for 1 in 5 of the world's tax havens in the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.
3. The use of tax havens by UK companies is rife, with 98 of the FTSE 100 companies routinely using tax havens.
4. Large multinational companies pay as little as 5% in corporate taxes globally while smaller businesses pay up to 30%.

This Council believes:

1. As a local authority we have a duty to provide the best possible public services
2. Our ability to provide quality local services would be significantly enhanced by the increased revenues from the government tackling tax dodging.
3. All who benefit from public spending should contribute their fair share.
4. The UK must take a lead role in creating a fairer tax system and combating tax dodging.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the campaign for tax justice alongside organisations like Action Aid
2. To ask our MPs, Jim Fitzpatrick and Rushanara Ali to put pressure on the national government and the treasury to take steps to end tax avoidance loopholes.

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