



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 18 May 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

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

Democratic Services Contact:

Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services
Tel: 020 7364 4651, E-mail: matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Directorate of Law, Probity and
Governance

Democratic Services
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London E14 2BG

Tel **020 7364 4651**
Fax **020 7364 3232**

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

**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 7.00 p.m. on **WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2016**

Will Tuckley
Chief Executive

Public Information

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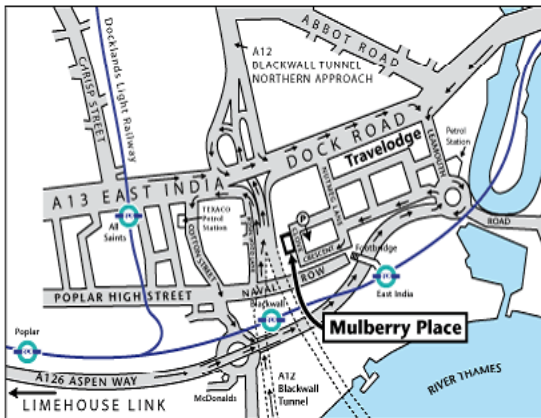
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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2016

7.00 p.m.

1. ELECTION OF SPEAKER

To elect a Councillor to serve as Speaker of the Council for the municipal year 2016/17 or until a successor is appointed, whichever is the sooner.

(Note: Section 4 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1972 provide that the election of the chairman (which post the Council has resolved to title "Speaker" in Tower Hamlets) shall be the first time of business transacted at the Annual Meeting of the Council and that in the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall give a casting vote in addition to any vote s/he may have).

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

To elect a Councillor to serve as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the municipal year 2016/17 or until a successor is appointed, whichever is the sooner.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. 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.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

5 - 44

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 23rd March 2016.

6. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

7. MAYOR'S CABINET AND EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

45 - 54

To note the Mayor's Cabinet and related appointments in the Executive Scheme of Delegation as at 18 May 2016 as set out in the attached report.

- 8. PROPORTIONALITY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES** **55 - 62**
- To establish Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016/17 and allocate places on those Committees and Sub-Committees with the review of proportionality as required by the Local Government Housing Act 1989.
- This report also proposes changes to the Non-Executive Committee structure and notes recent changes to the Scrutiny structure as agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 9. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2016/17** **63 - 70**
- To agree a revised Schedule of Meetings for the Council, committees and other meetings for the municipal year 2016/17.
- 10. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND PANELS OF THE COUNCIL** **71 - 90**
- To appoint a Chair and members to each of the committees and panels of the Council established at item 8 above, in accordance with the nominations submitted by the political groups.
- 11. SCHEME OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2016/17 - AMENDED** **91 - 102**
- To consider an updated Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2016/17.
- 12. STATE OF THE BOROUGH DEBATE**
- An opportunity for the Mayor and Group Leaders to set out their views on the 'State of the Borough'.
- As confirmed by the Chief Executive, in consultation with group leaders, the arrangements are as follows:
- Mayor John Biggs – to speak for twenty minutes
 - Councillor Oliur Rahman – to speak for five minutes
 - Councillor Peter Golds – to speak for five minutes
 - Mayor John Biggs – to respond for five minutes
 - Close of debate.

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Agenda Item 4

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:-

Melanie Clay, Corporate Director, Law, Probitiy and Governance, 020 7364 4800

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 7.34 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2016

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

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Clare Harrison
Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed	Councillor Danny Hassell
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Aminur Khan
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor Mahbub Alam	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Shah Alam	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	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 Andrew Cregan	Councillor John Pierce
Councillor Julia Dockerill	Councillor Oliur Rahman
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

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. The order the business was taken in at the meeting was as follows:

- Item 1 - Apologies for absence.
- Item 2 – Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- Item 13.1 - Urgent Motion Regarding Britain First and the East London Mosque
- Item 3 – Minutes.
- Item 4 – Announcements.
- Items 5 – Petitions.
- Item 6 – Public Questions. (6.1)
- Item 12.2 - Motion regarding Poplar HARCA
- Item 6 – Public Questions. (6.2 - 6.3)

- Item 13.2 - Urgent motion regarding the future of Old Ford Housing Association.
- Item 6 – Public Questions (6.4 - 6.7)
- Item 7 – Mayor’s Report.
- Item 8 – Members Questions (8.2)
- Item 13.3 - Urgent motion regarding the UK’s membership of the European Union
- Item 8 – Members Questions (8.3 - 8.6)
- Item 9. 1 - Report of the Human Resources Committee, Pay Policy Statement 2016/17
- Item 11.1 - Community Safety Partnership Plan Review and Extension
- Item 11.2 - Members’ Allowances Scheme 2016/17
- Item 11.3 - Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings 2016/17

Before the commencement of business, the Speaker of the Council expressed great regret about the terrible events in Brussels. He stated that everyone’s thoughts and prayers were with all of those affected by the terrorist attacks. He invited the Council to stand and observe a minute’s silence in memory of those killed and injured.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Amina Ali
- Councillor Gulam Robbani
- Councillor Rabina Khan
- Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury
- Councillor Craig Aston

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillors Helal Uddin and John Pierce declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 12.2 - ‘Motion regarding Poplar HARCA’. This was on the basis that the Councillors employers had a working relationship with Poplar HARCA. The Councillors stated that they would leave the meeting room for the consideration of the motion.

Councillor Joshua Peck declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 12.4 - ‘Motion regarding the Government’s attack on a Council’s right to follow an ethical policy in relation to procurement and Pension Fund investments’. This was on the basis that his employer had contracts with a number of pension funds (Motion not debated due to lack of time).

Councillor Abdul Asad declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 12.4 - ‘Motion regarding the Government’s attack on a Council’s right to follow an ethical policy in relation to procurement and Pension Fund investments’. This was on the basis that the Councillor had a Pension with the Authority. (Motion not debated due to lack of time)

Procedural Motion

Mayor John Biggs, Councillors Oliur Rahman and Peter Golds **moved** and **seconded**, a procedural motion “that under Procedure Rule 14.1.5, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion regarding Britain First and the East London Mosque to be considered”. The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

3. MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 January 2016 and the Budget Council meeting held on 24 February 2016 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 OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Speaker announced that his Charity Dinner would be taking place on Wednesday 27th April. Tickets were £30 and booking details were available from the Speaker’s Office. All were encouraged to attend these enjoyable events. The money raised would be going to the Speaker’s charities (MIND in Tower Hamlets and Newham, and the Surjamuki Project).

The Speaker also reported that Commander John Ludgate was due to retire from the role of Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and that this was his last Council meeting. John had been in post since 1994 and in that time had performed his duties admirably and with great dignity representing the people of Tower Hamlets.

At the invitation of the Speaker, Mayor John Biggs, Councillor Oliur Rahman, (Leader of the Independent Group) and Councillor Peter Golds, (Leader of the Conservative Group) each thanked him for all his hard work and contributions to the Borough, particularly praising his courteous approach and his application in attending so many meetings and events. This was much appreciated by all. They wished him all the best for the future and a happy retirement.

At the invitation of the Speaker, Commander Ludgate addressed the meeting. He reported that he had been proud to have supported the work of the many elected representatives of the Borough including Leaders and elected Mayors and Speakers/Civic Mayors. He commented that, over the last 22 years, the Borough had changed remarkably, particularly in relation to the quality of schools, which were now amongst the best in the Country and provided one of the best ways of tackling poverty. The Council should be proud of such achievements. He thanked the Council for its support and wished everyone well for the future.

Following the contributions, Commander Ludgate was presented with a certificate and gifts commemorating his service to the Borough.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

5.1 Petition relating to Ayasofia Primary school.

Mr Mohammed Umair addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Rachael Saunders, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services then responded to the matters raised in the petition. She considered that the petition raised two issues. The first of which concerned the OFSTED report which it was understood the school was challenging. In this regard, the Council had done its best to support the school going beyond its statutory duties for an independent school and were generally supportive of the school aims. The report raised serious issues and these needed to be addressed.

The second issue concerned the school building and the difficulties in securing planning permission for the school. Whilst it was beyond the remit of this meeting to allocate a building, she along with Officers in Children's Services would continue do all that they could to make sure the school was treated fairly in that process and would assist any bid to list the school as a community asset.

RESOLVED:

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Children's Services for a written response within 28 days.

5.2 Petition relating to the Glenkerry Co-Operative Housing Association

Petitioners addressed the meeting and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Sirajul Islam Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He stated that the Administration were committed to working with the petitioners to see how it could assist the Housing Co-Operative. To this end, the Mayor's Office would be in contact with the petitioners to commence discussions with the the Housing Co-Operative to move the issues forward

RESOLVED:

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

5.3 Petition relating to Anti-Social Behaviour on the Aberfeldy Estate

Petition not presented due to the absence of the petitioner.

RESOLVED:

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

6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following questions and in each case supplementary questions were put and were responded to by the Mayor or relevant Executive Member:-

6.1 Question on Poplar HARCA Parking Charges:**Mohbub Ali**

Will the Mayor intervene directly to stop unjustified and extortionate increase in residential parking permit for residents by Poplar HARCA?

Ruhul Tapader

Is the Cabinet Member aware of the major increases in parking charges that Poplar HARCA has implemented – and does the cabinet member have view of these?

Response by Mayor John Biggs:

I am a disappointed as you are with the massive increase in parking charges, also in the charges for pram sheds and for garages. This evening a number of you presented this petition to me which has got a massive number of signatures on it which shows the level of disquiet on this issue. My starting point is that HARCA are generally a good Landlord. They have got a good reputation, charge relatively low rents, provide a good community service and have an ambitious programme of building new homes. They have been massively affected by the government rules saying they have to cut the rents by 1% a year over the next four years which has knocked a hole in their business plan. They have to achieve savings or increase income without being allowed to put up their rent. That in no way in my view excuses what they have done. I think their behaviour has been clumsy and it has been excessive. There are a number of people in the chamber and in the gallery this evening who have come to show their displeasure and the number of signatures show how unhappy people are with this issue.

I have been meeting with Steve Stride and Paul Brickell the Chief Executive and Chair of the HARCA as have my Members and we have made it quite clear to them that we think it is not good enough. This has been very damaging to their reputation and the confidence of tenants and leaseholders as well. We have informed them that we want them to reverse these changes. They have made a proposal to us and we need to continue talking to them about that. There may be a motion on this matter on the agenda and if that is brought forward we can discuss this matter further.

Supplementary question from Mohbub Ali and Ruhul Tapader:

Poplar HARCA might be good but the fact is there has been a lack of consultation with the residents and this keeps on coming up. We would not be in this situation if they had consulted with us or consulted with the State Board who represent the residents, this is why we have to contact the Council now to try to get it reduced. Will the Mayor ask the government to allow residents of Housing Associations to ballot every 10 years to choose their Housing Association, this way they will have more accountability?

Mayor John Biggs' response to the supplementary question:

Yes I strongly support the proposal. This is being promoted by Jim Fitzpatrick your MP in Parliament, for the Government to change the law to allow people to sack their Landlord and replace their Landlord with a new Landlord, we have several Landlords in the Borough who are annoying their tenants and their leaseholders and if this power existed it would give a better balance of power.

There is an offer at present from the HARCA which is that the car parking charges were £1.96 and they had proposed £7.00. They are now suggesting that they can reduce that to £4.00 from £7.00. I appreciate that you will be unhappy with that but I have a duty to share that information with you.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Rajib Ahmed **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be varied such that item 12.2 Motion regarding the Poplar HARCA be taken as the next item of business." The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Following consideration of the motion, the Speaker adjourned the meeting at 21.05pm. The meeting reconvened at 21:15pm

6.2 Question from MD Sumsul Talukder:

How much savings did the Mayor made by cutting burial subsidy for poor residents in his budget?

Response by Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources:

The burial subsidy scheme was established a few years ago in recognition that there were not enough burial places in the borough. It was seen as a good thing to do to subsidise the costs of burial, particularly as those costs could be higher as they might be if they were in the borough. The actual scheme itself was closed by the Commissioners on the basis that these subsidies were grants, the Commissioners were given authority to deal with this and decided to suspend the scheme as they did not think that it was an appropriate scheme. What happened is that the Council bought a burial site in Kemnal Park, which is a site available and subsidised. We have moved to a situation

where there was an original need for a burial subsidy scheme, to one where there is an actual burial site which is subsidised. One of the things we do need to do is to make sure that people are much more aware of that option and that we increase the number of people who are able to use that site.

On the particular question on savings that have been made, the savings made were £20,000 from a scheme which had in effect already been closed by the Commissioners.

Supplementary question from MD Sumsul Talukder:

Was there consultation about the closing down? Was there communication with the residents and what action did the Mayor take?

Mayor John Biggs' response to the supplementary question:

The grant was cancelled by the Commissioners who were appointed by the government so we could not stop it. What I did say I would do during the budget, this needs to be in this year's budget is to review the various subsidies and support we give to bereaved families, whether that is by better promoting the new burial ground on the Sidcup By-pass in Bromley or whether it is by re-introducing a subsidy scheme, in which case we would have to persuade the Commissioners that it is a fundable scheme. I am happy to take it away. I promised we would look at this and we will do that.

6.3 Question from Jamir Chowdhury:

Is it wise to spend £100k for Head of Mayor's office, £25k for personal publicity and £60k for new vanity manager in his office - on top of £100k for Head of Marketing while the Mayor cuts vital services and whacks up Council Tax by record 4%?

Response by Mayor John Biggs:

I am very pleased you asked this question because it is a question that the opposition members quite like asking as well. I am pleased to say that we have made a saving of over £300,000 on the cost of the Mayor's office from the previous Mayor. The suggestion that we spend £100,000 on the cost of the Head of the Mayor's office – he does not get anything like that sum of money. We will continue to look at the costs, my office gets about 2000 emails a week and we need to have staff to respond to those, we need to have people to liaise with the policy section of the Council to make sure that we are carrying out things like the HARCA. In answer to the question we need to make sure we have a properly staffed office in order to serve you effectively. I will make sure that we do not have staff in that office who are not doing any work. If I find any I will sling them out immediately.

Supplementary question from Jamir Chowdhury:

In the past Mayor Biggs criticised such spending as unnecessary. How is this different when he is spending £605k on his personal office in addition to

£25,000 on personal publicity? Is this not hypocrisy? Why are those who opposed it silent now? Is it because the Mayor got into power due to Tory votes as publicised by a local blogger?

Mayor John Biggs' response to the supplementary question:

I am very happy to respond to that, the difference is that first of all I promised and I agreed and I am to be very transparent as Mayor and to be open about how my office is funded. I am willing to share that information and publish it. Councillor John Pierce (who is sitting between you and me), chairs the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and has produced a scrutiny report on transparency. I will make sure that this information is published. Secondly, an example of lack of transparency is that the previous Mayor had about half a dozen staff in his office who he pretended were not in there. He had them funded by parts of the Council and that cost about £200,000. When I came in I could not understand who these people were or why they disappeared, how they were funded or where the money had gone. In the end we realised that there was a bit of laundering going on if you like, which allowed people to be employed in one place whilst they pretended that they were not working in the Mayor's office. I am transparent and happy to be transparent. I am happy to meet you and discuss it with you. I do not need anything in return from you.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Marc Francis **moved** and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.5, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion regarding the future of Old Ford Housing Association to be considered". The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

6.4 Question from Ms Tahera Ayazi:

Regarding the Incontinence Laundry Service, what has the council done to make sure people can make alternative arrangements, and can it say what measures are now in place to guarantee that no-one requiring help is left without assistance?

Response from Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs, Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Services:

I want to reassure you that people with assessed incontinent needs who are using that service up until now will not have that service stopped until an alternative is in place. To give you a bit more detail those who are currently receiving their incontinence laundry service should have been seen by the NHS to ensure that the reason for their incontinence is properly established and that they are given the right incontinence products such as pads and other things if they need them. Additionally those who are receiving the service at the moment are being assessed and reviewed by our social work teams, some of those assessments have happened and for the others they should all be done by the 31st March 2016. Where an individual has clear needs that relate to incontinence, those needs might be addressed through

the social work assessment, through such things as a one off payment to buy a washing machine or additional home care support – so that is people going into the home and supporting that person. As I said in the beginning the service will only be terminated once those assessments have happened and once alternative assessments are in place for their assessed needs.

Supplementary question from Ms Tahera Ayazi:

A washing machine is insufficient because they have long-term needs, they cannot even do their own washing, somebody has to come in and do the washing for them. How do you propose that their needs can be met?

Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs' response to the supplementary question:

I cannot comment on each individual because the way the assessment works is that it is different for each individual. Where someone needs additional support to manage their washing or any of their other day to day needs they would be given home care support as well, that is where people going in and do day-to-day support with the family and provide that care. All of that gets done in the assessment and as much support as they need through that assessment, will be provided.

6.5 Question from Emma Adams:

I have had a letter from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) asking if they can close my son's CAMHS support for the time being. When he was first diagnosed with autism in 2013, when he got his diagnosis I was told he would have a CAMHS support worker until he reached 16 and then it will go over to the adult mental health services if he needed it.

I want to know:

- How many other parents have had similar letters like mine?
- Has there been a sudden change of policy to what support Autistic children get from CAMHS?
- Is the proposed change to my son's support related to the £200,000 council voted cut to CAMHS funding on 24 February?

Response from Councillor Rachael Saunders, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services:

Thank you for coming and thank you for waiting so long as well. We do not have access to all of the detailed information that you have asked for because the service is delivered by the East London Mental Health Foundation Trust. I would be really happy to work with you if you wanted to contact me directly to speak about your son's particular service needs. I am afraid that we do not hold that information whether anyone else has been affected in the same way. In terms of the reduction in CAHMS funding it is part of a significant change programme which is intended to make sure that the service is better at supporting the borough's most vulnerable children, the reduction hasn't yet been made so your son's service is not being affected by that particular reduction because the reduction has not yet been made yet. I will be happy to

speak further outside the meeting if we can give any support at all in talking to the Foundation Trust and to CAMHS about your son's service.

Supplementary question from Emma Adams:

The CAMHS worker my son has only deals with Autistic children, she works in Phoenix School as well and she deals with other children with developmental delays. Does that mean when these reductions get taken off, she will have more workload from other CAMHS cases?

Councillor Rachael Saunders response to the supplementary question:

We work in partnership with the Foundation Trust to try and improve the CAMHS service so I am not personally responsible for the delivery of the service because it is a contractual issue with the Foundation Trust. I would suggest that if you wanted to work with me we could talk to them together and get some detailed answers. I am really sorry I am not able to give you that information right now.

6.7 Question from Jack Beaken:

Hereford Estate is part of Tower Hamlets Council's new build infill programme. The consultation process run by Tower Hamlets Homes has been seriously flawed and inadequate: incorrect dates, cancellations of meetings with no notice, incorrect information and ignoring resident's concerns.

In view of the flawed consultation process, will Tower Hamlets Council intervene and restart the process so ensuring residents' views are given a proper hearing?

Response from Councillor Rachel Blake, Cabinet Member for Strategic Development:

At the Mayoral Assembly a couple of weeks ago the Mayor has agreed to revisit this scheme and pause the scheme in order to have a closer look at it. I know that there was a workshop last weekend to consider the scheme itself. The scheme going forward will be subject to full consultation with you and the organisation that you have now set up.

Supplementary question from Jack Beaken:

Tower Hamlets Homes wishes to create a working group with the residents to discuss landscape and gardening matters, we as a residents association and as an estate feel that it is completely inappropriate to set up a working group about gardening when the residents have very important outstanding concerns. Just a few being: a proposed roof terrace, the size of the new build and anti-social behaviour and these are just a few of the concerns. Will the Council intervene and ensure that this proposed working group when set up deals with the important issues, a few of which have just been raised rather than very superficial issues such as gardening and landscaping? I was even

asked will I prefer an apple tree to a pear tree. We want to get to the core of the issues that the residents have.

Councillor Rachel Blake's response to the supplementary question:

Yes I am aware of some of those more detailed issues that you do want to know more about and I have asked that you should have a clear response on those prior to the workshop going ahead. In addition to that there is a concern about how you approach Vallance Road and the overall access to the building, the passive surveillance that you are looking for around access to Vallance Road. What I would add is that I do think the landscaping issues are important and we get them right should there be some new schemes on there. I don't want them to be entirely dismissed as superficial but I would say that I recognise those real concerns that you have about passive surveillance of the building, about anti-social behaviour, about how all residents will be affected by the new build. Yes we will get you a response on those prior to that workshop.

Question 8.6 was not put due to the absence of the questioner. A written response would be provided to the questions. (Note: The written response is included in Appendix 'A' to these minutes.)

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor made his report to the Council, referring to his written report circulated at the meeting, summarising key events, engagements and meetings since the last Council meeting.

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

8. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following questions and in each case a supplementary question were put and were responded to by the Mayor or relevant Executive Member.

8.2 Question from Councillor Oliur Rahman:

What is Mayor John Biggs' view and stance on academies and free schools?

Response by Mayor John Biggs:

You want to know my stance on academies and free schools. Well the answer is I like you are a parent and my primary motive is to ensure that any child of mine or any child of my constituents gets an excellent education. I would say tribally and instinctively I tend to be not that happy with academies and the free schools programme. But we live in the world that we live in and it is very much the determination of the Government to turn all schools into academies or free schools and my responsibility as Mayor is to work to support school improvement. I think that I would just add to what I have said is there are free

schools and free schools, the same way as there are maintained schools and maintained schools. It's the quality of the education that is really important. I think we need to wake up to the fact that although we may politically exchange barbs with each other and we may disagree with Government policy, as a Local Authority we need to work with the network of schools as they are and we need to attempt to influence and improve the educational outcomes for our kids.

Supplementary question from Councillor Oliur Rahman:

Mr Mayor when it comes to Education that is one thing that everyone in this Chamber would agree that the future of our children is far more important than our political views. However, with the Shadow Education Secretary of the Labour Party saying that she may bring in academies and free schools and, on the other hand, the Leader of the Labour Party saying he opposes free schools and academies and, I think the simple question that I am asking and I would be grateful if you could possibly give me a yes or no answer to, do you support academies and free schools - yes or no?

Mayor John Biggs response to the supplementary question:

I support an excellent education for our kids and I think there is a problem actually which is that the free school and the academy programme achieved one thing, whatever your views of it was, when schools could choose to be part of it and a small number did. But the Government's current determination to turn all schools into free schools and academies will immediately or very rapidly highlight a whole number of problems in terms of support, special needs, admissions and exclusions policy and in terms of whether those schools actually have a connection to the communities they are in. There is a theme running through tonight's meeting which is that I want schools to be very much part of the communities that they are based in. I am very nervous about schools that are part of multi academy trusts that are national chains, for example, just as I am very nervous about people becoming tenants of social landlords whose head office is in Birmingham or somewhere. I think we need to have public services rooted in our community accountable to Local Authority and we need to have public spirited people running those institutions whether they are schools or indeed housing providers who have very much got their feet on the ground and are dedicated to serving the people of Tower Hamlets. So in that sense, I am a dangerous pragmatist but I don't think that it is actually dangerous to stand up for the best possible standards to try to work with people to achieve those and to use our influence as a Council and our power as a Council Chamber when we speak with a strong voice to help influence the best outcomes for our kids.

Procedural Motion

Councillor Andrew Cregan **moved** and Councillor Danny Hassell **seconded**, a procedural motion "that under Procedure Rule 14.1.5, Rule 13.1 be suspended to enable an urgent motion regarding the UK's membership of the European Union to be considered". The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

8.3 Question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed:

School admission statistics show that many children applying for secondary school are being rejected from schools close to their home and being allocated to schools that are a great distance from their homes – what does the Lead Member think this says about the effect of Tory education policies on our Borough?

Response by Councillor Rachael Saunders Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services:

The recently published statistics on secondary school transfers show that over three quarters of Tower Hamlets children secure a place at their first choice school, with 95% securing a place at one of their top three choices. These outcomes could be better - it would be great to have 100% but they are amongst the best in London and well above the London average. I am glad that Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed in his tabled question asked about the Tory education crisis, because we were already hugely fearful at the last full Council meeting about the modelling of approximately 20% of cuts to our schools budget. The government haven't yet quite had the guts to tell us exactly how much they are going to cut but the modelling has been around 20% which is massively worrying for parents and young people in the Borough. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant mentioned earlier the extraordinary achievement of young people, their teachers, families and communities in terms of educational attainment and how that has been transformed over the last 20 years. That is at risk because this Government is taking money from those who don't vote for it and giving money to people who do and they should be ashamed. This is no better than the politics of Lutfur Rahman that they so enthusiastically opposed to take money from the poorest children and to give it to children in the leafy suburbs that no doubt deserve it but our children need that support and investment as well.

Supplementary question from Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed:

Do you agree with me that it is not fair that only 95% secure a place at one of their top three choices.

Councillor Rachael Saunders response to the supplementary question:

I absolutely agree with you that the 5% that do not secure one of their top three choices remains a huge concern. We will do everything that we can for them. Of course we aim to get to 100%. 95% is pretty good but 100% would be great. But this will get harder because, although as the Mayor described previously, we are pragmatic and we live in the world as it is and academies and free schools are being pushed very hard by this Government. We are absolutely determined to, despite this Government's approach, to get the best deal for young people in the Borough. The fact that the Government is trying to acadamise every single school, whether head teachers and governors want

it or not, puts a further strain on school budgets and on the budgets and capacity of this Council. Capacity, knowledge, time and energy frankly, that would have been focused on school improvement and on broader issues, will be spent on a completely fruitless procedural ideological exercise which does nothing to help children and young people in the Borough. So attainment is at risk, that level of 95% is at risk as we are being cut and we are being driven by a completely fruitless and not evidence based but a purely ideological agenda to transform the way in which schools work in this Borough. The schools in this Borough are spectacular. They do not need this ideological attack from this Government.

8.4 Question from Councillor Julia Dockerill:

Does the Mayor have any comments regarding a recruitment consultancy engaged by the council, under the previous administration, which failed to disclose important information concerning a candidate that could have affected the decision as to whether to make an appointment? It should be noted that this failure resulted in a course of events that cost Tower Hamlets Council thousands of pounds of taxpayers money, therefore will the Mayor assure the council that this will not occur again?

Response by Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Resources:

As Councillor Dockerill will be aware, it's not the case that we can enter into any conversation which refers to or implies a particular individual. In terms of the process that we go through in order to get our recruitment consultants, we go through an open tendering process, there is a competitive process and recruitment consultants are appointed at the end of that process, and it is also the case, and I think that this has been made a bit more explicit in recent times maybe as a result of the incident that you may be talking about, that the recruitment consultants, used for senior appointments are required to carry out appropriate due diligence checks on an applicant's career history and that this information is to be provided to Councillors at the point when they are making their decision.

I have also dug around a little bit on what might be in the background to this question and I am reassured that that requirement is now very clear, if it was unclear in the past, that the recruitment consultants are required to do those sorts of checks and to provide that information. So that when an Appointments Committee makes a decision, it has full information available to it. But it has also become clear to me from some of the information that has been given is that your suggestion that the Council has lost many thousands of pounds as a result of some potential incident in the past is not at all clear. I think there is a view that the course of events would have been likely to have been very similar to those which actually took place and there isn't the sort of loss of money that you are suggesting that has taken place.

Supplementary question from Councillor Julia Dockerill:

I think there is a probably a problem that we also need to explore about our legal services department in that latter regard. What worries me is that in this

instance we went on to use the same recruitment agent again and I just wonder and I probed the Committee about this and was told that there is only one of two people that we can use. I would just like to know whether you would consider widening the field or the pool of recruitment agencies which we use the future as a result of this incident.

Councillor David Edgar response to the supplementary question:

If we go through a tendering process then I imagine that all suitable qualified consultancy firms are able to make an application to be our consultants for any particular point of recruitment. If there is some limit I would be surprised but I would be very happy to look into that and I am also happy to have a discussion with you outside of this meeting as I don't think there is any more I can say by way of response other than I am reassured that there is a proper tendering process, as one would expect, and that recruitment consultants are in all cases, expected to give Councillors on Appointments Committees all of the information which they might want to have at the point of making the decision about whether to appoint a particular candidate. But as I say, I am happy to talk outside this meeting as, as always, discussions in this meeting are fairly elliptical and we can't really get to the heart of the issues that you may think are existing in a public Council Chamber.

8.5 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar:

Can the Cabinet Member update me on the number of families housed in B&Bs for over 6 weeks at the end of February 2016 – and can a figure for the same period in 2015 be provided for comparison?

Response by Councillor Sirajul Islam Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance:

You want to know the number of families housed in B&Bs over 6 weeks in February 2016 and comparatively for 2015. In February 2015, we had 92 families living in B&B over the 6 week period and the same for the end of February 2016 - we had 13 families in B&Bs exceeding the 6 weeks. These figures relate to family households with dependent children and pregnant women.

Supplementary question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar:

How many families were placed in B&Bs for over 6 weeks since Mayor John Biggs has taken office.

Councillor Sirajul Islam's response to the supplementary question:

When Mayor Biggs came into office, we had 154 families living in B&B exceeding 6 weeks. As I said before, this figure has now come down to 13. That is due to the strong leadership of this Mayor and working very hard with Council Officers to make sure we have a responsibility to people living in B&B. The previous Administration did not take very much notice at all of this issue. They just left people there and they still think that it is funny and it is not.

People live in very difficult conditions in B&B hotels. So through our commitments and continued commitments we are able to bring that figure to 13 and we are very committed to bringing the figure to zero

8.6 Question from Councillor Maium Miah:

Will the Mayor agree to look into and personally intervene, wherever possible, to ensure that the terrible traffic chaos and gridlock faced by the residents of Isle of Dogs in general but particularly between 5 & 7 March are never repeated. Will he confirm that robust and proactive measures are in place by the Council which has the responsibility to oversee agencies, contractors and developers to ensure that the essential needs of the local residents and local businesses - their ability to travel/move and go about their daily life without unnecessary, non-compliant blockages and obstructions – are paramount in planning and risk assessment of such activities, issuing of permits, deployment of enforcement action together with consultation and communication with the residents?

Response by Mayor John Biggs:

I spoke about this briefly in my report and have written on it in my report as well. I think the events between 5 & 7 March should not be repeated and we need to ensure that we better manage the road restrictions and closures on the Isle of Dogs which is incredibly sensitive to them. For that reason, I have undertaken to hold a meeting with all the Councillors on the Isle of Dogs and I am happy for us to do public meetings if there is demand for that. But we need more importantly to get a proper response from our Officers. We have a new Service Head of Public Realm starting who will have responsibility in this area, and as I said earlier, we need to look also in terms of our developing Borough plan whether there are other things that we can do that will improve the capacity of the road network on the Isle of Dogs because we can't have people who live on the Island held to ransom by closures. Leaving aside road works and crane removals, the Canals and Rivers Trust has the ability to open and shut the blue bridge more or less at their whim and that does create a problem and uncertainty in the Borough that we need to manage better as well.

Supplementary question from Councillor Maium Miah:

It was a disaster for the residents of the Isle of Dogs. Will you apologise for turning the Isle of Dogs into the Isle of clogs and ensure that this won't be repeated again.

Mayor John Biggs response to the supplementary question:

I am tempted to answer by saying that the day that you apologise for your conduct as highlighted in recent legal action is possibly the day, when I should consider reflecting on this. I regret that this happened and I think that it highlighted that within part of the Highways Department we didn't seem to have the communications in place to ensure that it did not happen. Further to that, we have done a lot of work to identify whether we can push back the

road encroachments from developments particularly City Pride. I am very anxious that the Canary Wharf development has led to one of the access roads from the Isle of Dogs being closed now for many, many months, and will continue to be closed although it is on private land. Like I say I think the best way of dealing with this is to learn from it. To sit down with local residents and to be honest that we did not get it right but in some ways due to factors outside our control.

Extension of time limit for the meeting

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor M. A. Mukit **moved**, and Councillor Rachael Saunders **seconded**, a procedural motion, that “under Procedure Rule 15.11.7 the meeting be extended for 10 minutes, to consider and vote on the reports for consideration (Items 9.1,11.1-11.3). The procedural motion was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

Question 8.1 was withdrawn as the issue had already been dealt with at the meeting. Questions 8.7- 26 were not put due to a lack of time. Written responses would be provided to the questions. (Note: The written responses are included in Appendix ‘A’ to these minutes.)

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

9.1 Report of the Human Resources Committee, Pay Policy Statement 2016/17

The Council considered the report from the Human Resources Committee meeting of 21 January 2016 regarding the adoption of a Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17 as required by the Localism Act 2011.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the Authority’s Pay Policy Statement for the year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 be adopted as recommended by the Human Resources Committee and attached at Appendix A to the report.
2. That it be agreed that if any minor changes to the 2016/17 pay policy statement are required as a result of future government guidance, these amendments be delegated to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Service Head (HR and WD), the Chair of the HR Committee and the Monitoring Officer. Should any fundamental changes be required, the pay policy statement will be sent back to the HR Committee for consideration.

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

There was no business to transact under this agenda item.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Community Safety Partnership Plan Review and Extension

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture in respect of the Community Safety Partnership Plan Review and Extension.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the content of the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 Revised for Year 3 (Appendix 1 of the report) be noted;
2. That the content of the report and the decision made under the relevant legislation by the CSP to extend its current CSP Plan by 1 year, so that it remains aligned with MOPAC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-16 and expires on 31.03.17 be noted;
3. That the CSP's extension of its Plan term for a further year until 31st March 2017 be agreed for the reasons set out in the report.

11.2 Members' Allowances Scheme 2016/17

Council considered the report of the Director, Law, Probity and Governance in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme 2016/17.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED:

That the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2016 as set out at Appendix 'A' to the report be adopted.

11.3 Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings 2016/17

Council considered the report of the Director, Law, Probity and Governance setting out the proposed dates of Council and Committee meetings for 2016/17.

The recommendations set out in the report were put to the vote and were **agreed**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2016/17 as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.
2. To delegate to the Director, Law, Probity and Governance the authority to agree meeting dates for any new Committees or Panels that are set up subsequent to this report being presented to Council, subject to appropriate consultation with Members.

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

12.2 Motion regarding the Poplar HARCA

Councillor Khales Uddin Ahmed **moved** and Councillor Rajib Ahmed **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

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

RESOLVED:

This Council notes that while rent cuts are of course popular for tenants they are in reality a cynical move by the Government to reduce its Housing Benefit bill by transferring costs to housing providers. Poplar HARCA, like many Registered Providers, faces a challenging time financially as a consequence of the year-on-year 1% rent cuts imposed by Government. However, the draconian decisions taken by the HARCA in part-response to this have caused massive disquiet, particularly as they have hit the pockets of residents through increased charges.

We acknowledge:

1. Poplar HARCA has increased charges for parking and hire of sheds on their estates.
2. Parking spaces have increased in cost from £1.96 per week to £7 per week.
3. The price of hiring a shed has also increased from £1.96 to £7 per week.
4. Residents do not believe that they have been properly consulted, or forewarned, about the increases in charges.
5. We note that there have been a series of other cuts, less immediately affecting residents but which will also severely affect the services they receive.

This Council believes:

1. While recognising the challenges faced by the HARCA, the costs of hire for parking spaces and sheds should be kept as low as reasonably possible.
2. Poplar HARCA should ensure that the prices of parking spaces and sheds should take into consideration the financial means of residents and levels of deprivation locally as well as rising costs of living locally.
3. As a locally based and supposedly resident-led organisation Poplar HARCA should be doing all it can to keep costs to residents as low as possible.
4. There needs to be a proper accounting for the consequences of the other cuts implemented by the HARCA. The lack of transparency is in stark contrast to the openness of the Council's own recent budget debate and consultation.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on the Mayor to write to Poplar HARCA expressing the concern of this Council to the large increases in charges, and other cuts.
2. To call on Poplar HARCA to stop the implementation of these new charges and to engage in consultation with residents about increasing charges.

Motions 12.1, 12. 3 – 4 were not debated due to lack of time.

13. URGENT MOTIONS

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

13.1 Motion Regarding Britain First and the East London Mosque

Mayor John Biggs, Councillors Oliur Rahman and Peter Golds **moved** and **seconded**, the motion as tabled.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was **unanimously agreed**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED:

This Council notes the attempt by Britain First to provoke violence in our borough with their unannounced and hostile acts outside the East London Mosque on Saturday 12th March. This followed a previous visit on Tuesday 1st March. Britain First attempted to block the entrance to the Mosque, used offensive, provocative, Islamophobic and racist language, and clearly attempted to incite a reaction. East London Mosque is in a predominantly Muslim area of our Borough.

The Council further notes the strength of response to these events from the community, Council members, partners and services and welcomes action taken by the Mayor to address the events including attending a solidarity with the Mosque demonstration promoted by United East End where both the Mayor and Leader of opposition were joined by a cross section of community groups including representatives of various faiths and none. We have fought hard to secure and maintain good community relations, based on respect, in our borough and will continue vigorously to do so.

This Council believes that the actions of Britain First are dressed up as a 'passive protest' but are clearly designed to provoke a reaction, obstructing local people from going about their lawful and proper business and increasing the risk of violence.

The Council further believes that we must remain vigilant and send a clear message that groups such as Britain First are not welcome in any corner of our Borough.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on the Mayor to continue updating all members on the response and planning for any possible future attempts by groups such as Britain First to divide communities and provoke violence.
2. To request that the Mayor, the leader of opposition, and minority opposition group leader, on behalf of Council, write an open letter to local residents to reassure them that they stand united to their opposition to any effort to divide our communities.
3. To call on the Mayor to write, jointly with the leader of opposition and minority opposition leader, to the Home Secretary exploring options to ban Britain First from demonstrating in any part of our Borough, including in particular outside a faith building, where their intent is to provoke violence and spread their message of hatred.

13.2 Urgent Motion regarding the Future of Old Ford Housing Association

Councillor Marc Francis **moved**, and Councillor Sirajul Islam **seconded**, the motion as tabled.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was unanimously **agreed**. Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

- Old Ford Housing Association was established in 1998 as the successor body to Tower Hamlets Housing Trust;
- 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;

- In 2005, Circle 33 merged with Anglia Housing to form Circle Anglia Ltd, and that other associations joined later to form Circle Housing Group;
- In July 2007, LBTH transferred the “Parkside” council estates to OFHA with the promise to refurbish individual flats and the estates within five years;
- In 2015, following complaints from LB Islington and LBTH about the performance of its repairs service, the Homes & Communities Agency found evidence of “serious detriment” to tenants and downgraded Circle Housing Group, requiring an action plan to improve governance;
- It has now become clear that Circle’s “action plan” essentially involves closing down its subsidiaries, including Old Ford HA, and centralising services, moving most staff to a new call-centre in Kent;
- Circle has also announced its intention to merge with Affinity Sutton “to create the largest housing association in Western Europe”;
- While Circle ended its repairs contract with Kier Group, it retained Kier gas to carry out boiler maintenance, and that many residents have been left without heating and hot water for weeks on end over the winter;
- Old Ford has the worst performance on Members Enquiries of any housing association in Tower Hamlets;
- Residents of Old Ford HA are now calling on the Mayor and MP to raise concerns about Circle’s performance and future plans with the HCA regulator and Minister.

This Council believes:

- That the service provided by Old Ford was undermined by Circle’s centralisation of contracts and that the closure of Old Ford and merger with Affinity Sutton will worsen the situation;
- The Bow estates were transferred to Old Ford on the basis that it would be a “community-based housing association”, and that residents voted for the transfers on that basis;
- The Board members of Old Ford HA must now be allowed to seriously explore the option of leaving Circle Housing Group without the threat of their removal;
- Residents should be given the final say on whether Old Ford stays with Circle or stands alone or in partnership with another locally-based association;

This Council resolves:

- To call on the HCA regulator to urgently investigate why Circle’s Management Board retained a failing contractor Kier Gas to provide its gas safety/maintenance service, and whether this decision, which left many tenants without heating and hot water for weeks amounts to further “serious detriment”;
- To ask that the Mayor suspend Circle as a Preferred Development Partner in Tower Hamlets with immediate effect;

- To request 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 members on the possibility of such proceedings within 28 days.

13.3 Urgent Motion calling on the Council to support the UK's membership of the European Union

Councillor Andrew Cregan **moved**, and Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs **seconded**, the motion as tabled.

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

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

- That there is a referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union (EU) on 23rd June.
- Over half Britain's exports go to EU countries, worth £227 billion last year to the UK economy, and many UK businesses large and small are dependent on trade with the EU, supporting many thousands of jobs.
- Access to the Single Market is a major factor in making Tower Hamlets, in-part, home to the leading global financial centre and major employers from across the world choose to locate in Britain and in Tower Hamlets because we are a gateway into the European Union.
- EU membership has given vital rights to British workers and the EU's rules provide important protection to consumers, workers and the environment. Rights to equal pay, paid holidays, maternity and paternity leave, equal rights for part-time workers and health and safety regulations are all protected under EU law.

This Council believes:

- This Council has a role in explaining the consequences of the referendum outcomes and helping the residents of Tower Hamlets to reach an informed decision.
- That our membership of the EU makes the UK stronger, safer and better off. It is in the best interests of residents and businesses the Borough and the whole of the UK to remain a member of the European Union.
- There are direct benefits to Tower Hamlets communities of EU membership including that linked to being, in part, home to the world's leading financial centre which supports jobs and economic growth in the Borough and the UK as a whole.
- That leaving the EU risks a loss of jobs, would weaken the UK's attractiveness to international investors, and would create prolonged

uncertainty for business while the practical implications of a withdrawal are put in place.

- EU reform should make the EU better for the UK and that means remaining a member to lead that reform, not being a spectator on the sidelines.

This Council resolves:

- We support the United Kingdom's continued membership of the EU.

The meeting ended at 10.40 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

APPENDIX A – WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT PUT AT THE MEETING

6.6 Question from Dionne Cayley

In relation to Queen Mary nursery:

We have been told that it has been closed because of the asbestos in the boiler room, and that because there isn't enough nursery spaces in the other local authority nurseries but there are spare staff they are doing sessions in sure start centre so the children that are having to stay at home can mix and see their friends while the asbestos is removed.

I want to know:

- When do you expect that the nursery will go back to its original venue?
- What guarantees you can give us that it will not be quietly wound down given the massive cuts to Children's and Early Years services you voted through last month?
- I believe the building is owned by the Methodist Church and therefore is it there responsibility to pay for the removal off the asbestos and if the council are having to pay a percentage what budget is that money coming from?

Response

We do not know at present when the building will be fit for use. The building is owned by the Methodist Church but we hold it on a full repairing lease which means the repairs are our responsibility. We do not as yet know the full cost of bringing the building back into use and will need to make a value for money judgment on what is the best course of action. I can confirm there are sufficient places locally for the children displaced.

8.7 Question from Councillor Candida Ronald

Recently released figures for school admissions show that parents on the Isle of Dogs are still finding difficulty in getting their children into the schools of their choice. We know that the population of the Island is set to increase greatly over the next few years. Can the Mayor tell us what he is doing to ensure that the infrastructure comes before the developments?

Response

The Council is undertaking a number of pieces of work to ensure appropriate infrastructure can be delivered across the Borough when it is required, including schools on the Isle of Dogs.

In January 2016, Cabinet approved the implementation of a new Infrastructure Delivery Framework (IDF) from April 2016. This will involve the establishment of a new decision-making structure to support the allocation of funding and

the delivery of infrastructure. The IDF will be informed by an evidence base that will help identify the infrastructure required to meet current and future demands, as well as the locations where delivery is most needed and by when.

As part of the new Local Plan preparation, the Council is undertaking a site allocations process. This process identifies sites that are suitable to deliver mixed use developments including infrastructure such as schools.

With specific regard to the Isle of Dogs, the Council is working with the GLA and TfL in respect of the Opportunity Area Planning Framework for the Isle of Dogs & South Poplar. This involves undertaking work to identify the impacts of growth on infrastructure and solutions.

In addition, the Council is working with applicants for planning permission on two sites on the Isle of Dogs where schools can be delivered, the Westferry Printworks site (secondary) and 3 Millharbour (primary).

8.8 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

How many petrol stations have been lost in the borough in the last five years or are likely to be removed as part of re-development in the Borough? What is the expected growth in vehicles in new developments over the next few years as not all developments are 100% car free. Does the Council have any plans to encourage on-street electric car re-charging points?

Response

Based on planning applications received, it is understood that one petrol station has closed in the borough during the previous five years – Esso Castle Wharf on Leamouth Road. An application was submitted in January 2016 requesting a screening opinion as to whether an EIA is required in respect to an application for redevelopment.

A hybrid application was permitted in 2014 which, if implemented, would see the loss of the Asda petrol station on East Ferry Road. However, the petrol station currently remains in operation. Additionally, there is a current planning application which, if permitted, would see the loss of the Texaco petrol station on Grove Road. That petrol station also remains open at the present time.

Sainsbury's are reinstating Whitechapel petrol station.

It is not possible to provide an accurate response to the expected growth in vehicles in new developments over the next few years. However, it is expected that the growth in motor vehicles will not rise at the same rate as the growth in population.

Planning policy seeks a reduction in combustion engine vehicle movements by new development through encouraging alternative vehicles such as electric

vehicles to assist in improving air quality. The Council also seeks to encourage local pay-as-you-go clubs.

Policy also requires development to prioritise sustainable approaches to off-street parking including providing charging points for electric vehicles, in line with London Plan policy. The Council is currently drafting a new Local Plan, which affords an opportunity to consider a policy that encourages on-street electric car re-charging points if a need is identified and can be supported by appropriate evidence.

8.9 Question from Councillor Andrew Cregan

What assessment has the Council/Mayor made of the impact of Brexit on the Council/Borough?

Response

The potential exit of Britain from the EU would likely cause a short term economic shock which could impact the Council's resource base, but the extent is difficult to quantify. Any longer term effects would have to be examined when the exact trading structure after an exit is known, although if there are lengthy negotiations the period of economic uncertainty will be extended. The council is well placed to absorb fluctuations of this nature in the resource base as reserves are healthy.

The council is also monitoring the situation with regards to the pension fund, where the value of investments may be affected. Advisors and their economists are providing briefings to the fund, but the only certainty at the moment is that there will be a period of instability leading up to the referendum, some of which has already been factored into the market.

8.10 Question from Councillor Mahbub Alam

Genuine affordable housing, social cleansing and gentrification have become a serious issue in Tower Hamlets, when does the Mayor plan to present a report to the Council to update all members on any progress made by the commission and does he not think that it will be useful to ensure that at least one opposition member per group is included as an official member in the commission and/or subsequent implementation or monitoring of its recommendations to ensure cross-party involvement in such a critical issue?

Response

Under the previous Mayor, a phenomenal amount of unaffordable housing was included in the 'affordable' housing numbers

As Mayor, I have been clear that I want to build affordable housing that is genuinely affordable – which is why I launched the Affordability Commission. I have also pledged to build 1000 new council homes – at council rent levels.

The Affordability Commission met three times in public in December 2015, January 2016 and February 2016. A report setting out the finding and recommendations of the Affordability Commission will go the Cabinet on May 10th 2016.

This will also inform the Housing Strategy to be produced later in the year and I would welcome cross party involvement to the debate on that very important piece of work.

The Tories' record on home-ownership is five years of failure. Under Labour the number of home-owning households rose by a million, but it has fallen under the Tories by over 200,000

The most recent rough sleeping figures for England reveal that the number of people sleeping on our streets has doubled to an estimated 3,569 people. The number has increased by 30% in the last year alone.

After five years of failure under the Tories we have a huge shortage of affordable homes. Last year, the fewest number of homes for social rent were built in at least two decades, and the number of homes for shared and low-cost home ownership has fallen by 28%. More than eight in ten genuinely affordable homes built under the Coalition in the last Parliament were built under programmes inherited from Labour.

Shelter predicts that the extreme proposals in the Tories' Housing Bill could lead to the loss of 180,000 affordable homes.

8.11 Question from Councillor Danny Hassell

Can the lead member please update the council on progress being made against the recommendations in the LSCB report 'Troubled Lives Tragic Consequences' which was commissioned following a number of serious violent offences committed by young people in the borough in 2013 and 2014?

Response

The Executive Summary of the Troubled Lives, Tragic Consequences thematic review commissioned by Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Board was published in December 2015. Since then, there has been a programme of dissemination of the key learning points to frontline practitioners and managers across the Council and partner agencies.

An action plan is being developed with the safeguarding children board partnership to respond to the recommendations in the review. Some of the recommendations are substantial and complex requiring a detailed response. Specific recommendations are addressed in the Children and Families Plan 2016-2019, due to be agreed in May 2016, as well as the Ending Serious Youth Violence and Gangs Strategy.

All recommendations will be in train by May 2016 and will be delivered by the Council and its partners, monitored by Tower Hamlets' Safeguarding Children Board.

8.12 Question from Councillor Craig Aston

Will the Mayor please provide the Council with an update on the progress of the Governance Review Working Group?

Response

As most Members will be aware, the Governance Review Working Group was set up to provide a forum for Members and officers to discuss matters relating to the goal of improving the effectiveness and transparency of decision making at the Council.

Since it was relaunched in October 2015 it has met four times and discussed a wide range of issues on matters such as public participation at meetings, member development, transparency, whistleblowing procedures and improving decision making processes.

The forum has seen active participation from all three groups on the Council and I would like to thank all Members, including yourself, who have contributed to the discussions.

The forum has a substantial forward programme including an upcoming meeting looking at different ways of operating the Mayoral Model of decision making and planned items on topics such as access to information, the different roles of Members and improving public engagement. It is crucial that we continue to move Tower Hamlets forwards.

8.13 Question from Councillor Marc Francis

Will the Lead Member for Environment Services set out the action that has been taken so far by LBTH and the Environment Agency to stop the alleged fly-tipping of industrial waste at 616 Wick Lane?

Response

Environmental Health have carried out a number of visits to the site as a result of public complaints.

The Environment Agency have been advised of the widespread fly-tipping on the site and have carried out a site visit and are currently seeking assurances from the land owner as to the action they intend to take.

The Pest Control Service has established that the site is not currently harbouring pests and there is little action that they can take at present. Continued pressure is being applied to the Environment Agency to resolve the situation.

Clean, Green and Highways have also implemented a Fly Tipping Squad in partnership with the Cleansing Contractor.

8.14 Question from Councillor Muhammad Mustaqim

We welcome the fact that the administration under Mayor John Biggs has been forced to continue the Boisakhi Mela **for this year only**. We note that the Council has pledged to fund £25,000 to support the event this year. Could the Mayor clarify if his pledge of £25,000 support by the Council be in addition to the actions and activities stipulated in the Council's decision making report (item 8 on page 7(3), of 8th March 2016 or not, and how many people are expected to attend the Mela this year?

Response

With regret, the Council announced that the Boishaki Mela Community Trust have been unable to meet the requirements of the Commissioners in relation to outstanding audit and monitoring requirements, and this has given the Council no option but to terminate their contract.

To ensure that the Mela goes ahead in 2016 the council will deliver the event in-house in July.

A new contract to operate the Mela in 2017 and beyond will now go out to tender, and we look forward to working with the community to deliver the Mela in the future.

8.15 Question from Councillor Helal Uddin

Can the Lead Member for Housing advise me why residents of St Andrew's Development are no longer allowed to load and unload on that site?

Response

St Andrews is a car free development which effectively imposes a restriction on vehicular access to the estate imposed by the Council within the Section 106 Development Agreement. The site is managed by a firm of private managing agents who had previously relaxed the rules allowing 20 minute intervals for residents to load and off load heavy items.

This flexibility has led to a considerable number of complaints from residents concerned that this flexibility was being regularly abused by people overstaying the 20 minute limit causing obstructions on the estate and in some instances, damage to the main access gate and pavement. Following a resident led petition, the managing agents decided to revert to the original restrictions although they are still allowing delivery and removal vehicles to access the site when residents move in or out of the estate.

8.16 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Will the Mayor expedite the replacement of the showers in the Millwall Park changing rooms and provide and provide users, which local football, cricket, and rugby clubs, with a clear delivery date? The showers have not been functioning since properly since November 2014, although the various users pay for the privilege of using a non functioning facility.

Response

Given the importance of this issue to those local residents and groups who pay for the use of the facilities, the Head of Facilities Management visited the site in March, along with a technical advisor to assist in arriving at a technical solution which will allow the issues to be resolved cost effectively.

The visit also identified the need for a much better housekeeping regime and more day to day active management of the users and facility by the Parks Team.

A report is expected which will recommend an interim solution in order that the entire system can be tested before expenditure is committed.

8.17 Question from Councillor Dave Chesterton

What does the Mayor plan to do about the traffic chaos on the Island? On 27/28 February people were stuck in hour-long traffic jams getting on and off the Island and if the current level of new developments continues, this is likely to become a regular occurrence. Boris's is undertaking a secretive strategic planning exercise on the Island; the Opportunity Area Planning Framework. Boris refuses to come clean with residents about his plans for even more massive developments on the Island and the impact these will have on Island roads.

Response

The road closure on Prestons Road which caused traffic congestion was arranged on behalf of Telford Homes to remove a Tower Crane that was no longer required.

Although we aim to manage conflicting works so that we keep full road closures to a minimum and maintain a reasonable level of traffic capacity, there is never a good time to do the work – we aim to avoid night time work due to noise disturbance to residents and so weekends are the next quietest time in terms of traffic flow. We try to use all information available to us to predict potential impacts but there is always a level of uncertainty in making such predictions.

The road network on the Isle of Dogs is under increasing pressure due to the very high demand of ongoing development construction, future planning approvals and the current delivery practices.

The council is working very closely with the GLA and TFL on the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAPF).

The OAPF, due to be published in early 2017, will implement the London Plan (2015) for this area and is a vehicle for delivering more housing and employment. The OAPF details investment as a necessary requirement to improve public transport accessibility and capacity.

Work on the OAPF will result in the production of a Development Infrastructure Funding study which should ensure the viability of development and infrastructure in the long term and provide a timetable for delivery of infrastructure. This will be achieved through identifying and costing new infrastructure requirements and improvements, calculating developer contributions, and closing any gap between costs and contributions

8.18 Question from Councillor Abdul Asad

If correctly implemented, the Whitechapel Vision will result in thousands of new homes and jobs. Can the lead member for strategic development update us on how many schemes have been submitted for planning, how many are upcoming, how many homes and jobs they will lead to and when the strategic development committee can expect to have the chance to make a decision on these projects?

Response

To date there are three major mixed use residential led schemes currently submitted to the local planning authority. These are located at the Whitechapel Sainsbury superstore site on Darling Street, the London & Quadrant Housing Group submitted scheme at the former Safestore site on Sidney Street, and the Londonewcastle submitted scheme at the former Barts Charity owned site on Varden Street. Across the three sites there are in total 1,466 new dwellings proposed and approximately 10,000 sqm of commercial floorspace estimated by the applicants to create approximately 700 new jobs in the area.

Each planning application will be determined by the local planning authority at a series of Strategic Development Committee Meetings. Officers have been requested by the applicants at the Sainsbury and Londonewcastle site to target a planning decision by the early summer of this year.

The local planning authority is also engaged on pre-application discussions on three other medium to major scale development sites with one site imminently ready for planning submission at 100-133 Cavell Street.

8.19 Question from Councillor Aminur Khan

According to Council's own budget reports - including impact assessments - as published and presented in January and February 2016 to the Cabinet and full Council, can you please confirm how many total staff were stated therein to be made redundant as a result of budget cuts?

Response

Analysis of savings proposals that ensure the council operates within a balanced budget for 2016/17 shows that up to 110 posts will need to be removed from the establishment.

It may be useful to make a comparison with the budget set by the previous administration, in 2015/16, in which 141 posts were removed.

In order to minimise the costs of restructuring and reduce the risk of redundancy, the council will attempt to deliver the reduction in the workforce through not replacing employees that leave, deleting vacant posts and redeployment. Therefore the actual number of redundancies will be a lower than the total reduction in posts.

The council has given formal notice of the expected reduction in the establishment as required under Section 188 of The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

8.20 Question from Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury

Would the Mayor take the second opportunity to respond to my question at January Council which he failed to address in his written response to me, the very simple queries are: what is the exact savings achieved by closing down and/or making East End Life (EEL) quarterly, on what date or in which month is the EEL being scrapped by the Mayor as he stated at the full council and lastly how many staff will lose or will be at the risk of losing their jobs (whose current roles significantly depend upon the existence of the paper), as a result of EEL being scrapped, after the year end? I'd be grateful for clearer and transparent answers as the Mayor often claims that he likes to give?

Response

As I emphasised at the January full council meeting, effective communication is important and has a cost. We will need to invest in our communications activity in order to effectively meet the needs of residents.

I have tasked officers with developing an ambitious communications strategy which builds on our digital strategy and makes use of a range of communications channels.

As part of this work, officers are tasked with identifying the exact resources, in terms of staff and finance, to deliver this strategy.

Whilst I cannot pre-empt the outcome of this work, which is currently underway, I can confirm that I am clear that our communications strategy and service in place to deliver it, should meet the needs of our residents in a way which presents value for money and is cost effective. Whilst I am not actively seeking to make redundancies I expect the staffing structure to be fit for purpose.

As part of this planning work, the council will need to ensure it meets its legal requirements for the publication of statutory notices. Whilst the majority of these notices can still be accommodated in East End Life as a fortnightly publication, officers are undertaking a procurement exercise to ensure that the council complies with its statutory duties in a cost effective manner once East End Life ceases to be published fortnightly. This will require the consideration of all options for local publication of statutory notices, including the East London Advertiser.

8.21 Question from Councillor Shah Alam

What was the rate and targets of recycling in the borough for each year since 2010/11 until 2015/16 and what is the target and forecast for 2016/17?

Response

Recycling rates have stagnated countrywide, this is not only an issue for Tower Hamlets.

There are some key factors behind why recycling rates have stayed at roughly the same level over the past few years.

- The falling price of oil and the slowdown in the Chinese economy means that the value of recyclable materials has fallen
- Changes to the law has meant that operators are now more vigilant about the quality of the recyclable material that they receive from local authorities
- Low participation in the Food Waste Service (mainly due to the percentage of high rise buildings)
- High levels of contaminated waste

In November 2015, Tower Hamlets launched a campaign which focused on education and outreach, giving information on how to recycle in the right way.

Since this campaign began there has been a reported 15% rise in the number of acceptable loads as well as an 8% increase in recycling tonnage.

Year	Outturn	Stretch Target	Minimum Target
2010/11	27.26%	32.00%	No data
2011/12	27.51%	29.00%	26.26%
2012/13	27.63%	29.00%	27.26%
2013/14	28%	29.00%	27.63%
2014/15	28.10%	30.00%	29.00%
2015/16	27.5% (forecast)	29.00%	28.00%

8.22 Question from Councillor Gulam Robbani

How many staff in total were made redundant (please indicate if it was voluntary redundancy or compulsory redundancy) by the Council in each budget year, as per budget proposals agreed by budget Council meetings for the financial years in 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17? Please provide breakdown by title, salary band and with a relevant copy of the information with clearly identified salary range for each post?

Response

During 2014/15 there were 42 voluntary redundancies and 1 compulsory redundancy. A total of 43 redundancies. The numbers during 2015/16 were 137 voluntary and 4 compulsory. These are summarised by grade and earnings band below.

To date, no redundancies have taken place to deliver 2016/17 savings proposals that impact on the workforce.

2014/15 Summary		Type of Redundancy		
Grade Band	Earnings Range	Compulsory	Voluntary	Total
Scale 3 and below	£20k and below		4	4
Scale 4 to Scale 6	£21k to £27k		10	10
SO1 to PO2	£28k to £36k		3	3
PO3 to PO6	£37k to £47k	1	17	18
LPO7 and above	£48k and above		8	8
Grand Total		1	42	43

2015/16 Summary		Type of Redundancy		
Grade Band	Earnings Range	Compulsory	Voluntary	Total
Scale 3 and below	£20k and below	4	56	60
Scale 4 to Scale 6	£21k to £27k		11	11
SO1 to PO2	£28k to £36k		35	35
PO3 to PO6	£37k to £47k		24	24
LPO7 and above	£48k and above		11	11
Grand Total		4	137	141

If a more detailed response is required, please contact the Service Head Human Resources and Workforce Development.

8.23 Question from Councillor Harun Miah

Could the Mayor/Cabinet member responsible for housing and welfare provide the information and details, as follows:

- Please provide the numbers of residents since June 2015, who have been a) sent outside Tower Hamlets to be housed b) where are they housed in terms of type of accommodation c) how many have been placed in the Bed and Breakfast?
- What was the Council's housing waiting lists in June 2015 and at the end of February 2016.

I'd be very grateful if the Mayor could ask the relevant department to provide the specific information requested instead of a link to some obscure information on websites. Thank you.

Response

We monitor this on the basis of households, not number of residents; and this information is monitored and collated on a monthly basis in respect of total numbers placed out of borough, new out of borough placements and total numbers in bed & breakfast. These are set out in the table below.

The B&B numbers include households to which the Council does not owe a statutory duty to accommodate, including non-priority single homeless at risk of rough sleeping, intentionally homeless households, and those awaiting a statutory review decision.

Month 2015/16	Total out of borough	New out of borough	Total B&B
June	551	92	176
July	938	211	271
Aug	925	107	262
Sept	913	118	252
Oct	913	118	232
Nov	939	62	218
Dec	931	58	166
Jan	939	66	152
Feb	950	50	147

The breakdown of placements by location is run on a quarterly basis. There are some discrepancies in the two sets of figures due to the dates the snapshots are taken – the figures above were run on the last Friday of the month, whereas the breakdown by location is on the last day of the month; The figures above may also not always include new bookings or cancellations made close to the end of the month, but not yet processed on the system. The quarterly snapshot is normally run some weeks after the end of the month allowing for all changes to have been processed by the time the report is run.

	Total no of households accommodated by LBTH in TA in receiving Borough	Of the Total: B&B Nightly	Of the Total: Nightly lets (Not hotels)	Of the Total: PLA's	Of the Total: NSTs and ASTs
June 2015	946	312	331	302	1
September 2015	977	256	359	361	1
December 2015	987	178	453	355	1

These are published on the Council's website at http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/housing/housing_options_service/housing_and_homelessness_publi.aspx

The demand on the housing waiting list on 1 June 2015 was 19652 and on 1 February 2016 it was 19106.

Since June 2015 we have had 4 applicants who have been permanently rehoused outside of Tower Hamlets through the choice based lettings scheme, 2 were transferring tenants and the other 2 were homeless applicants.

8.24 Question from Councillor Suluk Ahmed

How many meetings of the Mayor's Somali Taskforce have taken place since its inception and on what dates and venue? And given its remit and stated objectives, how many meetings were attended by the relevant Cabinet Members responsible for: culture, health and wellbeing, provision for young people, educational attainment and employment - since their appointment?

Response

There have been five meetings of the Somali Task Force. All meetings were held at the Town Hall and attended by Deputy Mayor Cllr Sirajul Islam and Cllr Amina Ali in their roles as Chair and Vice Chair of the Task Force. Further details for each meeting are set out below:

- An introductory meeting held on 2nd September 2015 which was also attended by Mayor John Biggs
- A meeting to discuss 'Health and Wellbeing' was held on 14th October 2015
- A meeting to discuss 'Provision for Young People' was held on 2nd November 2015; this was also attended by Councillor Rachael Saunders
- A meeting to discuss 'Educational attainment and Employment' on 8th December 2015; this was also attended by Councillor Rachael Saunders and Councillor Joshua Peck
- A meeting to discuss Housing and Welfare Reform on 19th January 2016; this was also attended by Councillor Rachel Blake
- There has also been consultation with Cabinet Member Cllr Amy Whitelock Gibbs with regard to health and social care in the Somali community.

8.25 Question from Councillor Ohid Ahmed

How many Tower Hamlets Partnership Police Officers did the Council have each year since 2009 until May 2015 and what was the official overall crime rate for each year? How many Partnership Police Officers will there be from May 2016 onwards in Tower Hamlets?

Response

Firstly, it is important to note that the previous Mayor didn't properly task officers in a way that would benefit local residents. When officers are paid for by the council, they need to be accountable to the Council, and not based in other boroughs.

	Insp	Sgt	Cons	Total	Start	End
PTF 1	1	2	18	21	Jul-12	Mar-15
PTF 2		2	17	19	Dec-12	Dec-15
PTF 3		1	5	6	Mar-16	Feb-18

Our first batch of PTF started in Dec 2012.
The end of PTF 1 (21 officers) in Mar 2015.
The end of PTF 2 (19 Officers) in Dec 2015
PTF 3 Team from March 2016 to Feb 2018 is 6 Officers.

Below is the Annual crime count taken from the Met Police Website.
<http://maps.met.police.uk/?areacode=E09000030>

Area	2012/ 13	2013/14	2014/15
Tower Hamlets	29084	27143	27344
<u>MPS</u>	77164 9	700945	709263

Previously, officers were doing work in other boroughs. The latest arrangement, brought in by Mayor Biggs, ensures that we have local police tackling local problems.

8.26 Question from Councillor Shahed Ali

Can the procedure for dealing with members enquiries be clarified please?

It seems at the moment that members enquiries made by opposition members are awaiting months and still not in receipt of their relevant responses. My understanding is that a response should be expected within 10 working days, or at the very least, an interim response. This reflects very badly upon the relationship we build with members of the public.

Furthermore, can a list be provided of the number of members enquiries received by each councillor since May 2014, with figures to illustrate how many were responded within the stated 10 working days, and how many were delayed responses, indicating timeframes i.e. 2 weeks late, 2 months late etc.

Response


All Members enquiries are to be responded to within 10 working days of being referred to a directorate. If the 10 day timeframe cannot be met, an interim response is to be sent to the Member with an explanation for the delay and the expected date that a full response will be made.

There are no acknowledgement letters sent on receipt of a Members' enquiry, as the full response is usually sent within the ten working days timescale.

Each Corporate Director is responsible for ensuring that Members' enquiries are dealt with promptly and accurately in their directorate.

Statistics on the number of member enquiries received by each councillor since May 2014 will be collated and sent direct to the Member.

Agenda Item 7

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL Wednesday 18 May 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Melanie Clay, Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Mayor's Cabinet and Executive Arrangements	

Originating Officer(s)	Peter Robbins, Head of the Mayor's Office
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

As set out in the Council's Constitution Council Procedure Rules at Part 4.1, the Council's Annual General Meeting will receive a report noting the Executive Mayor's Cabinet Appointments and other arrangements in respect of Executive Decision Making.

The Executive Procedure Rules at Part 4.4 of the Council's Constitution provide for the Mayor to delegate specific executive functions to:-

- the Executive as a whole (the Cabinet);
- a committee of the Executive or an individual member of the Executive;
- an officer;
- an area committee;
- a ward councillor (only in accordance with s.236 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007);
- joint arrangements; or
- another local authority.

The Mayor may amend or revoke any delegation of an executive function at any time.

The Executive Scheme of Delegation must contain the following information in so far as it relates to executive functions:

- (a) The extent of any authority delegated to any individual Executive Member or ward councillor including details of the limitation on their authority;
- (b) The terms of reference and constitution of such Executive Committees as the Mayor appoints and the names of Executive Members appointed to them;

- (c) The nature and extent of any delegation of executive functions to area Committees, any other authority or any joint arrangements and the names of those Executive Members appointed to any joint Committee for the coming year; and
- (d) The nature and extent of any delegation of executive functions to officers not already specified in Part 3 of the Constitution, with details of any limitation on that delegation and the title of the officer to whom the delegation is made.

In accordance with the above requirements the Executive Scheme of Delegation agreed by the Mayor to apply with effect from 19th May 2016 is set out below.

Recommendations:

That Council agrees:

- a) To note the Mayor's Executive Decision Making Scheme

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Mayor is required to present his Executive Decision Making Scheme to Council at each Annual General Meeting.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 None.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The details of the Executive Decision Making Structure is set out in the Appendix to this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 5.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 6.1 The legal position is set out in the main body of the report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Executive Scheme of Delegation (Parts A and B)

PART A - EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Executive Scheme of Delegation is to:-
- be clear about who can make which executive decisions including Key Decisions;
 - facilitate the smooth running of Council business;
 - ensure that the Mayor is able to provide effective strategic leadership for the overall policy direction of the Council and to promote partnership working with other agencies; and that officers take responsibility for operational matters and policy implementation

2. THE CONSTITUTION

- 2.1 Once presented by the Mayor to the Annual Council Meeting or to the Monitoring Officer, this Executive Scheme of Delegation will form part of the Council's Constitution and will be appended to it. Its provisions apply alongside the Rules of Procedure and Access to Information provisions included in the Constitution.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

- 3.1 This Scheme of Delegation remains in force for the term of office of the Mayor unless and until it is amended or revoked by the Mayor in accordance with Part 4.4 of the Constitution.

4. NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

- 4.1 No delegated power in this Executive Scheme of Delegation applies to any decision that relates to a matter that is not an Executive function either by law or by the allocation of local choice functions under the Council's Constitution.

5. THE COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

5.1 The Executive shall consist of ten people, namely the Mayor and nine Councillors as set out below:-

Name	Portfolio
Mayor John Biggs	Executive Mayor Specific responsibility for Partnerships, Policy, Strategy & Performance
Cllr Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor	Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance Deputy Mayor Responsible also for - Work with Faith Communities - Welfare Reform Response
Cllr Rachael Saunders Deputy Mayor for Education & Children's Services & the Third Sector	Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services Deputy Mayor Responsible also for - Grants & Third Sector
Cllr Shiria Khatun Deputy Mayor for Community Affairs	Cabinet Member for Community Safety Deputy Mayor Responsible also for - Community Cohesion. - Tackling Radicalisation.
Cllr Rachel Blake	Cabinet Member for Strategic Development
Cllr Joshua Peck	Cabinet Member for Work & Economic Growth
Cllr Amy Whitelock Gibbs	Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services
Cllr Asma Begum	Cabinet Member for Culture
Cllr Ayas Miah	Cabinet Member for Environment
Cllr David Edgar	Cabinet Member for Resources

- 5.2 The Mayor may also appoint Councillors as Mayoral Advisors. These roles are not formally part of the executive and carry no decision making powers but are an opportunity for the Mayor to increase Councillor support to key priority areas. At any one time there will be no more than three Mayoral Advisors.

Nominated Mayoral Advisors and their areas of focus will be confirmed at the meeting.

6. DELEGATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

- 6.1 The Mayor has not delegated any decision-making powers to the Executive acting collectively.
- 6.2 The Mayor may, in accordance with Part 4.4 of the Council's Constitution, appoint such committees of the Executive as he considers appropriate from time to time, but he does not appoint any such committees at this time.
- 6.3 Subject to the Mayor's prerogative to make decisions on all matters relating to all his statutory powers, the Mayor delegates to each Cabinet Member individually the power to make decisions on matters within their portfolio after consultation with the Mayor and subject to the Mayor raising no objection to the proposed decision. Any such decision by a cabinet member will be subject to a written report and the same procedure as applies to mayoral executive decisions.
- 6.4 In accordance with section 14 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) any arrangements made by the Mayor for the discharge of an executive function by an executive member, committee or officer are not to prevent the Mayor from exercising that function.

7. DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS

- 7.1 The Mayor has delegated to officers decision making powers in relation to Executive functions as set out at Parts 3 and 8 of the Council's Constitution.

8. OTHER DELEGATIONS

- 8.1 The Mayor has not delegated any powers to any area committee, or to any ward Councillor in accordance with s.236 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 8.2 The Mayor has delegated powers to joint arrangements with other local authorities as set out in Article 11 of the Council's Constitution
- 8.3 Subject to 8.2 above, the Mayor has not delegated any powers to any other local authority.

PART B - PROCESS FOR EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING BY THE MAYOR OR A CABINET MEMBER

1. Where an Executive decision, including a Key Decision, falls to be made and either:-
 - (i) authority to make that decision has not been delegated by the Mayor under this Executive Scheme of Delegation; or
 - (ii) authority has been delegated but the person or body with delegated powers declines to exercise those powers; or
 - (iii) authority has been delegated but the Mayor nevertheless decides to take the decision himself,

the decision shall be made by the Mayor individually, after consultation with the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Finance Officer and such other Corporate Director(s), the Head of Paid Service or Cabinet Member(s) as required.
2. Executive decisions (including Key Decisions) to be taken by the Mayor in accordance with paragraph 1 above shall either be taken:-
 - (a) at a formal meeting of the Executive, notice of which has been given in accordance with Part 4.4 of the Constitution and to which the Access to Information Rules at Part 4.2 of the Constitution shall apply; or
 - (b) in accordance with the procedure at 5 below.
3. In the case of a decision taken at a formal meeting of the Executive, the Mayor will take the decision having received written and oral advice from appropriate officers and consulted those members of the Executive present. In the event that a meeting of the Executive is not quorate, the Mayor may still take any necessary decisions having consulted any Executive members present. All Mayoral decisions taken at a formal meeting of the Executive shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
4. The Cabinet Meeting is not authorised to exercise the Mayor's powers in the absence of the Mayor. If the Mayor is unable to act for any reason, and only in those circumstances, the Deputy Mayor is authorised to exercise the Mayor's powers.
5. The Mayor may at his discretion make a decision in relation to an Executive function, including a Key Decision, alone and outside the context of a meeting of the Executive. In relation to any decision made by the Mayor under this provision:-
 - (i) The decision may only be made following consideration by the Mayor of a full report by the relevant officer(s) containing all relevant information, options and recommendations in the same format as would be required if the decision were to be taken at a meeting of the Executive;

- (ii) The provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in relation to call-in, including the rules regarding urgent decisions, shall apply;
- (iii) In the case of a Key Decision as defined in Article 13 of the Constitution, the provisions of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in relation to prior publication on the Forthcoming Decisions Plan (Forward Plan) shall apply; and
- (iv) The decision shall not be made until the Mayor has confirmed his agreement by signing a Mayoral Decision Proforma (example attached) which has first been completed with all relevant information and signed by the relevant Chief Officers.

6. All Mayoral decisions taken in accordance with paragraph 5 above shall be:-


- (i) Recorded in a log held by the Service Head, Democratic Services and available for public inspection; and
- (ii) Published on the Council's website;

save that no information that in the opinion of the Corporate Director of Law, Probity and Governance is 'exempt' or 'confidential' as defined in the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules shall be published, included in the decision notice or available for public inspection.

7. Any decision taken by an individual Cabinet Member in relation to any matter delegated to him/her in accordance with section 6 of the Mayor's Executive Scheme of Delegation shall:-

- (i) be subject to the same process and rules as a Mayoral decision in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 above; and
- (ii) not be made until the Mayor has confirmed in writing that he has no objection to the decision.

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Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma	 TOWER HAMLETS
Decision Log No: (To be inserted by Democratic Services)	
Report of: [Insert name and title of corporate director]	Classification: [Unrestricted or Exempt]
[Insert title here]	

Is this a Key Decision?	Yes / No (Report author to delete as applicable)
Decision Notice Publication Date:	(Report author to state date of decision notice – either individual notice or within the Forward Plan)
General Exception or Urgency Notice published?	Yes (give details) / Not required (Report author to delete as applicable)
Restrictions:	(If restricted state which of the exempt/confidential criteria applies)
Reason for seeking an Individual Mayoral Decision:	(set out why an individual mayoral decision is being sought as opposed to going to Cabinet)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(To be completed by Chief Officer seeking the decision)

.....

Full details of the decision sought, including reasons for the recommendations and (where applicable) each of the options put forward; other options considered; background information; the comments of the Chief Finance Officer; the concurrent report of the Director of Law, Probity and Governance; implications for One Tower Hamlets; Risk Assessment; Background Documents; and other relevant matters are set out in the attached report.

DECISION

(Proposed decision to be entered here)

.....

APPROVALS

1. (If applicable) Corporate Director proposing the decision or his/her deputy

I approve the attached report and proposed decision above for submission to the Mayor.

Signed Date

2. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed Date

3. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

(For Key Decision only – delete as applicable)

I confirm that this decision:-

(a) has been published in advance on the Council’s Forward Plan OR

(b) is urgent and subject to the ‘General Exception’ or ‘Special Urgency’ provision at paragraph 18 or 19 respectively of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Signed Date

4. (If the proposed decision relates to matters for which the Head of Paid Service has responsibility) Head of Paid Service

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments where necessary.


Signed Date

5. Mayor

I agree the decision proposed at above for the reasons set out in paragraph of the attached report.

Signed Date

Agenda Item 8

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL Wednesday 18 May 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Melanie Clay, Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Review of Proportionality and Establishment of Committees and Panels of the Council for 2016/17	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

This report reviews proportionality as required by section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('The 1989 Act'), recommends the establishment of committees and sub-committees as set out in the Council's constitution and proposes the allocation of places on those committees and sub-committees between the political groups represented on the Authority.

The nominations from the groups for membership of those committees and sub-committees in accordance with the allocation of places; and certain other bodies not covered by the proportionality rules, will follow at Agenda Item 10.

Part 4.1 of the constitution states that the Annual Council Meeting will establish an Overview & Scrutiny Committee and such other committees/sub-committees as it considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither Executive Functions nor reserved to the Council. The committees, sub-committees and other bodies appointed by the Council are listed at Part 3.3 of the constitution.

A number of changes to the arrangements for Non-Executive Committees are also proposed as set out later in this report. In addition, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees has recently set up a Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee and a Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee and proportionality details for those Sub-Committees are listed in this report.

Recommendations:

That Council agrees:

- a) To establish a new 'General Purposes Committee' with the terms of reference as set out in Appendix 1.
- b) The review of proportionality as at section 3 of this report overleaf and agrees the allocation of seats on committees and panels for the Municipal Year 2016/17 as set out at paragraph 4.2.
- c) The committees and sub-committees established for the municipal year 2016/17, and places be allocated on those committees and sub-committees, as set out at paragraph 4.2 overleaf.
- d) To note the proposed arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 This report reviews proportionality as required by section 15 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 ('The 1989 Act'). It also reviews the arrangements for Non-Executive Committee to ensure that they continue to provide an efficient way of considering the required business to be conducted.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Council could determine to maintain the existing Non-Executive Committee arrangements.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

Review of Non-Executive Committees

- 3.1 The Governance Review Group initially considered a discussion paper which was requested by the Mayor and the Director of Law, Probity & Governance setting out a number of options to restructure the non-executive committees of the Council based upon the practices of other authorities with similar leadership models. Each Political Group was then given an opportunity to consider the options and provide feedback. Following final consideration it is proposed to merge the current Human Resources and Appeals Committees into an enlarged General Purposes Committee.
- 3.2 At present, the Human Resources Committee, the General Purposes Committee and the Appeals Committee each have its own terms of references and work programmes to fulfil its functions. However, it is considered that a combined "General Purposes Committee", can effectively deal with the combined workload and a proposed new Terms of Reference is included at Appendix 1. The new Committee has a membership of 9 in line with the previous Appeals Committee.

- 3.3 The existing Appointments Sub-Committees and Employee Appeals Sub-Committee will now report to the new General Purposes Committee.

Review of Proportionality

- 3.4 Section 15(1) of the 1989 Act requires the Council at, or as soon as practicable after, the Annual Meeting to carry out a review to determine the allocation to the political groups of seats on the committees/panels of the Council. The principles which must be adopted are:
- (i) that in relation to each body covered by the Act, all seats are not allocated to the same political group;
 - (ii) that the majority of seats on each body must go to the political group with the majority on the Council (if any);
 - (iii) that subject to (i) and (ii) the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees/panels of the authority allocated to each group bears the same proportion as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council; and
 - (iv) that subject to the above three principles, the number of seats on each ordinary committee/panel of the authority allocated to each political group bears the same proportion as that group's proportion of the seats on the full Council.
- 3.6 Once the political groups have been allocated their places in accordance with the above rules, the Council may appoint ungrouped members to any remaining positions.
- 3.7 Neither the Cabinet and any executive sub-groups of the Cabinet; nor the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board, are covered by the requirement for proportionality.
- 3.8 The current political composition of the Council is now as follows:

GROUP	SEATS	PROPORTION ON COUNCIL	ENTITLEMENT
Labour	23	56.10%	38.71 (39)
Independent Group	13	31.71%	21.87 (22)
Conservative	5	12.20%	7.23 (7)
Ungrouped	4	0*	0
	45	100%	68 (1 remainder)

* According to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 15, proportions on Council are only allocated to Political Groups (see Section 3.1 above)

4. Allocation of Places on Committees

4.1 The committees and panels established by the Council for the municipal year 2015/16 are listed below. There is a recommended total of 69 places on these committees and panels.

4.2 Applying the principles in the 1989 Act as closely as is reasonably practicable, the proposed allocation of places on the committees and panels covered by the requirement for proportionality for the remainder of the municipal year or until the next review of proportionality, whichever is sooner, is as follows:-

Committee/panel	Total	Labour	Independent Group	Conservative
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	5	3	1
Audit Committee	7	4	2	1
Development Committee	7	4	2	1
Strategic Development Committee	8	5	2	1
(NEW) General Purposes Committee (merged with former HR and Appeals Committees)	9	5	3	1
Licensing Committee	15	8	6	1
Pensions Committee	7	4	2	1
Standards Advisory Committee (plus 7 co-optees)	7	4	2	1
TOTALS	69	39	22	8

* The one 'remainder' seat has been allocated to the Conservative Group as they were closest to gaining an additional seat according to the calculations.

4.3 The above will result in the allocation of all committee places amongst the political groups in accordance with the rules set out in the 1989 Act.

4.4 It is for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree arrangements for its own Sub-Committees. However, the expected sub-committee arrangements and memberships are set out below.

Committee/Panel	Total	Labour	Independent Group	Conservative
Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee	7	4	2	1
Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee	7	4	2	1
Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee	5	3	1	1

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

5.1 There are no direct financial considerations arising from this report.

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

6.1 The legal considerations are set out in the main body of the report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for the General Purposes Committee

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GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**DRAFT New Terms of Reference**

Membership: Nine (9) Members of the Council (up to three (3) substitutes may be appointed for each Member)


Functions	Delegation of Functions
<p>This Committee is responsible for a range of non-executive functions, including electoral matters, personnel issues and appeals. It also has responsibility for considering and making recommendations to Full Council on the introduction, amendment or revocation of new byelaws and can consider and make non-material changes to the Council's Constitution.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To exercise powers in relation to the holding of elections and the maintenance of the electoral register including:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the provision of assistance at European Parliamentary elections; (b) power to make submissions to the Local Government Commission in relation to the boundaries of the borough or ward boundaries; and (c) the appointment of a proper officer for the purposes of giving various notices in relation to elections and referenda (e.g. in relation to the verification number for petitions for a referendum under Local Government Act 2000). 2. Appointments of officers, Members or other persons to external bodies on behalf of the Council, where the appointment is not the responsibility of the Mayor. 3. To recommend to Council the introduction, amendment or revocation of byelaws. 4. Appointment and revocation of local authority school governors 5. To make changes to the membership and substitute membership of committees appointed by the Council and their subordinate bodies, consistent with the proportionality rules. 6. To consider and make non-material changes to the Council's Constitution upon the recommendation of the Monitoring Officer. 7. To determine major policy on the terms and conditions on which staff hold office within allocated resources. 8. To agree any negotiated settlement, in relation to a senior executive in circumstances which do not amount to a dismissal that may be proposed in accordance with the Council's Pay Policy Statement. 9. To determine the criteria for the appointment of the Head of Paid 	<p>The Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance is authorised to make or amend Committee/ Sub-committee/ Panel appointments in accordance with Part 3.12.2 of this Constitution</p>

Service and other statutory and non-statutory chief officers and deputy chief officers and to establish Appointments Sub-Committees to consider such appointments.

10. To make recommendations to Full Council on the appointment of the Head of Paid Service.
11. To establish a Sub-Committee to consider any proposal to discipline and/or dismiss the Head of the Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer or the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution and to appoint a minimum of two (2) 'Independent Persons' to such Sub-Committee.
12. To consider and determine any appeal in respect of any function for which the Council is responsible (except where statutory arrangements exist or where the appeal function is delegated elsewhere in the Constitution) including:
 - (a) Education awards appeals;
 - (b) Appeals by governing bodies;
 - (c) Appeals by employees under human resources procedures requiring a Member level decision; and
 - (d) Appeals in respect of refusals to register premises under the Marriage Act 1994 or the attachment of any condition to an approval.
13. To establish Employee Appeals Sub-Committees and other Appeals Sub-Committees as appropriate to be convened by the Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance for determination of the above appeals referred to in paragraph 12 above. Such Sub-Committees to comprise a maximum of five (5) Members of the Council with a quorum of three (3) and as far as possible to reflect ethnicity and gender balance.
14. Any other functions which under the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, may not be the responsibility of the Executive and which are not delegated elsewhere under this Constitution.

Quorum

Three (3) Members of the Committee

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 May 2016	
Report of: Melanie Clay, Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Updated Committee Calendar 2016/17	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

This report proposes amendments to the calendar of Council, committee and other meetings for the forthcoming municipal year 2016/17 that was approved at the last Council meeting on 23rd March 2016. As a number of changes are proposed to take place in relation to the Committees of the Council, related changes to Committee meeting dates are set out in this report alongside any consequential changes to other Committee dates. The amended calendar of meetings is presented in Appendix A to this report.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the following proposed amendments to the calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2016/17 as set out in Appendix A, including, amongst others, changes to –
 - a. Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee (New);
 - b. Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee (New);
 - c. General Purposes Committee (New) (combined with the former Human Resources Committee and Appeals Committee)

2. To delegate to the Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance the authority to agree meeting dates for any new Committees or Sub-Committees that are set up subsequent to this report being presented to Council, subject to appropriate consultation with Members.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Council Procedure Rules provide for the Council to agree a programme of meetings for each municipal year. This is normally done at the last ordinary meeting of the Council in each municipal year and there is provision for the calendar to be revised subsequently at the Annual meeting if necessary.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 There are no alternative options.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 The proposed amended calendar presented at Appendix A to the report follows the same pattern of meetings set in previous years in terms of frequency of meetings, start times and meeting days, adapted to address issues that have arisen during the year or during consultation.
- 3.2 As in previous years efforts have been made to avoid holding meetings during school holidays, with particular reference to August. However, it is necessary for some meetings to be held especially in relation to regulatory matters.
- 3.3 Following the original proposals for 2015/16, one fewer Cabinet meeting has been scheduled for May-July resulting in 11 for the year. However, there will continue to be 12 Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) meetings with 12 shadowing Cabinet and two arranged separately (Budget Scrutiny). The OSC meetings will now be held the week before Cabinet as opposed to the night before Cabinet to allow more time to respond to pre-decision scrutiny questions and call-in reports.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the week of 23 May will be kept free of meetings to enable all Committee-related Member Development Training to take place that week. Members will be provided with a full timetable of training sessions due to take place that week to help plan their attendance. Regular Member Development Training Dates have also been scheduled throughout the year.
- 3.5 As Members will be aware, any subsequent requests to change dates of meetings of Committees following approval of the Committee Calendar by Council, or to set up Special Meetings of the Committees, are subject to consultation with the Chair(s) of the Committees and the relevant members.

Changes to the Committee Structure

- 3.6 On the agenda for the Council Annual General Meeting are proposals to alter the Council's Committee structure resulting in the merger of three Non-Executive Committees (General Purposes, Human Resources and Appeals Committees) and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has recently agreed to set up two new Scrutiny Sub-Committees relating to Housing and Grants. These changes have necessitated alterations to the Council Calendar of Committee meetings and the changes are presented here.
- 3.7 In addition there are minor additions/changes to dates for the Commissioner Decision Making Committee and Best Value Programme Board meetings and Council are asked to note these changes.

3.8 It is also proposed to provide delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance to agree any new meeting dates should that be required.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

4.1 There are no specific financial comments arising from this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

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

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 In collating this proposed amended 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.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

7.1 No implications arising from this report.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 No implications arising from this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 No implications arising from this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix A – Proposed Amended Calendar of Committee Meeting dates

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

- Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager x4651

PROPOSED AMENDED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2016/2017 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Proposed Amended Committee Calendar 2016/17

	MEETING DAY/TIME/	MAY 16	JUN 16	JUL 16	AUG 16	SEP 16	OCT 16	NOV 16	DEC 16	JAN 17	FEB 17	MAR 17	APR 17	MAY 17	JUN 17	No. of Mtgs
COUNCIL																
Council	7.00pm 3 rd Wednesday	18 AGM		20		21		16		18	22 (Bud)	2 (Bud) 22		17 (AGM)		8
CABINET																
Cabinet (monthly usually the first week of the month)	5.30 pm 1 st Tuesday		14	26		6	4	1	6	10	7	7	4	2		11
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY																
Overview & Scrutiny Committee <small>Wed/Thurs before Cabinet plus budget meetings)</small>	7.15 pm		7 29	21		1 28	26	30		4 23 (Bud)	1 13 (Bud)	1 29	26			14
Health Scrutiny Sub Committee <small>(every 2 months)</small>	6.30pm Tuesday		28			6		2		17		14				5
Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee	Wednesday 6.00pm		9	13		1	12	9	7	11	8	8	19			10
Housing Sub Committee	Monday 6.30pm			18			10	28			3		24			5
COMMITTEES AND PANELS																
Development Committee <small>(every 4 weeks)</small>	7.00 pm Wednesday		8	6	3 31	28	26	23	15	11	8	8	5	10		13
Strategic Development Committee <small>(every 5/6 weeks)</small>	7.00 pm		16	28		8	20	29 (Tue)		12	16	23	25 (Tue)			9
Licensing Committee <small>(Quarterly)</small>	7.00 pm Tuesday		14			13			13			21				4

PROPOSED AMENDED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2016/2017 MUNICIPAL YEAR

	MEETING DAY/TIME/	MAY 16	JUN 16	JUL 16	AUG 16	SEP 16	OCT 16	NOV 16	DEC 16	JAN 17	FEB 17	MAR 17	APR 17	MAY 17	JUN 17	No. of Mtgs
Licensing Sub Committee (fortnightly)	6.30 pm Tuesday	31	16	5 19	2 30	15 27	4 25	8 22	6 20	17 31	14 28	14 28	11 25	8 22		24
Audit Committee	7.00 pm Tuesday		28			20		8		31		21				5
General Purposes Committee	7.00 pm Wednesday		15			14		23	44	25		15				5
Standards (Advisory) Committee (Quarterly)	6.30 pm Thursday		30	28		22		24	15			1				4
Pensions Committee (Quarterly)	7.00pm Thursday		30			22			8			16				4
Pensions Board (Quarterly)	Monday 10.00am		27			19			5			13				4
Corporate Parenting Steering Group (Quarterly)	6.30pm Thursday			14			6			12			27			4
King George's Field Charity Board (Quarterly)	6.30 pm			26			4			24 (5pm)			4			4
PARTNERSHIPS																
Health and Wellbeing Board (every 2 months)	5.00pm Tuesday		21		9		18		13		21		18			6
Best Value Programme Review Board Quarterly Meeting (Quarterly)	6.00pm Tuesday (Public)			12			19			24			10			4
OTHERS																
Infrastructure Delivery Board	Tuesdays (internal meeting)		28	26	9	27		8 22		10 31	28	28				10

PROPOSED AMENDED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2016/2017 MUNICIPAL YEAR

	MEETING DAY/TIME/	MAY 16	JUN 16	JUL 16	AUG 16	SEP 16	OCT 16	NOV 16	DEC 16	JAN 17	FEB 17	MAR 17	APR 17	MAY 17	JUN 17	No. of Mtgs
Civic Centre Cross Party Reference Group	Monday 4.00pm-6.00pm		27			12	31		19		27		10			6
MEMBERS																
Training & Development	Tuesdays 6.30pm-8.30pm			5	2	13	25	22	20	17	28	28	25			

NOTE – All proposed amended dates are highlighted in grey boxes

NOTES:

1. OTHERS

- a. Infrastructure Delivery Framework Board - new
- b. Civic Centre Cross Party Reference Group - new
- c. Appointments Sub-Committee and Employee Appeals Sub-Committee - arranged on an ad hoc basis as required.

2. RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:

- **RAMADAN** - 7th June 2016 – 7th July 2016 (to be confirmed)
- **ROSH HASHANAH** – 3rd October 2016
- **YOM KIPPUR** – 12th October 2016
- **EID-AL- FITR** – 7th July 2016
- **EID – UL – ADHA** – 11th September 2016
- **ASHURA** – 11th October 2016
- **EASTER 2016**: Good Friday 25th March 2016 , Easter Monday 28th March 2016
 - **Easter 2017**: Good Friday 14th April 2017, Easter Monday 17th April 2017

PROPOSED AMENDED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2016/2017 MUNICIPAL YEAR

3. **BANK HOLIDAYS:**


- **MAY 2016 – 2ND, 30TH**
- **AUGUST 2016 – 29TH**
- **DECEMBER 2016 – 26TH**
- **JANUARY 2017 – 2ND**
- **APRIL 2017 – 14TH, 17TH**
- **MAY – 1ST, 29TH**

4. **POLITICAL GROUPS:**

- Conservative Party Conference – 2nd October – 5th October 2016
- Labour Party Conference – 24th September – 28th September 2016

5. **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:**

- **2016**
 - Half Term – 30 May – 03 June 2016
 - Summer Holidays – 22 July – 01 September 2016
 - Half Term – 24 October – 28 October 2016
- **2017**
 - Christmas Holidays – 20 December 2016 – 03 January 2017
 - Half Term – 13 February 2017 – 17 February 2017
 - Easter Break – 10 April 2017 to 21 April 2017

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 May 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Melanie Clay, Corporate Director, Law, Probity and Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

A report at Item 8 of the Annual Council agenda recommends the establishment of Committees and Sub-Committee of the Council as set out in the Constitution; and the allocation of places on those committees and sub-committees in accordance with the proportionality rules.

The attached appendices set out the nominations received from political groups before the meeting for (a) members of committees and sub-committees and (b) chairs of the Council committees in accordance with the places allocated. Any further nominations received before the meeting will be reported verbally.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Appoint members and substitute members to the committees and sub-committees of the Council and other bodies for the municipal year 2016/17 as set out at Appendix A attached.
2. Appoint the Chairs of Committees for 2016/17 from amongst the nominations listed at Appendix B attached or any further nominations made at the meeting.
3. Agree that in relation to any unfilled places within the seats allocated to a particular political group, the Council note that the Corporate Director of Law, Probity and Governance has delegated authority subsequently to agree the appointments to those places in accordance with nominations from the relevant political group.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Council is required to appoint Councillors as Members to the various Committees listed in line with proportionality rules.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 There are no alternative options.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

3.1 Following the Council's decision to agree the establishment of committees and sub-committees of the Council as set out at Agenda Item 8; and the allocation of places on those committees and sub-committees in accordance with the proportionality rules, it is for Council to subsequently agree the appointment of Members to those Committees.

3.2 This report presents the proposed appointments from the political groups on the Council. Note that any appointments received after publication of the agenda will be circulated at the meeting for agreement.

3.3 Following the allocation to a political group by the Council, or a committee, of a seat or seats on a committee or sub-committee respectively, regulation 15 of the relevant Regulations provides that the political group has a period of three weeks from the date that notice is given to express its wishes in relation to the appointment to such a seat or seats. If the group fails to express its wishes within the prescribed period, the Council or committee may make such appointment to that seat or seats as they think fit. Further, the group to which a seat has been allocated is entitled to express a wish that the seat be filled by a member of a different political party or an ungrouped Councillor. However, that seat remains, in law, allocated to the first group and that group therefore retains the right to terminate the appointment.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

4.1 There are no specific financial comments arising from this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

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

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 No implications arising from this report.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

7.1 No implications arising from this report.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

8.1 No implications arising from this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Council needs Committee meeting arrangements to ensure effective and efficient decision-making.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 No implications arising from this report.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- Appendix A – Nominations of Members to Committees
- Appendix B – Nominations of Chairs to Committees

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

- Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager x4651

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 2016-2017

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 18 MAY 2016

<p style="text-align: center;">AUDIT COMMITTEE (Seven members of the Council)</p>		
<p><i>Labour Group (4)</i></p>	<p><i>Independent Group (2)</i></p>	<p><i>Conservative Group (1)</i></p>
<p>Substitutes:-</p>	<p>Substitutes:-</p>	<p>Substitutes:-</p>

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Seven members of the Council)		
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Independent Group (2)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>
Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Eight members of the Council)		
<i>Labour Group (5)</i>	<i>Independent Group (2)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>
Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
(Nine members of the Council)

Labour Group (5)

Independent Group (3)

Conservative Group (1)

Substitutes:-

Substitutes:-

Substitutes:-

LICENSING COMMITTEE
(Fifteen Members of the Council) (No Substitutes permitted)

Labour Group (8)

Independent Group (6)

Conservative Group (1)

<p style="text-align: center;">OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Nine members of the Council plus six co-opted members) <i>(NB Scrutiny Lead Members and Chair of Health Scrutiny Panel to be appointed by the O&S Committee)</i></p>			
<i>Labour Group (5)</i>	<i>Independent Group (3)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Co-opted Members (for information – to be appointed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee)</i>
Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-	<p>Ms Victoria Ekubia – Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster representative</p> <p>Dr Phillip Rice - Church of England Diocese representative</p> <p>Parent Governor representatives:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Nozrul Mustafa • 2 vacancy

HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITEE (Nominations for information - Panel to be appointed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee) (Seven members of the Council)		
<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Independent Group (2)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>
Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-
		Co-opted Members:- To be appointed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

HOUSING SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE
(Nominations for information - Panel to be appointed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
(Seven members of the Council)

<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Independent Group (2)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>
Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-
		<p>Co-opted Members:- To be appointed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee</p>

GRANTS SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE (Nominations for information - Panel to be appointed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee) (Five members of the Council must also be members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee)		
<i>Labour Group (3)</i>	<i>Independent Group (1)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>
Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-
		Co-opted Members:- To be appointed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

PENSIONS COMMITTEE
(Seven members of the Council)

<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Independent Group (2)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>
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Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-	
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PENSIONS BOARD
(One Councillor to work alongside six other members of the Board)

<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>
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STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Seven Members of the Council (who may not include the Mayor or more than one other Cabinet Member) - plus up to seven co-opted members, one of whom shall chair the Committee)

<i>Labour Group (4)</i>	<i>Independent Group (2)</i>	<i>Conservative Group (1)</i>	<i>Co-opted Members (for information)</i>
Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-	Substitutes:-	Mr Eric Pemberton Ms Salina Bagum Mr John Pulford MBE Ms Nafisa Adam Mr Michael Houston Mr Daniel McLaughlin (Vacancy)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

(The Mayor, Councillors, Local Authority Officers, Healthwatch and NHS Commissioners. In addition, non-voting co-opted members including NHS Providers, Housing Forum representative, Chair of the Integrated care Board and the Young Mayor.

<i>Ex-officio Elected Members</i>	<i>Non-Executive Councillor nominee</i>
The Mayor (Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board) Cabinet Members for Health and Wellbeing, Children's Services and Resources Executive Advisor on Adult Social Care	Non-executive majority group councillor nominated by Council

ADOPTION PANEL (To comprise two Social Workers, one elected Member, three Independent Persons and to include one man and one woman, up to a maximum of ten persons)		
<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>

FOSTERING PANEL (To comprise two Social Workers, one elected Member and four Independent Persons, up to a maximum of ten persons)		
<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>

CORPORATE PARENTING STEERING GROUP
 (Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, other Councillor(s), a Corporate Director and two Young People’s Representatives)

<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
 (To comprise members appointed by the LEA)
 (there is a requirement for two majority group and one minority group appointments)

<i>Labour Group</i>	<i>Independent Group</i>	<i>Conservative Group</i>

TO NOTE POLITICAL GROUP APPOINTMENTS

Labour Group	-	Leader of the Labour Group Deputy Leader of the Labour Group	-	Mayor John Biggs Councillor Sirajul Islam
Independent Group	-	Leader of the Independent Group	-	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Conservative Group	-	Leader of the Conservative Group Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group	-	Councillor Peter Golds Councillor Chris Chapman

APPENDIX B

Appointment of Committee Chairs


Article 8 of the Council's Constitution states that 'the Council will appoint a Member to serve as Chair of each Committee that it appoints under this Article. If the Council does not, the Committee may appoint a Chair from amongst the Members appointed to the Committee by the Council. Each Committee may appoint a Vice-Chair from amongst its Members.'

In accordance with the above, the Council is requested to appoint the Chairs of the committees listed below, to serve for the municipal year 2016/17 or until either (i) they resign the position, (ii) are no longer a member of the Council or the Committee concerned or (iii) a successor is appointed, whichever is the sooner.

Any nominations received at the time of printing are listed below and any further nominations received subsequently will be reported verbally.

Committee	Nominations received for Chair
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
Development/Strategic Development Committee	
General Purposes Committee	
Audit Committee	
Pensions Committee	
Licensing Committee	

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Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 May 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Melanie Clay, Corporate Director Law, Probity and Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2016/17	

Originating Officer(s)	Beverley McKenzie, Head of Member Support
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

Part 6 of the Council's Constitution sets out the Scheme of Members' Allowances. This provides for a Mayor's Allowance to be paid to the Mayor; a Basic Allowance to all Councillors; Special Responsibility Allowances for specified member roles; Dependants' Carers' and Travel/Subsistence Allowances; and an attendance allowance for co-opted members of the Standards Advisory Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

By law the Council must agree the Scheme of Members' Allowances annually, before the start of the year to which it applies. The proposed Scheme of Members Allowances for 2016/17 was confirmed at Council on 23 March 2016.

Changes to the Council's Non-Executive Committees and Scrutiny Committees and Sub-Committees, as proposed in an earlier report on the agenda, require that the Scheme of Members Allowances be amended. Further amendments are proposed to the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances, and the Mayor's Allowance. The new proposed Scheme of Members Allowances for 2016/17 is attached at Appendix 'A' to this report.

Recommendations:

1. That the updated London Borough of Tower Hamlets Scheme of Members' Allowances 2016/17 be adopted as set out at Appendix 'A' to this report with any changes coming into effect from Thursday 19 May 2016 or the appointment of a Councillor to the relevant position, whichever is the later.

2. To confirm that no automatic uplift in the Basic Allowance in relation to the Local Government Pay Settlement be taken for the 2016 Pay Award.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Members Allowance report agreed by Full Council in March 2016 noted that 'the Council's scheme will be reviewed later in 2016 as part of the ongoing governance review and in the light of the Panel's recommendations'.
- 1.2 Changes to the Council's Non-Executive Committees and Scrutiny Committees and Sub-Committees, and the creation of the new role of Mayoral adviser, as proposed in other reports on the agenda, have required this review.
- 1.3 Further amendments are proposed to the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances, and the Mayor's Allowance by the review, to better reflect the workloads and responsibilities of Members from all parties. All amendments proposed result in SRA levels that are either within or below the levels recommended by the 2014 report of the Independent Panel, as set out at Appendix B.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The current scheme could be retained with the exception of deleting the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Human Resources and Appeals Committees that have been deleted through a decision taken in a report earlier on the Council agenda.
- 2.2 However, if the above Committee changes are not agreed then a decision will be required on whether to retain Allowances for the Chairs' of those Committees.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended the Council is required to agree a Scheme of Members' Allowances on an annual basis. The Scheme may include an annual index-linked adjustment of allowances, but it must be subject to a full review at least every four years, taking into account the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.2 Although the Scheme may include an annual index-linked adjustment of allowances, in view of the amended Basic Allowance in this report it is proposed that no uplift is taken for 2016.

- 3.3 The current scheme was agreed at Council on 23 March 2016 and it is proposed that the updated version attached at Appendix A to this report should replace the currently agreed scheme. The proposed changes to the scheme include:
- Amended Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances, and Mayor's Allowance
 - Deletion of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) relating to expired Committees (Human Resources and Appeals Committees), and a reduction in the number of SRAs for Scrutiny Leads
 - Creation of an Allowance for designated Mayoral Advisers.
- 3.4 The Mayor has indicated that he will be writing to the Chief Executive to notify him that in 2016/17 he wishes to forego 50% of the uplift awarded under this Scheme (£3953).
- 3.5 When agreeing a Members' Allowances Scheme the Council is required to take into account the recommendations of the London Independent Remuneration Panel. For information, the current allowance bands proposed by the London Independent Remuneration Panel are set out in Appendix B to this report.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 For 2016/17 the increases in allowances will be met within existing budget allocations. A review may be required for the 2017/18 financial year onwards.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 permits the Secretary of State, by regulations, to make a scheme providing for the payment of a basic allowance, an attendance allowance and a special responsibility allowance to members of a local authority. Section 100 of the Local Government Act 2000 permits the Secretary of State, by regulations, to provide for travelling and subsistence allowances for members of local authorities, allowances for attending conferences and meetings and reimbursement of expenses. In exercise of these powers the Secretary of State has made the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.
- 5.2 The Regulations require the council to make a scheme before the beginning of each year for the payment of basic allowance. The scheme must also make provision for the authority's approach to special responsibility allowance, dependants' carers' allowance, travelling and subsistence allowance and co-optees' allowance. The scheme may also provide for other matters of the kind dealt with in the proposed scheme.

- 5.3 When considering the scheme, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't (the public sector equality duty). This consideration should be supported by a proportionate level of equality analysis

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The payment of Members' Allowances helps to ensure that people from all parts of the community within the borough are able to serve as elected members. This promotes effective community leadership and accountability, to the benefit of the whole borough and all its communities.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 No specific Best Value implications relate to this report.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 There are no direct SAGE implications arising from the recommendations in this report

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific risk implications relating to this report.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Scheme of Members Allowances (as amended)
- Appendix B – Current Recommended Allowance Bands from the London Independent Remuneration Panel

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A

London Borough of Tower Hamlets: Members' Allowances Scheme

(Part 6 of the Council's Constitution)

This Scheme is made by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended.

1. This Scheme shall be called The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2016 and it shall come into effect on 1 April 2016. Subsequently amended at Council on 18 May 2016 with the amendments coming into effect on 19 May 2016. The Scheme shall apply to the Mayor, Councillors and Co-opted Members of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Basic Allowance

2. Subject to paragraph 8, a basic allowance of £10,390* (amended to £10,938* on 19 May 2016) shall be paid to each Councillor for each year. The Basic Allowance shall not be payable to the elected Mayor.
3. The basic allowance of £10,390 shall be payable with effect from 1 April 2016 with the amended allowance of £10,938 payable from 19 May 2016.

Special Responsibility Allowance

4. Subject to paragraphs 5-8, a special responsibility allowance shall be paid for each year to those Members who hold a position of special responsibility as specified in Schedule 1.
5. The amount of each such allowance shall be the amount specified against the respective special responsibility in Schedule 1 and it shall be payable with effect from 1 April 2016 (with amendments applying from 19 May 2016).
6. Any special responsibility allowance payable under paragraphs 4 and 5 shall be in addition to the basic allowance payable under paragraph 2 above.
7. Any Member who holds more than one position of special responsibility shall receive only one special responsibility allowance which shall be at the higher level.

Part-Year Entitlement

8. If, in the course of the year, this scheme is amended or a Member's entitlement changes, the relevant basic and/or special responsibility allowance shall be calculated and paid pro-rata during the particular month in which the scheme amendment or entitlement change occurs.

Dependants' Carers' Allowance

9. A maximum of £7.49* per hour (amended to £9.40* per hour from 19 May 2016) shall be paid to those Members who necessarily incur expense in arranging for the care of their children or other dependants to enable them to undertake any of the activities specified in Schedule 2 to this Scheme.
10. The following conditions shall apply:
 - payments shall be claimable for children aged 15 or under or for other dependants where there is medical or social work evidence that care is required;
 - only one weekly payment shall be claimable for the household of each Member, unless the Council's Standards Advisory Committee considers there are special circumstances;
 - the allowance shall be paid as a re-imbusement of incurred expenditure against receipts;
 - the allowance shall not be payable to a member of the claimant's own household;
 - any dispute as to entitlement and any allegation of abuse shall be referred to the Council's Standards Advisory Committee for adjudication.

Indexation

11. The Basic, Special Responsibility, Mayor's and Dependants' Carers' Allowances would normally be adjusted annually to reflect the annual pay settlement for local government staff. However, for 2016/17 only, this adjustment is not applied.

Travel and Subsistence Allowance

12. An allowance shall be paid to any Member for travelling and subsistence undertaken outside the Borough in connection with any of the duties specified in Schedule 2.
13. An allowance shall be paid to a co-opted member of a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council for travelling and subsistence in

connection with any of the duties specified in Schedule 2, irrespective of whether the meeting or duty is inside or outside the Borough.

14. The amounts payable shall be the amounts which are for the time being payable to officers of the Council for travelling and subsistence undertaken in the course of their duties.

Co-optees' Allowance

15. Subject to paragraph 16, a co-opted member of the Standards Advisory Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any of its Sub-Committees, may claim a co-optees' allowance of £121* (amended to £123 from 19 May 2016) and a co-opted member who is appointed as Chair of the Standards Advisory Committee may claim a co-optee's allowance of £247* (amended to £250 from 19 May 2016), for attendance at any meeting of the Committee or the Panel or attendance at any conference or mandatory training event, where attendance is on behalf of and authorised by the Council.
16. A claim for co-optees' allowance shall be made in writing within two months from the date of attendance at the meeting, conference or training event.
17. Where a member is suspended or partially suspended from his or her responsibilities or duties as a co-opted member under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000, any co-optee's allowance payable to him or her for the period for which he or she is suspended or partially suspended, may be withheld by the Council.

Recovery of Allowances Paid

18. Any allowance that has been paid to a Member after he or she has ceased to be a member of the Council, or is for some other reason not entitled to receive the allowance for a specified period, may be recovered.

Claims and Payments

19. Subject to paragraph 21, payments shall be made for basic and special responsibility allowances in instalments of one-twelfth of the amounts respectively specified in this Scheme, paid on the last working day of each month.
20. Where a payment of one-twelfth of the amount specified in this Scheme for a basic or special responsibility allowance will result in the Member receiving more than the amount to which he or she is entitled, the payment shall be restricted to such amount as will ensure that no more is paid than the amount to which he or she is entitled.

21. A claim for travelling and subsistence or dependants' carers' allowance;
- shall be made in writing within two months from the date of the performance of the duty for which the claim is made;
 - shall be accompanied by receipts and/or any relevant evidence of the costs incurred.
 - shall be subject to such validation and accounting procedures as the Council's Corporate Director, Resources may from time to time prescribe.
22. Travelling and subsistence and dependants' carers' allowance shall be paid on the last working day of each month for any claim received not less than 14 days before that date.

Pensions

23. Neither members nor co-opted members of the Council are eligible to join the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Local Government Pension Scheme.

Records of Allowances and Publications

24. The Council shall keep a record of payments made by it under this Scheme, including the name of the recipients of the payment and the amount and nature of each payment.
25. The record of the payments made by the Council under this Scheme shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection at no charge. A copy shall also be supplied to any person who requests it on payment of a reasonable fee.
26. As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the year to which this Scheme relates, the Council shall make arrangements to publish the total sums paid by it to each recipient for each different allowance.
27. A copy of the Scheme shall be supplied to any person who requests it on payment of a reasonable fee.

Renunciation

28. A member may at any time and for any period, by notice in writing given to the Chief Executive, elect to forego any part of his/her entitlement to an allowance under this Scheme.

Interpretation

29. In this scheme:

- “Councillor” means an elected member of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets who is a councillor;
- “Mayor” means the elected Mayor of Tower Hamlets Council
- “Member” means any person who is either the Mayor, a councillor or a co-opted member of Tower Hamlets Council;
- “Co-opted member” means any person who is not a Councillor but who sits on a Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel of the Council.
- “Year” means the 12 months ending on 31 March in any year;

Revocation

30. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members’ Allowance Scheme 2016 is hereby revoked and replaced with the Tower Hamlets Members’ Allowances Scheme 2016 (as amended).

SCHEDULE 1

Special Responsibility Allowance

The following are specified as the special responsibilities for which special responsibility allowances are payable and the amounts of those allowances:

Table One – Special Responsibility Allowances that apply between 1 April 2016 and 18 May 2016 (inclusive)

	£
Mayor	67,094
Deputy Mayor	15,217
Leader of the Majority Group on the Council	13,065
Leader of any other Group with over 6 Councillors	10,502
Leader of any Group with up to 6 Councillors (subject to having at least 10% of the Council)	5,709
Cabinet Members	13,065
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10,502
Chair of Health Scrutiny Panel	7,801
Lead Members for Scrutiny	7,801
Chair of Development Committee	10,502
Chairs of Licensing, Appeals and General Purposes Committees	7,801
Chairs of Audit, Human Resources and Pensions Committees	5,709
Speaker of Council	7,801
Deputy Speaker of Council	3,899

Table Two – Amended Special Responsibility Allowances to be applied from Thursday 19 May 2016

	£
Mayor	75,000
Statutory Deputy Mayor	16,000
Leader of the Majority Group on the Council	11,300
Leader of the largest Opposition Group	11,300
Leader of any Group (subject to having at least 10% of the Council)	8,000
Cabinet Members	14,000
Mayoral Advisers	7,000
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11,000
Chair of Scrutiny Sub-Committee (Housing, Health, or Grants), Lead Member for Scrutiny (Children's or CLC)	8,000
Chair of Development Committee	11,000
Chair of Strategic Development Committee	11,000
Chair of Licensing Committee	6,000
Chair of General Purposes Committee	8,000
Chair of Audit Committee	6,000
Chair of Pensions Committee	6,000
Speaker of Council	10,000
Deputy Speaker of Council	5,000

SCHEDULE 2

Dependants' Carers' and Travelling and Subsistence Allowances

The duties for which these allowances are payable include:

- the attendance at a meeting of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee of the Council or of any other body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations, or of any committee or sub-committee of such a body;
- the attendance at any other meeting, the holding of which is authorised by the Council, or a committee or sub-committee of the Council, or a joint committee of 270(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, or a sub-committee of such a joint committee, provided that –
 - where the Council is divided into two or more political groups it is a meeting to which members of at least two such groups have been invited; or
 - if the Council is not so divided, it is a meeting to which at least two members of the Council have been invited
- the attendance at a meeting of any association of authorities of which the Council is a member;
- the attendance at a meeting of the Cabinet or a meeting of any of its committees, where the Council is operating executive arrangements;
- the performance of any duty in pursuance of any standing order under section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened;
- the performance of any duty in connection with the discharge of any function of the Council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Council to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises.
- the performance of any duty in connection with arrangements made by the Council for the attendance of pupils at any school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996 (approval of non-maintained special schools); and
- the carrying out of any other duty approved by the Council, or any duty of a class so approved, for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Council or any of its committees or sub-committees.

Appendix B

Current proposed London Independent Remuneration Panel Allowance Bands

Role	Independent Review 2014 (uprated to 2016 figures allowing for Local Government Pay Awards)* (£)	Proposed Tower Hamlets amended Member Allowance Scheme 2016/17
Basic Allowance	10938	10938
Mayor	83639	75000
Statutory Deputy Mayor	35900-42591	16000
Leader of the Majority Group on the Council	15826-29209	11300
Leader of the largest Opposition Group	15826-29209	11300
Leader of any Group (subject to having at least 10% of the Council)	2444-9137	8000
Cabinet Members	35900-42591	14000
Mayoral Adviser	2444-9137	7000
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	35900-42591	11000
Chair of Scrutiny Sub- Committee	15826-29209	8000
Chair of Development Committee	15826-29209	11000
Chair of Licensing	15826-29209	5000
Chair of General Purposes Committee	2444-9137	8000
Chair of Audit Committee	2444-9137	6000
Chair of Pensions Committee	2444-9137	6000

*(All allowances uprated as recommended by using the 2.2% 2014-16 pay local government award)