

COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING

Wednesday, 13 May 2015 at 6.30 p.m.

C1, 1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London,
E14 2BG

The meeting is open to the public to attend.

Members:

Sir Ken Knight (Chair)	(Commissioner)
Chris Allison	(Commissioner)
Max Caller	(Commissioner)
Alan Wood	(Commissioner)

Public Information:

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Contact for further enquiries:

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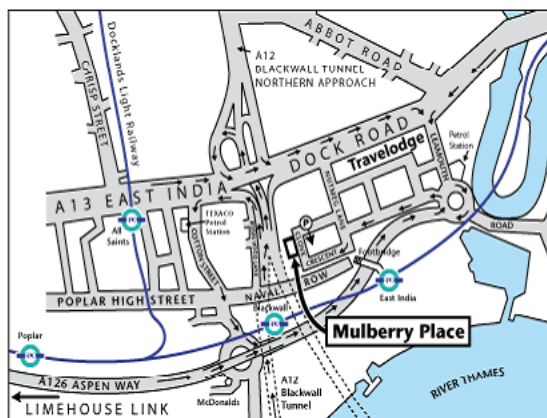
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A Guide to Commissioner Decision Making

Commissioner Decision Making at Tower Hamlets

As directed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the above Commissioners have been directed to take decision making responsibility for specific areas of work. These include examples such as the disposal of properties, awarding of grants and certain officer employment functions. This decision making body has been set up to enable the Commissioners to take their decisions in public in a similar manner to existing processes.

Key Decisions

Executive decisions are all decisions that are not specifically reserved for other bodies (such as Development or Licensing Committees). Most, but not all, of the decisions to be taken by the Commissioners are Executive decisions. Certain important Executive decisions are classified as **Key Decisions**.

The constitution describes Key Decisions as an executive decision which is likely

- a) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the borough.

Upcoming Key Decisions are published on the website on the 'Forthcoming Decisions' page through www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee. The Commissioners have chosen to broadly follow the Council's definition in classifying their determinations.

Published Decisions

After the meeting, any decisions taken will be published on the Council's website.

- The decisions for this meeting will be published on: **Friday, 15 May 2015**

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS
COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2015

6.30 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (Pages 1 - 4)

To note any declarations of interest, including those restricting voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

3. DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 8)

To note the decisions of the meeting held on 22 April 2015.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Consideration of any comments received from members of the public in relation to any of the reports on the agenda.

[Any submissions should be sent to the clerk listed on the agenda front page by 5pm the day before the meeting]

5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5 .1	Can Do Development Programme - Local Project Support Awards	All Wards
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5 .2	Boishaki Mela 2015 - Grant Application	All Wards
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5 .3	Stepney City Farm Educational Facilities	Stepney Green
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Item deferred.

Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

Further advice

For further advice please contact:-

- Meic Sullivan-Gould, Interim Monitoring Officer, 020 7364 4800
- John Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services, 020 7364 4204

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

**RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING
MEETING**

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2015

**MP702, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM (Commissioner)
Max Caller CBE (Commissioner)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Peter Golds (Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Oliur Rahman (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for
Economic Development (Jobs, Skills and
Enterprise)
Councillor Rachael Saunders (Leader of the Labour Group)
Councillor Shah Alam
Councillor Muhammad Ansar
Mustaquim

Officers Present:

Maura Farrelly (Community Resources Officer - Advice & Anti-
Poverty, Third Sector Team, Development &
Renewal)
Everett Haughton (Third Sector Programmes Manager, Third Sector
Team, Development and Renewal)
Dave Clark (Acting Service Head Resources, Development
and Renewal)
Chris Holme (Acting Corporate Director - Resources)
Dorne Kanareck (Interim Service Head, Commissioning and
Health)
Matthew Mannion (Committee Services Manager, Democratic
Services, LPG)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

3. DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

1. That the Decisions of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

A number of public submissions received were **tabled** at the meeting.

Sir Ken Knight, Commissioner, thanked those organisations who had provided submissions to the meeting. He stated that their evidence would be considered during discussion of the reports on the agenda and that officers would reply directly to the organisations where more detailed or specific responses were required.

5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Mainstream Grant (MSG) 2015-18 programme

Chris Holme, Acting Corporate Director, Resources, introduced the report setting out proposals for the framework, specifications and timetable for the 2015/18 Mainstream Grants Programme as well as the desired outcomes. An addendum report was **tabled** which included updates from discussions that had taken place with Members, including at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Commissioners then asked attending Members to respond to the proposals in the report. Councillors Rachael Saunders, Peter Golds and Oliur Rahman provided responses.

The Commissioners considered the submissions from Members and responses from officers in particular about ward groupings and how to enable small organisations to bid.

The Commissioners requested that at the Annual General Meeting in May 2015, the Council set up a formal cross-party group to ensure proper engagement with Members on the grants process.

The Commissioners agreed the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. To note the Funding Framework as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To agree the proposed structure of the 2015/18 MSG Programme as set out in paragraphs 3.36 and 3.37 of the report.

3. To agree the Programme budgets and top-slice proposals as set out in paragraphs 3.38 to 3.40 of the report.
4. To note the redirection of the Early Years Services budget as outlined in paragraphs 3.41 and 3.42 of the report.
5. To approve the Theme Specifications as set out in Appendix 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 to the report.
6. To note the approaches and benefits to the new programme as summarised in paragraph 3.44 of the report.
7. To note the application and assessment process as outlined in paragraphs 3.49 to 3.55 to the report.
8. To approve the application form as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.
9. To approve the assessment protocol as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.
10. To approve the proposed match funding requirements as set out in paragraph 3.56 of the report.
11. To note the detailed Equality Assessment information as set out in Appendix 5 to the report.
12. To note the project and programme management monitoring and evaluation arrangements as outlined in paragraphs 3.74 to 3.79 to the report.
13. To approve the guiding principles and governance arrangements as set out in Appendix 6 to the report.
14. To approve the extension of the grant application period from 5 to 6 weeks as set out in paragraph 3.83 to the report.

5.2 Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services (THCVS) - MSG Extension

Chris Holme, Acting Corporate Director, Resources, introduced the report proposing an extension to the funding of the Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services to ensure continuity in support.

The Commissioners **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. To approve an extension of 5 months for the THCVS totalling an amount of up to £83,000.

2. To note the draft work plan as set out in (Appendix A) which sets out a range of activities and outputs from 1st April to 31st August 2015 – the precise work programme of which will be agreed as part of the grant negotiation process.

5.3 Future Funding of New Belvedere House Ex Servicemen's Hostel

Dorne Kanareck, Interim Service Head Commissioning and Health, introduced the report on the future funding of the New Belvedere hostel for ex-servicemen.

The Commissioners considered the report and agreed the one year's extension to the funding but stated that the Council should determine how the hostel would be funded in the future with a view to reducing their use of Council grants. To this end they agreed an amendment to the recommendations.

RESOLVED

1. To provide a targeted grant towards the running costs of the New Belvedere House ex-veterans hostel in recognition of the unique circumstances of this service and the historical funding issues, for a one year period commencing 1st April 2015.
2. That the grant has a maximum ceiling at the current level of £150, 275, with final award being based on a robust assessment and demonstration of the continued need for the grant in the context of any wider funding opportunities.
3. That Veterans Aid are asked to actively explore other funding opportunities to reduce their reliance on the Borough and precipitate tapering of the funding in future years.
4. That a report be presented to the Commissioners, and any other relevant decision makers, in six months' time setting out proposals for how the New Belvedere Hostel will be supported in the future, with a particular focus on reducing their use of Council grants.

The meeting ended at 7.26 p.m.

**Sir Ken Knight
COMMISSIONER**