

## LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

## MINUTES OF THE CABINET

HELD AT 4.04 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL 2019

C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,  
LONDON, E14 2BG**Members Present:**

Mayor John Biggs	
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Rachel Blake	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Air Quality)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities)
Councillor Amina Ali	(Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit)
Councillor David Edgar	(Cabinet Member for Environment)
Councillor Danny Hassell	(Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People)
Councillor Denise Jones	(Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Candida Ronald	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	(Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth)

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor Peter Golds	
Councillor Abdal Ullah	
Councillor Andrew Wood	(Leader of the Conservative Group)

**Officers Present:**

David Courcoux	(Head of the Mayor's Office)
Ralph Million	(Senior Strategic Asset Manager, Place)
David Tolley	(Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards)
Matthew Vaughan	(Political Advisor to the Conservative Group, Democratic Services, LPG)
Adam Boey	(Senior Strategy & Policy Manager - Corporate)
Stephen Bramah	(Deputy Head of the Mayor's office)
Paul Buckenham	(Development Manager, Planning Services, Place)
Ann Corbett	(Divisional Director, Community Safety)
Daniel Devitt	(Senior Programme Manager, Born Well and Growing Well)
Thorsten Dreyer	Strategy & Business Development Manager
Afazul Hoque	(Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
Tom Lewis	(Team Leader - Licensing Services)
Asmat Hussain	(Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer)

Debbie Jones	(Corporate Director, Children and Culture)
Neville Murton	Corporate Director, Resources)
Denise Radley	(Corporate Director, Health, Adults & Community)
Ann Sutcliffe	(Corporate Director, Place)
Will Tuckley	(Chief Executive)
Matthew Mannion	(Head of Democratic Services, Governance)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

**3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 27 March 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor made a number of announcements at the meeting, including:

- Expressing shock at the terrorist attack in Sri Lanka. He reported that with the Chief Executive he would be sending a joint letter of condolence to the High Commissioner.
- Noting the work the Council was undertaking to tackle violent crime and the action plan that had been put together in response to last year's Scrutiny review. The Council was working in partnership with schools, the Police and St Giles amongst others. The Council was also securing additional funding from government to tackle serious knife crime and gang issues in the borough.
- Noting the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Brick Lane bombing atrocity. He would be unveiling a plaque there later in the day.
- Congratulating Jaami Barry on being elected as Young Mayor and he looked forward to working with the Young Mayor and his Deputies.
- Thank Owen Whalley (Divisional Director, Planning & Building Control) for his thirty years' service to the borough and wish him well for his retirement.

## **5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **5.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions**

Pre-decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses were presented in respect of Agenda Items 6.2 (Strategic Plan 2019-22) and Growth and Economic Development Plan 2018-23.

These were considered during discussion of the relevant items.

In addition the Councillor Abdal Ullah, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), provided Cabinet with an update on the recent OSC meeting. He reported that:

- The Committee had heard from the Young Mayor and heard about the kinds of issues that were important to young people such as the environment, safety and poverty. The Committee were really impressed by the young people and looked forward to working with them in the future. He encouraged the Council to think about working with the Young Mayor and his team as much as possible, especially in looking at how they could help in communicating with other young people in the borough.
- There had been a big discussion on Community Safety and he commended the report that was on the Cabinet agenda today following the Scrutiny Review.
- They had explored the issues of underachievement by some white working class residents.
- To note that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were exploring options for restructuring its Sub-Committees and the Lead Member portfolios.

The **Mayor** thanked him for his presentation and for his work over the year.

### **5.2 Any Unrestricted Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Nil items.

## **6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **6.1 Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Scrutiny Review Action Plan**

Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People, and Councillor Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities, introduced the report on the proposed Action Plan following last year's Scrutiny Review into Gangs and Serious Youth Violence.

They highlighted that this was a big concern for residents and so the Council was investing significant time and money into tackling the problem including working with partners where possible. For example, a violent crime summit

had been held recently which had resulted in a statement of actions to undertake.

The Action Plan following the scrutiny review had resulted in 20 recommendations built around four themes with safeguarding central to all areas.

A large number of projects were being undertaken, strategies refreshed and new resources identified including creating new posts linked to the major trauma unit at the Royal London Hospital.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and highlighted the real difference this work was making. He thanked Denise Radley the Corporate Director, Health, Adults and Community, Ann Corbett, Divisional Director for Community Safety and everyone involved in the work. He **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

## **RESOLVED**

1. To note this report and the progress made since the Scrutiny Review report was published in March 2018, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To approve the action plan which sets out the Council's response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Session in Appendix 2 to the report.
3. To support the continuation of efforts made through newly implemented initiatives to disrupt gang activity, with particular attention on the improved quality and timeliness of services for children at risk of becoming involved in gang activity and serious youth violence.
4. To acknowledge the recognition of Ofsted in monitoring visit reports as to the improvements made in Children's Social Care.

## **6.2 Strategic Plan 2019-22**

The **Mayor** introduced the report on the Council's Strategic Plan for 2019-22. He highlighted how the Plan mapped the Council's objectives onto clear work objectives giving examples such as around the waste strategy, healthy residents, safeguarding issues, Brexit and tackling drug markets.

He thanked all the officers involved in the report. He noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses and **agreed** the recommendations.

## **RESOLVED**

1. To adopt the draft Strategic Plan for 2019-22 at Appendix 1 to the report.

2. To endorse the proposed approach to strategic delivery as set out in paragraph 3.5-3.8 of the report; and
3. To delegate to the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy & Performance to finalise the Plan following Cabinet and following consultation with the Mayor.

### **6.3 The Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Partnership (THSCP) - an Overview and Update on the new Safeguarding Children arrangements**

Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People, introduced the report providing an update on the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Partnership and the new arrangements that were being set up. He explained that the changes followed a national review of children's safeguarding and new arrangements were required to be implemented by March next year.

The report set out a number of changes including the replacement of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and changes to serious case reviews.

The **Mayor** highlighted how important it was to get this right. In particular he noted the importance of working with stakeholders and key partners.

He thanked Daniel Devitt and the Integrated Youth and Community Service for their work and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. To note the progress to date in the development of the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Children Partnership and Child Death Review (CDR) systems outlined in (paragraphs 3.1 to 3.14 of the report and appendices A, B and C to the report).
2. To approve the authority of the Corporate Director Children and Culture to act on behalf of LBTH at the THSCP (paragraph 3.4 of the report).
3. To approve the move to the shared CDR function in North East London (paragraph 3.13 of the report).
4. To note the indicative budget outlined in paragraph 3.7 and works underway to scope the full costs of the THSCP (paragraph 3.1 of the report).
5. To note the works underway to scope the full costs and contribution to North East London CDR systems (paragraph 3.8 of the report).

#### 6.4 Enforcement Policy Review

Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment, introduced the report presenting the review of the Council's Enforcement Policy.

He explained that the policy had last been updated in 2010 and so it needed to be brought up to date with legal and other changes. He highlighted that there were a wide range of potential enforcement actions but that the Council had to ensure they were consistent and proportional.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report as setting a clear framework for the Council and **agreed** the recommendation as set out.

#### RESOLVED

1. To agree the proposed Enforcement Policy set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

#### 6.5 Growth and Economic Development Plan 2018-2023

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Development, introduced the report setting out the Council's Growth and Economic Development Plan for 2018-23.

He explained that the draft plan had been put out to consultation and now, following consideration of those submissions, was presented for agreement. The aim was to support the building of an economy that worked for local people and ensure everyone was able to benefit from the borough's success. He gave examples of particular priorities including around careers advice and supporting successful high streets.

There followed a discussion on the importance of supporting young people into jobs and officers highlighted two pilot projects in this area. Councillor Denise Jones then also noted that she sat on the Board of St John Cass and had seen the work they were doing supporting young people into getting jobs.

The **Mayor** welcomed the comments made during the discussion. He also noted how this Plan was part of a suite of strategies about regeneration and that he would be keeping an eye on its potential impact.

He noted the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Questions and officer responses and **agreed** the recommendation as set out.

#### RESOLVED

1. To approve the Growth and Economic Development Plan.

## 6.6 Adoption of statement of Community Involvement

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Air Quality introduced the report proposing the adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement in relation to the preparation of planning documents and the taking of planning decisions. The Council considered it important to ensure meaningful public consultation took place and that the process was easy for residents to engage with.

The **Mayor** welcomed the report and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

### RESOLVED

1. To approve the adoption of the updated Statement of Community Involvement, to supersede the 2017 version.
2. To note the specific equalities considerations as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of the report.

## 6.7 Nomination to Outside Bodies

The **Mayor** introduced the report proposing a number of nominations to outside bodies and to the removal of some outside bodies from the list following a review by the General Purposes Committee. He thanked officers for their work and **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

### RESOLVED

1. To agree the nominations to outside bodies as shown in Paragraph 3.4 of the report.
2. To agree to discontinue nominations to the outside bodies as shown in Paragraph 3.6 of the report as proposed by the General Purposes Committee review.

## 6.8 Ailsa Street Land Disposal - Revised Terms

The **Mayor** introduced the report on the proposed disposal of land on Ailsa Street. He agreed the reasons for urgency as set out in the report, namely that:

“The report cannot await the next scheduled meeting of Cabinet in May because the purchasers of the Council land, who are the developers of the Ailsa Street scheme, have indicated that an earlier decision is required in order to fit with its development timetable. The negotiations with the developers have recently been concluded, with insufficient time for the report to be finalised and published at least five days prior to the meeting. However it should be noted that the forthcoming decision notice was published in May 2018”.

He highlighted that discussions with the developers had ensured the Council was securing a number of benefits following disposal of the land and that by

disposing of this land a valuable development could take place with a provision for affordable housing. On balance he therefore considered this was the right action to take.

The **Mayor** agreed that the appendix was exempt through Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act and noted its contents.

He **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

## **RESOLVED**

1. To note that the Council land at Ailsa Street, Lochnagar Street and Bromley Hall Road E14, as shown on the plan at Appendix A to the report, was confirmed by Cabinet as being surplus to the Council's requirements in November 2017.
2. To agree to the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in the Council land to London River Lea One Ltd on the terms set out in the report.
3. To authorise the Corporate Director of Place, to agree to any subsequent minor or favourable variations to the terms and the precise boundaries of the Council land to be sold, in order to implement the recommendation above.
4. To agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Place to decide whether the Council will acquire the affordable housing units to be provided within the scheme and whether to acquire a further 5% of the total number of units provided, for use as additional affordable housing, or to meet other housing objectives.
5. To agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Place to agree the terms for both of the acquisitions mentioned in recommendation 4 above.
6. To authorise the Corporate Director of Place of to agree to any subsequent minor or favourable variations to the terms and the precise boundaries of the land to be sold, in order to implement the recommendations above.
7. To authorise the Corporate Director of Place, to enter into the necessary legal agreements required to implement the recommendations above.
8. To note the equalities considerations as set out in section 7 of the report.

## 6.9 Wayside Gardens, Marsh Wall; Disposal of Land

The **Mayor** introduced a report on the proposed disposal of land at Wayside Gardens.

He agreed the reasons for urgency as set out in the report, namely that:

“The report cannot await the next scheduled meeting of Cabinet in May because the purchasers of the Council land, who are the developers of the Alpha Square scheme, have indicated that an earlier decision is required in order to fit with its development timetable. The negotiations with the developers have recently been concluded, with insufficient time for the report to be finalised and published at least five days prior to the meeting. However it should be noted that the forthcoming decision notice was published in November 2018.”

The **Mayor** explained that before taking this decision he had asked officers to ensure that the Council could secure good open space and public realm enhancements. He **agreed** the recommendations as set out.

### RESOLVED

1. To note the further information on the planning permission and the s106 agreement, as they relate to the open space provision in the Alpha Square scheme, in line with the draft minutes of the meeting of Cabinet on 27 March.
2. To agree that the land at Wayside Gardens is declared surplus to the Council's requirements and is sold to the developer's property holding subsidiary, Drakar Limited, on the basis set out in this report.
3. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Place to agree and negotiate the final terms of the proposed disposal and to agree any variations to the terms set out in this report to the benefit of the Council.
4. To agree that works to improve existing parks and open spaces within the Isle of Dogs area are included as part of the development of the Council's capital strategy and programme.
5. Note that the Council gave notice of its intention to dispose of the open space and that no objections were received by the closing date of 22 November 2018.

## 7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

## 8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil items.

**9. EXEMPT / CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

Nil items.

**10. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**10.1 Chair's Advice of Key Issues or Questions in Relation to Exempt / Confidential Business**

Nil items.

**10.2 Any Exempt / Confidential Decisions "Called in" by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Nil items.

**11. ANY OTHER EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 5.20 p.m.

MAYOR JOHN BIGGS