



Meeting of the

TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL

Wednesday, 21 November 2018 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:

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Directorate of Governance

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**TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER
HAMLETS**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG** at 7.00 p.m. on **WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2018**

Will Tuckley
Chief Executive

Public Information

Attendance at meetings.

The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council. However seating is limited and offered on a first come first served basis and meetings tend to reach full capacity.

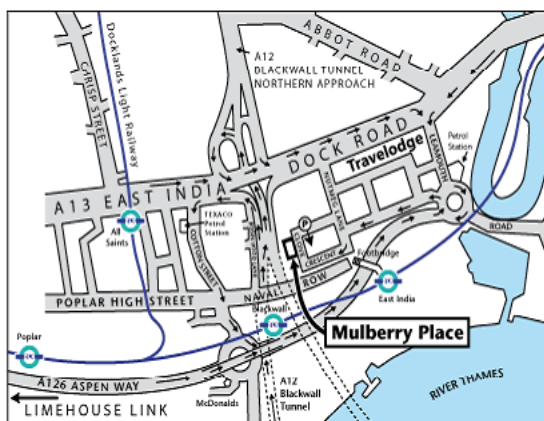
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QR code for smart phone users

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2018

7.00 p.m.

PAGE
NUMBER

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

7 - 10

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

3. MINUTES

11 - 40

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 19 September 2018

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

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS

41 - 44

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

The attached report presents the four received petitions to be discussed. Should any further petitions have been received they would have been listed to be noted but not discussed. No further petitions were received.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Council's Constitution provides for the Elected Mayor to give a report at each Ordinary Council Meeting.

A maximum of six minutes is allowed for the Elected Mayor's report, following which the Speaker of the Council will invite the leader of the opposition group to respond for up to two minutes should he so wish.

- 7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE** **45 - 48**
- To debate a Motion submitted by the Administration in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.
- 8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE** **49 - 52**
- To debate a Motion submitted by the Opposition Group in accordance with Rules 11 and 13 of the Council's Constitution. The debate will last for a maximum of 30 minutes.
- 9. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL** **53 - 56**
- The questions which have been received from Councillors to be put at this Council meeting are set out in the attached report. A maximum period of 30 minutes is allocated to this agenda item.
- 10. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**
- 10 .1 Report from Audit Committee: Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2018/19** **57 - 76**
- 11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL** **77 - 78**
- The motions submitted by Councillors for debate at this meeting are set out in the attached report.
- 12. OTHER BUSINESS**

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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:-

Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer. Tel 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 7.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

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

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Sirajul Islam
Councillor Faroque Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Councillor Rabina Khan
Councillor Sufia Alam	Councillor Tarik Khan
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor James King
Councillor Shah Ameen	Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan
Councillor Ruhul Amin	Councillor Eve McQuillan
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Puru Miah
Councillor Kevin Brady	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Councillor Victoria Obaze
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	Councillor Mohammed Pappu
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	Councillor Leema Qureshi
Councillor Dipa Das	Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor David Edgar	Councillor Candida Ronald
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor Dan Tomlinson
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Helal Uddin
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Muhammad Harun	Councillor Val Whitehead
Councillor Danny Hassell	Councillor Bex White
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	Councillor Andrew Wood
Councillor Asma Islam	

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Ayas Miah in the Chair

The Speaker of the Council brought the Council up to date with some of his activities since the previous Council meeting.

He advised that he had the great pleasure of attending a variety of engagements and community events. This included:

- A number of award events and anniversary celebrations
- Citizenship ceremonies.
- A meeting with the Bangladeshi Human Rights Commission, where he met the Secretary General of the Women's Branch to Tower Hamlets
- The Army Cadet Force visitor and competition day, that provided opportunities to young people.
- A meeting with the King of the Ashanti, (which is a region in Ghana), and his distinguished guests, when he was presented with an honorary doctorate of education.

- A Merchant Navy Day service.
- The 20th Pearly Kings and Queens Festival parade.
- The launch of Tower Hamlets Homes' Financial Health Centre.

The Speaker also thanked the Deputy Speaker, Councillor Victoria Obaze for deputising for the Speaker at certain events during recent weeks.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Kyrsten Perry.
- Councillor John Pierce
- Councillor Abdal Ullah

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The Speaker of the Council reported that he had received a tabled list (as set out at the end of this item) of Non Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (Other Interests) in relation to Agenda Item 12.1 regarding school cuts (this is set out below)

The following declarations for interests that must be registered (other interests) were made:

Councillor Dan Tomlinson on Agenda Item 12.1 regarding school cuts as he was a Member of the GMB union.

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman on Agenda Item 12.1 regarding school cuts as he was a member of the University and College Union.

Councillor Amina Ali on Agenda Item 9.13, a Member Question regarding Three Colt Street, on the basis that she lived in the area.

Councillor Muhammad Harun on Agenda Item 5.3, Petition requesting that Tower Hamlets Council welcome child refugees on the basis that he was a human rights lawyer and he regularly represented asylum seekers.

Tabled List of 'other interest that must be registered' –
Agenda item 12.1 Motion regarding school cuts.

Name of Member	Register of Interest
Mayor John Biggs	Member of GMB
Councillor Faroque Ahmed	Member of GMB
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Member of GMB
Councillor Sufia Alam	Unite Union
Councillor Amina Ali	Unite Union Unite Community
Councillor Shah Ameen	Member of GMB
Councillor Ruhul Amin	Unite Union

Councillor Asma Begum	Member of GMB
Councillor Rachel Blake	Member of GMB (note – the web record says ‘Sponsorship’ but Cllr Blake has confirmed she has not to date been sponsored by the GMB.)
Councillor Kevin Brady	Community Union
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Member of GMB
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	Unite Union
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	Unite Union
Councillor Dipa Das	Unite Union
Councillor David Edgar	Unite Union
Councillor Marc Francis	Member of GMB
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	Unite Union
Councillor Muhammad Harun	Member of GMB
Councillor Danny Hassell	Member of Unison
Councillor Asma Islam	Member of GMB
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Member of Unison LEA Governor, John Scurr Primary School
Councillor Denise Jones	Member of Unite (the Union) Mulberry Schools Trust-Trustee
Councillor Rabina Khan	Member of GMB
Councillor Tarik Khan	Unite Union CWU
Councillor James King	Unite Union
Councillor Gabriela Salva Macallan	Unite Union
Councillor Eve McQuillan	Unite Union
Councillor Ayas Miah	GMB
Councillor Puru Miah	TSSA Union Unite Union
Councillor Abdul Mukit	Unison
Councillor Victoria Obaze	Member of GMB Sir John Cass Secondary School Governor
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	Unite Union
Councillor John Pierce	Unite Union
Councillor Helal Uddin	Member of GMB
Councillor Abdal Ullah	Member of GMB
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	Member of GMB
Councillor Bex White	Member of Unite Community
Councillor Val Whitehead	Prospect

3. MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting held on 18th July 2018 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

There were no announcements.

5. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS**5.1 Petition regarding Glyphosate/Roundup**

Geoffrey Juden and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He provided reassurance about the product's safety for use, in light of the scientific evidence. Nevertheless, he recognised the need to continue to review the evidence and he was happy to meet the petitioners to discuss the issues further.

RESOLVED:

1. That the petition be referred to the Acting Corporate Director, Place, for a written response within 28 days.

5.2 Petition regarding a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal

John Shore and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Amina Ali, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit responded to the matters raised in the petition. She advised that the Council had set up a Brexit Commission comprising a number of experts and stakeholders to look at the possible impact on the Borough of leaving the European Union. She had also submitted a Motion to this Council meeting requesting that the Council support a people's vote on a final Brexit deal and would be taking part in the people's march in support of this.

RESOLVED:

1. That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer for a written response within 28 days.

5.3 Petition asking Tower Hamlets Council to please welcome child refugees

Melanie Tuff and others addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Mayor John Biggs then responded to the matters raised in the petition. He was proud of the work that the Council had carried out, as part as of the vulnerable persons resettlement scheme and the national transfer system for welcoming child refugees. The Council remained committed to supporting the target for the allocations and would continue to put pressure of the Government to help with this process.

RESOLVED:

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

5.4 Petition regarding the provision of proper basketball facility in Millwall Park

Local residents addressed the meeting on behalf of the petitioners and responded to questions from Members. Councillor Amina Ali, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit responded to the matters raised in the petition.

She noted the need for major works to be carried out to the basketball court to address the challenges arising from the changing nature of the local area to protect residential amenity. In view of the issues, the Council were looking to explore measures to mitigate the problems, subject to the available of funding and the requirements in terms of lighting and access.

RESOLVED:

1. That the petition be referred to the Acting Corporate Director, Place/ Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community, for a written response within 28 days.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

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

When the Mayor had completed his report and at the invitation of the Speaker, Councillor Andrew Wood, Leader of the Conservative Group, briefly responded to the Mayor's report.

7. ADMINISTRATION MOTION DEBATE

7 – Administration Motion regarding Brexit

Councillor Amina Ali **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

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

RESOLVED:

This Council notes that it is now over two years since the Brexit vote and the Government still has no satisfactory Brexit plan. Since the vote we have gone from the top of the G7 for economic growth to the bottom. For communities up and down the country, jobs and businesses are under threat and it is absolutely right for local authorities to be making a stand on their behalf.

This Council also notes that the Tower Hamlets Labour manifesto 2018 included a pledge to *“campaign for a referendum on the final terms of any Brexit deal, so that local people are able to express their view on the future of this country.”*

This Council further notes:

- Communities in Tower Hamlets have benefited from significant EU funding in recent years through the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. The borough currently receives £2.6 million towards initiatives to improve the local economy, development, infrastructure, employment and training.
- More than one in seven residents in our borough, some 41,000 people, are from the remaining 27 EU states. They play a valued role in one of the country’s most diverse and inclusive communities.
- The uncertainty and potential impact of Brexit on our businesses. In Canary Wharf, each day 120,000 people work in 37 office buildings alongside 300 shops, cafes and restaurants. Further, Brexit will hit many small businesses, with almost 99% of the 16,800 firms based here employing fewer than 250 people.

This Council believes that the white paper confirms the government intends to leave the customs union and lose access to the single market for services, which account for 80% of the UK economy. As a result, the Withdrawal Agreement will fail to meet Labour’s six tests, specifically the test that any deal must deliver the “exact same benefits” we have as full members of the EU.

This Council also notes that the Mayor has established a Brexit Commission, chaired by Cllr Amina Ali, to lead local preparations for the UK’s departure from the European Union.

This Council calls on the Government to abandon any plans for a hard Brexit and to give the British people a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal, along with the opportunity to vote on keeping the many benefits Britons enjoy by staying in the European Union.

8. OPPOSITION MOTION DEBATE

8 – Opposition Motion by the Conservative Group regarding anti-social behaviour & crime in Tower Hamlets

Councillor Andrew Wood **moved** and Councillor Peter Golds **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Asma Begum **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the following amendment to the motion to be debated as tabled:

Added text underlined.

Deleted text scored out.

The Council notes:

The results of the 2018 Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey show that the top concern for residents was crime with 41% concerned. Only 48% rated Policing as excellent, very good or good, the lowest rating of the subjects surveyed. 60% felt drug use or drug dealing issue was a big problem.

It is clear that residents are deeply concerned about the impact of ASB and drug dealing on their neighbourhoods.

The key issue facing residents in many instances is a lack of police resources to investigate and arrest those who are carrying out these offences and until the Government start to properly fund our police service the impact on the ground will be limited despite any progress to make it harder for the perpetrators.

The council is however committed to doing all we can to tackle ~~We have four core problems as regards~~ ASB and the issues that affect people's quality of life. This includes addressing:

1. Reporting difficulties leading to frustration from residents and probably under reporting
2. The use of NOX canisters and the limited means the Police have to control their use
3. The distribution of CCTV cameras with heavy concentrations in some areas and few elsewhere
4. There being different processes and contact methods for different issues which affect residents, a noticeable example being the 7 different steps in the Councils 'Who do I call Crime & ASB reporting in TH' flowchart or the flowchart used by Limehouse SNT mapping all of the different contact methods.

5. That the council requires a 1-page flowchart (with links to other information) to document the information indicates that there is a communication problem.

Given the major reductions in Police numbers and funding we need to find ways of using the resources we have more effectively, and holding the Conservative Government to account for their reckless approach to community safety.

According to a National Audit Office (NAO) report published this month, the Home Office does not know whether the police system in England and Wales is "financially sustainable", and highlights that across England and Wales:

- There has been a 19% reduction in real-terms funding to Police and Crime Commissioners from 2010/11 to 2018/19;
- There has been an 18% reduction in the size of the total police workforce between March 2010 and March 2018.

In Tower Hamlets, we have lost about 200 police officers since 2010 and three police stations in recent years (Limehouse, Brick Lane and Isle of Dogs) have been closed as a direct result of Government cuts to police budgets.

Further, three-quarters of PCSOs in the borough were axed between 2010 and 2017.

The main method for reporting ASB is the 101 service but this has fundamental problems:-

- It can be difficult to get through especially at night
- It is one dimensional and cannot easily be use it to share locations, video or photographs.
- It does not record other quality of life issues, in particular noise
- It's lack of integration frequently results in SNT teams requiring residents to report issues twice:
 - Firstly on 101 to get a CAD reference
 - Secondly, to the SNT via email or their own phone perhaps using WhatsApp to share photos

However all of these problems are eclipsed by the Conservative Government's complete disregard for community safety as evidenced by their dangerous cuts to policing budgets, leaving boroughs like Tower Hamlets with hundreds of fewer police officers on the street.

Council notes that the Metropolitan Police has recognised the issues with 101, and the council will offer any support it can to help make improvements.

Official Government advice is to report anti-social behaviour through 999 in an emergency, or through 101 in a non-emergency or through your Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The council also has an online reporting tool which is publicised on the council's homepage.

The council is also partnered with OWL (Online Watch Link) which provides the public with the latest local crime alerts sent by email, telephone or SMS.

~~Tower Hamlets is disproportionately dependent on the 101 service unlike our neighbours who usually provide other methods for reporting ASB.~~

~~Examples are:-~~

- ~~• Newham residents are able to call their Enforcement and Safety Team on a 24 hour number. There is also an online reporting tool.~~
- ~~• Greenwich residents are able to report non-urgent incidents to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team by email and phone number.~~
- ~~• Southwark residents have access to an Antisocial Behaviour Unit contactable by telephone or email~~
- ~~• Hackney residents have an ASB team for streets, public spaces and parks contactable by phone and email~~

~~Other London Boroughs also have online reporting forms prominently displayed when residents undertake an internet search on the boroughs name and ASB.~~

~~Tower Hamlets by contrast provides no central email address or phone number to call and only has an online reporting form at the very bottom of a long web page.~~

~~This may explain why the Borough Commander's report for 2016 showed Tower Hamlets had the worst rates of ASB in East London.~~

Given the Government's major underresourcing of the police and the consequent difficulty that residents face in trying to report ASB, this Council therefore proposes to ask the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to review the options which are currently available to residents, and to examine the effectiveness in other boroughs of the following in meeting the challenge:

1. The establishment of a 247 phone service together with a central email address for all ASB and quality of life related issues
2. This service to be fully integrated, dealing with noise and other related issues to ensure that residents only need to know just one number/one email
3. The Police agree that ASB reported to the Council is included in any allocation of resources to ensure that residents do not have to also call 101 in order to secure the allocation of Police resources to their area
4. The development of an online tool + app allowing residents to report a range of issues online. This could be based on the 'MyStreet' App rolled out in Sunderland this year. Other possibilities are the FiFiLi app, OWL. The council could simply buy the license for 'My Street' which would be the equivalent of an online One Stop Shop for quality of life issues. As with FiFiLi this would have the ability to tag precise locations on a map and to share photographs.

~~These solutions will:~~

~~Ensure that residents have the ability to share precise locations, videos, pictures across multiple platforms but that it would all go to same place.~~

~~That easily obtained software solutions which are now available will help integrate and share this data with partners~~

The Council notes:

~~That the Labour manifesto for 2014 pledged “A 24hr noise and ASB hotline to help tackle rising crime — Nuisance noise doesn’t sleep, that’s why Labour will introduce a 24h hotline to report noise and anti-social behaviour at weekends to ensure people’s complaints are addressed.”~~

~~By instituting proposals outlined above will reduce pressure on the 101 service, allow the collection of more data, reduce the frustration residents feel as they have multiple methods for reporting issues and provide the council and partners with more intelligence as where to focus necessary activities.~~

The Council resolves to follow the example of Labour controlled Lambeth Council and:

Ask the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to consider the effectiveness of implementing a its Public Space Protection Order for Novel Psychoactive Substances, which allows Police Officers, PCSO’s and THEO’s to issue fines up to £1,000 per incident Borough wide. The order prohibits the “ingestion, inhalation, injection, smoking, possession or otherwise use of intoxicating substances” in public spaces. The order also provides powers to stop the selling or supply of intoxicating substances.

Such has been the success in Lambeth that the council is now extending their PSPO for another 3 years having first introduced it in 2015

This, if introduced in Tower Hamlets ~~will~~ could provide the Police and Council with more tools to combat the ~~young men~~ people often in cars who litter our streets as they party.

The council notes that:

The Psychoactive Substances Act came into effect in May 2016 and makes it illegal to sell or import Nitrous Oxide for human consumption (exempting medical supply). However, the use of Nitrous Oxide, as opposed to the import and sale of nitrous oxide remains legal. Equally whilst driving when intoxicated may result in fines or a custodial sentence, Nitrous Oxide is not one of the drugs with a specified limit within the Road Traffic Act.

The legal situation with regard to Nitrous Oxide remains confused ~~which is why the adoption of a targeted Public Space Protection Order while~~ so we must work alongside our local MP’s and Ministers, London Councils and the Local Government Association for an enforceable solution to this ongoing problem.

This council institutes a review of the current CCTV and lighting network.

The Council rightly highlights on its social media the successes the cameras have had in arrests (on average 3 a day). Those areas with little or no CCTV feel left out. ~~Criminals and boy racers know where the holes are in the CCTV network i.e. Limehouse Op Naga or Wapping High Street. Temporary cameras can help but the Borough has changed a great deal in the last 15-30 years but that the locations of our CCTV cameras has not followed to the same extent. Given the S106 and CIL resources the council has in the bank, it should also be possible to add new cameras as well. but it is important that we balance the need for surveillance with the right to privacy and ensure that our CCTV complies with the requirements set out in the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice, following our established 4 step evaluation process where CCTV is judged as needed.~~

The council calls upon Cabinet Member for Community Safety to consider the further use of LED bulbs ~~would also~~ to help reduce costs and improve visibility on our streets.

The council notes that Norfolk County Council have recruited local residents as unpaid Police Support Volunteers to help with CCTV monitoring. ~~This would be an opportunity for Tower Hamlets residents to take part in assisting the fight against ASB. and we call on the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to raise this with the Borough Commander.~~

The amendment was put to the vote and **agreed**.

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

RESOLVED:

The Council notes:

The results of the 2018 Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey show that the top concern for residents was crime with 41% concerned. Only 48% rated Policing as excellent, very good or good, the lowest rating of the subjects surveyed. 60% felt drug use or drug dealing issue was a big problem.

It is clear that residents are deeply concerned about the impact of ASB and drug dealing on their neighbourhoods.

The key issue facing residents in many instances is a lack of police resources to investigate and arrest those who are carrying out these offences and until the Government start to properly fund our police service the impact on the ground will be limited despite any progress to make it harder for the perpetrators.

The council is however committed to doing all we can to tackle ASB and the issues that affect people's quality of life. This includes addressing:

1. Reporting difficulties leading to frustration from residents and probably under reporting

2. The use of NOX canisters and the limited means the Police have to control their use
3. The distribution of CCTV cameras with heavy concentrations in some areas and few elsewhere
4. There being different processes and contact methods for different issues which affect residents, a noticeable example being the 7 different steps in the Councils 'Who do I call Crime & ASB reporting in TH' flowchart or the flowchart used by Limehouse SNT mapping all of the different contact methods.
5. That the council requires a 1-page flowchart (with links to other information) to document the information indicates that there is a communication problem.

Given the major reductions in Police numbers and funding we need to find ways of using the resources we have more effectively, and holding the Conservative Government to account for their reckless approach to community safety.

According to a National Audit Office (NAO) report published this month, the Home Office does not know whether the police system in England and Wales is "financially sustainable", and highlights that across England and Wales:

- There has been a 19% reduction in real-terms funding to Police and Crime Commissioners from 2010/11 to 2018/19;
- There has been an 18% reduction in the size of the total police workforce between March 2010 and March 2018.

In Tower Hamlets, we have lost about 200 police officers since 2010 and three police stations in recent years (Limehouse, Brick Lane and Isle of Dogs) have been closed as a direct result of Government cuts to police budgets.

Further, three-quarters of PCSOs in the borough were axed between 2010 and 2017.

The main method for reporting ASB is the 101 service but this has fundamental problems:-

- It can be difficult to get through especially at night
- It is one dimensional and cannot easily be use it to share locations, video or photographs.
- It does not record other quality of life issues, in particular noise
- It's lack of integration frequently results in SNT teams requiring residents to report issues twice:
 - Firstly on 101 to get a CAD reference
 - Secondly, to the SNT via email or their own phone perhaps using WhatsApp to share photos

However all of these problems are eclipsed by the Conservative Government's complete disregard for community safety as evidenced by their dangerous cuts to policing budgets, leaving boroughs like Tower Hamlets with hundreds of fewer police officers on the street.

Council notes that the Metropolitan Police has recognised the issues with 101, and the council will offer any support it can to help make improvements. Official Government advice is to report anti-social behaviour through 999 in an emergency, or through 101 in a non-emergency or through your Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The council also has an online reporting tool which is publicised on the council's homepage.

The council is also partnered with OWL (Online Watch Link) which provides the public with the latest local crime alerts sent by email, telephone or SMS.

Given the Government's major underresourcing of the police and the consequent difficulty that residents face in trying to report ASB, this Council therefore proposes to ask the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to review the options which are currently available to residents, and to examine the effectiveness in other boroughs of the following in meeting the challenge:

1. The establishment of a 247 phone service together with a central email address for all ASB and quality of life related issues
2. This service to be fully integrated, dealing with noise and other related issues to ensure that residents only need to know just one number/one email
3. The Police agree that ASB reported to the Council is included in any allocation of resources to ensure that residents do not have to also call 101 in order to secure the allocation of Police resources to their area
4. The development of an online tool + app allowing residents to report a range of issues online. This could be based on the 'MyStreet' App rolled out in Sunderland this year. Other possibilities are the FiFiLi app, OWL. The council could simply buy the license for 'My Street' which would be the equivalent of an online One Stop Shop for quality of life issues. As with FiFiLi this would have the ability to tag precise locations on a map and to share photographs.

The Council resolves to follow the example of Labour controlled Lambeth Council and:

Ask the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to consider the effectiveness of implementing a Public Space Protection Order for Novel Psychoactive Substances, which allows Police Officers, PCSO's and THEO's to issue fines up to £1,000 per incident Borough wide. The order prohibits the "ingestion, inhalation, injection, smoking, possession or otherwise use of intoxicating substances" in public spaces. The order also provides powers to stop the selling or supply of intoxicating substances.

Such has been the success in Lambeth that the council is now extending their PSPO for another 3 years having first introduced it in 2015

This, if introduced in Tower Hamlets could provide the Police and Council with more tools to combat the people often in cars who litter our streets as they party.

The council notes that:

The Psychoactive Substances Act came into effect in May 2016 and makes it illegal to sell or import Nitrous Oxide for human consumption (exempting medical supply). However, the use of Nitrous Oxide, as opposed to the import and sale of nitrous oxide remains legal. Equally whilst driving when intoxicated may result in fines or a custodial sentence, Nitrous Oxide is not one of the drugs with a specified limit within the Road Traffic Act.

The legal situation with regard to Nitrous Oxide remains confused so we must work alongside our local MP's and Ministers, London Councils and the Local Government Association for an enforceable solution to this ongoing problem.

This council institutes a review of the current CCTV and lighting network.

The Council rightly highlights on its social media the successes the cameras have had in arrests (on average 3 a day). Those areas with little or no CCTV feel left out- but it is important that we balance the need for surveillance with the right to privacy and ensure that our CCTV complies with the requirements set out in the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice, following our established 4 step evaluation process where CCTV is judged as needed.

The council calls upon Cabinet Member for Community Safety to consider the further use of LED bulbs to help reduce costs and improve visibility on our streets.

The council notes that Norfolk County Council have recruited local residents as unpaid Police Support Volunteers to help with CCTV monitoring-and we call on the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to raise this with the Borough Commander

9. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following questions and in each case supplementary questions were put (except where indicated) and were responded to by the Mayor or relevant Executive Member-

9.1 Question from Councillor Val Whitehead:

Can the cabinet member please update the council on what further steps will be taken to improve services and support for our children who are looked after, following the latest Ofsted monitoring visit?

Response of Councillor Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People:

As you might be aware, the latest monitoring visit from Ofsted took place in August and on this occasion, the Inspectors were looking at the way we meet our obligations as corporate parents to our looked after children. This was an area that was found to require improvement at the main Ofsted inspection last year. However since further inspection, we uncovered additional issues, which needed to be resolved. Ofsted had reported that there had been an improvement in key areas since the inspection last year, but there are still areas of weaknesses. The assessment by the Inspectors reflected our own self assessment of this area of work and where our focus needs to be going forward. Such that Ofsted noted that senior leaders agreed with Ofsted Inspectors findings. They are determined to accelerate the pace of change and are taking appropriate action. There were a number of areas that received positive praise and commentary and these related to the fact that our decisions about taking children into care are underpinned by effective and assessable legal advice. They said that as a result of our work around the sufficiency strategy, we are increasing the range of placements for our looked after children.

Supplementary question from Councillor Whitehead:

Can you outline some of the specific areas for improvement that were identified and are there plans in place to address these?

Councillor Hassell's response to the supplementary question:

We have identified issues with assessments, in particularly health assessments and we are working with our partners in health to identify the causes of the delays for initial health assessments. The services are working to improve and streamline processes for permanency planning. There is now a process for improved scrutiny and oversight of decisions and more systematic planning. We know that the assessments need to be updated and we have a plan in place to make sure that is being delivered. I have made it clear to Officers that we will be monitoring this closely. Myself, the Mayor and the Cabinet remain committed to ensuring that the improvements we have seen elsewhere in our children's social care are delivered in this area and we will be making sure that the pace of change is accelerated. We are very confident we can ensure that is delivered. That is why we have been ambitious for our young people and we have asked Ofsted that when they come back for our inspection in November, they look again at this area of work to make sure this has been progressed.

9.2 Question from Councillor Peter Golds:

In 2016 the Mayor of London pledged to plant 2,000,000 trees across the Capital during his period of office. Will the Mayor inform the council as to how many of the 42 trees pledged to be planted each and every day in Tower Hamlets have actually been planted, or as in the case of the Isle of Dogs have been planted and then left to wither and die?

Response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment:

As you know the pledges made by the Mayor of London covers the whole of London and therefore the number of trees that might be planted in any particular borough won't be the same. That said we have made progress over recent years.

In 2016/17, the Mayor of London's pledge was supported by a programme, which we applied to, working with the Friends of Victoria Park. We received £5,000 and planted 25 trees in the park. More recently, the Mayor of London announced the Greener City Fund including a significant amount of money in August 2017. We have made applications to that fund.

In addition to the work that is being done by the Mayor of London, we locally have made a commitment to increase the number of trees in the Borough by 2,000. We have planted a larger number of trees in the last five years. For example, in the last year we have planted over 108 trees. You mentioned in your question the point about making sure that the trees we plant thrive and I am happy to follow up that point.

Supplementary question from Councillor Golds:

In the summer, there were trees planted in the East Ferry Road area and it ended up with local residents coming out and bringing water on a daily basis to try and plant the trees and getting quite concerned when one of the trees died. The other issue is about the so called pledge of 2,000,000 trees and the calculation of 42 trees was based on that. The Council does get an enormous amount of Community Infrastructure Levy and s106 money. Can we see a some of this money being put into trees. After all, this is one of the key measures to help us with global warming and cleaning up the environment.

Councillor Edgar's response to the supplementary question:

As I have said, the Mayor of Tower Hamlets manifesto did make a commitment to increase the number of trees in the Borough and we are working on plans in the budget process this year to deliver this. How exactly that was going to be funded will be one of things that will come out of that process. I think that it is clearly important if we plant trees that they thrive and we take good care of them. Only last Saturday morning as I was walking down Burdett Road, a member of the public came up to me and asked me about these trees - the two trees that I had tweeted about that had died. So that I think it is an issue we need to pay attention to and we will do.

9.3 Question from Councillor Muhammad HM Harun:

Langdon Park has two pedestrian pathways starting from the Station. The pathway ending at Chadbourn Street has inadequate lighting. Many residents, particularly women, have raised the lack of lighting with me and an ME response I received highlighted that lighting would be difficult to install given

the difficult budget circumstances. Would the Mayor be willing to look at this particular situation to see what can be done?

Response of Councillor Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities:

In view of the inconsistency in the public lighting provision around Langdon Park DLR, I have asked officers to look into this again following your question. They will consider the possibility of improving the lighting so residents feel safer. While council budgets are under pressure officers will look into identifying a suitable funding provision to undertake these works.

Thank you again for raising this and officers will update you shortly.

(No supplementary question was asked).

9.4 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Will the Mayor explain as to why is the Council so poor at communication?

Response of Mayor John Biggs:

We are lot more active as a Council than the previous administration. We no longer have a weekly newspaper and we are using a range of channels to communicate with members of the public across the borough. We won't always get everything right. We have restructured our communications team. The latest residents survey said that the number of people feeling informed by the Council has gone up from 68% to 73%, which I think is above the London average. I can read you a range of other information as well.

But to focus on your question, I would say two things. Firstly, in the budget this year, the Conservative Group proposed reducing the Coms budget. Coms is not just about spin doctors peddling lies or whatever you like to say in your newsletters, because we don't do that. It is also about communicating with the public about things that are important. On the Novichok issue, we did not communicate the pictures as the Police communicated with us very sensitively about what they want us to say and to not say. This was an exercise carried out by the security services and they already had a lot of surveillance information. It would be revealed by them and managed by them. We played our full part which involved some communications, but not on that particular point.

Supplementary question from Councillor Wood:

Everyone else was showing the pictures except us, which I did find odd in retrospect.

Mayor Biggs's response to supplementary question:

Given that the people in question were by then about 4000 miles away, it is unlikely that the pictures would have really elicited many more observations.

9.5 Question from Councillor Eve McQuillan:

Can the Mayor confirm that action has been taken to fix the CCTV on the Bancroft estate, given residents' concerns about crime in the area?

Response of Councillor Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing:

I'm glad to report that following a site visit on the 2nd of August, the CCTV cameras on the Bancroft Estate have been fixed and are now operational.

Officers have also made sure that the Tenant Management Organisation have been made aware of the repairs. I would like to thank Cllr McQuillan for her work on this.

Supplementary question from Councillor McQuillan:

Can I ask if the area can benefit from the design out crime programme?

Councillor Islam's response to the supplementary question:

Yes it can. We are exploring areas that will most benefit. The Bancroft Estate area will benefit from the design out crime officer and so will other areas of the Borough. Once the plans have been finalised, the information will be shared. In the meantime, the Council will continue to work hard with the Bancroft Estate TMO to make sure the community who live their are safe.

9.6 Question from Councillor Kevin Brady:

Given the potentially devastating financial implications for local businesses if the Network Rail sale of railway arches goes ahead, what has the council done to stand up for business tenants that use the arches, and to challenge Network Rail's rent increases?

Response of Councillor Motin Uz – Zaman, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth:

The Mayor and myself visited some of the arches in Bancroft Road and met some of the people that have been in business for generations. It is totally unacceptable the actions of Network Rail, the way they have increased their rents, over 300% and that was just to increase the value of their assets to sell it off. The Mayor and myself has also written to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chief Executive of Network Rail. The Mayor has also written to the Evening Standard to raise the issues of backing the Guardian of the Arches campaign to go against the sale. We have also got a response back from Network Rail to say that they will adhere to the continuity of the lease. But we are concerned as that was mainly for profit.

Supplementary question from Councillor Brady:

I really welcome what yourself and the Mayor have done on this matter, engaged with the residents particularly in areas like my ward who have a lot of these businesses.

What work is being done to engage with the new owners on maintaining rent levels and to even try to decrease rent levels for some of the business owners?

Councillor Motin Uz – Zaman’s response to the supplementary question:

The buyer has been confirmed and its Telereal Trillium and Blackstone Property Partners. They have committed to working with the existing tenants to ensure that good landlord practices are adhered to. They will look at getting people to sign tenants charters and also ensuring that they have an engagement team to work with the tenants. I am also working with Officers to look at, subject to funding being available, getting some of the arches valued independently, to use as a negotiation point to ensure that the rent levels that the arches have to pay are reasonable.

9.7 Question from Councillor Sabina Akhtar:

Could the Lead Member please report on the progress of the Local Plan Examination in Public?

Response of Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Air Quality:

The following issues have been discussed: The structure and soundness of the plan, air quality, viability, housing and housing needs, economy and economic growth, tall buildings and design, retail markets and community facilitates. The following policies have been particularly explored around: developer contributions and infrastructure. Our evidence base has clearly demonstrated that the plan is viable.

Supplementary question from Councillor Akhtar:

What are the remaining items for examination?

Councillor Blake’s response to the supplementary question:

The next steps for the examination in public is to explore some our site allocations in detail. It will be really important that our new policies on tall buildings, establishing five tall building zones, our affordable housing policy that sets a target of 50%, and a 35% minimum are embedded in our policies, to make sure that our site allocations can realise their homes, and places and jobs that we so desperately need in Tower Hamlets. So far the Local Plan Examination in Public has been positive. Its really important that we keep up the great work that Officers have been doing to make sure we get this plan through.

9.8 Question from Councillor Puru Miah

Can the lead member please give me an update with regards to Council plans to introduce loading bays in the south east side, outside Ghandi Oriental Foodstore, in Mile End Ward.

Response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment:

This issue arises from a planning permission that was granted for a new development on Thomas Road. It is one that involved a loading bay outside a new development to give access to a ground floor commercial development. The proposal that is being consulted on will involve the loss of six parking pays, to make provision for the loading bay to make sure that emergency vehicles can still access the route. I have held two meetings with residents effected by this, and responded to the 21 emails that I have received about this. At the second meeting, Councillors Sirajul Islam, Puru Miah and Sabina Akhtar were there to discuss this in detail. Since the consultation has finished, Council Officers have visited the site with the developer and with highways offices to look at whether alternatives can be proposed that will have less of an impact on parking. I look forward to the proposals they come back with and I will be sharing this with the ward Councillors and the residents who are understandable concerned about the impact.

Supplementary question from Councillor Miah:

Does my colleague agree with me that residential parking bays are a public amenity and they should not be given up to benefit what is in this case, a property speculator that made over £40 million by selling their car park?

Councillor Edgar's response to the supplementary question:

Public parking bays are clearly an important matter. The number of residents who have been in touch with me about this certainly make that clear, that people are very interested to maintain the bays and are concerned about the level of overcrowding and problems with parking in that area. The loading bay that is proposed here is attached to a development that has gone through a proper planning process. It involves, I think, the provision of cash and carry or some large supermarket which I know in the past was well used by people locally and from further afield so there is some balancing to be done. I am very clear about the concerns local residents have about this. I am extremely keen that officers, are able to find if at all possible, a solution that meets the needs of residents and that emergency vehicles can provide the sorts of services that we want them to do as easy as they can.

9.9 Question from Councillor Bex White

Could the Cabinet Member report on the successful bids for the Mayor's Air Quality Fund?

Response of Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Air Quality:

The first round of the application process for the Mayor's Air Quality fund opened 1 June 2018 and closed on 31 July 2018. A number of applications were received and Officers were reviewing the applications. So far, the campaign has put in place a range of measures including education programmes with schools and measures to enable air quality monitoring.

Supplementary question from Councillor White:

Can the lead Member inform the Council of any plans for World Car Free Day, that is coming up this Saturday. I know that many cities across the world and some other London Boroughs are taking part. Are we planning on doing anything in Tower Hamlets?

Councillor Blake's response to the supplementary question:

We have not fully announced the plans but hope to announce some of the plans tomorrow. Since we now have anti idling powers, we will certainly be doing some anti- idling actions across the Borough. We plan some road closures around some of our most congested areas and hopefully around schools. We really want to increase the number of schools that are able to take up options for school streets, but it's a real watch this space situation.

9.10 Question from Councillor Marc Francis:

Will the Lead Member for Environmental Services clarify how many disabled people had their Personalised Disabled Parking Bay removed under the revised eligibility criteria introduced by the former Mayor and Lead Member in 2014, and how many of those residents have had their bay reinstated since those criteria were set aside in early 2018?

Response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment:

The Council clearly has to take it's responsibilities in respect of personal information seriously. It would have to do that in any event, particularly after the changes in the data protection act. The Council has a retention policy of two years in respect of this type of personal data and if it had that data, then by now, that data would have been deleted and it would not have been possible to answer the question about the impact of changes in policy. I understand that one of the changes that did take place as a result of temporary policy introduced in January 2018, was an introduction of a different way of dealing with permit renewals, so that they are treated as automatic, unless there is a substantial change in a persons situation. For the longer term it might be key that we did work out a way we can track the aggregate impact of policy changes without the underlying personal details, so I think it is important we look at ways of doing this for the longer term.

Supplementary question from Councillor Francis:

In my experience, I have had a several constituents that were adversely effected by the introduction of this policy under the former Mayor as part of his programme to deliver an extra 1000 residents parking places. Nobody ever came to this Council Chamber, the Cabinet or anywhere else to say that this was going to be partly at the expense of disabled residents having their personalised bay taken away.

In response to Members enquiries that I have raised, and I have passed the most recent one on to Councillor Edgar, I was told that the former parking development manager held all of the applications for people who applied to renew their bays. Almost all of those bays were refused on the basis of the significantly increased threshold to be able to qualify for a bay - 33 out of the 36 points instead of 24 out of the 36 points that you need for a blue badge. This is an entirely arbitrary figure plucked out of the air, seemly by officers and the lead member at the time. Now it seems that the parking development officer shredded all of the applications that people put in, that all of the emails were deleted and the project initiation document that allegedly introduced this change of police has also gone missing. Will the Lead Member investigate all of those things?

Questions 9.11 - 9.15 was not put due to lack of time. A Written response would be provided to the question. (Note the written responses are included in Appendix A to these minutes)

10. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**10.1 Report of Cabinet: Statement of Licensing Policy 2018-2023**

The Council considered a report regarding the Statement of Licensing Policy.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Statement of Licensing Policy 2018 – 23 be agreed.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Localism Act 2011 - Appointment of Independent Person

The Council considered the report on the Appointment of the Independent Person under the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED:

1. That the re-appointment of Ms Elizabeth Hall as an Independent Person be agreed for a period of 3 years effective from the date of the Council meeting and concluding on 18 September 2021

12. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

12.1 Motion regarding the school cuts.

Councillor Danny Hassell **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

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

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

1. £2.8bn of funding has been cut from school budgets nationally since 2015, representing a real-terms cut to school funding.
2. These school cuts have directly led to a major reduction in the number of secondary teachers, teaching assistants and support staff, across the country including in Tower Hamlets.
3. There are 15,000 fewer members of staff in secondary schools in England between 14/15 and 16/17, whilst roll numbers have increased by 31,000.
4. In Tower Hamlets, between 14/15 and 16/17:
 - a. 49% of schools have seen a reduction in staffing levels;
 - b. 56% of schools have seen an increase in the pupil to teacher ratio;
 - c. There are nearly 500 more pupils.
5. That schools in Tower Hamlets will receive £448 less in funding per pupil in 2019/20 than they did in 2015/16.
6. That this represents an overall loss of £15.9m between 2015 and 2020.

This Council further notes that:

1. Tower Hamlets has some of the best schools in the country: a result of proper funding from a Labour government and the hard work of teachers, pupils, the Council and parents.
2. There has been a dramatic improvement in the quality of education offered in our schools over the past 20 years. This has not happened

by accident but has been a result of partnership and leadership but also crucially of adequate funding.

This Council believes that:

1. The Government is cutting schools funding. As well as damaging everyone it is doing severe damage to social mobility and the quality of education offered in our schools.
2. Schools in Tower Hamlets showcase what can be achieved when schools are properly funded.
3. As staff costs make up the main expenditure for schools, cuts to school budgets inevitably mean fewer members of staff in schools.
4. Our schools should receive the funding they need.

This Council resolves:

1. To support the campaign led by the School Cuts alliance of education unions (including the National Education Union, NAHT, GMB, UNISON, Unite and ASCL), local schools, Mayor John Biggs and local MPs Rushanara Ali and Jim Fitzpatrick against the cuts to education funding.
2. To call on the Government to fully fund the pay increase for teachers that is recommended by the School Teachers' Review Body.

12.2 Motion regarding the Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Guidelines on Anti-Semitism

Councillor Peter Golds **moved** and Councillor Andrew Wood **seconded** the motion as printed in the agenda.

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

RESOLVED:

This Council expresses alarm at the rise in anti-Semitism in recent years across the UK including this borough. This includes incidents when criticism of Israel has been expressed using anti-Semitic tropes.

We therefore welcome the UK Government's announcement on December 11th 2016 that it will sign up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on anti-Semitism, which has been passed by the GLA and many London Boroughs including Brent, Hackney, Harrow, Islington and Redbridge and which defines anti-Semitism thus:

"Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled

against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

The guidelines highlight manifestations of anti-Semitism as including:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

This Council hereby adopts the above definition of anti-Semitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and pledges to combat this pernicious form of racism.

The meeting ended at 10.00 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

APPENDIX A – WRITTEN RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT PUT AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING (19th SEPTEMBER 2018)

9.10 Response from Councillor David Edgar to Councillor Marc Francis' supplementary question:

I certainly appreciate the concerns you have raised, and I'd be grateful to hear if you have had any further details via the members enquiries system.

I would also like to emphasise what I said at the full Council meeting, i.e. that officers have advised that the council's retention policy is to delete records after two years of completion. I would also reiterate that we do understand the long and strenuous process to renew a personalised disabled bay permit and as a result a temporary policy was introduced in January 2018 to ensure all permit renewals are automatic, assuming that there have been no substantial changes to the applicant's situation.

However I will of course look into the issues you raised and will discuss this matter with officers.

9.11 Question from Councillor Victoria Obaze

Can the Mayor please provide an update on the delivery of affordable and social housing in the borough?

Response of Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Air Quality:

Tower Hamlets continues to deliver the highest numbers of new homes overall and affordable housing in particular, not only compared with other London boroughs but on a national basis.

In the year Mayor John Biggs was first elected the number of affordable homes built jumped from 610 the year before to 1061 – a 74% increase. The following year it increased further to 1066 and then in 2017/18 926 more were delivered. All of these were far in excess of anything delivered under the previous mayor.

There is a strong pipeline of schemes in development and the Council itself is bringing forward plans for a further 1,000 new council homes to be provided over the next four years, whilst identifying opportunities for a further 1,000 new council homes in the following four years.

The council will shortly be bidding to the Greater London Authority for grant funding and additional borrowing headroom to finance this programme.

9.12 Question from Councillor Abdul Mukit

What steps are being taken by the Council to prevent ASB problems in the Weavers area?

Response of Councillor Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities:

We are very aware that people have serious concerns about drug use and ASB in that part of our borough and we share those concerns. Drugs are ruining too many lives across the capital, and while keeping the streets safe is mainly a police matter collectively our public bodies can do better at tackling this problem.

As a council we have invested to fund additional police officers for our borough

Weavers Ward is one of the 4 Wards that form the Neighbourhood Pilot area. A dedicated Neighbourhood Manager has been in post since 16 March 2018 to help better coordinate the council and other agencies' responses to ASB and other issues in this area, although there was recently a change in personnel.

The feedback provided by residents across the neighbourhood management area is being investigated to look at how we can take these suggestions forward. These will be the subject of future focus groups with residents to progress. We also aim to set up a Neighbourhood Agreement which will seek to develop an agreement with residents which will identify and set out agreed priorities for a local area.

Permanent cameras are currently installed in 17 locations around Weavers Ward, including Ravenscroft Street, Columbia Road and Hackney Road. Operation Continuum, the joint council and police operation against drug dealing in our borough has also led to multiple arrests in the Weavers area which we hope will continue to help disrupt drug dealers operating in the area.

There is clearly a lot more to be done to tackle the scourge of crime and ASB in this area and the Mayor and I consider this a significant priority.

9.13 Question from Councillor James King

When will the council be making environmental improvements to tackle anti-social behaviour at the southern end of Three Colt Street in Limehouse?

Response of Councillor David Edgar, Cabinet Member for Environment:

Residents of Three Colt Street have highlighted a continuous concern of anti-social behaviour in the area and we are working in close partnership with the local Police Limehouse Safer Neighbour Team to alleviate the impact on local residents and businesses.

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) under s59-75 of the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 is being implemented to tackle this issue in a number of areas in the borough. This includes Three Colt Street.

The PSPO gives the police and council officers additional powers to take enforcement action and in the last 2 months, Tower Hamlets Enforcement officers (THEOs) have used these powers to give three ASB Warnings, issue one Community Protection Notice Warning and one Fixed Penalty Notice.

Tackling ASB and reducing its impact on victims is a major priority and the council will continue to work proactively with the police and our residents to address this issue.

9.14 Question from Councillor Kahar Chowdhury

With the recent approval of planning application of Chrisp Street Market Regeneration, will Mayor John Biggs use his best endeavours to canvass options of increasing the quota for social housing?

Response of Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Air Quality:

The regeneration scheme at Chrisp Street has planning permission for over 35% affordable housing. Within the planning agreement there will be a viability assessment process that enables the level of affordable housing to be increased if the financial viability of the scheme improves sufficiently during the delivery period.

The Mayor and officers will also work with the developer to look at how the proportion of affordable housing can be increased on the scheme beyond the viability process.

We are proud that our borough is delivering more affordable housing than anywhere in the country and if there are viable ways for us to further increase the amount of affordable housing at Chrisp Street we will explore them.

9.15 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Can Mayor Biggs explain what is his definition of building council homes as promised in his election manifesto?

Response of Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Air Quality:

The Mayor's manifesto commitment to deliver 1,000 new council homes, pledged at the previous election, is now well underway. This does not necessarily require each one to be built by the council, although a lot of them will be.

This is being delivered through infill developments on existing estates, new developments, and bringing homes back under council ownership.


This was an ambitious target but despite opposition councillors opposing applications (i.e. Locksley) for council homes we are making good progress and delivering for families on the waiting list.

In the next four years we will start the delivery of an additional 1,000 new council homes on top of these.

As agreed following the Affordability Commission set up by Mayor Biggs, our aim for rent levels in new council housing is to include a 50:50 mix of social rents and Tower Hamlets Living Rents. This can save some families up to £6,000 compared to when Cllr Khan was Cabinet Member for Housing.

We are campaigning for the Government to properly fund councils to build new council homes, with grant and borrowing capacity and to retain right to buy receipts. We will keep lobbying for more resources and more flexibility.

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Non-Executive Report of the: Council 21 November 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to Council	

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

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21 November 2018. The texts of all petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report.

2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except that petitions for debate (those in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.

3. For Petitions listed as for debate:
 - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. The petition will then be debated by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. All speeches are limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. During his or her speech, any Councillor may move a motion for the Council's consideration relevant to matters in the petition (this does not require the suspension of the Council Procedure Rules).
 - d. The speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 3 minutes.
 - e. Following the petition debate, any motions moved will be put to the vote in the order they were tabled.

- f. If no motion is agreed, the petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response within 28 days of the meeting.
4. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
 - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. Finally, the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
5. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.
6. For Petitions listed as to be noted, petitioners may not address the meeting. The Speaker will state where they will go for a full response.
7. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

No petitions for debate had been received by the petitions deadline.

PETITIONS TO BE HEARD

5.1 Petition regarding Stop drug dealing and ASB on Three Colt Street and the Thames Path E14 (from Max Edwards and others)

The residents and local businesses of Three Colt Street (E14) and surrounding areas call on Tower Hamlets Council to ensure that the PSPO order is properly enforced by the police and council in order to stop the drug dealing and anti social behaviour that is plaguing the area. We call on the council to ensure police patrols are increased in the area and the terms of the PSPO are enforced on all occasions. We also call on the council to install permanent CCTV at the junction of Milligan Street and Three Colt Street and at the junction of Three Colt Street and the Thames Path as a deterrent to the youths and for assistance to the police.

5.2 Petition regarding the disposal of part of Island Gardens (from Eric Pemberton and others)

The Friends of Island Gardens are calling upon Tower Hamlets Council (and the Government if necessary) to investigate possible irregularities in their disposal of what we believe is still publicly owned land; land that should be protected as part of Island Gardens.

We understand that the site of the now-closed Calders Wharf Community Centre was part of Island Gardens before the centre existed and as such was transferred by the Greater London Council to the guardianship of London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 1972.

In 1980 the land was leased for 30 years to a local Tenants' Association and the community centre was opened. The council currently maintains that the land itself was included in a transfer to the independent housing association, East End Homes in 2006, yet no paperwork supporting this inclusion has been found by the council.

It is our understanding that any disposal of this public asset by the council would have been covered by the The Greater London (Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967 and as such, subject to certain conditions, yet again, the council has not been able to produce any paperwork for this.

Recently obtained land registry records dated December 2016 show that a sale of the land took place from East End Homes to Telford Homes, and we know that planning permission exists to construct luxury flats on this site, inside, what we believe at least, to be part of Island Gardens.

We are calling upon Tower Hamlets:

1. to investigate whether proper process was followed in the "alleged disposal" of part of Island Gardens,
2. re-assert public ownership of the land if applicable.
And
3. to provide every assistance to the Friends of Island Gardens in preventing development on the site, restoring it to being part of the park once again.

5.3 Petition regarding the rights of EU citizens to vote in local elections (from Spencer Wood and others)

In the 2018 Tower Hamlets Labour manifesto for the Mayoral and Local Council Elections, current Mayor John Biggs stated:

“We will campaign for the UK government to retain the rights of EU citizens to vote in local elections.”

We demand that Tower Hamlets Council take action to fulfill this manifesto promise: To campaign for the UK government to retain the rights of EU27 citizens to vote in local elections, and to pass a motion at Tower Hamlets Council to support this campaign

5.4 Petition regarding Safeguard Palestinian Solidarity (from Sybil Cock and others)

We ask the Mayor and the Council to:


(1) Adopt the following caveat to the IHRA statement of 19 September. This safeguards our right to campaign for Palestine in Tower Hamlets. "It is not antisemitic, without additional evidence, to suggest that it displays anti-Jewish prejudice to criticise the Government of Israel; or to criticise Zionism as a political ideology; or to describe any policy or law or practices of the state of Israel as racist, including acts leading to Palestinian dispossession as part of the establishment of the state; or to define Israel as an apartheid state; or to advocate Boycott Divestment and Sanctions against Israel."

(2) Support Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza by flying the flag of Palestine at the Town Hall in the week before and after the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people on November 29th.

PETITIONS TO BE NOTED

None.

Agenda Item 7

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 21 November 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by the Administration	

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

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one specific Motion submitted by the Administration. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. The Administration Motion is submitted by the Labour Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

7 – Administration Motion regarding Universal Credit.

Proposer: Councillor Rachel Blake

Secunder: Councillor Dan Tomlinson

This Council notes:

1. Universal Credit, the new social security payment which replaces 6 other benefits, is currently being rolled out across the country, including Tower Hamlets.
2. That the system and the rollout have been beset by numerous problems leading to real hardship.
3. The problems with Universal Credit are numerous and can have devastating impacts. These include cash flow crises, debt, rent arrears and evictions, and given that Universal Credit payments are made to a single bank account per household, this makes it easier for perpetrators of domestic abuse to control and exploit their victims.
4. That it can take up to 5 weeks before the first payment under Universal Credit is made.
5. That the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) own survey of claimants published on 8th June showed that 40% of claimants are experiencing financial hardship even nine months into a claim and that 20% of claimants are unable to make a claim online.
6. That despite the roll-outs major problems, highlighted in a National Audit Office report (NAO, June 2018), the government sought to undermine it rather than address the very serious concerns it raised.
7. The NAO report also raised concerns that 'it is not clear that Universal Credit will cost less to administer than the existing benefits system.'
8. Tower Hamlets Council submitted written evidence to the Work and Pensions Committee inquiry into Universal Credit last year, on a joint basis with three other London boroughs.
9. The Times reported before the Budget that Esther McVey, Work & Pensions Secretary, confirmed to cabinet colleagues that millions of families could lose £200 per month under Universal Credit.
10. That under Mayor Biggs' Tackling Poverty Fund, £1m has been allocated to support Tower Hamlets residents affected by Universal Credit. This sits alongside a programme of Tackling Poverty work the council is undertaking.
11. Only 46% of respondents to Tower Hamlets own survey reported that they received correct payment from the start and an extraordinary 35% reported that they did not.
12. Tower Hamlets has launched our own Universal Credit Support service which has already started to work with clients who have moved onto UC.

This Council believes:

1. Universal Credit should be stopped completely, and that a genuinely comprehensive system should be introduced in which nobody will be worse off.
2. As the Prime Minister has announced that "austerity is over", the Chancellor should reverse the cuts to social security.


3. That the Chancellor's announcement of an extra £1.7bn for Universal Credit work allowances is less than a quarter of the £7bn of welfare cuts planned over the next 5 years.
4. That the social security system is there to support individuals and families in tough times, not to punish them.

This Council resolves:

1. To call on the Government to stop the roll-out completely and deliver a genuinely comprehensive system in which nobody will be worse off.

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Agenda Item 8

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 21 November 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motion for debate submitted by an Opposition Group	

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

SUMMARY

1. Council Procedure Rule 11 allows for time at each Ordinary Council meeting for the discussion of one Motion submitted by an Opposition Group. The debate will follow the rules of debate at Council Procedure Rule 13 and will last no more than 30 minutes.
2. The motion submitted is listed overleaf. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, submission of the Opposition Motion for Debate will alternate in sequence between the opposition groups. This Opposition Motion is submitted by the Conservative Group.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council or its partners has a direct responsibility. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. Notice of any proposed amendments to the Motions must be given to the Monitoring Officer by Noon the day before the meeting.

MOTION

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

8 – Opposition Motion by the Conservative Group - regarding Affordable Housing in Tower Hamlets

Proposer: Councillor Andrew Wood

Seconder: Councillor Peter Golds

The Council notes:

The results of the 2018 Tower Hamlets Annual Residents' Survey show that the second highest concern for residents was a lack of affordable housing with 37% concerned.

This council further notes:

That the Chancellor Philip Hammond has announced that the Housing Revenue Account cap that controls local authority borrowing for house building will be abolished from 29 October 2018 in England

In response to the scrapping of the cap, Polly Neate, chief executive of homelessness charity Shelter, said: "Scrapping the borrowing cap lays down the gauntlet to local authorities to bring forward home-building plans – no more excuses."

That the Mayor of London on the 23rd October 2018 released £1,029 million of government grants to build new affordable housing in London. Tower Hamlets only received £13 million from the Mayor of London, the fifth lowest number across London Boroughs.

By contrast our five neighbours will each receive:

Newham £107 million

Southwark £89 million

Hackney £45.6 million

Lewisham £37.7 million

Greenwich £32.6 million

This is despite Tower Hamlets currently having the highest housing targets in London (2nd highest targets in London when new London Plan approved)

The government funding is part of the provision of over £44 billion of new financial support for housing between 2017-18 and 2022-23.

This council further notes:

The Council has committed to building 2,000 new Council homes but a Council response to an Overview & Scrutiny question defined new council homes as including:

- Purchase of s106 properties
- Buy backs of former council homes
- Delivery of modular homes
- Conversion of community buildings for temporary accommodation

Also, that many residents believe that affordable housing is unaffordable. It is extremely difficult to actually find information on the Councils website to get a full understanding of the different rent levels and service charges so that they have a proper understanding of the actual costs of new affordable housing

This Council believes:

That the lifting of the HRA cap provides an opportunity to review our affordable housing targets and to build more new homes

That buying s106 properties already with planning permission or already built former Council homes is not delivering new Council homes (it just changes the ownership of homes being occupied by residents of Tower Hamlets)


That by competing with housing associations to purchase s106 properties mean less money being spent on new affordable homes within Tower Hamlets as housing associations will instead purchase new homes elsewhere

That only the delivery of new homes which would not otherwise be built and at affordable prices will deliver what residents need

This Council therefore recommends the following:

1. To increase the current housing targets in the light of the additional funding now available
2. To change the definition of new Council homes to mean new property that would otherwise not be built but still:
 - a. Including modular homes like Place Ladywell as a way of speeding up delivery
 - b. Including converting community buildings which does deliver genuinely new homes. That the definition of new Council homes does not include buying existing homes or those already with planning permission as that does not increase the total stock of homes in Tower Hamlets
3. That in the next round of allocations by the Mayor of London that Tower Hamlets bids for more government grant better reflecting its status as the number one deliverer of new homes in London.
4. That the Council submit to the government a bid for a large slice of the funds available in the Housing Infrastructure Fund
5. To provide residents a better understanding of how affordable housing works and what it actually costs

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Non-Executive Report of the: Council 21 November 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Questions submitted by Members of the Council	

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

SUMMARY

1. Set out overleaf are the questions that were submitted by Members of the Council for response by the Mayor, the Speaker or the Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st November 2018.
2. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.4, questions relating to Executive functions and decisions taken by the Mayor are put to the Mayor unless he delegates such a decision to another Member, who will therefore be responsible for answering the question. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will answer questions directed to the Mayor.
3. Questions are limited to one per Member per meeting, plus one supplementary question unless the Member has indicated that only a written reply is required and in these circumstances a supplementary question is not permitted. Oral responses are time limited to one minute. Supplementary questions and responses are also time limited to one minute each.
4. Council Procedure Rule 10.7 provides for an answer to take the form of a written answer circulated to the questioner, a reference to a published work or a direct oral answer.
5. There is a time limit of thirty minutes at the Council meeting for consideration of Members' questions with no extension of time allowed and any questions not put within this time are dealt with by way of written responses.
6. Members must confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

9.1 Question from Councillor Asma Islam:

Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member set out what the council is doing to encourage more residents to become foster carers, particularly in light of Afia Choudhury winning the 2018 Fostering Network President's Award after being a foster carer with Tower Hamlets for 13 years?

9.2 Question from Councillor Andrew Wood

Given that the Council recently signed the "Violence Against Women and Girls Charter" why did the Council choose not to inform nearby female residents of the threat of sexual assaults from a lone male on Blackwall Way although it did send an internal warning message to its own staff?

9.3 Question from Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE:

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm to me who the new developer planning to develop Bishopsgate Goodsyrd is and when local residents may have opportunities to raise their concerns?

9.4 Question from Councillor Peter Golds

Why did Tower Hamlets only receive £13 million of the £1,029 million government grant allocated to London Boroughs by the Mayor of London to build new affordable homes despite currently having the highest housing targets in London?

9.5 Question from Councillor Victoria Obaze:

What is the council doing to help and support EU citizens in Tower Hamlets before and after Brexit?

9.6 Question from Councillor Kahar Chowdhury

Can the Mayor or Cabinet Member please update members on how the Tackling Poverty Fund is being used?

9.7 Question from Councillor Sufia Alam

What were the outcomes from the Violent Crime Summit and how will it shape the council's work going forward?

9.8 Question from Councillor Dan Tomlinson:

To ask the Mayor/Cabinet for an update on our use of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). In particular, how many PSPO areas we have in the borough and if we have any plans to add more in the years ahead?

9.9 Question from Councillor Kyrsten Perry:

November is “safeguarding” month and currently one in three women and girls experience gender violence in their life time. Therefore, I wanted to ask about why the Violence Against Women and Girls Charter has been developed and what it aims to achieve?

9.10 Question from Councillor Mohammed Ahabab Hossain:

Can the cabinet member please update me on the work of the Brexit Commission?

9.11 Question from Councillor Mufeedah Bustin:

What is the process and timings for the Master Plan for the parks on the south of the Isle of Dogs?

9.12 Question from Councillor Ehtasham Haque:

How will the new financial health centre, operated by THH, benefit residents?

9.13 Question from Councillor Puru Miah:

Does the lead member acknowledge the concerns ordinary residents of Mile End have over the proposed TFL North South Cycle Route, in particular the adverse impact anticipated on the Burdett/Mile End Road junction?

9.14 Question from Councillor Shah Ameen:

Would the lead member agree, that the recent application by the Police for Closure Order for the ASB behaviour in the communal areas of Delafield House, and Berner North Estate, is a step in the right direction to the ongoing problems of drugs and ASB in Whitechapel?

9.15 Question from Councillor Tarik Khan:

Will the gas holders in St. Peter’s be protected under the Tower Hamlets local plan?

9.16 Question from Councillor Rabina Khan

Why did LBTH under Mayor Biggs secure only 13 million pounds of grant funding for housing from the GLA and could he clarify the number of 1,2 and 3 bedrooms that he bid for?

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Decision Report Cover Sheet: Council 21 November 2018	
Report of: Neville Murton, Acting Corporate Director, Resources (Cover Report of: Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager)	Classification: Unrestricted
Report of Audit Committee: Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2018/19	

Originating Officer(s)	Bola Tobun, Investment and Treasury Manager (Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager (Cover Report))
Wards affected	All Wards

Summary

At the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 8 November 2018, the Committee considered the attached Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2018/19.

The decisions taken by the Committee at that meeting were as follows:

1. To note the treasury management activities and performance against targets for the half year ending 30 September 2018; and
2. To note the Council’s investments as set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The balance outstanding as at 30 September 2018 was £447.62 which includes £10m pension fund cash awaiting investment.


The report is therefore presented here for consideration by Council.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to:

1. To note the treasury management activities and performance against targets for the half year ending 30 September 2018; and
2. To note the Council’s investments as set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The balance outstanding as at 30 September 2018 was £447.62 which includes £10m pension fund cash awaiting investment.

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Non-Executive Report of the: Audit Committee 8th November 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director, Resources [For Council – Neville Murton, Acting Corporate Director, Resources]	Classification: Unrestricted
Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2018/19	

Originating Officer(s)	Bola Tobun – Investment & Treasury Manager
Wards affected	All Wards

Summary

<p>This Report is produced in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice</p>	<p>The Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Treasury Prudential Indicators, for 2018/19 were approved by the Council on 21st February 2018 as required by the Local Government Act 2003. This report covers the period 1st April 2018 to 30th September 2018</p>
<p>Investment returns fluctuate in line with the bank of England base rate. Base rate was raised from 0.50% to 0.75% in August 2018.</p>	<p>The Council has substantial sums of money invested and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the impact of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk are therefore central to the Council's treasury management strategy. Risk includes interest rate fluctuations and change to inflation.</p>
<p>The investment income budget set for 2018/19 was £4m and with first half year income of £1.9m, we are broadly on target.</p>	<p>This Report advises the Audit Committee of the work carried out in investing in pooled funds in order to generate higher returns over the longer term in accordance with the investment strategy approved in February 2018 by the Full Council. For the 2018/19 budget, £100m of investments were set aside for investment in pooled funds; due to investments being historically expensive and the need to confirm the proposed new investments with the new Audit Committee, investments into the pooled vehicles were delayed until well into the new year. In July/August £65m has been invested and a further £35m will, subject to market conditions be invested by the end of November.</p>

<p>From Benchmarking exercise A total return of 1.01% was achieved for the reporting period, which was 0.25% above, the average for similar LA's return but 0.23% below average for All LA's return.</p>	<p>The 7 day London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) is the performance measure for the Council's investment returns and the return for year to date is 0.50%. For this reporting period, The investments portfolio returned 1.01%. This was better than the benchmarking average of 0.84%. More information on this can be found in section 3.6.</p> <p>The credit worthiness of investments is maintained at –AA and the average credit score has improved from 4.28 to 3.99 for this reporting period, signifying LBTH portfolio credit risk is lower than that of the others.</p>
<p>Prudential Indicators (PI) and Treasury Management (TM) indicators have been fully complied with.</p>	<p>Over the reporting period, all treasury management (TM) activities have been carried out in accordance with the approved limits and the prudential indicators (PI) set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy statement. No long-term or short-term borrowing has been raised for the reporting financial year 2018/19. If an opportunity does arise to refinance the £60m LOBO loan to remove optionality, officers will look to capitalise on this do this in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector.</p>

Recommendations:

Members are recommended to:

- note the contents of the treasury management activities and performance against targets for half year ending 30 September 2018; and
- note the Council's investments as set out in Appendix 1. The balance outstanding as at 30 September 2018 was £447.62m which includes £10m, pension fund cash awaiting investment.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Authorities (Capital Financing and Accounting) Regulations 2003 require that regular reports be submitted to the relevant Council Committee detailing the Council's treasury management activities.
- 1.2 This report updates members on both the borrowing and investment decisions made by the Corporate Director, Resources under delegated authority in the context of prevailing economic conditions and considers the Council's Treasury Management performance.
- 1.3 The regular reporting of treasury management activities assists Members to scrutinise officer decisions and monitor progress on the implementation of its investment strategy as approved by Full Council.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council is bound by legislation to have regard to the Treasury Management (TM) Code. The Code requires that the Council or a sub-committee of the Council (Audit

Committee) should receive regular monitoring reports on treasury management activities. If the Council were to deviate from those requirements, there would need to be justifiable reason for doing so.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

3.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 require local authorities to have regard to the Treasury Management Code. The Treasury Management code requires that the Council or a sub-committee of the Council (Audit Committee) should receive regular monitoring reports on treasury management activities and risks.

3.2 Treasury management is defined as “the management of the Council’s investments and cash flows; its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. Within reason, the Council can vary its treasury management strategy having regard to its own views about its appetite for risk in relation to the financial returns required.

3.3 The Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision reports were included in the Budget Pack that was presented to Full Council on 21 February 2018.

3.4 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND INTEREST RATE FORECAST FROM ARLINGCLOSE

3.4.1 The MPC left Bank Rate unchanged at the September meeting, after voting unanimously to increase Bank Rate to 0.75% in August.

3.4.2 Arlingclose projected outlook for the UK economy means, they maintain the significant downside risks to their interest rate forecast. The UK economic environment is relatively soft, despite seemingly strong labour market data. GDP growth recovered somewhat in Q2 2018, but the annual growth rate of 1.2% remains well below the long term average.

3.4.3 Our treasury adviser view is that the UK economy still faces a challenging outlook as the country exits the European Union and Eurozone economic growth softens.

3.4.4 Cost pressures were projected to ease but have risen more recently and are forecast to remain above the Bank’s 2% target through most of the forecast period. The rising price of oil and tight labour market means inflation may remain above target for longer than expected. This means that strong real income growth is unlikely in the near future.

3.4.5 The MPC has a bias towards tighter monetary policy but is reluctant to push interest rate expectations too strongly. Arlingclose believe that MPC members consider both that:

- 1) Ultra-low interest rates result in other economic problems, and
- 2) Higher Bank Rate will be a more effective policy weapon should downside Brexit risks crystallise and cuts are required.

3.4.6 The global economy appears to be slowing, particularly the Eurozone and China, where the effects of the trade war has been keenly felt. Despite slower growth, the European Central Bank is adopting a more strident tone in conditioning markets for the

end of QE (Quantitative Easing), the timing of the first rate hike (2019) and their path thereafter. Meanwhile, European political issues, most recently with Italy, continue.

- 3.4.7 The US economy is expanding more rapidly. The Federal Reserve has tightened monetary policy by raising interest rates to the current 2% - 2.25% range; further rate hikes are likely, which will start to slow economic growth. Central bank actions and geopolitical risks have and will continue to produce significant volatility in financial markets, including bond markets.
- 3.4.8 The MPC has maintained expectations of a slow rise in interest rates over the forecast horizon. Arlingclose central case is for Bank Rate to rise twice in 2019. The risks are weighted to the downside.
- 3.4.9 Gilt yields have remained at low levels. Arlingclose expect some upward movement from current levels based on our interest rate projections, the strength of the US economy and the ECB's forward guidance on higher rates. However, volatility arising from both economic and political events will continue to offer borrowing opportunities.

	Dec-18	Mar-19	Sep-19	Mar-20	Sep-20	Mar-21	Sep-21
Official Bank Rate							
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Arlingclose Central Case	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Downside risk	0.00	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
3-mth money market rate							
Upside risk	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
Arlingclose Central Case	0.80	1.00	1.20	1.30	1.20	1.20	1.20
Downside risk	0.20	0.50	0.70	0.80	0.75	0.75	0.75
1-yr money market rate							
Upside risk	0.20	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35
Arlingclose Central Case	1.05	1.25	1.40	1.45	1.40	1.40	1.40
Downside risk	0.35	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
5-yr gilt yield							
Upside risk	0.15	0.20	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35
Arlingclose Central Case	1.15	1.20	1.35	1.40	1.35	1.30	1.30
Downside risk	0.30	0.35	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
10-yr gilt yield							
Upside risk	0.20	0.25	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35
Arlingclose Central Case	1.60	1.65	1.70	1.75	1.70	1.70	1.70
Downside risk	0.30	0.45	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
20-yr gilt yield							
Upside risk	0.20	0.25	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35
Arlingclose Central Case	1.90	1.95	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Downside risk	0.30	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45
50-yr gilt yield							
Upside risk	0.20	0.25	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35
Arlingclose Central Case	1.80	1.85	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90
Downside risk	0.30	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45

3.5 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2018/19

- 3.5.1 The Treasury Management Strategy was approved on 21 February 2018 by Council. The Strategy comprehensively outlined how the treasury function would operate throughout the financial year 2018/19 including the limits and criteria for selecting institutions to be used for the investment of surplus cash and the council's policy on long-term borrowing and limits on debt. The Council complied with the strategy throughout the reporting period and all investments were made to counterparties within the Council's approved lending list.
- 3.5.2 On 31st March 2018, the Council had net investments of £355.9m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The balance sheet summary position at 31st March 2018 and the forecast for 31st March 2019 are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

	31st March 2018 Actual £m	Movement over the period £m	31st March 2019 Forecast £m
General Fund CFR	226.720	2.006	228.726
HRA CFR	83.915	17.985	101.900
Total CFR	310.635	19.991	330.626
Less: Other debt liabilities *	(34.957)	1.779	(33.178)
Borrowing CFR	275.678	21.770	297.448
<i>External Borrowing</i>	84.966	(0.670)	84.296
<i>Internal Borrowing</i>	190.712	22.440	213.152
Less: Usable reserves	(515.673)	26.859	(488.814)
Less: Working capital	(159.819)	0.385	(159.434)
Net (investments)	(355.854)	5.054	(350.800)

* finance leases, PFI liabilities and transferred debt that form part of the Council's total debt

- 3.5.3 In table 1 above, the extent of internal borrowing which stood at £190.7m at the end of the financial year 2017/18 is the difference between the Borrowing CFR (£275.7m) and the level of external borrowing (£84.9m), with an increased forecast level for 31st March 2019. The General Fund CFR increased by £2m over the period this is due to expected £10m capital expenditure on temporary accommodation and public realm less prudential borrowing principal repaid and minimum revenue provision (MRP) charges for the year.
- 3.5.4 The Council's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low.

3.5.5 The treasury management position as at 30th September 2018 shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	31.03.18 Balance £m	Movement over the Year £m	30.09.18 Balance £m	31.09.18 Rate %
Long-term borrowing	84.966	(0.670)	84.296	4.46
Short-term borrowing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total borrowing	84.966	(0.670)	84.296	4.46
Long-term investments	67.000	35.000	102.000	
Short-term investments	291.000	12.000	303.000	
Cash and cash equivalents	**82.820	(40.200)	42.620	
Total investments	440.820	6.800	447.620	0.77
Net investments	355.854	(5.054)	350.800	

**excluding pension fund balance of £24.8m as at 31/03/2018

Borrowing Strategy during the period

3.5.6 The Council held £84.296m of external loans at 30th September 2018 which is £670k lower than 31st March 2018 position of £84.966m. No borrowing has been undertaken and no debt rescheduling opportunities arose during the reporting financial year as the cost of premium payable outweigh savings that could be made from the lower PWLB borrowing rates. The borrowing position as at 30th September 2018 is shown in table 3 below.

Table 3: Borrowing Position

	31.03.18 Balance £m	Movement £m	30.09.18 Balance £m	30.09.18 Rate %	30.09.18 WAM* years
Public Works Loan Board	7.466	0.670	6.796	5.97	8.2
Banks (LOBO)	60.000	0.000	60.000	4.32	41.4
Banks (fixed-term)	17.500	0.000	17.500	4.34	58.9
Total borrowing	84.966	0.670	84.296	4.46	42.3

*Weighted average maturity

3.5.7 The Council takes a low risk approach to its borrowing strategy. This means that the principal objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriate balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required. The secondary objective being to have flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change.

3.5.8 The Council continues to hold £60m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans with RBS, where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates. The Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. RBS has not exercised their option during this reporting period. If there is an opportunity to reduce this risk and reduce debt costs in the long term by repaying this LOBO loan and replace it with a PWLB maturity loan, the Council

is likely to seriously consider doing this either through the use of cash or by replacing with like for like PWLB borrowing.

Investment Activity

3.5.9 The Council holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the six-month period, the Council's investment balance ranged between £440m to £530m due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position at this reporting period is shown in table 4 below.

3.5.10 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield.

Investments Outstanding & Maturity Structure

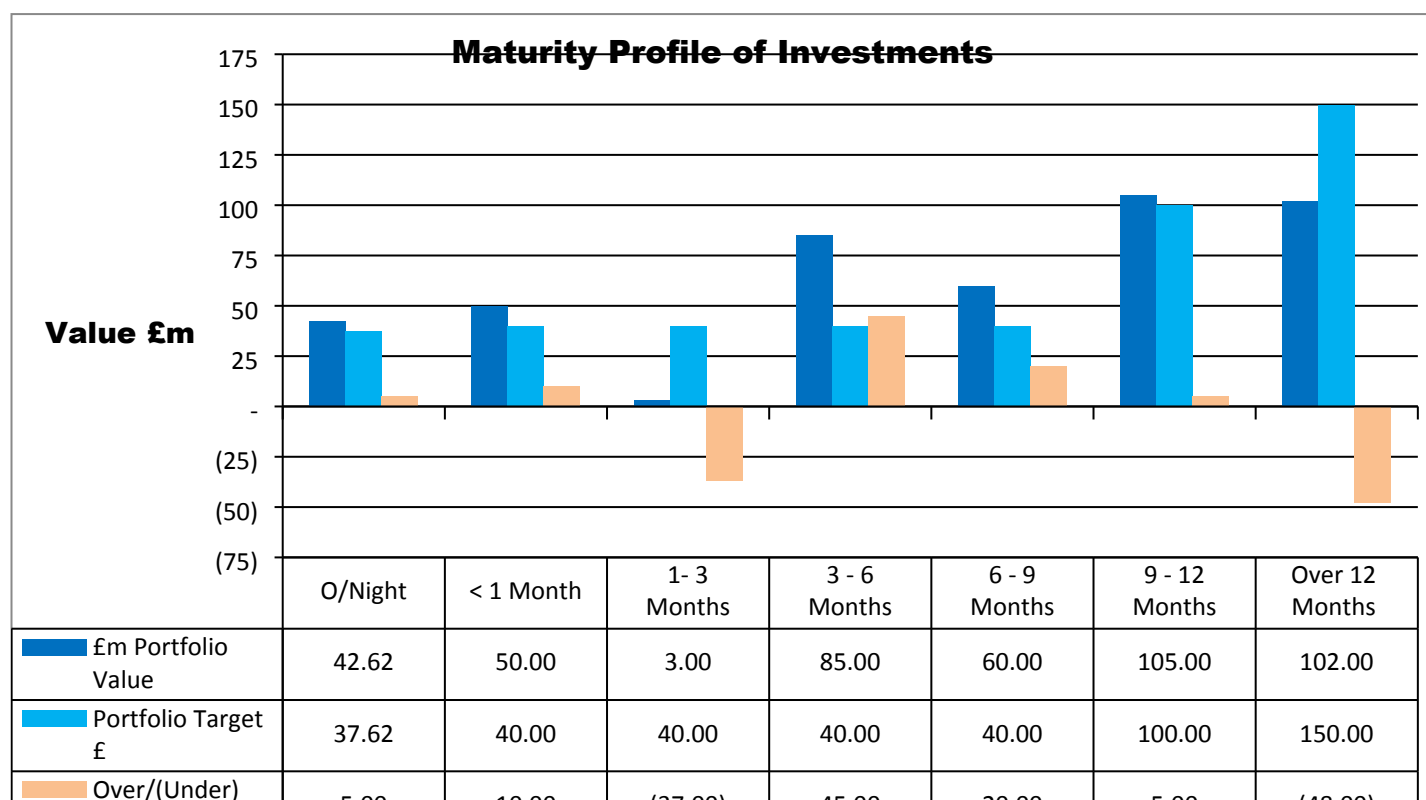
3.5.11 The table below shows the amount of investments outstanding at the end of September 2018 split according to the financial sector.

3.5.12 The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Given the increasing risk and falling returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Council has diversified into more secure and/or higher yielding asset classes by allocating £100m for strategic pooled investments and currently £65m has been invested as shown in table 4 below.

Table 4 Outstanding Investments by Financial Sector

Financial Sector	31.03.18 Balance £m	Movement over the Year £m	30.09.18 Balance £m	% Portfolio
UK Banks	50.000	(25.000)	25.000	5.59
UK Building Societies	15.000	(15.000)	0.000	0.00
Government (incl. local authorities)	278.000	(83.000)	195.000	43.56
Overseas Banks	85.000	35.000	120.000	26.81
Money Market Funds	12.820	29.800	42.620	9.52
Pooled Investment Funds:	0.000	65.000	65.000	14.52
<i>Cash plus funds</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>20.000</i>	<i>20.000</i>	
<i>Short-dated bond funds</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>18.000</i>	<i>18.000</i>	
<i>Strategic bond funds</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>5.000</i>	<i>5.000</i>	
<i>Equity Income funds</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>6.000</i>	<i>6.000</i>	
<i>Property funds</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>5.000</i>	<i>5.000</i>	
<i>Multi asset income funds</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>11.000</i>	<i>11.000</i>	
Total investments	440.820	6.800	447.620	

Chart 1 – Maturity of Investment Portfolio as at 30th September 2018



3.5.13 Chart 1 above illustrates the maturity structure of deposits as at 30th September 2018; we have £42.62m as overnight deposits including £10m pension fund cash awaiting investments, and this is predominantly invested in Money Market Funds.

3.5.14 £65m that was available for longer-term investment was moved from bank and building society deposits into pooled property/bond and equity funds. As a result, investment risk was diversified while the average rate of return has increased. The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in the extracts from Arlingclose’s quarterly investment benchmarking in table 6 below.

3.5.15 The Council’s £65m of externally managed pooled bond, equity and property funds generated an average total return of 1.17%, comprising a 3.94% income return which is used to support services in year, and -1.56% of capital growth. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council’s investment objectives is regularly reviewed. In light of their performance and the Council’s latest cash flow forecasts, investment in these funds is proposed to increase to £100m.

3.5.16 It is worth noting that capital gain on the pooled investment funds will fluctuate (with the possibility of losses); hence a provision for capital losses from investment returns above the £1.4m growth target would be created. This will be applied over a five year investment time horizon to offset capital future losses arising from property and equity value falls.

3.5.17 MHCLG consulted on statutory overrides relating to the IFRS 9 Financial Instruments accounting standard from 2018/19. The consultation recognised that the requirement in IFRS 9 for certain investments to be accounted for as fair value through profit and loss may introduce “more income statement volatility” which may impact on budget

calculations. The consultation proposed a time-limited statutory override and sought views whether it should be applied only to pooled property funds. The Council responded to the consultation which closed on 28th September and the outcome of the consultation is awaited whilst fair value adjustments might create more volatility, the investments have been chosen to provide higher returns over the long term.

Performance Report

3.5.18 The Council measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities both in terms of its impact on the revenue budget and its relationship to benchmark interest rates, as shown in table 5 below.

Table 5: Investment performance for financial year to 30th September 2018

Period	LBTH Performance	Benchmark Return	Over/(Under) Performance
Full Year 2017/18	0.78%	0.36%	0.42%
Quarter 1	0.72%	0.46%	0.26%
Quarter 2	0.82%	0.55%	0.27%
Mid-Year 2018/19	0.77%	0.50%	0.27%

3.5.19 The Council's budgeted investment return for 2018/19 is **115 basis points** (1.15%) with average cash balance of £350m. This is based on placing £100m in pooled investments during 2018/19. There was a delay in placing these investments because of investment market sentiment over historically expensive investment values.

3.5.20 £65m was invested in pooled funds in July/August 2018 with a further £35m to follow. This is to spread the risk of investing at the top of the market. The funds will be in place to deliver the full year savings target in 2019/20 onwards, however due to the nature of the funds, returns will fluctuate from year to year. The risk profile of these investments is an important consideration for the Committee, in order to achieve higher returns, there can be a need to accept higher levels of risk.

3.5.21 The investment performance for the reporting period is **77bps** with average cash balance of £460m. Investment income of £1.9m has been generated, in the year to the current reporting period

3.6 Investment Benchmarking

3.6.1 LBTH participates in a benchmarking club being run by Arlingclose to enable officers to compare the Council's treasury management / investment returns against those of similar authorities. The model takes into account a combination of credit, duration and returns achieved over the duration, and it includes data from 135 local authorities. The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in table 6 below.

Table 6: Investment Benchmarking

	Tower Hamlets		12 London & Metropolitan Average	135 Local Authorities (LAs) Average
	31 March 2018	30 Sept 2018		
Internal Investments	£464.8m	£382.62m	£107.9m	£57.1m
External Funds	£0.0m	£65.00m	£3.9m	£10.2m
Average Credit Score	4.28	3.99	4.47	4.38
Average Credit Rating	AA-	AA-	AA-	AA-
Number of Counterparties & Funds	37	37	14	15
Proportion Exposed to Bail-in	26%	26%	59%	60%
Proportion Available within 7 days	16%	21%	50%	40%
Proportion Available within 100 days	54%	28%	74%	66%
Average Days to Maturity	161	208	57	38
Internal Investment Return	0.68%	0.88%	0.73%	0.76%
External Funds - Income Return	0.0%	1.17%	0.92%	1.17%
Total Investments - Total Return	0.68%	1.01%	0.84%	1.24%

3.6.2 As at 30th September 2018 LBTH investment portfolio delivered 0.88% for internal investment management, outperforming the benchmarking average of 0.73% and also the average return for 135 LAs with 0.76%, whilst for total return for total investments LBTH generated 1.01% outperforming the average return for 12 London Boroughs and Metropolitan Boroughs with return of 0.84% by 25bps but underperforming the average return for 135 LAs with return of 1.24% by 23bps.

3.6.3 It can be seen from the above table 6 that the internal managed investment returns had improved this was partly due to an increase in base rate from 50bps to 75bps in August 2018.

3.6.4 Based on the advice received from Arlingclose the investment portfolio credit scores has improved from 4.28 to 3.99, far better than the benchmark average, signifying LBTH portfolio credit risk is lower than that of the others. As a consequence our investment portfolio credit worthiness also improved from A+ to AA-.

3.6.5 The proportion of the portfolio investments exposed to bail-in is maintained at 26%, this level is more than halved the benchmark average of 59%. This means we have taken less bail-in risk on our investors compared to the others. Bail-in is rescuing a financial institution on the brink of failure by making its creditors and depositors take a loss on their holdings.

3.6.6 It can also be seen from the above table that the number of counterparties the Council had as at 30th September was 37, the same as number held as at 31st March 2018. The number of counterparties the Council had investments with during the period is more than double the benchmarking average of 14. This demonstrates the Council reduces the counterparty risk and concentration risk of the investments portfolio significantly by investing with many quality institutions and local authorities. The lower average credit score compared to others reflects the lower risk of lending to Local Authorities.

3.7 **Compliance Report**

3.7.1 All treasury management activities undertaken from the beginning of the financial year 2018/19 to the this reporting period complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy.

3.7.2 Compliance with the authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt is set out in table 7 below.

Table 7: Debt Limits

	31.03.18 Actual £m	2018/19 Forecast £m	2018/19 Operational Boundary £m	2018/19 Authorised Limit £m	Complied
Borrowing	84.966	95.000	297.150	307.150	✓
PFI & finance leases	34.957	40.000	33.415	43.415	✓
Total debt	119.923	135.000	330.565	350.565	✓

3.7.3 The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using a range of indicators.

3.7.4 **Security:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating and credit score of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

	31.03.18 Actual	30.09.18 Actual	2018/19 Target	Complied
Portfolio average credit rating	AA-	AA-	A-	✓

3.7.5 **Liquidity:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three month period, without additional borrowing.

	31.03.18 Actual	30.09.18 Actual	2018/19 Target	Complied
Total cash available within [3] months	£176.10m	£95.62m	£75m	✓
Total sum borrowed in past [3] months without prior notice	Nil	nil	Nil	✓

- 3.7.6 **Maturity Structure of Borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing were:

	30.09.18 Actual	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Complied
Under 12 months	£0.669m	10%	0%	✓
12 months and within 24 months	£1.004m	30%	0%	✓
24 months and within 5 years	£1.004m	40%	0%	✓
5 years and within 10 years	£3.580m	80%	0%	✓
10 years and above*	£78.709m	100%	0%	✓

*This includes £60m LOBO with maturity date over 60 years and it could be call for repayment within the next 6 months following the last interest payment date, but there is a very slim chance of this happening hence it is included in this category

- 3.7.7 **Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 days:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end were:

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Actual principal invested beyond year end	£102m	£102m	£70m
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£150m	£150m	£150m
Complied	✓	✓	✓

3.8 **Non-Treasury Investments**

- 3.8.1 The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised Treasury Management Code now covers all the financial assets of the Authority as well as other non-financial assets which the Authority holds primarily for financial return. For English Authorities: This is replicated in MHCLG's Investment Guidance, in which the definition of investments is further broadened to also include all such assets held partially for financial return.

- 3.8.2 The Council currently does not have such investments.

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

- 4.1 This report provides an update on Treasury Management activities from April 2018 to September 2018.
- 4.2 The Council adopted a new approach to its investment activities in line with approvals given in the 2018/19 Treasury management Strategy and its MTFS to increase the level of investment income it generates for 2018/19.
- 4.3 As at the 30th September 2018 the Council held an outstanding investments portfolio of £447.62m and this generated a total investment income of £1.9m. The annual investment income budget is £4m and current estimates indicate that this is achievable.

5. **LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 5.1 The Local Government Act 2003 provides a framework for the capital finance of local authorities. It provides a power to borrow and imposes a duty on local authorities to determine an affordable borrowing limit. It provides a power to invest. Fundamental to the operation of the scheme is an understanding that authorities will have regard to

proper accounting practices recommended by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in carrying out capital finance functions.

- 5.2 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 require the Council to have regard to the CIPFA publication “Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes” (“the Treasury Management Code”) in carrying out capital finance functions under the Local Government Act 2003.
- 5.3 This noting report of the Corporate Director, Resources advises the Committee of the Council’s borrowing and investment activities for the half-year ending 30th September 2018 and is consistent with the key principles expressed in the Treasury Management Code. The Corporate Director, Resources has responsibility for overseeing the proper administration of the Council’s financial affairs, as required by section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and is the appropriate officer to advise in relation to these matters.
- 5.4 When considering its approach to the treasury management matters set out in the report, 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).

6 ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Capital investment will contribute to achievement of the corporate objectives, including all those relating to equalities and achieving One Tower Hamlets. Establishing the statutory policy statements required facilitates the capital investments and ensures that it is prudent.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy and the arrangements put in place to monitor them should ensure that the Council optimises the use of its monetary resources within the constraints placed on the Council by statute, appropriate management of risk and operational requirements.
- 7.2 Assessment of value for money is achieved through:
- Monitoring against benchmarks
 - Operating within budget

8 SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 There are no sustainable actions for a greener environment implication.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There is inevitably a degree of risk inherent in all treasury activity.
- 9.2 The Investment Strategy identifies the risk associated with different classes of investment instruments and sets the parameters within which treasury activities can be undertaken and controls and processes appropriate for that risk.
- 9.3 Treasury operations are undertaken by nominated officers within the parameters prescribed by the Treasury Management Policy Statement as approved by the Council.

9.4 The Council is ultimately responsible for risk management in relation to its treasury activities. However, in determining the risk and appropriate controls to put in place the Council has obtained independent advice from Capita Treasury Services who specialise in Council treasury issues.

10 **CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no any crime and disorder reduction implications arising from this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Investments Outstanding at 30th September 2018

Appendix 2 – Glossary

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

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

Arlingclose LTD - Treasury Management Benchmarking Report and Quarter 2 2018/19
and Treasury Management Mid-Year Report Template

Brief description of “background papers’

Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection

Bola Tobun, x4733, Mulberry Place

Appendix 1: Investments Outstanding as at 30th September 2018

Time to Maturity	Counterparty	From	Maturity	Amount £m	Rate
Overnight	Amundi MMF		MMF	8.75	0.67%
	BNP Paribas MMF		MMF	16.22	0.66%
	Deutsche MMF		MMF	17.65	0.56%
	SUB TOTAL			42.62*	
Long Term	CCLA Diversified Income Fund	30/07/2018	POOLED	5.00	3.07% ⁺
	CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund	31/07/2018	POOLED	5.00	4.75% ⁺
	Payden & Rygel Absolute Return Bond Funds	31/07/2018	POOLED	10.00	2.05% ⁺
	Payden Rygel Sterling Reserve Fund	31/07/2018	POOLED	10.00	0.72% ⁺
	Threadneedle Global Equity Income Fund	01/08/2018	POOLED	3.00	3.38% ⁺
	Threadneedle Strategic Bond Fund	01/08/2018	POOLED	5.00	3.44% ⁺
	Threadneedle Sterling Short-Dated Corporate Bond Fund	01/08/2018	POOLED	8.00	1.75% ⁺
	Investec, Diversified Income Fund	09/08/2018	POOLED	6.00	4.07% ⁺
	Royal London Enhanced Cash Plus	15/08/2018	POOLED	10.00	1.05% ⁺
	Schroder Income Maximiser Fund	15/08/2018	POOLED	3.00	7.43% ⁺
	SUB TOTAL			65.00	
< 1 Month	Southampton City Council	02/10/2017	01/10/2018	10.00	0.60%
	Lancashire County Council	06/10/2017	05/10/2018	10.00	0.58%
	Rabobank	06/10/2017	05/10/2018	20.00	0.68%
	King & Shaxson (Rabobank CD)	18/04/2018	18/10/2018	10.00	0.87%
	SUB TOTAL			50.00	
1 - 3 Months	Staffordshire Moorlands DC	08/02/2018	08/11/2018	3.00	0.65%
	SUB TOTAL			3.00	
3 - 6 Months	Santander	00/01/1900	CALL 95	20.00	0.65%
	Australia & New Zealand Banking Group	06/08/2018	06/02/2019	10.00	1.00%
	Isle of Wight Council	07/02/2018	06/02/2019	3.00	0.77%
	London Borough of Ealing	20/02/2018	19/02/2019	10.00	0.85%
	Monmouthshire County Council	23/02/2018	22/02/2019	5.00	0.85%
	Coventry City Council	26/02/2018	26/02/2019	10.00	1.00%
	Cambridgeshire County Council	27/02/2018	27/02/2019	10.00	0.85%
	Blackpool Council	16/03/2018	15/03/2019	17.00	0.85%
	SUB TOTAL			85.00	
3 - 6 Months	Australia & New Zealand Banking Group	23/05/2018	22/05/2019	20.00	0.95%
	Commonwealth Bank of Australia	23/05/2018	22/05/2019	20.00	0.95%
	Wrexham County Borough Council	03/09/2018	03/06/2019	20.00	1.05%
	SUB TOTAL			60.00	
6 - 9 Months	Toronto Dominion Bank	05/07/2018	03/07/2019	20.00	0.95%
	Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	12/07/2018	11/07/2019	10.00	0.95%
	Bank of Montreal	12/07/2018	12/07/2019	10.00	0.96%
	The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC	19/08/2018	19/08/2019	5.00	0.96%
	Birmingham City Council	28/08/2018	27/08/2019	20.00	1.08%
	Bournemouth Borough Council	25/09/2017	25/09/2019	20.00	0.75%
	Surrey County Council	26/09/2018	25/09/2019	20.00	1.15%
	SUB TOTAL			105.00	
> 12 Months	Thurrock Borough Council	08/11/2017	08/11/2019	20.00	1.05%
	Middlesbrough Council	26/01/2018	27/01/2020	10.00	1.08%
	Isle of Wight Council	07/02/2018	07/02/2020	2.00	1.05%
	Dumfries & Galloway	20/08/2018	20/08/2021	5.00	1.20%
	SUB TOTAL			37.00	
	TOTAL			447.62	

* MMF balance includes £10m of Pension Fund cash awaiting investments. Returns shown are the month of August 2018.


+ Long Term funds have not been in place long enough to show a meaningful return – as a guide the rates shown are for the year to June 2018 prior to the Council investing.

Appendix 2 – Glossary

Asset Life	How long an asset, e.g. a Council building is likely to last.
Bail-in	A bail-in is rescuing a financial institution on the brink of failure by making its creditors and depositors take a loss on their holdings rather than the government or taxpayers.
Bail-out	A bailout is a colloquial term for the provision of financial help to a corporation or country which otherwise would be on the brink of failure or bankruptcy.
Borrowing Portfolio	A list of loans held by the Council.
Borrowing Requirements	The principal amount the Council requires to borrow to finance capital expenditure and loan redemptions.
Capitalisation direction or regulations	Approval from central government to fund certain specified types of revenue expenditure from capital resources.
CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management	A professional code of Practice which regulates treasury management activities.
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	Capital Financing Requirement- a measure of the Council's underlying need to borrow to fund capital expenditure.
Certificates of Deposits	A certificate of deposit (CD) is a time deposit, a financial product. CDs are similar to savings accounts in that they are insured and thus virtually risk free; they are "money in the bank." They are different from savings accounts in that the CD has a specific, fixed term (often monthly, three months, six months, or one to five years) and, usually, a fixed interest rate. It is intended that the CD be held until maturity, at which time the money may be withdrawn together with the accrued interest.
Commercial paper	Commercial paper is a money-market security issued (sold) by large corporations to obtain funds to meet short-term debt obligations (for example, payroll), and is backed only by an issuing bank or corporation's promise to pay the face amount on the maturity date specified on the note. Since it is not backed by collateral, only firms with excellent credit ratings from a recognized credit rating agency will be able to sell their commercial paper at a reasonable price. Commercial paper is usually sold at a discount from face value, and carries higher interest repayment rates than bonds
Counterparties	Organisations or Institutions the Council lends money to e.g. Banks; Local Authorities and MMF.
Corporate bonds	A corporate bond is a bond issued by a corporation. It is a bond that a corporation issues to raise money effectively in order to expand its business. The term is usually applied to longer-term debt instruments, generally with a maturity date falling at least a year after their issue date.
Covered bonds	A covered bond is a corporate bond with one important enhancement: recourse to a pool of assets that secures or "covers" the bond if the originator (usually a financial institution) becomes insolvent. These assets act as additional credit cover; they do not have any bearing on the contractual cash flow to the investor, as is the case with Securitized assets.
Consumer Prices Index	The main inflation rate used in the UK is the CPI. The

& Retail Prices Index (CPI & RPI)	Chancellor of the Exchequer bases the UK inflation target on the CPI. The CPI inflation target is set at 2%. The CPI differs from the RPI in that CPI excludes housing costs. Also used is RPIX, which is a variation of RPI, one that removes mortgage interest payments.
Credit Default Swap (CDS)	A kind of protection that can be purchased by MMF companies from insurance companies (for their investment) in exchange for a payoff if the organisation they have invested in does not repay the loan i.e. they default.
Credit watch	Variety of special programmes offered by credit rating agencies and financial institutions to monitor organisation/individual's (e.g. bank) credit report for any credit related changes. A credit watch allows the organisation/individuals to act on any red flags before they can have a detrimental effect on credit score/history.
Credit Arrangements	Methods of Financing such as finance leasing
Credit Ratings	A scoring system issued by credit rating agencies such as Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poors that indicate the financial strength and other factors of a bank or similar Institution.
Creditworthiness	How highly rated an institution is according to its credit rating.
Debt Management Office (DMO)	The DMO is an agency of the HM Treasury which is responsible for carrying out the Government's Debt Management Policy.
Debt Rescheduling	The refinancing of loans at different terms and rates to the original loan.
Depreciation Method	The spread of the cost of an asset over its useful life.
Gilt	Gilt-edged securities are bonds issued by certain national governments. The term is of British origin, and originally referred to the debt securities issued by the Bank of England, which had a gilt (or gilded) edge. Hence, they are known as gilt-edged securities, or gilts for short. Today the term is used in the United Kingdom as well as some Commonwealth nations, such as South Africa and India. However, when reference is made to "gilts", what is generally meant is "UK gilts," unless otherwise specified.
Interest Rate exposures	A measure of the proportion of money invested and what impact movements in the financial markets would have on them.
The International Monetary Fund (IMF)	is an intergovernmental organisation which states its aims as to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.
Impaired investment	An investment that has had a reduction in value to reflect changes that could impact significantly on the benefits expected from it.
LIBID	The London Interbank Bid Rate – it is the interest rate at which major banks in London are willing to borrow (bid for) funds from each other.
Market Loans	Loans from banks available from the London Money Market

	including LOBOS (Lender Option, Borrowing Option) which enable the authority to take advantage of low fixed interest for a number of years before an agreed variable rate comes into force.
Money Market Fund (MMF)	A 'pool' of different types of investments managed by a fund manager that invests in lightly liquid short term financial instruments with high credit rating.
Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)	Committee designated by the Bank of England, whose main role is to regulate interest rates.
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	This is the amount which must be set aside from the revenue budget each year to cover future repayment of loans.
Non Specified Investments	Investments deemed to have a greater element of risk such as investments for longer than one year
Premium	Cost of early repayment of loan to PWLB to compensate for any losses that they may incur
Prudential Indicators	Set of rules providing local authorities borrowing for funding capital projects under a professional code of practice developed by CIPFA and providing measures of affordability and prudence reflecting the Council's Capital Expenditure, Debt and Treasury Management.
PWLB	Public Works Loan Board, a statutory body whose function is to lend money to Local Authorities (LAs) and other prescribed bodies. The PWLB normally are the cheapest source of long term borrowing for LAs.
Quantitative Easing (QE)	Quantitative easing (QE), also known as large-scale asset purchases, is an expansionary monetary policy whereby a central bank buys predetermined amounts of government bonds or other financial assets in order to stimulate the economy.
Specified Investments	Investments that meet the Council's high credit quality criteria and repayable within 12 months.
Supranational bonds	Supranational bonds are issued by institutions that represent a number of countries, not just one. Thus, organisations that issue such bonds tend to be the World Bank or the European Investment Bank. The issuance of these bonds are for the purpose of promoting economic development
Treasury bills (or T-bills)	Treasury bills (or T-bills) mature in one year or less. Like zero-coupon bonds, they do not pay interest prior to maturity; instead they are sold at a discount of the par value to create a positive yield to maturity. Many regard Treasury bills as the least risky investment available.
Unrated institution	An institution that does not possess a credit rating from one of the main credit rating agencies.
Unsupported Borrowing	Borrowing where costs are wholly financed by the Council.

Non-Executive Report of the: COUNCIL 21 November 2018	
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Motions submitted by Members of the Council	

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

SUMMARY

1. One motion has been submitted by Members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11 for debate at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st November 2018
2. The motions submitted are listed overleaf. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, the motions alternate between the administration and the other Political Groups, with the Opposition Group motions starting with the largest Political Group not to have that meeting's Opposition Motion Debate slot.
3. Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the Borough. A motion may not be moved which is substantially the same as a motion which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the previous six months; or which proposes that a decision of the Council taken in the previous six months be rescinded; unless notice of the motion is given signed by at least twenty Members.
4. There is no specific duration set for this agenda item and consideration of the attached motions may continue until the time limit for the meeting is reached. The guillotine procedure at Council Procedure Rule 9.2 does not apply to motions on notice and any of the attached motions which have not been put to the vote when the time limit for the meeting is reached will be deemed to have fallen. A motion which is not put to the vote at the current meeting may be resubmitted for the next meeting but is not automatically carried forward.

MOTIONS

Set out overleaf is the motion that has been submitted.

11.1 Motion regarding Remaining Local Authority Day Nurseries

Proposed by: Councillor Peter Golds
Seconded by: Councillor Andrew Wood

This council notes that there has been considerable concern amongst both members and residents regarding the closure of the three remaining Local Authority Day Nurseries, namely; John Smith, Overland and Mary Sambrook.

The council further notes that the call-in members expressed concern in their call-in requisition that

“no ‘other operators’ were considered as providers to run the three LADNs.”

In addition, the members highlighted the alternatives presented to the Schools Forum all resulted in closure of the three nurseries.

In addition, the call-in members suggest that the result of the decision will result in a ‘depreciation of service’ for service users and is therefore in contrast to what was agreed by full council in 2017.

The council notes that whilst the Mayor has responsibility for Executive decisions, members retain certain responsibilities as to the budget.

Constitution - 4.02 Functions of Council

Only Council will exercise the following functions:

(b) approving or adopting the policy framework and the budget;

Therefore, the Council believes that in this case, there are budgetary implications and therefore the decision to proceed should be debated by full council. Enabling members to invite the Mayor to explain the situation to full council and in light of the council debate whether to proceed with the closures.