

Mayor's Report to Council 18th July 2018

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets

Key Events/Announcements

This is the first ordinary full council meeting since the election, and the first ordinary meeting for new councillors. We have an opportunity now for more constructive full council meetings and we may need to look at our procedural rules, with input from all councillors, to ensure that these meetings are as useful as possible.

I was busy during the weeks following the AGM further establishing leadership arrangements, including finalising cabinet portfolios and details. I hope new members are settling in and enjoying their new role as councillors.

LGA Peer Challenge: The council recently took part in a Local Government Association led Peer Challenge. This was an important milestone for the council as part of our work over the last three years, and their feedback has been very encouraging. Initial feedback is that we have “a clear strategic approach” and that “the council has changed and improved the culture of the organisation”.

Overall this was a positive endorsement of the work we have all put in over the past three years to improve our services and make the council a more forward thinking and outward looking organisation. That said, there is still a great deal of work to be done and we recognise that we cannot afford to stop pressing ahead.

Planning Peer Review: Separately to the LGA Challenge, a planning peer review took place in mid-July, led by the Planning Advisory Service. This review sought to ensure our planning service is robust enough to manage growth through the planning process and ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is secured and delivered. We will look at the results of this closely.

Grafton House & Kinsham House fires: There was recently a fire at Grafton House on 29th June (an East End Homes property) and one at Kinsham House on 4th July (a THH property). Fortunately no one was hurt and the fires were contained. THH are reissuing fire safety advice to residents, and we offered immediate support to East End Homes. We thank the emergency services for their response.

Manifesto: We laid down solid foundations over the last three years and residents in Tower Hamlets have given us a powerful mandate to carry on our work. At the June cabinet meeting, my Labour manifesto was formally adopted as the policy of the council. Our priorities, including plans to make the borough safer and put young people and families at the heart of everything we do, have been built into the Strategic Plan and we are working to turn plans into action.

Ofsted: Ofsted visited the council in early May for their third monitoring visit since their inspection. The outcome of this visit was positive and Ofsted have said they are encouraged by our progress. Ofsted said that overall decision

making is better and more timely, the situation for missing children is vastly improved, there is improved professional accountability and responsibility for vulnerable children, and all of the out of hours services are linked together and talking to each other. It is also worth noting that the LGA Challenge Team acknowledged the significant improvements we have made in children's social care.

We are not however complacent, and we need to keep pushing forward with improvements. Ofsted will return for a further visit in August.

Network Rail & railway arches: Cllr Motin Uz-zaman and I have written to Network Rail and the Secretary of State for Transport to urge them to look again at the major rent increases for tenants in railway arches; we understand that some businesses have seen increases of as much as 350%. Our letter to the Evening Standard about this was published. We have also visited some of the businesses affected, and will continue to raise this issue and lobby Network Rail and the Government to think again.

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL): At the Cabinet meeting last month I formally announced that GLL will bring forward the London Living Wage (LLW) for 18-21 year olds. This was due to start when the new contract commences in September 2018, and this was something we stipulated had to be included in it. Although we cannot legally force GLL to increase their pay levels before the new contract commences (as we agreed our current contract with them in 2004), we have negotiated with them to bring forward the increase. I have also instructed that in this exceptional case the council provides additional funding for GLL, so that the LLW for 18-21 year olds is introduced immediately, and it will be backdated to April 2018.

Local Authority Day Nurseries: As members' will be aware, at Cabinet I agreed to go out to consultation on the proposed phased closure of the 3 Local Authority Day Nurseries (LADNs). The Scrutiny Committee also 'called-in' the decision to consult. Following this, I have decided to proceed but I am of course taking into consideration the representations made by the committee. We will look at the consultation responses carefully before deciding the best course of action. We will also be holding an Early Years Summit to make sure accessible, high quality childcare is available across the borough.

Operation Continuum: The partnership operation between the council and the police continues, and members' will have heard about the latest dawn raids in which more than 190 police officers were involved. 14 arrests were made, and significant quantities of money and drugs were seized. This is part of our ongoing efforts to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough.

Brexit: I am setting up a Brexit Commission to build on the work carried out previously by the scrutiny committee, in order to look at what preparations the council are making and what shape our response should be – although given the Government seemingly has no response or plans of its own, it makes it incredibly difficult for us to prepare. Cllr Amina Ali is leading on this, and we are looking at a 'Brexit roadshow', to ensure that all interested parties can contribute to our work and also to connect with and support EU residents

living in the borough. This will be one of the key challenges we face over the coming years, and we need to be prepared.

Anti-Idling Campaign: Tower Hamlets has launched an anti-idling campaign to tackle air pollution across the borough, as part of a wider series of proposals to help tackle poor air quality in the borough. An idling engine can also produce up to twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion and is against the law. We are working with the NHS, TfL and environmental charities to help stop idling outside schools, as well as introduce new green spaces in areas of high pollution, improve take-up of sustainable transport and help reduce pollution levels.

Individual Mayoral Decisions taken since last meeting

- 18 Jun 2018 - Commercial Lease Guarantee - Tower Hamlets Homes
- 18 July 2018 - Response to Call-in of 'securing the future of early years services'

Engagements and Meetings: 21 March to 18 July

- 21 March 2018
 - Annual Parent conference 2018
 - Kiri Tunks - President of the National Education Union
 - Meeting with Chief Executive
 - Children's improvement ops board
 - Meeting with corporate director, Place – regeneration meeting
 - Pre-council Labour group
 - Full council
- 22 March 2018
 - LLDC Board Meeting
 - Visit to Brodick house – fire safety
 - Mayor's Surgery
- 23 March 2018
 - Weapons sweep in Tower Hamlets
- 24 March 2018
 - Thames concert, St Pauls Way School
 - London City Island – meeting with City Island resident
 - Greater Khulna Welfare Community
 - Italian Bangladeshi welfare association UK - AGM
- 25 March 2018
 - Chicksand Estate Engagement
 - Genocide Remembrance Day
 - Labour Friends of Bangladesh - Fundraising Night for the Rohingya
- 26 March 2018
 - Meeting with Chair of Tower Hamlets Homes
 - Children's service improvement board meeting
 - Youth Service Commissioning

- EETG Members Meeting regarding railway arch rent rises
 - Meeting with Corporate Director, Place (Housing)
 - Christchurch Primary School (PTA)
- 27 March 2018
 - Meeting with Social Ark
 - Awards Ceremony at Darul Hadis School
 - Somali Community Meeting
 - Sunamgonj Zila Shamity UK
- 28 March 2018
 - Meeting with Cllr Blake
 - Meeting with Chief Executive
 - School Offer - 2018 2019
 - Civic Centre - Project Board
 - 7th Annual British Bangladeshi power & Inspiration Launch
- 29 March 2018
 - Limehouse Boxing Club
- 31 March 2018
 - St. Peters Supplementary School
- 3 April 2018
 - Meeting with Cllr Danny Hassell
 - Meeting Corporate Director, Place (Property)
 - Waste Procurement & Strategy Meeting Citizens Advice Bureau
 - Happier Together Event, East London Mosque
 - Appointment Sub-Committee for Divisional Director, Children's Social Care
- 4 April 2018
 - Meeting with LGA Labour Group
 - Meeting with Cllr Amy Whitelock Gibbs, Cabinet member for children's services
- 5 April 2018
 - Tea and cake with Mayor and LGC Winners at Speakers Parlour
 - Meeting with Chief Executive
 - Meeting with Governance Directorate
 - Mayor's Surgery
 - TH Wheelers
- 9 April 2018
 - Meeting with Credit Union
 - Meeting with Corporate Director, Place(housing)
- 10 April 2018
 - Mayor Sadiq Khan's Violent Crime Summit
 - Phone Call with Amy Lane, Night Czar
 - Meeting with Sir Alan Wood
 - Meeting with Cllr Sirajul Islam
 - Greater Sylhet Council event
- 11 April 2018
 - Meeting with TCAN
 - Meeting with Divisional Director of sports Leisure & culture
 - Meeting with Divisional Director for community safety
- 12 April 2018

- Chandler Street walk about
 - Home visit regarding burglaries
 - Mayor's Surgery
- 14 April 2018
 - Udichi UK Bengali New Year
 - Bengali New Year 1425 Celebration
- 16 April 2018
 - Meeting with GMB
 - Meeting with Corporate Director, Place (Property)
 - Meeting with Chief Executive
 - Appointments Sub Committee - Final Interviews (Divisional Director Children's Social Care)
- 17 April 2018
 - London Councils Leaders Meeting
 - Enforcement review
- 18 April 2018
 - Meeting with First Love Foundation
 - CE Annual Appraisal meeting
 - Meeting - Briefing re Big Conversation workshop
- 19 April 2018
 - CSC Conference.
 - Mayor's Surgery
- 20 April 2018
 - Tree planting in Mile End Park
- 23 April 2018
 - Quintet Meeting
 - Meeting with Borough Commander
 - Nafas meeting
 - Meeting with Corporate Director, Place (Housing)
- 24 April 2018
 - Unveiling of Millicent Fawcett statue
- 25 April 2018
 - NTV Talk Show
- 26 April 2018
 - Mayor's Surgery
- 28 April 2018
 - Robin Hood Gardens/V&A Interview
- 1 May 2018
 - May Day Rally
- 4 May 2018
 - Altab Ali Day
- 8 May 2018
 - Meeting with Chief Executive
 - Mayor address staff
 - Mayor's Political Cabinet.
- 9 May 2018
 - CLT
 - Labour Group

- Members' Induction Programme 2018 - Setting the Scene at Tower Hamlets
- 10 May 2018
 - Mayor's Surgery
- 11 May 2018
 - LCCA Opening, St Pauls Way
- 14 May 2018
 - Shavuot 2018
 - Strategic Forward Planning
 - Meeting with Cllr Candida Ronald
 - Meeting with Planning team
 - Labour Group Executive
 - Labour Group AGM
- 15 May 2018
 - Workpath visit
 - Meeting with John Nicholson
 - ICT & Information Governance
- 16 May 2018
 - CCPB pre meet
 - Grants Pre Agenda
 - Ethics & Probity - Member Induction
- 17 May 2018
 - Corporate induction
 - Hatred Hurts All conference
 - Meeting with Chief Executive
 - Visit from Norwegian Minister for Culture to Whitechapel Idea Store
 - Mayor's Surgery
- 18 May 2018
 - Chinese Embassy event
- 19 May 2018
 - Mile End Park - Royal Wedding Celebration Event
 - Patriot Square & Mayfield House TRA - Royal Wedding Celebration
 - Wapping Royal Wedding Celebration
 - Iftar - Bangladeshi Italian family Welfare Association
- 20 May 2018
 - History Night - East London
 - Iftar - Italian Bangladesh UK Welfare Association
 - Iftar Shah Jalal Mosque
- 21 May 2018
 - Meeting with Corporate Director of Governance
 - Meeting with Corporate Director of Public Realm
 - St Peters TRA
 - Iftar - Zakigonj Welfare Association UK
 - Iftar - UK Awamileague
- 22 May 2018
 - Quintet meeting
 - Meeting with Chief Executive

- Meeting with LGA
- Civic Centre Project Board
- Induction Training -Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding of Children
- Iftar, Brick Lane Mosque
- Iftar - St Dunstan Labour Party
- 23 May 2018
 - LBC Interview - Breathe Clean Fund
 - Catch up with Cllr Danny Hassell
 - BBC Interview - Breathe Clean Fund
 - Graffiti Removal - Comms
 - Regeneration & Air Quality - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
 - Labour Group
 - Council meeting – Freedom of the Borough
 - Council AGM (Annual General Meeting)
 - Iftar - Baitul Mamur Academy
 - Iftar - Kulaura Welfare Association U.K
- 24 May 2018
 - Hackney Wick Station Opening Ceremony
 - Channel S interview
 - GDPR meeting with Service Manager - Complaints & Information
 - Housing Meeting
 - Chief Executive Homes
 - Home Visit with resident
 - Mayor's Surgery
 - Casework team catch up
 - Iftar, East London Mosque
- 26 May 2018
 - Iftar - Shariatpur Welfare Association UK
 - Iftar - Greater Rangpur Association
- 27 May 2018
 - Iftar - Lukin and Oyster Residents Association
 - Iftar - Bow Common Mosque
- 28 May 2018
 - All Points East
 - Meeting with Cllr John Pierce
 - Resources - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
 - Housing - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
 - Work & Economic Growth - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
 - Meeting with Chief Executive
 - Opening of The Woman's Hall
 - Iftar- Syedpur Jubo Kallyan Parishad UK
 - Iftar Bangladeshi School Governors
- 30 May 2018
 - Catch up with Cllr Danny Hassell
 - Serious Crime Taskforce discussion
 - Children, Schools & Young People - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
 - Meeting with Jim Fitzpatrick MP
 - Adults, Health & Wellbeing - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting

- Mayors Political Cabinet
- Mayor's Advisory Board
- Environment - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
- In The Neighbourhood Festival
- Iftar - Bow West Organisation
- Iftar - Moluvbazar Welfare Trust
- Iftar pop in - Baitful Aman Mosque and Cultural Centre
- Pop in Iftar- Darul Hadis Latifah School
- 31 May 2018
 - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting (Culture, Arts & Brexit)
 - Interview with Huffington Post
 - Meeting with Cllr Candida Ronald
 - Limehouse Mosque Meeting
 - Mayor's Surgery
 - Casework team catch up
 - Prevent & Civil Contingencies
- 1 June 2018
 - Silk Court Care Home
 - Iftar - Bangladesh Youth Movement
 - Iftar - Bangladesh Teachers Association
- 2 June 2018
 - Iftar - East London Scouts
- 3 June 2018
 - Pop in Iftar - Greater Sylhet Development & Welfare Council in UK
 - Iftar - Docklands Community Organisation
 - Iftar - Jagannathpur Upozila Unnayan Shongsta
- 4 June 2018
 - Cabinet Away Day
 - Iftar - Beanibazar progoty education trust
- 5 June 2018
 - London Councils Labour Group Meeting
 - London Councils Leaders Committee (AGM)
 - GLPC/GLEF Briefing
 - Meeting with Cllr Asma Begum
 - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting (Community Safety & Equalities)
 - Iftar - Career Association
 - Iftar - Nabigonj Upozila Welfare Organisation UK
- 6 June 2018
 - Limehouse Community Safety Meeting
 - Meeting with Cllr Danny Hassell
 - Meath Gardens
 - Meeting with Cllr Sirajul Islam
 - Meeting with Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman
 - Mayors Advisory Board Meeting
 - Grants Determination Sub-Committee
- 7 June 2018
 - Presentation from the Student Working Group at Central Foundation Girls School
 - 7th Street Elite Festival

- Big Clean Up Activity - Litter Pick St Leonard's Priory
 - Mayor's Surgery
 - Reception - Men's Aboriginal X1 vs Surrey County Cricket Club
 - Iftar - Lepold Community Cultural Association (LCCA)
- 8 June 2018
 - Meeting with Cllr Eve McQuillan
 - Iftar - Burdett Estate Mosque
- 9 June 2018
 - Iftar - Hind Grove Masjid and Cultural Centre
 - Iftar - Whitechapel Ward Residents. Cllr Faruq attended
- 10 June 2018
 - Iftar - Lansbury Estate Muslim Association (LEMA)
 - Iftar - Sunamganj Jela Welfare Association
- 11 June 2018
 - Pensions meeting with Cllr Muhammad Harun
 - Meeting with Channel S
 - Meeting with Peer Review Challenge Team
 - Meeting with Cllr Amina Ali, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit
 - Tower Hamlets Homes magazine interview
 - Tower Hamlets best value improvement board
 - Iftar - Noakhali Somity (UK)
 - Iftar - Limehouse Mosque
- 12 June 2018
 - Visit Langdon Park School
 - Somali Task Force Discussion
 - Visiting new Council homes at Orion House
 - Children's Services Improvement Board
 - Meeting with Chief Executive
 - Iftar - Jagnatpur Unnayn Shongsta UK
 - Iftar- Workers Union London
- 13 June 2018
 - Phone call (Ref: Corporate Peer Challenge)
 - Meeting with Cllr Mukit
 - Quarterly meeting with Poplar HARCA
 - Meeting with Christine McInnes and Cllr Danny Hassell
 - Mayors Political Cabinet
 - Mayor's Advisory Board / Infrastructure Delivery Board
 - Asset Transfer to Roman Road Trust
 - Loop Labs Air Quality Event
- 14 June 2018
 - Practice Week
 - Minute Silence for Grenfell Tower
 - Raines Club Wapping
- 15 June 2018
 - EID In the Park
 - MOPAC/London Council Meeting
 - Meeting Cllr Doug Taylor
- 16 June 2018
 - Canary Wharf College Annual Fete

- Devons Road Resident event and Street Naming Ceremony
- 18 June 2018
 - Launch of Summer Activities Programme
 - Meeting with Corporate Director of Governance
 - Executive Committee
 - Labour Group
- 19 June 2018
 - Introduction meeting with Peer Review Team
 - Interview Session with Peer Team
 - Meeting with Steve Douglas
 - Peer Review team catch up
- 20 June 2018
 - Central London Forward Board Meeting
 - Meeting with Divisional Director of Strategy & Performance
 - Adults, Health & Wellbeing - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
 - Mayor's Advisory Board
 - Peer Review Team catch up meeting
 - Meeting Stepney at Duckett Street.
 - Poplar Ward Welcome event
- 21 June 2018
 - Photo - Electric Vehicle Charging Point
 - Visit to Drapers City Foyer
 - Photo – ZEN
 - Meeting with Newlon Housing Trust
 - Channel S Interview - Mela Preparation
 - Meeting with Chief Executive
 - Mayor's Surgery
 - Peer Review team catch up
- 22 June 2018
 - Informal Peer Review Team catch up with Chief Executive
 - Peer Review Team Feedback Session
- 23 June 2018
 - Visit to Whitechapel Bell Foundry
 - St Paul's Way Festival
 - Annual York Square Community Big late Lunch
 - Meeting with Cllr Coghill
- 24 June 2018
 - Eid Party - Wapping Bangladesh Association
 - Eid Reunion- Kulaura Welfare Association UK Eid Reunion
 - Eid Reunion - Italian Bangladeshi UK Organisation
 - Community Reception for BG Candidates
- 25 June 2018
 - Photo op to launch VR Mobile Unit
 - Quintet Meeting
 - Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- 26 June 2018
 - Meeting with Tower Hamlets Citizens
 - Apasen Eid Party
 - New London Architecture re: Isle of Dogs
 - Cllr Mufeedah Bustin

- Meeting with Chief Executive
- Resources - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
- An introduction to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, Public Health.
- Labour Group Eid Meal
- 27 June 2018
 - Regeneration & Air Quality - Mayor's Portfolio
 - Planning Meeting
 - Mayor's Political Cabinet
 - Cabinet Pre-Meet
 - Cabinet Meeting
 - NPFH Youth Champions Presentation
 - Council of Mosques Eid Dinner
- 28 June 2018
 - Visit to Sir John Cass School with Cllr Danny Hassell
 - Labour group meeting
 - GLEF Meeting
 - Civic Centre Project Board
 - Strategic Forward Planning Meeting
 - Mayors Surgery
 - Casework Team catch up
- 29 June 2018
 - Pre-Mela Media Briefing
 - Cllr Ruhul Amin
- 30 June 2018
 - Cllr Kyrsten Perry
 - Spitalfields Street Party
- 1 July 2018
 - BBC Radio London Interview – Mela
 - Mela and Parade
- 2 July 2018
 - Catch up with Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Homes
 - Meeting with Divisional Director of Comms
 - Cllr Ayas Miah
 - Visit to Children's House Nursery School
 - Poplar Baths
 - Telephone Call - Jules Pipe
 - Cllr Abdal Ullah
- 3 July 2018
 - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting -Culture, Arts & Brexit
 - Cllr Asma Islam (Mayoral Advisor)
 - Catch up with Sir Alan Wood
 - Eid Party Celebration at the Sonali Gardens
 - Children, Schools & Young People - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
 - Meeting with Cllr Asma Begum
 - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting (Community Safety & Equalities)
 - Ask the Mayor, Swanlea school
- 4 July 2018
 - Cllr Pierce

- Joint Trade Union Meeting
- Catch up with Cllr Abdal Ullah
- East End Trades Guild Meeting with Krissie Nicolson & Cllr Uz-Zaman
- Cllr Sirajul Islam
- Environment - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
- Work & Economic Growth - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting
- Risk, Control, and Fraud and Audits- Induction Training
- 5 July 2018
 - Celebrating 70 years of the NHS at the Royal London Hospital
 - YES FOR NOW - Celebrating Parents Achievement
 - Health & Wellbeing Open \Day Recovery Centre
 - Resident home visit
 - Mayor's Surgery
 - Restaurant Opening
- 6 July 2018
 - Contract Services
 - Meeting with Deputy Mayor of London for Housing and Residential Development, James Murray
 - Appointment Sub-Committee Shortlisting for Divisional Director of human resources
 - Waltham Forest Mini-Holland Tour
- 7 July 2018
 - THAMES concert
 - BIFWA Inauguration Ceremony
- 9 July 2018
 - Education Funding Campaign with Unions
 - Catch up with Cllr Danny Hassell
 - Cllr Sabina Akhtar (Mayoral Advisor)
 - Mayor's Portfolio Meeting - (Property)
 - Property Visits
 - Induction Training: Promoting Equalities and Diversity
- 10 July 2018
 - London Councils Labour Group Meeting
 - Tower Hamlets CVS Annual Conference
 - London Councils - Congress of Leaders
 - London Councils Leaders Committee
 - Phone Interview Economist - Body Worn Cameras
 - Appointment Sub-Committee Shortlisting for Divisional Director of Public Realm
 - Visited New Maggie's Centre at Barts
- 11 July 2018
 - Healthy Lives Celebration Event
 - Planning Peer Review
 - Meeting with Cllr Rachel Blake
 - Mayor's Political Cabinet
 - Mayor's Advisory Board / Infrastructure Delivery Board
 - King George's Field Charity Board
- 12 July 2018
 - Visit to Lansbury Lawrence School with Cllr Sabina Akhtar

- Initial Steering Meeting on Regeneration
- Food growing event
- Visiting Arches affected by Network Rail rent rises
- Mayor's Surgery
- Citizens 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner
- 13 July 2018
 - Planning Peer Review - Informal Feedback
 - Meeting with Chief Executive
- 14 July 2018
 - Annual Awards Ceremony
 - Walk about at Claire Place/Tiller road with Cllr K. Perry
 - Bow Church Celebration
- 15 July 2018
 - Betar Bangla Srutha Forum UK
- 16 July 2018
 - Limehouse Mosque Meeting
 - Appointment Sub-Committee Final Interviews for Divisional Director for Human Resources
 - Columbia Market Nursery School Graduation Ceremony
 - Meeting With Corporate Director of Governance
 - Meeting with Divisional Director for Strategy & Performance
 - Executive Committee
 - Labour Group
- 17 July 2018
 - Visit to Rachel Keeling Nursery School
 - Labour Group follow-up
 - Enforcement Review Meeting
 - Meeting with Chairman Berkeley Group
 - Visit - Deliveroo Editions In Whitechapel
 - Derai Thana Development Organisation UK invitation