

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2019

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

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Tarik Khan
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Councillor James King
Councillor Sufia Alam	Councillor Eve McQuillan
Councillor Amina Ali	Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Shah Ameen	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Asma Begum	Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE
Councillor Rachel Blake	Councillor Victoria Obaze
Councillor Kevin Brady	Councillor Mohammed Pappu
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Councillor Kyrsten Perry
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	Councillor John Pierce
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 Abdal Ullah
Councillor Danny Hassell	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Mohammed Ahabab Hossain	Councillor Val Whitehead
Councillor Asma Islam	Councillor Bex White
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Andrew Wood

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

The Speaker stated that everyone was shocked and saddened by the appalling events in Sri Lanka in April. On behalf of the Council, he stated that they stood together in solidarity with those affected by the events and expressed condemnation to those who carried out such acts. The Council's thoughts and prayers were with all those affected by the tragic events.

The Council then rose to observe a minutes silence to remember those affected

1. ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Ayas Miah addressed the meeting about his year of office. He thanked Mayor John Biggs and Councillors for giving him this opportunity.

He had the honour of attending and supporting a range of events and activities providing opportunities to promote the Borough and bring the community together. Some of the highlights included:

- Cultural events including the local Mela and an Arts and Music Education concert at Queen Mary College.
- A commemorative event marking the Victory Day of Bangladesh.
- A visit to Bangladesh to meet many dignitaries including the Prime Minister.
- Visits by high profile guests including: the new Bangladesh High Commissioner, the King of the Ashanti, and several members of the Royal Family.
- A British – Irish Assembly meeting held in Canary Wharf for discussions on a number of important issues.
- Becoming a Dementia Friend.
- The LBTH Civic Awards to pay tribute to the hard work of residents.

He was pleased to say that he held a very successful Charity Ball in December in Canary Wharf and a charity curry night. He thanked all of the people and organisations who supported these events especially the sponsors for each.

The Speaker was pleased to announce that he had raised in the region of £50,000 for his Charities:

- St. Hilda's East Community Centre
- Sporting Foundation
- Dorset Community Association
- Limehouse Project

He stated that he had been very proud to Chair the Full Council meetings and it was an honour to represent this Borough. He thanked Officers especially Patricia Attawia (Personal Assistant to the Speaker) and Danny Bodle (Speaker's Attendant) for all their help and support.

Following the Speaker's address, Mayor John Biggs addressed the meeting. He thanked Councillor Miah for his service, as Speaker of the Council, over the year. He reported that Councillor Miah had performed his duties with great dignity, loyalty and perseverance and had provided leadership to the community. He had worked hard to serve everyone in the borough and support community cohesion.

Councillors Mohammed Ahabab Hossain, Abdal Ullah and Denise Jones echoed the above points. They thanked Councillor Miah for acting as such a positive ambassador for the Borough and for all that he had achieved over the

year, particularly his work with young people and schools and successful fund raising activities. They stated that his fundraising work would make a huge difference to his charities.

The Speaker then called for nominations to serve as Speaker of the Council for the coming year.

It was **moved** by Mayor John Biggs, **seconded** by Councillor Asma Islam, and unanimously:

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor Victoria Obaze be elected to serve as Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council until the Annual Council Meeting in May 2020.

Mayor John Biggs and Councillor Asma Islam then came forward to witness the Speaker of the Council signing the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.00pm and reconvened at 7.10pm.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Victoria Obaze in the Chair

The incoming Speaker, Councillor Victoria Obaze thanked the Council for electing her as Speaker. She congratulated Councillor Ayas Miah for a successful year in office and his hard work over the last year on behalf of the Council and the borough. She stated that being elected as the first Black female Speaker of the Borough was a great honour. She thanked the Mayor and Councillors for giving her the opportunity and also thanked the residents of Whitechapel ward. She advised that she would strive to maintain community cohesion and serve the people of the Borough, drawing on the experiences she had gained through her extensive community work.

She had chosen the following charities to support:

- Alzheimer's Society
- Providence Row that provide support for the homeless
- Bangladeshi Parents and Careers Association that helped people with disabilities

She would be accompanied by her consorts: Charles Obaze, David Obaze and Faruk Ahmed.

The Mayor and Councillors then congratulated Councillor Obaze on her appointment

The Mayor stated that he was delighted to support Councillor's Obaze's nomination as Speaker. He praised her many qualities and her tireless support for good causes over many years. She would make an excellent

Speaker of the Council. Councillors Asma Islam and Councillor Andrew Wood also spoke in favour of Councillor Obaze's election.

Vote on Election of Councillor Victoria Obaze as Speaker of the Council 2019/20	
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	For
Councillor Sufia Alam	For
Councillor Amina Ali	For
Councillor Shah Ameen	For
Councillor Asma Begum	For
Mayor John Biggs	For
Councillor Rachel Blake	For
Councillor Kevin Brady	For
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	For
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	For
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	For
Councillor Dipa Das	For
Councillor David Edgar	For
Councillor Marc Francis	For
Councillor Peter Golds	For
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	For
Councillor Danny Hassell	For
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	For
Councillor Asma Islam	For
Councillor Sirajul Islam	For
Councillor Denise Jones	For
Councillor Tarik Khan	For
Councillor James King	For
Councillor Eve McQuillan	For
Councillor Ayas Miah	For
Councillor Harun Miah	For
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	For
Councillor Victoria Obaze	For
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	For
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	For
Councillor John Pierce	For
Councillor Leema Qureshi	For
Councillor Zenith Rahman	For
Councillor Candida Ronald	For
Councillor Dan Tomlinson	For
Councillor Helal Uddin	For
Councillor Abdal Ullah	For
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	For
Councillor Val Whitehead	For
Councillor Bex White	For
Councillor Andrew Wood	For
Carried	

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Speaker sought nominations to serve as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year. It was **moved** by Mayor John Biggs, **seconded** by Councillor Asma Islam, and:

RESOLVED

1. That Councillor Mohammed Ahab Hossain be elected to serve as Deputy Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council until the Annual Council meeting in May 2020.

Vote on Election of Councillor Mohammed Ahab Hossain as Deputy Speaker of the Council 2019/20	
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	For
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	For
Councillor Sufia Alam	For
Councillor Amina Ali	For
Councillor Shah Ameen	For
Councillor Asma Begum	For
Mayor John Biggs	For
Councillor Rachel Blake	For
Councillor Kevin Brady	For
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	For
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	For
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	For
Councillor Dipa Das	For
Councillor David Edgar	For
Councillor Marc Francis	For
Councillor Peter Golds	For
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	For
Councillor Danny Hassell	For
Councillor Mohammed Ahab Hossain	For
Councillor Asma Islam	For
Councillor Sirajul Islam	For
Councillor Denise Jones	For
Councillor Tarik Khan	For
Councillor James King	For
Councillor Eve McQuillan	For
Councillor Ayas Miah	For
Councillor Harun Miah	For
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	For
Councillor Victoria Obaze	For
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	For
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	For
Councillor John Pierce	For
Councillor Leema Qureshi	For
Councillor Zenith Rahman	For
Councillor Candida Ronald	For

Councillor Dan Tomlinson	For
Councillor Helal Uddin	For
Councillor Abdal Ullah	For
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	For
Councillor Val Whitehead	For
Councillor Bex White	For
Councillor Andrew Wood	For
Carried	

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor Faroque Ahmed
- Councillor Rabina Khan
- Councillor Gabriela Salva-Macallan
- Councillor Puru Miah

4. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

1. That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary Council Meeting held on 20 March 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and the Speaker be authorised to sign them accordingly.

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

The Chief Executive addressed the meeting.

He thanked the outgoing Speaker, Councillor Ayas Miah and congratulated the new Speaker Councillor Victoria Obaze.

He also congratulated Tower Hamlets Homes on winning landlord of the year and gaining other accolades at the UK Housing Awards. Poplar HARCA and Swan Housing were also recognised. He also reported that Ofsted were due to commence their Inspection of Children's social care services in June.

He also advised of the progress that had been made with recruitment to the posts of:

- Divisional Director, Housing.
- Divisional Director, Planning and Building Control.
- Divisional Director, Finance, Audit and Procurement.

Turning to the European Elections, he provided a brief update in respect of the preparation work underway.

7. MAYOR'S CABINET AND EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Governance (circulated in a supplementary agenda) setting out the Mayor's Cabinet appointments and other arrangements in respect of Executive Decision Making.

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

RESOLVED

1. That the Mayor's Executive Decision Making scheme be noted.

8. PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL 2019/20

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Governance proposing the establishment of the Council's committees for 2019/20 and setting out the review of proportionality and the allocation of places on those Committees.

The list of nominations were circulated in a supplementary agenda.

Councillor Kevin Brady **moved** and Mayor John Biggs **seconded** the following amendment to the report as tabled:

'The Labour Group proposes to amend the report to decrease the total number of places on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by two places, thereby reducing the total membership to nine members.

This is in line with recommendations made by the O&S Committee on 23rd April 2019 as part of their structure review, and will see the number of Labour members on the committee reduce by two.

An updated table detailing overall proportionality and committee places is below:

GROUP	SEATS (on Council)	PROPORTION ON COUNCIL	ENTITLEMENT (to seats on Committees)
Labour	41	91.11%	63.78 (64)
Conservative	2	4.44%	3.11 (3)
Ungrouped	2	0	3 (remainder)
	45		70

Committee	Total	Labour	Conservative	Ungrouped
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (plus 6 co-optees)	9	8	1	
Audit Committee	8	7	1	
Development Committee	7	6		1
Strategic Development Committee	8	7		1
General Purposes Committee	9	8	1	
Licensing Committee	15	14	1	
Pensions Committee	7	6	1	
Standards (Advisory) Committee (plus 5 Co-optees)	7	6		1
TOTALS	70	62	5	3

The recommendations as amended were put to the vote and were **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

1. That the review of proportionality as at section 3 of the report and the allocation of seats on Committees and Panels for the Municipal Year 2019/20 as set out at paragraph 3.6 be agreed subject to the following amendment:
 - To decrease the total number of places on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by two places, thereby reducing the total membership to nine members.
2. That the Committees set out for the municipal year 2019/20 be established and places to be allocated on those Committees, as set out at paragraph 3.6 of the report.

9. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Governance regarding the appointment of members to the Council's Committees, and Chairs where appropriate, (including those established under item 8 above). The list of nominations were circulated in a supplementary agenda.

Councillor Kevin Brady reported the following amendments to the Labour Group's list of nominations:

Audit Committee: Councillor Kyrsten Perry to replace Councillor Asma Islam

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Eve McQuillan to replace Councillor Kyrsten Perry

Following the receipt of two nominations for the position of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Chair of the Audit Committee, the nominations were put to the vote and Councillor James King was elected to the position of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Kyrsten Perry was elected to the position of Chair of the Pensions Committee.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**.

RESOLVED

1. That the members and substitute members to the committees of the Council and other bodies for the municipal year 2019/20 be appointed as set out in the list of tabled nominations as amended at the meeting.
2. That the Chairs of Committees for 2019/20 be appointed from amongst the list of tabled nominations subject to the appointment of Councillor James King to the position of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Kyrsten Perry to the position of Chair of the Pensions Committee.
3. That in relation to any unfilled places within the seats allocated to a particular political group, the Council note that the Corporate Director, Governance has delegated authority subsequently to agree the appointments to those places in accordance with nominations from the relevant political group.

Vote on Election of Councillor Andrew Wood as Chair of the Pensions Committee	
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Against
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Against
Councillor Sufia Alam	Against
Councillor Amina Ali	Against
Councillor Shah Ameen	Against
Councillor Asma Begum	Against
Mayor John Biggs	Against
Councillor Rachel Blake	Against
Councillor Kevin Brady	Against
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Against
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	Against
Councillor Dipa Das	Against
Councillor David Edgar	Against
Councillor Marc Francis	Against
Councillor Peter Golds	For
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	Against
Councillor Danny Hassell	Against
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	Against
Councillor Asma Islam	Against
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Against
Councillor Denise Jones	Against
Councillor Tarik Khan	Against
Councillor James King	Against
Councillor Eve McQuillan	Against
Councillor Ayas Miah	Against
Councillor Harun Miah	Against
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	Against
Councillor Victoria Obaze	Against
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	Against
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	Against
Councillor John Pierce	Against
Councillor Leema Qureshi	Against
Councillor Zenith Rahman	Against
Councillor Candida Ronald	Against
Councillor Dan Tomlinson	Against
Councillor Helal Uddin	Against
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	Against
Councillor Val Whitehead	Against
Councillor Bex White	Against
Councillor Andrew Wood	For
Rejected	

Vote on Election of Councillor Kyrsten Perry as Chair of the Pensions Committee	
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	For
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	For
Councillor Sufia Alam	For
Councillor Amina Ali	For
Councillor Shah Ameen	For
Councillor Asma Begum	For
Mayor John Biggs	For
Councillor Rachel Blake	For
Councillor Kevin Brady	For
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	For
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	For
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	For
Councillor David Edgar	For
Councillor Marc Francis	For
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	For
Councillor Danny Hassell	For
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	For
Councillor Asma Islam	For
Councillor Sirajul Islam	For
Councillor Denise Jones	For
Councillor Tarik Khan	For
Councillor James King	For
Councillor Eve McQuillan	For
Councillor Ayas Miah	For
Councillor Harun Miah	Against
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	For
Councillor Victoria Obaze	For
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	For
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	For
Councillor John Pierce	For
Councillor Zenith Rahman	For
Councillor Candida Ronald	For
Councillor Dan Tomlinson	For
Councillor Helal Uddin	For
Councillor Abdal Ullah	For
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	For
Councillor Val Whitehead	For
Councillor Bex White	For
Councillor Andrew Wood	Abstain
Carried	

Vote on Election of Councillor Andrew Wood as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Against
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	Against
Councillor Sufia Alam	Against
Councillor Amina Ali	Against
Councillor Shah Ameen	Against
Councillor Asma Begum	Against
Mayor John Biggs	Against
Councillor Kevin Brady	Against
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Against
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	Against
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	Against
Councillor Dipa Das	Against
Councillor David Edgar	Against
Councillor Marc Francis	Against
Councillor Peter Golds	For
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	Against
Councillor Danny Hassell	Against
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	Against
Councillor Asma Islam	Against
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Against
Councillor Denise Jones	Against
Councillor Tarik Khan	Against
Councillor James King	Against
Councillor Eve McQuillan	Against
Councillor Ayas Miah	Against
Councillor Harun Miah	Against
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	Against
Councillor Victoria Obaze	Against
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	Against
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	Against
Councillor John Pierce	Against
Councillor Leema Qureshi	Against
Councillor Zenith Rahman	Against
Councillor Candida Ronald	Against
Councillor Dan Tomlinson	Against
Councillor Helal Uddin	Against
Councillor Abdal Ullah	Against
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	Against
Councillor Val Whitehead	Against
Councillor Bex White	Against
Councillor Andrew Wood	For
Rejected	

Vote on Election of Councillor James King as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	For
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	For
Councillor Sufia Alam	For
Councillor Amina Ali	For
Councillor Shah Ameen	For
Councillor Asma Begum	For
Mayor John Biggs	For
Councillor Rachel Blake	For
Councillor Kevin Brady	For
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	For
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	For
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	For
Councillor Dipa Das	For
Councillor David Edgar	For
Councillor Marc Francis	For
Councillor Peter Golds	Abstain
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	For
Councillor Danny Hassell	For
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	For
Councillor Asma Islam	For
Councillor Sirajul Islam	For
Councillor Denise Jones	For
Councillor Tarik Khan	For
Councillor James King	For
Councillor Eve McQuillan	For
Councillor Ayas Miah	For
Councillor Harun Miah	Against
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	For
Councillor Victoria Obaze	For
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	For
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	For
Councillor John Pierce	For
Councillor Leema Qureshi	For
Councillor Zenith Rahman	For
Councillor Candida Ronald	For
Councillor Dan Tomlinson	For
Councillor Helal Uddin	For
Councillor Abdal Ullah	For
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	For
Councillor Val Whitehead	For
Councillor Bex White	For
Councillor Andrew Wood	Abstain
Carried	

10. USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROCEDURES

The Council considered the report setting out when Special Urgency provisions have been applied to Executive Key Decisions.

The recommendation was put to the vote and were **agreed**.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report on the use of special urgency provisions in relation to Executive Key Decisions be noted

11. COMMITTEE CALENDAR 2019/20

The Council considered the report of the Corporate Director, Governance setting out a revised calendar of meetings for the Council, Committees and other meetings for the municipal year 2019/20.

The recommendations were put to the vote and were **agreed**.

RESOLVED

1. That the proposed amended calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2019/20 be approved as set out in Appendix A of the report including amended standard start times where appropriate.
2. That the Corporate Director Governance be delegated the authority to agree meeting dates for any new Committees or Panels that are set up subsequent to this report being presented to Council, subject to appropriate consultation with Members.
3. To note that the Constitution provides for the Monitoring Officer to agree to cancel, amend a meeting or arrange new meetings where required.

12. STANDARDS (ADVISORY) COMMITTEE - RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Council considered a report proposing the re - appointment of a number of Co-Optees to the Standards (Advisory) Committee.

RESOLVED

1. That the re-appointment of Mr John Pulford MBE, Ms Nafisa Adam, Mr Michael James Houston and Ms Fiona Browne as Independent Co-opted Members of the Standards (Advisory) Committee until 30 September 2021 be approved.
2. To note that the Standards (Advisory) Committee will be undertaking a review to ensure the Council takes into account the best practice guidance from the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

13. CROSS-AUTHORITY ENFORCEMENT OF ILLEGAL STREET TRADING ON TOWER BRIDGE

The Council considered a report on the cross-authority enforcement of illegal street trading on Tower Bridge.

RESOLVED

1. That the City Of London Corporation be delegated the function of enforcement of offences relating to unlicensed street trading in the area shown at Appendix 2 of the report.
2. Authorise the execution of the agreement between the City of London Corporation and the Council relating to the enforcement referred to above.

Vote on Cross-Authority Enforcement of Illegal Street Trading on Tower Bridge	
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	For
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	For
Councillor Sufia Alam	For
Councillor Amina Ali	For
Councillor Shah Ameen	For
Councillor Asma Begum	For
Mayor John Biggs	For
Councillor Rachel Blake	For
Councillor Kevin Brady	For
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	For
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	For
Councillor Shad Chowdhury	For
Councillor Dipa Das	For
Councillor Marc Francis	For
Councillor Peter Golds	For
Councillor Ehtasham Haque	For
Councillor Danny Hassell	For
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain	For
Councillor Asma Islam	For
Councillor Sirajul Islam	For
Councillor Denise Jones	For
Councillor Tarik Khan	For
Councillor James King	For
Councillor Eve McQuillan	For
Councillor Ayas Miah	For
Councillor Harun Miah	For
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	For
Councillor Victoria Obaze	For
Councillor Mohammed Pappu	For
Councillor Kyrsten Perry	For
Councillor John Pierce	For

Councillor Leema Qureshi	For
Councillor Zenith Rahman	For
Councillor Candida Ronald	For
Councillor Dan Tomlinson	For
Councillor Helal Uddin	For
Councillor Abdal Ullah	For
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	For
Councillor Val Whitehead	For
Councillor Bex White	For
Councillor Andrew Wood	For
Carried	

14. STATE OF THE BOROUGH DEBATE

The Mayor gave his state of the Borough address, providing a summary of the Administration's achievements over the last 12 months and their continuing priorities around the following:

- The environment.
- Crime reduction and ASB.
- Delivery of temporary and permanent affordable housing and raising housing standards.
- Infrastructure improvements.
- Education, training and employment.
- Standard of living and protecting services.
- Children's and young people's services.
- Waste services.

Councillor Andrew Wood, Leader of the Conservative Opposition Group responded to the Mayor's report. Whilst he considered that progress had been made in a number of areas, he felt that the pace of change was too slow. He listed a number of areas where he considered, there was a need for improvements particularly with regard to: transparency in decision making, meeting recycling targets, performance at planning appeals, progress with delivering infrastructure, the recruitment of Senior staff at the Council, and management of aspects of the Council finances.

The following Councillors also responded to the Mayor report.

- Councillor Sirajul Islam
- Councillor Peter Golds
- Councillor Abdal Ullah
- Councillor Danny Hassell
- Councillor Ehtasham Haque
- Councillor Candida Ronald
- Councillor Rachel Blake
- Councillor David Edgar
- Councillor Amina Ali

- Councillor Mufeedah Bustin
- Councillor John Pierce
- Councillor Motin – Uz –Zaman
- Councillor Marc Francis

In closing the debate, the Mayor welcomed the challenges set by Councillors especially around the role for effective scrutiny and consultation in respect of important issues. Regarding the future of Raine's Foundation School he outlined the consultation process and that no decision on the future of the school had been made.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

Speaker of the Council

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