

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 7.05 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 9 MARCH 2010**

**M71, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,  
LONDON, E14 2BG**

**Members Present:**

Councillor Sirajul Islam (Chair)

Councillor Tim Archer  
Councillor Stephanie Eaton  
Councillor Alexander Heslop  
Councillor Denise Jones  
Councillor A A Sardar

**Co-opted Members Present:**

Mr Ahbab Miah – Parent Governor Representative

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor Ohid Ahmed (Lead Member Resources & Performance)  
Councillor Rofique Ahmed (Lead Member Culture & Leisure)  
Councillor Oliur Rahman (Lead Member Employment & Skills)

**Guests Present:**

–

**Officers Present:**

Agnes Adrien – (Team Leader, Enforcement & Litigation, Legal Services)  
Mohammed Ahad – (Scrutiny Policy Officer, Scrutiny & Equalities)  
Lutfur Ali – (Assistant Chief Executive)  
Vicky Allen – (Performance Information Officer, Strategy & Performance)  
Heather Bonfield – (Interim Head of Cultural Services , Communities Localities & Culture)  
Barry Clark – (Administrative Support Officer Scrutiny & Equalities)  
Stephanie Ford – (Interim Performance Manager, Strategy & Performance)  
Stephen Halsey – (Corporate Director, Communities, Localities &

	Culture)
Afazul Hoque	– (Scrutiny Policy Manager, Scrutiny & Equalities)
Lorrayne Johnson	– (Communications Officer, Corporate Communications)
Chris Naylor	– (Corporate Director, Resources)
Matthew Vaughan	– (Political Advisor to the Conservative Group, Democratic Services)
Angus Taylor	– (Scrutiny and Regulatory Team Leader, Democratic Services)

### **COUNCILLOR S. ISLAM (CHAIR) IN THE CHAIR**

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

- Councillor B. Turner, Vice-Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Lead – Excellent Public Services.
- Councillor A. Jackson, Scrutiny Lead – One Tower Hamlets.
- Councillor S. Eaton, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.
- Mr M. Keating, Service Heads Scrutiny and Equalities, for whom Mr A. Hoque, Scrutiny Policy Manager, was deputising.

**Noted**

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Councillor A. Heslop** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 “Performance and Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2009/10 – Performance to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009” on the basis that the report contained recommendations regarding the monitoring of the Authority’s performance in relation to housing services, including that of Tower Hamlets Homes and Councillor Heslop was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Tower Hamlets Homes and a Tower Hamlets Leaseholder.

**Noted.**

#### **3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

Councillor Alex Heslop, Scrutiny Lead – A Great Place to Live, identified a typographical error on page 9, Verbal Updates from Scrutiny Leads, A Great Place to Live – Private Rented Sector, paragraph 3, line 1 which should read

“leasing” and not “lasing” and proposed that the minutes be amended accordingly.

The Chair **Moved** (taking account of the motion from Councillor Heslop) and it was: -

**Resolved**

That, subject to the amendment detailed at (a) below, the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair, as a correct record of the proceedings.

- (a) page 9, Verbal Updates from Scrutiny Leads, A Great Place to Live – Private Rented Sector, paragraph 3, line 1 the word “lasing” to be replaced with the word “leasing”.

**4. REQUESTS TO SUBMIT PETITIONS**

Nil items.

**5. REQUESTS FOR DEPUTATIONS**

Nil items.

**6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS 'CALLED IN'**

Nil items.

**7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

**7.1 Performance and Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring report 2009-10**

**Councillor A. Heslop** declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7.1 “Performance and Corporate Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2009/10 – Performance to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009” on the basis that the report contained recommendations regarding the monitoring of the Authority’s performance in relation to housing services, including that of Tower Hamlets Homes and Councillor Heslop was a representative of the Authority on the governing body of Tower Hamlets Homes and a Tower Hamlets Leaseholder.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member Resources and Performance, at the request of the Chair, introduced the report which drew together progress reports in relation to Strategic Plan Indicators, General Fund Revenue Budget

and Housing Revenue Budget to the end of December 2009 (Quarter 3), summarising the salient points contained therein and highlighting in particular:

- Of the 85 Strategic Indicators 36 could be reported on in Quarter 3, although in year targets had not been set for 3 of these. 14 of the 33 applicable indicators had met or exceeded performance targets, and were on track to achieve their year-end target. Overall 21 indicators had improved performance measured at the same point in 2008/09.
- 19 of the applicable indicators were off target, although 9 of these had improved performance measured at the same point in 2008/09 and 1 which was off target in October/ November had returned to target by year end. However of the 19 indicators off target over the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 11 had been identified as missing their year-end target by over 10 per cent and these were detailed on pages 17 to 19 of the agenda.
- An overspend of £1.7 million was projected for the General Fund Revenue Budget, a decrease of £0.643 million from the position at the end of September 2009 (Quarter 2). An overspend of £2.6 million was projected for the Housing Revenue Account Budget, which was unchanged from the position at the end of September 2009 (Quarter 2).

A discussion followed which focussed on the following points:

- Clarification was sought, with reference to the £1.29million underspend for tenant and leaseholder service charges detailed on page 28 of the agenda, as to whether this resulted from more revenue than expenditure (overcharging) and in particular whether this would result in a refund to leaseholders. Also whether Tower Hamlets Leaseholders had been appraised of this position. Councillor Ahmed undertook to refer the request for clarification to the Corporate Director Development and Renewal to respond in writing.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought, with reference to the reporting that National Indicator 154 Net additional homes provided and National Indicator 155 Number of affordable homes provided were off target and that the latter was projected to miss its year end target, as to reasons for this. It was noted that Councillor Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development, had attended the January meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and given optimistic assurances that performance was on track to meet targets by year end. The downturn in the economy, reported as the cause for missing the year-end target for NI155 had been a known factor in January. Councillor Ahmed undertook to refer the request for clarification to the Corporate Director Development and Renewal to respond in writing.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, with reference to the reporting of a zero projected variance of expenditure against budget for the Chief Executive's Directorate. It was commented that this was positive news given the projected overspend of £397,000, at the end of September (Quarter 2); however the absence of a commentary as to how costs had been reined in was noted, and clarification was sought as to whether additional funds had been used to mitigate the position. Mr Lutfur Ali, Assistant Chief Executive, responded that the Communications Service had been historically underfunded and

advertising revenues for East End Life normally more than offset this. The economic downturn had reduced such revenues and this was reflected in Quarter 2 reporting. However this position had improved in Quarter 3 and budget underspends elsewhere in the Chief Executive's Directorate had also been used to produce a balanced budget.

- Clarification was sought, with reference to the £450,000 underspend for Adults Homecare detailed on page 22 of the agenda, as to how numbers of referrals and associated costs were to be controlled. Councillor Ahmed undertook to refer the request for clarification to the Corporate Director Adults Health and Wellbeing to respond in writing.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, regarding the £800,000 overspend for Administrative Buildings detailed on page 27 of the agenda and the mitigating actions to contain costs referred to thereat. Mr Chris Naylor, Corporate Director Resources, responded that the overspend had resulted from the Council's original Accommodation Strategy having been predicated on disposals of administrative buildings which had not taken place. Negotiations were ongoing to mitigate the overspend and this included sub-letting part of Anchorage House in the short term. In the medium term the Council was pursuing a course to vacate Anchorage House altogether by 2013. Meantime the 2010/11 Budget process had included the creation of a small contingency to meet projected costs.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, with reference to the reporting that Strategic Indicator 109 Percentage of Hotlines answered and Strategic Indicator 110 Average waiting time for calls to Hotlines to be answered were off target and had deteriorated since the December 2008. This poor performance was considered to be of major concern and an assurance was sought that it was being properly investigated and that the problems with the new telephony system were not so bad as to require a reversion to the previous system, but could instead be mitigated. Mr Chris Naylor, Corporate Director Resources, responded that there were technical failures at the Contact Centre that went beyond the normal teething problems arising from the migration of such a large number of telephone lines to a different platform and the parallel teething problems arising from the introduction of a new Telephony system at Tower Hamlets Homes. The contractual issues were being discussed at the highest levels, and clarity as to whether British Telecom could continue to provide the service was imminent.
- Concern was also expressed that the combined overspends in Children, Schools and Families (CSF) Directorate and Adults Health and Wellbeing (AHWB), when combined amounted to approximately £2million, and the Committee was charged with scrutinising such issues so as to prevent matters getting out of control. It was requested that a written explanation for this and the associated action being taken to contain expenditure within budget be provided to all members of the Committee as a matter of urgency. Mr Chris Naylor, Corporate Director Resources, responded that AHWB expenditure was being contained within the directorate budget. With regard to CSF the main area of overspend had been caused by unprecedented levels of referrals in children's social care, where there was a statutory obligation to

respond. The 2010/11 directorate budget had been set to reflect the expected number of referrals, and a process was underway to redesign service provision to cope with the demand without causing additional cost.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations, as contained in the report, and it was:-

**Resolved**

1. That performance information (Performance against targets for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter), as set out in the report be noted; and
2. That the actions to be taken in 2009/10 to contain spending within Budget, be noted.

**8. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

**8.1 Strategic Plan 2009/10-11/12: Year 2 Action Plan; and Outline Plan**

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member Resources and Performance, at the request of the Chair, introduced the report which contained the Strategic Plan 2009/10-2011/12 Year 2 Action Plan, summarising the salient points contained therein and highlighting in particular:

- That the Corporate Management Team had considered the Year 2 Action Plan in mid November 2009 and the plan had subsequently been circulated to all Members for comment, but none had been received.
- In view of the forthcoming Municipal election in May 2010 there was a commitment to review and if necessary refresh the Year 2 Action Plan to reflect the priorities of a new Administration.

Clarification was sought and given that the traditional all Members seminar would be held regarding the Strategic Plan in June following the Municipal elections in May.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations, as contained in the report, and it was:-

**Resolved**

That the Council's Strategic Plan 2009/10-2010/11: Year 2 Action Plan and Outline Plan be noted.

**9. SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT**

### 9.1 Report of the Scrutiny Review Working Group on Reducing Worklessness amongst Young Adults 18-24

Councillor Abdul Aziz Sardar, Scrutiny Lead – A Prosperous Community, at the request of the Chair, introduced the report of the Scrutiny Review Working Group on Reducing Worklessness amongst 18-24 year olds, summarising the salient points contained therein highlighting in particular:

- That the review group had undertaken in the review over a 6 month period since June 2009, which had comprised a number of sessions with Council Officers, partner agencies (including national ones), the Third Sector and local residents (including workshops and focus groups with young adults).
- The recommendations encompassed 6 main areas ranging from apprenticeship and entry level opportunities for young adults to greater outreach to communities not accessing the labour market, early intervention to tackle generational worklessness and strengthening community leadership. It was hoped that the timely recommendations in a time of recession would improve the opportunities locally available to young adults to secure employment and create prosperity for residents generally.

A discussion followed, during which the report and recommendations contained therein were broadly welcomed, and which was centred on the following points:

- Which of the 20 recommendations, contained in the report of the working group, the Scrutiny Lead Member considered to be the most important. Access, training and partnership working with the Third Sector were emphasised as vital elements by the Lead Member.
- Whether the Scrutiny Lead Member considered that if the recommendations had been implemented two years previously they would have had a significant impact on current levels of worklessness. The Lead Member affirmed that such implementation would have proven effective.
- Recommendation 13 “That the Employment and Enterprise Team devise a clear Enterprise Strategy which gives ongoing support to local social enterprises and encourages entrepreneurship amongst young adults” was particularly welcomed as it was considered that the role of social enterprise required comprehensive examination with a view to future service provision.

The Chair in **Moving** the recommendations, as contained in the report, asked that the Cabinet respond to the recommendations of the working group; and it was:-

#### **Resolved**

1. That the draft report of the Scrutiny Review Working Group on Reducing Worklessness amongst 18-24 year olds be endorsed; and

2. That the Service Head Scrutiny and Equalities be authorised to agree the final report before submission to Cabinet, after consultation with the Scrutiny Lead for A Prosperous Community.

## 9.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommendation Tracking Report: Update

The Chair introduced the second bi-annual tracking report monitoring progress in the implementation of recommendations from past scrutiny reviews summarising the salient points contained therein and highlighting:

- That the outcome of the first tracking review earlier in the year, when Scrutiny Lead Members revisited a previous review within their portfolio area were set out at paragraph 3.3.
- That overall the report showed that overall directorates/ services were implementing the majority of scrutiny review recommendations and therefore the work of Scrutiny had influenced key strategies and campaigns.
- Appendix 1 set out an update on scrutiny reviews where implementation was being monitored. A number were traffic lighted as amber, but this was primarily due to their being in the early stages of implementation or recent agreement by Cabinet.

A short discussion followed which focussed on the following points:

- With reference to the Choice Based Lettings Review, whilst good progress in relation to implementing 18 of the 20 recommendations was noted, it was requested that a progress update be provided to Councillor Heslop, Scrutiny Lead – A Great Place to Live, in respect of the review recommendation of a full feasibility study for an East London Lettings Company.
- With reference to the revisiting of Domestic Violence Review and the consequent identification of concerns about sustainable funding of DV services, in the first tracking review detailed on page 182 of the agenda, it was requested that a progress update on the concerns raised be provided to Councillor Jones, Scrutiny Lead – Safe and Supportive.
- Consideration that given the levels of concern being expressed by constituents to Members regarding funding of English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL), and in particular that it wasn't being channelled through Tower Hamlets College, a communications initiative was needed to reassure the public that ESOL funding was available and that the Council was committed to this although there had been a reduction in resources from Government.

The Chair **Moved** the recommendations, as contained in the report, and it was:-



### **Resolved**

That the reported progress in respect of the implementation of past Scrutiny Review recommendations endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be noted.

## **10. SCRUTINY SPOTLIGHT**

Ms Heather Bonfield, Interim Service Head Cultural Services gave a presentation outlining the elements comprising the portfolio of Councillor Rofique Ahmed, Lead Member Culture and Leisure, and detailing the key achievements and challenges/ priorities associated with it in the Municipal Year to date; this focused on the points set out below.

The Chair informed members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that a paper containing the main points of the presentation had been **Tabled**, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes. Ms Bonfield also **Tabled** a Culture and Leisure 2009/10 "year book" which set out performance targets set at the request of the Lead Member and associated performance, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

### **Achievements**

- *Clear strategic direction* from the Lead Member, on taking service provision forward, had been essential given the range of activities in the portfolio area:
  - Idea Store Strategy refreshed - with new Ideas Store Metro's to provide more wide ranging services including unemployment and health support.
  - Leisure Centre Strategy adopted in 2009 with consequent progress on future of Poplar Baths.
  - Development of Public Arts, Local History and Archives Strategies for future consideration.
- *Raising Service Standards, Quality and performance in an environment of financial constraint:*
  - Self assessment with Cultural Services Improvement Tool methodology and Peer review by LB Hackney undertaken to identify areas for improvement.
  - Working with leisure contractor Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) to improve customer care and standards with action plan and robust performance monitoring in place. Consequent improvements at Mile End Leisure Centre.
  - Award - Spa London at York Hall had just won spa of the year.
  - Idea Store improved performance: Visitor numbers up from 1.6 million in 2005/06 to 2 million. Issues up from 877,000 in 2005/06 to approximately 1 million.
  - Leisure centre improved usage - visits up to almost 2 million.
  - Improved Survey Results reflecting customer satisfaction with value for money and the service provided. Idea Store at

Whitechapel 91% and Canary Wharf 94% . Leisure Centre rating 45% of good/verygood/excellent above London average of 44%.

- *Value for Money*  
Renegotiated redistribution of GLL leisure contract surpluses with ratio of 75% GLL 25% LBTH now revised to 25% GLL, 50% reinvested in service within Tower Hamlets by GLL and 25% for LBTH to direct to service development.
- *Culture in the Community*
  - Baishakhi Mela – 2009 successfully delivered in house and large amount of sponsorship funding secured. Currently working in partnership with Community on 2010 event.
  - Film Festival well attended
  - Major Music Events Programme and Fireworks, focussed in Victoria Park, very popular. Robust noise management initiative for events had led to less complaints with more people attending.
  - Cultural Olympiad held with a view to 2012 Olympic Games
  - Community Festivals
  - Profile of sport raised for 2012 Games with events eg at Mile End Park for: Paralympics and a talent day.
- *Service Transformations*
  - Free Swimming: Government funded for 60+ and under 16 with the biggest increase in uptake for any London borough (13500 visits). Supplemented by LBTH initiatives “Free Swim Friday” and “Family Swim Saturday” (13000 visits). Successful outreach to young women through the Healthy Swim Programme and overall positive impact in supporting Tower Hamlets PCT targets to tackle local health issues heart disease, diabetes and obesity.
  - Bancroft Local History Library and Archives progress: £225,000 LBTH funding allocated to DDA and health/ safety infrastructural works. Heritage Manager appointed to help secure funding and develop masterplan to include leveraging in external funding. Engagement of users in developing masterplan with new focus on engaging young people, outreach, digitisation and declutter. Clarity and partnership working on the housing of collections.
  - Chrisp Street and Watney Market Idea Store changes encouraging family use- children’s area
  - Client Advisory Boards comprising users with ward councillor chair and overarching Borough Advisory Board to drive forward service improvement at local centres of leisure provision.

### **Challenges/ Priorities**

- *Development/Refresh/Implementation of a set of strategies: Idea Store Strategy, Leisure Strateg, Sports Strategy, Culture Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy, Local History and Archives Strategy*
- *Baishakhi Mela – successful in house delivery 2010*
- *Community Festival Programme, Events in Parks, Live Site*
- *Cultural Olympiad, 2010 pre and in-Games arrangements and Olympic Legacy*
- *Mile End Leisure Centre Improvements - £1.5 million of expenditure*

- *Usage of LBTH share of Leisure Contract for service improvements: Poplar Baths, Mile End Park, Brady Centre and Kobi Nazrul.*
- *Implement Self-Service in all Ideas Stores and Libraries*

Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee then posed a series of detailed questions to which Ms Bonfield and Mr Steve Halsey, Corporate Director Communities, Localities and Culture, responded. The question and answer session was centred on the following points:

- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, with reference to the implementation of the Idea Store Strategy in 2010/11, as to what could be envisaged in respect of:
  - Closure or relocation of existing libraries; and in particular the location of the Idea Store at Crossharbour and the impact of this on Cubitt Town Library. Ms Bonfield responded that no library closures were envisaged (and the strategy focused on soft implementation: changing the way services were delivered to improve the offer eg longer opening hours, service additions such as unemployment and health support and shaping the Idea Store Metros to offer more than a library but less than a main IS but retaining the same core element. Watney Market was likely to be the priority for the first IS Metro given current under-provision in the area.
  - Plans, including disposal, for Limehouse Library, currently empty and considered to be in a deteriorating condition. Mr Halsey responded that there were no plans to dispose, refurbish or bring back into use this building, and its future was a matter for the corporate Asset Management Board.
- Clarification/ assurance was sought and given, with reference to the implementation of the Public Art Strategy, as to future plans for the Henry Moore Sculpture. Ms Bonfield outlined the history of the sculpture, that it remained in Council ownership on free loan to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park for public display, and there was no plan to change that.
- Clarification was sought and given regarding the planned improvements for the Brady Centre and whether funding was secured. Ms Bonfield referenced the Section 106 funding in place for the green roof and that this should lever in external funding for environmental sustainability.
- Noting the successful in-house delivery of the Baishakhi Mela in 2009, clarification was sought and given regarding the envisaged timeline for transfer of the organisation of the festival back to community control and process to advertise and select local residents wishing to become involved. Mr Halsey confirmed that a number of issues had delayed the transfer of the Mela to a community trust and the Council had determined, pending the establishment of a community trust in 2011, that it should deliver it in 2010. The Council had set aside some revenue funding for this in 2009 and unprecedented income had been generated. There would be a general invitation for potential board members for the new community trust.

- Clarification was sought and given regarding the future of the Brick Lane Arches scheme which had been managed by Cultural Services. Mr Halsey outlined the background to the withdrawal of the application for planning consent and plans for further consultation prior to resubmission of the application later in 2010. Also clarified that the Council was responsible for long term management of the arch and minoret.
- Clarification sought and given regarding complaints by paid up membership holders that they had had to queue for long periods due to the demand from those swimming for free. Ticketing system now working successfully. Councillor Rofique Ahmed, Lead Member Culture and Leisure, commented that he was happy to look into any complaints about the free swim experience.
- Concern was expressed, particularly with reference to the Whitechapel Sports Centre, that ward councillors were not aware of the establishment of the Client Advisory Boards. Accordingly it was requested that all councillors be notified in writing of the new initiative. Councillor Ahmed responded that the boards were a very recent development and any councillors wishing to participate would be able to do so. He undertook to find out and inform the Chair which Bethnal Green South Ward Councillor had chaired the first CAB relating to the Whitechapel Sports Centre.
- Clarification sought and given as to whether the Council's Leisure Contract had been insufficiently client managed previously and only now service provision was being optimised through performance monitoring and management. Ms Bonfield responded that performance management had always been in place but a more robust framework had now been applied. Also the contract had only achieved a surplus in 2009/10 and related contractual aspects had consequently been renegotiated so Tower Hamlets saw more benefit from this.
- Clarification sought and given that the Council's leisure contractor Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) paid its employees the London Living Wage.
- Clarification sought regarding whether excessive energy costs for GLL sites had been addressed. Ms Bonfield confirmed that these were absorbed within the contract and would not feed through into price rises for users.

The Chair thanked Ms Heather Bonfield and Councillor Rofique Ahmed for the detailed presentation, and subsequently **Moved** and it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the presentation be formally received and noted.

## **11. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF UNRESTRICTED CABINET AGENDA**

The Chair informed members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that a sheet of pre-decision questions/ comments in respect of the unrestricted business contained in the agenda for consideration by the Cabinet, at their meeting to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010, had been **Tabled**, a copy of which would be interleaved with the minutes.

Councillor Heslop, in referring to Agenda item 6.2 "New Lettings Policy" on the agenda for consideration by the Cabinet at their meeting the following evening, commented that he was aware that some Members remained unclear, as to whether inclusion within the proposed new Lettings Policy of a provision for sons and daughters of existing Tower Hamlets leaseholders to apply for social housing, discriminated against children of freeholders in Tower Hamlets. Councillor Heslop considered that the legality of this provision should therefore be investigated, and Members subsequently provided with clarification, and accordingly suggested that members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee might wish to approve this as an additional pre-decision scrutiny question to those already tabled.

Mr Lutfur Ali, Assistant Chief Executive, advised that the matter raised by Councillor Heslop could be adequately addressed in a written response, to Members, from Ms Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) and Monitoring Officer.

The Chair **Moved** (taking account of the advice of the Assistant Chief Executive) and it was **Resolved**:-

That the following pre-decision questions be submitted to Cabinet for consideration:

**Agenda Item 6.1 Poplar Baths Development Plans (CAB 120/090)**

1. We know that Government funding for local authorities will be reduced over the next few years. Has Cabinet considered if it is prudent to consider committing revenue funds to new projects?
2. Will revenue for running costs at Poplar Baths be reliant on making savings in other services?
3. How many visitors would be needed annually to reduce the subsidy outlined at 6.3.1?
4. Has Cabinet considered whether there would be any detrimental effect on Mile End Leisure Centre and Tiller Road Baths as result of opening a new centre in Poplar Baths?
5. Can Cabinet explain why they think Poplar Baths site is the best choice for a new swimming pool for the rising population in the east of the Borough?

6. In reference to paragraph 6.4.2 can Cabinet specify which developer contributions has been identified to cover leisure centre and Poplar Baths restoration design costs to RIBA Design Stage D? Furthermore, have these funds been earmarked for any other projects and if so what are those and how will they be funded now?

**12. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

Nil items.

**13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The agenda circulated contained no Section Two business (business containing information defined as exempt or confidential in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government, Act 1972, nor were any such items of business tabled or considered to be urgent. There was therefore no requirement to adopt the standard recommended motion to exclude the press and public, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, to allow for consideration of such business prior to the conclusion of the meeting.

**SUMMARY OF EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**14. EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

Nil items.

**15. EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS 'CALLED IN'**

Nil items.

**16. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL CABINET AGENDA**

Nil items.

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

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 8.17 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Sirajul Islam  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee