

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 24 MARCH 2010**

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

**Members Present:**

Councillor Helal Abbas	Councillor Ann Jackson
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	Councillor Denise Jones
Councillor Rajib Ahmed	Councillor Dr. Emma Jones
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan
Councillor Anwara Ali	Councillor Rania Khan
Councillor Shahed Ali	Councillor Shiria Khatun
Councillor M. Shahid Ali	Councillor Harun Miah
Councillor Tim Archer	Councillor Abjol Miah
Councillor Abdul Asad	Councillor Fozol Miah
Councillor Lutfu Begum	Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	Councillor Joshua Peck
Councillor Stephanie Eaton	Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Councillor Rupert Eckhardt	Councillor Oliur Rahman
Councillor Marc Francis	Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor Peter Golds	Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique
Councillor Fazlul Haque	Councillor A A Sardar
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	Councillor Rachael Saunders
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor David Snowdon
Councillor Clair Hawkins	Councillor Bill Turner
Councillor Alexander Heslop	Councillor Dulal Uddin
Councillor Shirley Houghton	Councillor Abdal Ullah
Councillor Ahmed Hussain	Councillor Salim Ullah
Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman
Councillor Waiseul Islam	

The meeting opened at 7.32 p.m.

**The Mayor, Councillor Ahmed Adam Omer, in the Chair**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Abdul Matin and Abdul Munim.

**RESOLVED**

That the apologies for absence be noted.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors made declaration of interest in items included on the agenda as follows:

Councillor	Item	Type of interest	Reason
Helal Abbas	6.5	Personal	Surgery is in my ward
Helal Abbas	11.2	Personal	Member of the Tower Hamlets Credit Union
Rajib Ahmed	11.2	Personal	Member of Tower Hamlets Credit Union
Rofique Ahmed	5.1.2	Personal	Ward councillor
Anwara Ali	6.3	Personal	Ward councillor
Anwara Ali	6.4	Personal	Ward councillor
Anwara Ali	6.5	Personal	I work at the Spitalfields Surgery
Shahed Ali	5.1.3	Personal	Ward councillor
Md. Shahid Ali	11.1	Personal	Ward councillor
Md. Shahid Ali	11.12	Personal	Ward councillor
Abdul Asad	11.2	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Lutfa Begum	6.5	Personal	I work for the NHS
Lutfa Begum	11.1	Personal	Ward councillor
Philip Briscoe	11.3	Prejudicial	Director of two companies advising RSLs
Alibor Choudhury	11.2	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Stephanie Eaton	5.2.3	Personal	Crown Estate properties in my ward
Stephanie Eaton	6.5	Personal	Leaseholder of property of which the freehold is owned by One Housing Group
Stephanie Eaton	11.2	Personal	Husband is a member of the Co-operative party
Stephanie Eaton	11.5	Personal	Leaseholder of property of which the freehold is owned by One Housing Group
Stephanie Eaton	11.8	Personal	Crown Estate properties in my ward
Stephanie Eaton	11.10	Personal	Crown Estate properties in my ward
Stephanie Eaton	11.18	Personal	Leaseholder of property of which the freehold is owned by One Housing Group

Marc Francis	11.1	Personal	Resident of Old Ford Road
Carli Harper-Penman	11.2	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Fazlul Haque	7.10	Personal	Ward councillor
Shafiqul Haque	11.2	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Alex Heslop	11.1	Personal	I own a property in Old Ford Road
Alex Heslop	11.2	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party, Tower Hamlets Credit Union and Tower Hamlets Co-operative Development Agency
Shirley Houghton	11.3	Prejudicial	Husband is director of two companies advising RSLs and I am company officer
Ahmed Hussain	6.5	Personal	I work for the NHS
Azizur Rahman Khan	5.2.3	Personal	Crown Estate properties in my ward
Azizur Rahman Khan	11.8	Personal	Crown Estate properties in my ward
Azizur Rahman Khan	11.10	Personal	Crown Estate properties in my ward
Rania Khan	5.2.1	Personal	Ward councillor and resident
Rania Khan	11.11	Personal	Ward councillor and resident
Oliur Rahman	11.2	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Muhammad Abdullah Salique	5.2.3	Personal	Ward councillor
Muhammad Abdullah Salique	11.8	Personal	Ward councillor
A. A. Sardar	11.11	Personal	Ward councillor
Bill Turner	5.1.2	Personal	I spoke publicly against Habanos opening
Bill Turner	11.2	Personal	Member of the Co-operative party
Motin Uz-Zaman	6.5	Personal	I work for the NHS

### 3. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010, the extraordinary meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 and the Budget meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 be confirmed as correct records of the proceedings and the Mayor be authorised to sign them accordingly.

**4. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**(1) Announcement by the Mayor**

The Mayor referred to the fact that this was the last Council meeting before the elections. He expressed the hope that many of the Councillors present would be back in the Chamber for the Annual Council Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and took the opportunity to thank all Councillors for their contributions over the past four years on behalf of the people of Tower Hamlets; and to express his gratitude to the Council for allowing him to serve the borough as Mayor during the current year.

**5. TO RECEIVE ANY PETITIONS OR DEPUTATIONS**

**PETITIONS**

**5.1.1 Petition regarding postal voting**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Terry McGreenera addressed the meeting in support of the petition as set out in the agenda. Mr McGreenera then responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Joshua Peck, Deputy Leader of the Council, said that since the elections held in 2006 the government had implemented new Regulations requiring dates of birth and signatures to be registered by electors in advance of the election. Stringent checks had been put in place by the Elections Team in respect of postal vote applications as they arrive in the office. All electors who apply are advised in writing that an application has been received. Checks are also made by the Election Team where the elector has requested that the ballot paper be sent to an alternative address. When ballot paper packs are returned, the postal voting statement is separated from the ballot paper envelope and 100% are scanned to match signatures and dates of birth before the ballot paper is accepted.

**RESOLVED**

That the petition be referred to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) for a written response on any outstanding matters with 28 days.

**5.1.2 Petition regarding the future use of Habanos Wine Bar**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr Ian Dick, speaking on behalf of Janet Wade, addressed the meeting in support of the petition as set out in the agenda. Mr. Dick then responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Resources and Performance, thanked Mr. Dick for bringing this matter to his attention. He was also aware

that these concerns had been brought to the attention of the Chief Executive who had provided a detailed response and he assured the petitioner that he was aware of the strength of feeling of the residents in the locality. The Council was restricted in the interventions available to it and the use was long established in planning terms and was protected from planning enforcement. He was aware that that a series of conditions were being imposed by the Council which were geared to protecting residential amenity. He added that he was keen to ensure that this property was brought back into use whilst minimising the detrimental affect on neighbouring residents.

### **RESOLVED**

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

#### **5.1.3 Petition regarding the use of 2 Jubilee Street, E1 by Turangalila**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Ms. Lynsey Ellard, on behalf of Ms. Deborah Coughlin, addressed the meeting in support of the petition as set out in the agenda. Ms. Ellard then responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Ohid Ahmed, Lead Member for Resources and Performance, said that the site was currently being held for the provision of a Centre for Independent Living and was not therefore available. The Council had submitted a bid to the Department of Health for resources to redevelop 2 Jubilee Street to create new facilities for Adult Social Care services. The services were currently located at sites that would no longer be available for use from 2011/12 onwards. The Council was keen to resolve this issue soon as the bid involved negotiations between the Council, the Department of Health and the Treasury. The date of the final outcome was not yet known but it would be during the spring of 2011.

### **RESOLVED**

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal, for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

### **DEPUTATIONS**

#### **5.2.1 Deputation regarding resident parking permits for 62-80 Swaton Road, E3**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Stephen Foster and Mr. Nurul Amin addressed the meeting in support of the deputation as set out in the agenda. Mr. Foster and Mr. Amin then responded to questions from Members of the Council.

Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member for Housing and Development, thanked Mr. Foster and Mr. Amin for bringing the deputation to the Council. Councillor Francis felt he spoke for everyone in the Chamber in sympathising with the situation that the residents found themselves in and before he responded, he wanted to remind councillors and the public why the Council introduced the Car Free Zone policy. In the Borough, there were around 20,000 residents parking spaces with an almost equal number of Residents Permit holders.

At the December 2009 Full Council meeting, Councillors agreed to make changes to refine the Car Free Zone policy for future planning applications and subject to further legal opinion, intended to implement these changes in the summer. However the Council could not retrospectively tear up the Section 106 agreements relating to developments that have been given planning permission in previous years and the responsibility for informing potential home owners that the property is subject to a Car Free Zone agreement lies with the developer and the purchaser's solicitor.

In the case of 62-80 Swaton Road, very specific concerns have been raised. This was a self-build shared ownership scheme by East Thames Housing Association and residents now own the properties outright. Therefore, while this situation is unlike that in Horseferry Road, the Council may have some responsibility for directing this group of residents to this scheme and he wanted to formally initiate an investigation into the Council's role and responsibility in residents signing up to this scheme.

If the Council was found to have been at fault, it would invite East Thames to submit an application to vary the Section 106 agreement for 62-80 Swaton Road in relation to the Car Free Zone agreement.

## **RESOLVED**

That the petition be referred to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture for a written response on any outstanding matters within 28 days.

## **Change to order of business**

At this point, Councillor Marc Francis **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** – "That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.11 to be considered as the next item of business."

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

## **11.11 Motion proposed by Councillor Rania Khan regarding parking permits for 62-80 Swaton Road**

Councillor Rania Khan **MOVED** and Councillor A. A. Sardar **SECONDED** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Marc Francis **MOVED**, and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** an amendment to the motion as follows:-

“To add at the end of ‘This Council notes’:-

‘However, those residents are tenants of a housing association whose homes were advertised in the *Homeseekers* section of East End Life, without reference to the fact that they were subject to a Car Free Zone agreement.

The residents of 62-80 Swaton Road moved into these properties as part of a self-build shared ownership scheme administered by East Thames Housing Association.

Responsibility for informing prospective home owners that the property they are buying is subject to a Car Free Zone agreement lies with the developer and solicitor, not the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.’

And to delete text after ‘This Council resolves’ and replace with:-

1. ‘To investigate Tower Hamlets Council’s role in the referral of Common Housing Register applicants to East Thames’ self-build shared ownership scheme at 62-80 Swaton Road.
2. That if the Council is found to have been at fault, to invite East Thames to submit an application to vary the Section 106 agreement for 62-80 Swaton Road in relation to the Car Free Zone agreement.
3. To report back to councillors and residents concerned, the outcome of this investigation within two months of the date of this Full Council meeting’.”

After debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

## **RESOLVED**

This Council notes:

That the residents of 62-80 Swaton Road have been granted parking permits since 2004.

That in 2009 the Council informed residents that the development was a car free zone.

That the fact the development is “car free” was not made clear to residents when they moved into the properties.

That many of those living in this development rely on their cars for their livelihoods and may well not have moved there if they had been informed about its car-free status.

That the development in question does not suffer from excessive pressure on car-parking spaces.

That a similar case was brought to the attention of the Council in January in a petition from residents of Horseferry Road, Shadwell who have experienced similar problems.

However, those residents are tenants of a housing association whose homes were advertised in the *Homesekers* section of East End Life, without reference to the fact that they were subject to a Car Free Zone agreement.

The residents of 62-80 Swaton Road moved into these properties as part of a self-build shared ownership scheme administered by East Thames Housing Association.

Responsibility for informing prospective home owners that the property they are buying is subject to a Car Free Zone agreement lies with the developer and solicitor, not the London Borough of Tower Hamlets

This Council resolves:

1. To investigate Tower Hamlets Council's role in the referral of Common Housing Register applicants to East Thames' self-build shared ownership scheme at 62-80 Swaton Road.
2. That if the Council is found to have been at fault, to invite East Thames to submit an application to vary the Section 106 agreement for 62-80 Swaton Road in relation to the Car Free Zone agreement.
3. To report back to councillors and residents concerned, the outcome of this investigation within two months of the date of this Full Council meeting.

### **5.2.2 Deputation re: clamping system for John Smith Mews**

This deputation was withdrawn.

### **5.2.3 Deputation re: Crown Estate**

This deputation was not heard as the deputation did not attend the meeting.



**Change to order of business**

At this point, Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** – “That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.8 to be considered as next business.”

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

**11.8 Motion proposed by Councillor Joshua Peck regarding Crown Estate residents**

Councillor Joshua Peck **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** the motion as printed in the agenda.

After debate, Councillor Abjol Miah **MOVED** an amendment that items 3a and 3b of Councillor Dulal Uddin’s motion on the same subject as printed in the agenda at item 11.10 be added to the motion under consideration.

Councillor Joshua Peck indicated that he would not accept the amendment as proposed but with the agreement of the meeting he altered the resolution to his motion to read as follows:-

“To oppose any sale that isn't on the basis of a positive outcome of a ballot of residents; doesn't legally guarantee all of the rights and safeguards of tenants' current tenancies, including security of tenure and levels of rents; and that doesn't also guarantee continuing provision of affordable and key working housing at current levels - and to write to Government ministers to ask them to make representations to this effect to Crown Estate commissioners.”

The motion as altered by Councillor Peck was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED**

This Council notes that:

- The Crown Estate announced on 25 January its intention to sell the freeholds of 1,300 properties on the Victoria Park Estate in Tower Hamlets and Hackney, and the Millbank, Cumberland Market and Lee Green estates in other London Boroughs
- Tenants of these homes include people who have lived there for over 60 years, young families and key workers
- Many residents are on shorthold tenancies which could be ended with as little as two months' notice
- The Crown Estate has given residents an eight-week consultation period but has refused to tell residents whether it is proposing selling the properties to a Registered Social Housing Provider or a commercial landlord; or to give them any guarantees about their security of tenure or levels of rent; or to make any commitment to the homes staying as affordable and key worker housing in the future.

This Council further notes that:

- In advance of this announcement the Crown Estate had temporarily stopped housing key workers, leading many to believe that they expect any new owner to cease providing key worker housing on the estates altogether
- In meetings with residents and Meg Hillier MP, and in response to inquiries from Tower Hamlets Council, the Crown Estate has refused to give any more details of its plans, or give any commitments about the protection of residents' tenancies or the future provision of affordable and key worker housing and has been unable to point to any positive benefits for residents.
- As a result, many residents are extremely worried about what will happen to their homes and whether they will find themselves evicted or priced out.

This Council believes:

- That as a public body the Crown Estate has, in failing to give residents any details of the proposed sale or any reassurance about their futures, has fallen far short of the standard it should uphold.

This Council resolves:

- To oppose any sale that isn't on the basis of a positive outcome of a ballot of residents; doesn't legally guarantee all of the rights and safeguards of tenants' current tenancies, including security of tenure and levels of rents; and that doesn't also guarantee continuing provision of affordable and key working housing at current levels - and to write to Government ministers to ask them to make representations to this effect to Crown Estate commissioners.

## **6. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

### **6.1 Question from Mr. Terry McGreenera to the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Joshua Peck**

"Is the complaints procedure itself a cause for complaint?"

#### **Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Joshua Peck**

No. The Council operates a procedure that has been accredited to International Standard, Complaints Management System ISO 10002:2004. It is also accredited with the Customer Service Excellence award.

Internal monitoring of complaint volumes, response times and escalation rates; identifying learning opportunities & best practice, directorate

reviews and service specific reviews all contribute to the Council's complaints monitoring and service improvement initiatives.

I also report regularly to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on this matter.

**Summary of supplementary question from Mr. McGreenera:**

I made a complaint about an officer and it was referred to that officer to investigate. What is the point of the complaints system?

**Summary of Lead Member's reply:**

That sounds unlikely but if you provide the details I will look into the matter. The complaints procedure has three stages and if, having gone through each stage you are still then dissatisfied, you can complain externally to the Local Government Ombudsman.

**6.2 Question from Mr. Craig Aston (represented by Mr. Graham Collins) to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

"Can the Lead Member inform me when security doors will be fitted on the entrances to 2 – 40 Rosefield Gardens and 1 – 31 Kemps Drive and when urgent decoration will be carried out on the ceilings in the public corridors of these blocks?"

**Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Marc Francis**

The £7.5 million Estate Improvement Programme agreed by Cabinet in 2008 has been put to very good use over the past two years. Around 200 of the dirtiest council blocks have been deep cleaned and repainted. This good work has been carried out in our remaining council estates spread fairly across the Borough and this includes the Bazley Estate and the St Matthias Estate on East India Dock Road.

However, I have personally noted the failing paint coating to the ceiling areas in Rosefield Gardens during my two recent inspections of the Birchfield Estate and Tower Hamlets Homes noted these for inclusion in a future external decoration programme once a budget for the programme has been identified and confirmed.

I have been advised by the Repairs Manager that the water logged roof of the store shed area has been dealt with and since been cleared.

With regard to the residents request for a security door on the block which leads to Thornfield House, we have a large existing committed programme of security door systems to be progressed in the capital programme and, subject to the agreement of residents themselves, we will seek to include this block for possible inclusion into the programme when the next future opportunity arises. In the mean time I have asked the major works door

entry engineer to visit the block and provide a feasibility report on whether such a security door can be fitted.

I am sorry I cannot give a more definitive answer now on the timing of potential works, but I can assure Mr Collins that the Birchfield Estate has a very strong champion in my colleague, Cllr Lutfa Begum, and I know she will make sure Tower Hamlets Homes keep the estate at the forefront of their mind.

**Summary of supplementary question from Mr. Collins:**

The residents will probably be glad to hear that they are on a 'to do' list but are those residents going to be on the same list as residents of Elfield House who are still waiting for their work to be done?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

The Council has invested £7M in the estate improvement programme. I can assure you that this work will be done. The Housing Minister, John Healey, has given the Council a commitment for funding to enable it to continue investing in our borough's homes.

**Change to order of business**

At this point, Councillor Marc Francis **MOVED** and Councillor Abdal Ullah **SECONDED** – "That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.12 to be considered as the next item of business."

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

**11.12 Motion proposed by Councillor David Snowdon regarding Rosefield Gardens**

Councillor David Snowdon **MOVED** and Councillor Tim Archer **SECONDED** the motion as printed in the agenda.

Councillor Marc Francis **MOVED**, and Councillor Lutfa Begum **SECONDED** an amendment to the motion to delete the text after "This Council notes that" and replace with:-

- "This Labour-controlled Council has invested over £7 million in the Estate Improvement Programme of deep cleaning, repainting and environmental works across the council's estates in the past two years;
- This programme has benefited around 200 blocks, including those on the St. Matthias Estate, Will Crooks Estate, Bazely Estate and at least one block in Rosefield Gardens, but that several other blocks on the

Birchfield Estate have paint peeling from the walls and ceilings of communal parts;

- That the original list of those blocks on the Birchfield Estate drawn up by Tower Hamlets Homes, included 1-31 Kemps Drive, 2-40 Rosefield Gardens, 42 -70 Rosefield Gardens and 1 – 13 Gorsefield House;
- Residents have reported problems of anti-social behaviour, especially in the warmer months, caused by youngsters hanging round the stairs of their blocks;
- The Housing Investment Programme is fully committed for 2010/11, but that the installation of a new Door Entry System in the nearby 1-13 Gorsefield House is provisionally scheduled to take place in 2013/14;
- This Council has secured £770,000 from the Homes and Communities Agency to masterplan the regeneration of the Birchfield Estate, and that consultation with residents on those plans will begin in April.

This Council resolves to:

- Require Tower Hamlets Homes to explain why it did not yet commence the Block Improvement Programme work on the remaining agreed blocks on the Birchfield Estate;
- Require the Council, in partnership with THH, to take the necessary steps to ensure that the promise to deep clean the stairwells and repaint the walls/ceilings of these blocks at the earliest opportunity;
- Ask THH to begin consultation with residents of 1 – 31 Kemps Drive and 2 – 40 Rosefield Gardens on the installation of a new Door Entry System and to provisionally factor this work into the Housing Investment Programme, subject to the agreement of those residents;
- Support residents during the masterplan consultation process on the regeneration of the Birchfield Estate.“

After debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was **agreed**.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

## **RESOLVED**

This Council notes that:

- This Labour-controlled Council has invested over £7 million in the Estate Improvement Programme of deep cleaning, repainting and environmental works across the council's estates in the past two years;

- This programme has benefited around 200 blocks, including those on the St. Matthias Estate, Will Crooks Estate, Bazely Estate and at least one block in Rosefield Gardens, but that several other blocks on the Birchfield Estate have paint peeling from the walls and ceilings of communal parts;
- That the original list of those blocks on the Birchfield Estate drawn up by Tower Hamlets Homes, included 1-31 Kemps Drive, 2-40 Rosefield Gardens, 42 -70 Rosefield Gardens and 1 – 13 Gorsefield House;
- Residents have reported problems of anti-social behaviour, especially in the warmer months, caused by youngsters hanging round the stairs of their blocks;
- The Housing Investment Programme is fully committed for 2010/11, but that the installation of a new Door Entry System in the nearby 1-13 Gorsefield House is provisionally scheduled to take place in 2013/14;
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- Ask THH to begin consultation with residents of 1 – 31 Kemps Drive and 2 – 40 Rosefield Gardens on the installation of a new Door Entry System and to provisionally factor this work into the Housing Investment Programme, subject to the agreement of those residents;
- Support residents during the masterplan consultation process on the regeneration of the Birchfield Estate.

**6.3 Question from Ms. Francesca Preece to the Lead Member for Children, Schools and Families, Councillor Abdul Asad**

“What has the Lead Member or Ward Councillors done to provide youth services in Bow West and what is being done given the recent incident in Parnell Road when a youth was murdered? There is a lack of youth provision in Bow West and as a result youths have no activities to engage with and often resort to hanging out on the streets. We have also not seen any Youth Worker.”

**Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Abdul Asad**

The youth service is organised on a LAP basis, and there is a hub for young people within each LAP, not each ward. The hub for Lap 5 is the Parnell Road youth club (East Side) which is open:

- Monday - Thursday 6.15pm – 9.30 (Minimum 3 staff)
- Friday 9.00pm – 11.00pm (Minimum 3 staff)
- Saturday 3.00pm – 5.00pm (Minimum 3 staff)

In addition to the hub, there is centre-based provision at:

- Victoria Baptist Church Friday 6.15pm – 9.00pm (2 staff)
- Caxton Hall Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8.00-11.00 (2 staff)
- Bow Boys School Tues. 2.00 – 4.30pm Weds 12.30pm – 4.15pm (2 staff)

As well as centre based work, there is detached youth work in the area, in which the youth workers meet and work with young people on the streets.

- Response work: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6.15pm – 9.00pm (2 staff)
- Detached work: Monday (5.00-8.00), Tuesday (5.30pm – 8.30pm) (3 staff)
- Docklands Outreach: Monday, Tuesday 6.00-0.00 (2 staff)

There is a total of 22 staff available for 19 sessional activities on a weekly basis.

During the emergency the Youth and Connexions Services, Rapid Response Team (RRT) situated in the area, carrying out detached youth work to assist in engaging young people from and sign posting groups/individuals to current provision. There was an increased presence of detached workers in line with the needs and ensuring effective partnership was in place to deal with the emergency. There were frequent, regular meetings with the police, the RSL, and the schools, to bring calm to the community and reduce the anxiety. Partners worked closely to try to prevent any further escalation and sharing factual information.

The police and the youth service, working together, have brought young people and adults together in a mediation programme, identifying key individuals from both groups.

If there are additional anxieties, we are very happy to set up a meeting to discuss the situation with residents.

**Summary of supplementary question from Ms Preece:**

In reference to Caxton Hall, why was it that Councillor Joshua Peck tried to stop its funding?

**Summary of Lead Members' reply:**

In terms of Caxton Hall, as I have already said there are sessions held on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8pm – 11pm with two staff and this remains so. If you have concerns then I can arrange for you to meet with the officials and myself to speak about this.

**6.4 Question from Mrs. Hazjera Khatun to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

"I am resident of Brodick House, Bow, E3 and I currently live in a 2 bedroom property which houses 7 people. I have been on the waiting list for 7 years. I visited Cllr Marc Francis at his surgery and was informed that he was unable to assist me. Can you tell me what is going to be done to assist families like myself with the overcrowding issue and not being able to get off of the waiting list?"

*[Note from Clerk: This question was not put at the meeting in the above form. The member of the public in attendance (Ms. Fatima Begum), who was not the original questioner, posed a different question, notice of which had not been given and this was therefore ruled out of order. The Lead Member nevertheless responded to the general issues raised as follows.]*

**Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Marc Francis**

It is not true to say that I have told any resident in the situation described that I "was unable to assist" them. It is not the role of councillors to decide which applicant from the Housing Waiting List is successful. Our role is to make sure more homes are built and that there is a fair way of allocating them to those on the Waiting List. A councillor can ensure that a resident's application has the priority it deserves and provide feedback to help inform their bidding strategy in future, and I and my fellow ward councillors have done this on numerous occasions over the past four years and raised many Members' Enquiries on residents' behalf.

I can assure you that Labour councillors are doing everything possible to increase the supply of social housing in the Borough. We have helped deliver around 1,000 new affordable homes in each of the past three years. That is more than any other London Council, and far more than any Conservative council has achieved.

This year, we are on track to deliver even more, including around 500 social rented homes with three or more bedrooms. But we realise this



is not enough, and so we are also investing £20 million buying back former council homes sold under the Right to Buy so they can be re-let to an overcrowded family.

We have Cash Incentive Schemes, Private Sector Rent Deposit Schemes, knock throughs and incentives to under-occupiers. But perhaps most importantly, we are making fundamental changes to the Choice Based Lettings Policy. These changes both give increased priority to those families living in overcrowded conditions and also place much greater emphasis on the length of time applicants have been on the waiting list.

I hope this addresses your concerns and I can assure both you and councillors in this Chamber that I will continue to do whatever I can to help you in future.

**Summary of supplementary question from Ms. Begum:**

Is it acceptable for six people to live in a two bedroom flat and remain on the waiting list for twenty years?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

As I have said, this Labour Council is doing everything in our power to address precisely the issue you have raised, by increasing the supply of affordable housing, reforming our Choice Based Lettings scheme and the other initiatives I have outlined. We are committed to continuing this work.

**6.5 Question from Ms. Joanna Buckman to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

“Spitalfields surgery is leased by the practice from One Housing. There has been a problem with the sewage drainage since this was built and the sewage is now seeping into the basement and up the walls and the smell and odour is affecting the whole of the downstairs consulting rooms which nurses have to work in. Four of these rooms have been shut. One Housing has been informed several times and they have inspected but nothing has been done. The problem has now been there for the last 3 weeks and poses a health risk to both patients and staff and as a result staff have been off sick and unable to provide services. One Housing has a history of not responding to maintenance work in this public service premise and we would ask the Lead Member and Ward Councillors to take this issue up on behalf of 13,000 patients and the 50 staff. If this continues, we may be forced to close the surgery down. Will you support us?”

**Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Marc Francis**

The Council have contacted One Housing Group (OHG) in relation to this outstanding repair. One Housing Group's commercial property department who are responsible for this unit say they have not been previously contacted about this defect and obviously I cannot know whether that is the case or not.

But either way, One Housing Group assure me that they have issued a repair request and that this defect should be resolved in the next couple of weeks. If it is not, I would ask Ms Buckman to contact me again directly rather than wait for another Full Council meeting. I would add that Councillor Anwara Ali should be dealing with this issue.

**Summary of supplementary question from Ms. Buckman:**

Regardless of who should be doing this, I would like to know how long it will take?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

As I have said, One Housing Group have stated two weeks.

**6.6 Question from Sally Hone to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

"Are all planning application cases based on a 'priority' basis, as this is the information that we have frequently been told? However, the conditions following our full planning permission has exceeded the councils' practice of discharge by over three months (28 days from receipt of a validated condition). At what stage does this delay come into consideration to promote our case as a priority?"

**Response by the Lead Member, Councillor Marc Francis**

Planning applications have to be determined in accordance with government guidance and planning legislation. That requires applications to be decided within 8 weeks for most applications, 13 weeks for major applications, 16 weeks for applications that require environmental impact assessments or within a time period stipulated in planning performance agreement agreed by an applicant and the Council. Cases are prioritised to meet these deadlines.

Ms Hone's particular application, to agree a 'car-free' agreement, has been delayed because of the very peculiar and unique land ownership issues raised by her Belmont Wharf application and the fact that she has no legal interest in the land where she proposes to moor her 4 boats. Nevertheless, Officers are looking to find a solution and officers of the Council's legal, parking and planning teams are endeavouring to

find a solution to this awkward car parking problem, rather than refusing her application.

However, finding a legally robust solution to the unique set of circumstances this case raises is taking some time, but is understandable given that Members of the Development Committee insisted that such a condition be imposed, to address the concerns of local residents that this development may cause unacceptable parking pressure if a 'car-free' agreement was not agreed.

**Summary of supplementary question:**

We had five conditions given on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and it has now been five months. The car free zone condition was put in on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009. When can they be discharged?

**Summary of Lead Member's reply:**

As I have said, this is a complex case as the Council cannot make a legal agreement with itself. Other options are being explored as an alternative to simply refusing the application.

**6.7 Question from Mr. Adrian Lockwood to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

"When myself and others became tenants and home owners of Green Dragon Yard, E1 there was no mention or record from our landlord or Tower Hamlets Council that it would become a car free zone area. The Council has been issuing residents' permits for over eight years. Residents need their vehicles for many reasons including employment and I am asking the Lead Member when this decision was made and when will it be overturned to allow us to park in our resident area?"

**Response of the Lead Member, Councillor Marc Francis**

I have said a lot already about the principles that underlie this Council's Car Free Zones and so I will not repeat that. Clearly, the residents of Green Dragon Yard feel that they, like those of 1-38 Horseferry Road, were lured into bidding for these flats without being told that they were subject to a Car Free Zone agreement. Green Dragon Yard was agreed as a car free scheme on 9 August 1999.

Again, I must say that, it is first and foremost the responsibility of the owner and landlord of a flat to inform prospective tenants and leaseholders. However, many of the tenants within Green Dragon Yard bid for that property through the Homeseekers section in East End Life and the shared owners may have been referred on to that scheme by the Council's Lettings Service.

Unfortunately, given that this is a new situation which has only just come to my attention officers are still running round trying to find the relevant information.

However, as with 1-38 Horseferry Road, I can assure Mr Lockwood that, should our enquiries find the council to have been at fault in the way it advertised these tenancies, we will invite One Housing Group to submit an application to vary the Section 106 agreement to remove the Car Free Zone agreement.

I will leave it at that for now, but try to ensure that we reach a definitive position on this development in the next months or so.

**Summary of supplementary question:**

Can you assure me that the investigation will be as thorough as that being carried out for Swaton Road?

**Summary of Lead Member's reply:**

Yes, I can give you that assurance. In fact the Leader of the Council will also be breathing down my neck to ensure that this is the case.

**7. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**7.1 Question from Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique to the Lead Member for Children, Schools and Families, Councillor Abdul Asad**

Can the Lead Member for Children, Schools and Families outline how educational achievement has improved in the last 4 years under this Labour administration for Key stage 1,2,3, GCSE and A-Levels, where there has been investment in the bricks and mortar of the borough's schools and where this money has come from?

**Response of the Lead Member**

The borough's Children's Centres, primary and secondary schools have benefited from significant investment over the past four years. This has meant improvements to existing facilities, as well as brand new facilities for Tower Hamlets' children and young people aged 0-18 and their families. Almost £67m of investment has gone into improving primary and secondary schools through the Primary Capital and Building Schools for the Future programmes while £7.25m has gone into building 23 Children's Centres across the borough.

Additional investment of £56m is also planned for the coming year, 2010-11. This will see investment of £18 million in two of the borough's secondary schools during the course of 2010-11 and will result in much improved facilities in the coming years. The brand new school at St

Paul's Way will open in January 2011 and will provide state of the art facilities for pupils and the wider community. Investment in our Children Centre's is critical to outcomes in the early years and investment in schools is key to raising attainment and breaking cycles of poverty, both features of our work to tackle child poverty in the borough.

While the funding for these programmes comes largely from central government grants the Council has, on occasion, contributed additional investment to both primary and secondary capital works. This includes the £6.5m provided to the BSF programme to fund a community space at St Paul's Way School.

In recent years we have seen some impressive outcomes at all Key Stages. For example, 69% of 7 year olds (Key Stage 1) are now achieving level 2b in reading – an improvement in the last four years from 63% – while 71% are achieving level 2 in maths (compared to 64% in 2006/07.) Progression by 2 levels in maths between KS1 and KS2 has also improved – up from 79% in 2006/07 to 87% in the latest set of results. This compares to 81% nationally with Tower Hamlets improving faster than the national rate.

Since 2006/07 the achievement of Level 4 and above in English and maths at age 11 (Key Stage 2) has improved by 3% percentage points to 74% which is 2 percentage points above the national outcome and a particularly impressive result for the borough's primary schools.

Summer 2009 also saw our best ever GCSE results continuing our strong upward trend. On the 5+ A\*-C grade GCSEs including English and maths measure we achieved 46% compared to 51% nationally. This is a massive improvement on the 2006/07 result of 34% and means Tower Hamlets is rapidly closing the gap, now improving at almost twice the national rate of improvement. Alongside this we have one of the smallest gaps in the country between the attainment of our pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers – in 2008/09 42% of pupils eligible for FSM in Tower Hamlets secured 5+ A\*-C grade, including English and maths, compared to just 27% nationally.

At A Level we have also seen improvements in the past four years with the Average Points Score per student increasing from 606 to 631 in summer 2009. A range of interventions are also in place to bring about further improvement at A Level.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Muhammad Abdullah Salique:**

Can the Lead Member account particularly for the improvements in Bethnal Green North and in LAP 1?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

There has been a 6.7% rise since 2005. 75% of young people are achieving 5 A-C\* in mathematics and English. £17m has been put into the Bethnal Green Technology College under the Labour Government's Building Schools for the Future programme. Morpeth School has works commencing next month. This borough is committed to improvements in the education of its children year on year.

**7.2 Question from Councillor Tim Archer to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

£300,000 of S106 money received in April 2007 from the redevelopment of the former Jaguar showroom on Limeharbour is being spent on street lighting. How was this decision made?

**Response of the Lead Member**

In April 2004 the Council made a section 106 agreement with the developer of 3 Limeharbour. This agreement included the payment of £300,000 to Tower Hamlets Council to be spent on:

*"improvements to the St John's Community Hall in Glengall Grove and/or environmental improvements to streets within the vicinity of the site."*

I am told the money was paid to the council in May 2007.

At the Planning Contributions Overview Panel (PCOP) Officers Panel on the 29th October 2009 a report was presented in relation to that £300,000. Council officers discussed and approved the allocation of all that funding to the environmental improvements.

A scheme has been developed to improve the pedestrian links between Limeharbour and Manchester Road providing a safe, attractive and accessible environment. The scheme includes road junction improvements, a raised zebra crossing, improved footways, new street lighting and planting. This is a good scheme and I don't question it's merits.

But I can tell you that I am far from happy with this outcome and the process gone through to reach it. I do not believe it is appropriate for council officers to make a decision to deny St John's Community Centre's reasonable expectation of monies without reference either to myself as the Lead Member or Cllr Shafiqul Haque as Chair of the Development Committee. I have seen the written report presented to officers and I am extremely concerned about it's failure to acknowledge the value of monies to improve St John's Community Hall. This decision may have been in line with the letter of the legal agreement but it was clearly not in line with its spirit.

I can assure everyone in this Chamber that I have made it quite clear that I do not expect a similar situation to arise again in future. I can also confirm this evening that a sum of up to £65,000 has been identified to support the refurbishment of the St Johns Community Centre.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Tim Archer:**

I thank you for your kind words and I am delighted the money has been found for the St. John's Community Centre. But why is that the decisions on how Section 106 money is spent have become so far removed from what the community want? I thank you for stepping in but why did we get here and how can we do better going forward?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

It is perfectly legitimate for officers to seek to maximise the benefits of section 106 but I have made it clear that I am not happy with the process that was followed in this case and that I do not expect this to happen again. I am happy to discuss this further outside of this Chamber.

**7.3 Question from Councillor Alibor Choudhury to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman**

Could the Leader of the Council tell us what has been achieved towards each of the Council's 6 political priorities in the last two years, giving a detailed breakdown by LAP of investment and delivery?

**Response of the Lead Member**

Thank you for your question Cllr Choudhury. So much has been done in the last few years that I can't cover everything in the time we've got. So I'll give you the borough-wide headlines for each priority, a more detailed written answer will be provided shortly.

**GCSE Results**

In terms of raising GCSE results:

- We've seen an 11.8 per cent improvement the attainment of 5 A\* – C at GCSE including English and Maths between 2005/06 and 2008/09 – 6 times the national rate of improvement.
- In LAP 4 and LAP 8 this rises to 18 per cent, and in LAP 7, an incredible 25 per cent improvement
- The Labour Government's Building Schools for the Future program has seen over £40m invested in the last two years with major improvements to Morpeth, St Paul's Way and Sir John Cass Schools, as well as Bethnal Green Technology College.

- The new Wessex 6<sup>th</sup> form Centre, which opened recently, will also transform the way A-levels are taught.
- An additional 80 pupils supported through 1:1 tuition, and 400 pupils using online learning and study support
- And in the budget we recently passed, there was a provision of £100,000 to get laptops for the poorest students.

### **Housing and Overcrowding**

In terms of Housing and Overcrowding, we have:

- Invested £20m in buying back family-sized homes sold under the right to buy.
- Spent more than £60m on housing improvement, with a further £2.5m allocated in this year's budget.
- Secured £2.5 million from the HCA to start building Council Housing.
- And pushed through the Ocean and Blackwall Reach regeneration programs which will lead to 2500 new homes, most of which will be social rented and able to accommodate larger families.
- Developed an Overcrowding Reduction Strategy for Tower Hamlets which is being delivered in partnership with 18 housing associations signed up to the Common Housing Register.
- Overhauled the Choice Based Lettings Scheme to make it fairer and more transparent
- Reduced the number of families in temporary accommodation by 30 per cent since 2006
- Halved the number of "non-decent" social rented homes in the borough

### **Tackling Crime and ASB**

Turning to tackling crime and ASB:

- In 2008/9 the borough has had the largest reduction in overall crime figures in London – representing 17% of the overall crime reduction in the Capital including a 29.2% drop in gun crime, a 22.2% drop in youth violence and a 13.5% drop in knife crime
- We also put an extra 20 police officers on the streets and £500,000 into new CCTV and better street lighting.
- And of course we've put 20 new police officers on the streets and dozens of Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers.
- Our work was recognised last year when we were given a Beacon Award for reducing re-offending in 2008

### **Improving Cleanliness and the public realm**

In terms of improving the public realm:



- The 2008/9 Annual Residence Survey showed an 8 % increase in satisfaction with street cleanliness, above our target and the London average
- The very successful 'We Can Recycle More' campaign launched leading to a very impressive 50% improvement in recycling in 2008/9
- £1m grant funding secured from English Heritage, match funded by the Council to undertake an historic buildings improvement scheme
- £4.4m Heritage Lottery Fund and match funding of £5.5m secured to improve Victoria Park
- Maintained all the boroughs Green Flag Awards for Parks in 2008/9 and achieved a new one for Millwall

### **Supporting older people**

In terms of supporting older people:

- The Council continued to support more frail older people with intensive homecare than any other local authority in the country. 625 households were receiving an intensive home care package in September 2008, an increase of 9% from September 2007.
- The innovative LinkAge Plus programme offers residents over the age of 50 a range of social and health related activities. Outreach workers have contacted over 10,000 isolated people since the partnership was established in 2006.
- In 2008 we abolished telecare charges
- And this year we've invested more than £300,000 in luncheon clubs to get our older residents out and about.
- And all this has meant that the Quality Care Commission has rated us as excellent in terms of Commissioning, Leadership and Older People's Choice and Control.

### **Reducing Youth Unemployment**

In terms of reducing youth unemployment:

- We have decreased the number of young people not in Education, Employment or training by 50 per cent in three years, the largest year on year reduction in London
- Skillsmatch has placed 592 young people into sustainable employment since 2008. It has also helped 63 graduates find work placements since April last year with 75 per cent moving on to sustainable employment.
- We have allocated £5.7m over 18 months through our Working Neighbourhood Fund to focus on reducing and preventing youth unemployment
- In October we secured £650,000 from the Labour Government's Future Job Fund, placing 100 local people of whom 80 were 18-24 in work.

- And recently 3 organisations - Tower Hamlets Council, Poplar Housing and Regeneration Community Association and City Gateway have just been awarded additional Future Jobs Fund investment in March 2010 to create a further 152 jobs focusing on young people. This equates to a further £988,000 investment in the borough.

This, as I've said, is the tip of the iceberg. But it should give an indication of our commitment to the residents of Tower Hamlets and show that only Labour is willing to work hard to meet their needs.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Alibor Choudhury:**

Despite the rubbish that has been in the media and the attack on this borough by the Dispatches programme, it is clear that we have come a long way. This Council believes in inclusion and we have delivered. If the Tories were to get into power, what effect would that have on investment in the community?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

I believe it would be devastating for this borough and for the country to have the Tories back in power. The legacy of Mrs Thatcher still remains and we know what that party stands for.

**7.4 Question from Councillor Abjol Miah to the Lead Member for Housing and Development, Councillor Marc Francis**

This question was withdrawn as a motion on the same subject had already been debated.

**7.5 Question from Councillor Ann Jackson to the Lead Member for Culture and Leisure, Councillor Rofique Ahmed**

Can the Lead Member tell us what has been done over the last 4 years to protect and enhance the borough's heritage, concentrating on our historic buildings, parks and the celebration of our rich and diverse cultural history?

**Response of the Lead Member**

So much has been achieved over the past four years that it has been difficult for me to select which to highlight in this reply.

We have maintained a high level of protection and enhancement of our historic buildings. No Listed Building has been demolished and we have actively pursued the protection of 'Building at Risk'. We have designated new Conservation Areas and have a new framework for long-term decision-making on the conservation and improvement of the

Tower, a World Heritage Site. Our Scheduled Ancient Monuments, together with other archaeology, have been protected by planning policy, as have our 16 historic squares. To enable this we have secured funding English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund and Section 106.

There has been an extensive parks improvement programme but two major projects for me to highlight are Victoria Park where a Masterplan has been developed that will enhance and restore this wonderful Park. Funding is anticipated shortly from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Council's Capital Programme for the first phases of this exciting project. Work is on site at Arnold Circus to restore this unique park to its former glory and will complete in time for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Ann Jackson:**

Given my interest in history, is anything being done to involve school children more in our unique history?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

The first phase of renovation of Bancroft Local History and Archives begins on site shortly and S106 funding has been identified for a further two phases, including roof works. A new Heritage Manager is leading the development of a Local History and Archives Strategy and improving the management of our collections.

**Change to order of business**

At this point, Councillor Peter Golds **MOVED** and Councillor Tim Archer **SECONDED**, - "That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.3 to be considered as the next business."

Nine members then rose to request a recorded vote on the procedural motion. This number being fewer than the number set out in Rule 17.4, a recorded vote was not held and the Mayor declared that the procedural motion would be determined by a show of hands.

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **lost**.

[Councillors Philip Briscoe and Shirley Houghton each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above motion as set out at agenda item 2 above, and did not take part in the decision.]

**7.6 Question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton to the Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer, Greener, Councillor Abdal Ullah**

What is the Lead Member's response to the recent report of the Crown Prosecution Service inspectorate that found the overall performance of the CPS in Tower Hamlets to be poor, with outcomes for cases of sexual crimes described as poor and service to victims and witnesses rated as poor? How can the Borough work with the CPS to improve the criminal prosecution service for victims of crime?

**Response of the Lead Member**

Tower Hamlets Police have had several meetings with the Borough Crown Prosecutor since the publication of this report.

A review of both the police and CPS working practices is being undertaken to improve the overall service to victims and witnesses.

This has already resulted in the formation of two new groups:

- Case Progression Meeting for cases at Thames Magistrates Court. This aims to identify any issues or actions arising prior to court date to minimise risk of discontinuance or adjournment and the ensuing impact on victim/witnesses and
- Witness Care working party. This will monitor services to victims/witnesses by police, CPS, court and relevant Third Sector organisations such as Victim Support

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Stephanie Eaton:**

Why is there not a representative from the Crown Prosecution Service on the SBR Board? Will the Lead Member support my call for the Chief Crown Prosecutor of London to come to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to explain why files are kept in cupboards, rape prosecutions downgraded, cases being treated incorrectly and criminals not getting appropriate punished?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

You have my support in any endeavour to bring justice for our community.

**7.7 Question from Councillor Bill Turner to the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships, Councillor Rania Khan**

Can the Lead Member for Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships tell us how many people took part in this year's

participatory budgeting event and give us a breakdown of the services they chose from LAP menus?

### Response of the Lead Member

770 residents attended the You Decide! events in 2010 and a list of the purchased items is contained in the following table:

Item purchased	Cost per item	Amount spent	LAP 1	LAP 2	LAP 3	LAP 4	LAP 5	LAP 6	LAP 7	LAP 8
Better Street Lighting (4)	£15,000	£60,000	x			x		x		X
CCTV Camera (2)	£30,000	£60,000						x		X
Community Bus for Older People (2)	£60,000	£120,000			x		x			
Community Football Coaching	£4,500	£4,500							x	
Day Trips (3)	£10,000	£30,000		x		x		x		
Drug Outreach Worker	£42,500	£42,500					x			
Early GCSE in languages (6)	£35,000	£210,000	x	x	x			x	x	X
Engaging Young People in Community Events (2)	£7,000	£14,000	x							X
Expand Linkage plus service (2)	£35,000	£70,000							x	X
Family Learning ESOL (2)	£7,500	£15,000						x	x	
Family Learning Support ESOL	£15,000	£15,000			x					
Handyperson Service (7)	£10,000	£70,000	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Healthy Diet: Children & Young People (PCT) (4)	Varied	£160,000	X (55k)		X (35k)		X (35k)			X (35k)
Jobs Fairs (2)	£5,000	£10,000	x				x			
Learn to Swim	£7,000	£7,000	x							
One to One small group tuition (3)	Varied	£40,000					X (20k)	x	x	
Pampering	Varied	£5,500				X		X		x

Days (3)						(2k)		(1.5k)		(2k)
Park Improvement Project (4)	£50,000	£200,000	x	x	x	x				
Reducing Alcohol's Harm (PCT) (4)	£35,000	£140,000		x		x		x	x	
Skillsmatch Graduate Placement Programme (4)	Varied	£55,000	X (11k)	X (22k)			X (11k)			X (11k)
Speed Indicator Devices	£3,500	£3,500					x			
Study Support (3)	Varied	£70,000	X (30k)	X (20k)						X (20k)
Support for carers (2)	£10,000	£20,000	X			x				
Targeted Police Operations (8)	£35,000	£280,000	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	X
THEO Operations	£35,000	£35,000	X							
Traffic Calming and road safety developments (4)	£18,000	£72,000		x		x	x		x	
Tree and Shrub Planting	£20,000	£20,000	x							
YIP (5)	£50,000	£250,000	X			x		X	x	X
YISP (7)	£35,000	£245,000	X	x	x	x	x	X	x	
Youth Disabilities & SEN Employment Project (3)	£5,000	£15,000	X	x		x				

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor Bill Turner:**

How do you feel that the process has improved from last year?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

Some significant changes were made. A Participatory Budgeting event was held for young people in Mulberry School and it is notable how many items were requested for elderly residents by the young people.

**7.8 Question from Councillor David Snowdon to the Lead Member for Resources and Performance, Councillor Ohid Ahmed**

Does the Council's budget have a financial black hole for the years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14?

**Response of the Lead Member**

There is no black hole in the Council's medium term financial strategy. Like all public service organisations, the Council is predicting that its next financial settlement will be much tougher than those experienced in recent years. This is because of the need, nationally, to balance the books following the recession and, amongst other things, the bail out of the banking sector. We will not know the precise impact on Government Grant settlements until after the general election. Indeed, it is unlikely that we will know our grant position until late Autumn 2010, unless an incoming government calls an emergency budget before that time.

In the absence of a clear steer from Government, the Council has based its projections on data produced by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). The IFS are modelling a range of future funding scenarios. All of these scenarios predict a reduction in available funding. The variables relate to depth and pace. The Council is using a mid point position from these scenarios in its financial planning. Together with a set of secondary assumptions this mid point view drives a predicted reduction in available resource of just under 18% over the financial years 2011/12 through to 2013/14.

This reduction in resource, if realised in the next financial settlement, will have a significant impact on the Council and its partners. Officers are, however, developing a range of efficiency options for Members to consider during the budget setting process for 2011/12. These include amongst other things: smarter working and a reduction in office accommodation; the streamlining of back office business processes, greater collaboration and sharing of services with other public sector organisations, the third sectors and the private sector. Officers have also embarked upon a Strategic Service Options Review. This will conclude in time to inform the 2011/12 budget process. An outcome of this review will be options to re-commission services so that service outcomes for residents are preserved at a lower cost.

**Summary of supplementary question from Councillor David Snowdon:**

Do you deny that you have you have a £54M black hole in your budget? By efficiency savings, you mean cuts. What are you going to cut for your £54M black hole?

**Summary of Lead Member's response:**

I cannot give you all the detail in the time available but our approach is to develop smarter working, not cuts to services. We are going to rationalise back office functions and improve our services while finding savings.

In accordance with Rule 12.10 (expiry of time limit), questions 9 – 26 were not put. Written responses would be forwarded to the questioners.

**Change to order of business**

At this point, Councillor Abjol Miah **MOVED** and Councillor Dulal Uddin **SECONDED** – “That under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.13 to be considered as next business.”

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **lost**.

Councillor Alex Heslop then **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** – “That under Rule 14.1.13 the meeting be extended by 15 minutes to enable the Chair of the Standards Committee to present the Annual Report of the Committee; and under Rule 14.1.3 the order of business be changed to allow motion 11.2 to be considered after item 8.1.”

On being put to the vote, the procedural motion was **agreed**.

**8. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES****8.1 Annual Report of the Standards Committee**

The annual report of the Standards Committee was tabled and the Independent Chair of the Committee, Mr Barry O'Connor, addressed the meeting.

Councillors Lutfur Rahman and Stephanie Eaton each commended Mr. O'Connor on the work of the Standards Committee and thanked the members of the Committee for their contribution to the work of the authority.

**RESOLVED**

That the annual report of the Standards Committee be received.



### **11.2 Motion proposed by Councillor Alex Heslop regarding support for the co-operative and social enterprise sector**

Councillor Alex Heslop **MOVED** and Councillor Denise Jones **SECONDED** the motion as printed in the agenda. With the agreement of the meeting Councillor Alex Heslop amended his motion by the addition of a further bullet point under 'This Council resolves' as follows:-

“Promote within primary and secondary schools the importance of co-ops locally and internationally in addressing the issues of poverty, community empowerment and democratic governance through supporting the work of the Humanities Education Centre.”

On being put to the vote the motion as altered by Councillor Heslop was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:

#### **RESOLVED**

This Council recognises that there is a diverse and healthy co-operative sector in Tower Hamlets with a combined turnover of approximately £50 million and also appreciates the important role that co-operatives and other social enterprises can play in community and economic regeneration initiatives. Although there are many successful co-operative enterprises operating in Tower Hamlets such as Tower Hamlets Community Credit Union, Tower Hamlets CDA and Greenwich Leisure (effectively a workers co-op), as well as several food co-ops and housing co-operatives, there is not a single Council officer with a specific remit or indeed expertise for working with the co-operative & social enterprise sectors.

This Council resolves to do the following:

- Allocate responsibility for supporting the co-operative & social enterprise sectors to the Lead Member for Regeneration as well as a designated Council officer who will promote and support new mutual models for the provision of community services, including housing, pre-school childcare, residential and home care, recycling and leisure. Made possible through service reviews, externalising, or re-contracting services and procurement procedures.
- Organise an annual event to celebrate International Co-operatives Day in partnership with the local Co-operative Movement; this could also involve the Tower Hamlets Partnership and its Creating and Sharing Prosperity Community Plan Action Group.
- Develop procurement strategies that make a direct link between the Community Plan and other strategic objectives and contract specifications ensuring that community benefits can be fully integrated into the procurement process.

- Work with the Co-operative Sector and London Development Agency to improve access to finance and support for socially and mutually owned businesses.
- Work with staff and unions on a partnership basis in the creation of new cooperative services
- Promote within primary and secondary schools the importance of co-ops locally and internationally in addressing the issues of poverty, community empowerment and democratic governance through supporting the work of the Humanities Education Centre.

## 9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (IF ANY)

There was no business under this heading.

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS

### 10.1 Review of proportionality and appointments to committees

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Peter Golds then **MOVED** and Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan **SECONDED** an amendment – “That Councillor Stephanie Eaton replace Councillor Fazlul Haque as Chair of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, with no SRA to be paid.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was **lost**.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton then **MOVED** and Councillor Tim Archer **SECONDED** a further amendment – “That Councillor Peter Golds replace Councillor Salim Ullah as Chair of the Appeals Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, with no SRA to be paid.”

On being put to the vote, the amendment was **lost**.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman then **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** a further amendment to the recommendations set out in the report as follows:-

“That Councillor Fazlul Haque be removed as Chair of the Audit Committee and Councillor Salim Ullah be removed as Chair of the Appeals Committee;

That no appointments be made to the chair of these Committees until the start of the 2010/11 municipal year; and

That Councillor Fazlul Haque be removed as the Council's representative to the board of Tower Hamlets Homes, to be replaced by Councillor Sirajul Islam."

On being put to the vote the amendment was **agreed**.

A vote was then taken on the substantive motion as amended, and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was

### **RESOLVED**

1. That the review of proportionality at paragraph 3 of the report be noted and the allocation of seats on committees and panels established for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10 be agreed as set out at paragraph 4.2.
2. That Members and deputies be appointed to serve on the committees and panels affected by this change in accordance with the nominations from the political groups to be notified to the Assistant Chief Executive.
3. That Councillor Fazlul Haque be removed as Chair of the Audit Committee and Councillor Salim Ullah be removed as Chair of the Appeals Committee.
4. That no appointments be made to the Chair these Committees until the start of the 2010/11 municipal year
5. That Councillor Fazlul Haque be removed as the Council's representative to the board of Tower Hamlets Homes, to be replaced by Councillor Sirajul Islam.

## **10.2 Programme of meetings 2010/11**

Councillor Lutfur Rahman **MOVED** and Councillor Joshua Peck **SECONDED** the recommendation as set out in the report.

Councillor Peter Golds then **MOVED** and Councillor Tim Archer **SECONDED** an amendment as follows:-

"We believe that all council meetings should start at 7.30 p.m. to give more time to residents attending to get to the Town Hall from their work commitments; and

We believe that there should be at least one more full council meeting a year. We propose this take place on the first Wednesday on November – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010."

On being put to the vote the amendment was **lost**.

The original motion was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

### **RESOLVED**

That the proposed programme of meetings for the municipal year 2010/11 be approved as set out at Appendix A to the report.

### **10.3 Members' Allowances Scheme 2010/11**

Councillor Ohid Ahmed **MOVED** and Councillor Lutfur Rahman **SECONDED** the recommendations as set out in the report.

Councillor Peter Golds then **MOVED** and Councillor Tim Archer **SECONDED** an amendment – “That all Special Responsibility Allowances be reduced by 10% and the SRAs paid to the Chairs of Licensing, Appeals, General Purposes, Audit, Human Resources and Pensions Committees; and to the Olympics Ambassador, be abolished.”

After discussion, the amendment was put to the vote and was declared **lost**.

The original motion was then put to the vote and was **agreed**. Accordingly it was:-

### **RESOLVED**

1. That the Members' Allowances Scheme at Part 6 of the Constitution be re-adopted for 2010/11, subject to indexing of the amounts payable for the basic, special responsibility and dependants' carers' allowances as set out in paragraph 11 of the scheme;
2. That accordingly the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Members' Allowances Scheme 2010 be adopted as at Appendix 'A' in the report; and
3. That the Members' Allowances Scheme be subject to review in accordance with the regulations following the publication of the London Councils Independent Remuneration Panel recommendations 2010.

At this point, the Service Head, Democratic Services advised Members that the time limit for the meeting had been reached and the guillotine procedure set out in Rule 9 would come into effect, with any remaining business (excluding motions at agenda item 11) being put to the vote without further debate.

**10.4 Executive decisions taken under special urgency provisions****RESOLVED**

That the report of the Leader of the Council be noted.

**11. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Motions 11.2, 11.8, 11.11 and 11.12 had been considered earlier in the meeting.

Motions 11.1, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.9, 11.10 and 11.13 – 11.18 as listed below were not considered due to lack of time, the meeting having closed in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 (Duration of meeting).

- 11.1 Motion submitted by Councillor Stephanie Eaton regarding the declassification of Old Ford Road as a designated route for heavy goods vehicles**
- 11.3 Motion submitted by Councillor Rupert Eckhardt regarding sale of Henry Moore sculpture**
- 11.4 Motion submitted by Councillor Abjol Miah regarding facilities for cricket**
- 11.5 Motion submitted by Councillor Waiseul Islam regarding parking in John Smith Mews**
- 11.6 Motion submitted by Councillor Dr. Anwara Ali regarding display of Henry Moore sculpture**
- 11.7 Motion submitted by Councillor Fazlul Haque regarding anti-social behaviour**
- 11.9 Motion submitted by Councillor Dr. Emma Jones regarding Hermitage Memorial Garden**
- 11.10 Motion submitted by Councillor Dulal Uddin regarding Crown Estate sell off**
- 11.13 Motion submitted by Councillor Fozol Miah regarding the Dispatches programme and slurs against the Council**
- 11.14 Motion submitted by Councillor Ohid Ahmed regarding reducing carbon emissions**
- 11.15 Motion submitted by Councillor Mamun Rashid regarding the Bethnal Green Stairways to Heaven war memorial**

- 11.16 Motion submitted by Councillor Harun Miah regarding respite breaks for carers**
- 11.17 Motion submitted by Councillor Salim Ullah regarding transport for London cuts**
- 11.18 Motion submitted by Councillor Abdul Munim regarding John Smith Mews residents objections**

The meeting ended at 10.47 p.m.

Chair,  
Council